



# CHASE - Centre for Health through Action on Social Exclusion

*Taking Stock, September 2011*

September's report provides updates on selected research and partnership projects, as well as news from CHASE staff and students. We are already accumulating publications for 2011, but we will wait to publish details until our next report when we can cover the full year 2011.

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.

The CHASE philosophy is that individuals, communities and populations should be assisted to find their own ways to promote social inclusion and to find their own solutions to exclusion issues. We appreciate that not everyone can or wishes to be included in the "mainstream". Nevertheless, the health of the so-called "included" and "excluded" can be promoted regardless of their social positioning.

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## CHASE research

Our current research is carried out in five different areas:

- Social diversity and improving the health and wellbeing of marginalised/ disadvantaged/ excluded groups
- Gender, stigma, discrimination and sexuality
- Disability
- Gender, families and reproductive health
- Aboriginal health

Work in these areas is necessarily interconnected. Underlying all CHASE's work is an active concern with: the development of mixed methodologies; the application of systems thinking; multidisciplinary approaches; systematic approaches to reviewing and synthesising the research literature; and with issues of knowledge transfer and practice development. Current CHASE research is funded by ARC, NHMRC, government departments, VicHealth and other external agencies. In this issue of our report, we focus on just some of the projects underway and recently completed, talking particularly about projects that some of our PhD, masters and honours students are involved in. We also introduce two new members of CHASE and congratulate Dr Pallotta-Chiarolli on her recent awards.

### *A good place to raise a family*

This project is led by CHASE members Dr Fiona Andrews and Associate Professor Julia Shelley with contributions from Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson and Associate Professor Mardie Townsend. Ms Ruth Klein and Ms Sarah Barter-Godfrey were involved with the initial stages of the project. Ms Stephanie Rich has also recently been appointed as a Research Assistant on the project.

As previously reported in the March newsletter, this project aims to identify factors that affect residential location choices, and explore 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.

Stage one of the project involved exploring key stakeholder and media perspectives on the two municipalities as good places to raise a family and is now complete. Stakeholder discussions were undertaken with both Council staff and children's service providers in the two municipalities. Common findings from discussions with key stakeholders in the two municipalities included: the rapid increase in population growth putting strain on children's services and increasing waiting lists; an increase in the number of children using Council services with developmental delay and socialisation difficulties; mothers experiencing post-natal depression and the need for parenting services. Findings that were specific to Maribyrnong were: good levels of physical activity amongst children and low obesity rates, but difficulties amongst parents maintaining work/life balance. For Wyndham specific findings included: social isolation; poor access to public transport; and poor levels of physical activity and eating habits amongst children.



*Mums and their children from the City of Wyndham*

A media analysis of the local Leader newspapers as well as the The Age and Herald Sun between November 2009 and 2010 was undertaken to identify key issues raised in relation to families with young children in the two municipalities. In both municipalities the media analysis identified themes in relation to inadequate provision of children's services due to rapid population growth, and the need for more job opportunities for parents, as well as the positive aspects of living in a diverse community. Specific issues raised in

the media in Maribyrnong included concerns about environmental issues, particularly pollution, but also the positive aspects of the revival of the area. For Wyndham specific issues included the need for more accessible parks and open space.



*Families at a community festival in Wyndham*

Findings from Stage one of the project were presented to both Councils in March/April this year followed by brainstorming workshops to discuss findings and inform the development of Stage two of the project. Stage two of the project involves interviews with parents from the two municipalities to explore their perspectives on their municipality as a good place to raise children. This stage of the project has recently received funding from the School of Health and Social Development. We are also pleased to announce that the City of Wyndham has matched this funding. Stage two of the project will commence as soon as ethics approval is obtained. We hope that findings from Stage two, together with those from Stage one will help inform an application for larger-scale funding for a continuation of the research in 2012.

### ***Unintended Pregnancies and Sexually Transmissible Infections among International University Students***

In trimester 2, 2010, Georgia Babatsikos, lecturer running the masters unit on ‘Health Promotion Program Planning and Evaluation’ and the Deakin Medical Services practice manager, Kim-Jane

Turudia, identified unintended pregnancies amongst the international student body as being a concern, particularly for Chinese international students. Analysis of insurance company statistics showed the increasing number of terminations claimed through the compulsory health insurance required by all international students. This concern had been relayed by one of the health insurance companies to the medical centre staff, and they were interested in financially supporting health promotion strategies which would prevent the unplanned pregnancies and subsequent terminations.

The largest international student groups at Deakin (top 5) are as follows

Country of origin	2008	2009	2010
China	23.6%	29.9%	39.7%
India	17.2%	15.4%	11.3%
Hong Kong	8.5%	8.2%	7.3%
Malaysia	8.5%	7.9%	5.2%
Sri Lanka	8.5%	7.0%	5.2%

(Excerpted from Deakin at a Glance, Deakin University).

The class on Georgia’s unit in 2010 (both off and on campus) took on board this health issue and worked together to conduct a literature review on the problem and on best practices in relation to health promotion strategies for prevention of unintended pregnancies. A partnership thus began with staff from the Deakin Medical Services, three academic staff from Deakin’s School of Health and Social Development (Georgia Babatsikos, Julia Shelley and Greer Lamaro), and the students on the unit. From the student cohort, a number of Chinese and Australian students have joined the partnership to continue working on the project this year.

Using the Victorian Department of Human Services planning model, which outlines a series of steps for planning a health promotion program, conducting a needs assessment to collect local data is essential for informing the design of health promotion interventions. The team members have identified two key areas of research/needs

assessment that were required in order to inform the development of a prevention program. The first part consist of interviews and gathering of data from professional agencies about their experiences of servicing international students (which would include Deakin students), current interventions, and suggestions for additional prevention strategies in relation to this specific problem and target population. The second part consists of interviews and surveys with the target population (International Students) around knowledge, attitudes and practices related to unplanned pregnancies and, secondarily, sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

The School of Health and Social Development has funded the first stage of the project: qualitative interviews with professionals who provide a relevant service to students in relation to sexual health or social support. Twenty interviews will be conducted with professionals who provide relevant services to international students both within and outside Deakin University.

The expected outcomes of the study include:

1. Increased knowledge and understanding of the current context of service provision for unplanned pregnancies and STIs among Deakin International students;
2. A clearer understanding of the context and breadth of support provision and health promotion strategies currently used to address the issue of unplanned pregnancies among international students at Deakin;
3. Identification of gaps in current service provision and health promotion strategies, and a clearer understanding of service providers' perspectives on areas of need for potential future health promotion strategy development;
4. Evidence for the design and delivery of programs service delivery to address critical issues;
5. Establishment of collaborative partnerships between different parts of Deakin (School of HSD and the medical services), and other health promotion service providers.

The above will inform further research directly with international students at Deakin University, and will eventually support the development of a health promotion initiative to prevent unintended pregnancies (and terminations) and STIs in international students at Deakin.

Findings from of the study will be published in academic journals and shared with relevant professionals servicing the students on sexual health matters, in the form of a report. We also expect this work will be of value to other universities, and we will actively share the results with them.

### ***Ways in which 'community' benefits frail older women's well-being: '... we are much happier when we feel we belong'***

Emily Learmonth, honours student from last year, 2010, was successful in winning a school honours writing scholarship after she had completed her thesis. This allowed her to produce a short paper on her research together with her two supervisors, Professor Ann Taket and Dr Lisa Hanna.

The draft manuscript was submitted in December 2010 to the Australasian Journal on Ageing, who accepted it after some modifications in April 2011.

We're pleased to announce that the resulting paper is now available in 'Early view' online version, abstract and link below for anyone interested.

Emily's research was carried out in partnership with the Do-Care service provided by Wesley Mission Victoria. Congratulations to Emily, who is now working as a Workplace Learning Project Officer for South East Local Learning and Employment Network.

#### ***Paper abstract:***

*Aim: This paper aims to explore frail older women's lived experiences of 'community' and which aspects of 'community' they perceive as beneficial to their well-being.*

*Method: This qualitative project used a mixed methodological approach which integrated aspects of descriptive phenomenology and grounded theory. Ten frail, older women residing in South East Melbourne, Australia participated in in-depth interviews.*

*Results: This research obtained a rich and detailed account of the aspects of 'community' identified by participants as enhancing their well-being. These included: social contact, community dynamics, feelings of support and positive orientation.*

*Conclusion: This paper has increased our understanding of the factors supporting well-being of frail older women. Service providers should actively consider how they can strengthen these factors to improve social connectedness for frail older women by the use of volunteers, developing social networks and increasing availability and quality of community-based activities.*

**Available from:**

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1741-6612.2011.00555.x/pdf>

### ***What does a young adult's return home mean for families?***

Returning to the parental home is becoming increasingly common among young adults in contemporary society. Unfortunately, much of the research to date has been based on survey data collected in the 1980s and 1990s, with a focus on the analysis of trends, identifying common reasons why young adults return and predicting the factors associated with their move home. Few qualitative studies have been undertaken, with no known research in an Australian context. A doctoral study currently being undertaken by Elyse Warner aims to address this gap, exploring how families respond when a young adult returns to live in the parental home.

In order to capture individuals' experiences, interviews are being sought with young people aged 18-35 who have returned home to live with

their parents. Parents and siblings (aged 16+) are also welcome to participate. For further information, please contact Elyse Warner on [ewarne@deakin.edu.au](mailto:ewarne@deakin.edu.au).

Elyse Warner is being supervised for her doctoral study by Dr Claire Henderson-Wilson and Dr Fiona Andrews.

### ***Searching for Recognition and Social Justice in Tertiary Education: A Cross-Cultural Mutual Ethnography***

Norah Hosken's PhD project, 'Searching for Recognition and Social Justice in Tertiary Education' takes up Collins' challenge to 'place the social structural and interpretative/ narrative approaches to social reality in dialogue with one another' (Collins 2009, p. X). This dialogue is in process in this project through the use of a critical intersectional analytical lens to zoom 'up, down and sideways' (Nader 2008) and in and out in cycles and jerks from the nuanced and detailed daily and small lived experiences that pierce and reveal the broader areas of policy, practice and intentions. Specifically, the project seeks to understand (and at the same time change) how class, gender and race/ethnicity shape contemporary tertiary education, opportunities and experiences for a Western female working-class background university academic staff member and PhD student and a Southern Sudanese Australian female Bachelor of Social Work student.

Norah's PhD is being supervised by Professor Bob Pease.

### ***How do older Khmer women maintain their wellbeing in Australia?***

The aim of Annemarie Nevill's PhD project is to understand how older Khmer women reconstruct and maintain their wellbeing after enduring the period of the Khmer Rouge regime and

subsequent migration to Australia. In essence, migration is a journey of the self across borders, imagined and otherwise, and within this journey, the construction and maintenance of wellbeing will be examined during the process of the fragmentation of these women's cultural past to a rebuilding of the present.

Having crossed the Cambodian border to new lands, there has been a fear among the Khmer that as a people and culture they will cease to exist. Herein lies the importance of researching this unrecognised group - how do older Khmer women, as cultural bearers, keep the Khmer culture and traditions alive in the Khmer diaspora in Australia? Is this act of cultural transmission at the core of their wellbeing?

This thesis will be examined within the context and milieu of culture and cultural identity, and how these shift across the passage of migration. Accordingly, the concepts of culture and tradition, identity, migration and wellbeing together provide the main framework for this research.

Dr. Elizabeth Hoban and Dr. Lisa Hanna are Annemarie's supervisors.

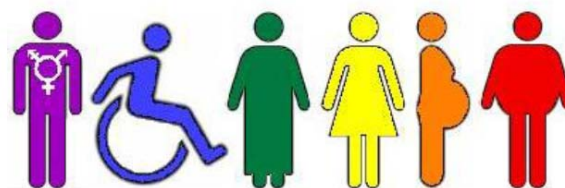
### ***Talking about Consent***

Sexual consent is typically defined in terms of what is illegal or legally permissible rather than what is normal, healthy and safe for individuals. However, chosen, wanted and willing sexual actions have been criminalised; while activities that lead to demonstrable psychological harm, across a range of unwanted, uninvited and unpleasant experiences, remain common and rarely penalised. Alongside this, different sexualities, age groups and gender identities have different legal and social standings, which compromise individuals' access to exerting and protecting their autonomy in sexual interactions. Consent is therefore universal, because everybody has some kind of right to their own body and autonomy, but is also highly individual and variable.

Previous research has established a link between non-consensual sexual experiences and a range of

poor health outcomes, including mental health consequences, physical harm from 'risky' sexual contact and assault, damaged relationships and coping strategies that have secondary effects on health. Consent then is important for healthy individuals and relationships and is a public health issue. Sexual consent is interpersonally negotiated between two or more sexual partners, within a context of often-conflicting standards: what is legal, what is promoted by health organisations and sexual health policy, and what is culturally acceptable. How then do people make sense of all this? How do we learn what consent means, for ourselves and for our sexual partners? How can we create consent in sexually healthy (though not necessarily sexually active) relationships? How can we balance our own wants and desires with the needs and autonomy of a sexual partner *and* the legal, social, cultural and health requirements of sexual conduct?

*What does consent mean to you?*



The *Talking about Consent* study, carried out by Sarah Barter Godfrey, sought to ask these questions, working from a public health perspective that recognises the social, individual, cultural and political contributions to individual and interpersonal experiences, using multidisciplinary methods. People were invited to take part in narrative interviews, exploring the core questions of 'what does consent mean to you?' and 'how have you come to learn what consent means', across a range of relationships and sexual experiences. The sample included diverse gender and sexual identities, and people identifying as polyamorous, Intersex, currently engaging in sex work, disabled, neuro-atypical, migrants, undecided or fluid sexuality, and living with multiple chronic diseases. Participants were interviewed across a range of media (in person, telephone, post, email and internet) to support choice and accessibility of participation, taking part in unstructured, flexible interviews designed

to encourage participant control, comfort and self-expression during the data collection process.

The design and conduct of the study were influenced by the works of bell hooks and Foucault's theories of discourse. Analysis looked for the common stories being told across the diverse group, as well as unique moments of power, resilience and oppression experienced in deeply personal ways. The interview format asked the participants to offer their own explanations of what had been 'going on' for them and to begin the theorising process. An early analysis of the data was sent to all participants for comment and clarification, and the findings reflect both the researcher's and the participants' interpretations.



The participants made clear that consent had meant different things for them in different relationships and settings, and at different time of their lives. Early sexual relationships tended to be less clearly consensual, with experimentation, immaturity and vulnerability contributing to a range of non-consensual and not-quite-consensual experiences. Hostile, abusive and ambiguous experiences were formative, and shaped later sexual experiences, expectations and decisions. Later sexual relationships demonstrated that cycles of non-consent could be broken, with the appropriate support and opportunities, and that adverse sexual experiences could be recovered from within the context of safer, consensual relationships (sexual or otherwise). Sexual and gender identities were influential in working out what you were 'allowed' or 'expected' to do in relationships and how much power, persuasion or resistance you could exert. Although there was no single definition of consent agreed by all the participants, there were some

clear ideas about what consensual relationships should be: wanted, understood, honest, chosen, pleasurable, respected and not coerced.

Findings indicated that consent is a core part of sexual health across the life course. Youth is a time of greater vulnerability to 'casual' or incidental coercion, and requires its own support for sexual health literacy. However, sexual health trajectories continue into adulthood and older age. Advocacy for sexual health and reproductive rights, and access to autonomy-supporting health and mental health services were core to developing increasingly consensual and healthy sexual relationships across the life course, and are a key part of a public sexual health system.

Sarah's thesis reporting on *Talking about Consent* is currently being finalised and is due to be examined at the end of 2011. Her study was carried out under the supervision of Associate Professor Julia Shelley and Dr. Melissa Graham.

## CHASE Partnerships

Collaborating in research and development in a University-based centre offers mutual advantage. The collaboration itself is important - it breaks down barriers between theory and practice, and encourages positive relationships between health professionals, health consumers, carers, researchers and communities. Specifically, participation in CHASE will provide partners with increased capacity to drive positive social change, through policy development, workforce development and research.

As partners in CHASE, participants are able to contribute to:

- independent commentary and public leadership on key issues, including evidence-based policy advice;
- increasing the skills of the current workforce and supporting recruitment and retention of staff who work within the broad areas relevant to health and social exclusion;
- collaborative research projects utilising a team approach, with the potential for

practical and theoretically relevant outcomes useful to all parties;

- publishing and dissemination of research findings in a range of contexts, including conferences, seminars, public forums, reports and journals;
- new research opportunities, priorities and initiatives that are consistent with the needs of the partner organisations and people at risk of social exclusion;
- the development of skills and career opportunities for themselves and others contributing to the work of CHASE; and
- the enhancement of health and social outcomes of people who experience any of the multiple problems associated with social exclusion or who are at risk of doing so.

This report features one of our newer partnerships, with Diversitat, Geelong and some of our international partnerships that take us and our students out into European universities.

### ***Exploring provision for resettlement support***

Members of CHASE are very pleased to be working in a new partnership with Diversitat, the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council and migrant resource centre, to help support refugee families and communities resettling in the Geelong area. The research project will explore the experiences of, and perspectives on, the provision of resettlement support services to refugees in Geelong among a range of health and social service providers and practitioners in our region. It is hoped that this will lead to a better understanding of the barriers, facilitators and mechanisms of current support provision, and that this information will be useful in the future development of effective service provision to support refugees during resettlement in our region.

The team comprises of CHASE members Associate Professor Beth Crisp, Ms. Greer Lamaro, Dr. Lisa

Hanna and Professor Ann Taket, who are working in close collaboration with Suzanne Cooper from the Diversitat Settlement Services and Community Programs Unit. Funding for the project has been provided by the Deakin University School of Health and Social Development.

A core commitment of Deakin is to make a distinctive contribution rural and regional engagement, particularly in South Central and South Western Victoria, by engaging in partnerships to contribute to the social, economic and cultural capital of these areas. Thus, we are thrilled to be working with Diversitat, who we recognise as key community service provider and real regional leader in matters concerning migrant and refugee health and wellbeing in the regional area in which we are situated. A second core commitment of Deakin is to undertake 'research that makes a difference' to the communities with whom we work. So once again, we are very excited to be working with Diversitat as we recognise the great opportunities and potential to make a very real and genuine difference to the community in which we are situated and operate, through working with such a well regarded and important regional community service provider. Finally, key values and principles underpinning the mission and work carried out by CHASE are those of social justice, equity and social inclusion; principles that are also highly valued and espoused by Diversitat. We look forward with great anticipation to working with Diversitat on this project, and hopefully to a long lasting and rewarding partnership for Diversitat, Deakin, and importantly, the community of Geelong.

### ***Australian - European partnerships***

#### ***Social work***

Associate Professor Beth Crisp is currently in Sweden where she is participating in a staff exchange with the social work program at the University of Uppsala. Although the university dates back to 1477 and is the oldest in Scandinavia, social work is a much newer discipline in Swedish universities than it is in Australia. Apart from the cathedral which

dominates the skyline, most of the key tourist attractions are somehow connected to the university such as the Gustavianum museum which is pictured. The candle at the top of the building is what was built as an anatomy theatre, in which dissections of executed prisoners were conducted not just for medical students but also to the paying public. The museum acknowledges that many practices it documents would not be considered ethical today, but it is nevertheless a fantastic facility for raising questions about ethical practice.



Associate Professor Crisp is in Uppsala as visiting lecturer funded by the Meanings and Practices of Social Work: Cross-national Comparisons (MPSW) which is a Joint Mobility Project funded by the Australian government and the European Union involving four Australian and four European universities. In particular the project seeks to:

- challenge the taken-for-granted meanings and practices of social work as a profession, that allow reflective analysis of the comparisons between national contexts;
- foster critical engagement with social problems and interventions and understanding of

the cultural, societal and social policy contexts that influence particular developments and frameworks for social work practice in different countries, and

- contribute towards the development of an internationally-mobile professional workforce that can make worthwhile contributions to societies wherever they are located.

In 2011, Deakin has sent third and fourth year social work students to the University of Uppsala, University of Salford (England), Eotvos Lorand University (Hungary) and Via University College (Denmark) and we are currently hosting or expecting to host students from each of these universities before the end of 2012. In addition to myself, Professor Bob Pease is a visiting professor at Eotvos Lorand University and Deakin recently hosted a three-week visit by Professor Gabor Hegeysi from Budapest. Further staff exchanges are anticipated in 2012.

### ***Public health***

For three years now CHASE members have been participating in a partnership consortium of 4 Australian and four European Universities, all offering undergraduate or postgraduate training in public health in English. Funding received from the European Union and DEECD has allowed us to offer scholarships to 10 of our students to support them spending one term of their studies in a university in Europe and it has also provided support to European students to study with us. There were also funds available to support academic staff to travel to contribute to teaching in partner universities.

Last year we welcomed an academic colleague Dr Grazyna Jasienska from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Dating from 1364, Jagiellonian University is the oldest University in the public health partnership. Dr Jasienska visited Deakin to teach an intensive unit on 'Human Fertility: Evolution, demography and health' offered to Deakin undergraduate and postgraduate students in trimester 3. The unit was very well received. Earlier this year, Professor Krzysztof Krajewski-Siuda visited us from Jagiellonian, and presented two very interesting seminars around his research

into the health education posters in 20th Century Poland<sup>1</sup>.

This month, Professor Ann Taket is spending two weeks at the University of Southern Denmark in their campus at Esbjerg where their public health programs are based. The University of Southern Denmark is the youngest University in the public health partnership. During her visit she is teaching into their undergraduate and postgraduate programmes on 'health equity and human rights' and 'domestic violence', as well as exploring possibilities for future collaboration. Her visit coincided with the tenth anniversary of the start of the public health programmes at Esbjerg, and she is giving one of the addresses at their anniversary day. The anniversary day programme brings together a mix of serious academic topics, and a look back at the ten years that the programme has been in operation. The audience will include partners from the local councils and health sector organisations, and one highlight is bound to be the panel on 'are researchers from Venus and policy makers from Mars?'



The Esbjerg campus, with only single floor buildings and around 600 students, is a real contrast to Deakin campuses. Esbjerg is the smallest of the University's campuses, and like the others, offers only some of the university's programmes; in Esbjerg's case the focus is on public health, economics and business.

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<sup>1</sup> One publication exists in English: Gorsky M, Krajewski-Siuda K, Dutka W, Berridge V (2010) Anti-alcohol Posters in Poland, 1945-1989: Diverse Meanings, Uncertain Effects. *American Journal of Public Health* 100(11): 2059-2069.

## Other CHASE news

### ***New CHASE member - Dr Matthew Dunn***

Matthew Dunn is delighted to have joined the team at CHASE and looks forward to engaging in new research possibilities and collaborations. His background is quite eclectic. He studied psychology at the University of Wollongong; fitness at TAFE; population health at the University of Newcastle; and behavioural and community health at the University of Sydney, where he completed his doctoral studies in 2006. His thesis examined the influence of drug use, exercise and sexual orientation on body image concerns in men.

In 2005 he commenced work at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, where he worked on a range of projects related to substance use and harm, mostly related to illicit substances such as ecstasy, cocaine, methamphetamine and other 'party drugs'. In 2008 he commenced work as the chief investigator of a world-first project exploring issues related to illicit substance use among elite Australian athletes.

In March 2011 Matt joined Deakin University as a Lecturer in the School of Health and Social Development. Working at Deakin is allowing him to pursue a new range of research interests. He is particularly interested in exploring why people of all ages, from children through to adults, leave community sport, as well as exploring the experiences of same-sex attracted people in participating in community sport. Not to leave his old research interests aside, he is also keen to explore a range of issues related to substance use in regional and rural areas.

### ***New CHASE member - Dr Mark Furlong***

Mark Furlong, PhD., joined the Deakin Social Work program in July this year. Prior to this appointment Mark taught at La Trobe University after practicing in therapeutic and mental health

settings for almost 20 years. Mark has published in *Arena*, *Dissent* and *Overland* magazines in addition to academic publications across diverse fields, including mental health, family therapy, family studies and primary health. Mark's primary research and service development interest is in examining and assisting practitioners from all disciplines become more effective in developing their clients' relational base. In addition to publishing a number of recent papers in this area (Furlong, 2008; 2009; 2010), his book – *Developing the Client's Relational Base* – will be published by Policy Press in 2012.

At a more abstract level, Mark's research focus concerns what might be termed the 'locally social' – focusing on the personal relationships people have with their intimates, those with whom there is regular contact as well as those with whom there is incidental, but often symbolically rich, exchange (such as the person in the car next to them in a gridlock or stranger on a train). This focus has been developed in terms of:

- (i) examining the process of individualization as this process impacts on the operations of interpersonal connection;
- (ii) articulating how personal relationships are currently changing in the way they are experienced, understood, and conducted, and
- (iii) contributing to the theorization of interpersonal relationships as these exchanges correlate with health and wellbeing.

Mark would definitely enjoy contact with colleagues who share an interest in projects which involve an examination of 'the relational' in its many forms.

### ***Back-to-back Lambda Literary Awards for Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli***

This year we are celebrating with Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, who has once again been awarded a prestigious Lambda Literary Award.



Dr Pallotta-Chiarolli was shortlisted and subsequently awarded as joint winner in the fiction category of the 22nd Annual Lambda Literary Awards, held in New York in May last year. This year she was nominated and shortlisted in the bisexual non-fiction category, and was announced as category winner at the awards ceremony in New York on 27 May.

The Lambdas are awarded annually by the Lambda Literary Foundation to works celebrating or exploring lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender themes. Dr Pallotta-Chiarolli's nominated book this year *Border Sexualities, Border Families in Schools* is published by academic publisher Rowman and Littlefield. The first book of its kind internationally, it explores the experiences of bisexual students, mixed sexual orientation families, and polyamorous families in schools. It is testimony to Dr Pallotta-Chiarolli's breadth of expertise and ability to write for multiple audiences that she has received this international recognition in both award categories.

### ***HDR candidates***

As at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011, we have 43 HDR students supervised within CHASE. We have featured the work of four of them earlier in this report, on pages 5 to 7. Space constraints prohibit us publishing the full list of students and their topics in this issue. We will do this in the next issue.



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UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

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## CHASE STAFF 2011

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