



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Melbourne School of Health Sciences

Department of Social Work

Strategic Directions **2015–2020**

Promoting health, wellbeing and human rights

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*Back row: Lou Harms, Lynette Joubert, Cathy Humphreys
Centre row: David Rose, Winsome Roberts, Nicole Hill
Front row: Aron Shlonsky, Marie Connolly, Kristin Diemer*

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and are committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hopes and aspirations



In 2015 we
celebrate
75 years of
social work at
Melbourne.

Introduction

In 2015 we celebrate 75 years of social work education at The University of Melbourne. We acknowledge and celebrate the generations of students who have accessed and contributed to the richness of our teaching, learning and research environment and the members of our alumni, many of whom have assumed academic and leadership positions across the broader community. Our current students continue to demonstrate leadership, further enhancing our reputation within and beyond the discipline.

Our position within the Melbourne School of Health Sciences creates many opportunities for us to further strengthen our research and practice leadership in the areas of health and mental health. Through the generous Felton bequest and continued support from The University of Melbourne we have also developed a strong foundation of research and practice leadership in child and family welfare practice.



Excellence and leadership in research

...to undertake meaningful, applied research that addresses some of our most pressing social concerns.

Applied Research at Melbourne

At Melbourne, we are committed to promoting social justice through the development and use of evidence. Our approach is to undertake meaningful, applied research that addresses some of our most pressing social concerns. To that end, we use a broad range of methodologies – from large database analytics and quantitative enquiry, to qualitative research that draws upon the experiences of individuals, groups and communities.

The evidence we produce is used by leaders in the public and private sectors to make informed decisions across diverse areas of policy and practice.



Combating violence to create safe communities



Research Alliance to End Violence against Women and Children

Our research alliance to end violence against women and children involves a collaboration with General Practice and Primary Care. Professor Cathy Humphreys from Social Work and Professor Kelsey Hegarty from General Practice co-lead the Alliance.

The Alliance strives to make a difference to the lives of women and children affected by abuse and violence. Preventing and responding to violence against women and children is not the domain and responsibility of any one discipline. The Alliance brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines across The University of Melbourne in order to tackle this complex and challenging problem.

Three strands underpin the Alliance's research program:

- Understanding the dynamics of intimate partner violence
- Early identification through primary health care
- Innovative integrated responses for vulnerable groups

For more information please email cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au



Changing systems and improving outcomes



The Centre for Applied Research in Effective Services (CARES)

The aim of the Centre is to assist governmental and non-governmental agencies to use current best evidence to improve outcomes for service users. We specialize in evidence synthesis, program evaluation, outcomes monitoring, and longitudinal data analytics across a diverse range of social services that includes child welfare, education and criminal justice.

We work collaboratively with a number of partners, including Save the Children, the Parenting Research Centre (PRC) and the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

We work with agencies across the sector to collect meaningful client data and develop analytic capacity in order to improve services.

For more information please email aron.shlonsky@unimelb.edu.au



Making a difference to the lives
of looked-after children



The Partnership for Innovation in Out-of-Home Care

We partner with organisations across the out-of-home care system to develop and embed social innovations that make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable children who are unable to live with their parents. Big policy and practice problems are the starting point for a highly collaborative process involving rigorous research to uncover new insights and better ideas through co-design.

Our staff has a depth of experience in out-of-home care research and strategy, including Professors Marie Connolly, Aron Shlonsky, Cathy Humphreys and Dr Sarah Wise. We work with managers and practitioners across different practice sites to explore issues and develop innovative solutions.

For more information please email marie.connolly@unimelb.edu.au



Building strong communities that support resilient people



Trauma Recovery and Resilience Research Program

Associate Professor Lou Harms leads the Trauma Recovery and Resilience Research Program (TRRRP), which engages in applied research informing psychosocial recovery and resilience after trauma and loss experiences.

The TRRRP undertakes research relating to people affected by a range of traumatic life experiences. We focus on understanding the interactions of stress, trauma and loss responses with resilience and growth responses. Key current partnerships are with the Beyond Bushfires project, Alfred Health, The Women's Hospital and The Royal Children's Hospital.

We are interested in:

- National and international research collaborations
- Research higher degree supervision
- Specialist on-line curriculum developments

For more information please email louisekh@unimelb.edu.au

Recognising Leadership in Social Work





Social Work at Melbourne has a distinguished history. We celebrate our pioneers and work with our alumni to foster a vibrant and dynamic profession. Our collective strength supports our past, present and future successes.

In 2015 the Department of Social Work commissioned Melbourne sculptor, Michael Meszaros, to create the Hyslop Medal in celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of social work education at The University of Melbourne. The medal recognises individuals whose outstanding contributions have been integral to the success of social work at the University, so honouring the qualities and achievements of Jocelyn Hyslop (1897 – 1974) our founding Head of Social Work.



Preparing
outstanding social
workers who are
strong ethically,
academically and
professionally.



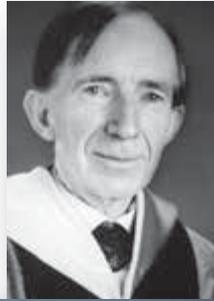
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Leading research
impacts locally,
and internationally



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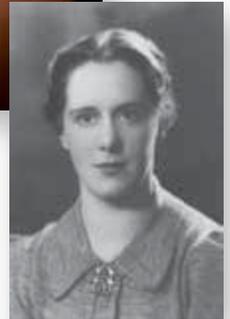
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Working with others to make a difference.



dynamic profession



Supporting practitioners to use and produce research that matters



Practice Research Program in Health and Mental Health

The practice research program brings academic researchers and health organisations together in partnership to inform social interventions for positive health and mental health outcomes.

Professor Lynette Joubert works closely with partners across the health sector – in particular NorthWestern Mental Health, and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre – to affect positive change and support practice improvement. Supporting practice research across the sector, we assist with the implementation of research evidence.

The research program utilises a broad range of methodologies to advance knowledge of key chronic disease and mental health issues from a practical perspective.

Applied research areas include:

- Suicide prevention
- Measuring social networks and their impact
- Evidence-based social work practices and social interventions
- International social intervention collaborations

For more information please email ljoubert@unimelb.edu.au



Training research leaders
for global impact

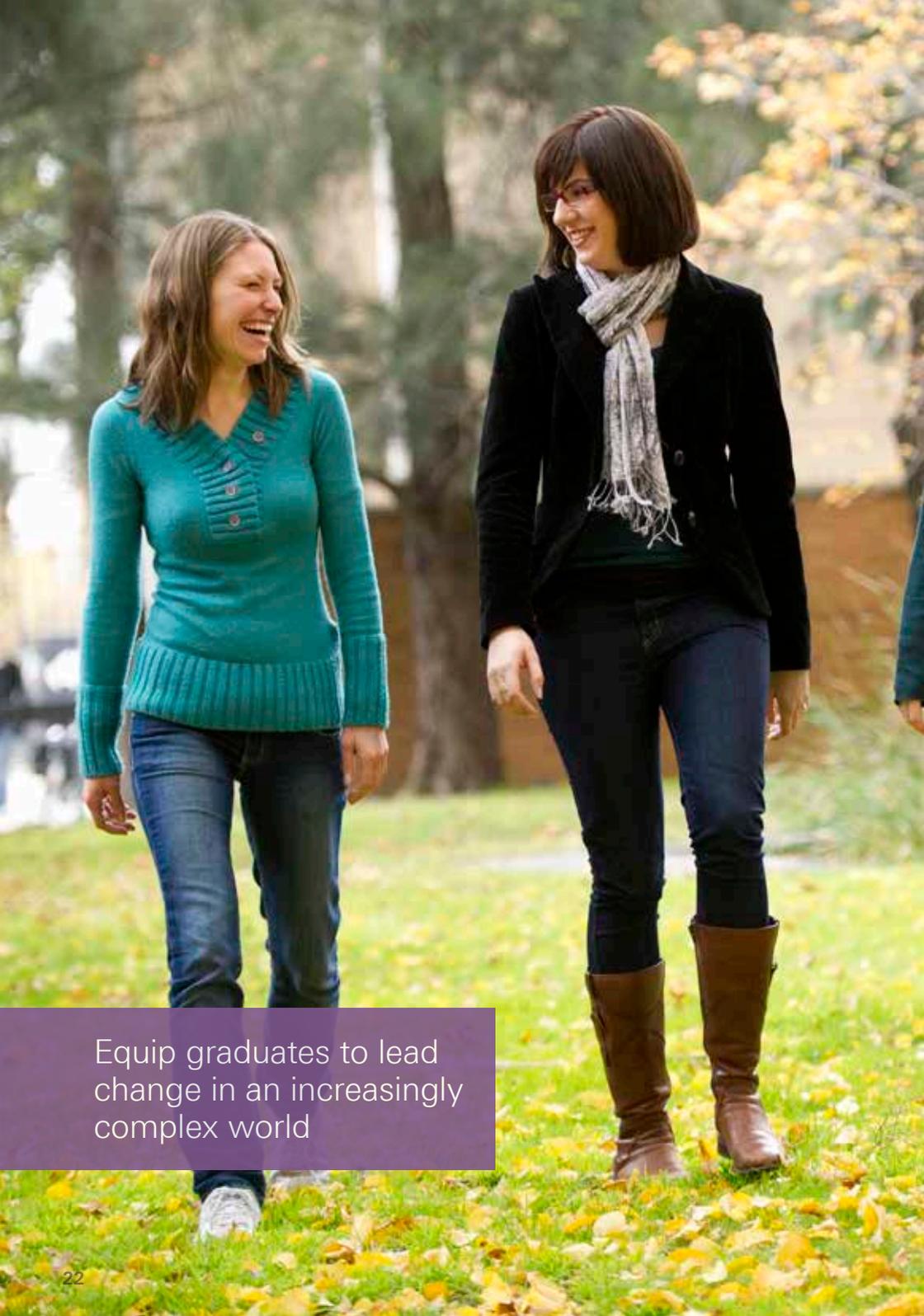
... we create opportunities for our students to achieve research excellence and leadership.

Higher Degree Teaching and Learning

Building on the strong reputation of The University of Melbourne as a research intensive university, we create opportunities for our students to achieve research excellence and leadership.

Our advanced Masters by research and PhD program provide training in diverse methodologies across a range of topic areas.

Our students generate evidence to understand and inform practice and policy, for example: effective leadership in evidence-based practice; trauma recovery in the aftermath of disaster; culturally responsive approaches to service delivery; effective early childhood intervention services; leadership in social work education; advancing narrative therapy methodologies; coping with cancer in adolescence; and parenting with cancer.



Equip graduates to lead change in an increasingly complex world



The Master of Social Work

Our Master of Social Work degree is a nationally and internationally benchmarked course that prepares our graduates to become leaders in the field of social work: committed to social justice and active as global citizens.

We nurture a vibrant learning community by bringing together well-qualified and experienced teachers with strong industry networks. This enables our students to engage with a rigorous academic program that closely aligns with practical and clinical fieldwork education.

We equip our graduates to lead change in an increasingly complex and diverse world.

Creating stories of hope that transform lives



...provides formal training and recognition for narrative therapy.

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work provides formal training and recognition for narrative therapy and is delivered as a joint initiative with the Dulwich Centre in Adelaide.

Narrative approaches to therapy and community work are used by social workers, psychologists, community development workers, nurses, teachers, doctors and other health professionals in a wide range of practice settings.

Our Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work, which has been accredited by the Australian Counselling Association, includes two intensive teaching blocks at The Dulwich Centre and an online program of work.

To find out more visit www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/narrativetherapy



Developing world leading teaching programs for life-long learning



New Course Developments

In addition to our well-established teaching program, we are developing initiatives that focus on:

- On-line subjects and courses for professional development and post-qualifying specialisation in:
 - Health and mental health
 - Ageing
 - Implementation science
- Expanding our international collaborations such as the East/West partnership with the University of Hong Kong





Our Students

Our students represent the future strength of our profession. The breadth and quality of their social work education provides a firm foundation for future leadership.



Our Staff

Our staff are committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, capturing the essence of evidence-informed practice, and responding to key concerns across local, national and international communities.



If you are interested in donating to social work research or student scholarships please visit:

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/find-priority

Head of Department

Professor Marie Connolly

www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au

Thanks to Michael Meszaros for designing the Hyslop Medal



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