The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program is part of the legacy of Sir Jack Brockhoff, who through his generosity established The Jack Brockhoff Foundation. The Foundation’s purpose is to provide philanthropic support to organisations whose activities are designed to have a positive and enduring impact on the health and wellbeing of communities.

The Foundation awarded the Jack Brockhoff Centenary Gift to the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program, making a substantial contribution to long term human resource investment and enabling development of novel and important ways of working to promote child health and wellbeing.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

In this report, we present the highlights of our 2017 achievements. We are very proud of the new knowledge we are generating and the contributions we have made this year to services and policies that enable children to thrive.

We continue to show leadership in promoting social cohesion for children and young people from a migrant background in schools, sports clubs and at University – a critically important approach given rising social tension relating to migration issues.

Our focus on children experiencing adversity has highlighted the importance of addressing parent mental health and parenting capacity – we report on our contribution to parenting in relation to disasters and disability.

We are delighted to have been commissioned by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation to revisit our evaluation of their school-based program after 10 years. This will provide an opportunity to see if the changed skills and attitudes we found for children in the original evaluation have extended into young adulthood.

We also focus on the importance of healthy living habits in a review of child oral health risk assessment tools. This systematic review is an important first step in ensuring rigour in the process of identifying which young children are most at risk of future tooth decay.

Our partnership with ABC Behind the News children’s television program yielded survey results from 47,000 children across Australia! The results from the 2017 Happiness Survey are reported here with more detailed analyses, papers and actions planned.

Our research from the Beyond Bushfires study and related projects is having a major impact on government decision making in Australia and internationally to guide recovery from natural disasters and other emergency events including terrorist activity.

The Cochrane Public Health Group continues to publish important systematic reviews to guide decision making – recent reviews focused on late school start times for high school students and the effects of welfare-to-work interventions for lone parents and their children. Public Health Insight are providing professional development to researchers to help facilitate their research impact.

Our partnerships with key government agencies and service providers continue to highlight evidence gaps and opportunities to make a difference for children in Australia.

Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs
Director, The Jack Brockhoff Child Health & Wellbeing Program
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The work of the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of leading public health researchers, working to address gaps in knowledge about child health and wellbeing. Our research addresses key questions that inform decisions in policy and practice at the community, national and international levels.

Our research projects are driven by a passion for justice, equity and human rights. We are concerned with the key drivers of child health; the influence of culture and social contexts on a child’s early years that impact health, educational, social and employment prospects later in life.

Our research shows that the best solutions for tackling big issues in child health are rarely found solely within the health system. We believe it is essential to look at child health issues in a broader cross-sectoral context – how they relate to areas such as the economy, education and urban planning for example.

The foundation of the Program commenced in 1995, and has been based on the principle of collaboration in Australia and internationally. We have formed strong practice-research partnerships across a wide variety of sectors and disciplines, including government, education, community health, dental health, disability, emergency management, social welfare and childcare.

We engage members of the public, including children and their families in decision making, because research must be inclusive and broadly relevant if it is to contribute to community wellbeing. Through our partnerships we build the capacity of organisations to use research and evidence more effectively to improve child health and wellbeing.

Funding for this work requires great ideas, wonderful people, and significant and important findings. We wouldn’t be able to achieve this without our philanthropic contributors, who share this vision for prevention, and recognition of the need for research in solving ‘the wicked problems’.

The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program was founded by our inaugural Director Professor Elizabeth Waters. Sadly, Liz passed away in September 2015. We continue to be inspired by her vitality, passion and work to build on her legacy.

ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN TO THRIVE

We are building evidence about what makes a difference for children - in families, schools, communities, services and society - to build on the known social determinants of health.

We are focussing our research and knowledge translation efforts on:

- Supporting positive mental health and resilience
- Promoting common drivers of physical health and wellbeing
- Responding to the impacts of a changing world on children’s lives

We know that it takes time to achieve a meaningful shift for major public health issues.

We contribute by:

- Generating new knowledge
- Influencing policy and service delivery
- Building workforce capacity
- Developing and evaluating community based solutions

We achieve this through key strategic partnerships with government, service providers and community.

We are committed to excellence in the generation, translation and sharing of knowledge.
2017 ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH & RESILIENCE
We are promoting social cohesion for children from refugee/migrant backgrounds
We are supporting the capacity of parents to care for children experiencing adversity
We are providing guidance for recovery from natural disasters and other major emergency events

PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
We are examining the lifecourse impacts of programs promoting healthy eating
We are promoting the use of risk assessment tools to protect child oral health

IMPACT OF A CHANGING WORLD ON CHILDREN’S LIVES
Our research partnership with ABC children’s television program Behind the News has provided insights into factors affecting children’s happiness
We are coordinating Cochrane Public Health to ensure the best evidence is available to respond to current public health issues
REFUGEE SOCIAL INCLUSION

EVALUATION OF THE YOUTH TRANSITIONS SUPPORT PROGRAM – UCAN2

Working in partnership with Foundation House (Victorian Foundation for the Survivors of Torture), we are conducting a research evaluation of their youth transitions support program, Ucan2. The program targets recently-arrived young people from refugee backgrounds within on-arrival English language programs and secondary schools. It includes a psychosocial component, work skills training and work experience, and brings volunteers into the classroom from the broader community to assist with development of social connections.

The mixed-methods evaluation research was undertaken across 12 sites in the first half of 2017 and included over 200 young people from a diverse range of countries including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan as well as a range of other stakeholders. The research is highlighting the key challenges for these young people along with the many strengths and determination to succeed that they bring with them to Australia.

I think it’s definitely a very valuable program for our students, and it contributes to their settlement in a really significant way. If it’s contributing to their settlement then it’s contributing to their ability to get work, to engage with the community and to be valuable members of society.

(Classroom teacher)

While data analysis is still underway, the findings also suggest that the program is building capacity across institutions catering for this cohort.

I think it’s made me a better teacher, and it’s helped me understand the emotional aspect of what it’s like to settle into Australia … particularly the ones that come here with a refugee background, because some of them have had very traumatic experiences. So, it’s helped me understand that much better and the impact that has on them as students in the classroom. Some of the content and things from the program I’ve been able to transfer over to some of the other things that I teach during the week and during the year. It’s taught me how to be a better teacher and helped me understand my students much better.

(Classroom teacher)

This project is funded by Foundation House through the Department of Social Services Youth Transition Support Funding. It is demonstrating the value of Ucan2 and its capacity to support social inclusion for recently-arrived young people from refugee backgrounds.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT WELLBEING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Our research with people from refugee and migrant backgrounds across the life course has included mothers of infants, pre-school, primary and secondary school aged children and youth, women and families.

We have learned that across these diverse contexts, common principles such as welcoming environments, social connectedness and responsive services linked through cross-sectoral partnerships can underpin wellbeing and integration.

We provide research support to practitioners and policymakers to support the incorporation of those principles.

Over the past 12 to 18 months, Dr Karen Block has extended the scope of this program of work, taking a leading role in helping to shape a new research focus on Refugee and Forced Migration Studies for the University of Melbourne’s Social Equity Institute.

In addition to continuing research; this cross-University work includes a well-attended fortnightly public seminar series; an annual interdisciplinary post-graduate conference; an annual lecture series run for people from refugee-backgrounds; an audit of refugee-focused research in Australia; and the recent establishment of an interdisciplinary PhD program that she is coordinating.

Karen is also on the steering committee convening The Refugee Alternatives Conference in partnership with the Refugee Council of Australia to be held in Melbourne in February 2018.

This program of research has benefited from funding from a range of sources including VicHealth, University of Melbourne, Moreland City Council, Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS), Melbourne Social Equity Institute, and the Jack Brockhoff Foundation.

The impact of this work will be to establish the University of Melbourne more firmly as a centre of research excellence in this field, attract and link students and staff across multiple faculties, and strengthen University-community partnerships. The enhanced evidence and programs are expected to support inclusion and wellbeing of a vulnerable group with flow-on benefits of improved social cohesion more broadly. The ultimate aim is to effect greater positive social change for the community.

REFUGEE & MIGRANT SOCIAL INCLUSION

STRATEGIES ASSOCIATED WITH POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Celebration of diversity
- Welcoming & cultural sensitive environments
- Fireable & local delivery of programs
- Peer/community liaisons
- Engaging parents
- Use of interpreters
- Recognition of strengths & aspirations of refugee & migrant settlers
- Opportunities for young people to experience success independent of academic achievement

- Social networks
- Social capital
- Cross-sectoral partnerships

OUTCOMES

INDIVIDUAL
- Belonging
- Wellbeing

INTERPERSONAL
- Connectedness

COMMUNITY
- Social inclusion
- Participation

SOCIAL
- Social inequality
- Social cohesion

DRIVERS

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MENTAL HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

STRENGTHENING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Our Strengthening School Communities research has provided the first evidence internationally of the delayed impact of disaster on children's academic achievements four years after the event.

Our partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training enabled us to track primary school student data across the State from 2008 - 2013.

We discovered that many students at schools highly affected by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires did not progress as expected in reading or maths.

This level of impact 4 years after the event was unexpected and will guide the Department in planning current academic support strategies and resources for future disasters.

We also examined the utility of a teacher training program to support children and teachers following emergency events. The interviews revealed that in the months and years after a disaster, there is a necessary shift within schools to a much greater focus on student wellbeing. This extends to the wider school community due to greater needs of families during the disaster recovery period. These interviews highlighted the importance of supporting principals, teachers and other school staff to manage the shifts in balance and boundaries, both personal and professional that occur in the aftermath of critical incidents.

These findings are being used to upgrade the Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) program in schools, a teacher training program developed by the Department of Education and Training with Jane Nursey, Phoenix Australia: Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, to address the impacts of trauma on children and teachers.

This project is being conducted in partnership with Phoenix Australia and has been made possible through the generous support of the Teachers Health Federation, with additional salary support from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation.

This study contributed to Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs being invited to be part of an international roundtable of experts in child mental health in October 2017. The aim was to develop a non-clinical intervention to support children and adolescents exposed to a major trauma event. It was led by Phoenix Australia in collaboration with Princes Trust Australia and held in Scotland, with the personal involvement of HRH Prince of Wales.

MENTAL HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

PARENTING AFTER A DISASTER

Many people focus on the wellbeing of children in the aftermath of a disaster. However, one way to support families is to understand the experiences of parents when these events occur.

Participants in the Parenting after a disaster study described their parenting experiences following the Black Saturday bushfires. Parents’ own experiences of trauma as well as the multiple demands in the post-disaster environment made it a struggle to be present and available for their children, and to have patience and tolerance which were qualities parents valued. The disaster-related changes to the environment, themselves and their children made the normal challenges of parenting even more difficult.

Parents described adapting their parenting, finding new strategies, as well as dealing with uncertainty.

Some participants found growth in being a parent in the aftermath of a trauma. Others found they used the experience of the fires as an opportunity to model and foster resilience and coping. However, diversity in family circumstances and experiences meant that not everyone had positive experiences.

This study identified practical options to support parents of children who have experienced trauma. For example, safe places where their children would be looked after were needed (including formal child care). These provide chances for parents to engage in the practicalities of recovery and rebuilding, address their own trauma experiences, and have respite from the challenges of recovery and parenting. Opportunities that facilitated time together as a family were also highly valued, along with finding ways to recapture having incidental moments of fun and quality time with their children. These opportunities were significant for their children’s and their own recovery.

This study was conducted as part of the doctoral research of Ms Lauren Kosta, supervised by Professor Louise Harms, Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs, and Dr David Rose. It was undertaken with the support of an Australian Post-Graduate Award allocated through the Melbourne Social Equity Institute. The findings are already being used in a new project in partnership with Australian Red Cross to upgrade post disaster parent resources (subject to funding).
Since publication of the Beyond Bushfires research report in November 2016, it continues to have impact across Australia and internationally.

The Beyond Bushfires Final Report was distributed through local government networks by Municipal Association Victoria; throughout Australia, Canada and Fiji by Red Cross; and internationally by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to guide disaster recovery services.

There are 21 academic publications to date arising from the Beyond Bushfires study, published in high ranking and high impact journals. The recent publications provide new information about community resilience, the influences of social networks on mental health, and demonstrate that emotional distress during the research activity does not reduce participants’ satisfaction about being involved or the likelihood of returning for later research activities. The research recommendations are also being used in a secondary school text book relating to bushfire safety.

We have been informed that the Beyond Bushfires research findings and recommendations were used by the following government agencies for disaster and terrorism recovery planning: Emergency Management Victoria; Western Australia Government; NSW for Flood Recovery; Local and State Governments in Denver, USA; and UK Government for recovery from the Manchester bombing.

Beyond Bushfires was funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant (LP100200164) including financial and in-kind contributions from Linkage partners Department of Health, Australian Red Cross, Australian Rotary Health, Australian Department of Human Services, Phoenix Australia: Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, and six Primary Care Partnerships: Central Hume, Bendigo Loddon, North East, Outer East, Central West Gippsland, Lower Hume. The Jack Brockhoff Foundation provided additional salary support for Professor Elizabeth Waters, Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs, Dr Karen Block and Alana Pirrone.
DISABILITY

PARENT MENTAL HEALTH

Our current focus in the disability sector is to address parent mental health needs through the development of parent resources and changed disability service models.

The success of our 2016 Wellbeing for Parents and Carers resource, designed for parents of a child with a disability, was evident in its adaptation for USA release in 2017.

We developed the original resource with funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency to support the mental health and wellbeing of parents of children and youth with a disability. There were no existing resources focussed on parent mental health and wellbeing in this context. The development of the resource was based on interviews with parents and co-written by the psychologist on our team, Dr Kim-Michelle Gilson. It includes links to local services and supports. Our team has been sharing this resource with the Early Intervention services that we work with and providing it to both parents and health professionals across Australia.

In 2016, Dr Elise Davis formed a partnership with a parent advocacy group in the USA, called CPNOW. They worked with the University of Melbourne to develop the USA version of the resource and have made it available for free on their website for parents and health professionals. We are also working with disability service providers in Australia to support therapists who often lack confidence in addressing parent mental health issues. The key worker/therapist training we developed and piloted with Kalparrin in 2017 was found to increase staff confidence with anticipated direct benefits for the 230 families receiving their services. We are now looking at ways to engage the NDIA and other disability service organisations in furthering this work.

HEALTHY LIVING

CHILD ORAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

New evidence from our research this year will contribute to the prevention of child tooth decay.

We conducted a systematic review of tools, known as ‘caries risk assessments’, used to assess risk of tooth decay in young children. The review showed that the tools are considerably different in content, application process and development methods. The evidence to inform the selection of the tools was mostly unknown due to limitations in the research methods. However, one tool did stand out clearly from the rest. The predictive accuracy of that tool will be tested next year, using the VicGen and Splash birth cohort data.

Caries risk assessments are an integral part of minimally invasive treatment strategies currently implemented at public dental services in Victoria. A well-documented fact in the literature is that the first teeth in young children are highly susceptible to dental caries.

Identifying young children at risk before caries lesion development provides an opportunity for primary disease prevention. Recent research shows this opportunity is optimal between 12-36 months of age.

At present, the evidence to support the caries risk assessment process is unclear. For example, it is unclear whether a child classified as high risk will develop more caries lesions and at a faster rate than a child classified as low risk. This study will provide much needed evidence to ensure the treatment strategies employed in response to the risk assessment, are relevant and likely to deliver the intended positive health outcomes.

This study is part of Dr Bradley Christian’s PhD research, supervised by Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs, Professor Hanny Calache and Geoff Adams. It is well-aligned with the priorities of our partner Dental Health Services Victoria and has led to Bradley being offered an internship with the World Health Organisation at the Geneva headquarters for November and December this year.

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACHIEVEMENTS

We have arrived in the future! The children in our original evaluation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program are now adults.

When we conducted the original evaluation in schools (2006-2009) we were delighted to see that it resulted in improved child cooking and gardening knowledge, skills, and confidence, and increased willingness to try new foods.

The program was developed by Stephanie Alexander, a celebrity chef, restaurateur and food writer based in Melbourne, Australia. It provides children with a pleasurable introduction to food education through growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh food in weekly or fortnightly garden and kitchen classes at school throughout Grades 3-6 (aged 8-12 years). Versions of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG) Program are now being used by 1500 schools and centres across Australia.

The unanswered question at the time of the evaluation was whether the changes in children’s knowledge, attitudes and behaviours would be evident in their eating attitudes and behaviours when they became independent young adults. The students involved in those first program schools are now aged from 18-23 years.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, with financial support from Medibank, have commissioned us to conduct a long term evaluation. All adults aged between 18 and 23 years who attended primary school in Victoria, Australia will be eligible to participate in the study and will be recruited using a targeted awareness campaign via traditional and social media. Determination of previous exposure to the SAKG Program will be based on self-report of which primary school/s they attended from Grades 3-6 and aligned with SAKG Foundation records of which primary schools received the SAKG Program in the years 2006-2008.

This evaluation offers a unique opportunity to examine the long term impacts of the kitchen garden program and in doing so, to make an important contribution understanding about how to promote healthy living habits.
46,974 kids responded to the second Behind the News (BTN) Kids’ Happiness Survey – making it the biggest survey of youth mental health and wellbeing in Australian history.

The BTN Kids’ Happiness Survey was conducted online by Behind the News, the ABC’s popular current affairs program for students. This year’s results were released to coincide with World Mental Health Day.

Our research partnership with BTN enabled us to access and analyse the data on their behalf. We were able to involve experts from across the University of Melbourne as part of the cross-Faculty Children’s Lives Research Initiative supported by University of Melbourne funding and additional salary support from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation.

The results provided compelling evidence that sleep is a key indicator of child wellbeing. Safety was one of the factors affecting sleep - 10% of children reported they did not feel safe at home, 15% felt unsafe at school and 25% felt unsafe in their neighbourhood.

Children who did not feel safe at home, at school or in their neighbourhood were 4 times less likely to be getting the recommended amount of sleep than their peers.

Children who were sleeping for the recommended hours per night were twice as likely to report feeling happy lots of the time compared to those children who were not sleeping for the recommended hours per night.

Almost half of children reported sleeping with a screen-based device in reach on at least some nights of the week and a third of them reported their device stopped them from getting enough sleep on at least some nights during the week. This was more common in older children.

The results provide valuable insight into the lives of Australian children. We will continue to analyse the data with our academic colleagues over the coming months.

The producer, Nathan Bazley, reported “Behind the News is proud to not just help teach Australian kids about the world around them, but also to help teach the world a bit more about them, too.”
Cochrane Public Health supports, edits and publishes systematic reviews of the effects of interventions to improve health and other outcomes (e.g. education and social outcomes) at the population level. The broad scope of CPH means that the topics for review are complex and require considerable editorial support from initial title development stages through to publication of the protocol and then the review. In 2017 CPH was awarded $368,068 by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to continue the work of CPH to June 2020.

The 2016 impact factors were recently released by Cochrane and show that once again Cochrane Public Health’s Impact Factor of 6.5 exceeded the overall Impact Factor of 6.2 for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. The most highly downloaded CPH reviews were Portion, package or tableware size for changing selection and consumption of food, alcohol and tobacco (downloaded 3,797 times) and Community wide interventions for increasing physical activity (downloaded 4,449 times).

Cochrane Public Health scored the highest of 52 Cochrane Review Groups for average number of full-text downloads received by Cochrane Review Groups in 2016, with nearly 800 downloads per review published.

The review on portion, package or tableware size for changing selection and consumption of food, alcohol and tobacco review is in the top 5% of Altmetric Attention Scores, a quantitative measure of the attention that a scholarly article has received on social media sites, newspapers, government policy documents and other sources.

This year Cochrane Public Health have published 6 new reviews (plus one at copy editing stage) and 11 protocols in 2017, including:

- Community-based population-level interventions for promoting child oral health
- Later school start times for supporting the education, health, and well-being of high school students
- Strategies to improve the implementation of healthy eating, physical activity and obesity prevention policies, practices or programmes within child care services
- Welfare-to-work interventions and their effects on the mental and physical health of lone parents and their children

Cochrane Public Health reviews are of great interest and valued by the research and policy communities worldwide, as download and citation statistics indicate. Media coverage of review findings also reflects that this research is considered of value to the general population.

News articles on Cochrane Public Health reviews have featured in high traffic media outlets such as The Guardian and The Telegraph (UK), The Washington Post (USA) and The Age (Australia).

Public Health Insight conducts research, undertakes consultancy projects and delivers a series of training modules to facilitate evidence-informed public health decision-making. When we began our training program in 2005 we focused on building capacity amongst decision-makers. The demand has shifted now towards researchers, due to increased interest and incentives for researchers to undertake knowledge translation (KT) work alongside their research.

Knowledge Translation for Researchers guides researchers through the steps needed to develop a KT plan. The cross-campus course we developed and delivered at the end of 2016, with support from a Melbourne Engagement Grant in collaboration with the Melbourne School of Government, was a great success and was fully subscribed.

KT4Researchers has now trained over 100 researchers. We have delivered courses internally but also responded to the needs of research teams and delivered several tailored courses.

This year we delivered a one-day course to early career researchers at the University of Sydney; provided training to medical students visiting the University of Melbourne and provided internal professional development to the Jack Brockhoff Child Health & Wellbeing Team.

KT4Researchers is one of few courses conducted internationally to build the capacity of researchers to develop KT plans and to incorporate KT into their work. These courses are income generating but benefit from salary support from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation for Dr Rebecca Armstrong and Alana Pirrone in the development and promotion of the course.

Our course evaluations show that participants feel better informed about KT after attending our course. We can see demonstrated shifts in understanding of the key concepts, and participants feel more confident to create a KT plan.

There is so much great KT activity happening within the University of Melbourne and across the University sector. But these KT activities are often not planned strategically. We hope our framework can be used by researchers to ensure that their KT resources are spent where they are most needed.

There is so much great KT activity happening within the University of Melbourne and across the University sector. But these KT activities are often not planned strategically. We hope our framework can be used by researchers to ensure that their KT resources are spent where they are most needed.
Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs is the Director of The Program and supported by Associate Directors Dr Elise Davis and Dr Rebecca Armstrong. Dr Armstrong is Director of Public Health Insight.

In October 2017 Dr Elise Davis resigned from her position as Associate Director to take up a new position as Workforce Development and Evaluation Manager at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Dr Davis has always shown the highest level of competence, professionalism and care in her role within the program. We will miss her very much but will benefit from her ongoing involvement in an Honorary capacity.

Congratulations to Dr Karen Block for her promotion to the position of Associate Director, Jack Brockhoff Child Health & Wellbeing Program in recognition of her leadership within the program and her responsibility for one of our flagship programs of research.

The senior leadership team are responsible for the management of research projects, research strategy, research income, staff development and operational issues.

They are supported by Professor Brian Oldenburg and the finance and administration team within the Centre for Health Equity, which is situated within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health under the leadership of Professor Terry Nolan. Associate Professor Richard Chenhall has provided additional support during periods as Acting Centre Director.

The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program is grateful for the ongoing advice and expertise of our advisory panel:

- Professor David Hill AO
- Professor Terry Nolan
- Professor Brian Oldenburg
- Professor Paul Monagle
- Dr Robert Grenfell
- Dr Priscilla Seyfort

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
The University of Melbourne
The University of Melbourne
Royal Children’s Hospital
CSIRO
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The inaugural Director of The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program, the late Professor Elizabeth Waters, made a lasting contribution to the field of public health both nationally and internationally, fuelled by her passion and commitment to justice, equity and upholding the rights of children.

The Professor Elizabeth Waters Memorial Travel Scholarship was established by Liz’s friends and family to honour two of Liz’s great passions in life: excellence in child public health and travel.

The scholarship(s) assist the successful applicants with expenses associated with attending a domestic or international conference, event or opportunity. The scholarship(s) are also available to international applicants travelling to Australia to collaborate with the Program and/or Public Health Insight.

The funds raised enable the University to provide one or more scholarships to staff, Higher Degree candidates, partners and collaborators in The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program and the research service, Public Health Insight at the University of Melbourne, who demonstrate excellence in their field of work.

The scholars assist the successful applicants with expenses associated with attending a domestic or international conference, event or opportunity. The scholarship(s) are also available to international applicants travelling to Australia to collaborate with the Program and/or Public Health Insight.

It feels both incongruent and highly appropriate to hold a global conference to discuss methods, quality and utility of evidence for decision making for health and social outcomes in Cape Town, South Africa. Trying to summarise the learnings from the Summit is a difficult task but I shall highlight a few.

I participated in a meeting with a co-author on a published Cochrane Public Health review, who is now working for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She had sought Cochrane Public Health (CPH) out to identify ways we could help to identify best evidence for immunisation uptake specific to populations and contexts of interest. Consistent with the themes of the conference were discussions around prioritisation of criteria to guide what evidence to collect and synthesise, taking into account time/urgency, resources, policy implications and political ‘doability’.

With the CPH joint Coordinating Editors, we had an extremely useful and collegial meeting with our CPH Europe members, including one of the leaders who has been nominated to the Cochrane Board - so a great contact for our group to have. We discussed how we might best utilise the people resources we have to improve editorial processes, quality of the reviews and expand dissemination of review findings (in several languages) across the globe.

The final plenary was particularly current and unfortunately poignant, as the panelists, led by Professor Trisha Greenhalgh, discussed where evidence sits in a “post-truth” world. Recognition of a need to identify evidence that is credible, relevant and inferential, sits within a need to acknowledge that ‘evidence’ exists within a plethora of factors that need to influence decision making (including local data, resources, political context, acceptability etc.). There is an inevitable picking and choosing of evidence to persuade – which should always be tempered with an understanding of the audience’s points of view. Invariably evidence is used by individuals to bolster their existing thoughts, not to question them. People have lost trust in ‘experts’ and in government institutions.

One of the solutions offered up that resonated with me... we need to learn to listen just as much as we need to learn how to tell evidence stories in many different ways. And that evidence will not speak for itself - we need to speak for it. The importance of us all being ambassadors for evidence was emphasised - talk about your work with your community and listen to what they believe are the barriers to action. Give them the knowledge to fight for science too. There is a need for more voices for science, so engage them in the process at all stages. Ask people how your research findings might affect their lives. Ask them what research questions would be important to them.

I also thought about the previous time, in 2000, when the Cochrane Colloquium was held in Cape Town. A new face to Cochrane attended and was also inspired by the city and with Cochrane’s pursuit of best evidence and the need to ‘spread the word’. This was Liz Waters and she did the most brilliant job of inspiring others to travel and to share evidence and stories, from and to all corners of the globe. I thank her for this experience, and so many others she made possible for me.

Full report available on website
Ana was exposed to many facets of the Victorian oral health service, this experience broadened her knowledge of the range of services and sites where outreach dental care can be successful.

She had the opportunity to directly observe clinical treatments, Australian standards of care including infection control and modern materials used in a preventive based program. These are directly applicable to the further development of dental services in Timor Leste and contributed to her ability to influence decisions made in the Kose Nehan program.

Ana’s health promotion and evaluation skills are now being used at two additional districts (Baucau and Maubisse) following the expansion of Kose Nehan. A total of 18 schools (~3,000 children) are now under her supervision for tooth brushing and preventive based care. The scholarship also contributed to her ability to influence decisions made in the Kose Nehan program.

Promotion of the Kose Nehan Oral Health Program.

Ana’s conference attendance, and her visit to an Australian school and Timor friendship organisations to promote Kose Nehan, enhanced her confidence and advocacy skills.

She was successfully able to describe and educate the Australian audience in the poor oral health situation in her country and the challenges of developing an oral health program to meet those needs. Her engagement with the friendship groups encouraged them to support an expansion of the Kose Nehan to 12 more schools.

I am very appreciated to all the doctors, Dental Nurses from North Richmond Community Health (NRCH) because they were very happy to see me when I visited the Clinical NRCH and they are very helpful when I observation with them when the patient come and do the treatment. They are teaching me about infection control, how do we clean the dental chair when we finished do the treatment for the patient, when we are as assistant to help doctor if the doctors asked you to take some equipment you should took the gloves out.

They tell me you should change the mask and gloves - one patient, one gloves and one mask. Do not use the mask permanent because it was dirty to other ways. They are as assistant to help doctor if the doctors asked you to take some equipment you should took the gloves out.

I hope all this experience and all the knowledge that you all gave me as key to keep in my brain or save inside my heart as skills to help my community in my beloved country East Timor. I am very appreciate for University Melbourne Dra. Lisa and NRCH can gave me the opportunity to learn the knowledge, the experience, the skills, the motivation, advise, lesson and all this knowledge can make me understand to runny the Program Kose Nehan in East Timor.

Thank for you all helping because true the Kose Nehan Program we can make a relationship between NRCH, University Melbourne and East Timor. I am very happy to get more second opportunity fly to Melbourne to visit Clinic NRCH and Dra. Lisa in Melbourne University to learn more some knowledge from Dra. Lisa because I want to learn more, the skills that I have learn before when I visit Melbourne is not enough I want to learn more.

Full report available on website
2016 INTERNAL JACK BROCKHOFF CHILD HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAM AWARDS

BROCKHOFF TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD - COCHRANE PUBLIC HEALTH

Rebecca, Jodie and Hillary have steered the Cochrane Public Health Group through the transition of leadership from Liz Waters and have performed their editorial and translation role at the highest standards, as demonstrated by the fact that in 2016 Cochrane Public Health published six new reviews and one update. In 2015 the impact factor of Cochrane Public Health was 8.4, exceeding the overall impact factor of Cochrane. Altmetric scores of attention received by academic articles, ranks the portion size review as #1 of all Cochrane reviews and in the top 500 of all articles ever published!

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AWARD - ALANA PIRRONE

Alana’s highly professional skills in design and infographics have resulted in wide engagement with and uptake of our research findings, promoting health and wellbeing and increasing the profile of our Program.

BROCKHOFF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD - JOHN RICHARDSON, AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

John’s commitment to the Beyond Bushfires and wider disaster research program has ensured the relevance and use of the research findings and dissemination through Australia and international outlets.

BROCKHOFF RESEARCH IMPACT AWARD - BEYOND BUSHFIRES

The Beyond Bushfires research study achieved wide media coverage from the major print, radio and television outlets as well as social media. The results have been disseminated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and by the Red Cross in Canada and Fiji. It resulted in a roundtable discussion with major emergency, mental health and humanitarian agencies to agree on ongoing collaborative research and changed policy and practice.

CORALIE MATHEWS IN MEMORIAM AWARD - DANA YOUNG

Dana’s experience in community based research has been particularly evident with her grace, patience and flexibility helping to steer key projects through contextual barriers and challenges for partner organisations.
KATE BRADY
What supports recovery from emergency events (in high income, developed countries) from the perspective of people affected by emergencies, (2013-2018), A/Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Louise Harms.

LAUREN CARPENTER

MEG CHIN
When a child dies from a life-threatening condition: Hearing the voices of bereaved siblings. (2017-2021), Prof Louise Harms, A/Prof Lisa Gibbs.

DR BRADLEY CHRISTIAN

SHANE HARRISON
Sexual exploitation and abuse of boys in conflict: Facilitating individual and collective agency for survivors in low-resource humanitarian settings using feminist participatory action research. (2017-2019), Dr Cathy Vaughan, Dr Karen Block, A/ Prof Richard Chenhall.

KYLI HENRIK
Kept at harm’s length: Setting up surveillance of self-harm among asylum seekers in Australian immigration detention. (2016-2018), Prof. Jane Pirkis, Dr Greg Armstrong, Dr Rohan Borschmann, Dr Karen Block, A/Prof Deborah Zion.

CONNIE KELLETT
Experiences of anger following the 2009, Black Saturday, bushfires, (2011-2016), Prof Louise Harms, A/Prof Lisa Gibbs.

EBONY KING
The role of services in facilitating the resilience of former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people. (2016-2018), Dr Halim Rane, Prof Penelope Mathew, Dr Karen Block.

LAUREN KOSTA
What are parental experiences of parenting following a natural disaster? (2014-2018), Prof Louise Harms, A/Prof Lisa Gibbs, Dr David Rose.

KATITZA MARINCOVIC
Is there a space for Participatory Action Research with children in Disaster Risk Reduction Programs? (2016-2019), A/Prof Lisa Gibbs, Dr Karen Block.

SARAH STRAUVEN
Exploring collective narrative work with traumatised refugees. (2017-2019), Dr David Denborough, Dr Karen Block, Dr David Rose.

ELENA SWIFT
Developing the Cerebral Palsy Quality of Life Questionnaire for Children (CP QOL-Child) for use in clinical settings, (2015-2018), A/Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Dinah Reddihough, Prof Andrew Mackinnon.

We are very pleased to announce the following PhD successful completion:

RACHEL BOAK
Promoting healthy diets for Australian infants: Examining intakes, influences and the content of broad public health nutrition policy. (2010-2017), A/Prof Lisa Gibbs, Dr Elise Davis.

We are very pleased to announce the following PhD submission:

SHUAIJUN GUO
Understanding and measuring health literacy among secondary students in Beijing and Melbourne. (2014-2017), Dr Elise Davis, Dr Lucio Naccarella, Dr Rebecca Armstrong, Prof Johanna Wyn.
We are very appreciative of the opportunities provided through our collaborations with partners within, and/or financial support provided by, the following groups and institutions:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Current Collaborations and Sources of Support</th>
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<td>Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health</td>
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<td>Centre for Research Excellence in Cerebral Palsy (CRE-CP)</td>
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9. Count Me In: Sports participation by refugee and migrant youth for social inclusion, Communities of Place and Interest. Block K, Young D, Gibbs L. University of Melbourne Engagement Grant MEGS201710101, 2017, $10,000.


20. Kose Nehan Study Tour for Ms Ana Tilman. Hall M. Professor Elizabeth Waters Memorial Travel Scholarship, 2016-2017, $2,740.

21. Listening for (a) change: Identifying strategies for preventing family violence through dialogical research with women with refugee backgrounds. Vaughan C, Block K, Davis E. Kelada O. Warr D. MAEVe/MSIE Seed Funding, 2016, $30,000.


CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS


21. Gibbs L. Scaling up participatory research projects with children: How can we provide opportunities for children to take leadership on health research at a local, national and international level? International Collaboration for Participatory Health Research Conference, May 2017, Galway, Ireland.


23. Gibbs L. Long term mental health and wellbeing impacts from bushfires. Red Cross seminar, Yarloop, Western Australia May 2017 - invited


29. Richardson J et al. 8th Conference of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM 2017), August 2017, Reykjavik


OVERVIEW OF FINANCIALS

ESTIMATED FINAL INCOME AT 31 DEC 2017 (INCL CARRY FORWARD OF $904,295) - $3,179,291

ESTIMATED FINAL EXPENDITURE AT 31 DEC 2017 - $1,732,256