



Violet Marshman Centre for
Rural Health Research

IMPACT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020



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A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR AMANDA KENNY, DIRECTOR OF THE VIOLET VINES MARSHMAN CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH

It was only a year ago that I was writing the first annual report for the Violet Vines Marshman Rural Health Initiative and today I sit down to write the first annual report for the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research.

What a difference a year makes. The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research was approved at the November 2019 meeting of the La Trobe University Academic Board. We were officially notified in mid-December that it would become the second research centre in the La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS). The John Richards Centre for Rural Ageing Research was the first Centre for the LRHS and is focused on rural ageing and rural aged care research that makes a difference to the lives of older people living in rural communities. The John Richards Centre for Rural Ageing Research is ably led by the inspirational Professor Irene Blackberry.

In the Centre application to establish the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research the rationale was as follows:

1. Centre recognition would strengthen the profile of the current Initiative with government and external funding providers, including nationally competitive funding bodies.
2. The establishment of the Initiative as a Centre would create a second Centre within the La Trobe Rural Health School to drive regional research activity.
3. The Violet Marshman Professor of Rural Health and John Richards Professor of Ageing are working on joint nationally competitive funding submissions. Having two major rural research Centres on each bid would strengthen the message to review panels of the major profile of La Trobe University in the field of rural health.
4. The focus of the John Richards Centre for Rural Ageing Research is on older people. Older people would be considered as part of the work of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research in partnership with the John Richards Centre for Rural Ageing Research, but the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research would take a broader lifespan remit. Centre status for the Violet Vines Marshman Rural Health Initiative would increase the profile of La Trobe University rural research beyond ageing.
5. Establishment of The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research will strengthen recognition of the legacy of Mrs Violet Vines Marshman.
6. The Centre will provide a visible and identifiable structure for a group of La Trobe regional researchers and their collaborators/ partners (including internationally) to spearhead rural research. The Centre structure will support cross campus and cross university collaborations, including a stronger profile to attract interest from metropolitan based researchers.

Centre status is a significant milestone in the relatively short history of the work that is being done.

At this point, the work of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research is centred around three major areas: ensuring a sustainable rural workforce, effective systems and services to improve rural health and wellbeing, and promoting equity for the health and wellbeing of rural people. These areas of research are not unexpected for a centre for rural health research. However, what sits behind these thematic descriptors is a passionate commitment to mobilising stakeholders, most importantly rural people, to refuse to accept poorer health and wellbeing just because of where they live.



In the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research we bring together multidisciplinary team members to creatively drive the research agenda in a radically new way. By bringing together people with a diversity of professional, system, methodological and practical knowledge, and combining this with people's lived experience and grassroots experience of system failure, we are pushing the boundaries of what a rural research centre should do.

We are interested in 'wicked' rural problems – those that are the most difficult, complex and highly resistant to solution.

Our work must be radical and disruptive because of the complexity of the issues that rural people face, the uniqueness of the rural environment, where care delivery is very different to metropolitan settings, and the inability of common research approaches to address 'wicked' problems.

We believe that addressing 'wicked' problems takes robust, systematic and concerted focus with involvement of the best professional and consumer expertise. Our work is strongly focused on local, national and international partnerships.

We reject the notion that a metropolitan solution for all populations will suffice and we work to provide compelling arguments for why 'wicked' problems demand attention. Our aim is to mobilise people who care about rural health to demand action.

No-one could ever have guessed that the first year of Centre activity would have occurred in the middle of one of the world's most significant public health crises – the Covid 19 pandemic. As we followed government directions, we moved home and established offices amongst pets and home schooling, and Zoom became the normal way of connecting. For a Centre based so much on human interaction this initially seemed like doom. However, as we got used to the interruption

"At this point, the work of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research is centred around three major areas: ensuring a sustainable rural workforce, effective systems and services to improve rural health and wellbeing, and promoting equity for the health and wellbeing of rural people. "

of the daily press conference from Premier Andrews, and the varying degrees of distraction this created, depending on case numbers, most of us settled into some semblance of normality.

This annual report documents the amazing outcomes that have been achieved in one of the toughest years that any of us have lived through. The resilience and 'can do' attitude of Centre members has been extraordinary. The pandemic has impacted on us all differently, but I hope, in reading this annual report you are impressed by what has been achieved despite a pandemic – It really is incredible.

As always, we warmly thank the Marshman family for their generosity. Without their investment the sheer volume of work would never have been achieved.

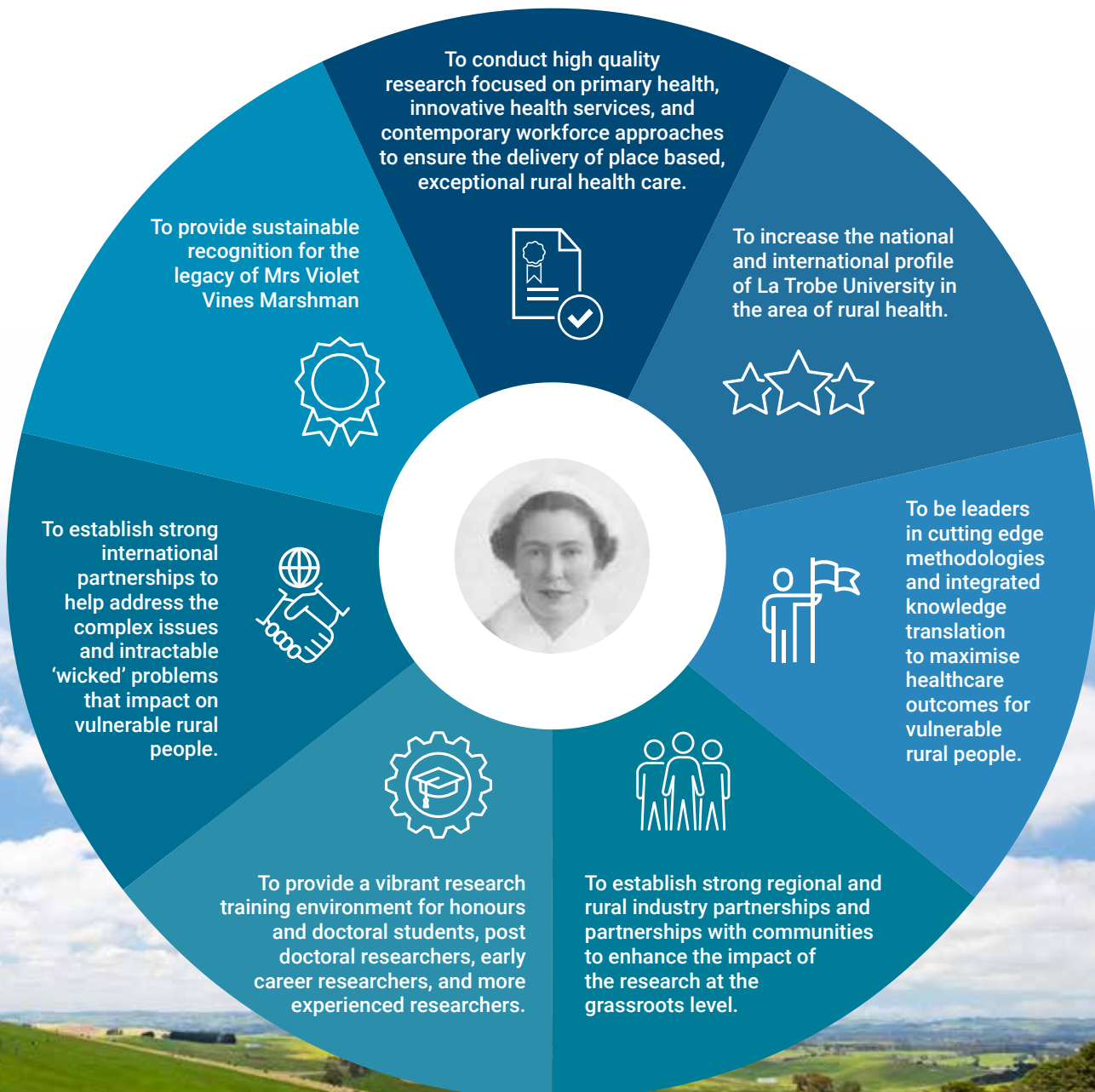
Professor Amanda Kenny

Violet Vines Marshman Professor of Rural Health and Centre Director



VISION FOR THE VIOLET VINES MARSHMAN CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research will conduct high quality research focused on primary health, innovative health services and contemporary workforce approaches to ensure the delivery of exceptional, place-based rural healthcare.





TANGIBLE LEGACY

Covid -19 lockdowns and working from home have left tired Melburnians dreaming of greener pastures. In recent months, it's led to a mind-shift – and a literal-shift in the form of a regional housing market boom – as many pack their bags and escape to the country.

While Professor Amanda Kenny is a champion of rural life and rural communities – “It’s a fantastic place to live,” she enthuses – she knows all too well that country life does not always lead to bucolic bliss. Instead, equity, access and inclusion issues are brought to the fore, especially when it comes to health.

“For almost every health indicator, the disparities between metropolitan and rural health are striking,” Kenny explains. “Rates of heart disease, cancer and mental health issues are higher in rural communities. And while all individuals should have equitable access to healthcare and should not be disadvantaged by their locale, it doesn’t always play out that way in rural Australia.”

Enter the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. Established in 2019, following a \$3 million investment from the VV Marshman Charitable Trust, the Centre’s world-class research is narrowing the gap between metropolitan health outcomes and those in regional, rural and remote areas. It was an existing area of strength for La Trobe, but the Trust’s generous investment has been a significant catalyst, providing researchers with a platform that gives them wider reach and greater impact. At the helm is Kenny, Centre Director, an internationally recognised expert and longstanding champion of rural health.

Kenny is as personable as ever when we meet over Zoom and, as her dachshunds scurry through the kitchen, we laugh about the minor foibles of working from home. She might be an intellectual powerhouse, but she’s also grounded and community-driven, with a research agenda that is delivering practical outcomes to the people who need them most.



The Marshman family with Professor John Dewar, Vice Chancellor, La Trobe University

“The Centre is based upon the idea that the best people to drive change are the people who experience rural health service delivery on a daily basis,” she says. “It’s not about working on ivory-tower research and disseminating the findings. We are engaging rural people as equal partners, recognising the value of lived experience and using it to build capacity at the grassroots level, so that there is a real impact for a real person.”

It’s a sentiment that resonates well with Dr Neil Marshman, Chair of the Centre’s Advisory Board Committee and a founding member of the VV Marshman Trust. The Trust was established by his mother, Violet Vines Marshman, a nurse and philanthropist who “rolled up her sleeves” and dedicated her life to improving the health and wellbeing of people living in rural and regional Australia.

“Early on, one of my brothers said to Mandy, ‘Don’t forget about ‘Mrs Brown from a rural town.’ She’s your symbolic figurehead and, most importantly, your audience,’” says Marshman. “And that statement captures everything. That last mile connection,

to a Mrs Brown, is about bringing better health service delivery back to the people and connecting communities in beneficial ways.”

But, how does this happen? “Let’s say that ‘Mrs Brown’ lives in an aged care facility in a rural community, where our researchers are working on an oral health project,” Kenny explains. “We may identify that the facility is not prioritising the oral health needs of its residents. Mrs Brown and her family may provide similar feedback. Perhaps Mrs Brown has dementia. She’s been crying in pain and losing weight, but no one thought it had anything to do with her teeth. But, as it turns out, it does, and perhaps a tooth has a cavity.”

“Next, we develop a strategy to improve oral health outcomes for Mrs Brown and the other residents. The facility may need to reassess their oral health practices, provide further staff training, or contract a dentist for regular oral health assessments. The family may decide to monitor this issue more closely.”

“Using more conventional research approaches, it might take up to 20 years to implement that change in Mrs Brown’s aged care facility,” Kenny adds, “but we’re in there working with residents, families and healthcare staff so that the changes are already happening. Those learnings are then disseminated through publications, and some of those findings might be applicable to other settings, where there are other Mrs Browns.”

This grassroots engagement, Marshman and Kenny contend, will transform rural communities from within and build a library of transferable knowledge that can be adopted by other people in other places. “It’s also about building research capacity within health services,” says Kenny. “Suddenly research is not something scary, but a set of evaluation tools that builds an evidence base. If we can build that understanding at the coalface, it will be both transformational and translational.”



Professor Amanda Kenny

The work has most certainly begun. Over 50 Centre researchers and Higher Degree Research students are partnering with health services, community organisations and government on a range of projects that address some of the most complex and intractable rural problems: from improving the oral health outcomes of people with a serious mental illness, to telling the stories of rural women who have experienced domestic violence. “We are working, communicating and partnering to create understanding and change,” Kenny says.

Kenny hopes, most of all, that the Centre’s achievements provide sustainable recognition for the legacy of Violet Vines Marshman. “This Centre is funded by a rural woman who was committed to making a difference,” says Kenny, reflectively. “We are harnessing her passion for rural communities to ensure that her legacy is enduring and that our work helps to positively address the issues that impact vulnerable country people.”

Dr Giselle Roberts

Senior Communications Coordinator
College of Science, Health and Engineering

Key facts about the centre in 2020

 **26**
active
researchers

 **24**
doctoral
students

 **48**
current
projects

 **65**
research
publications



OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research provides strategic advice on the Centre's vision and agenda.

Dr Neil Marshman

The Trustee of the VV Marshman Charitable Trust and Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. Dr Marshman obtained a PhD in soil microbiology from the University of New South Wales. His career spanned forty years in the mining and electricity sectors where he worked in environmental, health and safety roles in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom and India. Dr Marshman, together with his brothers and mother, became a trustee of the VV Marshman Charitable Trust in 2006. He participates in several postgraduate and early career mentoring programs and sits on two sub-committees of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, and the Melbourne University Office of Environmental Programs Community and Industry Advisory Board.

Professor Amanda Kenny

The inaugural Violet Marshman Professor of Rural Health and Director of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research at La Trobe University. Professor Kenny is a registered nurse and midwife and is an expert in primary health and rural health policy. She is internationally recognised for her expertise in multidisciplinary participatory research, co-design and integrated knowledge translation.

Professor Jane Mills

The Dean and Head of the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She is one of Australia's most experienced primary healthcare academics having led and managed teams in both government and tertiary sectors. She is an experienced clinician and researcher with over 32 years' nursing experience, mainly in rural health services. She is also an internationally recognised grounded theorist and expert in qualitative methodologies, including action research. Professor Mills' research focuses on rural health, the health workforce, health system strengthening and nursing education.

Mr Stephen May

The Chief Advancement Officer of Alumni and Advancement at La Trobe University. He is a highly successful senior advancement executive with extensive experience in fundraising, alumni relations, strategic marketing, financial management and business development. He has built significant expertise and experience in international markets by growing engagement with international alumni, students and their families.

Professor Andrew Hill

The Associate Provost (Research) in the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University. Prior to this appointment, he was Director of the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (2016-19). Professor Hill is an expert on how abnormal proteins and RNA travel from cell to cell and are involved in neurodegenerative diseases. His laboratory also works on the biology of small noncoding RNA and their potential use as diagnostics in neurological and infectious diseases. He has published over 170 research papers and edited three books.

Emeritus Professor Stephen Duckett

The Health Program Director at the Grattan Institute. He has a reputation for creativity, evidence-based innovation and reform in areas ranging from the introduction of activity-based funding for hospitals to new systems of accountability for the safety of hospital care. From 1996-2006 he was Dean of the then Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University, and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for much of that period. He was appointed an Emeritus Professor of the University in 2014. An economist, he is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Dr Catherine Lees

The Director of Education, Training and Research at Echuca Regional Health. Dr Lees completed her PhD in tumour immunology at Victoria University. She worked in cancer education at the Cancer Council Victoria before moving to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to manage the College's national research, grants and ethics program. In 2004, Dr Lees joined the Ethics and Research Department at the Royal Children's Hospital, where she remained for 12 years before moving to regional Victoria to become Director of Education, Training and Research at Echuca Regional Health.

Professor Toby Wilkinson

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for External Relations at the University of Lincoln. He was previously part of the University of Cambridge International Strategy Office, working with the Pro Vice-Chancellor to support the international engagement of schools, faculties and departments, and to develop the University's international strategy. Professor Wilkinson is an expert on ancient Egyptian civilisation and is one of the leading Egyptologists of his generation.

Mrs Marie Aitken

An experienced psychologist with an interest in health and wellbeing. She is the Board Chair for the Wimmera Health Group and has previously had board roles with Rural Northwest Health and Western Victorian PHN (Primary Health Network). Mrs Aitken has a wealth of experience in working with local communities and believes that boards must take an active interest in clinical matters to benefit patients and communities. She recognises the inequities in rural health and the resilience of rural communities and is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of country people.

Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift

A Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research at La Trobe University. She is a public health researcher with over 20 years' experience working in rural communities. Dr Dickson-Swift specialises in public health approaches to health and wellbeing challenges, oral health, qualitative research methodologies, sensitive research, ethics and working with vulnerable rural communities to solve local health issues



OUR RESEARCH TEAM

Professor Amanda Kenny is the inaugural Violet Marshman Professor of Rural Health and Director of the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research at La Trobe University. She is a registered nurse and midwife with 40 years' experience in rural health services and is an expert in primary health and rural health policy. Professor Kenny is internationally recognised for her expertise in multidisciplinary participatory research, co-design and integrated knowledge translation. She has attracted almost AU\$105 million in grant funding for research and major strategic initiatives. Professor Kenny has built strong international partnerships, currently holds international grants, and mentors senior leaders in several countries. She is the Editor-in-Chief of Nurse Education Today, sits on the editorial board of Collegian, International Journal of Qualitative Methods and the Advisory Board of the International Institute of Qualitative Methodology, Canada. She is also a member of the Board of Directors at Rural Northwest Health.

Professor Jane Mills is Dean and Head of the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She is one of Australia's most experienced primary healthcare academics having led and managed teams in both government and tertiary sectors. She is an experienced clinician and researcher with over 32 years' nursing experience, mainly in rural health services. She is also an internationally recognised grounded theorist and expert in qualitative methodologies including action research. Professor Mills' research focuses on rural health, the health workforce, health system strengthening, and nursing education.

Professor Hanny Calache is a paediatric dentist, with extensive public dental health experience. He is Academic Lead in Paediatric Dentistry, the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health

School at La Trobe University; and Head of the Oral Health Research Stream, Deakin Health Economics at Deakin University. His research interests include health promotion, paediatric dentistry, geriatric dentistry, workforce development and public health, and he has published extensively on these topics. Professor Calache also has extensive translational research experience in public dental programs in Victoria and nationally.

Professor Mark Gussy is the Global Professor in Rural and Social Care at the Lincoln Institute for Rural Health. His research has made significant contributions to the evidence base for child oral health and its interface with general health and wellbeing. Two major nationally funded cohort studies have allowed early childhood cavities to be tracked longitudinally in rural children, quantifying the independent and interactive contributions of the oral environment, fluoride exposure and socio-economic factors to levels and rates of change in oral health from birth to six years of age. Professor Gussy has also worked with rural communities, exploring the broader social and structural determinants of participation, and challenging entrenched systems that disadvantage the most vulnerable.

Associate Professor Carol McKinstry is an academic in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University, with a background in occupational therapy. Her research focuses on the rural workforce including the preparation of graduates to work in rural practice, transition to practice for students and graduates, and recruitment and retention of rural health professionals. Rural workforce service delivery and emerging areas of practice are other research areas. Associate Professor McKinstry is President of Occupational Therapy Australia and is a Board Director at the Rochester and Elmore District Health Service.

Associate Professor Rachel Martin is Head of the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She is a registered Dental Practitioner and experienced public health professional whose research focuses on improving access for vulnerable communities through the integration of oral health and general health. Her expertise is in clinical and public health research, innovative program development, strategic planning, oral health and clinical supervision. She has worked in private and government-funded dental clinics, undertaken dental research, and managed various community health projects.

Dr David Azul is a Senior Lecturer, Discipline Lead in Speech Pathology and Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. His research takes a transdisciplinary approach to the nexus between voice, communication, sociocultural belonging and wellbeing using theoretical, qualitative and creative methods of inquiry.

Dr Kerry Bagley is a Lecturer in Social Work in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on social work and interdisciplinary responses to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), disability and inclusion in education and mental health, and consumer participation in research. Dr Bagley is the Chair of the Victorian FASD Special Interest group, was the inaugural Chair (now steering committee member) of the Australia and New Zealand FASD Clinical Network and is an ambassador and clinical advisor for the National Organisation for FASD Australia.

Dr Dan Bendrups lectures in research development in the Research Education and Development Unit at La Trobe University. His work is informed by nearly two decades in academia, including teaching and research roles, research-only positions, and contributions to executive leadership as a Deputy Head of School and Research Director. His disciplinary background spans anthropology, cultural studies, and creative practice, and he is known internationally for his work on Rapanui (Easter Island) cultural heritage. Dr Bendrups also provides broad-based doctoral supervision in ethnographic methods.

Dr Carina Chan is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on health promotion and disease management and has been involved in research projects in both developed and developing countries. Her current research has extended her expertise in the regional/rural context and focuses on psychosocial issues associated with ageing, chronic disease prevention and management, and oral health.

Dr Brad Christian is a Research Fellow in the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. He is a dentist with public health and epidemiology qualifications and has both Australian and international experience in managing large epidemiological studies as well as analysing large quantitative datasets. Dr Christian's research focuses on public oral health service delivery models and oral health inequalities.

Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research. She is a public health researcher with over 20 years' experience working in rural communities. Dr Dickson-Swift specialises in public health approaches to health and wellbeing challenges, oral health, qualitative research methodologies, sensitive research, ethics and working with vulnerable rural communities to solve local health issues.

Dr Nastaran Doroud is a Lecturer in occupational therapy in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. Her experience working with complex-needs patients in community health in Tehran (Iran) led to her interest in research. Her PhD explored mental health issues using a participatory photovoice method. Dr Doroud's current research focuses on innovative and participatory research approaches and co-production in mental healthcare.

Dr Susan Furness is Senior Lecturer, Course Coordinator, and Discipline Lead of Paramedicine in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. Her research is phenomenologically-oriented and relates to health workforce practice and wellbeing. Dr Furness is an Institution Lead for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency National Competency Assessment Consortium for Paramedicine.

Dr Lisa Hanson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Rural Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She is also a physiotherapist and experienced clinician. Dr Hanson is an expert on the role of exercise and activity for people with chronic conditions and sustainable models of healthcare that support people with chronic conditions who live in rural and regional communities. She is passionate about advancing and extending the scope of allied health rural practice.

Dr Brad Hodge has a broad range of experience within the higher education and community sector. He brings with him research expertise in social psychology, leadership, project management and communication skills. His research focuses on the evaluation and development of effective training activities to enable rural communities to improve their health and wellbeing.

Dr Nerida Hyett is a Lecturer in occupational therapy in the Department of Rural Allied Health and Bendigo Occupational Therapy Course Advisor in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She has a clinical background in community-based alcohol and other drug services, and mental health. Her research focuses on consumer and community participation that targets complex population health issues. Dr Hyett has expertise in qualitative and participation-based research methods using action research, co-design and co-production.

Dr Sue Kidd is an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Rural Nursing and Midwifery in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University, and Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing at Victoria University. She is an experienced mental health clinician and registered nurse with over 30 years' experience working in a range of inpatient and community mental health settings. She has worked with mental health consumers, carers and peak consumer bodies and has experience in leadership within health organisations.

Dr Ron Knevel is a Coordinator of Oral Health in the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. With over 30 years' experience as an international oral health academic, he has a passion for community-based research. His PhD explored dental hygiene education

in Nepal. He has been awarded the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education and a Social Responsibility Award from the Global Child Dental Fund and International Federation of Dental Hygiene.

Dr Natasha Long is a Lecturer in Social Work and Social Policy. Natasha has over 15 years' experience as a lecturer across the program with a focus on co-ordinating and teaching social work field education curriculum. Her research interests include exploring graduate preparedness for professional practice with a focus on professional identity development and resilience; the development of culturally safe curriculum and classrooms; and teaching critical reflection in field education.

Dr Mohd Masood is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. He is an expert in dental public health and oral epidemiology. His current research focuses on improving oral health and reducing oral health inequalities in rural populations.

Dr Yaghma Masood is a Lecturer in the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University. She is a dentist with a Masters in Oral Pathology and PhD in human genetics. Her current research focuses on improving oral health in rural populations.

Dr Lyndal Sheepway is a Lecturer in the La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University. Her professional background is in speech pathology and her PhD explored the development of competence in speech pathology student placements. Dr Sheepway is interested in research related to workplace learning, as well as rural workforce development.

Dr Evelien Spelten is a Senior Lecturer in Public and Community Health. Her move from the Netherlands to rural Mildura in Australia in 2016 sparked an interest in rural health and wellbeing, and in increasing academic opportunities in the regions. With a background in organisational psychology, she has worked as a researcher, a consultant and trainer. She is an experienced higher degree supervisor and has students from a range of health disciplines.

Dr Jacqui Theobald is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in historical, sociological and social work research. She specialises in the historical and contemporary context of domestic violence services, gendered violence and homelessness, and their related social policy and practice responses.

Dr Emma Zadow is an academic in the La Trobe Rural Health School at La Trobe University, with a background in Exercise Science and Haematology. Dr Zadow is an Exercise Scientist and completed her PhD investigating the role of haemostatic changes in response to exercise. Her research focuses on improving overall health outcomes via reducing blood clot risk associated with physical inactivity, rural and regional travel, and more recently, COVID-19 associated coagulopathies.

PhD candidates

Rachael McAleer is a PhD candidate and physiotherapist and has been a part-time lecturer at the La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University, for 10 years, whilst working clinically as a cystic fibrosis specialist at Monash Medical Centre and in her own private practice. Rachael now lectures one day per week whilst completing her PhD full time with the support of a VVM scholarship. Her research interests are in cardiothoracic physiotherapy, rural health and rural education.

John Baker is a PhD candidate exploring the density and proximity of tobacco retailers in rural neighbourhoods. He is investigating the licencing of tobacco retailers and the relationship between the proximity of retailers in rural Victoria and community smoking behaviours.

Siann Bowman is a PhD candidate and experienced youth mental health clinician. She has worked with adults who have ongoing mental illness. She has extensive experience in case management, crisis intervention, group therapy, young people with complex presentations, post-traumatic stress disorder in young people and family interventions. Her PhD examines the impact of mental illness on secondary school participation and completion in rural and regional Victoria, Australia.

Rebecca Blake is a Doctor of Clinical Science candidate, and an occupational therapist at Assumption College in Kilmore. Her research focuses

on evaluating the School-based Occupational Therapy AWARE program. This research closely relates to her work as an occupational therapist in supporting students and building teacher capacity to identify, and appropriately respond to student needs across all domains of students' social, emotional, academic, physical and spiritual educational occupations within the secondary school environment.

Stacey Bracksley-O'Grady is an Oral Health Therapist and a PhD candidate. She has an interest in public health and health promotion within Dentistry and Oral Health. Her work includes the exploration of promotion content in dental and oral health courses; dental/oral health educator's knowledge and skills in health promotion, and their preparedness to translate this into teaching and learning; and the perceptions of graduates and how prepared they feel to undertake health promotion in practice.

Sandra Connor is a PhD candidate at the Mildura campus and her project is titled "Adolescent Rural Males' Health: In the context of Emergent Masculinities".

Maureen Dillon is a registered nurse and PhD candidate. Her project is titled "The impact of notification on the personal and professional lives of nurses and midwives".

Marcus Gardner is a PhD candidate with a clinical background in podiatry, and is the Manager of Allied Health Education at Bendigo Health. His PhD work focuses on clinical supervision for allied health professionals. His other research interests include decreasing the burden of diabetic foot disease in rural settings.

Ruth Hardman is undertaking an industry PhD with Sunraysia Community Health (Mildura), where she has worked as the lead clinician in their pain rehabilitation service since 2015. She is an experienced pain physiotherapist and her research interests lie in the connections between the lived experience of chronic illness, the therapeutic alliance and the social determinants of health.

Kathy Jordan is a PhD candidate and her doctoral work focuses on loneliness of older people in rural areas. With a desire to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for older people, her work aims to explore prevalence, subjective experiences and impacts of loneliness for older people living in rural communities.

Dr Tejashree Kangutkar is a dentist and PhD candidate. She is an early career researcher who is passionate about achieving optimal oral health in vulnerable populations. Her doctoral work focuses on exploring, understanding, and addressing the barriers and enablers of achieving optimal oral health for people who use illicit drugs.

Nicola Lloyd is a part-time PhD candidate and a physiotherapist at Barwon Health. She has worked clinically in rural and metropolitan settings in Australia and in the United Kingdom, as well as working in a number of project and service redesign roles. Her PhD research is about evaluating the impacts of public involvement in health service design.

Jill Maglio is a PhD candidate and occupational therapist who uses circus in her daily practice. She works as a private occupational therapist in New York, working in a number of schools with students who may be disengaged and/or have learning difficulties. Her doctoral research explores how occupational therapists are using circus in their practice. She is also the force behind the charity CircusAid, which promotes positive social and emotional health for political and environmental refugees in Europe and Asia.

Angela Martin is a paramedic and PhD candidate focusing on the perspectives of Community Paramedicine.

Rebecca Millar is a PhD candidate and her work explores the clinical practice competencies required in forensic mental health nursing. The results of her study will be used to develop a Forensic Mental Health Nurse Competency Assessment Tool (FHMN-CAT) that can be used to evaluate these competencies.

Susan O'Neill is a PhD candidate with an educational background in Master of Science in International Health and Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion. Her research is focused on the high incidence of Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) hospitalisations in the Murray Primary Health Network (PHN) region of Victoria. She has previously worked in remote communities throughout Western Australia delivering community health promotion programs, and prior to her PhD research managed a women's and children's refuge.

Nicole Preston is a Clinical Doctorate candidate in the field of occupational therapy. Her areas of interest are social inclusion, human rights, community

development and policy. Her research project aims to explore the concept of social inclusion across policy and practice.

Hannah Sloodjes is an occupational therapist and PhD candidate. Her doctoral research aims to explore how occupational therapists are globally working to address 'well' women's perinatal health issues and promote maternal wellbeing during matrescence.

Cathryn Street is a registered nurse and PhD candidate. Her project is titled "The impact of notification on the personal and professional lives of nurses and midwives".

Dr Marietta Taylor is a dentist and PhD candidate. Her project aims to quantify the longevity and failure of complete dentures, and of complete dentures opposed to natural teeth, in a population of patients who have received care through the Victorian public dental service. Understanding the natural history of complete dentures, including their lifespan and failure rate, will help policymakers to develop a denture replacement plan.

Brodie Thomas is a PhD candidate located at the Mildura campus. He is a paramedic and his project focuses on organisational interventions for workplace violence in emergency healthcare.

Dr Rahila Ummer-Christian is a PhD candidate. She holds a Master of Public Health and has undertaken dental public health training at the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization, USA. Her PhD focuses on researching access to dental services for children with intellectual and developmental and disabilities in Loddon Mallee region.

Dr Prabhakar Veginadu is a PhD candidate with speciality training and academic experience in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics. His doctoral work focuses on the factors influencing dental service access among the refugee population by applying Geographic Information System-based spatial analysis techniques.

Tara Williams is a registered nurse and PhD candidate located at the Mildura campus. Her doctoral work focuses on the health impacts of loneliness and social isolation in rural populations.



THE VIOLET VINES MARSHMAN ORATION

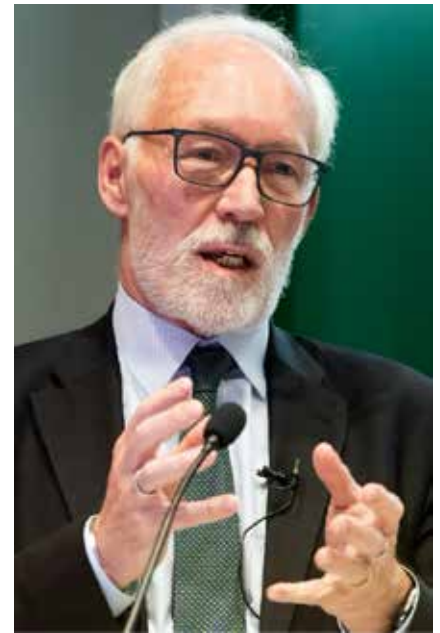
Professor Patrick McGorry AO

Professor Patrick McGorry is the Executive Director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, and a Founding Director of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation (headspace). He is a world-leading researcher in the area of early psychosis and youth mental health, and has been directly involved in research and clinical care for homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers.

His work has played a critical role in the development of safe, effective treatments for and innovative research into the needs of young people with emerging mental disorders, notably psychotic and severe mood disorders. He has also played a major part in the transformational reform of mental health services to better serve the needs of young people with mental ill-health.

Professor McGorry was a key architect of the headspace model and has been successful in advocating with colleagues for its national expansion. He has successfully advocated for the establishment of a national early psychosis programme based on the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre model. He is frequently asked to advise on early intervention and youth mental health policy both nationally and internationally.

Professor McGorry has published extensively in the specialist literature and serves as Editor-in-Chief of Early Intervention in Psychiatry. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science. He is current President of the International Association of Youth Mental Health and past President of the Society for Mental Health Research (2013-2017) and the Schizophrenia International Research Society (2016-2018).



Magda Szubanski AO

The 2020 Violet Vines Marshman Oration will be delivered by Magda Szubanski on Tuesday November 24.

Magda Szubanski AO is a multi-award winning actor best known for her work in making Australia laugh for over three decades. Aside from her theatrical work, Magda also played what many have described as a crucial role in the Marriage equality campaign. Most recently she reprised her role of Sharon Strzelecki from the comedy program Kath and Kim, producing a public health advertisement in a bid to encourage people to follow Victorian Government health advice regarding the wearing of masks. It was this commercial that attracted online trolling and social media attacks for demonstrating her support.

Human beings are social creatures and during times of physical distancing and isolation, social media can be an invaluable tool for staying in touch with friends, loved ones, and the world. Ironically however, these platforms can also increase loneliness, anxiety and create divide. Magda Szubanski AO will be discussing the negative impact social media platforms can have on mental health, her attempts to achieve positive social change even during a COVID lock down and the work of Phoenix Australia where she is working to create a program to provide world's best practice PTSD skills for disaster impacted communities.



Previous Orations

2018 – Inaugural Violet Vines Marshman Oration – Emeritus Professor Stephen Duckett



JOURNAL CLUB AND SEMINAR SERIES

The VVMCRHR Journal Club

Why a journal club?

"A journal club is a group of individuals who meet regularly to discuss publications that are relevant to their professional interests" (Aronson 2017, 231). Being part of a journal club offers participants a chance to connect with others who have similar interests, discuss interesting points about research articles and learn from each other. Discussions can focus on the research topic, research methods, interpretations, theories used or any aspect of the study. Journal clubs have been extensively researched and have been shown to have a number of positive effects - both for those who participate and for the research community more broadly. For participants, these include great discussions, skill building, friendships, opportunities to connect with a multidisciplinary group, and developing a community of practice. They can also lead to networking and collaboration opportunities, faster knowledge translation, innovation and facilitating of policy changes (Kleinpell 2002; Deenadayalan et al, 2008; Aronson 2017).

Short history of journal clubs

Journal clubs originated in Germany and England in the early 19th century and the first documented journal club in North America was established by Sir William Osler at McGill University, Montreal, in 1875 (Linzer 1987; Aronson 2017). There were some earlier reports of clubs between 1835-1854 at the library at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. Groups of students would meet to read journals in a small room over the baker's shop near the hospital gate as it was reported that the library was too small (Chetlan et al. 2017). Students reportedly enjoyed the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas (Linzer, 1987; Chetlan et al, 2017). The expansion of journal clubs in the



United States soon followed, with new clubs at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1889. These clubs used to meet regularly (weekly) and in the beginning were intended to reduce the costs of journal subscriptions by sharing the articles around. In the 1960s this shifted to become more of a forum for practitioners to keep up to date in the push for evidence-based practice. Journal clubs have now evolved to provide a collaborative environment for students, academics and practitioners to discuss a range of different literature either in person or via virtual platforms (Chelten et al, 2017).

Online journal clubs

Today there are a range of formats for journal clubs within academic and professional settings (Oliphant et al, 2015). The VVM Marshman club will run virtually using zoom to enable a range of people to engage. This might include students, academic staff, community members, practitioners, international colleagues and anyone who has an interest. Virtual journal clubs (VJC) have been shown to be successful in developing communities of practice and fostering collaborations (Lin & Sherbino, 2015; Oliphant et al, 2015).

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The VVMCRH – Seminar series

The aim and purpose of the seminar series aligns with the underpinning philosophy of the Centre. It provides an opportunity for researchers and higher degree students of the Centre to showcase their work as a critical part of knowledge translation. Additionally, the seminars are important in capacity building, both for researchers within La Trobe and for partners in other universities and in industry. The seminar series includes experts from around the world and provides an opportunity for all researchers to develop their knowledge in areas that they might know little about. We also view the seminar series as central in developing a community of practice to advance rural research.



KEY PROJECTS



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE RURAL WORKFORCE

Registered undergraduate student of nursing pilot

Research team: Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVMCRHR), Dr Craig Phillips (University of South Australia), Dr Yaghma Masood (VVMCRHR), Dr Nadia DeVecchi (VVMCRHR) and Dr Brad Hodge (VVMCRHR).

Developing a sustainable rural nursing workforce is key to good rural health outcomes, but nursing recruitment and retention is a significant challenge. Internationally, there is a body of literature that describes undergraduate nursing student employment models. There are, however, fewer robust evaluations of these models as a workforce strategy.

This study evaluated an undergraduate nursing student employment model in a rural context. A mixed-method design was used with a well-established process evaluation framework. Data collection methods included monthly online surveys, blogs, focus groups, individual interviews and client experience surveys.

Patients/clients rated the model highly. For students, healthcare employment was perceived as more advantageous than other forms of employment, such as hospitality and retail. There were significant challenges balancing university commitments with service requirements, issues related to scope of the role, and concerns around ongoing funding of the model.

This study contributes to the knowledge on paid employment of nursing students, but future work must focus on longitudinal studies and robust economic modelling to identify costs and benefits.

This research was supported by Echuca Regional Health/the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria.

Occupational therapy in community settings

Research team: Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR) and Dr Chontel Gibson (University of Sydney).

Significant inequities exist in rural communities that, ultimately, create a gulf between metropolitan and rural health outcomes. These inequities are further compounded by an individual-focused healthcare system.

This project is developing strategies to address the metropolitan-rural health divide by shifting the focus from delivering healthcare to individuals, to partnering with communities. Using occupational therapy as a case study, researchers are examining how allied health professionals can employ a community-centred approach to improve health outcomes.

A systematic review of the literature has identified a body of scholarship to inform occupational therapy practise in a range of community settings, including primary care and schools. A practitioner survey will explore how occupational therapists are practising in the Australian context. Almost 100 occupational therapists have responded to date.

Research findings will inform health system transformation, enabling occupational therapists to partner with rural communities to address health inequities. Outcomes will include a World Federation of Occupational Therapists position statement, research publications, presentations at conferences, and presentations at rural and regional health services in Australia.

This research is supported by the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Foundation.

Supporting graduate nurse transition to practice

Research team: Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVMCRHR), Professor Lisa McKenna (La Trobe University), Dr Martin Charette (La Trobe University), Dr Kathy Rush (University of British Columbia, Canada), Dr Gemma Stacey (Florence Nightingale Foundation, United Kingdom), Dr Angela Darvill (University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom), Dr Jacqueline Lee (University of Salford, United Kingdom), Dr Rob Burton (Griffith University) and Dr Craig Phillips (University of South Australia).

This mixed-methods systematic review will document the interventions that facilitate graduate nurse transition from university to practice. It will identify outcomes from graduate nurse transition interventions for the individual nurse, patient or client, and health service.

This review will address a significant gap in the literature by documenting transition interventions and outcomes in a range of health settings. Interest in transition to practice continues to rise, but there is an urgent need to conduct well-designed, robust, and larger-scale studies at national and international levels.

Forensic Mental Health Nurse Competency Assessment Tool

Research team: Rebecca Millar (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Susan Furness (VVMCRHR) and Dr Susan Kidd (Victoria University).

Rural and regional forensic consumers are challenged by having less control over their healthcare and limited access to services. It is, therefore, critical that healthcare staff are suitably equipped to deliver high quality services.

This study will establish the clinical practice competencies required of a forensic mental health nurse and develop a Forensic Mental Health Nurse Competency Assessment Tool (FHMN-CAT) that can be used to evaluate these competencies.

This evaluation tool may lead to greater understanding of the specific competencies required to practice as a specialist nurse and will be useful for the profession, services and individual nurses. It will assist in identifying areas of practice that need improvement, while also recognising exemplary practice.



Violence against emergency healthcare workers

Research team: Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR), Professor Peter O'Meara (Monash University), Professor Gina Agarwal (McMaster University, Canada), Professor Leigh Kinsman (University of Newcastle), Professor Richard Gray (La Trobe University), Associate Professor Anthony McGillion (La Trobe University/Royal Melbourne Hospital), Associate Professor Penny Buijx (University of Newcastle), Dr Damhnatt McCann (University of Tasmania), Brodie Thomas (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Julia van Vuuren (La Trobe University), Alycia Jacob (University of Newcastle) and Rebecca Schultz (Alice Springs Hospital).

Is violence at work becoming the new normal? Incidences of violence against healthcare workers only seem to increase. A recent Cochrane Review confirmed that there is no evidence that any intervention works to reduce violence.

Focus has been on teaching healthcare workers how to de-escalate or encouraging them to report. This study shifts the focus to the perpetrator. Research is being undertaken in rural Australia, rural Canada and the Royal Melbourne Hospital to understand who is perpetrating the violence, and why.

This research is supported by La Trobe University's Building Healthy Communities Research Focus Area, the La Trobe Overseas Study Program and the University of Newcastle.



Improving rural and regional allied health services

Research team: Marcus Gardner (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR) and Dr Byron Perrin (La Trobe University).

A well prepared and sustainable allied health workforce is critical to improving health outcomes in rural communities. This study explores how clinical supervision can support allied health professionals in a regional health service.

The longitudinal study involves allied health managers as part of an action research reference group. Supervisee perceptions of formal clinical supervision were obtained when a clinical supervision framework and education was introduced, with a follow-up three years later to determine changes over time.

Clinical supervision frameworks available for allied health have also been critiqued. A group supervision program for allied health professionals in a regional health services has been piloted, and data has been collected on its effectiveness.

The role of occupational therapy in perinatal maternal health

Research team: Hannah Slootjes (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR) and Dr Leesa Hooker (Judith Lumley Centre).

This study explores how women's unique needs are recognised and met by occupational therapists during perinatal transitions and matrescence.

Researchers are currently undertaking interviews with occupational therapists working with maternal clients in a range of generalist and specialist practice settings around the world, and consumers who have accessed these services.

New graduate physiotherapy transition in the rural context

Research team: Rachael McAleer (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR) and Dr Lisa Hanson (VVMCRHR).

The transition process from student to graduate in allied health is complex. Change in role, responsibilities and identity are challenging for the early career professional. There is some evidence to suggest that new graduates have expectations that are only partially or not currently being met.

In allied health there is a gap in the knowledge around what these challenges are and to what extent they occur in the rural context. This systematic review on transition in allied health will provide greater understanding of the support required during the transition phase to guide new graduates. This knowledge will help to retain allied health professionals in the workforce, particularly in rural and regional areas.

The preparedness of undergraduate dental and oral health students to undertake health promotion in Australia

Research team: Stacey Bracksley-O'Grady (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR) and Dr Karen Anderson (La Trobe University).

This project investigates the preparedness of undergraduate dental and oral health students to undertake health promotion in Australia. It will explore the health promotion content in dental and oral health courses; dental/oral health educator's knowledge and skills in health promotion, and their preparedness to translate this into learning and teaching; and graduate perceptions on how prepared they feel to undertake health promotion in practice.

Rural and regional research capacity and training

Research team: Associate Professor Anna Wong Shee (Deakin University), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Professor Darryl Maybery (Monash University), Dr Claire Quilliam (University of Melbourne), Dr Kristen Glenister (University of Melbourne), Dr Alison Beauchamp (Monash University), Associate Professor Kevin McNamara (Deakin University), Dr Laura Alston (Deakin University) and Denise Corboy (Federation University).

This project brings together academics from Victorian University Departments of Rural Health to work on a project for the Western Alliance. It explores the research needs of rural and regional health services, and what training is needed to build capacity for rural health professionals to undertake research.

Managers in Victorian rural and regional health services have been interviewed on their perception of the research needs of their organisations and a statewide survey is planned.

This research is supported by the Western Alliance.

Community pharmacy oral health education: dry mouth

Research team: Professor Hanny Calache (VVMCRHR), Dr Rachel Martin (North Richmond Community Health), Dr Bradley Christian (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Kevin McNamara (Deakin University) and Carolyn Loton (Junto's Marketing).

Dry mouth is a debilitating condition affecting quality of life.

This study will enhance the capacity of pharmacists to manage, support and assist clients affected with dry mouth. The team are co-producing and testing educational material that will enable pharmacists to discuss dry mouth and its management with consumers. The team is also developing a range of resources for consumers aimed at educating them about dry mouth and management of this condition. This health promotion approach will be trialled and evaluated in five metropolitan and five rural community pharmacies.

This research is supported by the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future.



Integrating First Nations pedagogies and knowledges into allied health curriculum

Research team: Dr Shirley Godwin (La Trobe University), Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Mary Whiteside (La Trobe University), Dr Natasha Long (VVMCRHR), Dr Chris Bruce (La Trobe University), Dr Mishel McMahon (La Trobe University) and Pauline Nolan (Bendigo Health).

The project identified how to embed First Nations health curriculum into occupational therapy and social work courses in ways that promote cultural safety. It trialled an action research process, reviewing literature and creating tools and resources that can be used to enhance First Nations curriculum development in allied health. La Trobe University's occupational therapy and social work curricula was mapped to identify First Nation content. Recommendations for further improvements have been provided to assist with future curriculum planning.

The Neighbourhood Houses Clever Communities project

Research team: Dr Brad Hodge (VVMCRHR) and Dr Pam Harvey (Monash University).

The Neighbourhood Houses Clever Communities project will provide Neighbourhood House Coordinators with a structured process to enable volunteers and staff to undertake the development, implementation and evaluation of innovative rural health and wellbeing projects across Victoria.

This project supports the La Trobe Rural Health School's undergraduate 'Rural Community Engagement' subject, preparing students for rural health practice by engaging them in community-based projects.



A professional development online tool for speech pathologists working with trans and gender diverse people

Research team: Dr David Azul (VVMCRHR), Emma Ball (La Trobe), Dr Georgia Dacakis (La Trobe), Alessandra Giannini (Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne), Emeritus Professor Jennifer Oates (La Trobe), Sterling Quinn (La Trobe).

This online tool is designed to provide speech pathologists with professional development to enable them to provide support services for trans and gender diverse people. This area of expertise is currently not sufficiently covered in Australian speech pathology curricula and services tend to be nearly exclusively available in metropolitan centres. The tool is particularly designed to provide speech pathologists working in regional and remote settings of Australia with support to develop the skills they need to work with this underserved population.

Project-based learning across disciplines

Research team: Associate Professor Tracy Fortune (La Trobe University), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Dr Julie Rudner (La Trobe University), Dr Eddie Custovic (La Trobe University) and Dr Nastaran Doroud (VVMCRHR).

This study explores how project-based learning is used in higher education, across disciplines. Researchers will use a mixed-method design, an online survey for educators and graduates, and a systematic scoping review to identify the uses and implementations of project-based methods in the literature.

Online training for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Developing a rural and regional model for professional development

Research team: Dr Kerry Bagley (VVMCRHR), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Ms Kirsten Six (LRHS student), Ms Elyse Stokes (LRHS student), Dr Lisa Hanson (VVMCRHR).

Fetal alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is increasingly recognised as a priority health concern for Australia, as reflected in the National FASD Strategic Plan (2018-2028), however many professionals across health, social service, justice and education sectors have a limited understanding of the condition. For rural and regional professionals, accessing professional development about FASD can be complicated by distance and access to specialist expertise.

This research aims to identify what online training about FASD is available to better prepare rural health professionals for working with people with FASD in rural communities and what current gaps in online FASD professional education exist.



EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH

Reducing cardiovascular risk in people with severe mental illness

Research team: Dr Victoria Palmer (University of Melbourne), Professor Jane Gunn (University of Melbourne), Professor Carol Harvey (University of Melbourne), Associate Professor John Furler (University of Melbourne), Professor David Osborne (University College London), Dr Sandra Davidson (University of Melbourne), Dr Mahesh Jayaram (University of Melbourne), Dr Patty Chondros (University of Melbourne) and Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR).

Cardiovascular disease accounts for 40% of the excess mortality identified in people with severe mental illness. Modifiable cardiovascular risk factors are higher in this group and can be exacerbated by the cardiometabolic impact of psychotropic medications. People with severe mental illness frequently attend primary care presenting a valuable opportunity for early identification, prevention and management of cardiovascular health.

This is Australia's first ever randomised controlled trial of an assertive care intervention to reduce cardiovascular risk for people with severe mental illness.

The Assertive Care Cardiac Healthy Hearts Trial (ACCT) will test a co-produced, nurse-led intervention delivered with general practitioners to reduce absolute cardiovascular disease risk at 12 months compared with an active control group. ACCT will deliver a co-produced and person-centred, guideline level cardiovascular primary care intervention to a high-need population with severe mental illness. If successful, the intervention could lead to the reduction of the mortality gap and increase opportunities for meaningful social and economic participation.

This research is supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Mental health services in secondary schools

Research team: Siann Bowman (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Linsey Howie (La Trobe University) and Professor Patrick McGorry (University of Melbourne).

This study identified the need to implement mental health services within Victorian rural secondary schools. Secondary school staff were surveyed on identifying and assisting students with mental health issues. Researchers found that teachers can identify students at risk but accessing mental health services is an issue. Education and mental health services must work together to ensure young people receive services in a timely and accessible manner.

Evaluation of headspace services in Western Victoria

Research team: Dr Lisa Hanson (VVMCRHR), Dr Elena Wilson (La Trobe University) and Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR).

This multidisciplinary study is evaluating headspace services in Western Victoria for the Western Primary Health Network, from service and stakeholder perspectives.

Occupational therapy services for Department of Veteran Affairs' clients

Research team: Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Kylie Carra (La Trobe University PhD candidate), Laura Bailie (La Trobe University student), Ruby Daniell (La Trobe University student), Amery Clews (La Trobe University student).

This study involved an extensive review of the literature relating to occupational therapy services for returned military and veterans. An online survey collected data from Australian occupational therapists to further understand the services provided to Department of Veteran Affairs' clients and the barriers and enablers in delivering those services.



Ear, nose and throat care in rural Australia

Research team: Susan O'Neill (VVMCRHR PhD candidate) and Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR).

Ear, nose and throat (ENT) care in rural Australia is suboptimal. The 'Perils of Place' report by the Grattan Institute identified four ENT hotspots in rural Victoria, two of which are located in the Murray Primary Health Network (PHN) region.

This study aims to optimise ENT care in rural Australia by investigating current issues around diagnosis and care of ENT conditions in the Murray PHN region. The research team will develop and implement tailored ENT care training for primary healthcare professionals in the region and educational material for a community health campaign. They will also evaluate the impact on ENT care delivery in the region as a result of these interventions.

Promoting oral healthcare in adolescent in-patients with mental illness

Research team: Alisha Maree Johnson (University of Western Sydney), Associate Professor Ajesh George (University of Western Sydney), Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett (University of Western Sydney), Dr Toby Raeburn (University of Western Sydney) and Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR).

This study is the first of its kind to explore the oral health experiences and practices of mental healthcare providers, and adolescents with mental health issues and their carers. The information gained will help to inform the development of tailored strategies to improve the oral health, and general health and wellbeing, of adolescents with mental illness. Providing early intervention may help to reduce the prevalence of oral health problems in adulthood and improve quality of life.

Community palliative care to support dying at home

Research team: Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR), Professor Leigh Kinsman (University of Newcastle), Professor Gina Agarwal (McMaster University, Canada), Professor Peter O'Meara (Monash University), Professor Leeroy Williams (La Trobe University/Eastern Health), Professor Alan Shiell (La Trobe University), Dr Saskia Duijts (Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation (IKNL), The Netherlands), Ruth Hardman (Sunraysia Community Health Services/ La Trobe University PhD candidate), Andrea Grindrod (La Trobe Palliative Care Unit), Julia van Vuuren (La Trobe University), Susan Morgan (Loddon Mallee Regional Palliative Care Consortium, Bendigo Health) and Hannah Jackson (La Trobe University).

This study began as an evaluation of a community palliative care service, set up to support patients who wanted to die at home, and their carers. It resulted in the establishment of an integrated community palliative care service that was subsequently assessed and found to be sustainable, acceptable and affordable. There were, however, concerns about its adaptability, mainly due to rural workforce shortages.

As part of this project, a study with Indigenous Elders in the Mildura area and their experiences with the local palliative care service was also undertaken, focussing on ways to increase uptake.

Further research, in collaboration with Sunraysia Community Health Services, hopes to identify innovative ways to improve symptom management and access to pain medication, and a proof-of-concept study with community paramedicine to support palliative care services in residential aged care facilities.

This research was supported by the Murray Primary Health Network (first two evaluations) and the Loddon Mallee Regional Palliative Care Consortium (focus groups with Indigenous Elders).

The density of tobacco retailers and smoking prevalence in rural Victoria

Research team: John Baker (La Trobe University PhD candidate), Steve Begg (La Trobe University), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR), Lukar Thornton (Deakin University) and Aziz Rehman (Federation University).

Density and proximity of tobacco retailers have important implications for smoking and tobacco use. There is a relationship between tobacco retailer density and/or proximity, and smoking behaviour among residents in lower-socioeconomic status communities, and among students who attend schools with a retailer located nearby.

This study investigates the licencing of tobacco retailers in rural Victoria. It will also examine the relationship between the proximity of tobacco retailers in rural Victoria with smoking behaviour.

Longevity and failure rate of dentures in the Victorian population

Research team: Dr Marietta Taylor (Bendigo Health PhD candidate), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR) and Dr George Mnatzaganian (La Trobe University).

Complete dentures are prosthetic devices used to restore speech, appearance and function to edentulous patients. Fabrication of complete dentures has financial implications at the individual and public level.

This project aims to quantify the longevity and failure of complete dentures, and of complete dentures opposed to natural teeth, in a population of patients who have received care through the Victorian public dental service. Understanding the natural history of complete dentures, including their lifespan and failure rate, will help policymakers to develop a denture replacement plan.

Honouring child and family voices in paediatric blood and marrow transplant

Research team: Dr Christina West (University of Manitoba, Canada), Professor Pamela S. Hinds (George Washington University, U.S.A.), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Debra Dusome (University of Brandon, Canada), Joanne Winsor (University of Manitoba, Canada), Vanessa Slobogian (Alberta Children's Hospital, Canada), Meaghan Johnston (Mount Royal University, Canada), Wendy Pelletier (Alberta Children's Hospital, Canada), Jewel Loewen (Alberta Children's Hospital, Canada), Jennifer Crysdale (Alberta Children's Hospital, Canada), Dr Michelle Lobchuk (University of Manitoba, Canada), Dr Donna Wall (University of Manitoba, Canada) and Dr Victor Lewis (University of Calgary, Canada).

Paediatric bone marrow transplant (BMT) can be lifesaving, but it also increases uncertainty, worry, and fear for family members. Despite the increasing focus on BMT as a treatment for serious illness in children, there remains limited research on the psychosocial impact of BMT on the entire family. Early findings indicate that families living in rural communities face unique challenges that impact the whole family.

This study uses a family systems-expressive arts framework to understand the transition of the entire family through paediatric BMT. Families have been recruited from two large children's hospitals. Integrated knowledge translation will be used in the study, with



family members, adolescent/young adult bone marrow transplant recipients, and interdisciplinary professionals guiding all phases of the research. A knowledge translation video will also be created by participating family members.

This research is supported by Research Manitoba, Canada.

Creating meaningful change for children and families in paediatric blood and marrow transplant

Research team: Dr Christina West (University of Manitoba, Canada), Dr Kendra Rieger (Trinity Western University, Canada), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Debra Dusome (Brandon University, Canada), Dr Fiona Shulte (University of Calgary, Canada) and Dr Mandy Archibald (University of Manitoba, Canada).

This study will explore child and family experiences of blood and marrow transplant (BMT) using a family systems-expressive arts framework and constructivist grounded theory.

The need for the Expressive Healing Network – a unique, partnership-based knowledge translation network – emerged from the Research Manitoba study. Researchers will use the emerging findings from the Research Manitoba study to examine the processes of knowledge translation in the Expressive Healing Network (face-to-face meetings and an interactive website environment).

This study aims to understand more about knowledge translation by applying a partnership approach to rapid translation of knowledge, with diverse stakeholders.

This research is supported by the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, Canada.



Art-based knowledge translation strategy in oncology

Research team: Dr Kendra Rieger (Trinity Western University, Canada), Professor Tom Hack (University of Manitoba, Canada), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Mandy Archibald (University of Manitoba, Canada), Miriam Duff (Cancer Care Manitoba, Canada), Patrick Faucher (Centre for Healthcare Innovation, Canada), Tim Dyck (Cancer Care Manitoba, Canada) and Christina West (University of Manitoba, Canada).

This study investigates the impact of an art exhibit as an innovative arts-based knowledge translation strategy in oncology. Researchers initially conducted a qualitative grounded theory study of how people process their cancer experiences through a mindfulness-based expressive arts group. During the ten-week program, participants engaged in mindfulness practices and completed various expressive art activities including an art journal, an emotional continuum sketchbook, a body outline, and a mandala.

This art exhibit will feature photographs of the participants' artwork grouped by qualitative findings; life-size banners of the participants' body outline; pictures of the participants' mandalas displayed as works of art; and/or photo books displaying all of the types of art created in the class and describing the weekly group activities. An exhibit brochure and an audio-guide will also be created.

Researchers will evaluate the impact of the art exhibit on attendees, as there is nascent research investigating this knowledge translation strategy in oncology. The art exhibit will be the 'real-life case,' examining how arts-based initiatives can facilitate knowledge translation and understanding with diverse groups of people.

This research is supported by Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research, Canada.

Responding to the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Research team: Hannah Beks (Deakin University), Associate Professor Kevin McNamara (Deakin University), Associate Professor (Vince Versace), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR) and Associate Professor James Charles (Deakin University).

This study explores how Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, as Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS), respond to the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the primary healthcare setting.

Researchers will undertake a mixed-methods process and impact evaluation of an Aboriginal community-developed and governed model of primary healthcare (Tulku wan Wininn mobile clinic), and a telehealth model of care.

They will examine the complexities of implementing new models of healthcare in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, including impacts of COVID-19. And, they will use complexity theory to develop a theoretical framework, through a meta-synthesis of evaluation findings and existing theories, to explain how Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations as CAS respond to the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the primary care setting.

Social Determinants of Self-Management Capacity

Research Team: Ruth Hardman (PhD candidate VVMCRHR), Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR), Dr Steve Begg (La Trobe Rural Health School).

This PhD project explores the impact of rurality and socioeconomic status (SES) on people's ability to self-manage common chronic health conditions, especially where there is multimorbidity. The research has included a systematic review looking at the impact of SES on participation, engagement and outcomes from self-management interventions, as well as qualitative interviews with patients and health providers working in regional community health settings. Using Shippee's Cumulative Complexity Model, the experiences and understanding of workload and capacity in chronic disease management from both the patient and provider viewpoint are being investigated. Future research will include analysis of a patient survey assessing workload and capacity, leading to the development of an alternative model of care for chronic disease self-management in disadvantaged multimorbid populations.



PROMOTING EQUITY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF RURAL PEOPLE

Addressing oral health for rural people with mental illness

Research team: Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVMCRHR), Professor Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom), Dr Susan Kidd (Victoria University), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR), Dr David Azul (VVMCRHR), Dr Carina Chan (VVMCRHR), Dr Brad Christian (VVMCRHR), Dr Jacqui Theobald (VVMCRHR), Dr Brad Hodge (VVMCRHR), Dr Ron Knevel (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR), Dr Prabhakar Veginadu (VVMCRHR PhD candidate) and Dr Nastaran Doroud (VVMCRHR).

Rural people who are severely disadvantaged through mental illness have appalling oral health outcomes, and face major inequity due to where they live. This study addresses one of the most complex and neglected health problems: the oral health of people with mental illness living in rural Australia.

Researchers will explore oral health interventions for people living with mental disorders; the context and mechanisms that have contributed to the success of these interventions, or the barriers and challenges. They will produce program theories on causal, contextual and mechanistic factors to facilitate outcomes and implement interventions to improve oral health outcomes.

This is the first study to use a realist approach to explore the causal factors that impact on the success or failure of oral health interventions for people with mental disorders. This unique approach creatively deconstructs oral health as a dental issue and reinterprets it as a multicausal/multi-impact issue that must be addressed through broad system engagement and change. The research outcomes will result in extensive stakeholder action and rapid translation of knowledge to practice.

Oral health interventions for older people in residential aged care facilities

Research team: Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVMCRHR), Dr Carina Chan (VVMCRHR), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR), Professor Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom), Dr Brad Christian (VVMCRHR), Dr Brad Hodge (VVMCRHR), Dr Susan Furness (VVMCRHR), Dr Lisa Hanson (VVMCRHR), Dr Samantha Clune (VVMCRHR), Dr Emma Zadow (VVMCRHR) and Dr Ron Knevel (VVMCRHR).

Poor oral health among older people is a global problem that impacts on health and wellbeing. The economic cost to the health system is significant and a rapidly ageing population is intensifying the need for action.

This study explores oral health interventions for older people in residential aged care. It aims to identify the underlying contexts and mechanisms of change and how these interact to produce intended and unintended outcomes.

Participants include older people living in residential aged care facilities, the aged care workforce, carers and families. To ensure data richness, oral health outcome data will supplement the findings. Stakeholders will be engaged to examine consistencies across studies and an explanatory causal theory will be developed to guide policy and practice.



Sharing stories about women's experiences of surviving family violence

Research team: Dr Susan Kidd (Victoria University/VVMCRHR), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Professor Jenny Sharples (Victoria University) and Robyn Trainor (Centre for Non-Violence Bendigo).

Family violence is a critical issue in Australian society. Women living outside capital cities are 1.4 times more likely to be victims. Regional and rural women are less likely than metropolitan women to disclose family violence because of the nature of small communities, fear of further abuse from perpetrators, and systemic gaps in service delivery. The long-term impact of domestic abuse on women and, by extension, their children and communities, is significant.

Rural proofing is needed by developing resources that challenge gendered stereotypes of people who experience family violence in rural communities. Women who have survived family violence want to contribute their knowledge and be advocates for change.

This study will support women who have survived family violence to share their stories, contribute to social change and build capacity in rural communities. Using the process of digital storytelling researchers, family violence workers, and women with lived experience of family violence will work together to develop stories designed to contribute to societal change.

The health impacts of loneliness and social isolation in rural populations

Research team: Tara Williams (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR) and Dr Ali Lakhani (La Trobe University).

Loneliness is an emerging and important public health concern associated with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. While much research has focused on interventions to alleviate loneliness and social isolation in urban populations, there has been no systematic investigation of interventions targeting loneliness and social isolation in a rural context. This systematic review will summarise the current understanding on the effectiveness of interventions for reducing loneliness and social isolation amongst rural populations.

Loneliness in rural communities

Research team: Kathy Jordan (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift (VVMCRHR) and Dr Carina Chan (VVMCRHR).

For many older people, loneliness is not simply a part of life, but a way of life. While there are many studies that examine what loneliness is and how people come to be lonely, far less is known about experiences of loneliness in the rural context.

Underpinned by constructivist and interpretive methodology, this project will use a phased case study approach to examine how people interpret their life experiences of loneliness and the meaning that is born from their interpretations. A mixed-methods approach will be used to explore individual experiences of loneliness in the rural context.

Through meaningful participation in the research process, individuals within rural communities who experience loneliness will have the opportunity to share their stories. It is hoped that this participation will lead to the development of community-driven strategies to address the issue in the rural context.

Supportive cancer care

Research team: Dr Evelien Spelten (VVMCRHR), Professor Carlene Wilson (La Trobe University/Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Centre), Professor Hui Gan (Austin Hospital/La Trobe University/Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Centre), Dr Kerry Pike (La Trobe University), Dr Eva Yuen (La Trobe University/Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Centre), Dr Saskia Duijts (Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation (IKNL), The Netherlands), Dr Jan Maarten van der Zwan (Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation (IKNL), The Netherlands), Ruth Hardman (La Trobe University/Sunraysia Community Health Services PhD candidate) and Bryan McDade (Rare Cancers Australia).

This study examines various aspects of psycho-oncology. Projects include a review on the use of telehealth in the delivery of supportive cancer care and a clinical trial to examine the effectiveness of a tailored supportive programme for patients and survivors with rare cancers.

This research hopes to make a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of this under-served, disadvantaged and substantial group of rare cancer patients and survivors.

This research is supported by a La Trobe University Research Focus Area grant.

Factors influencing access to public dental services for refugees in Victoria

Research team: Dr Prabhakar Veginadu (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Hanny Calache (VVMCRHR), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR) and Professor Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom).

Australia resettles around 18,000 refugees each year. Victoria has received about a third of these refugees, 50% of which are expected to settle in regional and rural areas by 2022.

Refugees are considered a vulnerable group, as they are at an increased risk of poor oral health compared to the general population, with limited access to public dental services in Victoria. This study explores access as it relates to the resettled refugee population in Victoria. A geographic information system-based spatial analysis, using secondary data gathered from multiple sources, will be employed. Findings will inform oral health policy and highlight critical areas for future research.

Why children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities do not enjoy equity in access to dental services

Research team: Dr Rahila Christian (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Hanny Calache (VVMCRHR), Dr Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom) and Professor Teresa Iacono (Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University).

Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) experience poorer oral health and significant unmet treatment needs when compared to children in the general population. Barriers include physical inaccessibility of the service, lack of awareness of the importance of oral health, costs incurred by carers, and difficulties in making appointments.

This study explores why children with IDD do not enjoy equity in access to dental services. Using an explanatory multi-method study design, the first quantitative phase involves estimation of attendance rates of children with IDD in the general dental services in the Loddon Mallee region. The second qualitative phase involves interviewing parents and service providers from the clinics that participated in phase one, to identify factors across these clinics that have influenced service use.

Healthy ageing among older adults in Echuca Moama

Research team: Dr Carina Chan (VVMCRHR) and Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR).

This study explores the barriers and facilitators of using technology among older adults in the Echuca Moama region. It will explore how technology can be best designed and implemented to support rural seniors to be more physically active and socially connected. Findings will inform a larger study focused on supporting older people to age well.

Barriers and enablers of achieving optimal oral health in people who use illicit drugs

Research team: Dr Tejashree Kangutkar (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Hanny Calache (VVMCRHR), Professor Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom), and Dr Ron Knevel (VVMCRHR).

People who use illicit drugs experience higher prevalence of oral health problems compared to those who do not. However, there is lack of evidence on the barriers and enablers to achieving optimal oral health in people who use illicit drugs. This qualitative study will examine these barriers and enablers from the perspective of the people who use drugs, service providers and key stakeholders.

Evaluating the impact of public involvement in health service design

Research team: Nicola Lloyd (VVMCRHR PhD candidate), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR) and Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR).

This study examines the impact of public involvement in health service design to understand barriers and enablers. Researchers have completed a systematic review determining what health service outcomes have been reported as a result of public involvement in health service design, and how have they been evaluated. Qualitative interviews with researchers who have published studies involving the public in health service design will now be undertaken.



Pregnancy and Homelessness

Research team: Dr Jacqui Theobald (VVMCRHR), Professor Suellen Murray (RMIT) and Dr Juliet Watson (RMIT).

Without the basic needs of shelter and stability, it is very difficult for pregnant homeless women to prepare for motherhood practically, physically and emotionally. Homelessness creates negative consequences for the mother and baby.

This study, featuring interviews and focus groups with service providers and women who have experienced pregnancy and homelessness, found that pregnancy did not necessarily afford the women greater access to housing support or secure accommodation. While the women described positive relationships with staff from homeless, housing and health services, there was also evidence that homeless women face multiple systemic and social barriers, which exacerbated their exclusion from supported housing and homelessness services alongside other forms of social support and healthcare.

This research was supported by the Melbourne Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Launch Housing.

Development of an occupational therapy recovery-oriented intervention

Research team: Dr Nastaran Doroud (VVMCRHR), Professor Ellie Fossey (Monash University) and Associate Professor Tracy Fortune (La Trobe University).

This study identified the need to implement mental health services within Victorian rural secondary schools. Secondary school staff were surveyed on identifying and assisting students with mental health issues. Researchers found that teachers can identify students at risk but accessing mental health services is an issue. Education and mental health services must work together to ensure young people receive services in a timely and accessible manner.

Evaluation of ACT Recovery College

Research team: Professor Lisa Brophy (La Trobe University), Professor Helen Jordan (University of Melbourne), Dr Catherine Minshall (La Trobe University), Dr Nastaran Doroud (VVMCRHR), Dr Teressa Hall (University of Melbourne) and Alicia King (La Trobe University PhD candidate).

In collaboration with the University of Melbourne and ACT Government, this study will evaluate processes and outcomes of a Recovery College in Canberra. Using a mixed-method design, documentation analysis, an online survey, semi-structured interviews and focus groups, researchers will collect data from students, staff, educators, carers and other practitioners at ACT Recovery College as well as ACT mental health practitioners and stakeholders.

This research is supported by the ACT Government.

The concept of social inclusion across policy and practice

Research team: Nicole Preston (La Trobe University clinical doctoral student), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR) and Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR).

Social inclusion is a core component of service development and delivery, within current human and health sectors, from policy to practice. Services, whether they be education, health, community or social, must ensure inclusivity. Despite its strong presence at the international and national policy level, social inclusion remains a challenge for individuals to achieve, practitioners to facilitate, organisations to measure and policy to define.

This study explores the concept of social inclusion and exclusion across policy to increase understanding of the connection or disconnect between policy, practice and person. Occupational therapy, with its understanding of the complex interplay between people, environment and participation is well placed to understand, support and promote social inclusion agendas at both the individual and population level.

A transdisciplinary theoretical model of the nexus of voice, communication, socio-cultural positioning, diversity, inclusion, and communication-related wellbeing

Research team: Dr David Azul (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Adrienne Hancock (The George Washington University, U.S.A), Dr Cecilia Dhejne (Karolinska Institute, Sweden), Dr Ulrika Nygren (Karolinska Institute, Sweden), Dr Tove Lundberg, (Lund University, Sweden), Vikki Sinnott (Psychologist, Melbourne).

This research project is designed to explore the relationships between communication, diversity in socio-cultural positioning and wellbeing in the field of overlap between speech pathology and mental health practice. The main research question we seek to address is how speech pathologists and mental health practitioners can work together to enhance wellbeing in people from diverse sociocultural backgrounds in a manner that attends and does justice to the complexity of individual and supra-individual forces that affect wellbeing and that are not necessarily under individual control.

Development of the Voice and Communication Situation Questionnaire (VCSQ^{PFAB}): An assessment tool for gender diverse people presumed female at birth

Research team: Dr David Azul (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Adrienne Hancock (The George Washington University, U.S.A), Dr Ulrika Nygren (Karolinska Institute, Sweden)

The VCSQ^{PFAB} is self-evaluation questionnaire for gender diverse people presumed female at birth (GD people^{PFAB}) based on an innovative transdisciplinary theoretical approach that is currently piloted in the US, in Sweden and in Germany. We are planning to expand this questionnaire and assessment approach in the future for use with all people who are seeking support for their voice and communication function, the communication of their sense of sociocultural belonging and their communication-related wellbeing.



Digital storytelling as a method in health research

Research team: Dr Christina West (University of Manitoba, Canada), Dr Kendra Rieger (Trinity Western University, Canada), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Rishma Chooniedass (University of Manitoba, Canada), Lisa Demczuk (University of Manitoba, Canada), Joanne Chateau (University of Manitoba, Canada) and Professor Shannon Scott (University of Alberta, Canada).

Digital storytelling is an arts-based research method that can elucidate complex narratives in a compelling manner, increase participant engagement and enhance the meaning of research findings.

This systematic review will examine the use, impact, and ethical considerations of digital storytelling in health research. It will explore what is known about the purpose, definition, use (processes), and contexts of digital storytelling as part of the health research process; the impact on the research process, knowledge development and healthcare practice; and the key ethical considerations when using digital storytelling within qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies.

In collaboration with national and international experts in digital storytelling, researchers will synthesise evidence about digital storytelling that is critical to the development of methodological and ethical expertise about arts-based research methods. They will also develop recommendations for incorporating digital storytelling in a meaningful and ethical manner into the research process.

This research is supported by Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research, Canada.

Improving oral health for people with serious mental illness

Research team: Dr Brad Christian (VVMCRHR), Professor Mark Gussy (University of Lincoln, United Kingdom), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Dr Mohd Masood (VVMCRHR), Angela Huang (La Trobe University) and Dr Prabhakar Veginadu (VVMCRHR PhD candidate).

Poor oral health is a significant issue among people with serious mental illness. While the psychological, physical, social, and economic burden of oral diseases are well documented, poor oral health of people with serious mental illness is often ignored by policymakers, service providers, and researchers. The current state of evidence on interventions to improve the oral health of people with serious mental illness is unknown.

This systematic review addresses this gap. It will determine the effectiveness of interventions to improve oral health outcomes for people with serious mental illness.

Building healthy communities with the social model of disability

Research team: Professor Teresa Iacono (Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University), Dr Kerry Bagley (VVMCRHR), Dr Jo Spong (La Trobe University), Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR), Dr Oriane Landry (Living with Disability Research Centre, La Trobe University) and Dr Michael Arthur-Kelly (University of Newcastle).

In this project, co-designed educational resources will be developed that can be used by parents, teachers and allied health professionals to improve inclusion of children with disability in mainstream primary schools. Researchers will develop and evaluate a tool to measure learning about the social model of disability and evaluate it through a randomised control trial.



Community based priority setting for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in rural and regional Victoria

Research team: Dr Kerry Bagley (VVMCRHR), Dr Nerida Hyett (VVMCRHR), Dr Natasha Long (VVMCRHR), Professor Amanda Kenny (VVMCRHR), Professor Teresa Iacono (VVMCRHR), Associate Professor Carol McKinstry (VVMCRHR).

Fetal alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is life-long condition caused by pre-natal exposure to alcohol. People with FASD have a range cognitive, physical and behavioural challenges which impact their day to day functioning. This under-recognised health concern has particular impacts on health and wellbeing in regional Victoria, where services and support for FASD may be absent. Drawing together health, social service and education professionals, consumers, and researchers from the LRHS, this project seeks to understand community awareness of FASD and to identify priorities and actions for future service provision across regional Victoria.

Participants in this research have contributed to focus group discussions, responding to the National FASD Strategic Plan (2018-2028), which set out a range of priorities and pathways for FASD prevention, diagnosis, support and management at the national level. They discussed how the objectives of the plan translate to the Victorian regional context and what the top priorities were for them. The outcomes of these discussions will provide a basis for fostering better understanding of the needs, challenges and steps required to enable better FASD service provision in regional Victoria.



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Conference presentations

Azul, D. (2019) *Facilitators and barriers of voice function in gender diverse people assigned female at birth: Results from a qualitative content analysis of interview transcripts*, Oral presentation at the 2019 USPATH Meeting, September 03-08, Washington, DC, USA.

Gardner, M., McKinstry, C. & Perrin, B. (2020) *A pilot of group supervision to enhance learning and support for allied health professionals*. Poster presented at the ANZAHPE 2020 Conference, 2020 Vision for Learning Cultures Conference Proceedings, <https://www.anzahpe.org/2020-Conference>

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Kenny, A. (2019) Keynote address Helsinki TerOpe International Assembly, Helsinki Finland. Sept 23

Kenny, A. (2019) Keynote address and workshops, University of Oulu, Finland Sept 23-26

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Lee, A.L., Smith, R., Osadnik, R., **McAleer, R.**, & King, P (2020). *The educational needs of people with bronchiectasis in a pulmonary rehabilitation setting*. Poster presented at the European Respiratory Society Conference, Vienna (online), September 2020.

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