

Disaster, Climate & Adversity Unit

2025 Annual Report

Centre for Mental Health & Community Wellbeing
Melbourne School of Population & Global Health
The University of Melbourne





We live and work on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation, and we pay respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that for First Nations communities, the impacts of disaster, climate and adversity occur in contexts of historical and ongoing trauma stemming from colonisation, racism and dispossession.

We also recognise the formidable strengths of First Nations peoples and cultures, including the rich knowledges and practices of healing and caring for Country which are so powerful in reducing risk and supporting recovery. We strive to participate in genuine and respectful collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for a more just, healthy and sustainable future together.

This artwork was created by Frances Belle Parker to reflect processes of healing after disasters. In the artist's words:

"The healing process is vastly different for everyone. It is a pivotal part of our own recovery. This artwork features five figures depicting a sense of community connectedness. They come together to help each other heal. The central figure is a symbol of calm, knowledge and healing. The remaining figures represent children as well as adults coming together to collaborate and learn from the Indigenous knowledge of healing. The ray of light represents the hope we experience following a disaster. The flowing pattern below the figures captures a sense of momentum as well as the movement within the journey of healing."

Contents page

04	From the Director	07	About the Program
08	Mental health in the context of repeated climate disasters	10	PAVE-Health Pacific Action to enhance Visibility of Evidence on Health and Climate Impacts
12	Homicide at Home: Setting the agenda for an international collaboration to improve support for children bereaved due to family violence	14	Media Snapshots
16	Courses	18	2025 Team
20	Professor Elizabeth Waters' Memorial Travel Scholarship	22	Awards
24	Higher Degrees	26	Publications
28	Books and Book Chapters	29	Reports
30	Grants	31	Financial Summary



Professor Lisa Gibbs

DIRECTOR OF THE DISASTER,
CLIMATE AND ADVERSITY UNIT

From the Director

Strong partnerships underpinned the achievements of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit once again in 2025. We applied our research expertise to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing in the most difficult of circumstances, using approaches developed with new and long term collaborators with academic, lived experience, government and practitioner expertise in Australia and internationally.

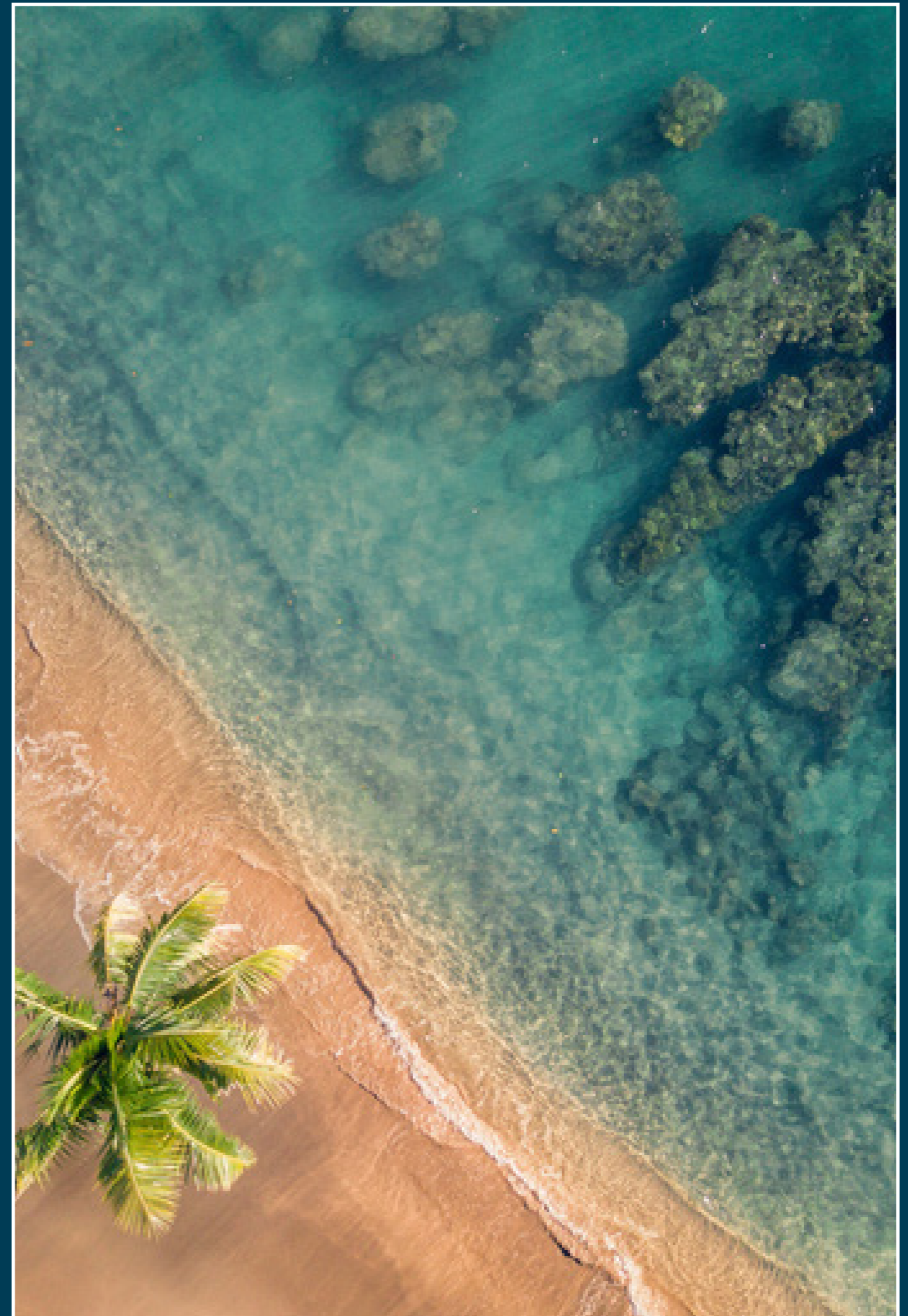
In this report we highlight three key examples of 2025 achievements, one each from the disaster, climate and adversity streams within our Unit:

- A new strategic internal collaboration initiated by the Healthy Housing Unit with the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit led to an analysis of national data which has provided critical information about mental health trajectories in the context of repeated climate disasters
- A major collaboration we are co-leading with the Pacific Climate Change Centre will focus on strengthening capacity and translating evidence to address the health impacts of climate change in Pacific Island Countries
- We are coordinating an international network and establishing a shared repository of resources to improve support for children bereaved due to family violence.

This report also provides information about media activity, short courses, and updates on our team and research outputs in 2025.

We are very grateful to the various sources of research funding that make this important work possible.

“ *We applied our research expertise to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing in the most difficult of circumstances.* ”





About the program

Our vision is to help create pathways towards optimum health and wellbeing for those at risk from or impacted by disaster, climate and adversity.

We work with policy makers, service providers, practitioners, communities and people with lived experience to build new evidence and convert that into practical resources and tools that increase capacity to implement health promoting systems, services and strategies.


We achieve this through our three intersecting streams of research:



Disaster Resilience and Recovery
See Beyond Disasters



Climate Change and Health
See Climate CATCH Lab



Adversity, Trauma and Resilience
See Listening Lab

Mental health in the context of repeated climate disasters

Across Australia, climate disasters are occurring more frequently and with greater intensity. This study examined the mental health effects of experiencing multiple climate disasters, by tracking individuals from pre-disaster to post-disaster time periods and examining how recovery trajectories change over time.

About the Project

Drawing on ten years of nationally representative data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey (2009-2019), this study examined the mental health trajectories of people across Australia who experienced one or more disaster, compared to those who did not experience any disasters during this time.

Self-reported damage from bushfires, cyclones or floods was considered as a measure of disaster exposure. The 5-item mental health inventory was used to examine general mental health, in addition to looking at psychological distress with the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale.

The results of this study showed that mental health declines become more severe with each disaster someone experienced. After one disaster, there tended to be a decline in mental health during the year of the disaster, and then recovery to pre-disaster levels of mental health. With repeated disasters, there were further declines in mental health and it took longer to recover back to pre-disaster levels. The timing of disasters was important; when people experienced an additional disaster close to the previous disaster (e.g. 1-2 years apart) this was associated with greater mental health declines, compared to disasters that were spaced further apart.

This study builds on prior evidence that have found increasing risks to mental health from multiple disasters, while adding a new perspective by showing the ways that trajectories may change over time. With these findings, we suggest there is a need for clinical services to screen for past disaster exposures, and for emergency services to ensure that recovery planning considers the effects of past disasters (e.g. by ensuring that any support programs are not just tied to one disaster, but can be used across multiple).

The findings of this study also suggest that social support was consistently a protective factor, regardless of whether someone was experiencing their first, second or third disaster. This result highlights the need to support psychosocial support programs and social infrastructure.

These findings were published in Lancet Public Health, the leading public health journal internationally, in a paper co-authored by Ang Li and Claire Leppold.

Mental health decline after experiencing climate disasters.

Mental health outcomes were measured with the 5-item mental health inventory where high scores (on a scale from 0-100) indicate better mental health.

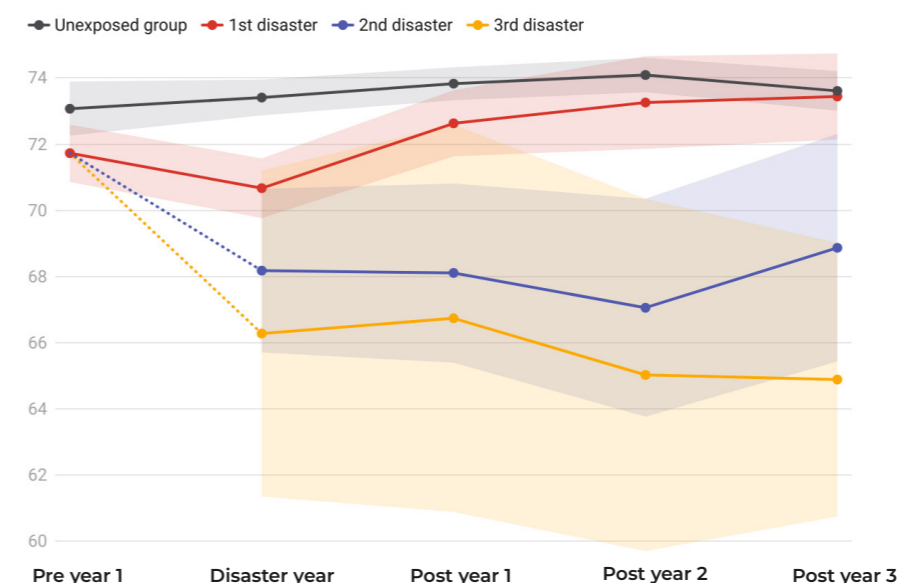


Chart: The Conversation. Source: Ang Li, Claire Leppold, "Long-term mental health trajectories across multiple exposures to climate disasters in Australia: a population-based cohort study". Created with Datawrapper.

Knowledge Translation and Impact

The journal article in Lancet Public Health reporting on the findings was accompanied by other outputs and media coverage including a Conversation article written by research collaborator Ang Li and Claire Leppold.



The Conversation

ABC Radio National interviewed Claire Leppold together with Elly Bird, Executive Director of Resilient Lismore, about the impacts of multiple disasters and the findings of this paper.



ABC Radio National

The findings of this work were also picked up by other media outlets including InSight+ (Australian Medical Association magazine) and CNN Brazil.

The article was referenced by the Aotearoa New Zealand Ministry of Health in 'Determining our future: Social, cultural, economic and commercial determinants of wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand: Actions to Improve our Health' to draw attention to the health risks populations face when they are exposed to multiple disasters.

Claire Leppold presented the findings of this work in the 'Recovery Uncovered' webinar series entitled 'Disasters on Disasters' hosted by Australian Red Cross and at the HowWeSurvive '25 event in Sydney.

Key Publications

Li A, Leppold C. Long term mental health trajectories across multiple exposures to climate disasters: a population-based cohort study in Australia. Lancet Public Health. 2025; 10(5) e391-e400.



Commentary by experts in the field who responded to the original publication and discussed its significance

PAVE-Health

Pacific Action to enhance Visibility of Evidence on Health and Climate Impacts

The Pacific, with its diverse cultures and islands, is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing severe threats like cyclones, droughts, sea level rise, and flooding. Although climate change's impact on health in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) is increasingly recognised, limited resources and capacity hinder integrating health into national adaptation plans (NAPs) and accessing climate finance. Currently, PICs receive only 10% of global adaptation finance, with health-specific projects receiving less than 2% worldwide.

About the Project

The Pacific Climate Change Centre and the University of Melbourne are partnering to deliver PAVE – Health: Pacific Action to enhance the Visibility of Evidence on Health and Climate Impacts in four PICs to support a healthier, climate-resilient Pacific region. To address urgent climate-related health risks and improve access to climate finance, PAVE-Health aims to:

- Build local capacity to assess health impacts of climate change,
- Make local evidence policy-relevant by supporting Health Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs) for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
- Use this knowledge and capacity to access global climate finance.
- Longer-term, PAVE-Health aims to strengthen and sustain Pacific capacity to address climate-related health impacts and vulnerabilities.

Knowledge Translation and Impact

The project's impacts will be:

- Local capacity (workforce) development through a cohort of policymakers, researchers and practitioners trained to assess climate-related health impacts and implement appropriate solutions.
- Effective collaboration between policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from climate, health, and health-determining sectors within countries and across the Pacific (south-south cooperation).
- Improved monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) activities to inform climate and health-related policy and practice interventions.
- Integration of community perspectives into VCA and H-NAP development.



Strategic Partners

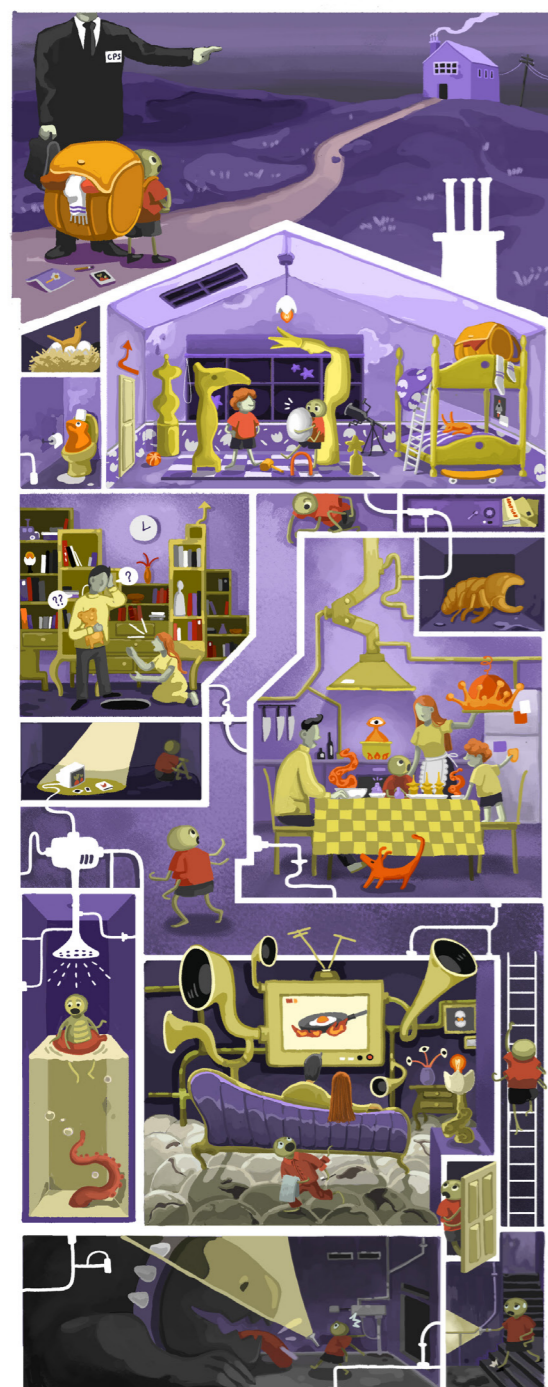
- 60 local policymakers, researchers, and practitioners (15 per country)
- Pacific Climate Change Centre
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Government ministries of health, climate, natural resources, environment, disaster management, meteorology from the four PICs: Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands
- Local communities
- Pacific Community SPC
- Solomon Islands National University
- World Health Organization
- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Asian Development Bank
- Wellcome Trust

Funding Partners

- Wellcome Trust

Homicide at Home: Setting the agenda for an international collaboration to improve support for children bereaved due to family violence

Fatal violence within the family leaves behind a significant number of children and young people whose needs are urgent yet under addressed. By working collectively across disciplines and countries, together with people with lived and caregiving experience, we can begin to address the long-term impact of these traumatic losses.



About the Project

This project seeks to draw attention to the urgent need to focus on children bereaved by fatal family violence and develop an international, collaborative agenda that places the voices of young survivors and their caregivers at the centre. Knowing that there are valuable initiatives and projects in several countries across the world, there is strong potential for joining these efforts and stimulating exchange.

Therefore, in 2025 in the city of Caen in Normandy, France, we convened a two-day workshop with 33 researchers, clinicians, policymakers and advocates, including with lived experience, from 11 countries including e.g. Germany, Norway and the UK, to launch an international network and develop a roadmap. This roadmap was subsequently refined during the year.

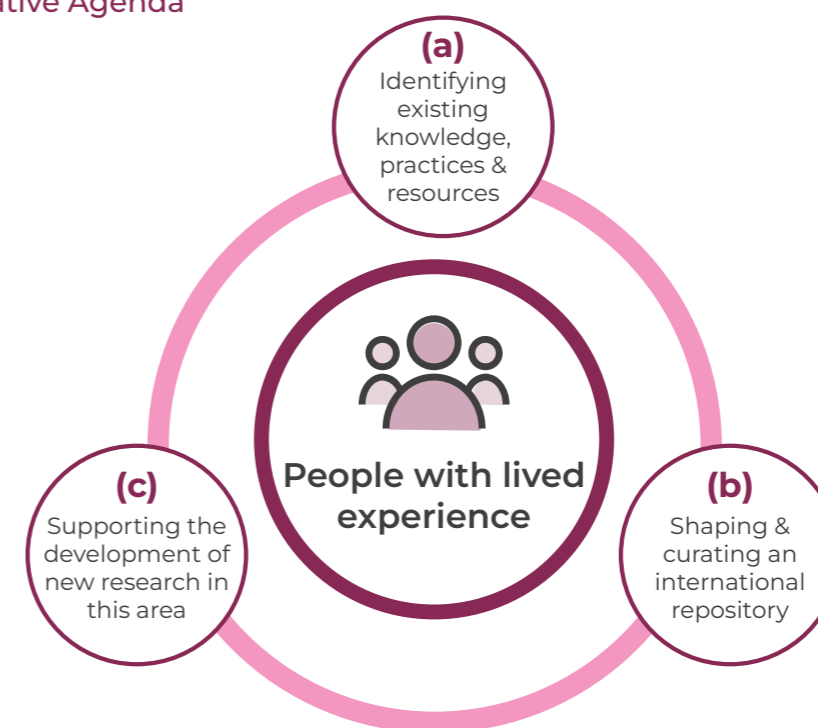
The resulting agenda aims to centre the perspectives of people with lived and/or caregiving experience and comprises three interconnected components:

- (a) identifying existing knowledge, practices and resources;
- (b) shaping and curating an international repository, hub or snapshot;
- (c) supporting the development of new research.

In the remainder of 2025, the project team has launched a survey to address component 'a' and create an overview of internationally available resources, data, documents and initiatives regarding children and young people confronted with 'homicide at home' and the adults caring for them.

Illustrations by Thu Huong Nguyen (Abigail)

Collaborative Agenda



Funding Partners

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grant #2033679



Media snapshots



Prof Eva Alisic was interviewed on 7NEWS about her research exploring the role of art in communicating trauma. Her work was part of an exhibition at Craft Victoria in the CBD (18 Sept-1 Nov).



Ang Li and **Claire Leppold's** article in The Lancet Public Health on mental health trajectories following repeated climate disasters was featured in numerous media outlets.

Articles

Long-term mental health trajectories across multiple exposures to climate disasters in Australia: a population-based cohort study

Ang Li, Claire Leppold

Summary
Background Tracking populations through increasingly frequent climate disasters and understanding what contributes to mental health risks is crucial for adaptation and planning for a climate changed world. We aimed to examine mental health trajectories after consecutive climate-related disasters and assess differences in mental health outcomes by temporal proximity to previous disasters and risk profiles.

Methods Using longitudinal population-based Australian data from 2009 to 2019, people who experienced home damage from at least one disaster (flood, bushfire, or cyclone) were included in the exposure population and tracked from pre-disaster to post-disaster years after each exposure. Cumulative mental health effects of each sequential exposure were estimated through various mental health measures using a panel event study design with linear models in comparison to unexposed matched controls, pre-disaster baselines, and across stratified risk groups. The main mental health outcome was measured with the 5-item mental health inventory (MH-5).

Findings Mental health effects became more severe with successive disasters. MH-5 scores declined by 1.61 (95% CI -2.49 to -0.52) and 1.37 (1.44 to -0.29) during the first and repeat disaster exposures, respectively, compared with the year preceding the first disaster. Recovery to a pre-disaster baseline was more delayed with repeat disaster exposures. There were greater declines in mental health when disasters were closer to the previous exposure (1-2 years apart) than further away (3 or more years). Risk factors that shape mental health trajectories either remained consistent across multiple exposures (social support as protective and long-term health conditions as risks) or became more salient during subsequent exposures (lower household income and rural areas more vulnerable to the mental health effects of repeat disasters).

Interpretation Additional disaster exposures were associated with greater declines in mental health and shifts in some risk factors. Multiple disaster exposures must be urgently considered in public health, welfare, and disaster services.

Funding Australian Research Council.

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an Open Access article under the CC BY 4.0 license.

Introduction
Climate disasters, such as floods, cyclones, and bushfires, present risks to mental health.¹ Previous studies have shown that disaster exposure can be linked with a period of acute distress, and a considerable proportion of exposed populations are likely to develop mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress symptoms, anxiety, and depressive symptoms after disasters.²⁻⁴ Disasters also have broader societal impacts relevant to mental health, including environmental change, economic change, and changes in health system functioning.⁵ These post-disaster mental health effects are shaped by social determinants at both the individual and community levels.⁶ However, disasters do not always occur as singular rare events. The frequency of climate disasters is increasing globally, and this trend is projected to continue to increase with further global warming.⁷ There is an urgent need to understand how multiple disasters impact population health and recovery processes.⁸ Yet, most research to date has focused on a specified single-disaster event.⁹ Although there is substantial evidence on the mental health risks of a single disaster exposure, literature on the mental health trajectories during and after multiple exposures remains nascent.¹⁰ Emerging evidence points to the social burden of multiple-disaster exposures, with increased risks of mental illness and economic hardship observed in several regions.¹¹ However, existing studies have relied on a total count of disasters to measure past exposures, rather than tracking dynamic changes in affected populations longitudinally over time (including times between exposures) to assess the effect of each additional disaster exposure on mental health and any differences in trajectories between more or less exposed individuals over time.¹² These studies have also primarily focused on localized settings, post-disaster periods, subpopulations, or

The Conversation

InSight+

CNN Brazil

ABC Radio National

People's mental health goes downhill after repeated climate disasters - it's an issue of social equity

Viver sucessivas desastres ambientais piora saúde mental, diz estudo

Surviving disaster after disaster: new research reveals hidden mental toll

LIFE MATTERS

The gender pay gap starts with pocket money

Tue 19 Aug 2025 at 9:00am

Play 14m

Brought to you by **ABC Radio National**

It's not just a workplace problem - the gender pay gap extends to pocket money too. Research shows that, on average, boys earn more pocket money than girls, and spend less time doing chores.

How do these early inequalities creep in. And what can families do about it?

Guests:

- Dr Kati Marinkovic-Chavez, psychologist and research fellow with the University of Melbourne's School of Population and Global Health
- Kate Crowhurst, financial literacy education specialist



Years after their mothers were killed, these child survivors finally found each other

Cassandra Morgan

MARCH 27, 2025

Brought together, Kathryn Joy, Rebecca Burdon and Beverly Azzard spent years searching for people with shared experience after their mothers were killed. (ABC NEWS)



Why community is key in the face of natural disasters

Wed 3 Mar 2025 at 9:00am

Play 12m

Brought to you by **ABC Radio National**

Presented by **Ricky Chinnery**

It's not exactly normal for south-east Queensland to have cyclones, but as Tropical Cyclone Alfred bears down on the part of the country many people are about to face something they've never experienced before.

So, how do you prepare for an unfamiliar natural disaster, and why is building community resilience 'BIG TIME' such events take place so important?

Guest Professor Lisa Gibbs, Director of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit at Melbourne University

More Episodes

Lisa Gibbs did interviews relating to preparedness for Cyclone Alfred including this one for Life Matters.



CROAKY HEALTH MEDIA

Wellness, engaging conversations for health

Introducing some young leaders for climate health

Sunny Nguyen was featured in Introducing some young leaders for climate health. Croakey Health Media.



COURSES



Foundations in Disaster Recovery Short Course
Facilitators: Dr Kate Brady, Dr Claire Leppold



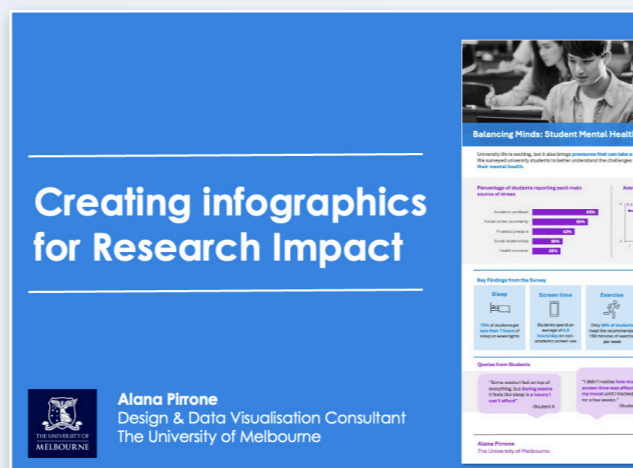
Data Visualisation for Knowledge Translation
Facilitator: Alana Pirrone



WORKSHOPS



Presenting and influencing with Confidence
Facilitator: Alana Pirrone



Creating infographics for Research Impact
Facilitator: Alana Pirrone



U n i m m e l b



Photo L to R: Kristine Jover, Alana Pirrone, Hannah Morrice, Eva Alisic, Elise Moo, Rebecca Patrick, Sunny Nguyen, Katitza Marinkovic Chavez, Claire Leppard, Lisa Gibbs, Junko Otani, Robyn Molyneaux, Smritima Diksha Lama, Phoebe Quinn.

STAFF

Prof Eva Alisic
Nathaniel Barker
Dr Liz Bennett
Joel Bones
Prof Kathryn Bowen
Isabel Chung
Sophie Cullen
Oliver Eastwood
Dr Colin Gallagher

Prof Lisa Gibbs
Kathryn Joy
Kristine Jover
Dr Claire Leppard
Dr Katitza Marinkovic Chavez
Sarah Medcalf
Robyn Molyneaux
Elise Moo
Hannah Morrice

Sam Netheclift
Sunny Nguyen
A/Prof Rebecca Patrick
Alana Pirrone
Phoebe Quinn
Elizabeth Stevens
Urvi Thanekar
Dr Belle Workman

2025 Team

Professor Lisa Gibbs is the Director of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit and leads the Disaster Resilience & Recovery stream of the Unit – i.e. the Beyond Disasters program. Professor Kathryn Bowen leads the Climate Change and Health stream – i.e. the Climate CATCH Lab, and Professor Eva Alisic leads the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience stream – i.e. the Listening Lab.

The Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit is part of the Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, led by Professor Jane Pirkis. Situated within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health under the leadership of Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha. The Unit also receives excellent ongoing professional support from the Centre and School finance and administration teams, in particular, Michelle Kelsey, Tracey Mayhew and Rosslyn Ball.

HONORARY

Sudeepa Abeyasinghe
University of Edinburgh

Dr Rebecca Armstrong
National Disability Insurance
Agency

Dr Kate Brady
UNSW

Andrew Coghlan
Australian Red Cross

Professor Kristie L. Ebi
University of Washington

Dr John Frederick

Dr Ashrafalsadat Hosseini
University of Melbourne Health
Service

Vanora Mulvenna
Victorian Department of Health

Jane Nursey
Phoenix Australia

Dr Kerryn O'Rourke,
Charles Darwin University
John Richardson
Australian Institute for Disaster
Resilience

Dr Elena Swift
Centre for Children's Health
Research, West Moreton HHS,
Queensland Health

Mia Urbano
Alinea International

David Younger
Clinical & Consultant Psychologist

VISITING FELLOW

Prof Junko Otani
University of Osaka

Dr Smritima Diksha Lama
Hitotsubashi University

Professor Elizabeth Waters' Memorial Travel Scholarship

This Scholarship was established by friends and family of Professor Elizabeth Waters in recognition of her remarkable contribution to public health internationally and to child public health in particular. Liz travelled widely and due to her warmth, intellect and vision she was able to capitalise on those travel opportunities to build international networks and to achieve the highest standards in evidence, engagement and outcomes. This Scholarship is intended to continue her legacy. All staff, Higher Degree candidates, partners and collaborators are eligible to apply, provided the proposed international travel activity will promote research relating to child health and wellbeing and aligns with the work of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.

2025 Recipient: Associate Professor Amy Morgan



Amy Morgan is a Principal Research Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne (UoM).

Amy will use the Scholarship to attend the 27th World Congress of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) in Germany, as well as an international workshop on advancing mental health literacy research in Germany. Amy will focus attention on a neglected sub-field: mental health literacy for supporting younger children's mental health and improving the skills of adults in helping children achieve their best mental health.

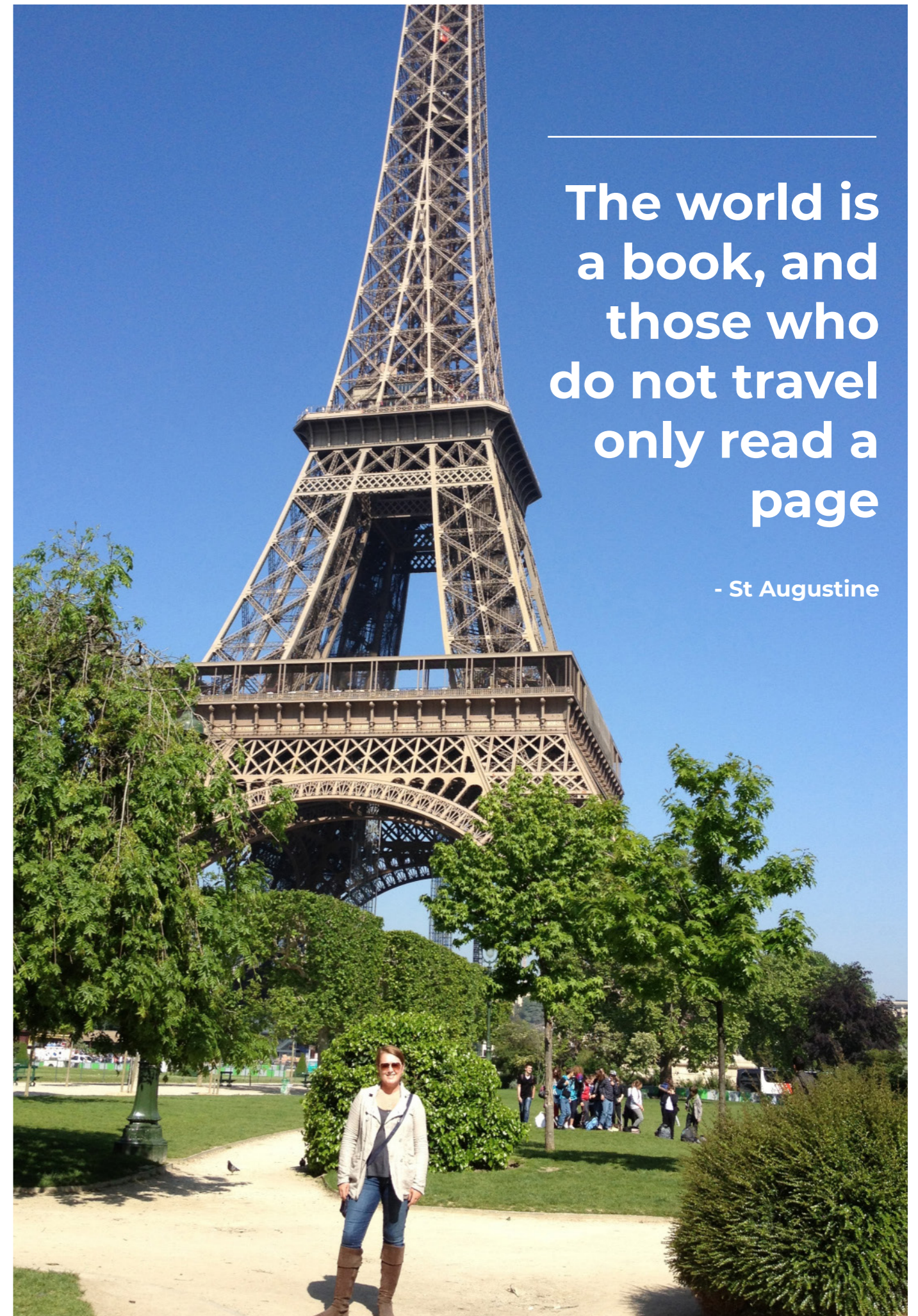
2024 Travel Report: Fiona Fowler



As I am based in a remote location - Mpartnwe, Alice Springs - from where travel can be time-consuming and expensive, I was thrilled to receive this scholarship, which enabled me to attend and present at the HTLV-1 European Research Network (HERN) Conference at the Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology in Erlangen, Germany. The travel hosts, staff at the Thoma-Kress Lab in Erlangen, share my interest in mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HTLV-1, and this presented an ideal opportunity for research promotion, information sharing and a foundation for potential future collaborations.

The conference showcased the latest scientific advances in HTLV-1 in Europe, the Americas and Oceania with an emphasis on diagnostics and the treatment landscapes, which are likely to have implications for women and children in Central Australia over the coming years. I was one of four Australian researchers to attend, and our combined presentations spotlighted the considerable yet hidden burden of HTLV-1 in remote Australia, while indicating possibilities for future treatment and a public health response.

Full reports are available on our website - <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/7adr>



Awards

Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit Awards

Research Excellence
DR CLAIRE LEPPOLD



For sustained high quality research, analysis and write up across multiple research projects.

Team Culture
A/PROF REBECCA PATRICK



For her ongoing efforts to work across research groups within DCA and to support early career development in new team members.

Coralie Mathews in Memoriam Award
PHOEBE QUINN and **KATITZA MARINKOVIC CHAVEZ**



For the highly engaging Climate Superpowers project which continues to evolve and provide positive pathways to climate resilience.

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health Awards

Engagement Impact Award
CLIMATE SUPERPOWERS TEAM



Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Awards

Award for Partnership and Collaboration for Public Benefit
HOMICIDE AT HOME TEAM



Prof Eva Alisic, Dr Katitza Marinkovic Chavez, Kathryn Joy, Oliver Eastwood, Hannah Morrice, Isabel Chung, Robyn Molyneaux.

External Awards

Australasian Women in Emergencies (AWE)

DR CLAIRE LEPPOLD

For her pioneering work in emergency management and disaster resilience.

DR KATE BRADY

for Research, Policy, and Practice.

Norm Smith Publication in Social Work Research Award for

“Anger Following the Victorian Black Saturday Bushfires: Implications for Postdisaster Service Provision”

Connie Kellett, **Lisa Gibbs** & Louise Harms

Higher degrees

PhD Students

CHRISTOPHER BOYER

Heatwave early warning systems – challenges for implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2025).

Supervisors: Prof Kris Ebi, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Jeremy Hess, A/Prof Nicole Errett.

National Institutes of Health (US). Enrolled through the University of Washington, US.

LUCY CASSELS

Regional Leadership & Country-Led Innovation in Climate Financing for Health Adaptation in the Pacific (2025-2028).

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Dr Belle Workman.

SALLY CHEN

Health-related climate detection and attribution. (2025 -).

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, A/Prof Jo Brown and Prof Kris Ebi

MEG CHIN

When a child dies from a life-threatening condition: Hearing the voices of bereaved siblings (2017-2025).

Supervisors: Prof Louise Harms, Prof Lisa Gibbs.

JONATHAN JANUAR

Missing data mechanisms in covert networks (2021-2025).

Supervisors: Dr Johan Koskinen, Dr Colin Gallagher, Prof Yoshi Kashima.

ANNA KENNEDY-BORISSOW

Creativity, recovery, and resilience: How the arts contribute to psychosocial recovery and resilience in disaster-affected communities (2022-2025).

Supervisors: Dr Caitlin Vincent, Dr Guy Morrow, Dr Claire Leppold and Dr Kate Brady.

DOMINICA MEADE

Gender, volunteering and disasters (2023-2026).

Supervisors: Dr Brendan Churchill, Professor Jo Barraket, Dr Claire Leppold.

SHANTI NARAYANASAMY

Identifying critical knowledge gaps in our understanding of structural barriers to health in Victoria through community perspectives during the COVID-19 pandemic to change future practice (2023-2026).

Supervisors: Professor Margaret Hellard, Professor Lisa Gibbs, Assoc Prof Alisa Pedrana, Assoc Prof Katherine Gibney

ADELLE MANSOUR

Creating climate-resilient and healthy housing: what is the role of citizen science? (2023-2026)

Supervisors: Prof Rebecca Bentley, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Dr Samantha Rowbotham.

SOPHIE O'CONNOR

National Climate Governance and the role of industry in determining climate ambition (2025 -).

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Rachel Carey, Prof Rich Eckard.

DEVIN O'DONNELL

Urban health and climate change (2025 -)

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Benjamin K. Sovacool, Prof Felix Creutzig.

PHOEBE QUINN

Crowdsourcing consensus for climate and disaster resilience: An exploration of the use of civic technology for agenda-setting at scale (2022-2025).

Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Kathryn Bowen, Prof Nicole Curato.

ALEX TANFIELD

The impact on and changing nature of social capital in response to multiple disasters (2023-2026)

Supervisors: Professor Jacki Schirmer, Professor Lisa Gibbs

Enrolled through University of Canberra.

Supported by Department of Education Research Training Program stipend and a scholarship from Natural Hazards Research Australia.

ARTHUR WYNS

Healthy NDCs: Effective governance approaches to deliver healthier climate policies (2025-2028)

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Dr Belle Workman.

DANA YOUNG

Sports participation and social capital development for migrant women and adolescent girls (2018-2025).

Supervisors: A/Prof Karen Block, Prof Lisa Gibbs.

National Health and Medical Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship.

SUBMITTED

SOPHIE ROBINSON

Governance to enable Climate Resilient Development of Healthcare systems (2021-2024).

Supervisors: Kathryn Bowen; Michele Barnes; Glenn Hoetker.

Master of Public Health

SIQI CHEN

Secondary analysis of social capital indicators in general social surveys.

Supervisors: Dr Colin Callaghan, Robyn Molyneaux

HERYANTO MARDI

Air pollution in megacities: A case study of Indonesia.

Supervisors: Dr Belle Workman, Prof Kathryn Bowen.

HEIDY NATALIA NIVAAN

Climate Change and Human Health: Review of how health is represented in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Prof Kathryn Bowen.

CHRISTINA PELOSI-THORPE

Sustainable healthcare at Western Health - evaluation case study.

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Forbes McGain.

SARAH PHILLIPS

Literature Review - Leadership and Governance in Sustainable Healthcare.

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Prof Eugenie Kayak.

SOPHIA SAMUEL

Fossil fuel companies - commercial determinants of health and wellbeing.

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Jenn Lacey-Nicholls.

CHARLOTTE WIRTZ

Loss and damage - relevance to human health and wellbeing

Supervisors: Prof Kathryn Bowen, Janine Felson.

COMPLETED

NATHANIEL BARKER

Project title: Mental health and well-being of teachers in climate change education: A rapid (scoping) review

Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Patrick, Dr Katitza Marinkovic Chavez, Phoebe Quinn

ISABEL CHUNG

Professionals' accounts of working with children and their families in the aftermath of fatal family violence.

Supervisors: Dr Eva Alisic and Dr Kati Marinkovic

MANTAHA KISHWAR

The extent of consideration for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in key Victorian emergency management policy documents: A policy document review.

Supervisors: Dr Claire Leppold, Associate Professor Helen Jordan

Master of Science (Epidemiology)

COMPLETED

SUNNY NGUYEN

The adaptive capacities and vulnerabilities of older adults to disasters amid climate change.

Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Robyn Molyneaux, Rebecca Patrick.

Master of Environment

SAMUEL NETHERCLIFT

The health co-benefits of ocean-based climate action

Supervisors: Dr Ellycia Harrould-Kolieb, Dr Belle Workman

Publications

Journal publications

1. Abeyasinghe S, Honda K, Leppold C, Lloyd Williams A, Ozaki A, Goto A. What does it mean to conduct ethical research after disasters? A case study of the 3.11 disaster in Japan. *Disasters* 2025;49(2):e12681. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/disa.12681>
2. Abeyasinghe S, Honda K, Ozaki A, Lloyd Williams A, Leppold C, Goto A. Disciplinary Research Ethics Cultures in Disaster Settings: Understanding from Researchers After 3.11 in Japan. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* 2025;21(1-2).
3. Alisic E, Groot A, Snetselaar H, Stroeken T. Raising a child bereaved by domestic homicide: caregivers' experiences. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*. 2025; 16(1), 2463277.
4. Altermatt A, Wilkinson AL, Heath K, Jin D, Nguyen T, Thomas AJ, Young K, Ke T, Zhang Y, Ryan R, Gibbs L, Pedrana A, Lusher D, Fletcher-Lartey S, Stoové M, Gibney KB, Hellard M. Wellbeing among people with long and short COVID: a serial cross-sectional study in Victoria, Australia. *BMJ Public Health*. 2025;3:e002062. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjph-2024-002062>
5. Arthur M, Godziewski C, Sievert K, Boddington S, Carrad A, Dalla Libera Marchiori G, de Groot B, Faerron Guzman C, Frank N, Gajurel H, Hasler-Bail J, Jegasothy E, Nona F, Oluwemimo D, Samantela S, Portes ASM, Workman A. Future directions for early career researchers in planetary health equity. *Earth System Governance*. 2025; 24, 100245. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2025.100245>
6. Beggs PJ, Woodward AJ, Trueck S, Linnenluecke MK, Bambrick H, Capon AG, Lokmic-Tomkins Z, Peel J, Bowen K, Hanigan IC, Arriagada NB. The 2024 report of the MJA-Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: Australia emerging as a hotspot for litigation. *Med J Aust*. 2025; Apr 7;222(6):272-296. doi: 10.5694/mja2.52616. PMID: 40188421; PMCID: PMC11972597.
7. Block K, Molyneaux R, Young D. Sport as a social capital intervention promoting health and well-being for migrant youth in Australia. *Health Promotion International*. 2025; 40(3), daaf051.
8. Brady K, Reeves J, Wright W, Molyneaux R, Foliente G, Gibbs L. Experiences of members of community-based, environmentally focused groups following the 2019–20 bushfires Australian *Journal of Emergency Management*. 2025; 40(4) www.doi.org/10.47389/40.4.39.
9. Cruwys T, Gibbs L, Macleod E, Stanley SK, Steward BA, Walker I. Invest in social and collective approaches to improve mental health in the context of climate disasters. *Cell Reports Sustainability*. 2025; Oct 24;2(10).
10. Dunbar N, Forrester M, Patrick R, Thanekar U, Ananthapavan J. Balancing Economic and Social Cost and Environmental Sustainability: A Case Study of Reusable Isolation Gowns. *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*. 2025; 23(1), 155–159. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40258-024-00921-0>
11. Eala S, Gao C, Zhang Y, Gunasiri H, Patrick R, Filia K, Nguyen S, Singh N, Teo S, Lawrence E, Wray B, Boon B, Brennan N, Menssink J. Over 3,000 voices: Understanding how climate change shapes the minds and lives of young people in Australia. 2025. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/e4sfb_v1.
12. Eala S, Patrick R, Theo C, Vaughan C. Care in crisis: Picturing care work and climate change in the Philippines. 2025. https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/8gq43_v1.
13. Ebi KL, Bi P, Bowen K, Brauer M, Chua PL, Colón-González FJ, Dimitrova A, Gasparrini A, Gouveia N, Hajat S, Hamilton I. Priority climate and health modelling needs. *The Lancet Planetary Health*. 2025; Sep 1;9(9).
14. Fairman TA, Aryal J, Baker PJ, Best A, Cawson J, Clarke H, Fletcher MS, Gibbs L, Foliente G, Godden L, Gibson M, Kelly L, King A, Kompas T, Leppold C, Li C, March A, McCarthy M, Ngo T, Parkins K, Peel J, Rawluk A, Rumpff L, Senior K, Trouve R, Williams KJH, Workman A, Penman TD, Bennett LT. Interdisciplinary challenges for wildfire futures. *Environmental Science & Policy*. 2025; 171, 104175.
15. Gao CX, Fava N, Browne V, Patrick R, Gunasiri H, Menssink JM. Climate Change and Youth: Fast-Tracking Mental Health Solutions. *Journal of Applied Youth Studies*. 2025; 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43151-025-00174-1>.
16. Hoetker G, Barnes M, Bowen K. A lesson, not an exception. Governing for greener healthcare Systems: Exploring climate action in the National Health Service in the UK.
17. Leppold C, Morrice H, Brady K, Reifels L, Abeyasinghe S, Quinn P, Gibbs L. Recovery work in cascading and compounding disasters: A qualitative study of community recovery workers in Australia. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. 2025; 116:105152. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212420924009142>.
18. Li A, Leppold C. Long term mental health trajectories across multiple exposures to climate disasters: a population-based cohort study in Australia. *Lancet Public Health*. 2025; 10(5) e391-e400. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(25\)00068-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(25)00068-4).
19. Ludwick T, Cardwell ET, Vo TD, Ware L, Quinn P, Chow EP, Grace D, Hocking JS, Kong FY. Should we screen less frequently for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in gay and bisexual men who have sex with men? Findings from a global crowdsourcing exercise with experts. *medRxiv*, 2025-10.
20. Mansour A, Gatto MR, Rowbotham S, Bowen K, Bentley R. Climate-related healthy housing risk factors: a scoping review of citizen science approaches. *Environmental Science and Policy*. 2025; 170. doi:10.1016/j.envsci.2025.104102.
21. Marinkovic Chavez K, Quinn P, Barker N, Gibbs L. Teacher Climate Superpowers. *Journal of Professional Learning*. 27 June 2025. <https://cpl.nswtf.org.au/journal/semester-1-2025/teacher-climate-superpowers/>.
22. Maskell G, Shukla R, Jagannathan K, Browne K, Ulibarri N, Campbell D, Franz CP, Grady C, Joe ET, Kirchhoff CJ, Madhavan M, Michaud L, Sharma S, Singh C, Orlove B, Alverio GN, Ajibade I, Bowen K, Chauhan N, ... Gornott C. Dichotomy or continuum? A global review of the interaction between autonomous and planned adaptations. *Ecology and society*. 2025; 30(1), Article 18. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-15335-300118>.
23. Narayanasamy S, Pedrana A, Gibney KB, Gibbs L, Hellard M. Preparing Australia for future pandemics: strengthening trust, social capital and resilience. *MJA* 222.10. 2025.
24. Nayna Schwerdtle P, Moo E, Pae C, Shinee E, Wegerdt J, Ali A, Thondoo M, Bowen K. Learning from practice - A rapid review of climate resilient and low carbon health systems - Case studies in six western pacific countries. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*. 2025; 22, 100376. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joclim.2024.100376>.
25. Patrick R, Bruges N, Gunasiri H, Wang Y, Henderson-Wilson C. Healthy me, healthy planet: Evaluation of a pilot planetary health library program. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia: Official Journal of Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals*. 2025; 36(1), 1–12.
26. Patrick R, Noy S, McKew M, Lee S, Kanda M, Edwards SJ, Ali A, Bowen K. Rapid review on healthy ageing interventions that incorporate action on climate change and sustainability in cities and communities. *Health and Place*. 2025; vol 93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2025.103435>.
27. Phillips S, Patrick R, Kayak E. Leadership and governance approaches to drive environmentally sustainable healthcare in high-income countries: a rapid scoping review. *BMJ Leader*. 2025. doi: 10.1136/leader-2025-001296.

28. Quinn P, Gallagher C, Curato N, Bowen K, Gibbs L. What should we do about staff air travel emissions? Crowdsourcing consensus and understanding division within an Australian university. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*. July 2025. 146: 104878. [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S1361-9209\(25\)00288-3](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S1361-9209(25)00288-3).
29. Ratu A, Tu'itahi S, Naivalulevu T, Wilson D, Barnes HM, Patrick R, Turley HA, Jupiter SD, Latinne A, Negin J, Parkes MW, Capon A, Horwitz P, Jenkins AP. Healthy Islands at 30: revitalising an ecological framework for planetary health. *The Lancet. Planetary Health*. 2025; 9(12), 101381. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanplh.2025.101381>.
30. Rice K, Usher K, Schutte NS, Austin E, Patrick R, Fatem SR, Kabir H, Rock AJ, Jones R, Davies RL. Eco-emotions: validation of the multi-dimensional inventory of climate emotions in an Australian sample. *Frontiers in Climate*. 2025; 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2025.1560820>.
31. Robinson S, Tawatsupa B, Barnes M, Hoetker G, Maijarernsri P, Bowen KJ. Building climate resilient healthcare systems: lessons from Thailand. *Health Policy and Planning*. 2025; Oct;40(9):1008-16.
32. Shahimi F, Block K, Alisic E. (Re)construction of Identity and resilience among Afghan and Hazara adolescents following forced migration. *Social Identities*. 2025; 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504630.2025.2526665>.
33. Tabunga T, Medcalf S, Workman A. Climate-sensitive maternal and child health outcomes: A scoping review and policy implications for Kiribati. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*. 2025; 24, 100479.
34. Vasileva M, Alisic E, Cobham VE, Gash T, Hoeboer CM, Hoehn E, ... De Young A. COVID-19 Unmasked: trajectories, risk and protective factors for mental health outcomes in young Australian children during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Australian Journal of Psychology*. 2025; 77(1), 2519037.
35. Wilson R, Balfour R, Alisic E, Molyneaux R, Kiemle G. Post-traumatic growth following the death of a parent from homicide: A reflective perspective from adulthood. *Death Studies*. 2025.
36. Workman A, Bowen K. Exploring 'planetary health' in the context of Earth System Governance: Editorial. *Earth System Governance*. 2025; 25(100257-). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2025.100257>.
37. Workman A, Libera Marchiori GD, Boateng G, Carlin S, Friel S, Moo E, Patrick R, San Martim Portes A, Warner R, Bowen K. Securing a just and healthy future for all: Bringing a planetary health lens to the Earth System Governance research framework. *Earth System Governance*. 2025; 24, 100250. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2025.100250>.
38. Ziou M, Gan DZQ, Boon B, Teo SM, Menssink JM, Yu W, Smith CL, Patrick R, Gunasiri H, Fava NJ, Baker DG, Browne V, Simmons MB, Zbukvic I, Bower M, Stapinski L, Killackey E, McGorry P, Brennan N, ... Gao CX. Vulnerability and psychosocial impacts of extreme weather events among young people in Australia. *Environmental Research*. 2025; 275, 121385. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2025.121385>.

Books and Book Chapters

Leppold C. Bureaucratic disasters. In: Brady K, Keen, L., Diane, N. (Eds) *Disaster Recovery Almanac (Vol 2)*. Australia: HowWeSurvive, UNSW; 2025. Available online at <https://unsworks.unsw.edu.au/entities/publication/779bfe1eb-60bc-4969-ae5-6d31145c6354>

The Peer Support Group gave the first collective reading of 'What Ally Needs Now,' a storybook co-designed with people with lived experience to help children after losing a loved one due to fatal family violence. The reading took place at the Fifth International Childhood Trauma Conference, 17-22 August. The final version of the book will be available in 2026.

Reports

- Gallagher HC, Pattison P, Robins G, Russo-Batterham D, Faux NG, Podubinski T, Chamberlain D, McNeil R, Molyneaux R, Coutinho J. (2025). Collaborative Networks of the Victorian Mental Health Service System - Interim Pilot Report to the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing. The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.
- Gibbs L, Otani J, Wiebford N, Newnham E, MacDougall C, Marinkovic Chavez K, Younger D, Lam C, Nguyen S, Arai R, Li J, Shimamura Y, Humphreys P, Robinson S, Rathore K, Thomas Z, Harrison A and MacDonald F. (2025). Young Disaster Resilience Leaders and Network Building Action Proposal contributed to the Inochi Declaration at the 2025 Osaka World Expo.
- Gibbs L, Quinn P, Marinkovic Chavez K. Teacher Climate Superpowers. (2025). Final report for Teachers Health Foundation Board. 22 December 2025
- Marinkovic Chavez K, Chung I, Joy K, Morrice H, Alisic E. (2025). Children and Young People Bereaved by Family Violence Homicide: Final Report to Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. University of Melbourne, Australia.
- Marinkovic Chavez K, Sanson A. (2025). Climate change: how to support children and teenagers. Raising Children Network. Available from <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/communicating-relationships/tough-topics/climate-change-supporting-children-teens>.
- Melbourne Climate Futures, the University of Melbourne (2025). Co-designing Healthier Climate Policies [website]. Melbourne, Australia. Available from <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/climate/collaboration/climate-catch-lab/policy-and-politics/policy-and-politics-aside-content/co-designing-healthier-climate-policies>.
- Thanker U, Nguyen S, Kayak E, Patrick R. (2025). Sustainable Healthcare Research and Implementation Priority Setting Workshop: Summary Report. Available from https://www.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/5229800/Climate-CATCH-Lab_Sustainable-Healthcare-Research-and-Implementation-Priority-Setting-Workshop_ExternalReport_05.03.2025.pdf.



Grants

- Block K, Gibbs L, Williamson B, Carpenter L, Leppold C, Patrick R, Marinkovic K. A national framework and toolkit for multicultural inclusion. Natural Hazards Research Australia T8-A1. **\$550,000**. 2025-2028.
- Bowen K, Climate and health finance, World Health Organization Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health. **\$33,325**. 2025.
- Bowen K, Schwerdtle P, Mansour A. Building resilience: Assessing Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Climate Change and Health in Lebanon's Primary Health Care Sector. Seed Global Health Research Consultancy. **USD 37,400**. 2024-2025.
- Bowen K, Workman B, Enhancing climate, energy and health resilience across the Pacific and Caribbean, Melbourne Climate Futures. DFAT. **\$500,000**. 2025-2026.
- Gao C, Patrick R, Gibbs L, Rickwood D, Simmons M, Cotton S, Fila K, Menssink J, Bower M, Marinkovic Chavez K, Quinn P, Zbukvic, Corney, Gunasiri, and MacDonald. Platform for Research and Interventions in youth Mental health and the Environment (PRIME). 2024 TCR Climate-related health impacts and effective interventions to improve health outcomes. **\$999,890.60**. 2025-2028.
- Gibbs L. Dame Kate Campbell Fellowship. Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. approx. **\$500,000**. 2025-2030.
- Jiang M, Mulvenna V, Hester S, Gibbs L, Barnett J, McKenzie M, Mortreux C, Keele S, Waters E, Phung J, Marinkovic Chavez K, Quinn P. The Climate Resilient Education Project: Strengthening disaster resilience and empowering adaptation. Disaster Ready Fund. **\$1,310,000**. 2025-2027.
- Leppold C, Brady K, McNaught R, Longman J, Bentley R. Beyond survival: Benchmarking Australian disaster and emergency management policy for population health. HEAL Innovation Fund. **\$29,602**. 2025.
- Marinkovic Chavez K. Co-designing peer support for children bereaved by intimate partner homicide. Early Career Researcher Grant, University of Melbourne. **\$32,608**. 2025.
- Marinkovic Chavez K, Joy K, Morrice H, Alisic E. Children and Young People Bereaved by Family Violence Homicide. Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. **\$126,500**. 2025.
- McGain F, Best S, Buising K, Higgins A, Patrick R, Monty J, Kainer M, McAlister S, Sinnott R, Walshe C. Healthcare Environmental Sustainability: Creating the evidence to drive adoption of high value initiatives in Australian Hospitals. NHMRC, Collaborations in Health Services Research. **\$995,919.80**.
- Menssink J, Gao C, Gunasiri H, Phillips K, Barczak E, Patrick R, Nguyen S. EcoConnections: Building Community For Those Who Care About Climate Change and the Environment. McCoy Seed Fund. **\$20,000**. 2025-2026.
- Patrick R, Gibbs L, Nguyen S. Growing Resilience and Ageing in a Changing Environment. 2025 targeted support for major grant funding. Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. **\$15,000**. 2025.
- Patrick R, Taylor S, Bones J, Iese V, Nguyen S, Kaisamy O, Kerslake Y, Isles M, Morrice H. TRACKS. Melbourne Climate Futures Climate Research Accelerator. **\$50,000**. 2026. 2026.
- Quinn P, Miegunyah International Scholarship. **\$7,000**. 2025.
- Tamma S, Nuraini N, Rachmawaty R, Workman A, Bowen K. Climate-related health outcomes and healthcare access in Southeast and Central Sulawesi Provinces Enabling climate resilient policies and governance. Partnership for Australia-Indonesia Research (PAIR). DFAT. **\$50,000**. 2026-2027.
- Tehan B, Gibbs L, Ulubasoglu M, Howard A, Coghlan A, Williamson B, Quinn P, Tong L, Khalil U, Pullabhotla H, Bowd C, Johnston D. Support integration of Recovery Capitals in service plans for communities with different levels of social disruption. Natural Hazards Research Australia. **\$599,000**. 2025-2027.
- Ueda K, Bowen K. Challenges and opportunities of addressing the impact of climate change on migrant health in Australia and Japan, Hokkaido-Melbourne Join Research Workshops Fund. **\$15,000**. 2025.



Financial Summary

Estimated final **income** and breakdown at 31 Dec 2025

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
University	1,549,594	46
Competitive research	926,960	27
Courses and consultancies	322,696	9
Government	295,351	9
Philanthropic	234,674	7
Non-government	57,889	2
Total	3,387,165	100

Estimated final **expenditure** and breakdown at

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Salary & stipends	2,377,366	78
Non-salary	449,206	15
Outgoings for shared grants	200,000	7
Total	2,646,883	100

Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit

Centre for Mental Health & Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health,
The University of Melbourne

Website

<https://mbspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-mental-health/research-group/disaster-climate-and-adversity>

This report was produced in-house by the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit and designed by Alana Pirrone.

This report is printed on recycled paper (cover 60%, inside pages 100%).

Major thanks for funding support

We are very grateful for the funding received over the years from generous supporters, ensuring our program of research is able to have a positive and enduring impact on the health and wellbeing of communities.

It is only possible to conduct meaningful research if we have funding partners who share our vision to make a difference. If you would like to support our next steps please contact Professor Lisa Gibbs at +613 8344 0920 or lgibbs@unimelb.edu.au.