



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# The McCaughey Centre

## VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing

### eNews August 2009

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#### The McCaughey Centre

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#### Welcome from the Director



The past few months have been particularly busy for the McCaughey Centre, as a number of new projects begin and we see results from several projects that are reaching their end or moving into a new phase.

This edition's feature stories include a summary of a recent roundtable on family violence and social inclusion (page 2); a description of several of the Centre's projects aimed at improving child health and wellbeing (page 3); and an article about Centre Manager Janine Campbell's Bronwyn Jane Adams Award for professional staff (page 4). On behalf of the Centre I'd like to congratulate Janine on this well-deserved award, one result of which will be a project exploring the ways professional staff can add to and support knowledge translation and exchange.

On the subject of knowledge translation and exchange, the Centre was visited in July by Professor Angie Hart, Professor of Child, Family and Community Health at Brighton University. Angie presented a seminar for the Centre on her work with the Community-University Partnerships Program, and met with a number of Centre staff around issues of knowledge translation. You can read more about Angie's visit on page 7.

Centre staff continue to form a range of partnerships and collaborations, and continue to be involved in committees and community organisations. Taegen Edwards and I have recently been involved in the launch of Safe Climate Australia, a new organisation aimed at identifying and catalysing action on the societal transformations and solutions needed to achieve a safe climate (more details on page 7).

You can read about the Centre's first short courses on page 9. The courses were extremely well-received, and I congratulate those who worked so hard to organise and run them. The Centre will continue to run short courses across a range of our areas of work, so keep an eye on our website for future opportunities.

Professor John Wiseman



## Family Violence and Social Inclusion Roundtable

Internationally and nationally the impetus to reduce violence against women and improve social inclusion are key defining features of public policy. On Thursday 16 July leaders in the fields of social inclusion and family violence gathered at the University of Melbourne to attend a National Roundtable on Family Violence and Social Inclusion. Naomi Eisenstadt, Director of the Social Exclusion Unit in the United Kingdom, chaired the event, and she was joined by key presenters Libby Lloyd, Chair of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and Children, and Patricia Faulkner, Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board Secretariat.

The roundtable was organised by Dr Marion Frere (Deputy Director, McCaughey Centre), Professor Cathy Humphreys (Alfred Felton Chair, School of Social Work) and Professor Anne Kavanagh (Director, Key Centre for Women's Health and Society) under the auspices of FAIR (Family Violence: Actioning Interdisciplinary Research).

The event was attended by representatives across government and non government organisations, peak bodies, and other academics with expertise in family violence and social inclusion. Bringing a wealth of wisdom from research and practice, participants were unanimous in their view that social inclusion has a key role in assisting individuals and families to recover from violence and that it can contribute to the prevention of family violence.

*...social exclusion is both a precursor to and a result of family violence...*

Dr Eisenstadt emphasised in her opening remarks that data on the impact of family violence on social inclusion is notoriously difficult to obtain and that we need to improve both our data collection and analysis if we are to make a significant policy impact. This was echoed by participants who noted that a number of key Australian survey instruments do not ask questions on violence, making it difficult to analyse how the experience of violence impacts on income, labour market participation, access to services and social participation (all key indicators of social inclusion). A further strong message from the Roundtable was that a 'one size fits all' approach to services will not work, and the system must allow for catering to individual women's needs and experiences of violence.

Professor Humphreys, in her closing remarks, commented that there are a range of excellent programs of research and development of services and prevention strategies already in place in Australia. "It's not about reinventing the wheel,"

she said of the intention behind the roundtable, "it's about joining the dots." Participants agreed that social exclusion is both a precursor to and a result of family violence, and the two fields must be more integrated in approaching prevention and treatment. Approaches must be long term, aiming to "rebuild the woman into society", says Professor Humphreys, and recognise that the causes and effects of violence run deep.

As Dr Marion Frere concluded, the important thing now is to consider "What next?" A number of outcomes and priority actions have been identified as a result of the roundtable (see below), and participants will continue to work together in coming months, sharing their vast knowledge and experience to create tangible improvements in service delivery for victims of family violence, and ultimately, to search for ways to prevent the occurrence of abuse.

### Outcomes and Priority Actions from the Family Violence and Social Inclusion Roundtable

#### The Foundations – is it all about a home and a job?

Develop a "foundation piece" for publication on the links between family violence and social inclusion

#### Being strategic – making the response to family violence a social inclusion priority

Provide advice to the Social Inclusion Board on the *Compendium of Social Inclusion Indicators*

#### New directions in system, program and practice reform

**Services:** Pick one or two key achievable policy responses (headliners) and then work to change the system to make it happen (e.g. No Moves, No Eviction for housing/accommodation responses to women with children who have experienced domestic and family violence)

**Employment:** Engage with relevant employer organisations and workplace research centres to explore ways forward, including the development of a potential research agenda

#### Strengthening the research program

Development of academic/government/community sector partnership research projects (family violence and social participation, family violence and labour market participation, respectful relationships).

Lobbying for national data collections including longitudinal data sets (such as HILDA) to collect information on violence

Establishment of National Centre for Excellence for the Prevention of Violence Against Women as recommended in *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*.

## Child health and wellbeing

One of the main health issues of great inequality within the population is obesity and comorbidities associated with risks related to common determinants – social determinants, food choice patterns, physical activity, social participation and isolation, social stigma.

Within the McCaughey Centre, researchers in the child health and wellbeing team have been working on a range of intervention and evaluation studies to improve child health and wellbeing, prevent obesity, improve healthy eating, physical activity, body image, healthy cultural customs and sustainability of long term health promotion environmental changes. The range of studies include *fun n healthy in Moreland!*, the evaluation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden, the evaluation of Kids – ‘Go for your Life’, the evaluation of the 6 childhood obesity prevention demonstration sites, Knowledge Translation for Obesity Prevention in Local Government (KTOP), a range of food security related projects, the Cochrane Systematic Review on preventing childhood obesity, and our foundation study (in collaboration with Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI)), the Health of Young Victorians Study.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden project aims to involve children in growing and preparing fresh food with the intention of encouraging primary school children to eat healthily, develop an awareness of environmental sustainability and develop positive self esteem and relationships with other children and adults. Researchers from the McCaughey Centre and Deakin University working on the evaluation have now finished collecting data and are engaged in analysis for the final report. The research team has been working with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation as well as twelve participating primary schools throughout Victoria for the course of the evaluation.

According to researcher Karen Block, preliminary results suggest that the program has had a significant impact not only on children and schools, but also on their families and the wider community. ‘Findings suggest that not only does the program readily achieve its primary objective of increasing children’s appreciation of a wide range of healthy foods, but that it has perceived benefits that extend much further, says Karen. ‘The data are also telling us that the program has also increased student engagement and confidence – in particular helping to integrate children described as ‘non-academic’ who may otherwise rarely experience success at school as well as children and families from diverse backgrounds. In addition, the program has led to enhanced social skills and strengthened connections between schools and students, parents and the wider community.’

The potential for the program to encourage social inclusion and to engage children who may otherwise be at risk of ‘disengagement’ has some important implications for promoting

equity. As well as adding substantially to the limited evidence base concerning this type of intervention, the evaluation results will inform future funding and policy decisions.

The Kids – ‘Go for your Life’ project aims to reduce the risk of overweight and obesity in Victorian children by encouraging physical activity and healthy eating. The evaluation, which is being undertaken by Diabetes Australia – Vic, Cancer Council Victoria and the McCaughey Centre, works within a range of community settings relevant to children, such as child care, family day care, kindergartens and primary schools. According to researcher Lauren Prosser, a key challenge ‘involves communicating across each of these settings including children, families and staff from the schools and services’. A further challenge in working in community settings, Lauren says, ‘is working within their busy schedules and presenting to them a data collection methodology that will not add to their administrative processes’.

Research staff working on the evaluation are currently analysing data collected primarily in term 2, 2009 and the beginning of term 3. ‘The data being collected from schools and services includes food and nutrition policies, physical activity policies and detailed information regarding their nutrition and physical activity environment,’ Lauren says.

*Researchers in the Jack Brockhoff  
Child Health and Wellbeing Program  
believe strongly in the importance of  
having the best possible start to life...*

The outcomes of this evaluation will provide further understanding of how a healthy eating and physical activity program may influence both the home environment and the wider community. The final results of this evaluation will be available in 2010.

The *fun n healthy in Moreland!* project aims to build a strong understanding of how to work with schools to create healthy environments for children and families. It is a cluster randomised controlled trial of a child health promotion and obesity prevention intervention involving 23 primary schools in Moreland. A collaborative project between the University of Melbourne and Merri Community Health Services, *fun n healthy* has a strong focus on community participation and knowledge translation, with strategies driven by the schools in order to ensure their relevance and sustainability.

Child health and wellbeing is a central focus for the McCaughey Centre, and also forms a key part of the Centre’s focus on community participation and knowledge translation and exchange. Researchers in the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program believe strongly in the importance of having the best possible start to life, and these and other projects across a range of children’s health and wellbeing issues have made, and will continue to make, a powerful impact in the lives of Victorian children.

## Knowledge Translation and Exchange

### Bronwyn Jane Adams Award

In April 2009 McCaughey Centre Manager Janine Campbell was awarded the University of Melbourne's Bronwyn Jane Adams Award for Professional Staff to undertake a project titled *New directions in knowledge transfer and university-community engagement: How administrative staff can support and advance KT in teaching, learning and research*.

The project aims to bring together examples of best practice and innovation in relation to knowledge transfer and university-community engagement from Australia and abroad, and translate these findings into practical ways for University of Melbourne professional staff to better support knowledge transfer within their respective Centres, Departments and Faculties.

*The project aims to bring together examples of best practice and innovation in relation to knowledge transfer and university-community engagement from Australia and abroad...*

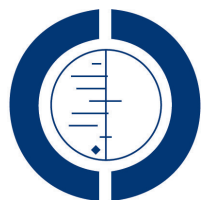
The program of activity is ongoing, and began with a series of interviews with leading experts in the field from the United Kingdom and Ireland regarding their views on and approaches to university-community engagement. Janine spent a week and a half in May visiting a number of institutions to collect these different perspectives, presenting seminars at the National University of Ireland and the University of East London, and meeting with the following individuals:

- Professor Angie Hart and her staff from the award winning Community University Partnership Program (CUPP) at the University of Brighton;
- Professor David Watson, Chair of Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education, University of London;

- Professor John Annette, Dean of Faculty, Professor of Citizenship and Lifelong Learning, Pro Vice Master for Widening Participation in Community Partnerships, School of Continuing Education, Birkbeck (University of London);
- Lorraine McIlrath and her team at the Community Knowledge Initiative, National University of Ireland (Galway);
- Paul Manners, Director of the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (Bristol);
- Members of the Research Support Services Team at the University of Warwick (Coventry);
- Professor John Storan, Director of the Centre for Widening Participation Policy Studies at the University of East London; and
- Professor Lyndal Bond, Associate Director of the Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow.

Janine also attended the University of Melbourne's 'Developing the Knowledge Economy' conference in August, and is now in the process of pulling together her learnings and reflections from these activities into an online resource for professional staff who have an interest in enhancing the knowledge translation and exchange activities within their departments. She also intends host a forum for professional staff to discuss current issues and best practice in relation to supporting knowledge transfer at The University of Melbourne.

## Cochrane Public Health Review Group Update



THE COCHRANE  
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### New impact factor for Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews now has an impact factor of 5.182 and is ranked 12th out of 107 in the ISI journal category Medicine, General & Internal. The 2007 impact factor was 4.654 and the ranking was 14th out of 100. Impact factors are generated from citations of published work – a high ranking signifies that Cochrane Reviews are being cited by other publications and is a proxy for the importance of these publications.

### New Cochrane protocols and reviews in Issue 2, 2009 of The Cochrane Library

#### Protocols

- Behavioral interventions for increasing the use of condoms in women with HIV
- Collaboration between local health and local government agencies for health improvement\*
- Community-based intervention package for preventing maternal morbidity and mortality and improving neonatal outcomes
- Interventions for preventing injuries caused by impaired alertness in individuals who are not sleep deprived
- Interventions for preventing injuries caused by impaired alertness in individuals who are sleep deprived
- Interventions for preventing injuries caused by impaired alertness in individuals with jet lag and shift work disorder
- Psychological and/or educational interventions for reducing alcohol consumption in pregnant women and women planning pregnancy
- Vaccines for preventing anthrax
- Workplace interventions for alcohol and other drug problems

#### Reviews

- Alcohol and drug screening of occupational drivers for preventing injury
- Education of children and adolescents for the prevention of dog bite injuries
- Interventions for preventing falls in older people living in the community
- Workplace interventions for preventing work disability

\*Protocol/review published by the CPHRG

### Interested in helping to peer review Cochrane Reviews in progress?

As part of the Cochrane Collaboration's systematic review process, each protocol and subsequent review requires a team of peer reviewers. Peer reviewers are responsible for assessing the relevance and usefulness of the review. This results in Cochrane Reviews that better meet the needs of end users. If you are interested in peer reviewing please contact Jodie ([jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au)). Please make sure you let Jodie know your areas of interest.

### 2009 Cochrane Colloquium activities

#### Training

The PHRG will be running a one-day training session on conducting systematic reviews of public health interventions on Saturday 10th October, prior to this year's Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore. Interested? Contact Rebecca Armstrong ([armr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:armr@unimelb.edu.au)) for more information.

#### KT special session

Liz and Rebecca have been invited to organise a special session for the 2009 Cochrane Colloquium on Knowledge Translation. This will be a panel session designed to stimulate debate about KT research, KT activities and the role of the Cochrane Collaboration in facilitating KT. If you would like further information please contact Rebecca ([armr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:armr@unimelb.edu.au)).

## Research News

### New Grants

CI-A Prof J Douwes, CI-B Dr D McLean... (plus 6 others at Massey University in Wellington), and CI-I A/Prof AD LaMontagne (New Zealand-based project). "Workplace interventions to reduce wood dust exposures in joinery and furniture workers." Funded by the New Zealand Health Research Council, 2009—2012, NZ\$399,999.

CI-A Prof AM Kavanagh, CI-B A/Prof AD LaMontagne, CI-C Dr. R Bentley, CI-D Dr. J McVernon. "H1N1-related Victorian school closures: quarantine compliance and impact of parents' precarious employment." Funded by the Australian NHMRC, 2009-2010, \$276,974.

Waters E, Armstrong R and Doyle J. 2008. Category 1: Cochrane Collaborative Review Groups with their sole editorial base in Australia. Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. \$291,472.

## Upcoming Events

# SEMINAR SERIES - SEMESTER TWO, 2009

All seminars will be held from 1.00pm - 2.00pm in Room 515, Level 5,  
207 Bouverie Street, Carlton (unless otherwise noted)

<b>Tuesday 22 September</b>	<b>The Developmental Systems Framework for preventative practice in disadvantaged communities: moving from small scale demonstrations to large scale practice</b> Professor Ross Homel, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Director, Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research, Griffith University
<b>Tuesday 6 October</b>	<b>Coming forward: the underreporting of violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Victorians</b> Associate Professor Anne Mitchell, Director of the Research to Practice Program of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria William Leonard, Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
<b>Tuesday 27 October</b>	<b>Growing community: social impacts of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program</b> Karen Block, Research Fellow, McCaughey Centre
<b>Tuesday 10 November Room 410</b>	<b>Developing and using community indicators: lessons from Victoria</b> Sue West, Research Fellow, the McCaughey Centre Di Cox, PhD student, the McCaughey Centre
<b>Tuesday 24 November</b>	<b>Associations between place and health: what are we learning from Victoria's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy?</b> Dr Deborah Warr, Research Fellow, the McCaughey Centre

For more information on the McCaughey Centre's seminars and public lectures, please see our [events blog](#).

## Upcoming partner events

### ReGenerating Community Conference, 2-4 September, RMIT University Melbourne

The ReGenerating Community Conference is about ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government. More information can be found at <http://www.cdn-generations.net.au/>.

### Creative and Collaborative Methods in Community Research: Interdisciplinary tales of understanding and adventure

The first annual National Roundtable of Culture + Community Researchers.

3 – 6 pm, Tuesday, 1 September, 2009 at the VCA, Southbank, Melbourne

For more information contact Dr Lachlan MacDowall at (03) 9685 9087.

### ARACY conference, 2-4 September 2009, Melbourne

This Conference will focus on how we can best learn from one another and work together to innovate and take action to improve outcomes for young Australians. The Conference aims to build links between international and national experts, researchers, policy makers, practitioners, social entrepreneurs, marketers, business and financiers. For more information please visit: <http://www.aracyconference.org.au/>

## Recent events

### IAP2 and McCaughey Centre forum – Changing Climate, Changing Communities

The McCaughey Centre co-hosted another important climate change forum on July 31 – *Changing Climate, Changing Communities*, this time in conjunction with the Australasian arm of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). IAP2 is a widely acclaimed not-for-profit organisation working to promote and improve the practice of involving the public in decisions that affect their lives.

The event focussed on engaging with communities on climate change issues. It was attended by over 150 people from across Australia coming from a range of backgrounds in government, academia, and organisations practicing community engagement. The forum was addressed by Dr Janette Hartz-Karp from the Curtin Sustainability Policy Institute, Professor John Wiseman from the McCaughey Centre and Randall Pearce from Thermometer Surveys, who shared thought-provoking insights into why community engagement is critical for climate change adaptation and response and provided an update on Australia's attitudes, perceptions and values on climate change. Panel sessions gave an opportunity to showcase positive examples of engaging rural Victorian women and Eyre Peninsula Aboriginal communities, and workshops throughout the day allowed participants to hear from a range of practitioners about successful engagement strategies and important insights gained from experience engaging communities around climate change.

If you are interested in viewing presentations or following up on the issues covered, an interactive web forum has been set up to share information and create ongoing connections at: <http://iap2climatecommunity.ning.com/>.

### Angie Hart visits the McCaughey Centre

The McCaughey Centre hosted a visit by Professor Angie Hart, Academic Director of the University of Brighton's award winning Community University Partnership Program (CUPP), from the 29-30th July 2009. Angie visited a number of universities and community organizations across Australia to explore partnership and engagement strategies and initiatives. She met with a range of McCaughey Centre and University of Melbourne staff during her stay, and presented a seminar titled *Community engagement at the University of Brighton* as part of the McCaughey Centre seminar series on the morning of Thursday 30th July. Slides from this seminar can be accessed [here](#).

Further information regarding CUPP at the University of Brighton can be found [here](#), and anyone interested in networking with members can join the CUPP Social networking space at <http://cuppcop.ning.com/>

## Knowledge Transfer

### Liveable and Just workshop series – addressing the social and equity impacts of climate change with Victorian Local Government

Throughout June, researchers from the McCaughey Centre helped run a series of six workshops across Victoria for local government staff and councillors focussed on the social and equity impacts of climate change.

The workshops were a key component of the Liveable and Just project which, through dialogue with the local government sector, aims to improve understanding of the social and equity impacts of climate change for local government and their communities, and facilitate effective responses at the local level. The project is an initiative of the Victorian Local Government Association, the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence and the Department of Sustainability and Environment and is funded through the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund under the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord.

Workshops were hosted by South Gippsland, Latrobe, Colac-Otway, Mornington Peninsula and Wangaratta councils and the VLGA, with representatives from a wide range of surrounding councils attending each. The diverse mix of attending councillors and council staff with responsibilities across a broad spectrum of council activities including sustainability and environment, strategic planning, health and wellbeing, community development, housing and social justice, reflected the importance of climate change as an issue that cuts across all council functions.

The issues raised and insights provided during the workshops series will feed directly into the next stage of the Liveable and Just project – the development of a practical set of tools and resources to assist all Victorian councils respond to social impacts of climate change.

A discussion paper produced for the workshops is available at the McCaughey Centre website: [http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/research/current/climate\\_change](http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/research/current/climate_change)

For further information about the project contact Taegen Edwards at [taegene@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:taegene@unimelb.edu.au)

### Launch of Safe Climate Australia

Safe Climate Australia is a new Australian organisation that was launched in Melbourne on July 13 by the Hon. Al Gore. The purpose of Safe Climate Australia is to identify and catalyse action on the societal transformations and solutions needed to achieve a safe climate for Australia, and for the planet, at emergency speed. McCaughey Centre Director, Professor John Wiseman and Research Fellow Taegen

Edwards contributed to the establishment of Safe Climate Australia and Professor Wiseman is a member of the SCA Board.

As well as its key task to develop the Australian Safe Climate Transition Plan, SCA is coordinating the Run for a Safe Climate which will see a team of Australian emergency services workers complete a 6,000 km run in November this year. The Run will take in many of Australia's great natural icons which are fundamentally threatened by catastrophic climate change.

If you are interested in further details about the aims and work program of Safe Climate Australia please visit: [www.safeclimateaustralia.org/](http://www.safeclimateaustralia.org/)

You may also be interested in listening to the recent ABC Radio National 'Future Tense' program on the launch of Safe Climate Australia at: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/futuretense/stories/2009/2631091.htm>

## SAFER Update

The SAFER team attended the second Family Violence Roundtable held at the end of May. The team reported on continuous practice improvement in Men's Behaviour Change (MBC) programs and focus groups with Regional Coordinators and Committee Chairs on the development of the Victorian family violence reform initiatives.

There are six summary reports now available on the SAFER [website](#). For further information on all SAFER news the SAFER Update can be found on the project's website (<http://research.cwav.asn.au/AFRP/FamilyViolence/SAFER/SAFER%20Publications/Forms/AllItems.aspx>).

## Building Lives, Building Community reports

In August, two reports about Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park from the *Building Lives, Building Community* project, managed by Belinda Robson and Marion Frere, were released. One is a report to the community, the other is an Interim Research Report. These identify the following themes in how these two communities have developed:

- Rapid population growth needs to be more carefully managed
- There is a gap in services for young people
- New households face an increased risk of mortgage stress
- There is an important role in protecting the natural assets and existing resources

The McCaughey Centre is now undertaking further research in the local government area of Whittlesea which will be completed in early 2010 and will draw together a wider sample of residents living on the urban fringe. The funding for this work is from Crossroads Youth and Family Services, the Salvation Army. These reports are available on our [publications website](#).

## Cerebral Palsy Quality of Life website award

Dr Elise Davis and Dr Melanie Davern have been honoured with an Outstanding Achievement Award in the 2009 Interactive Media Awards (IMA), for their Cerebral Palsy Quality of Life website (<http://www.cpqol.org.au/>). This award is the second-highest honour bestowed by the IMA, and reflects the high standard and quality of work achieved by Drs Davis and Davern, as well as the site's Producer, Penny Harris, and Creative Director, Lara Cameron. Judges noted that the website excelled in terms of "planning, execution and overall professionalism". Congratulations to all involved. <http://www.interactivemediaawards.com/default.asp>

## Victorian Obesity Consortium

Professor Elizabeth Waters has been invited to speak at the Victorian Obesity Consortium (VOC) launch to be held in conjunction with a Forum on Obesity, 2009, at BMW Edge Auditorium, Federation Square. The forum will take place over two days, commencing on Thursday 3rd September, and concluding on Friday 4th September.

Brian Oldfield, the Chair of VOC Executive, describes VOC as "recently formed, drawing contributions from major Institutions across Victoria sharing an involvement in the prevention, treatment and understanding of obesity and its complications".

The first day of the Forum will be dedicated to a showcase of preclinical and clinical research into the mechanisms underlying obesity and metabolic syndrome and the second day will focus on public health, education and related initiatives to tackle prevention and care.

Professor Waters will be speaking on the second day of the forum, presenting on *Development and implementation of long term, sustainable solutions for child health promotion and obesity prevention interventions*. Beginning at approximately 11:30am, the session will run for 20 minutes, and will be aimed at a generalist audience.

## PhD Students

### PhD student visits Cardiff University

Public health research requires an understanding of national and international contexts, and visiting and spending time in another institution offers valuable learning experiences. Establishing and strengthening international relationships assists in the knowledge transfer process, ensuring that the respective institutions are learning from one another thus consistently building on their relationship.

To illustrate the value of international relationships, Elisha Riggs is currently visiting the Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics (CISHE) at Cardiff University where she

is working on the final stages of her PhD research. Elisha's research is looking at understanding the key causes of poor child oral health in refugee and migrant communities; this has been the exploratory phase of the Teeth Tales project. Elisha has worked in partnership with the Lebanese, Iraqi and Pakistani communities in the northern areas of Melbourne. This exploratory work, which has included over three years of building relationships with the various communities, has informed the development of a community based intervention in order to address oral disease in preschool-aged children from culturally diverse communities.

Professor Laurence Moore, the Director of CISHE and an Honorary Fellow with the McCaughey Centre, is a Principal Investigator on the Teeth Tales research project where along with a dedicated team of researchers he has established the DECIPHer Centre. This new centre focuses on the development, implementation and evaluation of complex and multi-component community interventions in a quest to improve population health and reduce health inequalities. Elisha's visit to Cardiff University is extremely relevant to the final stages of developing the community intervention for Teeth Tales.

In between the Welsh cakes and cricketing banter Elisha's trip to Cardiff University has been extremely important in continuing to build on a strong relationship between the two Centres. It has given the two institutions the opportunity to share the learnings developed from the range of projects being undertaken.

Elisha's visit to CISHE has given her the opportunity to share her extensive research experiences as well as engage with other students, scholars and current leaders concerning innovative research and evaluation methodologies and to develop international partnerships.

## Short Courses

### Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Public Health

The first of the McCaughey Centre's short course series was held in June at the University of Melbourne. A total of 26 participants from across Australia participated in the three day course on *Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Public Health* facilitated by Dr Yin Paradies and Dr Emma Kowal. This course has been held previously at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, but this was the first time it was delivered in Melbourne. The course aims to build the knowledge and ability of public health practitioners to critically analyse and engage with theoretical frameworks and debates related to Indigenous public health, including those related to cultural diversity, power relations and

identity politics. Participants were from a diverse range of backgrounds, including academics and researchers, clinicians, policy makers, and those working in non government and philanthropic organisations. Comments from participants about the course included:

*"the content of the course was excellent. The best way to describe it is that I came into the course with a 2D view of the content and came out with a full 3D view. I felt my existing knowledge was really consolidated with the new knowledge I gained. I also felt energised to continue forward which was a nice feeling...I would strongly encourage any colleagues to attend this course."*

*"The course has had a real impact. Haven't stopped thinking and talking about it. And reading actually."*

*"Once again, I would like to say I really enjoyed the course. It made me think a lot!"*

*"feeling invigorated as a result to the workshop"*

The *Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Public Health* short course will be held again in March 2010. For more information please contact Hannah Reich ([hsreich@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hsreich@unimelb.edu.au)).

### Community Indicators Victoria Short Course

The *Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Understanding Societal Change* Short Course was held on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th August. The course was presented by Sue West from the McCaughey Centre along with Jon Hall and Barbara Iasiello from the OECD *Measuring the Progress of Societies* project. The short course enabled 75 attendees from State Government, Local Government and Non Government Organisations to build local knowledge in the international movement toward community focused measurement practice.

Sessions covered included; the Global Project on Measuring Society's key themes: what to measure, how to measure and ensuring the measures are used; pragmatic approaches to measuring progress and well-being – such as how to define dimensions and form a 'Taxonomy of Progress'; practical examples of measuring progress initiatives already in action including the Measures of Australia's Progress and the Community Indicators Victoria project; principles of communication, looking at what ICT tools are now available to better disseminate statistics and information more generally.

Feedback was strong with many participants registering interest in attending future short courses.

Information about future McCaughey Centre short courses will be posted at <http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/sph-shortcourses/category/centre-units/mccaughey-centre/>.

## Publications

### Articles

E Davis, A Shelly, E Waters, M Davern. Measuring the quality of life (QOL) of children with cerebral palsy (CP): Comparing the conceptual underpinnings and psychometric properties of three instruments. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, published online 22nd June, 2009.

E Waters, E Davis, Ronen G, Rosenbaum P, Livingston M, Saigal S. Quality of life instruments for children and adolescents with neurodisabilities: how to choose the appropriate instrument. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* 2009; 51 (8), 660-669.

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### Book chapters

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### Papers

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## Presentations

**M Frere, S Ross, L Healey, C Humphreys, K Diemer.** *Family Violence Reform in Victoria: Early outcomes from focus groups with Regional FV Coordinators and Committee Chairs*, Victorian Government Family Violence Roundtable, Melbourne, 28 May 2009.

**E Waters.** *Bushfire Recovery Initiative: Health, wellbeing and communities*. Bushfire Research After February 7: What can we expect and what's needed. RMIT University, 8th July 2009.

**M Townsend, L Gibbs, P Staiger, S Macfarlane, K Block.** *School community-readiness for kitchen garden programs*. Eco Health Conference, Mexico 2008.

**L Gibbs, P Staiger, M Townsend, S Macfarlane, K Block.** *Evaluation: the Impact of the Program*. The Kitchen Garden Classroom: Educating Children for a Healthy Future. Melbourne 2008.

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**J Wiseman.** *Climate Change and Community Wellbeing*. The Wallaby Club (Australia's oldest bushwalking club), June 2009.

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**Y Paradies.** *Conceptualising and Measuring Racism*. Murdoch Children's Research Institute Seminar Series, Melbourne, Aug 2009.

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Steering Committee on Children's Rights, Participation and Citizenships, University of Melbourne, Jun 2009.

**E Davis, L Smyth, E Waters, H Herrman, M Sims, L Harrison, K Cook, B Marshall.** *Promoting mental health & social & emotional wellbeing in Family Day Care in low socioeconomic areas: Strengths, facilitators & challenges*. International Family Day Care Organisation Conference, Cork, Ireland, July 2009.

**E Davis, L Smyth, E Waters, H Herrman, M Sims, L Harrison, K Cook, B Marshall.** *Promoting mental health & social & emotional wellbeing in Family Day Care in low socioeconomic areas: Strengths, facilitators & challenges*. Family Day Care Australia Conference, Tasmania, May 2009.

**E Davis.** *Quality of Life of Children and Adolescents with Cerebral Palsy*. Queensland University of Technology Seminar Series, Brisbane, July 2009.

**D Warr.** *Connections, disconnections and reconnections: three angles on social inclusion in poor neighbourhoods*. School of Graduate Education, University of Melbourne and the University of Tasmania.

**D Warr.** *Understanding and responding to place-based disadvantage: insights from the Victorian Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy*. Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics, Cardiff University and the Institute Social Research, Swinburne University.

**D Warr, R Mann.** *What's wrong with being poor? Tracing the sources of neighbourhood stigma*. British Sociology Conference, Cardiff, 2009.

**D Warr.** *When flora, fauna and Shakespeare codify stigma: the discrediting of public housing and its implications for health*. Theory and Housing Symposium, Melbourne, 2009.

## Awards

**M Davern, E Davis.** IMA Outstanding Achievement Award for the Cerebral Palsy Quality of Life Website (entered June 02, 2009) , under the category 'Health/Nutrition'.