

CHASE – Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion

Taking Stock, October 2015



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CHASE

CHASE brings together a group of some 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 welcome staff who have recently joined Deakin University and CHASE.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are planning an exciting series of symposia for 2016 that will focus on recently completed research, exploring its links to policy and practice. Now is the time to save the dates:

Tuesday 16 February, 2pm to 4pm, *Working with vulnerable groups*. Location – Deakin Burwood campus

Tuesday 28 June, 2pm to 4pm, *Gender equity and health*. Location – Deakin Melbourne City Centre

Tuesday 15 November, 2pm to 4pm, *Place, inclusion and health*. Location – Deakin Waterfront Campus.

PROJECT UPDATES

This issue of the newsletter features three project updates and presents the abstracts of three of the PhDs that have been awarded during 2015, supervised by CHASE members.

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 several local government partners.

There have been a number of developments with the project since the last newsletter. In June, Fiona Andrews presented a paper entitled 'A good place to raise a family? Parenting, place and liveability in Melbourne, Australia' at the 52nd International Liveable Cities conference in Bristol UK. We have also had a paper entitled 'Social connections among parents of pre-school-age children in an inner and outer area of Melbourne, Australia' published in the latest edition of the Journal of Social Inclusion.

Our students continue to perform well. Serenity McErwin, our honours student from 2014, has recently had her research on 'The efficacy of co-locating a supported playgroup in a shopping centre' accepted for publication in Communities, Children & Families Australia. This research involved a partnership with the City of Maribyrnong, MacKillop Family Services and Central West Shopping Centre. Recommendations from the research have been accepted by the project partners and an article on the playgroup recently appeared in the Maribyrnong News.



The Centre West Playgroup studied by Serenity McErwin

Our honours student for 2015/6, Sarah Neil, working in partnership with the City of Whittlesea, will commence data collection for her project on 'Parents' experiences of social connectedness' in an outer-suburb of Melbourne at the beginning of 2016.

Reimagining Religion and Belief for Public Policy and Practice

Re-imagining Religion and Belief for Public Policy and Political Regeneration is a funded research project hosted by the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths University of London. In particular the project involves interdisciplinary discussions and networking to encourage analysis of the ways in which 'old' ideas of religion and belief pervade in public imagination(s), and what are the new spaces for reimagining them. Full details of the project can be found at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/faithsunit/reimaginingreligion/>.

A key component of this project was a colloquium in May 2015 with 20 researchers on the past, present and future of religion in the public sphere. The academic disciplines of participants included anthropology, fine art, geography, law, philosophy, public policy, sociology, social work, and theology and religious studies. Although most participants were from the UK, there were also scholars from Canada, Finland, Norway, the US and CHASE member Professor Beth Crisp from Australia. In addition to senior researchers, the participants at the colloquium also included a number of early career researchers and higher degree research students. So often as scholars we talk with others working in similar areas to ourselves, it was incredibly stimulating if not challenging to engage with others have little or no understanding of the disciplinary and regional perspectives underpinning our work which we tend to take for granted. It is expected that a book will be published at some point in the future including the presentations of this colloquium.

In January 2016, the principal investigators on this project, Professor Adam Dinham, director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths and Dr Chris Baker, director of research for the William Temple Foundation, and senior lecturer in public and urban theology at the University of Chester, plan to visit Melbourne to engage with Australian scholars on how ideas of religion and belief pervade the public imagination in this country. A one day colloquium is planned on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at Deakin's Melbourne City Centre and anyone interested in participating or attending is invited to contact Professor Beth Crisp at beth.crisp@deakin.edu.au

Parents' perceptions of their child's online gaming



As part of her Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) project in 2015, Louise Price (above) is undertaking qualitative exploratory research into parents' perceptions of their child's online gaming. This research is designed to take an alternate approach to previous studies that approach children's online gaming as a pathology. Rather it is designed to gain an insight from parents about their thoughts and experiences around their child's gaming. Preliminary results from this exploratory research reflect that some parents see online gaming as adding a positive dimension to their child's friendship groups and assisting in the development and expansion of skills. Louise's project is being supervised by Dr Sophie Goldingay.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PHDS

Christopher Reed: The origins, development and perceived effectiveness of horticulture-based therapy programs in Victoria

Supervisor: Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson

In most countries that have similar economic and social structures to Victoria/Australia, Horticulture Based Therapy (HBT) is well established and widely available. Why this is not so in Victoria/Australia was the subject of this study. Evidence was gathered through an exploration of the literature, through interviews with 30 past and present practitioners and five key informants, and two focus groups. This helped to identify the origins, development, structure, depth and variation of programs and practitioner perceptions of benefits. It was found that in Victoria there are a wide range of health and wellbeing interventions

using horticulture. The identification of personal empowerment as a benefit for HBT participants was an important finding of this study. Although reliant on sole practitioner support, it was found that HBT in Victoria/Australia had similar origins and provides similar benefits to international programs. Although HBT in Victoria shares some of the characteristics of international HBT, there is little or no organisational support or connectivity. Compared to other complementary therapies, HBT in Victoria/Australia does not have the same profile, level of application or professional status. To help overcome this position, this study provides recommendations that may assist HBT reach its potential as a valuable health and wellbeing resource in Victoria/Australia.

Elyse Warner: Returning to co-residence: The experiences of young adults and parents

Supervisors: Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson, Dr Fiona Andrews

Young Australians in their twenties, much like their international counterparts, are experiencing a range of pathways in life, love and work. Whether by choice or as a consequence of societal changes, they are often spending extended time in higher education, encountering a range of different work experiences and postponing marriage and parenting.

These patterns have coincided with increasing support from parents, with access to the parental home particularly significant. Young adults are remaining longer in the parental home, though not all co-reside as a result of delayed departures. Many return home after previously moving out. Research into the return to co-residence in Australia, as well as overseas, has for the most part relied on quantitative methods to analyse data collected decades ago. Thus, there remains a need for a more detailed understanding of the nuanced experiences of returning to co-residence within a contemporary family context.

This research aimed to explore the lived experiences of young adults and their parents when they return to co-residence. Addressing the questions of how family members describe the return and what it means for them to do so, the study adopted a qualitative approach with underpinnings from hermeneutic phenomenology.

Participants sought for this study were currently sharing the household as a result of returning to co-residence after at least four months living separately. Ten young adults aged between 21 and 28 years and 11 of their parents (10 mothers and one father) volunteered to participate.

Semi-structured, face-to-face interviews were conducted. Participants were asked to describe their experiences of returning to co-residence in their own words, before an interview guide was used to elicit more detailed information on its meaning. Follow-up interviews were conducted, with participants asked to comment on their thoughts on the developing themes.

Data was analysed thematically, with a focus on the meaning of the return to co-residence. Employing the hermeneutic circle when reviewing the transcripts meant the nuanced experiences of each individual could be explored, while also allowing differences between them and participants of the same generation to be uncovered. This method also enabled the use of dyadic analysis; the movement between the interviews of each family member revealed further overlaps and contrasts.

Returning to co-residence meant that the young adults and their parents came to accept the change in living arrangement, accommodate each other in the household and also appreciate how doing so enabled them to advance in various life domains. Although these themes of acceptance, accommodation and appreciation were common across both parties, the existence of multiple realities meant that how these were experienced were similar in some aspects yet different in others. As such, experiences were interpreted as reflections of the family members' different roles in relation to the return to co-residence and their personal developmental goals.

The current study, as a detailed and contemporary exploration of experiences of the return to co-residence, contributes to filling a considerable gap in the knowledge of this living arrangement in the Australian context. By highlighting how returning to co-residence can be accepted, accommodated and appreciated by those involved, this research has the potential to improve understanding and thereby challenge the often-negative perceptions that persist around this living arrangement. The return to co-residence warrants broader recognition, especially as more families are likely to find themselves living together in the future.

Rachael Elliott Schmidt: In-depth case study of Australian seating service experience: stakeholders' perspectives

Supervisors: Professor Karen Stagnitti, Dr Genevieve Pepin

The in-depth case study explores the Australian seating service experience from four stakeholders' perspectives. To capture essential case study data, a qualitative approach

collected the seating service experiences of eleven consumers, five care providers, 28 prescribing clinicians and 16 vendors. Sixty participants shared their experiences via an in-depth interview process of procuring specialised wheelchair-seating technology within the Australian seating service sector. The in-depth interviews were recorded, transcribed, and member-checked. The interview data builds on scant evidence of the seating service as experienced in Australia.

The data underwent a multi-phased analytical process to delve into their seating service experience. The first data analysis explored for emergent themes, initially for each of the four stakeholder groups, and again for common themes overall. There are six themes common across all the groups. A second analytical phase explored the data from two different perspectives. Two different analytical lens delved the data deeply from the perspective of decision-making informed by the Eggers et al. Wheelchair Service Delivery Model and again from a social justice perspective, informed by Rawls Principles of Equality, of Equity and of Opportunity Equality.

The data analysis exposes a fragmented seating service sector dominated by a restrictive funding system, on the cusp of impending change brought on by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The case study expose eight major findings pertaining to the Australian seating service sector, its stakeholders' experiences and the factors important in specialised wheelchair procurements. The following eight major findings provide service structure and benchmarking needed to boost existing seating service capacity.

The first major finding exposes the importance of forming trustworthy one-to-one partnerships and these collaborative partnerships are intentionally enhanced using a person-centred service approach to manage case complexity. The second finding describes an Australian Seating Service Landscape dominated by an overarching system of governance that influences funding at a seating service level and upon wheelchair procurement. The third finding classifies the consumer's bio-functional postural capacity as the Four Domains of Postural Complexity. Aligned with the third finding, the fourth finding proposes a Seating Service Selection Guide based on seating approach according to postural capacity. The fifth finding describes three Decision-Making types, according to who has decision making control and where support is required, to specific resource needs. Informed by the third, fourth and fifth findings, the sixth finding establishes a holistic guide: the Determinants of Case Complexity that clarifies the direction of the seating approach and allocation of specific seating expertise in specialised wheelchair procurement

according to consumer capacity. The seventh finding defines Six Seating Service Steps as a non-linear, dynamic service and procurement process operating with the Australia service sector. The eighth and final major finding establishes an Australian Seating Service Benchmark and for the first time, provides structure to build a sustainable seating service sector.

A coordinated seating service plan urgently requires a national education program, aligned with industry-based career planning and universal quality assurance program. This case study provides baseline data, much needed to shape and develop the Australian seating service capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing market place.

Other PhDs conferred in 2015

John Joseph Grundy: Health systems and social transition in Asia. Supervisor: Associate Professor Liz Hoban

CHASE NEWS

Farewells

In mid-2015 we said farewell Professor Bob Pease who has moved to take up a position at the University of Tasmania. We will miss his contributions to CHASE and wish him every success in his future career. Hopefully we can look forward to collaborating with him in the future.

Dr Melissa Graham – a new Deputy Director for CHASE



In June 2015 we were pleased to welcome Dr Melissa Graham as a new Deputy Director of CHASE. She is looking forward to further engaging with CHASE members and

partners. Since joining CHASE, Melissa has been actively involved in the work of CHASE organising events, contributing to books as both an editor and author, and more recently managing the website, which will be redeveloped over the coming months (<http://www.deakin.edu.au/health-social-development/chase>).

Melissa's background is in public health and health promotion with a particular focus on women's health. Her work brings together a body of research which has examined women's health across the life course, their experiences of the health care system, exclusion and decision-making. A main focus of her research is women's reproductive health and this consists of two interrelated strands: women without children; and reproductive choices and consequences.

Her research with women without children has explored their lived experiences, social exclusion, health and wellbeing, how they are portrayed and population trends in Australia. This research has been cognisant of and sensitive to the diversity of positions, pathways to, and experiences of being a woman without children, how these experiences are shaped or informed by the social cultural norms of the society in which they live, and the health consequences (positive and negative) of not having children. Currently, she is recruiting women without children aged 45 to 64 years to participate in an anonymous online survey about life in Australian society as a woman with no children (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/life-in-Australian-society-for-women-aged-45-64-with-no-children>).

Additionally, in collaboration with other CHASE members, Melissa is leading a program of research which aims to explore and detail women's reproductive choices, and the consequences of these choices, in contemporary Australian society. To date, this work has focused on mapping and analysing government policy which influence women's reproductive choices and how women themselves experience policy governing their choices and the subsequent consequences of the choices available to them. This has also included exploring the social supports women draw on in regards to their reproductive decision-making process. Currently, this work is focusing on refugee and asylum seeker women aged 18 to 45 years living in Melbourne's southern metropolitan region's experiences of, influences and stories about their reproductive decision-making. More information about this project can be found at www.facebook.com/WRDMproject.

Melissa is looking forward to building further partnerships and working in collaboration with agencies and organisations. If you are interested in discussing potential

collaborations in regards to women's reproductive health please contact Melissa (melissa.graham@deakin.edu.au).

New CHASE member: Dr Kim Robinson



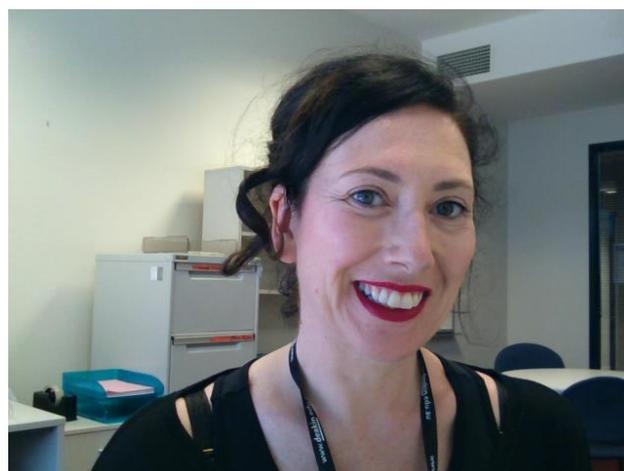
Kim has been a social work practitioner and manager in community health and refugee services for over 15 years in Australia and in the UK.

Her research interests include the application of critical theory perspectives, particularly post-structuralism and feminism, to inform social work practice and education. She completed her PhD in migration studies, and published two papers from this research: *Voices from the frontline. Working with refugees and asylum seekers in refugee non-government organisations in Australia and the UK* (2013, British Journal of Social Work) and *Supervision Found Wanting: Experiences of Health and Social Workers in Non-Government Organisations Working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers* (2013, Practice: Social work in Action).

She has been engaged in evaluation of programmes and projects involving asylum seeking children, and is a contributor to two forthcoming chapters in a book on Mental Health and Risk. The first is *Beyond the Risk Paradigm in Mental Health Policy and Practice* (with Dr Shepard Masocha), and the second is *"Where Now for Social Justice" Marginalised young people in the UK, Appeals Rights Exhausted: Care Leavers Facing Return to Afghanistan* (with Dr Lucy Williams). She is also writing on domestic violence and refugees, social work with refugees and unaccompanied asylum seekers leaving care. She is an Adjunct Research Fellow at Swinburne Institute for Social Research, and returned to Australia to take up the position of Lecturer in Social Work at Deakin University.

New CHASE member: Dr Sarah Epstein

Sarah joined the staff of the social work program at the start of this year and is based at the Waterfront campus. Her practice experience has primarily been within the violence against women sector and this strongly informs her teaching areas around violence and abuse, human rights and social justice. As a researcher and a feminist she is really interested in exploring the intersection between feminism and masculinity. In particular she is interested in exploring how women, through their work as mothers, inform and co-construct non-normative gendered subjectivities in the raising of their children. She looks forward to connecting with everyone through CHASE.



A Mother's Story: Rosie Batty in Conversation

CHASE member, Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli reports:

It was an honour and very humbling for me to be given this gift and privilege to facilitate this conversation with Rosie Batty. The event was held at the National Wool Museum, Geelong on Tuesday 22 September at 7pm. About 200 people attended, many of whom had experienced family violence or were working in local health and women's services supporting victims of family violence.

Opened by the Vice-Chancellor, the event once again proved Rosie Batty to be engaging, strong, thought provoking and determined to achieve change in our legal, policing and magisterial structures, as well as in funding and resourcing of health and community services. Both at the beginning and at the end of the evening, the audience was reminded to seek support should the event raise confronting issues or recollections, using 1800 RESPECT for any future situation.

The feedback from the audience was very positive. They commented on the how the conversation had found a balance between both Rosie's personal life and her

advocacy work. Sadly, and indeed showing how insidious and traumatic family violence is, a few members of the audience had to be assisted by health service providers as the evening triggered traumatic memories for them.

Thank you to Rosie Batty, the Director of the National Wool Museum, and Maryanne Vagg, Senior Project Officer, School of Communication & Creative Arts, Faculty of Arts & Education, Deakin University.

Community education

CHASE is planning to offer a number of theatre based health education programs. These programs can be delivered in a range of settings: secondary schools, universities/TAFEs, sporting clubs, workplaces and communities. They are delivered in a 60-90 minute session made up of two parts, a 30-35 single actor play, followed by a moderated panel discussion.

Our first program, *You the Man*, deals with dating abuse and sexual assault, and has now completed several very successful seasons and was a finalist in the prestigious Victorian Health Promotion Foundation awards in 2014.

Our second program, *The Thin Line*, is concerned with building knowledge and understanding about eating disorders. During 2014 it completed a very successful pilot season.

We are now taking bookings for future seasons.



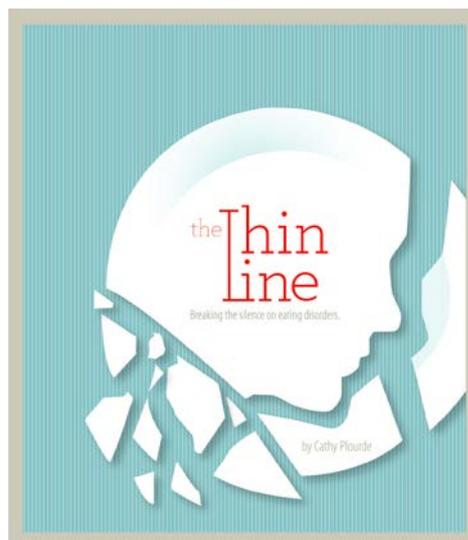
We still have some availability for additional bookings in the period November 2 to December 11, 2015.

For 2016, we are currently offering bookings in the following three seasons:

1. February 8 to March 31, 2016
2. June 1 to July 29, 2016
3. September 1 to 30, 2016

For further information see:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/health-social-development/chase/you-the-man>



For 2016, we are currently offering bookings in the following three seasons:

1. February 8 to March 31, 2016
2. June 1 to July 29, 2016
3. September 1 to 30, 2016

For further information see:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/health-social-development/chase/the-thin-line>

CHASE events – recordings available

During June 2015, CHASE hosted an international visitor, Professor Jihad (Judy) Makhoul, from the American University of Beirut. While she was here she presented a seminar on 'the meanings of and dealing with social exclusion in an Arab world context: an emerging research agenda' which details the emerging program of work on social exclusion that she leads within the American University of Beirut. A video of her seminar is available on the CHASE website at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/health-social-development/chase/chase-events>

In February, 2015, CHASE hosted the workshop 'Undertaking human rights research with children with disabilities' at the Deakin City Centre campus. There is a short video presenting an overview of the workshop by presenter Associate Professor Erin Wilson on the CHASE website at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/health-social-development/chase/chase-events> (scroll down, it appears under the section on Professor Makhoul's seminar).

Seminar: Progressing an Agenda for Carers - Working together for change

Held during National Carers Week (11 to 17 October), this special seminar invites carers, professionals, academics, researchers, advocates and policy makers to come together to progress the agenda for carers. International guest speaker Professor Alisoun Milne will examine the contemporary challenges in the UK, where public sector constraints undermine policy aims and relentless resource reduction threatens carer health and wellbeing. Alisoun will

also outline the important place of carer research, emphasising the need to consider how we best generate knowledge that both understands carer experiences and informs policy. Caroline Mulcahy, Chief Executive Officer, Carers Victoria, will provide a local viewpoint on the rights and issues of carers.

Date/Time: Friday October 16, 10am - 12pm

Venue: RMIT University Building 13,

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/progressing-an-agenda-for-carers-working-together-for-change-tickets-18710963997>

CHASE STAFF MARCH 2015

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Dr Melissa Graham**

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Professor Susan Balandin
Teresa Capetola
Professor Beth Crisp
Dr Matthew Dunn
Dr Jane Edwards
Dr Sarah Epstein
Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson
Dr Sophie Goldingay

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

Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli
Dr Rebecca Patrick
Dr Genevieve Pepin
Dr Kim Robinson
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