Member Profile 1

Rachael Fox
As a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology, I work and teach around community psychology, mental health and qualitative research methods. My research centres around engaging children and young people in qualitative participatory methods, particularly about their experiences of social exclusion and mental health. I have undertaken several research projects with young people about their access to services, which often can be problematic for them. I also supervise research students, researching in regional, rural and remote (RRR) areas in the following topics: mental health services and remote Indigenous Australian community access; family and domestic violence and emergency health service provision; respite young carer services in RRR areas; paramedics and mental health; and access to mental health services for GBTIQ young people in RRR areas. RF.

Progress & Successes

A/Prof Rylee Dionigi co-edited a special issue in Annals of Leisure Research. Following are her introductions and paper for this special issue.


Partner Organisation
Marathon Health’s Specialist Support Coordination Team (SSCOT) provides an innovative multidisciplinary allied health service, focussing on improving the wellbeing of adults with severe and persistent mental illness. The SSCOT was conceived as a response to the nationally recognised gap in the mental health field between Specialist Clinical Services, which are mainly focussed on addressing crises and acute mental illness, and Social Supports, such as the direct care services, that are needed by many people with mental illness to manage their everyday living. The service is funded by NSW Health under the Mental Health Reform Innovation Fund and works collaboratively with the Western NSW Partners in Recovery programme.

Following our tendering process, A/Prof. Oliver Burmeister and A/Prof. Russell Roberts from the HSR group at CSU were successful in their bid to provide evaluation services of the SSCOT project. The HSR team has developed a collaborative research plan that provide a comprehensive assessment of the project against KPIs and opportunities for participants and staff to develop their understanding and capabilities of clinical research. We are excited about our partnership with the HSR Group on this project and look forward to working together to develop and extend these important clinical services. Dr Matt Thomas, Clinical Psychologist.

Member’s Success Story 1
The Journal of Information, Communication & Ethics in Society publishes one paper by an international expert each year, to which 3-4 other experts write a 1,500 word response. Our A/Professor Oliver Burmeister was invited to be the expert for 2017, on the topic “Professional Ethics in the Information Age”. The article is now available via www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1108/JICES-11-2016-0045. It compares the young profession of ICT to the older health professions, to show what more needs to be done in ICT for it to mature as a profession.
Member Profile 2
Hi everyone. My name is Alex (Sandy) MacQuarrie and I am a lecturer and researcher in the Paramedic program, SBMS in Bathurst. I am a former paramedic (ground, fixed wing and helicopter), senior manager and now educator at CSU, joining in 2013. My PhD is on the physical demands of paramedic job performance in collaboration with NSW Ambulance. I use Hexoskin wearable shirts (www.hexoskin.com) for biometric monitoring of paramedics while responding to emergencies. Collaborative efforts include working with School of Exercise Science studying paramedic fitness and with the School of Teacher Education in a pilot project exploring wellness in early childhood educators. With others, I am part of an informal working group (The Edge Human Performance Group) to share knowledge, technologies and experiences in biometric monitoring. I live and work in Bathurst, spending time playing squash, triathlons and as a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service. SM.

Member’s Success Story 2
CSU Health Services Management academic Dr David Ritchie has a partnership with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District to provide an Advanced Management Practice capstone learning experience for Master of Health Services Management students. The first project in 2014 led to the consultancy awarded to Professor Mark Morrison and A/Professor Zahid Islam. Since then the student teams have worked on an Aboriginal Health project investigating access and experience of health services, and the project is now based in the Narrandera community and is now a continuous rather than discrete project, and potentially could run a further 5-7 years. The project is complex and challenging the bio-medical model of health and is moving towards a social determinants model embracing a community development approach. A multi-disciplinary academic approach can be supported to strengthen the impact on this community. Expressions of interest invited for participation. DR

Members’ Say
What would you like to see in future HSR Progress issues? Will we see you featured in future HSR Progress? If yes, send items to Dr Shaun Wang

Member’s Success Story 3
On October 11-13th Dr Brona Nic Giolla Easpaigh and I, Dr Jodie Kleinschafer, attended the Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium in Albury. I delivered a presentation on the appropriateness of the NDIS for Mental Health funding. Brona from CSU also presented on LGBTI youth service access in rural communities. Both of our presentations were well received and generated much discussion. The Symposium Chair was our own A/Professor Russell Roberts. This was a great conference to network and discuss rural health matters including legal, policy, clinical, research and implementation issues and be a part of and learn about the wonderful initiatives taking place in the rural and remote Australia. Key note speakers included the CEO’s of the Mental Health Commission, Beyond Blue, Mental Health Australia and several PHN’s as well as the Principal Research Fellow for the NHMRC. The next Symposium is in Hobart 15-17 Oct, 2018. JK

Goals of HSR Progress
To facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas and foster collaborations within the group and with our partners.

HSR Progress Coordinator & Editor: Dr Shaoyu (Shaun) Wang
HSR Group Leader: A/Prof. Oliver Burmeister Deputy: A/Prof. Zahid Islam
Note: Editor has the right to edit submissions without consulting submitters