

*Centre for Health Policy,
Melbourne School of Population and Global
Health*

Health Economics Unit Newsletter

Issue Number 12 | 29 July 2022

Health Economics Unit thriving!

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We are incredibly proud of the [Health Economics Unit](#) team, who has continued to make a significant impact on both policy and practice, with substantial research contributions nationally and internationally.

The Health Economics Unit has welcomed two new postdoctoral researchers [Dr Ting Zhao](#) and [Dr Lizzy Cun Liu](#), and a research assistant, [Mackenzie Bourke](#), who bring fresh new energy and ideas. We have also welcomed the following new PhD students- [Renee Jones](#), [Francisco Santos](#), [Dylan Mordaunt](#) and [Ashwini De Silva](#) who are all exceptionally bright and talented. We look forward to the seeing their research programs progress.

The Unit is continuing our involvement in health technology assessment with state and federal governments through the Melbourne Health Technology and Value Assessment Collaboration ([M-VAC](#)) that supports the evaluation of new pharmaceuticals for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). We are also continuing our efforts through the Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health Research Hub ([MISCH](#)) to facilitate collaborations with other researchers and provide support in health economics and other methods.

Our teaching efforts remain substantial with our unit leading six subjects into the Masters of Public Health, including a new [Introduction to Health Services Research subject](#) launching Semester 2. This subject represents a huge multidisciplinary collaborative effort and is being taken up with strong interest as a stand-alone subject through the University of Melbourne Community Access program. In 2022, the new online Graduate [Certificate](#) commenced in Health Economics and Economics Evaluation with a talented and engaged cohort of students.

We have seen strong publication and research growth the areas of health outcomes measurement and valuation, paediatrics, genomics, infectious and chronic diseases, with many featured in this newsletter. Thank you to all our collaborators and colleagues, our multidisciplinary research activities are highly valued and bring enjoyment to our unit.

We hope you enjoy the articles we have put together showcasing our activities.

Professor Kim Dalziel - Head of the Health Economics Unit



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Upcoming Health Economics Short Courses

The University of Melbourne is hosting its final three Health Economics short courses of 2022. These courses are designed to assist policymakers, clinicians, researchers, managers and others working in the health sector to understanding health economic issues and how these can aid decision making. Please click [here](#) for more course information.

Introduction to cost-effectiveness analysis in health | 15-16 September (two half days) | Online

A one-day introductory course that provides participants with a better understanding of health priority setting and the application of cost-effectiveness analysis. This introductory course has no assumed knowledge. It represents a good foundation for other courses offered in the series.

Practical Methods for Health Economic Evaluation | 12-14 October 2021 (Three full days) | In-person

A three-day intensive computer-based course in methods for health economic evaluation. The course covers study design principles, techniques for analysing costs and outcomes and an introduction to decision models.

Evaluating Public Health interventions using Epidemiological and Economic methods | 27-28 October 2022 (two half days) | Online

This course provides an overview of how epidemiological and economic tools can be used to inform policy-making from a national and global perspective, how to rank interventions by health gain and/or costs and cost-effectiveness and gain an understanding of key methodological and policy considerations. There are no formal prerequisites.

Featured News

Health Economics Unit MRFF and NHMRC grant success

Colleagues from Health Economics Unit have been recently successful in several MRFF and NHMRC grants!



(L-R: Prof Philip Clarke, Dr An Duy Tran, Prof Kim Dalziel, Dr Li Huang, Dr Xinyang Hua)

MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator Grant Success: Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations

[Dr An Duy Tran](#) at the [Health Economics Unit](#) (University of Melbourne) and [Professor Philip Clarke](#) at the Health Economics Research Centre (University of Oxford) are co-Leads of the Health Economics Platform within the [Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations](#) (ACADI). Established through a recently successful MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Grant (2022-2025; \$10 million) and led by [Associate Professor Elif Ekinci](#), ACADI aims to increase quality of life and life expectancy for all Australians living with diabetes and its complications via timely diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Dr Tran and Professor Clarke will lead the development of modelling tools and a comprehensive framework for economic evaluations of interventions for diabetes and its complications in patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes in the Australian setting.

MRFF Grant Success: Augmenting dietary protein during critical illness

[Dr An Duy Tran](#) is the health economist and chief investigator in a recently successful MRFF Grant belonging to the Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need Stream. Led by [Associate Professor Adam Dean](#), the team was awarded almost \$2 million to investigate the effect on health outcomes and cost-effectiveness of administration of augmented dietary protein to critically ill adults via a cluster randomised, cross-sectional clinical trial at high volume ICUs across Australia.

About 40,000 Australians suffer from critical illness requiring invasive organ support each year, with a mortality rate of 25%. The findings from this project will transform critically ill patients in Australia and world-wide, and inform decision makers about whether the augmented dietary protein represents value for money.

The IMPACT Centre of Research Excellence Improving Maternal and Perinatal health - Action through Clinical Trials

[Professor Kim Dalziel](#), [Dr Xinyang Hua](#), [Dr Li Huang](#) are the health economists in a recent MRFF Grant success led by Dr Clare Whitehead from the University of Melbourne. The project will develop an Australasian perinatal Adaptive Platform Trial (APT) to improve outcomes for preterm infants. Prof Dalziel, Dr Hua and Dr Huang will lead the economic analysis for this project, including designing health economics methods and conducting economic evaluations for the APT, and developing health economic tools for evaluating interventions conducted through the APT.

MRFF Chronic Neurological Conditions Grant: Targeted surveillance of developmental delay and impairments for young children born very preterm

[Dr Xinyang Hua](#) and [Professor Kim Dalziel](#) are part of team successful in an MRFF Chronic Neurological Conditions Grant (\$1.8 million). The project is led by Prof Peter Anderson from the Monash University. The project will develop and implement a targeted surveillance program for children born very preterm with the aim of reducing the burden associated with developmental impairment in this population. Dr Hua and Prof Dalziel will lead the economic evaluation and assess the cost effectiveness of the targeted surveillance program.

Health Economics Unit EuroQoL grant success

Professor Nancy Devlin and Dr Tianxin Pan from Health Economics Unit have been recently successful in two EuroQoL grants.

Are there any challenges in valuing EQ-5D-Y-5L arising from the descriptive system? A multi-country study



(L-R: Prof Nancy Devlin, Dr Tianxin Pan)

[Professor Nancy Devlin](#) and [Dr Tianxin Pan](#), together with researchers from Canada, Spain, Netherland, China and Australia have been awarded an EuroQoL grant to conduct a multi-country pilot study of valuing EQ-5D-Y-5L. The project aims to identify potential issues of presenting the descriptive system for the Y-5L (e.g., level labels) in valuation tasks (e.g., preference reversals/logical inconsistency arising from a lack of clarity about severity levels), and to establish the feasibility of eliciting stated preferences for the Y-5L for both adult and adolescent members of the general public.

Understanding the ceiling effects phenomenon of EQ-5D instruments: a systematic investigation into possible reasons, existing evidence, and future research directions and priorities

[Dr Tianxin Pan](#) and [Professor Nancy Devlin](#) in collaboration A/Prof Nan Luo from National University of Singapore, have been awarded an EuroQoL grant to address the ceiling effect phenomenon of EQ-5D observed in general populations. Led by Dr Pan, this project aims (1) to develop a general conceptual framework for understanding the ceiling effects in different populations, and (2) to analyse reasons contributing to the high ceiling effect in China; to summarise existing evidence; and generate testable hypotheses and practical strategies to address the issue.

More funding success

- Professor Kim Dalziel (AI). MRFF Clinician Researcher. Strengthening Care for Rural Children: a stepped wedge trial in primary care
- Dr Li Huang (CI) & Professor Kim Dalziel (AI). MRFF. BEST trial – oral antibiotics for bone and joint infections.
- Professor Kim Dalziel (CI). NHMRC. A Surfactant Treatment Method for Modern Neonatal Care (The SURFSUP RCT)
- Professor Kim Dalziel & Dr Xinyang Hua. NHMRC Clinical Trials. PRECeDe: Prevention of neonatal Respiratory distress with antenatal corticosteroids prior to Elective Caesarean section in women with Diabetes: A Randomised Controlled Trial.
- A/Prof Ilias Goranitis. NHMRC Synergy grant. National precision health research translation for breast and prostate cancer prevention and early detection
- Professor Kim Dalziel (CI). NHMRC. Centre for Research Excellence in Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies.
- Professor Kim Dalziel (CI). NHMRC-NIHR Collaborative Research Grant Scheme Round 3. The neoGASTRIC trial: Avoiding routine gastric residual volume measurement in neonatal critical care, a multi-centre, randomised controlled trial
- Dr Jason Ong (CI) NHMRC. Ending HIV transmission by Optimizing Pre-exposure prophylaxis in East Asia (HOPE)
- Dr Li Huang (CI). Thrasher Research Fund. Neurodevelopment at 2 years of extremely preterm infants who received early budesonide.
- A/Prof Ilias Goranitis (CI). Royal Children’s Foundation. Gene-STEPS: Shortening Time of Evaluation in Paediatric Epilepsy Services.

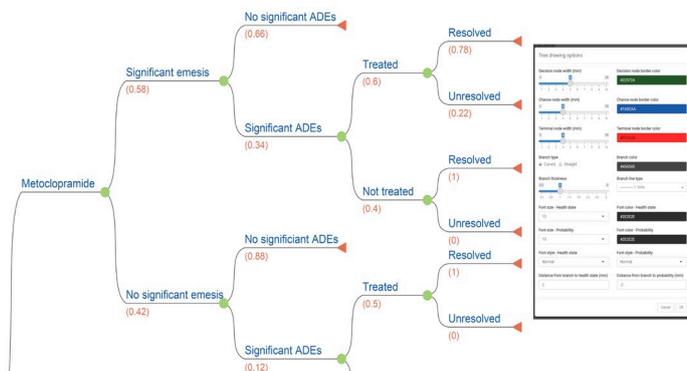
Research News

Costing of an Australian general practice COVID-19 drive-through testing and respiratory clinic

Patrick Abraham and [Dr Jemimah Ride](#) have recently published a paper in [BMC primary care](#). Their study analysed the costs of a General Practitioner lead Covid-19 testing and treatment facility in Melbourne, Australia, in 2020. This publication is the first of its kind in Australia, as it collected and analysed the costs of a drive-through and respiratory clinic, which were created to test and treat symptomatic cases safely and efficiently. This piece of work came from a collaborative project between the Health Economics Unit and the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health. This paper added to the Covid-19 economic evidence in Australia by outlining the cost implications for the testing of symptomatic patients during the pandemic and is Patrick’s first lead author publication.



An interactive web app for decision tree drawing and modelling



We are pleased to introduce the world’s first free interactive web app for creating elegant decision tree diagrams and modelling. Developed by [Dr An Duy Tran](#), the current version of [DARE](#) (Decision Analysis in R for health economic Evaluation) offers many features that allow quick building of decision trees, high-degree customization of the tree diagrams for presentations and publications, expected payoffs computation with error checking, healthcare evaluation and cost-effectiveness analysis. Other functionalities related to uncertainty analyses and tree aesthetics will be provided shortly.

Try it out at: dare.shinyapps.io/tree/

Measuring health inequalities in the long run of history: the comparative mortality of an elite group



A [new study](#) published in European Journal of Epidemiology showed that in recent years politicians in 11 high-income countries lived about three to seven years longer than the general populations. This study was led by [Professor Philip Clarke](#) (University of Oxford and University of Melbourne) in collaboration with [Dr An Duy Tran](#) and Mr Jay Stiles (Health Economics Unit), Dr Laurence Roope (University of Oxford) and Professor Adrian Barnett (Queensland University of Technology). This is the most comprehensive study so far, based on more than 57,000 politicians, using historical data that in some cases dated back two centuries. The authors found that throughout the 20th century, differences in mortality widened considerably across all

countries, indicating the survival advantage of politicians over the general population during a long period of time. This study provides methods for measuring long-term health inequalities and may help to shape a debate about how inequalities between the general population and the elites such as politicians can be addressed. Around one month post publication, the paper has been read and downloaded more than 6,000 times and had an Altmetric score of over 740, ranking in the top 1% of all tracked articles of similar age in all journals.

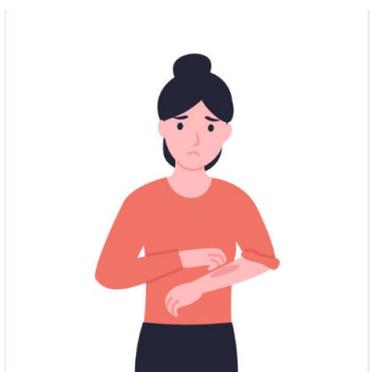
A [companion paper](#) has also been published in the Conversation by Philip, An and Laurence. [Professor Philip Clarke](#) also presented this work to the Health Economics Unit on May 16th in Melbourne.

Preference Elicitation Techniques Used in Valuing Children's Health-Related Quality-of-Life: A Systematic Review

[Dr Cate Bailey](#), [Prof Nancy Devlin](#), the [QUOKKA](#) study team and [TORCH](#) study team, have jointly published a systematic [review](#) which investigated the methods used to value children's health states, as well as methodological aspects particular to this context. This study found that preference elicitation methods included standard gamble, time-trade off, discrete choice modelling, best-worst scaling and visual analogue scales, with and without modification. Sources of values (who was asked, children or adults or both) and perspectives (point of view that participants were asked to consider) were particularly important in this age group. Reporting of the different aspects of interest was challenging in these studies, leading the authors to recommend the development of guidelines for the design, conduct and reporting of studies in this area. This finding has led to the QUOKKA and TORCH groups working together on a new project to address this issue.



Costs of mass drug administration for scabies in Fiji

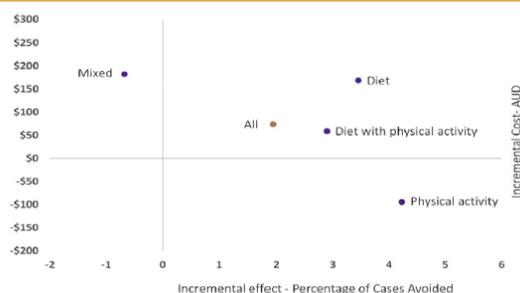


A recent [study](#) by incoming PhD student Maria Mow (University of Auckland), colleagues at Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, and [Dr Natalie Carvalho](#) from the [Health Economics Unit](#) has been published in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Scabies poses a significant burden on both health and economic systems, with an estimated more than 200 million people globally affected. However, there are limited data on the cost of treating scabies in highly endemic areas. This study estimated the cost of a mass drug administration (MDA) program targeting scabies, in the Northern Division of Fiji (population of 131,914). The costs of MDA for scabies in Fiji were higher than those estimated in previous studies of MDA for other neglected tropical diseases. The study highlights significant cost components of implementing a large-scale MDA and provides key insights for the design and implementation of future MDA programs for scabies.

A Comparison of the Cost-Effectiveness of Lifestyle Interventions in Pregnancy

Figure 1. Cost-effectiveness plane comparing diet, PA, diet with PA, mixed, and all interventions combined. Δ Cost and Δ outcome pairs: diet: A\$169, 3.46%; diet with PA: A\$59, 2.90%; PA: A\$-95, 4.23%; mixed: A\$182, -0.68%; all: A\$75, 1.94%.



GDM indicates gestational diabetes mellitus; HDP, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy; PA, physical activity.

Based on a large meta-analysis that suggested that diet and exercise interventions in pregnancy were effective in reducing gestational diabetes, preeclampsia and caesarean section, this [study](#) investigates the cost-effectiveness such lifestyle interventions. Led by [Dr Cate Bailey](#), the authors found that that physical activity interventions appear cost saving, and that diet and diet-with-physical-activity interventions are likely to be cost-effective dependent on willingness-to-pay thresholds. This study findings were based over a short time horizon and on maternal pregnancy outcomes alone. When neonatal intensive care unit costs were added to the model, all three intervention types were cost-saving. The results suggest that next steps should be implementation of lifestyle interventions in pregnancy that incorporate structured diet and physical activity components.

Valuing EQ-5D-Y: the current state of play



[Professor Nancy Devlin](#) and [Dr Tianxin Pan](#), together with colleagues from Bielefeld University, University of Cape Town, The EuroQol Research Foundation, Akershus University Hospital in Norway and Office of Health Economics, London published a new [paper](#) at Health and Quality of Life Outcomes. This paper reported a three-day workshop held by EuroQol Group which focused on the experience and challenges learnt from valuing EQ-5D-Y. This paper is a featured article at Health and Quality of Life Outcomes.

Health-related quality of life in individuals with genital herpes: a systematic review

[Dr Angela Devine](#), Xiuqin Xiong and [Dr Jason Ong](#) have published a study at [Health and Quality of Life Outcomes](#). The global burden of herpes simplex virus (HSV) related genital ulcer disease is significant, and yet it is unclear what the evidence base is for measuring the quality of life for people with HSV-related genital ulcer disease. This is critical for economic evaluations and building value propositions for vaccination. This study was commissioned by the World Health Organization to undertake a systematic review to critically appraise the existing evidence regarding health-related quality of life in individuals living with genital herpes. The authors collated the quality of life instruments currently used and found a lack of robust evidence in health-related quality of life of HSV-related genital ulcer disease. This paper provides recommendations to address this critical gap in knowledge.



Health-related quality of life impact of scabies in the Solomon Islands

A recent [study](#) by current PhD student Sussana Lake (Murdoch Children's Research Institute), colleagues at Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and [Dr Natalie Carvalho](#) has been published in Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Scabies causes intense itching and skin lesions. A small number of studies have shown that scabies impacts health-related quality of life (HRQoL), but no studies have been conducted in the Pacific, where scabies is particularly prevalent. This study assessed the impact of scabies on HRQoL in a high prevalence setting using a disease-specific and generic questionnaires. The study found that scabies has a small but measurable impact on HRQoL, with a median DLQI score of 2 (IQR 0-4) and CDLQI of 2 (0 - 4). Scores increased linearly with severity. The greatest impact on QoL was due to itch, sleep disturbance and impacts on education and employment.

Research Engagement

HEU monthly PhD catch-ups

The HEU runs monthly PhD catch-ups within the unit where the students can chat with each other about their PhD life and share experiences. As a part of these catch-ups, each month a topic discussion is organized to focus on a specific issue related to the PhD study. Recent topic discussion that we had includes: guest speaker Dr Cate Bailey sharing experience on her own PhD journey; guest speaker Dr Michelle Tew introducing tips for conference presentations; an open discussion on how to make high-quality graphs for publications.

We have welcomed six new PhD students to the group since the beginning of this year, with a total number of 11 students joining the catch-ups now. More details about our PhD students and the projects they're working on can be found on our [website](#).

Lachlan's presentation at International Choice Modelling Conference and European Health Economics Association Conference

HEU's Lachlan Cameron has been in Europe presenting his study 'The Role of Mental Health in Online Gambling Decisions' at international conferences and through invited seminars at international Universities. The study uses a Discrete Choice Experiment to explore how features of the gambling market influence people's decisions while gambling, and how mental health affects this. The study improves understanding about the influence of marketing strategies, and if and how people with mental health problems may be more susceptible to developing problem gambling. The results provide important information that can inform policy to reduce the risk of problem gambling for the general population and for people with mental health problems specifically. He has presented at two conferences - the International Choice Modelling Conference in Reykjavik and European Health Economics Association Conference in Oslo – and invited seminars at The University of Aberdeen's Health Economics Research Unit and The University of Oxford's Centre for Health Economics.



HEU presence at the 13th Annual Workshop of The University of Melbourne Health Economics Group (UMHEG)

The 13th Annual Workshop of The University of Melbourne Health Economics Group (UMHEG) was held on 31 May 2022. UMHEG is a cross-faculty network of over 50 health economists based at the University of Melbourne that conducts collaborative applied and methodological health economic research. This is a joint event with health economists from the Melbourne Institute, Nossal Institute, and Department of Economics. At this year's workshop, [Prof Kim Dalziel](#), [Dr Cate Bailey](#), [Dr Tessa Peasgood](#) presented findings from two systematic reviews of the Quality OF Life in Kids: Key evidence to strengthen decisions in Australia (QUOKKA) study. HEU's Patrick Abraham and Marie-Anne Boujaoude presented their PhD projects during the PhD and ECR 5 minute's flash talks. We closed the day with a panel session on across-discipline research, featuring panel speakers Profs Liz Sonenberg, Jo Barraket and Peter Annear.

Dr Tessa Peasgood presented at the ISPOR Australia HTA Innovations workshop

In July, [Dr Tessa Peasgood](#) presented at the HTA Innovations workshop run by ISPOR Australian Chapter at UTS in Sydney. In her talk on 'Presenting the EQ-HWB as a way to incorporate broader value', she discussed the potential for the new EQ-HWB (Health and Wellbeing) instrument to expand the scope of benefits included in HTA and to expand the reach of HTA to sectors beyond health. In Tessa's recent [publication](#), she explored the potential inclusion of hope as an additional value in HTA. This paper raises the possibility that the hope generating aspect of new treatments may be underestimated within current methods but raises a caution towards the inclusion of hope conceived as risk seeking preferences.

Presentation at Council of Academic Public Health Institutions

In July [Dr Tessa Peasgood](#) presented on Practical Learning and Teaching Strategies to Improve Assessment and Feedback at the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia's (CAPHIA) [<https://caphia.com.au/>] profession development seminar series. A recording of the session, which also included presentations by A/Prof Danijela Gasevic from Monash University and A/Prof Sally Nathan from UNSW is available [<https://vimeo.com/731954476>]

Dr Jemimah Ride presents at Thought Leaders 2: Dissecting the Victorian budget

[Dr Jemimah Ride](#) was part of an expert panel invited by Mental Health Victoria to give a public webinar on the mental health aspects of the 2022 Victorian State budget, in light of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. Presenters included the Victorian Minister for Mental Health, the Hon James Merlino. Jemimah highlighted that the budget was weighted toward inpatient care rather than community-based care and the need to ensure that workforce investment goes to expand the supply of affordable mental health care. She asked how we will know that the substantial investments being made are providing value for money and emphasised the need for data and evidence. Dr Ride also noted the dearth of investment in prevention and promotion of good mental health.

Staff and Student News

Welcome to Dr Ting Zhao



Dr. Ting Zhao has recently joined the MISCH Hub and Health Economics Unit, Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne as a Research Fellow. She will provide health economic support to development of grant proposals and conduct research in the area of chronic diseases. She is currently working with Dr. An Duy Tran and Professor Philip Clarke on economic evaluation of interventions for diabetes and chronic kidney disease using simulation modelling.

Ting has completed a PhD Medical studies degree from University of Tasmania in 2021. Her PhD research has made a significant contribution to improve the health economic modelling practices of osteoarthritis by investigating the evolution of health economic evaluation models of osteoarthritis and the long-term changes in health-related quality of life of people with osteoarthritis. She is experienced in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and analysing health economic, epidemiological, clinical and other data using advanced statistical modelling techniques and sophisticated scientific research methodologies. She has also been actively involved in researching the health economics of various other health conditions including multiple sclerosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome.

Welcome to Dr Lizzy Cun Liu



Dr Cun (Lizzy) Liu has recently joined the Health Economics Unit at the Centre for Health Policy as a research fellow. Dr. Cun Liu is currently working with Associate Professor Ilias Goranitis on applied and methodological projects related to genomics, heart diseases and discrete choice modelling methods.

Lizzy holds a Master and a PhD degree in Economics from Monash University. Her research is in the area of health economics, economic demography and applied microeconomics. Lizzy is experienced in applying statistics tools to conduct empirical analysis of large-scale datasets. Her previous research contributes to understand the impacts of demographic change on economic growth and inequality, gender discrimination using a variety of econometric models.

Welcome to Renee Jones



Renee is a PhD student with the Health Economics Unit at the University of Melbourne, her research is focussed on child health related quality of life (HRQoL). Renee will first explore the measurement of child HRQoL and how different generic and condition-specific instruments compare in different children using [QUOKKA paediatric multi-instrument comparison study data](#). Renee will then explore how generic HRQoL instruments, such as the EQ-5D-Y, can be used in routine clinical care as patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) - codesigning preferences for PROM integration with families and clinicians, and piloting the use of PROMs in a tertiary paediatric hospital outpatient setting. Renee will be supervised by Professor Kim Dalziel and co-supervised by Professor Nancy Devlin and Professor Harriet Hiscock.

Renee completed a Bachelor of Science in 2016 and a Master of Public Health in 2018, both at The University of Melbourne. Prior to starting her PhD with the unit, Renee was a Research Assistant with the Health Services and Economics group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Welcome to Francisco Santos



Francisco is a PhD student in Health Economics at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Ilias Goranitis and Prof. John Christodoulou, Francisco's PhD research project aims to develop a health economic framework to inform the evaluation and implementation of functional genomics for rare disease diagnosis. Francisco has over 3 years of international experience in research, commercialisation and post-marketing surveillance of therapeutics and medical devices. He holds a Master's in Biotechnology Management, specialising in science commercialisation, and a Bsc. in Biotechnology Engineering with a research project in pharmacognosy. Francisco is strongly concerned with sharing ideas, forming relationships, and finding different ways of doing things.

Welcome to Dr Dylan Mordaunt



Dylan Mordaunt has recently joined the [Health Economics Unit](#) within the Centre for Health Policy as a PhD Candidate. His PhD project is supervised by [A/Prof Ilias Goranitis](#), [Prof Zornitza Stark](#) and [Prof Kim Dalziel](#). The project will explore the economics of rare diseases— specifically, examining costs of genomic testing; examining the impact and benefits of genomic testing; and evaluating the use of genomic tests in a clinical setting.

Dylan undertook part of his clinical training in clinical and metabolic genetics at MCRI in 2015, prior to the metabolic unit moving over to RCH. Dylan completed his undergraduate study in Medicine at the University of Auckland, and later completed a dual Master of Public Health and Master of Health Management at the University of New South Wales. Dylan continues to work as a paediatrician, clinical geneticist and health executive. Dylan's prior research work has included economic evaluation of chromosomal microarray in autism, clinical epidemiology and health services research

Welcome to Ashwini de Silva



We are delighted to welcome Ashwini De Silva to join the Health Economics Unit as a PhD student. Ashwini will be studying the social value of avoiding poor health states in children under the guidance of her principal supervisor, Dr Tessa Peasgood and co-supervisors Professor Nancy J. Devlin, Associate Professor Richard Norman and Dr Tianxin Pan. Ashwini holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Economics from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and has previously worked as an Analyst attached to the commercial lending vertical of Acuity Knowledge Partners.

Welcome to Mackenzie Bourke



Mackenzie Bourke has recently joined the Health Economics Unit as a full-time Research Assistant. He is currently working with Dr Tessa Peasgood to investigate impact of mode of administration on time trade-off interviews and developing the Introduction to Health Services Research subject for MPH and MacHSR students with Dr Mary White and Prof Kim Dalziel.

Mac completed his Master of Health Economics from Deakin University in 2021. He also has a Master of Physiotherapy Practice and a Bachelor of Health Science from La Trobe University. He has experience conducting systematic reviews, analysing health economic, epidemiological and clinical data, using statistical modelling techniques, and conducting cost-effectiveness analysis. He has a passion for high-impact intervention that can operate at scale.

Selected Publications

Singh, S., Babl, F. E., **Huang, L.**, Hearps, S., Cheek, J. A., Hoch, J. S., ... **Dalziel, K.** (2022). Paediatric traumatic brain injury severity and acute care costs. ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD, 107(5), pp. 493-495. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2021-322966

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Bailey, C., Howell, M., Raghunandan, R., Salisbury, A., Chen, G., Coast, J., ... Quality of Life in Kids: Key Evidence to Strengthen Decisions in Australia (QUOKKA), Tools for Outcomes Research to Measure, Value Child Health (TORCH) Project Teams (2022). Preference Elicitation Techniques Used in Valuing Children's Health-Related Quality-of-Life: A Systematic Review. Pharmacoeconomics, doi:10.1007/s40273-022-01149-3

Beck, E., Biundo, E., **Devlin, N.**, Doherty, T. M., Garcia-Ruiz, A. J., Postma, M., ... Salisbury, D. (2022). Capturing the value of vaccination within health technology assessment and health economics: Literature review and novel conceptual framework. Vaccine, doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.04.050

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