



## Welcome to the April 2007 issue of the McCaughey Centre e-News

It's great to now have our full team of staff on board, and to welcome Dr Deborah Warr who joins us as a VicHealth Research Fellow. We're also delighted to announce that the date for the formal launch of the McCaughey Centre has now been confirmed for 4pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July. In addition to outlining the Centre's initial strategic directions we will also be launching the 'Community Indicators Victoria' website and Local Community Wellbeing Reports. These web based reports will provide an important new source of data about local community wellbeing trends and issues and will be informed by the outcomes of the first state-wide 'Victorian Community Survey' which has been in the field over the last few months. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wide range of stakeholders and partners who have provided comments and feedback on our draft Strategic Plan over recent months – much appreciated. We look forward to continuing to work together to explore and develop further collaborative initiatives.

Kind regards

*Professor John Wiseman,*  
Director

The McCaughey Centre, VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing

## Community Indicators Victoria (CIV)

The CIV team has been working at an intense pace in the lead up to the CIV website launch, with a view to having initial Local Community Wellbeing Reports available by mid-year. The first CIV 'Victorian Community Survey' 2007 is nearing completion, and now in the final week of data collection. Over 24,000 Victorians in 79 local government areas will have undertaken the survey, and the results will be used across a range of new community wellbeing indicators as part of the Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) project. The survey data, with existing administrative data, will form a comprehensive framework of indicators that will cover the five major domains of:

- Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities
- Dynamic Resilient Local Economies
- Sustainable Built and Natural Environments
- Culturally Rich and Vibrant Communities
- Democratic and Engaged Communities

CIV site details will be circulated to e-News subscribers when it goes live. A range of CIV presentations and events have taken place over recent months, including:

- The Community Indicators Victoria Reference Group (13th February)
- A meeting of the Community Indicators Victoria Partners Group (14<sup>th</sup> March)
- A briefing of Hobson's Bay City Council on CIV (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February)
- A briefing and consultation meeting with key local government stakeholders (Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March)
- Presentation on 'Victorian Community Indicators: Using the evidence base for policy development and community engagement' to the University of Melbourne Masters in Youth Health & Education Management cohort (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March)

The McCaughey Centre, in conjunction with Swinburne University, is currently organising a series of 8 state-wide information forums for local governments and community organisations on the use of CIV as a tool for policy making and planning in the following regions: Loddon Mallee (Bendigo), Barwon South West (Torquay), Southern Metro (Cheltenham), Eastern Metro (Ringwood), North and West (Melton), Gippsland (Sale), Hume (Wodonga), and the Grampians (Horsham). Further information regarding the workshops can be located on the [Centre's events page](#), or by contacting [Sue West](#).

CIV will also go 'international' later this year. Professor John Wiseman has been asked to attend and contribute to an OECD conference on 'Measuring the Progress of Societies: World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy' in Istanbul from the 27th-30th June, where he will present an update on the CIV project. CIV Partners Mike Salvaris (RMIT) and Anne Langworthy (Swinburne) will also be contributing to this important international event, as will representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Associate Professor Tony Lamontagne will present on CIV at the 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education in Vancouver from the 10th-15th June.

## **Policy & Research Projects**

### **Freedom from Violence**

The Centre is an investigating partner on an ARC Linkage grant titled 'Family Violence reform: Using knowledge to support integration of policy and practice', submitted by the University of Melbourne's School of Social Work to the November 2006 ARC round in collaboration with the Melbourne Criminology Research & Evaluation Unit (UoM), the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences (Monash), the Victoria Police, the Department of Justice and numerous divisions of the Department of Human Services. The Centre awaits the outcome of this funding round, and looks forward to working with relevant agencies to draw on data around safety and violence collected through the CIV survey.

### **Freedom from Discrimination**

#### **Refugee Resettlement in Rural and Regional Areas**

Professor John Wiseman is currently working with 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. Further details regarding the project and its outcomes will be posted to the McCaughey Centre site as they become available.

### **Social Inclusion and Connectedness**

#### **Disability Services – Development of a Community Building Framework**

Sue West and Dr Kathleen Brasher will be working with the Department of Human Services to develop a Community Building Framework for the Disability Services Division, including the development of a set of key performance indicators for the program.

#### **Neighbourhood Renewal**

Dr Deb Warr is currently working with the School of Population Health's Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics and Centre for Health and Society on a public health research project titled 'Responding to health inequalities: Investigating the impact of Neighbourhood Renewal on health and wellbeing in disadvantaged Victorian Communities'. The project looks at the

Department of Human Services' Neighbourhood Renewal scheme as providing an excellent opportunity to build a theoretical and practical understanding of the processes that are patterning health inequalities. The project links quantitative analysis of the scheme's survey data, qualitative data about Neighbourhood Renewal strategies and their implementation, and learnings from the United Kingdom's Neighbourhood Renewal initiative to develop an integrated picture of Neighbourhood Renewal and its effects on reducing health inequalities. Contact [Deb Warr](#) for further information regarding this project.

### **Outside the School Gates: A Community Report**

A community report prepared by Dr Deb Warr titled '[Outside the School Gates](#)' was recently launched at the Meadow Bank Primary School's annual Harmony Day Celebration on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. The report describes a model for tackling disadvantage and promoting participation in preschool education at the Meadowbank Early Learning Centre (MELC). Deb undertook the study whilst a Research Fellow with the School of Population Health's Centre for Health and Society, and her report presents insights into the ways in which the MELC is supporting local families to become connected in a range of social networks, presents insights into the needs of local families, discusses processes for effective community engagement, explains how the MELC operates as a community hub facilitating access to a range of social services and community contacts, and describes the positive outcomes that are generated for children and their families.

### **Victorian Health Inequalities Network**

The McCaughey Centre is a participant in the Victorian Health Inequalities Network (VHIN), and is contributing to the development of the first VHIN roundtable on *Health Inequalities in Victoria*, scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at VicHealth. The purpose of the roundtable series is to begin a cross sectoral dialogue, to address broad issues associated with health and equity, and to facilitate future action on health inequalities.

### **WHO Age Friendly Cities Project**

The McCaughey Centre is pleased to be part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities Project, managing the Melbourne component of this 37-city, 22-country collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Council of the Ageing Victoria (COTA). Dr Kathleen Brasher was responsible for coordinating the data collection and completing the Melbourne project report, submitted to WHO in February 2007. Kathleen recently participated in a meeting of the worldwide project team in London, which brought together all of the leaders of "Age-Friendly Cities Projects" collaborating with WHO in this initiative to review the research results, and plan for the development and release of the WHO Global Age Friendly Cities Guide in October 2007. Kathleen presented the Melbourne project findings to the London meeting, and the project focus has now turned to the local dissemination of results and next steps in collaboration with the international project team network.

### **Economic Participation and Security**

Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne, Tessa Keegel, and Dr Deb Vallance are pursuing a number of new and continuing projects under this theme. Knowledge exchange efforts on the VicHealth job stress report continue (e.g., a recently accepted journal article presenting a systematic review of the job stress intervention evaluation evidence, various research presentations, and a recently invited presentation to the Victorian Building Industry Consultative Council—see **Publications**).

Tony LaMontagne was recently commissioned by Australian Safety & Compensation Council (part of DEWR) to scope the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) database for potential use on work-related psychosocial hazard surveillance (trending job stress, job insecurity, etc.). This project will run for 6 months with an expected end date in June 2007. Dr. Rebecca Bentley from the Key Centre for Women's Health in Society is collaborating with Tony on this project. In other consultancy work, Tony recently completed his role chairing a peer review of the investigation of a suspected cluster of brain cancers at RMIT's Building 108 (see **Publications**).

A new NHMRC project on asbestos disease in the Latrobe Valley (collaboration with Dr. Andrew Holloway at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) commenced in January 2007, with Dr. Deb Vallance joining the team to run this study as well as participate more broadly in the group's various initiatives on job stress and other psychosocial working conditions.

A new NHMRC project on changing work arrangements and health will be starting up in the next 2-3 months. This is a 4-year project drawing on various existing data sources (e.g., the HILDA national panel study, ABS) as well as a planned qualitative interview study. This project entails collaboration between Flinders and Melbourne Universities (CI-A Sue Richardson and CI-B Fran Baum [Flinders], CI-C Anne Kavanagh [Key Centre for Women's Health, Melbourne], and CI-D Tony LaMontagne).

Other national and international collaborative efforts are being pursued as well. We eagerly await the results of a joint submission with *Beyondblue* to develop, implement, and evaluate an integrated job stress and workplace mental health promotion program for ACT Health in Canberra. In the last month, a large NHMRC project proposal for a longitudinal study of stress and smoking was recently submitted with Dr. Mohammad Siahpush from the Cancer Council Victoria, and an International Science Linkage and ARC Discovery proposals were submitted to develop work-related psychosocial hazard surveillance strategies with A/Prof Maureen Dollard from the University of South Australia.

### **Healthy and Sustainable Environments**

The McCaughey was part of a recent submission to the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) funding round via the federal Department of the Environment and Heritage. The three-year project proposal 'Framework for Australian Climate Change Adaptability and Vulnerability' aims to develop a Framework for Australian Climate Change Adaptability and Vulnerability to understand the interplay between biophysical changes and societal responses, and subsequently assess capacity to adapt to climate change. The project is directed and coordinated through the Climate Adaptation-Science and Policy Initiative (CASPI), and includes University of Melbourne Investigators from the Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society, the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis, CRC for Spatial Information, the Centre for Applied Environmental Applied Hydrology, the Forest and Ecosystem Science Institute, the McCaughey Centre, the Melbourne Water Research Centre, and the Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research Centre.

### **Advisory Committee Update**

The second meeting of the [McCaughey Centre Advisory Committee](#) was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and the Committee welcomed Professor Ian Anderson (in absentia) as a new member. Professor Anderson is Director of the School of Population Health's Centre for Health and Society and Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, and will be an invaluable asset to the Committee's composition. This second meeting of the Advisory Committee provided feedback on the McCaughey Centre's recent strategic planning process, and will meet later in the year to look at the Centre's knowledge transfer and income generation strategies.

### **Staff Appointments**

The McCaughey Centre welcomed Dr Deborah Warr to the team in late February 2007. Deb joins the Centre on a VicHealth Public Health Research Fellowship with her five year project titled 'Pathways to inclusion: The contribution of community participation and networks to improved health and wellbeing outcomes'. Deb was previously the Douglas Wright Research Fellow in the School of Population Health's Centre for Health and Society at the University of Melbourne, where she completed a collaborative research program with three community based groups in Broadmeadows titled 'It's not what you know, but who you know': Building social networks for health in disadvantaged neighbourhoods'. Prior to this appointment, Deb held an

NHMRC Public Health Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, also with the Centre for Health and Society, where she investigated 'Social processes for health: Mobilising social capital in contexts of socioeconomic disadvantage'. The McCaughey Centre is thrilled to have Deb on board, and look forward to supporting her in her goal to build further capacity to undertake effective public health research that addresses the ways in which contexts of socioeconomic disadvantage impact on health and wellbeing.

We're also pleased to have our first two PhD students on board. Welcome to Di Cox and Sara Kirnser, who commenced with the McCaughey Centre in March 2007.

## Seminars and Events

The McCaughey Centre will host a seminar **on "Labour Market Flexibility and Regulation: Australian and International Impacts and Strategies"** on the afternoon of **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm- 4:30 pm** in [Seminar Room 515, Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street \(School Population Health\)](#).

This Forum for policy makers and practitioners is being organised by The McCaughey Centre, VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne in collaboration with the Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University.

The Forum speakers will be:

Dr. Iain Campbell, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University: 'Australian Dimensions of Labour Market Flexibility and Regulation'

Ass. Prof. Tony LaMontagne, Principal Research Fellow, McCaughey Centre: 'Job Stress, Psychosocial Working Conditions, and Health'

Dr. Sara Charlesworth, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT: 'Right to Request' Regulation'

Dr. Jim Stanford, Chief Economist, Canadian Autoworkers Union and Research Fellow, McCaughey Centre: 'International Dimensions of Labour Market Flexibility and Regulation'

Queries and RSVP's for this event may be directed to [Deborah Vallance](#) or (03) 8344 3184.

## Visitors

The McCaughey Centre was pleased to host a Community Conversation Roundtable on the 7<sup>th</sup> March with a range of policy makers and practitioners, with Professor Margaret Barry from the Department of Health Promotion, National University of Ireland (Galway) facilitating the discussion on 'Bringing the evidence to life: Connecting evidence and practice for the promotion of mental health'. Professor Barry is a highly regarded leader in the global mental health promotion movement, and participated in a number of McCaughey Centre forums whilst here on a broader visit with VicHealth. Professor Barry addressed a McCaughey Centre staff meeting, sharing her insights with the team regarding what we know internationally about effective mental health promotion programs, what makes mental health promotion evidence defensible, and what possibilities lay ahead in strengthening evidence based practice. Professor Barry also chaired a Centre research forum, providing feedback to individual staff on their specific project methodologies for linking research, policy and practice.

## Publications

**LaMontagne, A.D., Keegel, T.,** Louie, A.M., Ostry, A., and Landsbergis, P.A., (in press, accepted 4 April 07): A systematic review of the job stress intervention evaluation literature: 1990–2005. *Intl J Occup & Environ Health* 13(3).

Stuckey, R., **LaMontagne, A.D.,** and Sim, M.R., (in press, accepted 17 January 2007): Working in light vehicles—a review and conceptual model for occupational health and safety. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*.

**LaMontagne A.D.,** (2007). The tragic death of Sally Sandic (op/ed). *The Herald Sun* (newspaper), 9 April 2007, page 20.

Collins, S. Warren, N., Landsbergis, P.A., and **LaMontagne, A.D.,** (e-pub ahead of print, 5 March 2007): Stopping stress at its origins—addressing working conditions (letter). *Hypertension* 49: 1-2

**Warr, D.,** Tacticos, T., Kelaher, M., and Klein, H. (2007) 'Money, stress, jobs': residents' perceptions of health-impairing factors in 'poor' neighbourhoods. *Health & Place*. In press. \*\* **Please note this report was developed and produced in the Centre for Health and Society.**

**Warr, D.,** 'Outside the School Gates', Centre for Health and Society, The University of Melbourne, March 2007. \*\* **Please note this report was developed and produced in the Centre for Health and Society.**

Collins, S., Warren, N., Landsbergis, P.A., and **LaMontagne, A.D.,** (e-pub ahead of print, 5 March 2007), 'Stopping stress at its origins—addressing working conditions' (letter), *Hypertension* 49: 1-2.

**LaMontagne, A.D.,** Glass, D., and Benke, G., (20 February 2007): *Review of Primary Investigation of Suspected Brain Cancer Cluster and Employee Health Complaints in RMIT Building 108*. Publicly accessible at <http://mams.rmit.edu.au/dz5lnrirdnji.pdf>, 11 pages.

**LaMontagne, A.D.,** Glass, D., Benke, G., 'Review of primary investigation of suspected brain cancer cluster and employee health complaints in RMIT building 108'. Secondary-level peer review conducted by a panel of experts jointly nominated by RMIT University, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), and the Australian Education Union (AEU), 15th February 2007.

**LaMontagne, A.D.,** Shaw, A., Ostry, A., Louie, A., and **Keegel, T.,** 'Workplace stress in Victoria, developing a systems approach: Summary of findings and implications for policy and practice'. National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

Stuckey, R., **LaMontagne, A.D.,** and Sim, M.R., 'Risk and protective factors for occupational light vehicle user crash, injury, and fatality outcomes', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

**Keegel, T.,** and **LaMontagne, A.D.,** 'Worker participation in OHS: Theory, policy and practice', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

**LaMontagne, A.D.,** Shaw, A., Ostry, A., Louie, A., and **Keegel, T.,** 'Policy and practice responses to the *VicHealth Job Stress Report*', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

**Vallance, D.,** Holloway, A., and **LaMontagne, A.D.,** 'Smoking cessation in asbestos exposed workers: What public health response?', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

**LaMontagne, A.D.,** Steenland, N.K., and Kelsey, K.T., (2007): Ethylene oxide, chapter 73 in Rom WN & Markowitz SB (Eds), *Environmental & Occupational Medicine, Fourth Edition*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, pages 1144-1157.

Please refer to the [McCaughey Centre website](#) for details regarding a range of recent publications.

Watch this space for the WHO Age Friendly Cities Report, due for launch in London on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

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