

Welcome to the December 2006 issue of the McCaughey Centre e-News

Lots has been happening since our last edition, including the launch of our new website, further staff appointments, the first meeting of our Advisory Committee, and the advancement of our various research projects in progress. Please see below for details around some of the activities that have been keeping us busy.

Website launch

With the Centre's logo now finalised, we are pleased to launch our new look website at:

<http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au>

While there are still a number of pages under construction, the site will be updated regularly to provide a full picture of the Centre's activities, research projects and policy review outcomes. We ask that you bookmark the new website address, and visit the site regularly for Centre news, views, events and useful resources.

Staff Appointments

The Centre had two new staff members commence in November/December.

Kate Jenkins commenced as the PA to the Director and Centre Administrator in late November, and joins the Centre from the University of Melbourne's School of Medicine. Kate will provide administrative support across the Centre's broad range of activities.

Xiaogang Chen joined the Centre's team in December as the Research Officer (Wellbeing Indicators Database). Xiaogang was recently awarded his PhD on 'Multiple geo-visualisations for the enhanced comprehension of land cover changes' through the University of Melbourne's Department of Geomatics, and will be providing high level support to the Community Indicators Victoria team in the development and management of the project's data sets, systems, and interactive website.

A full list of McCaughey Centre staff is available [here](#).

Inaugural meeting of the McCaughey Centre Advisory Committee

The Centre's Advisory Committee came together for the first time on Thursday 14 December to endorse the group's Terms of Reference, to reflect on the Centre's work to date, and to establish a process for guiding the Centre in developing and realising its key research and policy development priorities. The meeting was also attended by the Centre's patron, Jean McCaughey. The Committee will meet tri-annually, and through a collective range of high level expertise that spans academia, business, government and the not for profit sector, will provide the McCaughey Centre with advice in regard to strategic planning priorities and directions. Details regarding McCaughey Centre Advisory Committee membership is available [here](#).

Stakeholder consultation

The McCaughey Centre has undertaken extensive stakeholder consultation in the first six months of operation, both within the University and with a wide range of community, government and not for profit organisations. We are most appreciative of the widespread interest in the Centre's aims and objectives, and look forward to consolidating some of the many partnership possibilities that have been brought to the table in our strategic planning process over the next few months.

Centre presentations

McCaughey Centre staff have participated in a broad range of knowledge transfer and workforce development activities over recent months. A range of presentations have been completed on community wellbeing indicators and the CIV project within local and state government forums and community organisations. A number of conference presentations have also been undertaken, including a discussion on *Local heroes: Learning from recent Victorian community strengthening initiatives* at the University of Melbourne Centre for Public Policy Conference on Government Community Partnerships; a key note address at the 4th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, in Oslo, Norway on the promotion of mental health and wellbeing (on behalf of

VicHealth); and a presentation on *Acting On Job Stress – do we have a context for action?* at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia Annual Conference. The Centre has also contributed to a broad range of workshops on topics including homeless research priorities (Hanover), Train Stations as Creative Community Hubs (VicHealth), early childhood research (ARACY), and stress and bullying (Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

VicHealth Award

Congratulations to Associate Professor Tony Lamontagne and Tessa Keegel for their VicHealth award celebrating achievement in health promotion in Mental Health (the \$15,000 to \$75,000 category). Tony and Tess received the award for their work on the project 'Workplace Stress in Victoria: Developing a Systems Approach', which was undertaken in the School of Population Health's Centre for Health and Society. The award was presented by Ted Ballieu at the VicHealth Annual General Meeting in Parliament Gardens on 13 December. The full report from the Workplace Stress project can be downloaded [here](#).

WHO Age Friendly Cities Project

The McCaughey Centre is currently participating in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities Project, which includes partners in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, USA, Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Lebanon, Turkey and India. The Melbourne project team includes representatives from COTA, MAV, the Office for Senior Victorians and Maribryngong City Council, and is managed by the McCaughey Centre.

In November, Dr. Alexandre Kalache, the WHO's Co-ordinator of Ageing and Life Course Family and Community Health, participated in a round table discussion on age-friendly cities with the Melbourne project working group as part of a visit that included a presentation at the COTA International Seminar and Annual General Meeting. The McCaughey Centre's Dr Kathleen Brasher presented the Melbourne study at this meeting.

The WHO age-friendly cities project adopts a locally-driven "bottom-up" approach starting with the experiences of older persons by asking what is, and what is not, age-friendly, and what can be done to improve their community's age-friendliness. It then adds thoughts of public, voluntary and commercial service providers in the local community. This community assessment is currently taking place through a series of eight focus group discussions including older persons, caregivers of older persons, professional municipal staff, local business people, and providers of services to older persons. Recruitment has taken place within the City of Maribryngong. The information collected in these sessions is being analysed for a report to be delivered to the WHO in February 2007. Results will also be disseminated locally between April and June. The WHO Age-Friendly Report will be released on 1 October 2007.

Community Indicators Victoria

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV), hosted by the McCaughey Centre, is a collaborative project involving academics, government, and community groups, and support from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The purpose of CIV is the development and use of local community wellbeing indicators as the basis for informed, engaged and integrated community planning and policy making. The project has been established as a result of the Victorian Community Indicators Project which developed a framework of agreed community wellbeing indicators to assist in local government planning and will incorporate existing administrative data and a number of subjective measures through the new Victorian Community Survey. The survey is currently being piloted and data collection will begin mid-January 2007 with a sample of at least 300 respondents in each of the 79 Local Government Areas across Victoria. All CIV data will be freely accessible through an interactive website that will also publish regular trend reports and the CIV website will be launched at the official opening of the McCaughey Centre in May 2007. If you have any further questions about CIV please email [Dr Melanie Davern](mailto:Dr.Melanie.Davern) or phone 03 8344 3180.

Recent grant submissions

The McCaughey Centre is a collaborative partner on two recently submitted ARC Linkage grants.

Family Violence Reform: Using Knowledge to Support Integration of Policy and Practice is an ARC Linkage grant submitted with research partners from the Victoria Police, Department of Justice, Department of Human Services, Department for Victorian Communities, the University of Melbourne Departments' of Social Work and Criminology, and Monash University

Building Bridges: Strategies for building cross cultural trust and understanding is an ARC Linkage submitted with research partners from VicHealth, Murdoch University, and the University of Melbourne's School of Behavioural Science and Centre for Health and Society.

Seminars and Events

The McCaughey Centre recently hosted a Community Wellbeing and Community Strengthening Roundtable and a public seminar presentation by Isaac and Ora Prilleletnesky.

Isaac and Ora are academics at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, and between them have 25 years in helping professionals work with children, young people and adults in a variety of settings including schools, clinics and universities. Their public seminar was titled 'Promoting wellbeing: A change strategy for communities', and addressed the need to integrate individual, organisation and community approaches to the promotion of wellbeing for children

and young people. The roundtable discussion, undertaken with a range of McCaughey Centre stakeholders, provided an opportunity for valuable discussion around a range of local and international issues pertaining to the wellbeing of young people within the community, and possible future research directions.

A schedule of McCaughey Centre and partner events will be developed in the New Year, and posted [here](#).

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