

Completed research grants June 2011–2012

Final Reports

© Copyright Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

January 2014

Publication Number: P-KN-132

Suggested citation

Completed research grants June 2011–2012. Final Reports. Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), Carlton, Australia.

Completed research grants

June 2011 to June 2012

VicHealth has a strong tradition of investing in public health research and evaluation to drive evidence-based interventions promoting the health and wellbeing of Victorians. Our research funding is directed at balancing innovation, capacity-building and public health priorities.

Each year, VicHealth invests approximately \$6 million in research. Funding is delivered through fellowships, research grants, centres, information infrastructure and strategic research.

VicHealth is committed to synthesising and translating research findings into practical health promotion practice, and disseminating these through our strategic communication channels.

This resource holds a collection of project summaries, each with a link to its final report or a published journal article from the study. The research projects were completed between June 2011 and June 2012.

Physical activity

Chief Investigators

Dr Russell Hoyer
Director
Centre for Sport and Social Impact
La Trobe University
R.Hoyer@latrobe.edu.au

Dr Matthew Nicholson
Associate Professor
Centre for Sport and Social Impact
La Trobe University
m.nicholson@latrobe.edu.au

Dr Kevin Brown
Principal Research Fellow
Centre for Sport and Social Impact
La Trobe University
kevin.brown@latrobe.edu.au



Project

Social Glue? The contribution of sport and active recreation to community wellbeing

This project explored the relationship between individuals' involvement in sport and active recreation and perceptions of social inclusion and connectedness as well as how such involvement leads to community wellbeing; and what role these organisations perform in facilitating social inclusion and connectedness of individuals.

Institution

La Trobe University

Type of funding

VicHealth-supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Duration

3 years

Outcomes

Several journal articles were published as a result of this research and include: [Sport's social provisions](#), published in the Sports Management Review (May 2013), [Generating Trust? Sport and Community Participation](#) in the Journal of Sociology (November 2012), and [Involvement in Sport and Social Connectedness](#) in the International Review for the Sociology of Sport (November 2012).

Discrimination

Chief Investigator

Dr Naomi Priest
Senior Research Fellow
McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
npriest@unimelb.edu.au



Project

Understanding the impact of racism on Indigenous child health

While the relationship between racism and poor health is increasingly being recognised, there is currently little Australian research on this topic. While there is some data available on the health effects of racism for Indigenous children and young people in Australia, this data is yet to be analysed by researchers. This project undertook the task of analysing this existing data in order to build knowledge in this important area in order to influence future research, policy and practice that seeks to understand and address the impacts of racism on health.

Institution

The University of Melbourne

Type of funding

2009 Research Project Grants

Duration

2 years

Outcomes

Dr Priest's results were published in several journals, including:

[Exploring relationships between racism, housing and child illness in remote Indigenous communities](#) in the Journal of Epidemiology (November 2010),

[Racism as a determinant of social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal youth](#) in the Medical Journal of Australia (May 2011),

[Racism and health among urban Aboriginal Young People](#) in the British Medical Journal (July 2011),

[Discrimination and psychological adjustment amongst Australian children from Middle-Eastern and Asian backgrounds](#) in the Australian Community Psychologist (April 2011).

Workplace health

Chief Investigator

Dr Jeremy Moss
Director of the Social Justice Initiative
The University of Melbourne
jmoss@unimelb.edu.au



Project

Health Freedom and Independent Contracting

This project investigated the ethical implications of insecure employment, independent contracting, flexible and temporary employment characterised by high job insecurity, in terms of its affect on the health and wellbeing of individuals in rural Victoria. The project was the first major study of the lived experience of workers in insecure employment in rural Victoria and offers insights to industry and policy makers about employment practices. Through its focus on ethical and health issues, the project aimed to make a major contribution to employment and health policy in Australia.

Institution

The Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne

Type of funding

VicHealth-supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Duration

3 years

Outcomes

Dr Moss' final report [Health, Freedom and Work in Rural Victoria](#) was released in October 2011. Dr Moss and his team also published several journal articles, including [Health, Freedom and Work in Rural Victoria: The Impact of Labour Market Casualisation on Health and Wellbeing](#) in Health Sociology Review (March 2012) and [Recognition and Work in the Flexible Economy](#) (2012) in the Journal of Australian Political Economy.

Social inclusion

Chief Investigators

Dr Amaryll Perlesz
Associate Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences
La Trobe University
a.perlesz@latrobe.edu.au



Associate Professor Ruth McNair,
The University of Melbourne

Dr Rhonda Brown, Deakin University

Dr Jennifer Power, The University of Melbourne

Professor Margot Schofield, La Trobe University

Project

Work, Love, Play – Understanding resilience in same-sex parent families

The Work, Love, Play project is a longitudinal study of families parented by same-sex attracted couples and single parents.

This study used online surveys alongside a study of separated couples with children. The research investigated the ways in which cultural attitudes toward, and the legal status of, same-sex couples who are parents influence the experiences of separation as well as the ways same-sex couples engage with mainstream organisations to access support during separation.

A further aspect of the project involved working with service providers to develop a set of Good Practice Guidelines for working with same-sex parented families. These Guidelines are targeted toward family and child services and may also be relevant to GPs and other health and community services.

Institution

La Trobe University

Type of funding

VicHealth-supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Duration

3 years

Outcomes

The [Brief Report](#) and the [Guidelines for Healthcare Providers Working with Same-Sex Parented Families](#) were released in 2012. The Work, Love, Play research study will continue beyond this ARC research project; visit the study [website](#) for more information and resources.

Food and nutrition

Chief Investigators

Dr Cate Burns
Senior Research Fellow
Deakin University
cate.burns@deakin.edu.au

Professor Kostas Mavromaras
Director, National Institute of Labour Studies
Flinders University
k.mavromaras@flinders.edu.au

Professor Anthony Scott
Professorial Research Fellow
Melbourne University
a.scott@unimelb.edu.au



Project

Understanding the impact of income and poverty on the purchase of healthy and unhealthy foods

This study aimed to investigate the relationship between cost and other attributes of choice that effect food choices. Characteristics of participants including markers of obesity, income, poverty, values around food and health were analysed to determine the association with food purchasing behaviour. Hypothetical policies relating to food costs and economics were analysed to develop recommendations for social, educational, health and economic policy recommendations to encourage those in lower socio-economic groups to adopt healthier eating patterns.

Institution

WHO Collaborating Centre Obesity Prevention, Deakin University

Type of funding

VicHealth-supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Duration

3 years

Outcomes

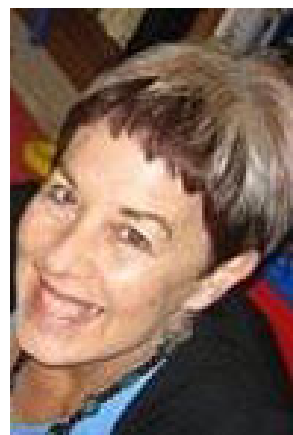
Gary Sacks from Deakin University, a Research Fellow and co-investigator on this project, was interviewed on the topic of taxes on unhealthy foods on multiple occasions during 2011. Newspaper articles appeared in [The Australian](#) and [The Age](#).

Sacks also published several articles on [The Conversation](#) website, including [Is a 'fat tax' the answer to Australia's obesity crisis](#), and presented findings at the VicHealth Nutrition Forum in November 2012.

Preventing violence against women

Chief Investigator

Dr Angela Taft
Associate Professor
Mother and Child Health Research Centre
La Trobe University



Project

MOVE: Improving Maternal and Child Health Care for Vulnerable Mothers

The MOVE study tested whether an improved model of maternal and child health (MCH) nurse screening and care for new mothers experiencing family violence improved disclosure and referral rates, satisfaction with care and improved outcomes for mothers and their children. The MOVE intervention included greater involvement of family violence services with MCH nurse teams, innovative team strategies including nurse mentors, and new consensus guidelines, strategies and resources.

MOVE also measured the prevalence of reported partner abuse to provide an accurate estimate of the proportion of MCH clients who had ever or were currently experiencing intimate partner violence.

Type of funding

VicHealth-supported Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Duration

3 years

Outcomes

Clinical resources developed for MOVE (MCH specific clinical practice guidelines, a clinical referral pathway and a maternal wellbeing checklist) are available from the Mother and Child Health Research centre website for all MCH nurses to use: www.latrobe.edu.au/mchr/research/health-services-research/move

Dr Taft and her team published findings from this research in journals, including [Enhanced maternal and child health nurse care for women experiencing intimate partner/family violence: protocol for MOVE, a cluster randomised trial of screening and referral in primary health care](#) in the British Medical Journal (September 2012). [Screening women for intimate partner violence in healthcare](#) was published online by the Cochrane Collaboration (April 2013).



Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
PO Box 154 Carlton South, VIC 3053 Australia
T +61 3 9667 1333 F +61 3 9667 1375
vichealth@vichealth.vic.gov.au
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

January 2014

VicHealth acknowledges the support
of the Victorian Government.

