

Welcome to the January 2007 issue of the McCaughey Centre e- News

The McCaughey Centre wishes you a safe, happy and healthy year in 2007. The Centre is looking forward to a busy year of collaborative activity with our academic, government and community-based partners, and is working on a range of policy research priorities in 2007. These include the collection, analysis and dissemination of the Victorian Community Survey data, the development and release of issues papers and policy reviews addressing numerous of our key priority areas, the development of a number of policy research and workforce development partnership projects, and the consolidation of existing collaborative projects into substantial grant funding applications. The Centre is working toward an official launch around mid-year, which will incorporate the unveiling of the Community Indicators Victoria website - the launch date will be circulated to friends of the McCaughey Centre when finalised. We are also looking forward to the Centre Director's keynote address in the Dean's lecture series in July 2007, which will focus upon 'Community wellbeing in an unwell world: trends, challenges and opportunities'. Other Centre events will be scheduled over coming months, and posted on the website.

Staff Appointments

The McCaughey Centre welcomed new Research Fellow, Dr Deborah Vallance, in January 2007. Deborah has joined Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne and Dr Andrew Hollaway (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) to work on an NHMRC grant investigating 'Latrobe Valley Cohort for the Study of Asbestos Related Disease'. Deborah has spent most of her working life in the area of health and safety; initially as a medical practitioner then for many years in the trade union movement. In the year since leaving full time employment with unions she was employed by WorkSafe Victoria.

We are also pleased to announce that Steve Gelsi's outposting with the McCaughey Centre from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has been extended to July 2007. Steve is a highly regarded member of the Centre's Community Indicators Victoria team, lending his advice and practical skills in relation to data collection, analysis and reporting to the CIV project.

Victorian Community Survey

The Victorian Community Survey, which forms an important component of the Community Indicators Victoria project, is now in the field. Piloting of the survey was finalised earlier this month, and the survey commenced on Tuesday 23rd January. The Victorian Community Survey will be undertaken with at least 300 hundred respondents from each of Victoria's 79 Local Government Areas to establish a robust suite of local indicators of health and wellbeing. The survey data will be freely available via the McCaughey Centre's Community Indicators Victoria website, which is currently under construction and will be launched in mid-2007. If you have any questions about the Victorian Community Survey or Community Indicators Victoria project, please forward these to Dr Melanie Davern or phone 03 8344 3180.

WHO Age Friendly Cities Project

Progress continues with the Melbourne component of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities Project, which is being managed by the McCaughey Centre in collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Council of the Ageing Victoria (COTA). 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. Dr Kathleen Brasher, who is responsible for coordinating the data collection and completing the WHO project report, will travel to a meeting of the worldwide project team in London in March 2007. The meeting will bring 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. Kathleen will present the Melbourne project findings, discuss local dissemination, and look at next steps in collaboration with the project team network.

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