The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) is in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.
# Contents

## About NCHSR
- Research priorities 1
- Director's report 2
- Scientific Advisory Committee 3
- Staff 4

## Our research
- Mapping risk practice 5
- Negotiating the medical field 6
- Exploring cultural dynamics: risk and health 7
- Health knowledges, policies and practices 8
- International studies 9

## Links
- Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases 10
  - Workshops 11
  - Practicum/Internships 11
  - Scholarships 11
  - Consortium Clearinghouse 11
- Community liaison 12
  - HIV 12
  - Hepatitis C 13
- Collaborations 14
- HIV/AIDS Library Network 15
- Committees 16
  - National and international 16
  - State and community 16
  - The University of New South Wales 16
- Scholarly journals 17
  - Editorial board members 17
  - Peer reviewing for journals 17
  - Reviewing other than for journals 17
- Conferences attended 18
- Colloquium series 2005 19
- Visitors 20
Education and research training 34
Health, Sexuality and Culture program 35
Lectures and workshops 35
Postgraduate students 36
Theses examined 42

Publications 43
Monographs 44
Book chapters 44
Articles in refereed journals 45
Refereed conference proceedings 48
Other publications 48
Conference presentations 48
Other presentations 53

Funding 55
About NCHSR

The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) was established in 1990 by the Australian Government to undertake a program of social research related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Since that time its focus has broadened to include hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections.
Research priorities

NCHSR’s major research priorities are:

- to conduct research that contributes to the management of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases in the most affected communities
- to conduct studies of the shared, everyday understandings of sexuality, sexual practice and illicit drug use, with particular reference to the normative structures and cultural and subcultural understandings that inform those practices
- to conduct studies of the individual, interpersonal and cultural impact of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases on those directly affected, their carers and their communities, and to identify the strategies and health care models appropriate to deal with that impact
- to identify the individual, interpersonal and societal characteristics that contribute to prevention strategies, and to identify the barriers to their adoption by those at risk of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases
- to conduct studies of the social and personal aspects of the conduct of clinical trials, including vaccines
- to conduct research into the personal, social, economic and cultural impact of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases.
In 2005 NCHSR continued to consolidate its research in HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections. In particular we had considerable success in the international HIV research arena and in strengthening our links between research and policy and practice. NCHSR successfully ran its first full-semester MA courses, creating a forum for pedagogy around social inquiry into HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections. Many of those enrolled in these courses came from the government and non-government sectors.

The work of our community liaison officers Michael Salter and Ruth Braunstein, both newly appointed in 2005, has been central to our efforts to get research into policy and practice. One of the major aims of the Consortium—a joint venture by NCHSR and the Social Policy Research Centre, also at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, the AIDS Council of NSW, the Hepatitis C Council of NSW, the NSW Users and AIDS Association, People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) and the NSW Health Workforce Development Program—is to get research into policy and practice, to strengthen links between researchers and policy makers and to build research capacity with government and non-government organisations.

The year 2005 was the second full working year of the Consortium and one of its many achievements was the establishment of the Consortium Clearinghouse, designed and managed so expertly by Maude Frances. This database of Australian research relating to HIV, hepatitis C and injecting drug use, alongside related policy documents and health promotion materials, is designed to facilitate access to resources across the sector and is central to informing policy and practice.

A new research collaboration was formed between NCHSR and the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in a project involving video-taping injecting practice. This research, with support from the UNSW Career Advancement Fund, was initiated by Dr Carla Treloar and aimed to contribute to innovative hepatitis C prevention messages. And, in a somewhat different way, the publication of the book Doing it Down Under: The Sexual Lives of Australians by Dr Juliet Richters and Dr Chris Rissel will build links with policy and practice. One of the aims of its publication was to make research findings accessible to audiences beyond those in academic institutions.

In the international sphere, NCHSR successfully tendered for three projects, one of which focuses on behavioural surveillance in Sri Lanka, another on building social research capacity in Papua New Guinea, and the third on documenting the social and economic impact of HIV in PNG, Indonesia and East Timor. Much of our...
success in building an international research program is due to the efforts of Dr Heather Worth, who heads up international research at NCHSR. She and others at the Centre have been working closely with Professor Daniel Tarantola, who took up the Chair in Human Rights and Health at UNSW in 2005, to establish research focused on human rights in the context of the rapidly expanding HIV epidemic in parts of the Asia-Pacific region. NCHSR was intimately involved in initiating the idea for this Chair and we are delighted to be part of this research. NCHSR has also been involved in the University’s initiative of setting up UNSW-Asia, a second UNSW campus, in Singapore, through which we hope to establish closer partnerships with several key researchers in Singapore.

NCHSR was successful in attracting a number of competitive grants in 2005, including: an Australian Research Council Linkage grant with both government and community partners to examine the role of the internet in the sexual lives of gay and homosexually active men, and two grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the first to explore depression among gay men and people living with HIV, and the second to look at the role of sexually transmissible infections in HIV transmission. Two grants undertaken with the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (a partnership between the Sax Institute and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW) focus on the experience of illness and health among Aboriginal communities and mark the growing research expertise of NCHSR researchers in this area. A Commonwealth grant received in 2005 was funded through the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) to investigate the use of treatment services by injecting drug users. Several NCHSR researchers also received funding from the UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in 2005 to explore some new areas of research. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these projects, which may lead to bigger things in the future.

Our new research continues alongside our core research program, which continues to monitor the sexual and drug using practices of populations at risk of HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible diseases in Australia and to assess the impact of treatments in affected populations. We are renewing our efforts to understand the current increases in HIV transmissions along the eastern seaboard. Similarly, NCHSR is working to ensure that its research informs Australia’s response to continuing hepatitis C transmission.

To acknowledge our growth, NCHSR has been restructured. We now work in four major areas: HIV, sexually transmissible infections and sexual health, hepatitis C and illicit drug use, and international health. Each of these areas is managed by a senior member of staff: Susan Kippax, Juliet Richters, Carla Treloar and Heather Worth, respectively.

NCHSR welcomed a number of visitors in 2005: Professor Harm Hospers and Jochen Mikolajczak from the University of Maastricht, Netherlands; Dr Merete Hellum from Gothenburg University in Sweden; Herick Aeno and Lawrence Hammar from the Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, PNG; Dr Celia Roberts from Lancaster University; Dr John Imrie from University College London; Professor Peter Aggleton from the Thomas Coram Research Unit, University of London; and Dr Ian Lubek from the University of Guelph, Canada.

Staff members of NCHSR presented papers and posters at a number of national and international conferences including the AIDS Impact Conference in Cape Town, the International Harm Reduction Conference in Belfast, the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference in Hobart and the Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs Conference in Melbourne.

I also take this opportunity to welcome new staff members who have joined the research team: Dr Joanne Bryant, Dr Lorraine Yap, Dr Iryna Zablotska and Melissa Saxton. I also welcome Ruth Braunstein, Michael Salter and Cris Scott who have joined the communications and liaison group at NCHSR.
Scientific Advisory Committee

NCHSR is advised by the Scientific Advisory Committee, a group of experts from social science, public health and non-government organisations. Its major role is to oversee NCHSR’s research, including its annual work plan.

Chair
Professor Allan Kellehear, Director, Palliative Care Unit, School of Public Health, La Trobe University

Members
Ms Gayle Anderson, Hepatitis C & HIV/AIDS Section, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Professor Ian Anderson, Research Director, Cooperative Research Centre in Aboriginal Health, The University of Melbourne
Ms Jane Bell, Assistant Director, Hepatitis C Section, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Mr Simon Donohoe, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Professor Annette Hamilton, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales
Professor John Kaldor, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR), The University of New South Wales
Professor Susan Kippax, National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR), The University of New South Wales
Associate Professor Pranee Liamputtong, School of Public Health, La Trobe University
Ms Annie Madden, Executive Officer, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League
Professor Jake Najman, Professor of Sociology, The School of Social Science, The University of Queensland
Professor Marian Pitts, Director, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), La Trobe University
Associate Professor David Plummer, School of Health, University of New England, Armidale*
Ms Julianne Quaine, Acting Director, Hepatitis C Section, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Mr John Rule, HIV Living Unit, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Professor Sheila Shaver, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, University of Western Sydney
Professor Bryan Turner, Asia Research unit, National University of Singapore, Singapore (Corresponding Member)
Ms Helen Tyrrell, Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council (AHC)
Dr Catherine Waldby, School of Sociology, The University of New South Wales
Dr Heather Worth, National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR), The University of New South Wales

*part-year
About NCHSR

Staff

Director
Professor Susan Kippax, BA (Hons), PhD, FASSA

Deputy Directors
Carla Treloar, BSc(Hons), PhD
Heather Worth, BA, MA(Hons), PhD

Senior Research Fellows
Robert Reynolds, BA(Hons), PhD, MCoun
Juliet Richters, BA, MPH, PhD

Research Fellows
Erol Digiusto, BSc(Hons), PhD
Suzanne Fraser, BA(Hons), PhD
Henrike Körner, BA(Hons), DipEd, MA, PhD
Patrick Rawstorne, BA(Hons)
Iryna Zablotska, MD, MPH, PhD*‡

Lecturer
Kane Race, BA(Hons), LLB, PhD

Research Associates
Joanne Bryant, BSc, MSc, PhD*
Martin Holt, BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD
Max Hopwood, BA(Hons)
Limin Mao, BMed, MEdAdmin, PhD
Christy Newman, BA(Hons), PhD†
Asha Persson, BA(Hons), PhD
kylie valentine, BA(Hons), PhD†
Lorraine Yap, BA(Hons), PhD*

Research Officers
Jeanne Ellard, BA(Hons), MPhil
Andrea Fogarty, BPsych(Hons), MIPH
Peter Hull, BPsych(Hons)
Hédimo Santana, BA(Hons) †‡
Melissa Saxton, BAdvSc*

Research Consultants
Jeanne Abelson, BA(Hons), MPsych(Clin), DPhil†
June Crawford, BA(Hons), PhD†

Work placement student
Louise Redsull (University of Bath, United Kingdom)*‡

Adjunct Professor
Peter Aggleton, BA, DipEd, MEd, MA, PhD§

Adjunct Research Fellows
Anne Grunseit, BA(Hons), PhD§
Marsha Rosengarten, BA, GradDipComms, MA, PhD§

Non-Contract Staff
Mark Adnum, BA(Hons) *‡
Abigail Groves, BA(Hons), MA*‡
Magdalena Harris, BA(Hons), MA*‡
Tatyana Leist, BPsych(Hons) *‡
Mark McPherson, BSc, DipEd, GradDipEdStuds, MEd, GradDipPsych*‡

Research Resource Manager
Maude Frances, BA(Hons), GradDipInf&LibMgt

Librarian
Cris Scott, BSc, DTPH, GradDipInf&LibMgt*‡

Research Manager
Christy Newman, BA(Hons), PhD†

Editor and Publishing Manager
Sarah Fitzherbert, BA(Hons)†

Publications Officer
Judi Rainbow†

Community Liaison Officers
Ruth Braunstein, BA, PGradDipPsych, PGradDipPsychPractice, Assoc. MAPS*†
Michael Salter, BA(Hons)*
New staff

Iryna Zablotska, Research Fellow

Iryna started her career as a medical practitioner and moved to research in public health. She received her PhD at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, US, and her primary areas of interest are epidemiology, HIV, sexual behaviours, the impact of human behaviour on health, lived experiences of people with HIV, and reproductive health. During her research career she has worked on issues such as the health consequences of risky sexual behaviour, HIV, family planning/abortion in the Newly Independent States (the former Soviet Union), utilisation of delivery services in resource-poor settings, evaluation of health communication programs, and health consequences of partner violence against women. She has also provided consulting services in the US and helped the Ministry of Health of the Ukraine to design evaluation programs for HIV prevention efforts. At NCHSR Iryna oversees the Positive Health cohort study of HIV-positive men who have sex with men and the six gay community periodic surveys conducted regularly in Australian state capital cities.

Joanne Bryant, Research Associate

Joanne has a background in public health and sociology. Her research interests are gender and health, subjectivity, injecting drug use, and cross-applications of qualitative and quantitative research methods. At NCHSR she is working on quantitative projects relating to drug use and hepatitis C. Before coming to NCHSR she worked on population data management and reproductive health research projects at the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare.

Lorraine Yap, Research Associate

Lorraine is a medical anthropologist. She has worked as a technical advisor for China’s National Centre in AIDS Prevention Control, on development projects for the China–Australia Xinjiang HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care, and on behavioural intervention projects with Family Health International in China. Her work in China was mainly capacity building and on projects involving commercial sex workers and intravenous drug users. At NCHSR she is working on the Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners project. She enjoys the challenges of working in resource-constrained settings.

Melissa Saxton, Research Officer

Melissa has completed a Bachelor of Advanced Science in social psychology at UNSW. Her research project investigated whether older people engage in more socially inappropriate behaviour than younger people as a consequence of deficits in inhibitory ability. At NCHSR Melissa is working on the National Drug Treatment Users project, a partnership between NCHSR and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League. She is responsible for conducting telephone interviews and organising and analysing the data. She enjoys the opportunity to apply what she has learned at university in a multidisciplinary and supportive research environment.
About NCHSR

Cris Scott, Librarian
Cris worked in a variety of hospital clinical laboratories. In 2000 she completed a course in Library and Information Management at UNSW and became a librarian. Before joining NCHSR Cris worked part-time as a librarian at the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse in the School of Social Work, where she catalogued items for its clearinghouse website. At NCHSR her responsibilities are to maintain the Centre library and the Consortium Clearinghouse.

Michael Salter, Community Liaison Officer, HIV
Michael's background is in politics and sociology. He worked as a policy advisor to the Australian Labor Party in Melbourne, where he worked in a social policy portfolio focusing on non-government organisations. Before that, he worked for the University of Oxford as a project manager at a social research centre that investigated the social impact of the internet. His focus at NCHSR has been on strategic planning in community liaison and advancing the ‘getting research into policy and practice’ agenda.

Ruth Braunstein, Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C
Ruth Braunstein is NCHSR's newly appointed Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C, a position new to the Centre. Ruth is working on a strategic initiative to strengthen research partnerships nationwide between NCHSR social researchers and communities living with, at risk of and affected by hepatitis C. Ruth’s background includes delivering services to disadvantaged individuals and groups in the community and non-government sectors. She has worked with the four priority population groups named in the Commonwealth’s Hepatitis C Strategy: Indigenous people, prisoners, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and youth. She has a particular interest in Aboriginal health and well-being. Most recently, Ruth worked in strategic policy and research with the NSW government. She is employed at NCHSR two days per week.
Our research

Research at the National Centre in HIV Social Research falls into five broad areas:

- Mapping risk practice
- Negotiating the medical field
- Exploring cultural dynamics: risk and health
- Health knowledges, practices and policies
- International studies

More information about the following studies and a summary of results from many of them are published in our *Annual report of trends in behaviour.*
Mapping risk practice

The studies listed under this category are all concerned with the mapping of safe and unsafe practices—both sexual and drug use practices. The first study described below is a longitudinal study; most of the remainder are repeat cross-sectional or ‘snapshot’ studies. While the snapshot studies of drug use and the Australian Study of Health and Relationships provide baseline data on risk associated with sexual and drug use practices, the longitudinal and repeat studies allow researchers to monitor practice and to reliably assess changes in risk over time.

All studies examine sexual and drug use practice with reference to the interpersonal and social lives of the populations under study. Thus the meanings of practice are explored and, in the case of the longitudinal study, the determinants of risk are identified.

Health in men (HIM) cohort study
Kippax, Crawford and Mao

An open cohort enrolling approximately 500 HIV-negative gay men per annum was established in Sydney in July 2001 to monitor risk practice and HIV incidence in the context of vaccine initiatives. By December 2004, 1427 men had been recruited into the study and the project stopped recruiting new participants. The study examines risk from sexual behaviour and drug use, beliefs and understandings of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, expectations of vaccines, and motivations for taking part in vaccine trials. Data are collected on the nature of sexual relationships, HIV status of respondents and their partners, sexually transmissible infections, HIV optimism–scepticism, and reported hepatitis A, B and C infections. To enable coordinated national data collection on risk practices, questions assessing risk practice match those from the earlier cohort study Sydney Men and Sexual Health (SMASH) and are compatible with questions asked in the Gay Community Periodic Surveys (GCPS), the Male Call and Male Out projects and the Positive Health (PH) cohort study (see page 12). The aims of the study are to establish a baseline of risk practice among potential vaccine trial participants and to inform community-based organisations and other agencies engaged in health promotion about men’s current understandings of vaccine initiatives. The study is conducted by NCHSR in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON).

Between 2002 and 2005, around 80% of the men recruited into the cohort had been followed up. NCHSR is currently developing a joint report that presents data from both the PH and HIM cohorts, in order to provide a more comprehensive analysis of sexual health and general well-being of HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay and homosexually identified men in Sydney. In 2005 an 18-month extension of the study, from January 2006, was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The study team is now focusing on the determinants of HIV seroconversion and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and the role played by STIs in the transmission of HIV.

Gay community periodic surveys
Rawstorne and Hull

The first periodic survey of gay men’s sexual practice was conducted in Sydney in February 1996 and the survey has been conducted every six months since then. Longitudinal cross-sectional data are also collected, in most cases annually, in a number of other major centres in Australia: Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine coasts, Cairns and Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. Sample
sizes vary, ranging from 2300 in Sydney to 350 in Canberra. Data are collected on the sexual practice of men recruited from a range of sex venues, social venues and sexual health clinics, as well as from annual events such as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. These data provide useful monitoring of changes in the sexual practice and drug use of gay men, but they do not provide detailed data on sexual and other practices nor on the interpersonal and sociocultural contexts of risk. The studies are conducted by NCHSR in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and local AIDS councils.

In 2005 surveys were conducted in Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Cairns and Townsville) and Adelaide. In 2006 surveys will be conducted in Perth and Canberra. We are currently exploring the feasibility of conducting surveys in Darwin and Hobart for the first time in 2006.

Periodic survey of drug use among young people
Treloar, Digiusto and Bryant

Most monitoring of drug use has focused on those who attend needle and syringe programs or drug treatment programs/clinics. Young people who engage in the music scenes in Australian capital cities and their suburbs use drugs, and many access needles and syringes from pharmacies. Annual periodic surveys of young people recruited from a number of youth music festivals provide data on risk practice, access to clean needles and syringes, and the contexts of drug use, both injecting and non-injecting. In 2004 and 2005 a pilot study testing various recruitment methodologies was conducted at several large music festivals in NSW. Data collected about recruitment techniques were analysed. Follow-up surveys will be conducted in NSW in 2006, with plans to expand data collection in 2007.

Australian study of health and relationships
Richters

In this national study of men’s and women’s sexual health, behaviour and attitudes, 19,307 randomly selected people aged over 16 and under 60 were interviewed by telephone. Questions focused on sexual relationships, sexual practice and sexual health. The main report was published in April 2003 in the form of 20 papers in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. In 2005 further peer-reviewed papers, a book for the general public (*Doing It Down Under: The Sexual Lives of Australians*) and a book chapter were published, and papers based on further analyses about circumcision, orgasm, coercion, young people and other topics were accepted for publication. This is a collaborative project with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Sydney South West Area Health Service and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

Australian longitudinal study of health and relationships
Richters

The main aim of the study is to follow a nationally representative group of Australians over their lifetime, documenting the natural history and patterns of health and relationships, using telephone interviews. Among other areas, the study explores reproductive and sexual health behaviours and attitudes, relationship formation and changes, health status and behaviour, and family demographics. A total of 8205 people have been recruited into the study, of whom 7804 have agreed to be followed up over time. This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and is based at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society in Melbourne.

University student surveys
Richters and Song

In 2002 and 2003, first-year UNSW students were recruited at a stall at Orientation Week to complete a questionnaire on sexual behaviour, knowledge and attitudes. This was based on earlier surveys run from 1988 to 1999 at Macquarie
University. Two papers were published in 2005, one on the changes over a decade in sexual practices among the Macquarie students, and one on the differences in knowledge and practice between Australian- and Asian-born students at UNSW.

**Sydney women and sexual health**

Richters and Song

This is a study of women in contact with Sydney gay and lesbian communities, based on a self-complete questionnaire survey that has been handed out every two years since 1996 at gay and lesbian community events such as Mardi Gras Fair Day. It was initiated by staff at the AIDS Council of NSW in order to inform health promotion programs for gay and lesbian drug users and for women partners of bisexual men. ACON staff approached NCHSR for help with design of the survey instrument and analysis and reporting of findings. Since then, the project’s aims have broadened beyond that of ascertaining risks of transmission of HIV and other blood-borne viruses, extending to wider issues of lesbian sexuality and health (use of dental dams, smoking, Pap smears, domestic violence). As well as resulting in scholarly publications, for example on the complexities and contradictions of sexual behaviour and identity, this project has had practical outcomes such as influencing ACON’s decision to cease distribution of dental dams (for protected oral sex between women) at community events. Data on sexual health and other risks among women in contact with the gay and lesbian community were presented to the Lesbian Health Network in March 2005.

**Sexual health and attitudes of Australian prisoners**

Richters and Yap

This project was developed in conjunction with the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, using their experience on the NSW Inmates Health Survey. This NHMRC-funded project (2005–2007) will survey prisoners in New South Wales and Queensland about their sexual health and related behaviour, using a questionnaire based on the one used in the Australian Study of Health and Relationships. The study also includes a qualitative component in which fieldwork in prisons and in-depth interviews are carried out in order to learn about the patterns of sexual contact within gaols and the physical and institutional structures and practices that prevent or enable sexual coercion. As well as gaining information about the sexual health, attitudes and behaviour of members of society who, even when they are out of gaol, tend to be less likely to respond to surveys, we hope to find out enough about the dynamics of sex and sexual violence in gaol to make practical recommendations for the prevention of sexual assault.

**Negotiating the medical field**

The studies listed here are concerned with the interface between health/illness and clinical practice. They include studies adopting a survey design method, but most are studies focused on an in-depth examination of embodied response to medical practice and/or the social production and construction of meaning and practice.

**Positive health: men who have sex with men (MSM) living with HIV**

Rawstorne, Zablotska, Fogarty and Kippax

The Positive Health study is a quantitative cohort study of HIV-positive men living in New South Wales and Victoria who have sex with other men. The study follows the same men across time to gain a better understanding of treatment uptake and adherence to drug regimens, decisions to stop treatment, side effects, knowledge of HIV treatments, sexual practice, quality of life, and dosing practices.
in relation to clinical and bodily experiences of HIV and AIDS. It also seeks to provide ongoing monitoring of changes in testing behaviour in relation to CD4 counts and viral load. In 2005 the first round of serology testing for sexually transmissible infections was completed, with plans to continue further testing in 2006. A major focus of the Positive Health study is to provide a basis for assessing the lived experience of HIV-positive people over time. Participants are drawn from men attending clinics and community groups of HIV-positive people, and from both urban and rural centres. Interviews are scheduled annually, with just over 700 men participating in at least one round of interviews. Around 50 men are freshly recruited each year to counterbalance the effects both of ageing in the cohort and losing participants to follow-up. This study is conducted in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the National Association of People Living with AIDS.

We are currently developing a joint report that presents data from both the Positive Health and Health in Men cohorts, in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the sexual health of both HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay and homosexually identified men.

Living with HIV and cultural diversity
Körner

This study investigated the intersections of living with HIV and belonging to linguistically and culturally diverse groups outside the Anglo-Celtic mainstream. The study focused on common issues across cultures/ethnicities. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews exploring the meaning of diagnosis, as well as access to HIV/AIDS information, health care services, treatment and support. The roles of family and communities and cultural barriers to disclosure were also investigated. The findings will contribute to the development of linguistically and culturally appropriate information and support. The study was conducted in collaboration with the NSW Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service. A project report was published in 2005 and two papers have been submitted for publication.

Barriers to HIV testing among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
Körner and Kippax

This pilot project explored the barriers to HIV testing among patients presenting with advanced HIV infection or AIDS. Based on information from sexual health and social work professionals, it was hypothesised that major barriers to earlier presentation were stigma, fear of disclosure, lack of information and misinformation about HIV/AIDS. All HIV/AIDS patients (from both English-speaking and non-English-speaking backgrounds) of the Bigge Park Sexual Health Centre were interviewed using a questionnaire. The questionnaire collected demographic information and information about the use of health care services, personal reasons for late testing, disclosure and community, and general attitudes towards HIV/AIDS. The study was conducted in collaboration with the Bigge Park Centre, Liverpool Hospital. Data collection is now complete. Preliminary findings were presented at a conference. An application for funding of a larger study was submitted.

Treatment histories: contextualising social narratives of HIV therapy across time
Persson, Ellard and Newman

This qualitative study aimed to understand how social treatment histories evolve when particular medical therapies converge with cultural narratives (educational, clinical, communal and sexual). The study explored how competing and shifting narratives are played out in the community media to produce particular treatment histories. In 2004 an archive of treatments journalism published between 1997 and 2003 in Australian
HIV media material, and treatment campaigns (brochures, pamphlets) from Australian HIV organisations, was compiled and annotated. The project was completed in 2005 and findings were presented in three separate conference papers, one conference poster and two peer-reviewed journal articles (one published and one in press).

The striaghtpoz study: men and women living heterosexually with HIV
Persson, Barton, Fogarty and Rawstorne

This qualitative study is conducted in collaboration with Pozhet, the Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Service in NSW. It is the first study of its kind in Australia to explore the experiences of men and women living heterosexually with HIV, including seronegative partners. The study aims to identify issues that are significant and specific to this group and to understand the cultural intersections of gender, sexuality and illness, focusing on themes such as diagnosis, disclosure, sexuality, relationships, children, sociality and contact with HIV services and other positive people. Interviews were conducted with 31 participants in 2004 and 2005. Findings from the study were presented at the 2005 ASHM conference and in community forums. A report will be completed by October 2006. Further dissemination and publication of findings will take place throughout 2006 and 2007. Funding has been sought from NSW Health to renew the Straightpoz cohort study over time to enable exploration of additional issues among heterosexuals with HIV, including health, treatments, perceptions of risk and transmission. Pending funding, a second round of interviews will be conducted in 2006.

Aboriginal people living with HIV in urban and rural settings in Western Australia
Kippax and Newman

This project was conducted by the Western Australian Department of Health with NCHSR acting as consultant and co-author on selected publications. The aim was to document, through 20 in-depth interviews, the experience of living with HIV among urban and rural Aboriginal people in Western Australia, and thereby to inform programs to reduce the social impact of HIV in Aboriginal communities. The interviews focused on issues relating to the impact of HIV on everyday life. This qualitative study gave a voice to Aboriginal people living with HIV in Western Australia. Two collaboratively authored journal articles were developed in 2005, and two conference papers presented.

Barriers and incentives to drug treatment: mental health and drug use co-morbidity
Treloar, Holt and Kippax

This study uses qualitative research methodology to provide contextual, in-depth information about barriers and incentives to the uptake of and adherence to treatment by illicit drug users with co-morbidity and complex vulnerabilities. Seventy-seven illicit drug users with histories of depression and/or anxiety disorders participated in interviews at four sites across Australia. In addition, 16 service providers from a variety of categories—such as public and private, and generalist and specialist services—were recruited to participate. Data collection was completed in 2005 and results will be analysed in 2006.

Clinical encounters and hepatitis C
Körner

The aim of this project is to identify social, linguistic and other factors that assist people with hepatitis C to negotiate hepatitis C treatment decisions with their doctors in a clinical setting. Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with doctors about their interactions with patients, and patients about their experiences with doctors. Findings will inform the continuing professional development of general
practitioners as well as the development of support structures for patients with hepatitis C. Data collection was completed in 2005 and analysis is in progress.

**Treatment for hepatitis C infection: management of side effects and treatment experience**

Hopwood and Treloar

This interview-based study explores people’s experiences of treatment for hepatitis C infection. The study aims to uncover patients’ experiences of the physical and psychiatric side effects of treatment and how, for example, side effects impact on intimate relationships, family life, employment, social networks, opportunities for support, adherence to treatment and quality of life. While analysis is ongoing, several major findings have emerged from the data including: four distinct categories of approaches to disclosure of hepatitis C infection and treatment; the impact of unrealistic optimism on treatment experience; the complexity inherent in supporting people during treatment with psychoactive drugs; and participants’ application of the adaptive responses they have learnt as a result of prior adversity to enhance their resilience in coping with treatment side effects. In light of these findings, the authors recommend a strengths-based approach to assessment at pre-treatment evaluation interviews, rather than relying on deficits-based models of assessment. In 2005 five conference papers were presented, five articles were published in community-based magazines and one article is currently under peer review. Work has commenced on a community report, which is due for release in 2006. Data analysis and dissemination will continue throughout 2006.

**Investigating the nature and incidence of, barriers to, and opportunities for, treatment for hepatitis and depression by NSW drug and alcohol treatment agencies**

Digiusti

This study is investigating the current clinical practices relating to diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B and C and depression of representative prescribers at public and private-sector methadone maintenance clinics across NSW. All public and private methadone clinics, and a co-located sample of general practitioners who are methadone prescribers, have been invited to participate in the study. Each representative prescriber is being interviewed by telephone and asked to provide detailed information about: relevant activities and services; perceived barriers to service provision from the points of view of both the patient and the service; and opportunities and recommendations for service improvement.

The process of obtaining ethics approval from all area health services in NSW is completed and 37 of an anticipated 48 prescribers have been interviewed. Data collection is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006. Data analysis and dissemination of results will be completed in 2006.

**National treatment service users project**

Bryant, Holt and Treloar

The inclusion of health service consumers in the planning and delivery of health services has become the norm in many areas of health service delivery in Australia, such as mental health and disability services. However, this has not occurred within drug treatment services. The National Treatment Service Users project uses the consumer participation frameworks applied to other areas of health service delivery to comprehensively evaluate the opportunities for, attitudes towards, and barriers to, consumer participation in the planning and delivery of Australian drug treatment services. The project uses a cross-sectional design and structured interviews to collect quantitative data from a randomly selected sample of service providers and consumers in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Consultations with relevant consumer organisations and key stakeholders will also take place. The project began in 2005 and data collection will be completed in 2006. This study is a partnership between NCHSR and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League.
Exploring cultural dynamics: risk and health

The focus of these studies is on the cultural and social contexts in which health and risk are practised. The studies include examination of the social and other contextual factors around sexual practice, and the interpersonal and discursive production of risk practices and health-seeking activities.

Seroconversion study: gay men’s accounts of HIV seroconversion
Kippax and Ellard

The Seroconversion study, begun in 1993, documents understandings of HIV transmission risks given in accounts by gay men of the event or events that they believe led to their becoming infected. The accounts offered by participants in this study provide significant insights into the context and meanings that surround HIV infection in both casual and regular relationships. The ongoing nature of this study allows for understanding of changes in perceptions of risk over time. To date, over 150 men have been interviewed. This is a collaborative study between NCHSR, the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society and the Albion Street Centre.

Sex, drugs and HIV representation
Race

This project looks at how practices of safety and danger around sex and drugs are mediated by social science and mainstream media. The focus of this study is how ethics of HIV prevention and drug safety are made normatively intelligible, and the distortions, risks, and identities that materialise in this process. Key areas to be explored are discourses of barebacking, serosorting and methamphetamine. A conceptual frame for the project was devised in 2005.

Pleasure consuming medicine
Race

This project aims to provide a queer theory of harm reduction. The research examines neoliberal ideas of drugs and how they articulate contemporary conceptions of citizenship. It makes special reference to the Australian experience of, and policy around, HIV/AIDS and looks at the possibility of querying dominant discourses of compliance and drug abuse on the basis of the collective practices of marginalised groups. A book contract was negotiated with Duke University Press in 2005.

Perceptions of blood-borne virus risk among injecting drug users
Treloar

In 2005 a new project was conducted with clients of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. Clients were videotaped while injecting at the Centre and participated in a follow-up interview the next day in which they reviewed the video recording. The aim of the study was to examine, using psychological constructs of mindlessness (or automatic pilot), constructions of blood-borne virus risk among people who inject drugs, and to contribute strategies for innovative hepatitis C prevention messages.

Information needs and information-seeking practices of people with hepatitis C
Frances and Treloar

This study aims to understand how people with hepatitis C use the internet, in conjunction with other media, to access information. By situating internet
use within people’s everyday realities, the research will provide insights into the sociocultural conditions that facilitate or impede its use. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of hepatitis-C-related discrimination and stigma on information practices. Drawing on theories from sociology and information studies, as well as findings from public health research, the study will enable an integrated approach to providing appropriate information for this group. Qualitative and quantitative data collection was completed in 2005.

Comparing the role of takeaways in methadone maintenance treatment in NSW and Victoria
Kippax, Treloar, Fraser and Valentine

New South Wales and Victoria have very different policies concerning ‘takeaway’ methadone (methadone consumed at home rather than on clinic or pharmacy premises). This three-year project, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, compares these two policy environments by interviewing methadone clients, dosing nurses, dispensing pharmacists, prescribing doctors and drug policy makers. It also investigates the social and cultural meanings given to takeaways by clients and workers, and the circumstances under which diversion of methadone to street sale takes place. The purpose of this study is to better understand the significance of takeaways to clients and workers, and to provide recommendations for future policy.

During 2005 this project continued recruiting and interviewing study participants. All New South Wales data collection is now complete. Coding and analysis of the data has also progressed. In addition, a review essay based on the study was published in a refereed journal, and a refereed journal article written.

Substitution, enhancement, autonomy: making treatment regimes with hormones and methadone
Fraser, Valentine, Roberts (UK)

This investigation will combine, for the first time, research into substitution pharmacotherapies (methadone) and hormone replacement to illuminate the forces at work in both, and provide new insights into the connections between these very different treatment regimes. The project will draw on empirical evidence and theoretical scholarship. It will investigate the importance of concepts such as dependence, choice, rationality, gender, knowledge and volition in these relationships. It will contribute to feminist science and technology studies, scholarship and debates around the materiality of drugs and the body, and technologies of the self. This project brings together, for the first time, three researchers working on the social and cultural aspects of two different substitution treatments: methadone maintenance treatment and hormone replacement therapy. In doing so, it aims to generate new theoretical and empirical perspectives on substitution treatments, and to produce two refereed publications and a workshop from the findings.

Collaboration commenced in early 2005. Since then, a paper has been written, and arrangements for the workshop (to be held in April 2006) have been put in place. Negotiations are under way for a journal special issue to emerge from the study.

Study of environment on Aboriginal resilience and child health (SEARCH)
Kippax

This study, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2005, will establish a cohort of Aboriginal families living in urban areas and large regional centres to investigate, over a twenty-year period, the causes of health and illness with a focus on physical, community and family environments. The study aims to investigate the relationship between a healthy environment and a range of health outcomes in Aboriginal children and young people living in urban areas, and the impact of a community-led program on the development of healthy environments and the health of children. Six Aboriginal medical services (AMSs) have agreed to
participate. Preliminary discussions with communities indicate that within existing resource constraints it will be possible to recruit 400 families. Information is to be collected using a variety of measures, including: observational measures of housing quality and safety; focus group discussions; survey and questionnaire assessments of self-reported health, resilience, social and emotional well-being, family structure, social support and community engagement; and AMS medical records.

NCHSR is leading the ‘resilience’ subgroup whose task is to investigate the resilience of Aboriginal families and communities recruited into the study, develop a set of questions for a baseline SEARCH survey, and develop a profile of resilience among urban Aboriginal communities in New South Wales.

Living with uncertainty: creating the postmodern self in contemporary Australia
Reynolds and Holt

How well are individuals negotiating the uncertainties and choices of postmodernity? What are the opportunities and dangers of postmodern life? What are the distinctive pressures and stresses of inhabiting a post-traditional world, a world in which traditional identities appear to be dissolving? These questions will be investigated through a case study of a particular social group—gay men. This population is especially apposite for an analysis of the self in postmodernity. As a social category and as an individual identity, being homosexual is a relatively recent invention. The objective of this project is thus to study the everyday practices and beliefs that make up a sense of self in gay subcultures, especially as they pertain to emotional life. Life-history interviews are being conducted with gay men of various ages, professional status and ethnicities and written up as a monograph to be published by UNSW Press in 2007/08.

Health knowledges, policies and practices

These studies focus on policy, evaluation and needs assessment. In particular they are concerned with levels of knowledge in the community about health issues, and modes of education and health promotion delivery in Australia and other countries. These activities are also aimed at strengthening the capacity of Australian researchers to undertake ‘best practice’ social research into HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases
Treloar, Worth, McDonald and Frances

The primary purpose of the Consortium is to build and strengthen research capacity at the intersection between academic, community and health service organisations in the area of HIV, hepatitis C, sexually transmissible infections and the harms associated with sexual practice and illicit drug use in New South Wales, and to encourage collaborative research and the formation of healthy public policy in these fields.

In 2005 four workshops were conducted on topics such as action research, critical discussions of evidence and knowledge in public health policy formation, setting the policy agenda, and harm minimisation in prisons. An additional workshop was delivered to Aboriginal sexual health workers in collaboration with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.
Two practicum programs to develop the skills necessary to conduct a literature review drew participants from a range of community organisations. One PhD and six Master of Arts scholarships were awarded to students in the NCHSR postgraduate program. The Consortium Clearinghouse was launched in February 2005 and was expanded to include over 1300 entries covering Australian research and community media articles and conference presentations, along with government and non-government policy documents and reports.

**Getting research into policy and practice**

Kippax and Newman

The Getting Research into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) program aims to improve links between research, policy and practice. The GRIPP Committee was established in 2003 as a conjoint venture between the Sax Institute and NSW Health to oversee work in this area. From 2003 to 2005 Susan Kippax was a member this committee, which guided the program in exploring the processes and mechanisms for enabling knowledge transfer and exchange between researchers and policy makers in public health.

**International studies**

These studies are undertaken in regions of the world significantly affected by HIV/AIDS. The emphasis is on countries in the Asia–Pacific region and on working collaboratively with local health policy and education sectors to build sustainable research and response capacity.

**Behavioural surveillance system, Myanmar**

Kippax and Mao

This project was developed in collaboration with the Population Council, Bangkok, and Compass Research, Yangon. The aim of the project is to establish a reliable, valid and repeatable population behavioural survey to assess HIV-related risk perceptions, understandings and practices in Myanmar. NCHSR provided high-level technical expertise to the consortium on all aspects of the project, including assistance in preparing an overall research plan, advice on survey methods, sampling, questionnaire content and design, training of interviewers, data management and analysis, and advice on the interpretation, write-up and dissemination of data. The project was accepted by UNAIDS. Development work commenced during 2004 and data collection was due to commence in 2005. The Proposal for Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Behavioural Surveillance Surveys: Myanmar 2004–2009 is currently with the Myanmar National AIDS Control Program for government ratification, prior to UNAIDS funding consideration. At the time of writing, the project had stalled. It appears unlikely to proceed.

**National HIV/AIDS prevention project behavioural surveillance system, Sri Lanka**

Kippax, Worth and Rawstorne

NCHSR, with NewSouth Global, was successful in gaining funding from the World Bank to carry out behavioural surveillance in Sri Lanka. Patrick Rawstorne has been appointed the ‘in-country’ team leader. The objectives of the project are to establish a behavioural surveillance system in Sri Lanka and to build research capacity in the country to ensure ongoing monitoring and evaluation of HIV prevention programs. The detailed aims of the study are to identify and assess levels of risk behaviours in those subpopulations believed to be at high risk, provide geographical and other information regarding those subpopulations, provide an understanding of the contexts of risk and hence the contexts of...
transmission, and monitor changes in risk behaviours and assess the levels of HIV-related knowledge and the uptake of safer behaviours over time. The project commenced in late 2005 and data collection is expected to occur in early 2006.

**AIDS and imperialism: the political economy of a pandemic**

Worth

This project is an international, in-depth theorisation of the social, economic and political aspects of the AIDS pandemic. The AIDS and Imperialism project will examine institutions and processes of globalisation and its relationship to the epidemic, arguing that HIV is an engine of socio-economic and political transformation, an accelerator of the very forces which ensured its uneven spread in the first place. The project has three starting points: the internationalisation of labour, patterns of migration and the spread of HIV; the internationalisation of subjectivity and cultural norms of health and behaviour; and the development of global organisations of governance of HIV.

The aims of the project are to examine: the political and economic co-factors, including global debt, in the global spread of HIV from the margins to the centre of many nations in both the developed and developing world; the utility of Hardt and Negri’s *Empire* in examining the globalised nature of the pandemic; the political economy of AIDS-related issues such as drug therapies and vaccines, migration (both forced and voluntary) and HIV, gender and HIV, AIDS organisations and governance; and AIDS and national and international security issues.

**HIV epidemiology and modelling and impact study: social and economic impact of HIV on Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor 2005–2025**

Worth

The aim of the part of the project conducted by NCHSR was to provide an analysis of the potential national and subregional social, economic and security impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, projected over the next 20 years in PNG, Timor Leste and Indonesia. In the report we commented on the shocks that are beginning to be felt in the region, and will be most fully experienced in the next ten years. The full long-wave social and economic impact of HIV in the three countries will be felt twenty years out and is one on which we can speculate. In doing so we use a matrix to indicate both the kinds of social and security impacts under consideration, and how they may be manifested at individual, family, community and state levels. A draft of the final report was completed in December 2005 and will be published early in 2006.

**Global science/women’s health**

Worth

This project aims to develop an international, multidisciplinary team to research the global exchange of information on key women’s health issues—to develop a knowledge exchange model to explain the flow of information between international medical science researchers, clinicians, policy decision makers, other information brokers, and women health care consumers. This project seeks to characterise and model knowledge translation in cases in which knowledge generated in global partnerships is applied in national and local contexts. The project requires the development of a new model of, and methods for analysing, the relationship between macro-scientific–macro-economic systems and their micro-social effects. In an effort to draw upon the widest possible styles of addressing gender-related health issues, the Global Science/Women’s Health project will draw together policy analysts, historians of medicine, media critics, philosophers and social scientists to understand the ways in which globalisation of scientific information affects women’s health. While bringing together the best of each discipline, collaborators also share several theoretical positions in relation to this area of study.
4-Centre HIV and AIDS research initiative
Kippax and Worth

The 4-Centre HIV and AIDS Research Initiative (4-CHARI) is a research collaboration between the University of New South Wales (Australia), the University of Toronto (Canada), the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the University of London (UK). A memorandum of understanding between social researchers from the four universities was reached to facilitate the sharing of research ideas and the writing of policy papers in the following areas: masculinity in the context of HIV-prevention; the impact of treatments and vaccines on behavioural prevention; stigma and disease; and varying responses to education and health promotion.

By end December 2005 a number of papers had been written and special issues edited in the following journals: *AIDS Education and Prevention*, *Sex Education*, and *Critical Public Health*. 
NCHSR’s contribution to social research goes beyond the implementation and reporting of our own research projects. Staff members act as co-investigators in research studies based in other institutions, liaise with communities, disseminate information and run conferences. They also sit on committees locally, nationally and internationally, and act as peer reviewers, journal board members and informal advisers.
Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases

The Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases was formed in 2003 and successfully applied for a NSW Health Research Capacity Building Grant. The grant allows the Consortium to operate for three years to increase the social research capacity within the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector.

The Consortium aims to:

- increase the skills of the research workforce in the area of HIV, hepatitis C and illicit drug use
- ensure that area health services and non-government organisations have the skills to assist in the formulation of good research questions and to contribute fully to research in the field
- assist in the implementation of the policy and practice outcomes from research.

Members of the Consortium are the National Centre in HIV Social Research and the Social Policy Research Centre (both at UNSW), the AIDS Council of NSW, People Living with HIV/AIDS NSW and the Hepatitis C Council of NSW. The Consortium Board also includes representatives from the NSW Users and AIDS Association, the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch of NSW Health, the NSW Health Workforce Development Program and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

Workshops

The Consortium runs workshops the aims of which are to assess the research needs of the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector, investigate new and innovative research methods and provide non-researchers with the opportunity to learn about basic research methods. In 2005 five workshops were conducted, as follows:

Community-based research in communities affected by HIV and hepatitis C

Guest speakers included Dr Terry Trussler and Dr Rick Marchand from the Community Based Research Centre in Vancouver, Canada.

What counts as evidence in HIV and hepatitis C social research, program planning and service development?

Guest speakers included Professor Susan Kippax, Dr Carla Treloar and Michael Salter, NCHSR; Dr Garrett Prestage, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research; and Michael Lodge, NSW Users and AIDS Association.

Understanding social research for Aboriginal sexual health workers

Guest speakers included Jeanne Ellard, Dr Christy Newman, Dr Asha Persson and Patrick Rawstorne, NCHSR; and James Ward, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

Making policy relevant in the hepatitis C, HIV and injecting drug use sectors

Guest speakers included Dr Tony Eardley, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW; Kim Stewart, NSW Health; Nicky Bath, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League; Geoff Honnor, People Living With HIV/AIDS NSW; and Sallie Cairnduff, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

Prisons and blood-borne viruses: old challenges, new solutions

Guest speakers included Rick Lines, Irish Penal Reform Trust; Luke Grant, Department of Corrective Services; Gino Vumbaca, Australian National Council on Drugs; Dr Tony Butler, Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice; and Allison Churchill, Community Restorative Centre.
Practicums/Internships

The Consortium internships aim to allow employees working within the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector, in either non-government organisations or area health services, to learn something about how research is conducted and how they can be involved in research in the future. The academics involved, on the other hand, benefit from an insight into the front line of HIV and hepatitis C prevention and treatment programs. The internship program allows an intern to work full-time for up to six weeks within either NCHSR or the Social Policy Research Centre and is a vital component of the Consortium’s attempt to build research capacity within the sector.

This program was extended in 2005 to include a series of practicums, which allowed participants to look at a specific component of the research process (researching and writing a literature review) over two days a week for six weeks. We also trialled a rural internship, in which an intern from the country worked closely with academic staff to analyse some previously collected data.

In 2005 there were five practicum attendees, over two intakes:
- Baden Chalmers, AIDS Council of NSW
- Scott Lockhart, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Maria McMahon, Sex Workers Outreach Project
- Sarina Solar, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
- Ben Tart, AIDS Council of NSW.

Wendy Evans from North Coast Area Health Service began a rural internship in 2005, which will continue throughout 2006.

Scholarships

In 2005 the Consortium granted five scholarships to the following students who enrolled in the Master of Arts by Research in Health, Sexuality and Culture: Ben Bavinton, David Fowler, Nadine Krejci, Edward Reis and Iain Kaan. The MA scholarship in sexual health was awarded to Jackie Ruddock. The 2004 PhD scholarship in hepatitis C was also re-advertised and awarded to Paul Simpson in 2005.

Consortium Clearinghouse

The Consortium Clearinghouse, a searchable web-based database, was launched in February 2005. It provides links and access to Australian resources and documents that support research, policy and practice relating to HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and illicit drug use. Clearinghouse records include research articles and reports, conference presentations, policy documents, theses, media releases and community media articles. A central point of access to material housed in university, government, community and other locations is intended to facilitate resource sharing across the sector, along with understandings of the necessary links between research, policy and practice.

Community liaison

Our community liaison work aims to ensure that policy and practice is informed by research and that research is responsive to the needs of policy makers and health educators.

HIV

Since 1999 the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (now Ageing) has funded the Research Link project at NCHSR. It is designed to strengthen the communication and dissemination of information between HIV
social researchers and those in the government and non-government sectors involved in the development of HIV education and health promotion programs across Australia.

The ongoing aims of the project are to:

- better use and incorporate research findings in the development and implementation of health promotion interventions
- encourage dialogue between researchers and educators to identify areas needing investigation
- facilitate productive links between researchers and educators and between research institutions and educational organisations.

The project is run by a full-time community liaison officer, whose primary tasks are research dissemination, capacity building and the development of strategic relationships.

**Research dissemination**

The central goals of the Research Link project are knowledge transfer and research dissemination. Research Link provides the resources for the Community Liaison Officer and researchers to translate social health research into forms that are relevant to those working in health promotion, policy and support. Research Link aims to provide timely access to relevant social research findings and creates opportunities to explore and integrate research into policy and practice.

The Community Liaison Officer organises a series of feedback and outreach sessions to bring together researchers, health promoters, educators, workers and community members. These sessions involve discussing the findings of research projects, reflecting on their implications and generating feedback on research methodology and future directions.

In 2005 the following feedback sessions were undertaken:

- a conference workshop in Mudgee on homosexually active men who do not identify as gay
- a presentation to the annual general meeting of the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS on the Centre’s work plan, research directions and strategic plan
- a Consortium presentation on evidence-based policy
- conference presentations in Hobart and Adelaide on community engagement
- feedback sessions (in collaboration with the local AIDS councils, People Living with HIV/AIDS organisations and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research) in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth to disseminate the results of each local gay community periodic survey
- a colloquium for researchers, HIV community stakeholders and health care workers on trends in the number of new HIV infections.

The Community Liaison Officer represents NCHSR on six boards and committees across the community-based and public health sectors. In 2005 regular meetings were held with stakeholders and presentations on topical issues were given to various community organisations. The publications *Social Research Briefs* and *Social Research Issues Papers*, edited by the Community Liaison Officer, were also an important avenue for research dissemination and community engagement.

**Hepatitis C**

The Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C, is a new part-time position, which commenced in March 2005.

In 2005 the Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C, led a national round of community consultations in the hepatitis C and injecting drug use sectors, visiting each state and territory. Seventy-four organisations participated, including
state and territory hepatitis councils, drug user groups, health organisations controlled by Aboriginal communities, and government agencies. One hundred and five individuals participated, including consumers. The consultation aimed to ascertain the values of and issues faced by communities, with a view to developing a strategic partnership approach to their participation in hepatitis C research activities and knowledge transfer at NCHSR. A qualitative analysis of the eight state consultations revealed 18 national themes for research partnership. NCHSR’s response to the consultation is under way. An initial response is to develop a community charter in 2006 to inform the research activities NCHSR conducts with its community partners in the hepatitis C/injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS sectors.

The Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C, undertook a number of dissemination activities on the national hepatitis C community consultation, including feedback sessions to the Australian Hepatitis Council annual general meeting and to the 5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Sydney.

Some funds for the national hepatitis C community consultation were provided by the Australian Hepatitis Council’s Informing Research project, from a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. An advisory group comprised senior officers from the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, the Australian Hepatitis Council and the Australian Health and Medical Research Council.

Collaborations

NCHSR has signed Memoranda of Understanding with:

- the HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Research Unit, University of Toronto
- the Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria
- the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London.

These four research groups make up the 4-Centre HIV/AIDS Research Initiative (4-CHARI). Drawing upon a common set of understandings, and with a shared commitment to broad-based interdisciplinary inquiry, work within and across the four centres is generating a better sense of the epidemic and contributes to improvements in HIV prevention, mitigation of impact, and care. The centres also provided advice and consultancy to a number of national and international bodies such as UNAIDS, UNESCO, the UK Department for International Development, the United Nations Population Fund and the Global Prevention Working Party.

NCHSR also collaborated internationally with the National Development and Research Institutes, New York, US (Dr Sam Friedman).

In Australia NCHSR continues to work collaboratively on several projects with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne, and with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW. It also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the School of Health, University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

Other collaborative research has been undertaken with:
Ariginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales
AIDS Action Council of the ACT
AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)
AIDS Council of South Australia
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and its state bodies
Australian Hepatitis Council and its state bodies
All new items received in the NCHSR library catalogue during 2005 were added to the HIV/AIDS Library Network Database, available online through RMIT University.

The HIV/AIDS Database covers 1980 to the present time and includes journal articles, books, reports and audiovisual titles from the catalogues of the NSW HIV/AIDS Library Network. It deals extensively with clinical, medical, social and psychological aspects of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C and is designed to provide information support for doctors, health care workers and allied professionals, students, researchers, and people with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.
The HIV/AIDS Database includes selected holdings from the following library catalogues:

- AIDS Council of NSW
- Albion Street Centre
- Drug and Alcohol Services Library (formerly the Centre for Information and Education on Drugs and Alcohol)
- FPA Health
- NCHSR.

Committees

NCHSR has established relationships with other research institutions, universities, government bodies, non-government organisations and the community.

In 2005, members of NCHSR served on committees of the following, listed below:

National and international

XVIth International AIDS Conference:
- Track D: (Social, Behavioural and Economic Science) Scientific Program Committee (Susan Kippax)

AIDS Impact Conference 2007:
- Scientific Committee (Heather Worth)

Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research (Martin Holt)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing:
- Hepatitis C Subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH) (Susan Kippax)

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society:
- Scientific Advisory Committee (Susan Kippax)

Bill & Melinda Gates and Kaiser Foundations:
- Global HIV Prevention Working Group (Susan Kippax)

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research:
- Scientific Advisory Committee (Susan Kippax)

State and community

AIDS Council of NSW:
- Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Committee (Max Hopwood)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations:
- Biomedical Prevention Policy Reference Group (Limin Mao)

Hepatitis C Council:
- Heplink Steering Committee (Erol Digiusto)

Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Advisory Group (Asha Persson)

Institute for Health Research:
- Getting Research into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) Committee (Susan Kippax)

National Drug Treatment Users Project Advisory Committee (Melissa Saxton)

NSW Health:
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (Carla Treloar)
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections (Susan Kippax)
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible
Infections, Health Promotion Sub-Committee (Patrick Rawstorne, Juliet Richters)
NSW STI Strategy Sub-Committee (Kane Race, Juliet Richters)
Safe Sex Campaign Advisory Committee (Patrick Rawstorne)
STIGMA Working Group on Social Networks (Martin Holt)

The University of New South Wales
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences:
Faculty Research Grant Subcommittee (Heather Worth)
OH&S Committee (Max Hopwood)
Postgraduate Affairs Committee (Juliet Richters)
Research Committee (Heather Worth)
Steering Committee (Susan Kippax)
Health and Human Rights Management Committee (Heather Worth)
Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel (Henrike Körner)
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research:
Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee (Patrick Rawstorne)
Australian HIV Observational Database Committee (Patrick Rawstorne)
Primary HIV Infection Working Group (Henrike Körner)
Toxicology and Pharmacology Working Group (Patrick Rawstorne)
National Centre in HIV Social Research:
Organising Committee of the 2006 HIV/AIDS and Related Diseases Social Research Conference, StigmaPleasurePractice (Robert Reynolds and Martin Holt [co-chairs], Erol Digiusto, Rodney McDonald, Christy Newman, Kane Race, Patrick Rawstorne, Juliet Richters, Carla Treloar).

Scholarly journals
NCHSR staff contribute to scholarly journals as members of editorial boards and as peer reviewers.

Editorial board members
AIDS (Susan Kippax)
AIDS Care (Susan Kippax)
AIDS Education and Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Journal (Susan Kippax)
Culture Health & Sexuality (Susan Kippax, Co-editor; Heather Worth, Member, Editorial Advisory Board)
International Journal of Critical Psychology (Susan Kippax)
Reproductive Health Matters (Juliet Richters)
Sexual Health (Juliet Richters)
Sexualities (Susan Kippax)

Peer reviewing for journals
In 2005 NCHSR staff reviewed papers submitted to the following national and international scholarly journals:
Acta Sociologica
Addictive Behaviors
Addiction
AIDS
AIDS and Behavior
AIDS Care
AIDS Education & Prevention
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Australian Health Review
Body and Society
British Journal of Health Psychology
Critical Public Health
Culture, Health & Sexuality
Drug and Alcohol Review
Ethnicity and Health
Health
Health Promotion Journal of Australia
Health, Risk & Society
Journal of Health Psychology
Journal of Sociology
Journal of Viral Hepatitis
Medical Journal of Australia
Sex Education
Sexual Health
Sexualities
Social Science & Medicine
Theory, Culture & Society
Women & Health

Reviewing other than for journals

Staff from NCHSR have also reviewed grant applications, conference abstracts, strategy documents and other materials for:
7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), July, Kobe, Japan
2006 Viral Hepatitis Conference
Aids Fonds, Netherlands
Australian Research Committee
Australian Book Review
Department for International Development
National Health and Medical Research Council
Rutgers University Press
Victorian Department of Health.

Conferences attended

Members of NCHSR attended the following conferences in 2005:
3rd International Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics and 8th Annual Seminar of the Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine, July,
7th AIDS Impact Conference, April, Cape Town, South Africa
7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), July, Kobe, Japan
17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, August, Hobart
XVII World Congress of Sexology, July, Montreal, Canada
2005 NSW HIV Rural Conference, Mudgee Muster, Mudgee
ANEX Harm Reduction Conference, Drugs at Work, June, Melbourne
Annual Conference of the Centre for the Humanities, The Work of Mourning: Cultural Expressions of Loss, Melancholia and Depression, April, Wesleyan University, Connecticut, US
Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society Conference, Psychoanalysis and Community, November, New Brunswick, Canada
Australasian Sexual Health Conference, August, Hobart
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League National Meeting, November, Adelaide
Australian Professional Society of Alcohol and other Drugs Conference, November, Melbourne
Body Modification Mark II 2nd International Conference, April, Sydney
Cultural Studies Association of Australia Annual Conference, University of Technology, November, Sydney
Culture Fix: 2005 Annual Conference of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia, November, Sydney
Dangerous Consumptions III, international colloquium, November, Melbourne
Health Policy and Research Exchange, The Sax Institute, November, Sydney
Hepatitis C Interagency, June, Sydney
International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society Conference, Sexual Rights and Moral Panics, June, San Francisco, US
International Harm Reduction Association Conference, March, Belfast, Ireland
International Systemic Functional Congress, July, Sydney
National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Conference, November, Adelaide
National Nurses' Hepatitis Education Symposium, Roche National Hepatitis C Scientific Symposium, September, Sydney
NSW Aboriginal Health Research Conference, Partnerships for Aboriginal Health Research, October, Sydney
The Two Cultures: Reconsidering the Division between the Sciences and Humanities, July, Sydney
UNSW–Singapore Research Workshop, February to March, Singapore
World AIDS Day Symposium, NCHSR and School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, December, Sydney
NCHSR hosts regular colloquia at which local and international academics present their research. In 2005 they were:

13 January  The generative effects of HIV biotechnology: virus and personhood
Dr Marsha Rosengarten
Goldsmiths College, University of London

1 February  ‘A different kind of original sin’: coitarche and (non-)consent in Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea
Dr Lawrence Hammar
Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, East Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea
Marriage, sex and STDs: transmission risks of Papua New Guinean women, as assessed through HIVab counselling
Herick Aeno
Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, East Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea

24 February  Public health metaphors and concerns of contamination and containment in Australian political policy and rhetoric on asylum seekers
Dr Glenda Koutroulis

28 April  Global biopolitics and the history of world health
Associate Professor Alison Bashford
Department of History, University of Sydney

26 May  Neo-imperialism, evangelism and the ‘culture of life’
Dr Melinda Cooper
National Centre in HIV Social Research and University of East Anglia

7 July  ‘What can I do to help myself?’ Medicine, bodies and decision-making
Dr Celia Roberts
Department of Sociology, University of Lancaster, United Kingdom

4 August  Studs, Fems and Jotas: adolescent Latino gender and sexuality in the ‘hood’
Dr Vernon Rosario
Clinical Assistant Professor, Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles

18 August  The invention of the pedophile
Dr Steven Angelides
The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne

6 September  Why are sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men in Western Europe increasing?
Dr John Imrie
Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research, Royal Free and University College Medical School, University College London
27 October Transformations and transactions? Characterising interactions between drug service providers and street-based injectors in St Kilda  
Dr David Moore  
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth

24 November Culture, risk and hepatitis C  
Associate Professor Lisa Maher¹,² and Ms Heidi Coupland²  
¹National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, University of New South Wales  
²School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales

15 December Gay Cruise: an online intervention for chatting MSM  
Professor Harm Hospers  
Maastricht Center for Research on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education, Maastricht University

Visitors

NCHSR welcomed the following visitors in 2005:

Herick Aeno  
Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, East Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea

Professor Peter Aggleton  
Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

Dr Lawrence Hammar  
Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea

Dr Merete Hellum  
Department of Sociology, Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden

Associate Professor Harm Hospers  
University of Maastricht, the Netherlands

Dr John Imrie  
Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences, Royal Free and University College Medical School, University College London

Dr Ian Lubek  
Psychology Department, University of Guelph, Canada

Jochen Mikolajczak  
Visiting Scholar, University of Maastricht, the Netherlands

Dr Celia Roberts  
Lancaster University, United Kingdom
The interdisciplinary program in Health, Sexuality and Culture at NCHSR offers students the opportunity to undertake postgraduate research in any area of sex, culture, health and/or the politics of medicine. Our MA by Research equips students with the conceptual, practical and critical skills necessary for advanced work in the fields of sex, drugs, body politics and health. NCHSR staff also contribute their expertise across a variety of disciplines by giving lectures and running workshops in both the academic and community sectors.
Health, Sexuality and Culture program

This interdisciplinary research program in Health, Sexuality and Culture allows students from the social sciences, humanities or health sciences to undertake a research MA or PhD at NCHSR. The degrees consist of an independent research thesis supported by a range of seminar courses offered by both the Faculty and NCHSR. MA research students are required to complete three seminar courses. In 2005 we devised and delivered two new seminar courses tailored to the needs of our research students. Bodies, Habits and Pleasures (ARTS5040) introduced students to social theories relevant for sex and drug research. It was convened by Kane Race and taught in seminar style. Researching Sex and Drugs B (ARTS5042) provided an introduction to qualitative research methods. It was convened by Jeanne Ellard and featured guest lectures from various NCHSR staff. Both courses received strong evaluations from students and were considered excellent support for their research. The course in quantitative methods, Researching Sex and Drugs A (ARTS5041) was not offered in 2005 owing to lack of demand by students.

Lectures and workshops

NCHSR staff are often asked to talk about the Centre’s research work and to contribute their disciplinary expertise to programs run elsewhere. Staff delivered a number of lectures and workshops during 2005.

Ms Jeanne Ellard was co-facilitator of Understanding Research for Aboriginal Health Workers, a workshop for the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (NSW), funded by the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, and held on 15–16 March 2005 in Mudgee, NSW. She also ran a workshop on sexual decision-making for the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.

Dr Limin Mao gave a guest lecture on ‘Social research in the fields of HIV/AIDS’ to the undergraduate course Human Behaviour 2 at the School of Social Work, UNSW. From 10–11 June 2005 she took part in a workshop entitled ‘Social and Behavioural Research Issues Related to HIV Vaccines’ in Durban, South Africa, organised by the Socio-behavioural Working Group of the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAWI) at the University of Stellenbosch, Durban, and sponsored by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). On 19 August 2005 Dr Mao was invited to give a presentation to a team of Chinese health officials and service providers on ‘The social and behavioural prevention of HIV/AIDS in Australia’ at FPA (Family Planning Australia) Health, and another on ‘Socio-economic status and HIV/STI risk to the Health Promotion Sub-Committee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections, NSW Health, both in Sydney. On 11 November 2005 she spoke at the STI Forum of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations in Sydney.

Dr Christy Newman was co-facilitator of Understanding Research for Aboriginal Health Workers, a workshop for the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (NSW), funded by the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases and held on 15–16 March 2005 in Mudgee, NSW. She also spoke on ‘Consuming media audiences: health, gender, sexual diversity’ at the Consuming Sexual Diversity: New Ways of Thinking seminar, University of Sydney Cultural Consumption Research Cluster, on 23 November 2005 in Sydney.

Dr Asha Persson was co-facilitator of Understanding Research for Aboriginal Health Workers, a workshop for the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (NSW), funded by the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases and held on 15–16 March 2005 in
Mudgee, NSW. She also conducted a research report-back on the Pozhet study at the Pozhet Open Day, April 2005.

Dr Kane Race organised a workshop called Drug Fixes: New Perspectives on Drugs for the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia Annual Conference, Culture Fix, 25–27 November 2005. He gave a paper entitled 'Intimate technologies' at the Consuming Sexual Diversity: New Ways of Thinking seminar, University of Sydney Cultural Consumption Research Cluster, on 23 November 2005 in Sydney. Dr Race presented on 'Statements of care: drugs and the politics of intervention' at the HIV and the Futures of Globalisation seminar held at UNSW on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2005. In first semester he gave a guest lecture entitled 'Appropriation' in the undergraduate course Media, Taste and Values, run by the Department of Media, Film and Theatre, also at UNSW.

Mr Patrick Rawstorne was co-facilitator of Understanding Research for Aboriginal Health Workers, a workshop for the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (NSW), funded by the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, and held on 15–16 March 2005 in Mudgee, NSW. He also delivered a lecture on 'Sexual transmission of HIV' to students of the Master of Public Health degree at Sydney University.

Dr Robert Reynolds conducted a staff training presentation entitled 'The spoils of success: has gay become too successful for its own good?' for the AIDS Council of NSW in December 2005.

Dr Juliet Richters twice taught a workshop on literature review and referencing for the Consortium for Social and Policy Research into HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases at the National Centre in HIV Social Research. She also delivered a lecture and conducted a seminar on ‘Researching sexual behaviour: survey methods and other approaches’ to students of the MA in Couple and Family Therapy at the School of Social Work, UNSW.

Dr Heather Worth took part in the following workshops:
- Pathways to Partnership workshop, Singapore, 28 Feb–2 March
- 4-CHARI workshop, Botswana, 11–13 April
- Pre-exposure Prophylaxis workshop, Sydney, 16 June
- Global Science, Women’s Health Initiative workshop, Vancouver, 27 June–1 July
- HIV and Security workshop, Melbourne, 20–21 October
- HIV Epidemiological Modelling Initiative workshop, Port Moresby, 29 November
- World AIDS Day workshop, Sydney, 1 December
- HIV Epidemiological Modelling Initiative workshop, Jakarta, 8 December.

She also lectured in ‘HIV and globalisation’ to Public Health students at the University of Wollongong in September.

Postgraduate students

In 2005 there were eight PhD students enrolled with NCHSR

Psychosocial examination of euthanasia and assisted suicide

Suzanne Bermingham

This qualitative study examines the practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide, in both illegal and legal settings. The primary focus is on hepatitis-C-related assisted deaths. The research investigates the reasons for, and circumstances surrounding, the choice of an assisted death, as well as the impact on those involved. Interviews were conducted in Australia with people who had assisted someone to die,
including health care professionals, and family and friends, as well as with people considering assisted death as an option in their own terminal care. Interviews were also conducted in the Netherlands with doctors who had practised euthanasia.

Supervisors: Professor Susan Kippax and Dr Suzanne Fraser (NCHSR)

Sexual attitudes and behaviour of international backpackers visiting Australia  
**Cari Egan**

Using theories derived from anthropology, sociology and psychology, this project examines the sexual attitudes and behaviour of young international travellers to Australia, specifically comparing their casual sexual behaviour and use of condoms prior to and during travel. In addition to exploring travellers’ sexual behaviour both quantitatively and qualitatively, this study will also explore the perceptions held by hostel and sexual health/travel clinic employees of travellers’ sexual safety while abroad. The importance of self, adventure, liminoid space and place for the traveller will also be explored.

Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters and Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR)

Press ‘enter’: information technologies and the textual construction of sex  
**Abigail Groves**

Generated by new information technologies, ‘cybersex’ has emerged as a new site of sexuality within popular culture. This project examines the cybersex text and its implications for discourses of technology, subjectivity and the body. Utilising qualitative data drawn from interviews with authors of these texts, the project also examines users’ experiences of internet sexuality, as well as their ethical practices in generating the collaborative text of cybersex.

Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Kane Race (NCHSR)

Living with hepatitis C in Auckland and Sydney: a comparative study  
**Magdalena Harris**

This qualitative research project compares the lived experiences of people with hepatitis C in Auckland and Sydney, focusing on issues of social support, stigma, disclosure, and treatment options. The study will draw upon 20 semi-structured interviews conducted in Auckland in 2004, with a further 30 individuals living with the virus interviewed in Sydney. The project is theoretically informed by the sociology of chronic illness, in particular the concepts of biographical disruption and illness narrative.

Supervisors: Dr Suzanne Fraser and Dr kylie valentine (NCHSR)

Safe sex campaigns in Australia and New Zealand  
**Justin McNab**

In New South Wales and New Zealand in the mid-1990s, AIDS councils launched two very different safe sex campaigns aimed at increasing safer sexual practices in gay communities, particularly within gay men’s primary relationships. This qualitative study will research and compare these campaigns by reviewing literature and other materials from or about the campaigns themselves, interviewing key HIV/AIDS prevention workers in New South Wales and New Zealand, and analysing
qualitative interview data collected by NCHSR in which gay men were asked about issues that the New South Wales campaign hoped to address. This comparison will be situated in the wider context of social and public health policy and will also attempt to tease out some of the assumptions underlying public health and policy messages and campaigns.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Robert Reynolds (NCHSR)

Understandings of parenting and parenthood among gay men involved in known donor insemination or surrogacy

Dean Murphy

An increasing number of gay men are becoming sperm donors and entering into parenting arrangements either through known donor insemination or via surrogacy agreements (usually negotiated through agencies based in the United States). This project will examine the understandings and social meanings of parenting and parenthood by these men. Of particular interest are motivations for becoming a sperm donor, understandings of family and kinship and relatedness, and the production of a ‘known sperm donor’ identity. Data will be collected through interviews in Australia and the United States and analysis of advertisements on gay and lesbian parenting websites.

Time frame: 2004–2008
Supervisors: Dr Suzanne Fraser (NCHSR) and Dr Marsha Rosengarten (University of London)

Identity, agency and social change: exploring hepatitis C as a site for social movement

Paul Simpson

Borrowing from theories stemming from psychology, sociology and political science, identity and agency will be explored in people affected by hepatitis C. Specifically, ethnographic research methods will be employed to examine a network of people affected by hepatitis C who are engaged in protecting the health and human rights of illicit drug users. This research will consider available democratic and biomedical interventions around hepatitis C and the political possibilities of those affected by hepatitis C, and will add to current theories on identity and social movements.

Supervisors: Dr Kylie Valentine and Dr Limin Mao (NCHSR)

Sexual meanings and subcultures among homosexually active Sri Lankan men

Matthew Tyne

Using ethnographic research methods, this project explores sexual practices and subcultures among homosexually active men in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It will document how these men socialise, organise and create sexual meanings in the context of local attitudes to homosexuality, criminalisation and internationalist queer influences. In addition, the study will gauge opinion from health and community activists, as well as from the men themselves, on the vulnerability of homosexually active men to HIV and to what extent interventions have addressed these vulnerabilities.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Asha Persson (NCHSR)
Implicit and explicit attitudes of health care workers and their hepatitis-C-positive clients: is this related to quality of care?

**Loren Brener**

This research examines the health care experiences of people who have hepatitis C and assesses how the attitudes and behaviours of both clients and their health care workers affect health care experience, quality of care and treatment outcomes. It addresses some limitations of previous research by using various instruments, not only self-report measures, to assess both the implicit and explicit attitudes of the target groups.

Supervisors: Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR) and Associate Professor William von Hippel (School of Psychology)

Male factors influencing participation in programs for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Tanzania

**Michael Burke**

This study examines the role of men in community acceptance and support of opportunities to reduce the risk of vertical transmission of HIV in a rural African setting. Factors and themes related to gender roles, stigma and communication are explored.

Supervisors: Professor John Kaldor (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research) and Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR)

Language of love in culture of silence: sociocultural context and Iranian women’s sexual understandings

**Effat Merghati Khoei**

This project explores the social and cultural meanings related to women’s sexual understandings in a culturally distinct group of women—Iranian women living in Sydney. This qualitative study draws on ethnographic data collected from women’s sexual life stories to explore the sociocultural context in which the sexual meanings, perceptions, experiences and beliefs have been shaped. The study contributes to the development of an explanatory model of sexuality for this group of women. Findings will be a starting point for possible sexual health interventions.

Time frame: 2001–2005
Supervisors: Dr Anna Whelan (School of Public Health and Community Medicine) and Dr Juliet Richters (NCHSR)

HIV testing, condom use and agreements in gay men’s relationships

**Ben Bavinton**

This project will examine how gay men make sense of their relationships with other men in relation to both technologies such as testing, condom use and negotiated safety agreements, and discourses such as romance, pleasure and risk.

Time frame: 2004–2008
Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Martin Holt (NCHSR)
Health promotion and the expertise of sex workers  
**Kate DeMaere**

Sex workers have an intimate and unique relationship to clients of the sex industry. This qualitative research project will explore this relationship and the unique expertise of sex workers in relationship to health promotion and the prevention of transmissible infections.

Time frame: 2004–2007  
Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

Dynamics of subjection and subjectification in the PLWHA movement  
**Glenn Flanagan**

This project will examine how stigma has continued to produce identity in different ways at different historical points of the PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) movement. Through a study of key texts of the local movement, this study will look at how and why some of these processes take place.

Supervisors: Dr Asha Persson and Dr Kane Race (NCHSR)

The relevance of gender and sexuality to self-identity among homosexually active men in Thailand and Australia  
**David Fowler**

This project will examine the relative importance of gender and sexuality in self-identity among homosexually active men in Australia and Thailand. Relevant research from both countries will be reviewed and additional research undertaken to identify similarities and differences in the relative importance of, and the relationship between, gender and sexuality in constructions of identity.

Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

Barriers to hepatitis C treatment among Vietnamese people in south-western Sydney  
**Melissa Fraser**

Using semi-structured in-depth interviews, this project aims to better understand the views of hepatitis C treatments among the Vietnamese community in south-western Sydney.

Time frame: 2004–2007  
Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar and Dr Henrike Körner (NCHSR)

Selling sex: understanding the identity of same-sex-attracted young men (under 26) from culturally and linguistically diverse communities  
**Iain Kaan**

This qualitative research project will explore same-sex-attracted male sex workers under the age of 26 and the relationship they have to sexual identity and cultural belonging.

Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Robert Reynolds (NCHSR)
‘Getting on with it?’ Understanding the employment experiences of people living with hepatitis C

Nadine Krejci

This study explores the employment experiences of people living with chronic hepatitis C. The primary focus of the research is the impact of hepatitis C on people’s work lives and the ways in which potential or real disruptions (both physical and social) are managed. It is anticipated that a better understanding will also be gained of the ways in which labour market participation enables or constrains the medical or self-management of this chronic viral infection.

Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR) and Dr Tony Eardley (Social Policy Research Centre)

Impact and effectiveness of sexually explicit HIV/AIDS social marketing campaigns targeting the gay community

Brent Mackie

Government and non-government health organisations target the gay community with sexually explicit social marketing campaigns that aim to educate about preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible infections. This study examines the impact and effectiveness of these health promotion campaigns.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Robert Reynolds (NCHSR) and Dr Leong Chan (College of Fine Arts)

‘More than a liver’: the role of the social work practitioner in hepatitis C treatment centres

Marlize Mouton

In this study the roles and actions of social workers in hepatitis C treatment centres are explored through interviews with social workers in the field, in order to identify and propose a suggested model of best practice for social workers in the field of hepatitis C treatment.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR) and Dr Elizabeth Fernandez (School of Social Work)

Cultural understandings of health and human rights, and their implications for global HIV policy development and implementation

Edward Reis

This project seeks to assess the adequacy of concepts of human rights in relation to cultural understandings of health. It will examine the implications of human rights concepts for the development and implementation of global HIV policy.

Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

Oral sex: impacts of sexual identity on sexual practices

Jackie Ruddock

Drawing upon reference materials from media and popular culture, this qualitative study will examine representations of oral sex, in particular how oral sex is framed in relation to broader sexual practices, and associated cultural meanings of health and well-being in contemporary Australia.

Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)
An investigation of information needs and information-seeking practices of people with hepatitis C

Maude Frances

This study aims to understand how people with hepatitis C use the internet, in conjunction with other media, to access information. By situating internet use within people’s everyday realities, the research will provide insights into the sociocultural conditions that facilitate or impede its use. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of hepatitis-C-related discrimination and stigma on information practices. Drawing on theories from sociology and information studies, as well as on findings from public health research, the study will enable an integrated approach to providing appropriate information for this group. Qualitative and quantitative data collection was completed during 2005.

Supervisors: Associate Professor Connie Wilson (School of Information Systems, Technology and Management) and Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR)

Jeanne Ellard’s PhD thesis in anthropology at the University of Sydney concerns the negotiation and contesting of space in a socio-economically diverse urban community.

Andrea Fogarty completed her Master of International Public Health at the University of Sydney, focusing on the delivery of public health in resource-poor settings in developing countries.

Patrick Rawstorne submitted his PhD thesis in psychology at the University of Wollongong at the end of the year. His thesis critiques social psychology theories that aim to predict and explain how people use technology in organisations.

Robert Reynolds completed a Master of Counselling (Psychotherapy) at the University of Western Sydney.

Theses examined

NCHSR staff are often called upon to examine honours, masters and doctoral theses at other universities. Because of confidentiality agreements, full details cannot be given here. Theses marked in 2005 included:

PhD, Critical Psychology, University of Western Sydney
PhD, Psychology, Faculty of Life and Social Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology
PhD, School of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Master of Arts, History, University of Melbourne
Master of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University.
Publications
Monographs


Book chapters


**Publications**


**Articles in refereed journals**


Refereed conference proceedings


Other publications


Conference presentations


Treloar, C., & Hopwood, M. (2005, August). ‘Look, I’m fit, I’m positive and I’ll be all right, thank you very much’: Coping with hepatitis C treatment and unrealistic optimism. Poster presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Hobart.


Other presentations


Funding
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding body</th>
<th>Principal Investigator/s</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal funding grant—Core</td>
<td>Kippax</td>
<td>925482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Link project</td>
<td>Kippax</td>
<td>103476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriers and incentives to drug treatment: mental health and drug use co-morbidity</td>
<td>Kippax, Treloar</td>
<td>119344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Health cohort study</td>
<td>Kippax, Rawstorne</td>
<td>79700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney gay community periodic survey</td>
<td>Rawstorne</td>
<td>43600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research coordination for NSW health specific analyses</td>
<td>Rawstorne</td>
<td>71949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases</td>
<td>Kippax, Worth, Saunders</td>
<td>500000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Department of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland gay community periodic survey</td>
<td>Kippax, Rawstorne</td>
<td>39284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne gay community periodic survey</td>
<td>Rawstorne</td>
<td>40278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Department of Human Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide gay community periodic survey</td>
<td>Rawstorne</td>
<td>38755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health (NIH), US</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV vaccine design &amp; development project/HIM</td>
<td>Kippax, Van de Ven</td>
<td>253154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparing the role of takeaways in methadone maintenance treatment in NSW and Victoria</td>
<td>Kippax, Wodak, Treloar, Fraser</td>
<td>97000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual health and attitudes of Australian prisoners</td>
<td>Butler, Richters, Donovan</td>
<td>73950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with uncertainty: creating the postmodern self in contemporary Australia</td>
<td>Reynolds</td>
<td>25944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Fellowship</td>
<td>Reynolds</td>
<td>57503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AusAID</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV epidemiological modelling and impact study: Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Indonesia</td>
<td>Kaldor, Law, Worth, Henderson, McKay</td>
<td>32724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening HIV-related social research capacity in Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Worth, Hammar</td>
<td>198462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National treatment service users (TSU) project</td>
<td>Bryant, Holt, Treloar</td>
<td>44545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNSW Research Support Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual teaching</td>
<td>73,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-supervision funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brener</td>
<td>9,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoe/Burke</td>
<td>4,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hossain</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two cultures: reconsidering the division between the sciences and humanities</td>
<td>10,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigating the nature and incidence of, barriers to, and opportunities for, treatment for hepatitis and depression by NSW drug and alcohol treatment agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitutions, enhancement, autonomy: making treatment regimes with hormones and methadone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser, valentine</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS empire</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours and graduate research</td>
<td>1,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Infrastructure Building Grant (RIBG)</td>
<td>235,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Scheme and Institutional Grants Scheme (RTS/IGS)</td>
<td>191,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,306,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External funds*</td>
<td>2,711,783</td>
<td>2,469,134</td>
<td>1,706,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW contribution</td>
<td>511,889</td>
<td>409,249</td>
<td>413,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>3,223,672</td>
<td>2,878,383</td>
<td>2,119,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>2,394,019</td>
<td>2,081,049</td>
<td>1,388,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>36,997</td>
<td>42,833</td>
<td>12,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>476,905</td>
<td>453,755</td>
<td>413,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>275,837</td>
<td>171,025</td>
<td>187,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>3,183,758</td>
<td>2,748,662</td>
<td>2,001,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating result</td>
<td>399,14</td>
<td>129,721</td>
<td>117,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus(deficit) bfwd from prior year</td>
<td>-121,961</td>
<td>-251,682</td>
<td>-369,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds surplus(deficit)</td>
<td>-82,047</td>
<td>-121,961</td>
<td>-251,682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excludes debtors (unpaid invoices)