



Dear friends of the McCaughey Centre

In this final Centre e-Newsletter for 2007 you will find a wealth of information about the research, policy, capacity building and knowledge transfer activities being carried out by Centre staff. In looking over the range of work underway I hope you will share my excitement about the important new knowledge being generated about the sources and determinants of mental health and community wellbeing.

You will also note that we are continuing to expand and strengthen the Centre's expertise and networks with the most recent additions being Professor Elizabeth Waters and her team who will significantly strengthen our capacity in the fields of health equity, children's wellbeing and knowledge translation. Please visit our website for a [list of current Centre staff](#) and a [photo of the staff group](#) taken at our recent Centre Retreat at Abbotsford Convent.

I'd like to pay particular thanks to the members of the McCaughey Centre Advisory Committee who are great source of advice and support. The following link provides an overview of the [Committee membership](#), who met for the third time on the 11th October.

Amongst many exciting activities and initiatives planned for next year I would particularly like to draw your attention to the [Fifth World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders](#) to be held in Melbourne on September 10-12 2008. VicHealth is the host organisation for this important event and we are looking forward to many McCaughey Centre staff and partners contributing to the conference. The official [Call for Papers](#) has now been released and abstract submissions are due by the 25th February 2008.

Finally I have also provided a link to the text of the Dean's Lecture: '[Community Wellbeing in an Unwell World](#)' which I delivered earlier this year. Kathleen Brasher and I have now published this lecture as the first of a regular series of [McCaughey Centre Policy Signpost](#) documents which aim to accessibly communicate key outcomes of staff research projects to a broad audience of policy makers and practitioners.

The foundations of the McCaughey Centre have now been firmly established, and we are all very much looking forward to working together with our many partners in the New Year.

Kind regards

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

New Staff & PhD students

With the recent arrival of Professor Elizabeth Waters and her team to the University of Melbourne, the McCaughey Centre and School of Population Health welcome the following:

- Professor Elizabeth Waters: Professorial Fellow, Public Health and Health Equity
- Ms Rosie Ashbolt: Research Fellow, Child Public Health Research Data Management and Analysis
- Ms Rebecca Armstrong: Senior Research Fellow, Public Health Knowledge Translation and Exchange
- Dr Elise Davis: Senior Research Fellow, Child Mental Health Promotion and Quality of Life

- Ms Jodie Doyle: Cochrane Public Health Review Group Coordinator
- Dr Lisa Gibbs: Senior Research Fellow, Community Partnerships and Health Equity Research
- Ms Naomi Priest: Research Fellow, Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field
- Ms Lauren Prosser: Research Fellow, Knowledge Translation for Public Health Planning
- Ms Elisha Riggs: Research Fellow, Child Public Health and Health Equity

Over preceding months, the Centre welcomed a number of new staff working across a range of projects:

Ms Marnie Badham has been working with the Centre on the Community Indicators Victoria project, and is now focused on the Centre's project with the Growth Areas Authority on 'Creating Liveable New Communities'. Marnie is also completing a PhD, and is jointly enrolled with the Victorian College of the Arts and the McCaughey Centre.

Ms Lucy Gunn and Ms Suzan Ghantous have been working with the Centre for a number of months on the Community Indicators Victoria project.

Dr Rose Mann has been working with Dr Deb Warr on her Neighbourhood Renewal project across a range of Melbourne sites.

Dr Dianne Vella-Brodrick is a Visiting Academic with the Centre from October to December 2007. Dianne is on sabbatical from the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine at Monash University, and is spending a period with the McCaughey Centre working on the Community Indicators Victoria project to further develop her interests in the measurement of subjective wellbeing and sense of community.

Dr Sarah McLean joined the team in November, and is working with Dr Deb Warr from the McCaughey Centre, and Dr Priscilla Pyett from Onemda in the Centre for Health and Society, on a pilot project which aims to explore strengths and weaknesses of models for collaborating with and sharing the findings of research projects with communities.

Ms Tricia Van-Kampen commenced with the McCaughey Centre in November, and joins Kate Jenkins and Janine Campbell as the Centre's admin team.

Policy & Research Projects

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV)

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) is preparing a CIV newsletter for the 500 plus members who have joined CIV since the launch in July this year. The newsletter reports on some important breaking CIV news: the uploading of 2006 ABS Census data onto the website. It shares some general information about special projects the CIV team are working on and concludes with a 'what's next' section. The CIV team aim to provide members with a newsletter up to three times a year and you can get your copy by become a member of the Community Indicators Victoria website – a task that can be done on line in just a few minutes at www.communityindicators.net.au.

Cochrane Public Health Review Group

The Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field are making significant and steady steps toward its goal of registering with The Cochrane Collaboration as a Public Health Review Group, charged with editing reviews of the effects of upstream public health interventions and publishing these on *The Cochrane Library*. With continued support from VicHealth and a new administrative base at The McCaughey Centre, staff of the Field have been focused on a communication strategy to consult and involve stakeholders in the development of an appropriate topic scope for the new editorial group as well as the evolving review methodology.

We have held two successful international exploratory meetings over the last three months. The first, in Cork, was held to coincide with the conference of the Society for Social Medicine & the International Epidemiological Association. Speakers in support of the Group's development at this first meeting included representatives from the UK National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the Cardiff Institute for Society, Health and Ethics, the University of Oxford, the UK Cochrane Centre and The Campbell Collaboration. The second meeting, at the Global Forum for Health Research, held this year in Beijing, was attended by representatives from organizations such as the World Health Organisation, the Columbian Health Association and Institute for International Cooperation (Japan). A significant focus of this meeting was to identify strategies to ensure the new Group reflected the evidence needs of, and promoted the active involvement of, people from developing countries.

Working drafts of the proposed Cochrane Public Health Review Group's scope and editorial policies, as well as minutes from the exploratory meetings, are available for comment at the Field's [website](#) (right hand shaded area). If you would like more information please contact [Jodie Doyle](#) or [Elizabeth Waters](#).

“Thinking, Doing, Building: Public Health Evidence for Knowledge Translation” Symposium

The Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field together with the McCaughey Centre, the Public Health Research, Evaluation and Policy Research Group, Deakin University and VicHealth are organizing a one-day symposium “*Thinking, Doing, Building: Public Health Evidence for Knowledge Translation*”. The symposium will be held on 21st February 2008 at VicHealth. The symposium will bring together NGOs, policy-makers, researchers and funders of public health research and practice. Speakers will include Professor Steve Leeder, Mr Todd Harper, Professor Boyd Swinburn, Professor Elizabeth Waters and Professor John Wiseman. Further details can be obtained from [Rebecca Armstrong](#).

Freedom from Violence

Commencement of the state-wide Victorian Family Violence Reform Research and Evaluation (VFVR Research)

In collaboration with a range of academic colleagues and State Government Departments, Dr Marion Frere is leading work in the Centre on responding to family violence. The research will investigate reform in the Victorian response to family violence with a focus on the integration of intervention responses. The project will aim to provide an account of the development of inter-agency governance of family violence services including police, government and non-government organisations. It will examine women, children, perpetrators' experiences and decisions, and how practitioners work individually and in cooperation with others to deliver services to the victims of family violence and to intervene with perpetrators. A key theme is the role of the governance framework in supporting multi-agency working. Using the developing knowledge from the project to support practice improvement will be integral to the research design. The project has been funded for five years by an ARC Linkage Grant.

Freedom from Discrimination

Foundation House Project

Dr Marion Frere has joined with Foundation House: The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and the Brotherhood of St Lawrence to undertake a project aimed at improving health promotion and information dissemination strategies for refugees resettling in Victoria. The

project incorporates a review of international examples of health promotion models using consumer participation in refugee, CALD and indigenous contexts; examines international health promotion practices using community enterprise models to undertake health promotion (including refugee, CALD and indigenous examples); and looks at evaluation practices which inform the development of community enterprise based health promotion models for refugee background communities.

Evaluating Practice to Reduce Discrimination Affecting Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

The McCaughey Centre's Dr Deb Warr, Dr Gabrielle Berman, and Professor John Wiseman are working with colleagues from the School of Population Health's Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics (the Grant Lead) and the Centre for Health and Society on an evaluation of VicHealth's Building Bridges Initiative.

Social Inclusion and Connectedness /Public Health, Health Equity

Salvation Army Outer North Project

Dr Marion Frere and Dr Belinda Robson are leading a McCaughey Centre collaboration with the Crossroads Youth and Family Services Division of the Salvation Army examining social justice issues within the Northern growth corridors of metropolitan Melbourne. Spanning an initial period of 12 months, the project sets out to address emerging issues in communities in the northern growth suburbs, to build knowledge around the impact of demographic change in local areas and to identify common themes which impact upon social cohesion and interconnection between the disparate communities who live in these areas.

Windermere Collaboration

Dr Elise Davis and team have just completed a qualitative study assessing family day-carers' knowledge about child mental health, and the strategies they use to promote mental health of children. This study is based in the Casey area, where the family day-care program is administered by Windermere. The team will be working with Windermere over the next 6 months to develop a program to further promote children's mental health.

Horse riding for Children with Cerebral Palsy

Dr Elise Davis and team have just completed a randomised controlled trial to examine whether therapeutic horse riding increases the functioning or quality of life of children with cerebral palsy. Data analysis and the paper will be completed by December 2007.

Developing a quality of life questionnaire for adolescents with cerebral palsy

Dr Elise Davis and Professor Elizabeth Waters have received funding to develop a questionnaire assessing the quality of life of adolescents with cerebral palsy. This builds on the questionnaire they developed specifically for children. Such a questionnaire is vital for evaluating whether interventions increase quality of life. The child questionnaire has generated much international interest and the team has received many requests for an adolescent version. The development of this instrument will be completed by end 2008.

VicGeneration 2008

In 2008, Elizabeth Waters and Elisha Riggs will commence recruiting babies to participate in a longitudinal study to examine risk and protective factors for dental caries in very young children. This will be the first general health related birth cohort in Victoria that is underpinned by a social model of health, a focus on health inequalities, and the relative contribution of environments through to bugs. It aims to follow these babies and families for three years at least, working in partnership with maternal and child health nurses and families themselves, collecting stories and quantitative data.

Health in communities: people in places

Working with communities: Dr Deb Warr and Dr Rose Mann are currently preparing reports for Neighbourhood Renewal management and community groups. The reports summarise findings from three communities that have been undertaking local surveys in 2007 as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. Getting the surveys underway and completed is a whirlwind of activity and cooperation. As the university-partners we work with each of the neighbourhood sites to carry out comprehensive surveys that cover key issues in the neighbourhood. The method for the surveys is collaborative and participatory and involves providing research training to around 20 residents who work as peer-interviewers surveying fellow-residents. The survey process is exhausting but rewarding. Below is a photo from a recent get-together of the West Heidelberg team. We were lucky enough to be joined by Joan Kirner, local police and the local MP. Joan facilitated discussion of key findings from the surveys and presented the interviewers with special certificates of participation.



The value of collaborative approaches to research: Rose is also busy doing interviews as part of the peer-interviewer study. The project explores the experiences of peer-researchers and the challenges/benefits of this type of collaborative approach. Over the next few weeks she'll be conducting further interviews with people in Colac, Seymour and Eaglehawk.

'Home, city and neighbourhood': Rose is also working with Deb to finalise a paper for the 'Home, city and neighbourhood' symposium that is being hosted by the University of Tasmania on the 13th and 14th of December. The paper explores the complexity that lies at the heart of people's experiences of 'neighbourhood'. Neighbourhood involves many and interconnected layers of meaning that are relevant to efforts to redress place-based disadvantage.

Economic Participation and Security

Provision of Workplace Mental Health Promotion

Associate Professor Tony Lamontagne, Ms Tessa Keegel, and Dr Deb Vallance will be working with *beyondblue* on this ACT Health funded project to develop and deliver a Workplace Mental Health Promotion program to address aspects of workers' wellbeing, workplace staff management and workplace stress.

Latrobe Valley Power Industry

Associate Professor Tony Lamontagne and Dr Deb Vallance, with their collaborating partner the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, have commenced recruiting participants for their Latrobe Valley Power Industry Cohort Study. The study will recruit former and current power industry workers in the Latrobe Valley to investigate the natural history of a blood protein, mesothelin, which is elevated in some people with mesothelioma.

The health implications of uncertain child support payments for children in low income single parent families

Dr Elise Davis and Professor Elizabeth Waters are Co- Investigators on a recently awarded ARC Discovery Grant titled 'The health implications of uncertain child support payments for children in low income single parent families'. Administered through Deakin University and led by Dr Kay Cook, with Professor Sing Kai Lo a further Co-Investigator, the project will commence in 2008 and has funding of \$235,944 across 3 years.

Healthy and Sustainable Environments

Social Justice Initiative

The McCaughey Centre, as a partner in the University of Melbourne's Social Justice Initiative, is supporting an upcoming climate change and social justice Conference titled 'Exploring the social justice implications of climate change'. The conference, scheduled for the 3rd-4th April 2008, will bring together a range of interdisciplinary approaches to social justice and climate change, and raise new perspectives on the impact of climate change. Further information will be posted on the [McCaughey Centre's Events webpage](#) as they are available. In the meantime, requests for further information can be directed to [Dr Jeremy Moss](#), School of Philosophy, University of Melbourne.

Seminars and Events

Tuesday 11th December at 12.00 – 1.00pm, '[Left Out and Missing Out: Developing New Indicators of Deprivation and Social Inclusion](#)', presented by Professor Peter Saunders, Director of the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. School of Population Health Seminar Room 515, Level 5, [207 Bouverie Street](#), University of Melbourne Parkville Campus.

10th - 12th September 2008, 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders: *From Margins to Mainstream*, Melbourne Convention Centre. Further details on the [McCaughey Centre website](#), and the [conference website](#).

Visitors

The McCaughey Centre will host a visit from Dr Angela Harden, Associate Director of the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, and the Co-Director of the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field, from the 3rd to the 10th December 2007.

Prof Laurence Moore, Director of the Cardiff Institute for Society, Health and Ethics, will visit the McCaughey Centre from 18th to the 23rd February 2008.

Knowledge Transfer & Translation

Projects

Research and knowledge transfer: Universities working with and for communities

Dr Sarah MacLean and Dr Deb Warr are working with Dr Priscilla Pyett from the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit on this pilot project which aims to explore strengths and weaknesses of models for collaborating with and sharing the findings of research projects with communities. Research staff, community liaison staff at research centres and community partners will be interviewed to ascertain advantages and disadvantages of up to eight research dissemination models operating in Melbourne. Questions for research participants will consider how research is initiated, conducted, and any formal processes for engagement between researchers and communities. The study will produce recommendations regarding possible structures for community engagement and research dissemination to be considered within the School of Public Health, its research centres and individual researchers within the School.

The effectiveness of knowledge translation and exchange for obesity prevention – Progress Report

Public health and community health practitioners are increasingly required to develop and deliver evidence-based policy and practice to address public health issues including overweight and obesity. To address this issue governments are increasingly pressured to resource intensive infrastructure (eg. clearinghouses) without knowing whether such infrastructure has any impact on translation of the evidence into policies, programs and interventions (i.e. knowledge translation). Such information is essential. The community setting, which comprises local government, is one of the identified essential settings in the National Obesity Taskforce Healthy Weight, 2008. Local governments are extremely well poised to have a significant impact on outcomes given the multiple programs they are responsible for, such as maternal and child health, child care, kindergartens, playgrounds, community sporting events, food regulations, traffic management, building regulations and planning.

The NHMRC has funded a research project that will explore the effectiveness of knowledge translation strategies in Victorian Local Governments. The study will explore current understandings of evidence by local governments, identify needs to support evidence-informed policy and practice and develop a range of strategies to meet these needs. These strategies will form the basis of a cluster randomised controlled trial which will test the effectiveness of these strategies in order to make recommendations about their applicability for local governments. The identification of effective knowledge translation strategies is essential to supporting evidence-informed policy and practice. The project, due to begin data collection in early 2008, will provide additional support to local governments to enhance their existing work. The research team comprising Melbourne University, Deakin University and international colleagues look forward to building a strong relationship with local government.

For further information regarding this project, please contact [Rebecca Armstrong](#), [Lauren Prosser](#), or [Elizabeth Waters](#).

Building Evidence of Successful Action on Socially Determined Health Inequities

Naomi Priest and Elizabeth Waters have been working with the World Health Organisation's Commission on Social Determinants of Health to develop evidence-informed recommendations for policy makers on interventions addressing health inequities. This has involved reviewing the Knowledge Network reports produced through the work of the Commission and using these to develop cameo examples describing the impact of policies and interventions on inequities, together with associated implementation costs. This process has involved developing criteria for inclusion of evidence examples and formation of a framework for the cameos in order to best communicate the information in a manner relevant to policy makers. Consultation regarding the format and content of the cameos has occurred with representatives from a range of low and middle income and developed countries involved in the work of the Commission. These cameo examples are to be included in the Commission's final report currently being written. For more information on the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health visit http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/. For more information about the cameo project please contact [Naomi Priest](#).

Presentations

Glass D (Monash University), **Lamontagne, AD**. 'Investigating non-infectious disease clusters'. Meeting of the Central Safety Professionals' Group, 13th November 2007, University of Melbourne.

Lamontagne, AD. '[Integrating Occupational Health Protection & Workplace Health Promotion: A Strategy for Addressing Social Gradients in Smoking and Cessation?](#)', invited speaker at Tobacco Control: Where To From Here? A Collaborative Forum for Department of Human Services, VicHealth, Quit and VicHealth Centre for Tobacco Control, 2nd November 2007.

Lamontagne, AD, Holloway, A, **Vallance, D**. 'The establishment of a Latrobe Valley power industry cohort and biospecimen bank for the study of asbestos-related diseases', National Research Centre for Asbestos-Related Diseases, 2007 Annual Scientific Meet, 29th - 31st October 2007, University of Western Australia, Perth.

Work and You: Happy Together: On Monday 20th August at 5.30pm in the Shine Dome, Canberra, the McCaughey Centre's Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne participated in a panel discussion on work and mental health on the ABC's 'Life Matters' program as part of National Science Week. The panel explored the topic - *Do you whistle while you work? Or feel you're stuck in a dark, satanic mill? For good or ill, work has a huge impact on our lives. It affects our well-being, our health, even our families. Come and learn how handling workplace pressures can be critical for your mental health.* The session was hosted by Richard Aedy from ABC Radio National, with a discussion panel comprising Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne (VicHealth and Principal Research Fellow, The McCaughey Centre), Dr Clare Shann (Senior Program Manager, The *beyondblue* National Workplace Program), Mr Graeme Cowan (Back from the Brink) and Mr Forrest Koch, a Carpentry Apprentice who has completed the Ozhelp Program.

LaMontagne, AD, Keegel, T and Vallance, D. 'Job Stress' Presentation at Victorian Independent Education Union OHS Conference 2007, Melbourne, August 3rd 2007.

Wiseman, J. '[The contribution of cultural development to community wellbeing: Key trends and emerging ideas](#)', Expanding Cultures: Arts and Local Government Conference, Melbourne, 26-27th July 2007.

Publications

*** The first McCaughey Centre Policy Signpost is now available - Brasher, K and Wiseman, J, '[Community Wellbeing in an Unwell World: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities](#)', McCaughey Centre Policy Signpost #1, Melbourne, November 2007***

Shelly A, **Davis E, Waters E**, Mackinnon A, Reddihough D, Boyd R, Reid S, Graham HK. The Relationship Between Quality of Life (QOL) and Functioning for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Does Poor Functioning equate with Poor QOL? *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, in press 2008.

Cook K, **Davis E**, Davies B. Child support payment discrepancies and child health. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, in press 2008.

Waters E, **Davis E**, Nicolas C, Wake M, Lo SK. The impact of childhood conditions and concurrent morbidities on child health and wellbeing. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, in press 2008.

Davies, B, **Davis, E**, Cook, K, **Waters, E**. Getting the complete picture: Combining parental and child data to identify the barriers to social inclusion for children living in low socioeconomic areas. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, in press, 2008.

Davis E, Waters E, Shelly A, Gold L. Measuring the Quality of Life of Children and Adolescents. In *Encyclopedia of Public Health*, Ed. Heggenhougen K. Elsevier Inc., Oxford UK. In press 2008.

Noblet A and **LaMontagne AD**. The challenges of developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions. In: Cartwright S and Cooper CL (Editors), *The Oxford Handbook Of Organizational Wellbeing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, in press, 2008.

LaMontagne AD, Keegel T, Vallance D. Protecting & promoting mental health in the workplace: developing a systems approach to job stress. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, in press, accepted 26 Oct 2007.

LaMontagne AD, Hunter CE, **Vallance D**, and Holloway AJ. Asbestos disease in Australia: Looking forward & looking back. *New Solutions: A Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health Policy*, in press, accepted 30 Aug 2007.

Dollard MF, **LaMontagne AD**, Caulfield N, Blewett V, and Shaw A. Job stress in the Australian and international health and community services sector: A review of the literature. *Intl J Stress Management*, in press, accepted 30 Aug 2007.

Keegel T, Saunders H, **LaMontagne AD**, Nixon R, 'Are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) useful in the diagnosis and management of occupational contact dermatitis?' *Contact Dermatitis* 57(5): 331-336 (2007).

Stuckey R, **LaMontagne AD**, and Sim MR (2007): Working in light vehicles—a review and conceptual model for occupational health and safety. *Accident Analysis & Prevention* 39(5):1006-1014.

NIOSH (Principal Contributors: Palassis J, Mattheissen C, Santiago A, Hadley J, **LaMontagne AD**, and Harris A) (2007). *ALERT: Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths from Explosions in Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Facilities: Revised Edition*. United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007—164 (supercedes 2000—119), 40 pages.

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