



It's great to be able to inform you of the official launch of the McCaughey Centre and of Community Indicators Victoria – and also of the Centre's move to a fine, long term home on Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, supporters and friends of the McCaughey Centre who have helped us reach these important milestones.

As you will see from this newsletter the Centre is rapidly becoming an exciting source of new ideas, conversations and projects and we look forward to exploring a wide range of collaborative possibilities as we move into the next stage of the Centre's development.

Kind regards

Professor John Wiseman,
Director
The McCaughey Centre, VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing

Centre Launch

The launch of the McCaughey Centre: VicHealth for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing took place in the Woodward Conference Centre on the afternoon of Monday 16th July, with around 130 people in attendance. The Centre's official launch was undertaken by the Hon Peter Batchelor (Minister for Victorian Communities), with endorsement by Professor Glyn Davis (Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne), Mr Todd Harper (CEO, VicHealth), and Cr Janet Bolitho (Mayor, City of Port Phillip). Professor James Angus (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences), and the Centre's patron Ms Jean McCaughey, were also in attendance. Whilst the McCaughey Centre has been busily operating for a year to date, the official launch by Minister Batchelor incorporated the launch of the new [Community Indicators Victoria \(CIV\) website](#). The CIV website, hosted by the McCaughey Centre, uses local community wellbeing indicators to improve citizen engagement, community planning and policy making. McCaughey Centre Director Professor John Wiseman thanked the Centre's Advisory Committee Chair Mr Michael Wright for mc'ing the event, and the Centre's academic and professional staff for undertaking a full and challenging year of work to bring the Centre to launch. Thanks was also expressed to a number of individuals who played a key role in the Centre's inception, including Professor Pip Pattison, Professor Glenn Bowes, Professor Terry Nolan, and Professor Rob Moodie. The financial contribution and support provided to the Centre by VicHealth and the MDHS faculty was also acknowledged.

New Space for the McCaughey Centre

The McCaughey Centre recently moved into new space in the [School of Population Health Building](#) on Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, (University of Melbourne Parkville Campus). Whilst the Centre remains on the same floor as previously housed, staff have moved into a consolidated space in the north east corner of Level 5, and the Centre can now be accessed through a clearly marked reception area. The McCaughey Centre is grateful to the School of Population Health for helping make this fantastic new space a reality.

Dean's Lecture

Professor John Wiseman delivered a keynote address in the Dean's Lecture Series, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, at the University of Melbourne on the evening of Tuesday 3rd July. John's lecture examined the topic of 'Community wellbeing in an unwell world: Trends, challenges and opportunities', and was attended by a capacity crowd in the Sunderland Lecture Theatre. Attendees included a broad range of colleagues and stakeholders from academia, VicHealth, state and local government, and the community and philanthropic sectors. John was pleased to be joined by the Centre's patron, Jean McCaughey, and a number of other guests for a dinner with the Dean following the lecture.

A copy of John's presentation can be accessed from the [McCaughey Centre's website](#) (noting this is a large file requiring some download time), and audio of the lecture can be downloaded from the [MDHS Faculty's website](#).

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV)

CIV Website Launch

The new Community Indicators Victoria website was launched in conjunction with the official launch of the McCaughey Centre on the 16th July, and can be accessed at <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>. The CIV team, in conjunction with developer Josh Martin, have undertaken significant work throughout the latter half of 2006 and early 2007 to have the website ready for launch, and the site has been well received with over 19,000 hits in the weeks since launch. We encourage you to forward the CIV link to your colleagues and others who may be interested in utilising the CIV website tool.

The Community Indicators Victoria website is the entry point to reporting community wellbeing indicators across Victoria. On the website you will find a wealth of information about the wellbeing of Victorian communities, including access to a current and comprehensive suite of community wellbeing indicators and automated local community Wellbeing Reports for each Victorian Local Government Area (LGA). These Wellbeing Reports contain a select number of community wellbeing indicators to highlight important trends and issues in your community. The CIV website also provides the additional options of Live Reports and My Reports, which members can customise, create and save after logging on and subscribing to free CIV membership. These Live Reports ask users to choose their indicators and LGA's of interest before immediately presenting the results live on the screen. The website also includes:

- An online tutorial to guide users through the website;
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ's);
- Links to other indicator sets and links to Australian, International and Global initiatives related to community sustainability, community wellbeing and quality of life; and
- Opportunities for users to request research consultancy services.

Please contact [Dr Melanie Davern](#) with queries regarding the CIV website and CIV data.

Please contact [Sue West](#) with queries regarding CIV and community engagement.

Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies

Professor John Wiseman attended the 2nd [OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies](#), in Istanbul, Turkey from the 27-30th June 2007, and acted as discussant around the topic 'The Development of Indicators for Local Communities', exploring the work being done to produce sets of progress indicators for local communities and the impact these have. The Istanbul World Forum was attended by 130 countries, and provided a unique opportunity for in-depth discussions about the measurement of progress, as well as some of the most important concerns facing the world, such as climate change, health and economic globalisation. [The Istanbul Declaration](#) was launched on the final day of the forum, and encourages the measurement of societal progress through statistical

indicators that go beyond conventional economic measures such as GDP per capita. Significant support was also expressed by participants in embarking on a [Global Project to Measure the Progress of Societies](#), which aims to be the catalyst for a global conversation about what progress means, and to tackle one of the most pertinent questions of our time – how to improve the nexus between evidence, decision making and public discourse. The McCaughey Centre will be talking to a range of local partners, including RMIT, Griffith and Swinburne Universities, about developing a national collaboration to feed into this groundbreaking OECD project.

Policy & Research Projects

Freedom from Violence

The Centre is a partner on a recently awarded ARC Linkage project titled 'Family Violence Reform: Using knowledge to develop and integrate policy and practice'. The project, led by Social Work at UoM and including academic and external partners from the Melbourne Criminology Research & Evaluation Unit (UoM), the McCaughey Centre (UoM), Latrobe University, Monash, Victoria Police, Department of Human Services, Department of Justice, and Department for Victorian Communities, has total funding of \$963,516 over 5 years. This research will address national 'hot' issues round family violence, which poses a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of women, children and some men, costing the economy an estimated \$87.1 billion annually. Research will examine the effectiveness of removing perpetrators and keeping children and women in their homes; whether the early referral of children to community services impacts on the statutory child protection system; the integration of criminal and civil justice responses; and the effectiveness of multi-disciplinary governance arrangements in metropolitan and rural regions. The research will provide continuous feedback to policy makers and practitioners, and will establish Australia as a world leader in delivering family safety.

Freedom from Discrimination

Social Justice Initiative

The McCaughey Centre is a partner on a recent and successful 'Social Justice Initiative (SJI)' submission to the Melbourne Strategic Research Initiative Fund at the University of Melbourne. The Social Justice Initiative is driven by the Faculty of Arts, and includes partners from the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (McCaughey Centre). The aim of the Social Justice Initiative is to facilitate research into social justice of international standing and to strengthen the growing interest in questions of social justice at the University of Melbourne and within the non-university sector. The SJI aims to establish itself as a long-term major research cluster at the University of Melbourne, and has been awarded total funding of \$636,000 plus in-kind over the next three years.

Refugee Resettlement in Rural and Regional Areas

Work continues between the McCaughey Centre and colleagues from VicHealth, Foundation House, and the Latrobe University's Refugee Health Research Centre to develop an issues paper and convene a forum to inform policy and program development to support refugee resettlement in rural and regional areas. This work is now in its final stages, and further details regarding the project and the subsequent forum will be posted on the McCaughey Events page when available.

Social Inclusion and Connectedness

VicHealth Arts Scoping Paper

The McCaughey Centre recently completed a scoping paper for VicHealth with the aim of identifying new evidence and innovative practice to guide the redevelopment of the VicHealth art program to promote social participation, and reduce discrimination and disadvantage amongst marginalised groups. On the 25th July, Professor John Wiseman chaired a roundtable of representatives from the Arts, Industry and Community sectors to discuss the development of cultural indicators in Australia. John used CIV data on arts participation in Victoria to open the discussion on cultural indicators in Australia, including who is making progress and what are the gaps?

Local Government Community Planning

Sue West, in conjunction with Hayden Raysmith, Adjunct Professor RMIT, is undertaking an evaluation of Victorian local government community planning. Local Government Victoria is funding the project, which includes the development of a self assessment tool for ten pilot Councils and will result in a report on lessons from the experiences from the Councils and the policy implications.

Creating Liveable New Communities

The McCaughey Centre has joined forces with Griffith University's Urban Research Centre in a project with the Victorian Growth Areas Authority around 'Creating Liveable New Communities'. The research team, led by Sue West, is developing a strategic framework and practical tools for creating socially sustainable new communities which will be underpinned by a review of key literature and interviews with stakeholders. The McCaughey Centre's team of key project advisors including Sue West, John Wiseman and Marion Frere are joined by Dr Margaret Kelaher from the Centre for Public Health, Programs and Economics, and Dr Carolyn Whitzman, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, both from the University of Melbourne. Dr Geoff Woolcock and Tim Eltham from Griffith University complete the team.

Expanding Cultures: Arts and Local Government Conference

The City of Stonnington, supported by the Cities of Yarra, Melbourne, Moreland, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Boroondara and Port Phillip and the Cultural Development Network presented *Expanding Cultures*, the arts & local government conference on the 26th & 27th of July 2007.

Expanding Cultures focused on the contribution of arts and cultural development to the strength and wellbeing of local communities. The conference examined:

- the changing shape of community cultures and their impact on local government in Victoria, Australia and overseas;
- arts as a vehicle for strengthening communities and facilitating social inclusion;
- the impact of arts activities on health, education and economic development;
- local government's engagement with Indigenous art and culture;
- improving evaluation of arts activities and cultural development programs; and
- innovative partnerships.

Professor John Wiseman was a plenary speaker in a session chaired by Sue Doyle from Arts Victoria. His paper, entitled 'The contribution of cultural development to community well-being: key trends and emerging ideas', was an important contribution to the exploration of appropriate approaches to the evaluation of arts and cultural development activities. The session also generated debate on the broader questions of the measurement of culture, part of an international dialogue currently taking place on culture's contribution to community wellbeing.

Economic Participation and Security

Labour Market Flexibility and Regulation: Australian and International Impacts and Strategies

In late May, the McCaughey Centre hosted a seminar on "Labour Market Flexibility and Regulation: Australian and International Impacts and Strategies". Dr Iain Campbell (Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University) opened the seminar describing the current fragmentation of the Australian Labour market, and its regulation. Dr Campbell's research indicates that it is difficult to identify the positive results for employment conditions promised by labour market deregulation. Assoc/Prof Tony LaMontagne of the McCaughey Centre then described findings from the Victorian Job Stress Survey which indicate there are marked differences in job stress and other psychosocial working conditions by employment arrangement, including markedly worse working conditions for those in the most precarious arrangements.

Media coverage highlighted the findings that women in casual and contract positions have higher levels of job strain than other employees, and those women on fixed-term contracts or employed as casuals were more likely to be subjected to unwanted sexual advances than other workers. Tony LaMontagne and Tessa Keegel were interviewed by regional radio, and news stories ran on regional and FM radio and in regional and eastern seaboard afternoon newspapers.

Dr Sara Charlesworth (Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT) discussed the "Right to Request" regulations in the UK as a method of addressing the imbalance in working time arrangements; arrangements which are proving unhelpful to families, particularly women, in balancing both their caring duties and paid work. Dr Charlesworth's work informed the recent Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission Report ["It's About Time: Women, men, work and family"](#).

Dr Jim Stanford (Chief Economist, Canadian Autoworkers Union and Research Fellow, McCaughey Centre) noted the similarities and differences between Australia and Canada: our football, our wilderness, our Prime Ministers and the global neoliberal labour market reforms in some advanced economies. During his presentation, Dr Stanford noted that despite claims by the architects of these reforms, there are other policy options that maintain profitability without decreasing labour's share of GDP, or shifting the balance of power to employers. The diversity of policies approaches to labour market flexibility indicates that low wages, disincentives for workers to join unions and tightened access to welfare are not precursors to full employment.

Presentations from the forum are available [here](#). Dr Campbell's presentation was a summary of a forthcoming publication for the [RMIT Centre for Applied and Social Research](#).

Other Activities

Tony LaMontagne has submitted a final report to the Australian Safety and Compensation Commission. We await their response before proceeding with a public report and submission of key findings to peer-reviewed journals.

LaMontagne, A., Keegel, T., and Vallance, D. ['Changing Labour Markets: Job Stress and the need for a Systems Approach'](#), ACTU Health and Safety Conference: Reclaiming OHS Workers' Compensation for Working Australians. June 4-5 2007.

AD LaMontagne & R Bentley: **Benchmarking of Current Exposures to Psychosocial Hazards in Australian Workplaces**, Final Report to ASCC, 15 June 2007.

Tony LaMontagne was interviewed for a Four Corners program on 'Job stress in Tesltra call centre employees' (18 June 2007). Whilst his contribution was not aired, a link to the VicHealth Job Stress Survey has been provided on the Four Corners web site. This might explain the huge

interest in that report; in July 2007, the [Vic Health Job Stress Survey](#) was the second most downloaded file from the VicHealth website, with 244 downloads.

Healthy and Sustainable Environments

Climate Change and Rural Health

The McCaughey Centre is part of an upcoming forum on the challenge of climate change for health in rural and regional Victoria, titled 'Change and Rural Health: A one day seminar'. Presented by the Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative (CASPI) and the Menzies Foundation, with support from the McCaughey Centre, the seminar will examine the likely impacts of climate change on the wellbeing of people in rural and regional Victoria, and how these issues should be influencing future policy and research agendas. These questions will be addressed by experts from universities, government and community organisations.

The 'Change and Rural Health' seminar will take place on Wednesday August 22nd, 8:30am-5:00pm at Graduate House, the University of Melbourne. To register go to <http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au> or call 8344 4708.

Seminars and Events

Consultation Workshops for new Health Promotion and Wellbeing Framework for Victoria

August-September 2007: During August to September the Department of Human Services and VicHealth are hosting consultation workshops to gather input into a new framework for promoting health and wellbeing in Victoria. The state wide health promotion and equity framework will bring together key health promotion policy initiatives to guide implementation of the health promotion priorities for 2007-2012 and work to address other important health issues.

Four half-day workshops will be held in Horsham, Shepparton, Melbourne and Traralgon. Written submissions will also be invited during the consultation process. A discussion paper outlining the key components of the framework, as well as key questions for your consideration, will be available in the lead up to the workshops in mid August. For further information contact Kellie Horton at the Department of Human Services on (03) 9096 5506 or kellie.horton@dhs.vic.gov.au.

VicHealth's Mental Health Promotion Short Course - Bendigo, Ararat & Echuca

August-September-October 2007: VicHealth is excited to announce three rural mental health promotion short courses to be funded as part of the Department of Human Service's drought strategy. These **FREE 2 day** courses will be held in **Bendigo, Ararat and Echuca**, and are aimed at organisations from a wide range of sectors, including health, education, crime prevention, arts, community groups, neighbourhood houses, local government, arts and sporting groups, as "mental health is everybody's business".

The course aims to increase workers' and organisations' capacity to undertake mental health promotion activity, as well as provide resources and models to enhance evidence based project planning, implementation and evaluation of activity with specific focus on VicHealth's Mental Health Promotion Framework. The course also greatly aids in cross-sectoral collaboration in drought-stricken communities.

Courses will run through August, September and October. For enquiries regarding specific course dates for each region, and the expression of interest and registration process, please contact Cassie Nicholls of VicHealth at cnicholls@vichealth.vic.gov.au or 03 9667 1317.

Visitors

The McCaughey Centre welcomes Dr Rob Salter, who holds a visiting appointment with the Centre to develop a research project around the subject of social investment. Rob is a Community Development worker with Crossroads Youth and Family Services at the Salvation Army, and his project is jointly auspiced by the Salvation Army and the McCaughey Centre. Rob's work brings together and builds evidence about the ways in which social investment yields financial and economic benefits to society across a wide range of areas of disadvantage, in addition to generating benefits for specific individuals, and will be used to advocate for increased investment of this kind.

On Wednesday 20th June the McCaughey Centre hosted a meeting with a New Zealand delegation of the Australian Political Exchange, comprising representatives from all NZ political parties here to learn more about the Australian political system, and to examine economic and social issues in Australian society. The delegation had a particular interest in the McCaughey Centre's Community Indicators Victoria work, on which Professor John Wiseman provided a presentation.

On Wednesday the 27th June the McCaughey Centre's Dr Deb Warr co-hosted a full day forum on 'Reflections on Place, People & Policy' with the School of Population Health's Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics. The forum brought together people from a broad range of backgrounds to explore the impact of place-based initiatives in addressing health disadvantages. Drawing on interim findings from a research project examining the impact of Neighbourhood Renewal efforts in Victoria, outcomes of local initiatives, and the perspectives of policy-makers, community-based workers and residents, the forum presented an opportunity to reflect on the value of place-based approaches. Included amongst the forum speakers was Hilary Thomson, a visiting academic from the Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, who presented an 'International perspective on place-based health interventions'.

Publications

Radi, S., Ostry A., and **LaMontagne, AD.** (2007): 'Job stress and other working conditions: Relationships with smoking behaviours in a representative sample of working Australians'. *American J Industrial Medicine* 50(8):584-596.

Keegel, T., Erbas, B., Cahill, J., Noonan, A., Dharmage, S., Nixon, R., 'Occupational contact dermatitis in Australia: Diagnostic and management practices, and severity of worker impairment'. *Contact Dermatitis*, Vol 56, 2007, pp. 318-324.

The McCaughey Centre has a new brochure, providing an outline of our research profile, objectives, staff, and collaborative approach. Download a copy [here](#), or request copies by emailing info-mccaughey@unimelb.edu.au

Watch this space for the WHO Age Friendly Cities Report, due for launch in London on the 1st October 2007. Please refer to the [McCaughey Centre website](#) for details regarding a range of recent publications.

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