

PRIMARY AND ALLIED HEALTH CARE

JULY NEWSLETTER



As ever in large organisations, change is constant. Anyone visiting the Clayton or Caulfield Campuses couldn't fail to notice the cranes, scaffolding, and the new spaces and buildings. That sort of an environment should soon be a part of daily life at the Peninsula Campus, with the Peninsula Plan moving closer to reality.

Buildings are pretty obvious, but what has even more impact is the transition of the “rules of the game”. Educational courses get approved, reviewed and accredited and, as our team did this week, we find out about new funding opportunities with impossibly tight submission deadlines. Just yesterday I received the new Graduate Research Examination policy, and last week new guidelines for Research Scholarships. In the middle of all of this, our school still needs deliver on its core business of educating, challenging and inspiring well over a thousand undergraduate and postgraduate students across a host of health disciplines.

However the change that has most impact, follows changes with *people*. A major change comes this month with Professor Margaret Alston stepping down from her position as Head of the Department of Social Work. Margaret has held the position since 2008, coming from a long career at Charles Sturt University.

Margaret's contributions to Monash University and to the wider field of gender studies and climate change have been profound. She has championed the industry standard Master of Social Work (Qualifying) and has overseen an astonishing increase in international student numbers. She has also established the Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) research unit, which continues to be the inspiration for dozens of PhD students. All the while Margaret has continued to be a leader in Social Work internationally, and has, until recently, chaired the Australian Council of Heads of Schools of Social Work. Margaret will continue to lead GLASS and act as an academic in the Department. It will give her time to increase her focus on an ever-increasing number of book contracts.

I would like to thank Margaret for all she has done for her Department, our School and for the Australian community. A/Professor Philip Mendes will become acting Head of Department as of the 23rd July, while we conduct a search for a new Head of Department.

And finally, in terms of change, the University is close to appointing my replacement as Head of School. So this is likely to be my last newsletter editorial.

It has been a great and humbling opportunity to lead the School over the last 6 years and, more recently as we have evolved to become the new School of Primary and Allied Health Care. I have learnt a great deal about relationships, health care disciplines and, yes, the ever-complex Australian university sector.

In particular I want to acknowledge Gillian Paulse and her professional staff team; Steve Maloney and his Education Committee; Lisa O'Brien and the Research Committee; and, of course, the long suffering Heads of Department. I wish all in the School Community well in the future and look forward to working with many of you in the years ahead.

Farewell to Professional staff members.

Two of the School's key professional staff members have left the university to pursue other opportunities. Firstly our Finance Manager, Thila Hallock has left to take up an opportunity to work in her family consultancy firm. Thila has been instrumental in tidying up the finances within the school over the past several years.

Also our Manager, Placements & Partnerships, Lesley Veater has taken up an opportunity in London. Lesley has supported the Social Work Field Education program for several years during periods of significant growth and more recently has been responsible for managing the placement administration team across the School.

We wish both Thila and Lesley all the best with their future endeavours.

New email address for Education and HDR/Research

As part of the School's continuous improvement strategies around the professional support services, we have created two new generic email addresses for all staff and HDR students to use to when making any enquiries regarding HDR or Education administration.

All Enquiries regarding **HDR Administration** (student enquiries, supervisor enquiries) or issues relating to the **Research Committee** are to be addressed to spahc.hdr.research@monash.edu.

All Enquiries regarding issues relating to the **Education Committee** such as CAPC forms, SETU requests, Handbook updates are to be addressed to spahc.education@monash.edu.

What's new on the [Intranet](#)

- ◆ Student services - important dates - May-July
- ◆ Process for Staff professional development funding
- ◆ Travel booking for professional development process
- ◆ travel booking process
- ◆ updated SPAHC Structure document
- ◆ updated Student Services contact list
- ◆ updated SPAHC OHS representatives

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Physio seminar success

Last month the Department of Physiotherapy hosted an inaugural seminar as part of a new 'Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Seminar Series'. This series aims to enhance professional development within the Peninsula/South-Eastern region for clinicians, students and researchers interested in cardiorespiratory rehabilitation medicine. The new initiative was established by Dr. Christian Osadnik, Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow in the Physiotherapy department, in response to an emerging gap identified amongst Monash University clinical partners and in an attempt to enhance the opportunities for collaborative education and research within the region. A crucial component of the initiative is the opportunity to network and strengthen relationships between those working in the clinical environment and academic staff and students of the Peninsula campus.

Dr. Osadnik gave the first presentation of the series entitled "*Novel approaches to the rehabilitation of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease*" which was run in conjunction with the Victorian Branch of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand. The session was very well received by the 50 delegates in attendance. The seminar series is planned to run on a quarterly basis at Peninsula Campus.

Further information regarding future events in this series will be available via the [website](#)



OT Student project features on TV

A Participatory Community Placement Project from students within the Masters of occupational therapy Practice course was recently featured on the ABC's 'Gardening Australia' program.

Olivia Sun and Isabelle Aubrey did a fantastic job representing our Occupational Therapy program, implementing a community garden with one of Yooralla's disability residential accommodations. The six-month-long project involved developing a sustainable kitchen garden with the residents to help them engage in meaningful tasks and spark positive social connections. This was done by creating an accessible garden space featuring modified long-handled gardening tools, educational resources, and a photo diary for residents to track their journey in the garden as a community. Since its completion, the garden has successfully empowered residents to take on new roles. To watch the segment, click [here](#). The segment starts 7 minutes in.

DCEHPP continues its funding success

Simon Sawyer and staff from the Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic were recently successful in obtaining School funding for the project: "*An outcome measure for intimate partner violence educational interventions*". The impact of the project is significant. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a leading contributor to death and illness for women. The healthcare sector response centres on improving the education of practitioners to recognise and refer patients to care and support. The evaluation of educational interventions is problematic due to a lack of robust outcome measures. This project aims to create a new outcome measure to measure the impact of educational interventions on the knowledge, attitudes and skills of healthcare students and professionals. Currently there are no tools with reported psychometric testing demonstrating they are robust measures of the knowledge, attitudes and skills for healthcare professionals in Australia. The project will be completed in 12 months and outcomes will allow other healthcare discipline across the School and University using IPV educational interventions access to a valid and reliable measure.



DCEHPP celebrates Ramadan Iftar

DCEHPP staff and our three of their current Middle Eastern PhD students recently celebrated the inaugural Ramadan Iftar at Peninsula Campus. A range of food, both local and Middle Eastern were offered in celebration to the students and staff who had fasted throughout the day. They were also joined by Professor David Copolov (Pro Vice Chancellor, Major Campuses and Student Engagement) who was very pleased with the Peninsula Campus engaging in cultural activities.

