CHASE – Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion

Taking Stock, March 2014

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CHASE Research

CHASE brings together a group of 30 academic staff, located mainly in the School of Health and Social Development, across both Burwood and Waterfront campuses. We also have a large number of honours and PhD students under our supervision.

The group is multidisciplinary and multiprofessional, including public health, health promotion, health sciences, social work, occupational science and therapy, sociology, anthropology, disability studies, and psychology.

The CHASE vision is working collaboratively with communities, organisations and governments to promote social inclusion and to enhance the health and wellbeing of all, particularly those populations, communities and individuals who experience social exclusion.

In this issue as well as our customary project updates and news, we include information on our publications for 2013.

CHASE Research

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CHASE

UPCOMING EVENTS

The CHASE symposium for 2014 will take place towards the end of the year, we will not be able to confirm a date until we have our guest speaker lined up.

We’ll notify you as soon as we can.
CHASE RESEARCH

CHASE’s purpose is to undertake research and development of the highest quality, including the development of theory, in partnership with communities and organisations; and, to provide evidence-based policy and practice advice to government and industry. Twice a year we produce a report that gives a brief summary of some of CHASE’s current activity and our forward directions.

In this issue we provide updates on some of our projects. We also provide details of our research outputs for 2013.

Key statistics – research outputs 2013
3 Research based book
30 Book chapters
30 Refereed journal articles
9 other publications
For details see pages 7-10

2 PhDs successfully examined
For details see page 10

PROJECT UPDATES

Food security and access to food among asylum seekers at the asylum seeker resource centre

Research staff: Dr Fiona McKay, Dr Matthew Dunn & Miss Mercy Mukoya (MPH major project student)

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia’s largest organisation for asylum seekers. The centre offers services including material aid, health, legal, counselling, casework and Foodbank to over 1200 asylum seekers at any one time. The centre receives almost no government funding, with more than 95% of funding coming from the community and philanthropy.

The ASRC operates a Foodbank for asylum seekers with no work rights or with no ability to gain income. Almost half of the asylum seekers (‘members’) who come to the ASRC Foodbank have no work rights and receive no form of welfare support. Approximately 160 families visit the Foodbank every week for their groceries.

The Foodbank budget allows expenditure averaging $5, per person, per week. As this amount is not sufficient to provide food to all those in need who visit the centre, the food available is supplemented by the Food Action Network, an affiliation of individuals, workplaces, schools, community groups, food charities (SecondBite, FareShare, VicRelief and Foodbank) and places of worship who donate foodstuffs to the Foodbank on a regular basis.

Asylum seekers can visit the Foodbank once a week every week to select the food that they need. Rather than being given a food parcel, the ASRC encourages fairness and dignity by presenting food in ‘the supermarket model’; members can see all the food that is available, organised into seven sections (5 food groups + toiletries + extras), which allows them to make their own choices within a number of set limits. Depending on family size and income level, members are allocated a specific number of points to spend in each section: this has been done to encourage a well-rounded diet.

For example, if one member of the centre gets 24 points (8 points each for her husband, herself, and 4 points for each of her two children) to spend in the high-protein section (meat and meat equivalents) she cannot carry those points through to the grains section. This seeks to guarantee that each member will leave the Foodbank with a supply of high-protein foods, fruits and vegetables, grains and dairy.

Since November, we have reviewed the food baskets of over 200 members of the Foodbank, this review has allowed us to gain an understanding of the nutrition provided by the food offered at the Foodbank, and the food being taken by the asylum seekers. Following this, we have interviewed 55 asylum seekers to gain an understanding of their food need, current food security and their experiences at the Foodbank.

The final aspect of this research, involves interviewing a number volunteers of the ASRC to gain an understanding of their experiences of providing food aid to asylum seekers. To date, 7 interviews have been conducted, with 5 more scheduled over the coming weeks. By interviewing volunteers at the Foodbank, this research will also seek to gain greater understanding of these issues from the volunteer perspective.

This research has been made possible through a grant from the ASRC.
The Picture My Future approach has been developed by a research team from Deakin University, including CHASE member Associate Professor Erin Wilson. We have worked with people with disability to develop an approach that supports people to talk to planners about what is important to them so that they have meaningful involvement in the planning process.

The training modules and toolkit enable people with disability and those who support them to implement the approach. They are fully described on the website set up as part of the project:

http://picturemyfuture.com/

The work has been carried out with the generous support of UnitingCare Community Options, Northern Support Services, Able Australia and Inclusion Melbourne. The project was an initiative of the UnitingCare Community Options/Deakin University Research Partnership. The project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Understanding health service access by performance and image enhancing drug users

CHASE Researchers: Dr Matt Dunn, Dr Fiona McKay

Performance and image enhancing drug (PIED) use is increasing in Australia. A very small proportion of Australians report using these substances - research has shown that approximately 0.4% of the Australian population has used AAS (Anabolic Androgenic Steroids) for non-medical purposes and 0.1% has used them in the past year. These numbers are considerably less than other substances such as MDMA and cannabis, though similar for substances such as heroin, ketamine, and GHB. However, other sources have shown that use is increasing. The number of detections at the Australian border by Customs increased 106% between 2009/10 and 2010/11, and a further 57% between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The majority of these detections are AAS, and many are small quantities which indicate importation for personal use rather than large-scale distribution. Additionally, the number of people attending Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) for injecting equipment which indicate PIEDs as their last drug injected has increased, from 1-2% between 1995-2010 to 5% in 2011 and 7% in 2012.

The increase in PIED use has important implications for the health services that people who inject drugs may use. Our study with NSP workers found that the increase in PIED clients provided multiple challenges (Dunn, McKay & Iversen, 2014). Firstly, NSP workers did not feel well informed about the substances that PIED users were injecting. Secondly, they were unsure what equipment PIED users required. Thirdly, PIED users were perceived to differ from other client groups, and these differences impacted upon the level of rapport staff could build with this group. The biggest implication has been an overload of clients attending NSPs for injecting equipment, such as needles and syringes. Differing from substances such as heroin, and amphetamine-type stimulants such as methamphetamine and cocaine, PIEDs such as AAS are not used every day. PIEDs are typically used in ‘cycles’, with a person using PIEDs every day for a period of weeks and then ceasing for a similar period. As such, PIED users may take a large volume of injecting equipment to last them for their ‘on cycle’.

This has led to some government health departments concerned that PIED users are ‘taking’ equipment that is intended for other client groups. While evidence from our research suggests that this is not the case, anecdotal evidence does suggest that some NSPs in New South Wales and Queensland are seeing such a dramatic increase in PIED users that quotas for obtaining equipment have been introduced for all client groups. This raises important health implications, as failure to obtain sterile injecting equipment, for any client group, may lead to increases in equipment sharing – this increases the risk of blood borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C. Increases in use may lead to increases in harm, which in turn may lead to increases in health service use. Our research has shown that no study in Australia with PIED users has examined health service utilisation (Dunn, Cooper & Farrell, 2013), and this needs to be made an urgent research priority.

The aim of the current research is to understand health service access among this group, as well as barriers to and suggested facilitators to health service access. We will be seeking to interview PIED users to understand this issue. Interviews have already commenced in Queensland, and hopefully soon in both Melbourne and Hobart as well.
Voices of Pacific Children with Disabilities

This project was funded by AusAID Development Research Awards Scheme in 2012 to identify the needs and priorities of children with disabilities in Vanuatu and PNG. The project includes two CHASE members: Associate Professor Erin Wilson and Dr Kevin Murfitt, along with colleagues Professor Matthew Clarke and Elena Jenkin in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Knowledge of the needs and experiences of children with disabilities living in Vanuatu and PNG is limited and does not include data collected directly from children themselves. Disability is not often documented or diagnosed, there are few services and supports, and people with disability are routinely excluded. This project aims to establish a range of methods of data collection to determine the self-reported needs and priorities of children living with disabilities in Vanuatu and PNG. The project involves a multi-staged capacity building approach between PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP), Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association Vanuatu (DPA), Save the Children, and Deakin University.

2013 was a busy year for the project with the development of methods of data collection to enable children to report their needs and dreams, as well as training of local researchers (including people with a disability). The first phase of the project has developed and trialled several different methods of communicating with children about their life needs and priorities including the use of dolls, a photo library and a sound library. The project has developed data collection tools and guides for their use in English and in local languages of Bislama (Vanuatu) and Tok Pisin (PNG). Along with the innovative tools for collecting data from children, the project has also worked on a Disability Identification Tool to enable researchers to easily document the nature of the child’s impairment. Again, this tool has been translated into both languages, utilising the advice of local people with disabilities. This process has raised many issues about notions of disability - for example, how is intellectual disability understood and characterised in Vanuatu or PNG - along with some interesting dialogue about the way language both defines and constrains people with disability within cultures.

One of the most positive aspects of this project to date has been the significant involvement of people with disability in both countries, both as paid staff and volunteers. Training in both countries was heavily supported by the local disabled people’s organisations, with many self advocates with disabilities attending training as volunteers and providing valuable input around their lived experience of disability in each country. In this way, the project offers valuable lessons for developing partnerships with people in disability in developing countries.

A good place to raise a family

This project is led by CHASE members Dr Fiona Andrews and Associate Professor Julia Shelley. The project aims to identify factors that affect residential location choices, and the quality of experiences of parents raising children in inner versus outer suburbs of Melbourne. The research is being undertaken in collaboration with two project partners, the City of Wyndham and the City of Maribyrnong.

Since the last newsletter, we have completed the analysis of all the stages of the initial project. This has resulted in two conference presentations (Public Health Association in September and the State of Australian Cities in November 2013). In addition, a peer reviewed conference paper was published on the State of Australian Cities website (http://www.soacconference.com.au/soac-conference-proceedings-and-powerpoint-presentations/) and another paper is being considered for publication in the Journal Health & Place. We also plan to present at the Australian Institute for Family Studies conference in July this year.

We are pleased to announce that Steph Camm, a Masters of Public Health student attached to the project last year, achieved a higher distinction for her thesis reviewing settings for delivering preschool education. Her review focussed on the benefits of co-locating preschools with other services on child and parent outcomes. She plans to publish this in the near future.

Building on a request that arose out of the CHASE partnership forum last year, we now have an honours student undertaking an evaluation of the Central West Play...
CHASE – Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion: promoting equity and social justice

project to support Maribyrnong’s families experiencing vulnerability. This project involves a partnership with the City of Maribyrnong, MacKillop Family Services and Central West Shopping Centre. Serenity McEwin, an Occupational Therapy honours student will be undertaking an evaluation of the shopping centre-based playgroup that is central to this project, under the supervision of Fiona Andrews and Professor Karen Stagnitti. It is rewarding to be able to offer students research opportunities with new project partners.

‘You the Man’: a theatre-based program for promotion of bystander engagement and violence prevention

As we increase our efforts in primary prevention of violence against women and children, exploring a range of different programs for use is very important. You the man is a successful theatre-based program for promotion of bystander engagement and violence prevention. The program is delivered as:

- a 35-minute, one-actor, play that portrays six characters (none of whom are victims or perpetrators). Each wrestles with their response to unhealthy relationship issues; followed by,

- a panel discussion with local counsellors, advocates, and experts (a variety of different formats have been successfully used).

The script of the play remains unchanged from performance to performance, but the format of the post-performance panel is tailored to the setting, the local circumstances, and other violence prevention activities happening locally. The panel discussion introduces the audience to local resources that can help support them in practising safe intervention as bystanders and can help those experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault.

‘You the Man’ has been presented in US high schools and colleges since 2002. It was originated by Cathy Plourde, now based at the University of New England (UNE) in the US, where she is Adjunct Professor of Integrated Health Sciences, Westbrook College of Health Professions. An Australian version of the program has been produced by a team from the Faculties of Health and Arts and Education at Deakin University led by Professor Ann Taket.

In November 2013 four previews of the Australian program were delivered in Warrnambool, Portland, Mortlake and Geelong. Feedback from participants was extremely positive (see box), and a larger pilot season commences this month with delivery across the state in a variety of different settings: workplaces, sporting clubs, communities, schools, and tertiary education institutions. During the pilot season, we will be collecting data on the short term effects of the program on participants.

Feedback from You the Man preview participants

School student comments collected by a teacher at one of the schools:

“The performance was powerful. I enjoyed it a lot and it was a real eye opener. I liked the transformation of character by using props. Although we never met Jana, we still got a sense of what kind of person she was.”

“I liked it, it gave me things to look for before I go into a relationship! It was very powerful in all ways, the way Mitch tried to help Jana to get away from John because he was a very rude person.”

“A moving play which was easy to follow and well aimed at our age”.

“It made me feel sorry for girls that have had to go through that experience. And it makes you aware of what you have seen in the past.”

“The play was very powerful. It really showed how people can push away help if they are afraid. It is very powerful how one person can keep trying to help.”

“It was great. Don’t be a bystander.”

Comments from adult audience members:

“exactly the type of program required to really help to stimulate open discussion of the issue”

“Support is not just agencies but people around”

“Community is bombarded by media stories – but this format helps people take on the issues”

“The play raises many issues and many questions which lead to great conversations”

“As a parent, I wouldn’t feel uncomfortable with my 12 year old being exposed to this”

“The play and discussion seemed to impact people on a
The work has already attracted attention from national radio, and a feature was broadcast on ABC's Bush Telegraph on Tuesday 19th November, featuring our director Suzanne Chaundy, one of the actors John Shearman and Renee Fiolet who was the moderator for the preview in Geelong, recording available at:

http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bushtelegraph/you-the-man/5101514

If you would like to be put on the mailing list for detailed updates on this exciting program of work, please email Professor Ann Taket at ann.taket@deakin.edu.au.

Women's reproductive choices and the consequences of those choices: A focus on policy

In 2013 a team of CHASE members located in the School of Health and Social Development received funding to undertake a project exploring ‘Social influences on reproductive choices and consequences: If, when and what happens next?’ One component of this project was to undertake mapping and analysis of policies which directly or indirectly influence and impact on women’s reproductive choices and their consequences. This specific project was led by CHASE members Dr Melissa Graham, Dr Hayley McKenzie and Greer Lamaro and supported by Research Assistant Ruth Klein.

One of the most basic human rights is the right to health, which expressly includes reproductive health. This includes the right to choose if, when and how many children a woman decides to have. Furthermore, it includes safe and timely access to family planning, contraception and termination. Yet in Australia, these basic human rights are highly regulated by policy, legislation, bills and acts at both a state and federal level. As such, not all women can equitably and freely access all of the reproductive rights provisions which they are afforded under the international convention.

Mapping of state and federal level policies related to women’s reproductive choices and consequences in Australia was undertaken in 2013, identifying 160 discrete policies (excluding related documents). Three main overlapping frames through which reproductive choices and consequences are made and carried were identified: 1) promoting motherhood (e.g. breastfeeding, maternal health); 2) regulating reproduction (e.g. termination, adoption, assisted reproduction); and 3) economic incentives and constraints (e.g. parenting payments, parental leave, family tax benefits). Health intersected all of these three frames.

The policy mapping undertaken in 2013 was the initial stage of analysis and has provided the groundwork for the current analysis exploring the complex interplay between national and state policy, identification of different representations of ‘what the problem is’, silences in the policies, the evolution of policies, and the representations and effects of policies.

This analysis is continuing in 2014 and has been further extended to include a honours student project. Further work is also being planned for 2014 (subject to successful funding) to explore how women “live” or experience these policies. This is a critical step in being able to understand how policies influence women’s reproductive choices and the consequences of those choices in their daily lives.

Deakin at your Doorstep: Access to learning in the cloud

Project leader: Dr Sophie Goldingay
Research associate: Dr Clare Land
Reference group: Norah Hosken, Sharlene Nipperess, Dr Mark Furlong, Dr Russell Shuttleworth, Dr Ann Carrington

For many people with complex life circumstances such as being a carer for parents or children, having health or disability issues, living in remote areas, or even needing to work full time, higher education is out of reach. Off campus online studies can provide the opportunity to be included in higher education. Nevertheless, there has been much scepticism about how well online learning can prepare students for professional practice.

Our study sought the views of social work Field Work educators about off campus students going into their practicum placement. These students’ teaching and learning had taken place predominantly online, but was
blended with some face-to-face workshops. Our survey showed that the majority of Field Work Educators rated their off campus students as well or very well prepared for practicum. While drawn from only a small study at one university, these results are the beginning of a much larger study to examine the efficacy of online education for professional courses and consider how best to enable wider participation alongside quality learning outcomes in higher education.

2013 CHASE PUBLICATIONS

Authored/edited books


Chapters in books


Layton, Natasha and Wilson, Erin (2013) Practising inclusion in policy design for people with disabilities. In:


Refereed journal articles


Hitch, Danielle, Lavasani, Negar, Pepin, Genevieve and Stagnitti, Karen (2013) Promoting health and wellbeing for people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: an occupational perspective, Internet journal of allied health sciences and practice, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 1-10, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida


**Other publications**

Hosken, Norah, Land, Clare, Goldingay, Sophie, Barnes, Peter and Murphy, Kerry (2013) The Role of TAFE as an Equity Pathway to Social Inclusion, Employment, and to University: a submission from The Deakin University Social Work/Gordon TAFE Community Services Work, Geelong Based Project Team, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic

Hosken, Norah, Goldingay, Sophie, Land, Clare, Barnes, Peter and Murphy, Kerry (2013) I would’ve been so overwhelmed...: the importance of TAFE in supporting success for low SES students in HE, in FYHE 2013: Proceedings of the First Year in Higher Education 2013 Conference, p. 1, FYHE, Wellington, N. Z.


**PHDS CONFERRED IN 2013**

Cameron Boyd: Measuring harm - Governing the effects of child sexual abuse
Supervisor: Professor Bob Pease

Georgia Birch: Researching the relationship between physical activity and motherhood in older Somali women
Supervisor: Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli

**CHASE NEWS**

New CHASE member: Ekaterina Bogatyreva

CHASE welcomes a new member, Ekaterina is a Masters of Public Health graduate from Deakin University. She is working as a researcher on an NHMRC-funded community health research program focused on Staphylococcus aureus (Staph ‘superbug’). Ekaterina is also working in a mixed-methods research study based in Cambodia focusing on the reproductive health and behaviour of migrant women and garment-factory workers. Her involvement in CHASE began when she facilitated two ‘meet the authors’ sessions for
CHASE associated books (‘Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights’, and ‘Practising Social Inclusion’) at the International Union of Health Promotion and Education 2013 conference in Thailand. Her focus and interest in CHASE revolves around policy and practice of social exclusion based on cultural and collectivist views.

The social psychology of climate change and pro-environmentalism

CHASE member Dr Janine McGuinness is organising a symposium entitled ‘The social psychology of climate change and pro-environmentalism’ at the forthcoming conference of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists, to be held in Canberra in April 2014. In a context of considerable societal concern about climate change, social psychologists are helping to improve our understanding of the nature and relationship of previously ill-defined and poorly integrated concepts, such as: pro-environmental behaviour and attitudes, environmental intentions and activism, as well as climate change scepticism and denial. Social psychologists also offer strong conceptual frameworks for furthering our understanding of associated psychological mechanisms and the relationship of these constructs to social/political behaviour. Each of the papers included in this symposium fit squarely within this research tradition and collectively exhibit themes such as the investigation of identity processes, ideology, environmental behaviour and beliefs as well as their relationship to collective action and voting behaviour. Further information on the conference can be found at: http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/news/43-conference/sasp-2014/125-sasp-conference-2024

New book: Social Work and Faith-Based Organizations

Social Work and Faith-Based Organizations by CHASE member Beth Crisp is based on research she has conducted in Australia and Scotland. Despite a focus on social work practice, many of the issues which this book explores will be of interest to a wide range of people interested in faith-based human service provision. Key issues discussed include the relationship between faith-based organizations and the state, working with an organization’s stakeholders, ethical practice and dilemmas, and faith-based organizations as employers. The book also addresses areas of debate and controversy, such as providing services within and for multi-faith communities and tensions between professional codes of ethics and religious doctrine.


Via a wide range of case studies, this book, edited by CHASE members Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and Professor Bob Pease, examines new forms of resistance to social injustices in contemporary Western societies. Resistance requires agency, and agency is grounded in notions of the subject and subjectivity. How do people make sense of their subjectivity as they are constructed and reconstructed within relations of power? What kinds of subjectivities are needed to struggle against forms of dominance and claim recognition?

The participants in the case studies are challenging forms of dominance and subordination grounded in class, race, culture, nationality, sexuality, religion, age, disability and other forms of social division. It is a premise of this book that new and/or reconstructed forms of subjectivity are required to challenge social relations of subordination and domination. Thus, the transformation of subjectivity as well as the restructuring of oppressive power relations is necessary to achieve social justice.
Staff promotions 2013

Our congratulations to:

• Dr Erin Wilson on her promotion to Associate Professor of disability
• Dr Elizabeth Hoban on her promotion to Associate Professor, and
• Norah Hosken on her promotion to a tenured position as senior lecturer in social work.

CHASE STAFF MARCH 2014

Director: Professor Ann Taket

Deputy Director: Associate Professor Julia Shelley

Other staff
Dr Fiona Andrews
Georgia Babatsikos
Kat Bogatyreva
Dr Ann Carrington
Teresa Capetola
Professor Beth Crisp
Dr Matthew Dunn
Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson
Dr Sophie Goldingay
Dr Melissa Graham

Dr Lisa Hanna
Associate Professor Liz Hoban
Norah Hosken
Greer Lamaro
Dr Janine McGuiness
Dr Jan Moore
Dr Fiona McKay
Dr Hayley McKenzie
Dr Kevin Murfitt
Annemarie Nevill

Sharlene Nipperess
Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli
Dr Rebecca Patrick
Professor Bob Pease
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