women, children and their families

2022









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Health and wellbeing in the childhood years – beginning as early as the preconception and prenatal periods – provides an important foundation for positive health status in adolescence and throughout life.

There are multiple social determinants of health and wellbeing that can impact at different times on women, children and their families. These factors are diverse, multidimensional and dynamic and include genetics, behaviour, biology, the family and home environment, schools, friendship networks and the urban environment.

Vulnerable women and children, such as those living in poverty, at risk of violence, with mental health or substance abuse issues and newly arrived refugees and migrants, require special support to meet their complex health and social needs.

As a speech pathologist, I developed an intervention package called Learning to Communicate to help parents learn how to set up an environment that fosters early communication development. It required working not just with speech pathologists, but with occupational therapists and physiotherapists, nursing and medical staff as well as parents – making all of them feel like they were equal contributors to the intervention.

That intervention package became incorporated into the Miller Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting Program, the first randomised, controlled, trial of sustained home visiting in Australia. I'm very pleased that it's now used not only in Australia, but in the UK, United States, Korea and in other

countries. It's a great privilege to have been part of something that started with an observation of mothers and babies.

The Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families embodies this spirit of service design and delivery, innovation and research and empowerment of the community.

Since the establishment of RPA Hospital in 1882, we have provided a wide range of health, medical and social services to women and children.

We have demonstrated the power of proactively fostering good physical, emotional, social, cognitive and spiritual health and wellbeing across places, communities and environments.

Most importantly, we have given women education, responsibility and choice when it comes to their healthcare and that of their families.

The Institute will continue to build on this legacy to empower women to maximise their health and wellbeing and that of their families and to enable them to thrive.

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Dr Teresa Anderson AMChief Executive,
Sydney Local Health District



Sydney Local Health District provides

Excellence in health and healthcare for all



About Sydney Local Health District

Sydney Local Health District is one of the leading Local Health Districts in Australia.

Our District is located in the centre and inner west of Sydney and is made up of the Local Government Areas of the City of Sydney (western part), Inner West Council, Canterbury-Bankstown (Canterbury part), Canada Bay, Burwood and Strathfield.

With around 12,000 staff, our District is responsible for the health and wellbeing of more than 700,000 people living within our boundaries, rural and remote parts of NSW and Australia and more than a million people who come into our District each day to work, study and visit.

Our District includes principal referral hospitals at Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) and Concord Repatriation General Hospital (Concord Hospital or CRGH), a major metropolitan hospital at Canterbury, the aged care and rehabilitation specialist hospital at Balmain, and the tertiary oral health facility, the Sydney Dental Hospital.

Our District has comprehensive community-based health services ranging across child and family health, community nursing, oral health, mental health, aged care, chronic care, drug and alcohol services, sexual health, population health, health promotion, Aboriginal health and multicultural health. Services are linked with primary care providers, including the local primary healthcare network, the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN.

Our District has a vision to be a **world leader in research** which drives **excellence in healthcare** and ultimately improves the health and wellbeing of the community, while generating social and economic benefits.

We are focused on realising this vision through investing in building research capacity across our disciplines and services, creating knowledge through cutting edge research and translating research into best practice and policy.



Our Vision

Our vision is to maximise **lifelong health**, **wellbeing** and **opportunities** for women, children and their families through education, research and innovation.

The vision of the Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families is to be internationally-recognised as a leading centre of education, policy, research and innovation in the pursuit of lifelong health and wellbeing.

The Institute is committed to discovering, developing, defining and distributing the best evidence-based practice and policy to shape models of care, service design and system transformation with a focus on the rapid translation of research into practice.

The Institute will be distinguished as a thought leader and knowledge broker with a record of engaging and inspiring clinicians, researchers, policy makers and the wider community to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for women, children and their families across life stages and places.

Our Purpose

The Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families is a central hub for research, evaluation, education and policy centred on, and related to, the health and social wellbeing of women, children and their families.

The Institute facilitates collaborative, multidisciplinary research across Sydney Local Health District and our partner institutions across the Sydney Research Precinct and government and non-government agencies.

Our members share resources, information, concepts and values and work together to build the capacity of our clinicians, researchers and community health professionals to empower women, children and their families to take control of their own health.

Our Objectives

In the short-to-medium term, we will:

Create a skilled workforce committed to developing knowledge and research concepts.

Strengthen the capacity of services and departments within the scope of the Institute to undertake research, and promote interdisciplinary, cross-agency collaborative research.

Establish academic departments that spearhead education, research, care models, service design and evaluation.

Promote education, training and opportunities for early career researchers in both clinical and non-clinical disciplines.

Advance academic career pathways through the development and implementation of structured programs and the provision of supportive and engaging mentorships.

Engage government agencies in particular human service agencies, local governments, universities and other tertiary institutions, non-government organisations, primary care organisations, and public and private practitioners.

Facilitate the sharing of ideas through the establishment of transparent communication networks across the continuum of care.

Promote integrated health service and community pathways and early intervention services and programs.

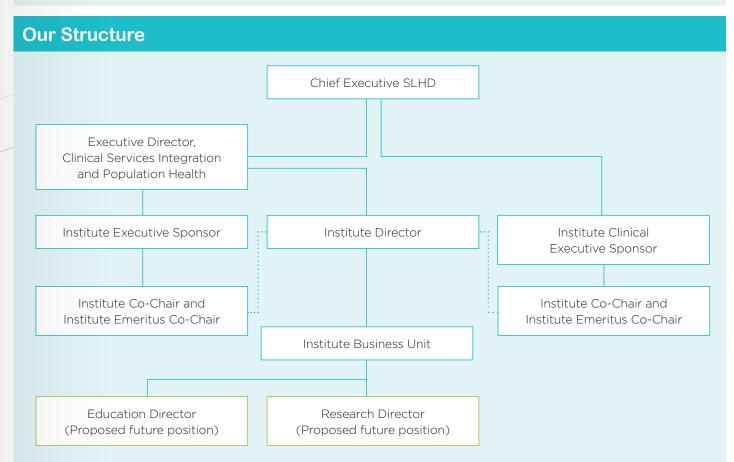
Establish validated operational and governance processes to engage patients, their carers and families to be key partners in the Institute.

Empower women, children and their family members to seek opportunities including improved education, employment, housing and support services.

Foster international collaborations that contribute to global health and development strategies.

Explore partnerships and funding opportunities and establish governance structures and systems to ensure operational sustainability.

Seek collaboration with industry and partner institutes across NSW, Australia and worldwide.



The people of Sydney Local Health District

Sydney Local Health District is characterised by **socio-economic diversity,** with pockets of both extreme advantage and extreme disadvantage.

The District is rich in cultural and social diversity with almost half of the District's population speaking a language other than English at home, including significant numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and special humanitarian entrants.

Almost 8 per cent of the District population speaks little or no English. The major languages spoken at home include Chinese languages, Arabic, Greek, Korean, Italian and Vietnamese.

A very significant Aboriginal population resides in the District especially in the Redfern/Waterloo area, in the City of Sydney and in Marrickville. Aboriginal people are widely recognised as having poorer health, education, employment and access to services.

The planned redevelopment of major social housing estates at Waterloo, Redfern and Riverwood aims to significantly increase the density and social mix and diversity of those estates.

A feature of the District's social diversity is our proud lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community. A number of our suburbs have the highest proportions of same-sex couples in Australia.

The District is characterised by a large population of people who are homeless and 40 per cent of NSW boarding houses are located in the District.

The District is experiencing widespread transformation occurring through urban renewal and increased population density and housing affordability is an increasing issue.

Government forecasts project a population growth rate of 40 per cent between 2016 and 2036. This growth rate outstrips that of NSW, which is projected to grow by 28 per cent.

Birth rates are steady

There were **8468 babies born** to mothers who lived in the District in 2016.

Women are giving birth later in life

The average age at which women who lived in the District gave birth in 2016 was **32.4**, up from **31.6** in 2006.

More than half of mothers were born overseas

54 per cent of mothers who lived in the District in 2016 were born overseas and **47 per cent** came from countries where English is not the main language spoken. More than 10 per cent were born in China.

Smoking in pregnancy has declined

3 per cent of District mothers smoked during pregnancy, down from 6 per cent in 2006.

More women are giving birth in private hospitals

The proportion of mothers who lived in the District giving birth in private hospitals increased from **20 per cent** in 2006 to **26 per cent** in 2016.

Rates of spontaneous labour have decreased

The proportion of District mothers who experienced spontaneous labour declined steadily from **61 per cent** in 2006 to **47 per cent** in 2016, while the proportion whose labour was induced increased from **21 per cent** to **30 per cent**.

Most women attended antenatal care in the first trimester

Almost all mothers had at least one antenatal visit with **83 per cent** attending in the first trimester, although mothers under 20 years of age and Indigenous mothers had lower rates.

*Source: Mothers and Babies 2016

99 thousand children

in Sydney Local Health District

5 in 1000 children

are in out-of-home care

19% of children

are in low income, welfare dependant families

The population of children aged

0-4 years

is predicted to increase by 25 per cent by 2031

In the financial year 2017/18:

Almost **53000** children were registered to Child and Family Health Services. Almost **7000** children received universal health home visiting. **944** children with a disability required assistance with daily living. **5895** children received Statewide Eyesight Preschooler (STEPS) screening. **96 per cent** received early childhood education prior to starting school.



Key research areas

- · Health promotion
- Population health
- Public health
- Social epidemiology
- Health and social systems
- Translational research
- · Innovation and research
- Aboriginal health
- · Disability research

Genomics

- Screening tools for prediction of adverse pregnancy outcome
- First trimester screening
- Population based screening for trisomies and atypical chromosome abnormalities
- Reproductive genetics

Reproduction and pregnancy

- Early pregnancy
- Clinical midwifery research
- · Maternal fetal medicine
- Adolescent pregnancy

- Nutrition and pregnancy
- · Aboriginal pregnancy care
- Gynaecology
- Preconception care
- Fetal growth
- Sexual and reproductive healthcare
- · Obstetric screening
- Hypertension in pregnancy
- Fetal growth and preterm birth influence
- Perinatal outcomes
- Maternal depression
- Perinatal and family drug health
- Substance use in pregnancy
- · Perinatal and infant care
- Pre-eclampsia

Newborn care

- Newborn infant care
- Newborn outcomes
- Hip dysplasia and newborn infants
- Stillbirths and neonatal deaths
- Neonatal jaundice

Oral health

- Oral health and birth outcomes
- Oral health and cardiovascular care
- Dental and oral health care and pregnancy
- Midwifery and oral health for pregnant women
- · Childhood tooth decay
- Oral health promotion for children
- Oral health and multicultural health

Overweight, obesity and gestational diabetes

- Nutrition
- Cardiometabolic health in childhood
- Obesity in early pregnancy, mothers and children
- Overweight and obesity
- Physical activity
- Diabetes in pregnancy/ gestational diabetes



Social determinants of health

- Family and child poverty social causes
- Building neighbourhood nest
- Injury prevention and safe products and environments
- Health equity

Child growth and development

- Healthy Beginnings program
- Aboriginal early years
- Early years research
- · Infant behaviour
- Early childhood education and care
- Nurturing care for early childhood development

- Integrated care with children, young people and families
- Family centred care
- Child, family and youth health
- Lifespan approach to the health of women and children and families
- Early literacy and early language development

Infant care

- · Infant feeding practices
- Breastfeeding

Mental health

- Perinatal depression
- Psychological trauma on physical and mental health in families
- Adverse childhood experiences

Safety and wellbeing

- Child and family safety
- Family violence or intimate partner violence (IPV) or domestic violence
- · Child protection

Systems, services and policies

- Service models research
- Knowledge translation
- Children in all policies
- Integrated care
- Intergenerational approach to early childhood development
- System transformation
- Breaking cycles
- Information for all

History of women, children and families in Sydney Local Health District

1872

Mrs Mary Roberts makes a donation of £1250 to the Prince Alfred Hospital planning committee for the establishment of a Children's Ward

1880

The Sydney Hospital for Sick Children opened in Glebe

1882

The Prince Alfred Hospital opened

1883

The Prince Alfred Hospital becomes NSW's first university teaching hospital with the establishment of the University of Sydney's Medical School

1884

First gynaecologist, George T. Hankins, appointed

1887

Alexandra Children's Ward opened at The Prince Alfred Hospital

1898

Gynaecological
Department established

1903

The Royal prefix added

1906

First woman doctor, Dr Jessie Aspinall, appointed; given "special work"

The Glebe hospital relocated to Camperdown and renamed the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children

1908

Alexandra Children's Ward remodelled

1914

First Baby Health Clinic in NSW established at Alexandria

1917

Social Service department established

Honorary physician and surgeon designated to supervise care of children

1919

Hospital Auxiliary formed

1922

The New Hospital for Women and Children established in Surry Hills with six female doctors

1933

The Alexandra Ward relocated from the Princes' Block to C Block

1935

Alexandra Ward solarium built

1939

Occupational Therapy department established

1940

University of Sydney Professor of Obstetrics Dr Bruce Mayers became a full-time member of staff



1941

Antenatal Clinic established; Assistant matron appointed

King George V Memorial Hospital for Mothers and Babies opened by His Excellency The Governor of NSW The Lord Wakehurst K.C.M.G.

The New Hospital for Women and Children is transferred from Surry Hills to Redfern and renamed the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children

1944

Antenatal Clinic in Missenden Road opened

1947

Humidicrib built for babies born in respiratory distress

1949

The Institute of Child Health is established at the University of Sydney and Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children

1951

diabetes established

1953

The Dr Norman Cunningham Special Ward for Sick Babies established

1958

Queen Elizabeth II Research Centre for Mothers and Babies opened

1959

The Edith West Cancer Detection Clinic for Women opened

1960

Fetal monitoring introduced

1961

Speech therapy department established

1967

Emergency department established

First renal transplant performed

1968

Appointment of Dr Rodney Shearman as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

1969

Alexandra Children's Ward closed

Sister Alison Bush joined the King George Labour Ward

1971

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit established at Rivendell

John Spence Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery opened

Paediatrics included in the Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Community Care Teaching Unit established

1972

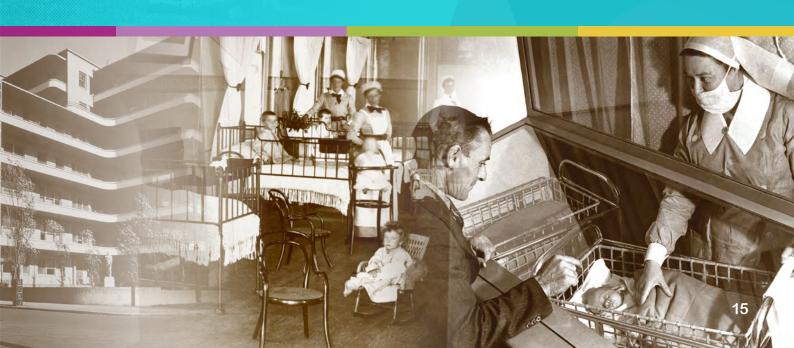
Department of Community Medicine created

1975

Early Childhood Social Work Service established

Colin Benstead first male to graduate in obstetric nursing





History of women, children and families in Sydney Local Health District

1977

The Department of Paediatrics is re-named the Department of Perinatal Medicine

1986

Royal Prince Alfred and Area Health Service created incorporating The Rachel Forster Hospital

1987

Baby Health Centres renamed Early Childhood Health Centres

1988

Clinical Trials Centre opened

1990

Mulvey Mothercraft Unit established

Birthing Centre opened

Midwifery Outreach program established

1991

Aboriginal midwife liaison appointed

1993

Chair of Gynaecological Oncology established

1995

Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children moves to Westmead and renamed The Children's Hospital at Westmead

1996

Alexandra Ward for Children re-opened in KGV

Division of Women and Children's Health formed

1998

First multi-agency initiative to address prevention, early intervention and improved outcomes

2000

The Rachel Forster Hospital closed; most services relocated to RPA

Clinical pathways models for services for vulnerable groups established

2001

District-wide parenting coordinator position established

2002

King George V Memorial Hospital for Mothers and Babies closed. Building repurposed for District administration

RPA Women and Babies department commissioned

Children's Ward moved to RPA clinical services building

2003

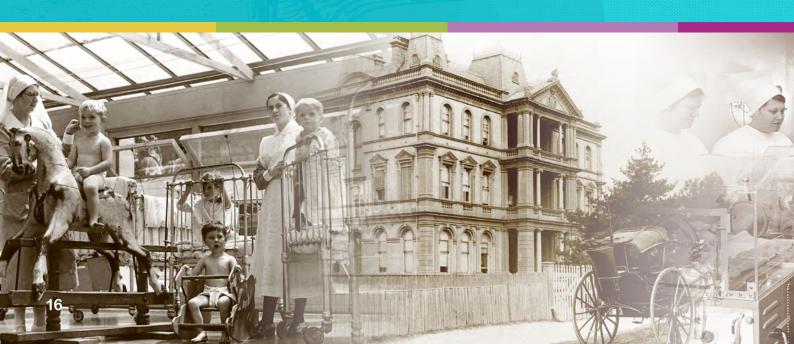
Multi-agency Resourcing Parents initiative commenced

2004

Healthy Beginnings resources developed

2005

Young parents Sustained Nurse Home Visiting Program commenced



2009

Branches multidisciplinary clinics for vulnerable populations established

Deadly Tots resource for Aboriginal families launched

2010

Early Years Research Group initiated

2011

Aboriginal specific Sustained Health Home Visiting Program "Yana Muru" initiated

Learning to Communicate parent handbook and CD published

2014

Love, Sing, Talk, Read, Play app launched

2015

Healthy Homes and Neighbourhood (HHAN) integrated care initiative launched

2016

Healthy Families Healthy Children program created

Sustained Health Home Visiting service initiated

2017

Talking and Listening Check-Ups rolled-out District-wide

Child and Family Health Service Research Group founded

2018

Feeding clinic established

Sustained Health Home Visiting service expanded across the District

First parenting education groups for LGBTIQ community

Announcement of the formation of the Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families at the District Annual General Meeting

2019

District Community Health Services program HHAN wins District Quality Award for Delivering Integrated Care, District Chairman's Award for Excellence, NSW Health Award for Delivering Integrated Care, and the Prime Minister's Award for Collaboration

PowerChart Maternity – First baby in NSW to have a fully integrated electronic medical record from birth

2020

HHAN was a finalist for the 2020 NSW Premiers Award for Tackling Longstanding Social Challenges

2021

The evaluation of the 'Inner West Sydney Child Health & Wellbeing Plan 2016-21' was completed to help inform future strategic planning. The plan is an interagency collaboration that aims to support and enhance child health and wellbeing.

2022

Construction of NSW's first public purpose built Parent and Baby Unit at RPA Hospital was completed and will be opening in 2022



A tribute to Dr Robert Ogle

Dr Robert Ogle was the Clinical Executive Sponsor for Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families. Rob died in 2020 and we would like to acknowledge his contribution to Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital, Sydney Local Health District and our local community.

Rob trained at the University of Sydney before being an intern at RPA Hospital and then completed specialist training in both Clinical Genetics and Obstetrics/ Maternal and Fetal Medicine.

He was Clinical Director of the Division of Women's Health, Neonatology and Paediatrics for Sydney Local Health District; overseeing service provision and development at RPA, Canterbury and Concord Hospitals. Through this role he provided support and mentorship to his colleagues and those training within the discipline, developed a strong bond with the local community and acted as an advocate for services that improved health outcomes for women, children and families.

Rob was involved in the establishment of the Institute and saw this as an opportunity to develop a focal point for research, education and policy development that incorporated hospital staff, academics and the local community, engaging with the whole spectrum of the life cycle – from cradle through reproduction to old age.

We would like to thank Rob for giving us the opportunity to come together to improve health and social outcomes for women, children and families living in Sydney.

Prof Jon Hyett

Emeritus Co-Chair of the Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families Staff Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Sydney South Western Local Health District Professor of Obstetrics Western Sydney University



Our leadership team

Professor Sameer Bhole

Sameer is the Clinical Director, Oral Health Clinical Stream and Sydney Dental Hospital, Sydney Local Health District and Clinical Professor, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney.

Sameer has dedicated his career to the improvement of oral health for disadvantaged populations with a specific focus on health inequities, access barriers and social determinants of health.

He has worked internationally and has extensive experience in academia, research, public dental services and private practice in both the developed and emerging world. He is an inaugural Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons in the specialist stream of Dental Public Health.

He is a Clinical Professor at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney and works to support clinical training for future dentists, oral health therapists and dental specialists.

He is also one of the researchers in the Healthy Smiles Healthy Kids Project. This is an important and innovative study that has tracked dental health and obesity outcomes of a birth cohort of 1035 children from birth to age 4.5 years. In particular, this proposed project will provide a unique opportunity to collect health and service use data until these children are six years old.

Sameer is currently one of the key investigators in the Midwifery Initiated Oral Health program which is research that focuses on promoting oral health care during pregnancy.

As an Institute Management Group Member, Sameer is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Institute and his oral health research team.

Select publications:

Hannah G.Dahlen, Maree Johnson, Julia Hoolsema, Tiffany Patterson Norrie, Shilpi Ajwani, Anthony Blinkhorn, Sameer Bhole, Sharon Ellis, Ravi Srinivas, Albert Yaacoub, Andrew Milat, John Skinner and Ajesh George. Process evaluation of the midwifery initiated oral health-dental service program: Perceptions of midwives in Greater Western Sydney, Australia. Women and Birth. Available online 17 July 2018.

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Professor
Sameer Bhole
Management
Group Member,
Sydney Institute
for Women, Children
and their Families -

BDS MDSc (Syd) FRACDS (DPH) FICD FADI FFASPHD

Professor Jonathan Carter

Jonathan is the Clinical Director Women's Health, Neonatology and Paediatrics for Sydney Local Health District and Conjoint Professor, University of Sydney, a position he has held since 2006. For almost 25 years he led the Gynaecological Oncology Unit at both RPA Hospital and more recently at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

He is a senior clinician, administrator, academic, educator and researcher of 40 years' experience holding specialty and subspecialty Fellowship and Certification in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Gynaecological Oncology respectively.

As an academic he has authored or co-authored 176 peer reviewed manuscripts as well as 5 books and 14 book chapters and has presented his research at numerous local, state, national and international meetings.

He has been awarded a Master of Science and Doctorate of Medicine for his research into ultrasound assessment of gynaecological tumours. He has also received awards including the Virginia K. Pierce Award from The Society of Memorial Gynecologic Oncologists, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York and the Young Investigators Award from The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He has also received the Viertel Clinical Investigatorship award and grant from the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. He was also Turnbull Scholar, University of Melbourne and The Royal Women's Hospital.

Jonathan was a finalist in the 2011 Premiers Award for Research; awarded first place in the Sydney Local Health District Quality Awards "Improving access to timely quality healthcare". He was also awarded the SLHD Board Award for "Innovation in Healthcare in our Hospitals" and awarded first place in SLHD Quality Awards "Integrated Health Care" for the fast track surgery program.

Select publications:

Carter J. Serum bile acids in normal pregnancy. British Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology 1991;98(6):540-3.

Carter J. Saltzman A, Hartenbach E, Fowler J, Carson L, Twiggs LB. Flow characteristics in benign and malignant gynecologic tumors using transvaginal color flow Doppler. Obstetrics and Gynecology 1994;83(1):125-30.

Carter J. Lau M, Fowler JM, Carlson JW, Carson LF, Twiggs LB. Blood flow characteristics of ovarian tumors: implications for ovarian cancer screening. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 1995;172(3):901-7.

Carter J, Wan KM, Philp S. Optimizing recovery after surgery. Predictors of early discharge and hospital readmission. ANZJOG 2016; 56:489-495.



Professor Jonathan Carter

Clinical Executive Sponsor – Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families

MBBS DipRACOG FACS FRANZCOG CGO MS MD

Professor John Eastwood

John is the Executive Clinical Advisor, Integrated Health and Social Care Initiatives, Sydney Local Health District. John also holds positions in New Zealand, where he is the Medical Officer of Health and the Acting Chief Medical Officer of the Southern District Health Board.

He is also the Conjoint Professor, School of Women's and Children's Health, University of New South Wales; Adjunct Professor, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Charles Perkins Centre, School of Public Health, and Discipline of Child & Adolescent Health, The University of Sydney School of Medicine; Chair of the Early Years Research Group, Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research; Visiting Academic Sydney Children's Hospital Network; Chair of Child Public Health, Chapter of Community Child Health and NSW Regional Chair of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians; Executive Member of the International Society of Social Paediatrics and Child Health; and Co-Chair of Integrating Care for Children, Young People and their Families and Health and Social Care special interest groups; and Chair of Realist Research Design and Evaluation Special Interest Group, and the International Foundation of Integrated Care.

John has clinically practiced in the fields of public health policy translation, child population health and community child health for more than 30 years. He has an extensive career in research translation into policy and clinical practice at a state, federal and international level.

He has established and provided leadership to a number of Sydney-based research, education and innovation streams, including, Early Years Research, Integrated Health and Social Care, Realist Research Design and Evaluation, Child and Family Research, and Integrating Care for Children, Young People and their Families.

He has designed and implemented programs targeted towards perinatal service coordination and regional services for vulnerable families in Sydney and South West Sydney, including sustained home visiting and parenting programs with web and mobile-based applications.

John is involved in research collaboration projects with organisations around the world. Nationally, his research collaborations have focussed on child and family policy translation, integrated care and the development of realist methodology.

Select publications:

Eastwood J, Ogbo FA, Hendry A, Noble J, Page A, Early Years Research Group. The impact of antenatal depression on perinatal outcomes in Australian women. PloS one. 2017 Jan 17;12(1):e0169907. One of two recently published Early Research Group studies using linked Sydney maternal and child health data (2012-2016).

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Eastwood, J. Jalaludin, B. Kemp, L. Phung, H. Barnett, B. Tobin, J. Social exclusion, infant behaviour, social isolation and maternal expectations independently predict maternal depressive symptoms. Brain and Behaviour, 2013; 3: 14-23. Describes non-linear principal component analysis to identify latent variables at the individual level for structural equation modelling of perinatal maternal and infant stress.



Professor John Eastwood Institute Emeritus Co-Chair – Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families

ED Lt Col RNZAMC BHumBio MBChB DCH DComH MPH MHM PhD FRACP FAFPHM FNZCCM FFNZCPHM

Professor Adrienne Gordon

Adrienne is a Neonatologist at RPA Women and Babies and an NHMRC Early Career Fellow in the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology at the University of Sydney.

Adrienne has a strong research interest in perinatal topics that can improve pregnancy and newborn outcomes. She has a Masters of Public Health and completed a PhD on the risk factors for stillbirth.

She has headed numerous largescale studies, trials and research collaborations that investigate the causes and risk factors for stillbirth and perinatal death, prevention and care.

They include a study which examined the risk factors for late pregnancy stillbirth in nine hospitals and led to the creation of a follow-up service for families following stillbirth or neonatal death.

Adrienne is also leading BABY1000 which is a longitudinal pregnancy and birth cohort study assessing modifiable risks and interventions in first 1000 days of life that impact on later life health.

She has also been involved in public health campaigns which aim to raise awareness about stillbirth prevention.

Adrienne is a member of several state and national committees which devise policy and practice in the delivery of perinatal care.

Select publications:

Flenady V, Gordon A, Bauman A. Stillbirth prevention: the challenges of public campaigns. BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. 2018; 125 (2), 253-253.

H Reinebrant, S Leisher, M Coory, S Henry, AM Wojcieszek, G Gardener, R Lourie, D Ellwood, Z Teoh, E Allanson, H Blencowe, ES Draper, JJ Erwich , F Frøen, J Gardos, K Gold, S Gordijn, A Gordon, AEP Heazell, TY Khong, F Korteweg, JE Lawn, EM McClure, J Oats, R Pattinson , K Pettersson, D Siassakos, RM Silver, GCS Smith, O Tuncßalp, V Flenady. Making stillbirths visible: a systematic review of globally reported causes of stillbirth. BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology 125 (2), 212-224.

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Professor Adrienne Gordon

Institute Co-Chair -Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families

MBChB MRCP MPH(Hons) FRACP PhD

Dianna Jagers

Dianna is the General Manager of Sydney Local Health District's Community Health Services.

As the General Manager of Sydney Local Health District Community Health Services, Dianna leads strategic planning and operations for a diverse range of services to support the District population of almost 700,000 people. These services include child, family and youth health services; sexual health, HIV allied health, sexual assault, domestic violence counselling; child protection and domestic violence strategic units.

Dianna originally trained as a Registered Nurse and joined the public sector as a clinician in 1990, working in Australia and the Middle East in clinical, informatics and managerial roles in health.

Prior to her role as General Manager, Dianna was RPA Virtual Hospital's Director of Integration and Clinical Services Support. She set the innovative direction for RPA Virtual by amalgamating clinical services with information technology. Before and during the response to COVID-19, Dianna led the virtual care response for the State in technology-enabled, community-based care.

Dianna is committed to the integration of clinical care with informatics to improve service delivery and enhance patient outcomes.

Select publications:

Michael Dinh, Owen Hutchings, Kendall Bein, James Shaw, Aditi Raut, Saartje Berendsen Russell, Dianna Jagers, Rajip Thapa, Gregory Fox, James Edwards, Timothy Wand and Warwick Britton. Emergency department presentations by residents of Sydney quarantine hotels during the COVID-19 outbreak. Med J Aust 2021; 214 (10): 473-474. || doi: 10.5694/mja2.51046

Shaw MJ, McLeod J, Komusanac I, Jagers D. Sydney District Nursing: the common thread enabling integrated care. International Journal of Integrated Care. 2014;14(9):None. DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.1955



Dianna Jagers
Executive Sponsor Sydney Institute
for Women, Children
and their Families

RN BN MHSc

Professor Jon Hyett

Jon is a Clinical Academic and Staff Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in South Western Sydney Local Health District, and a Professor of Obstetrics at Western Sydney University.

Jon completed his medical training in the UK, specialising in Obstetrics and Maternal and Fetal Medicine. He was subsequently appointed as a consultant at King's College Hospital in London - which runs the largest Maternal and Fetal Medicine service in Europe. Jon moved to Australia in 2006, working initially in Brisbane before coming to RPA in 2008.

Jon is an active researcher who has supported a number of PhD candidates to completion. He has published more than 150 research articles in peer-reviewed journals.

His research focuses on developing screening tools for prediction of adverse pregnancy outcome that allow prospective preventative intervention and a reduction in prevalence of disease.

He has been closely involved in the translational development of four major programs in obstetrics and fetal medicine now recognised as the standard of care around the world.

He is currently a chief investigator on two NHMRC grants and a NSW Health Medical Technology grant.

Select publications:

Vogel I, Tabor A, Ekelund C, Lou S, Hyett J, Petersen OB; The Danish Fetal Medicine Study Group, and the Danish Cytogenetic Study Group. Population-Based Screening for Trisomies and Atypical Chromosomal Abnormalities: Improving Efficacy using the Combined First Trimester Screening Algorithm as well as Individual Risk Parameters. Fetal Diagn Ther. 2018 Sep 10:1-6. doi: 10.1159/000492152. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30199859.

Sweeting AN, Wong J, Appelblom H, Ross GP, Kouru H, Williams PF, Sairanen M, Hyett JA. A first trimester prediction model for gestational diabetes utilizing aneuploidy and pre-eclampsia screening markers. J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med. 2018 Aug;31(16):2122-2130. doi: 10.1080/14767058.2017.1336759. Epub 2017 Jun 18. PubMed PMID: 28562122.

Javid N, Hyett JA, Homer CSE. The experience of vasa praevia for Australian midwives: A qualitative study. Women Birth. 2018 Jul 18. pii:S1871-5192(17)30509-7. doi: 10.1016/j. wombi.2018.06.020. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30031692.

Rolnik DL, da Silva Costa F, Sahota D, Hyett J, McLennan A. Quality assessment of uterine artery Doppler measurement in first trimester combined screening for pre-eclampsia. Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol. 2018 Jun 19. doi: 10.1002/uog.19116. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29917286.



Professor Jon Hyett Institute Emeritus Co-Chair – Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families

MBBS BSc MD MRCOG FRANZCOG

Dr George Johnson

George is the Director of the Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families (the Institute) based at Sydney Local Health District. He leads the strategic planning and operational management of the Institute. He is also an Adjunct Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney.

George has previously worked in University research and project management. For the past decade, he has held management roles within SLHD including Business Manager for the Districts Business Unit and the Public Health Unit, Interim Deputy Director for Population Health and A/Director of Service Improvement.

He is experienced in business administration, operational management, service reviews, project management, strategic planning, service development and health service management research. Additionally, his research experience includes: child and adolescent oral public health, longitudinal evaluation of clinical educational initiatives, and rural & remote health workforce planning within medicine and dentistry. He recently completed a PhD, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney in 2019, and holds a Bachelor of Food Science & Nutrition, Masters of Public Health and a Masters of Health Service Management. In 2020, George was awarded 'The Peter Bancroft Prize for Research Work' from the University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine for his PhD Thesis.

George is focussed on research engagement and helping to facilitate a strong multidisciplinary research culture through developing and growing the Institute.

Select publications:

Johnson G, Blinkhorn A, Byun R, Foster K & Wright FC. The workforce outcomes of dental graduates from a metropolitan school 'Rural Clinical Placement Program' versus a 'Rural Clinical School'. International Dental Journal 2020; 70:3:214-226.

Johnson G, Byun R, Foster K & Blinkhorn A. A longitudinal workforce analysis of a Rural Clinical Placement Program for final year dental students. Australian Dental Journal 2019; 64: 2: 181-192.

Johnson G, Wright FC, Foster K. The Impact of rural outreach programs on medical students' future rural intentions and working locations. A systematic review. BMC Medical Education 2018; 18: 196.

Skinner J, Byun R, Blinkhorn A & Johnson G. Sugary drink consumption and dental caries in New South Wales teenagers. Australian Dental Journal 2015; 60: 2: 169-175.



Dr George Johnson
Director –
Sydney Institute
for Women, Children
and their Families

BSc (Hons) MPH MHSM PhD

Katelyn Perren

Katelyn completed a Bachelor of Nutrition science in 2015, and prior to graduation she undertook a research placement in Vietnam where she implemented a small community nutrition program in response to the nutritional needs of pregnant women and children under the age of 5 years. This research project sparked her interest in the health of women, children and families.

Katelyn has worked in Sydney Local Health District since 2016, where she has enjoyed various roles in medical administrative support, medical department administration management and executive secretarial support.

Katelyn commenced studying a Masters of Public Health part time at the University of Sydney in July 2018. She is passionate about public health and is looking forward to completing these studies. She joined the Institute team as the Acting Senior Research and Project Officer in March 2020, and has found that her role at the Institute links well with her Masters of Public Health, her research interests, and her passion for supporting research.

Katelyn is interested in researching women's health and women's literacy of health systems. She also has an interest in sexual and reproductive health. She is currently working to support a number of research projects related to women, children and their families that are affiliated with the Institute.

Katelyn is currently supporting the Institute in an Interim Deputy Director role and is the Secretariat for the Institute Management Group.





Katelyn Perren
Senior Research
and Project Officer,
Management Group
Secretariat –
Sydney Institute
for Women, Children
and their Families

BSc Nut Sci

Professor Sue Woolfenden

Sue is the Director of Community Paediatrics in Sydney Local Health District.

Sue is also an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow with the University of New South Wales School of Women's and Children's Health; a Clinical Professor in the University of Sydney Faculty of Medicine and Health; involved in the South West Sydney Best Start initiative; co-leads the Population Child Health Group at University of New South Wales; and is the Deputy Director of the Early Life of Determinants Health Clinical Academic Group of the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE).

In her clinical, service development and research roles Sue aims to address child health and healthcare inequities in Australia and globally, particularly for children at risk of, or with, neurodevelopmental problems. She was co-Chair of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Working Group for the Inequities in Child Health Position Statement.

As a mid-career clinician researcher, Sue understands the contribution of mentoring and supervision in shaping research careers. It is important to Sue to provide inspirational and effective supervision for students and peers, based around the shared vision of addressing inequities in health and healthcare for children and their families. Sue supports her students in developing innovative, evidence-informed and strengths-based approaches to understanding the scale of inequity and integrated care models. Sue has 100 peer-reviewed publications.

Select publications:

Chando S, Craig JC, Burgess L, Sherriff S, Purcell A, Gunasekera H, Banks S, Smith N, Banks E, Woolfenden S. Developmental risk among Aboriginal children living in urban areas in Australia: the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH). BMC pediatrics. 2020 Dec;20 (1):1-3. Senior author- Highlights importance of addressing social determinants of health in urban Aboriginal children who are developmentally at risk.

Harding G, Hu N, Larter N, Montgomery A, Stephensen J, Callaghan L, Zwi K, Lingam R, Woolfenden S. Health Status and Health Service Use of Urban Aboriginal Children attending an Aboriginal Community Child Health Service in Sydney. Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health 2021 Jul;57(7):1072-1077 Senior author- Highlights the need for integrated health systems to support the health and the social determinants of health for urban Aboriginal children.

Edwards, K., Fernandez, R., Rimes, T., Stephenson, L., Smith, R., Son, J., Sarkozy, V., Perkins, D., Eapen, V., Woolfenden, S. "Happy, Healthy, Ready - working with early childhood non-government organisations for developmental surveillance for vulnerable children". AJAN 2020 2020 Oct 8;37 (4). Senior author- Evaluation of integrated health-social model of care to support children and their families from disadvantaged communities.

Woolfenden S, Galea C, Badland H, Smithers-Sheedy H, Williams K, Kavanagh A, Reddihough D, Goldfeld S, Lingam R, Badawi N, O'Connor M. The use of health services by preschool aged children who are developmentally vulnerable and socioeconomically disadvantaged: Testing the inverse-care law. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. 2020 Jun 1;74 (6):495-501. Lead author- Highlights importance of addressing inequitable access to health care for children who are developmentally vulnerable.



Professor Sue Woolfenden Institute Co-Chair -Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families

MBBS FRACP MPH PhD

Our clinicians and researchers

Clinical Associate Professor Shilpi Ajwani

Shilpi is Head of Oral Health Research and Oral Health Promotion at Sydney Local Health District Oral Health Services and Sydney Dental Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney.

Shilpi has been involved in oral health research for over 15 years and has worked in research groups in Finland, New Zealand and Australia. Her key area of research interest is the relationship between oral health and general health.

She is currently involved in research looking into the role of nurses and allied health professionals in improving oral health of patients post cardiac event and stroke.

As part of the Midwifery Initiated Oral Health (MIOH) project she has been involved in the development of educational training material for midwives and an oral health information brochure for pregnant women.

As the Head of Oral Health Promotion for the District, she has been involved in the various oral health promotion programs for children and her ongoing projects include a tooth brushing and fluoride varnish application project in preschools.

Her other areas of research interest include modalities for managing tooth decay, association between periodontal disease and general health and tobacco cessation practices among dentists.

Select publications:

George, A., Dahlen, H., Blinkhorn, A., Ajwani, S., Bhole, S., Ellis E., Yeo, A., Elcome, E., Johnson, M. (2018) Evaluation of a midwifery initiated oral health-dental service program to improve oral health and birth outcomes for pregnant women: A Multi Centre Randomised Controlled Trial. International Journal of Nursing Studies. 82, 49-57. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2018.03.006.

George A, Grace, R., Elcombe, E., Villarosa, A., Mack, H.A., Kemp L., Ajwani, S., Wright, D.C., Anderson C., Bucknall, N., Comino, E. (2017-in press) The oral health behaviours and fluid consumption practices of young urban Aboriginal preschool children in South-Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Health Promotion Journal of Australia.

Arora A, Al-Salti I, Murad H, Tran Q, Itaoui R, Sameer Bhole S, Ajwani S, Jones C, Narendar Manohar N. Adaptation of child oral health education leaflets for Arabic migrants in Australia: a qualitative study. BMC Oral Health (2018) DOI 10.1186/s12903-017-0469-z.

Arora A, Manohar N, Bedros D, Hua A, You S, Blight V, Ajwani S, Eastwood J and Bhole S. Lessons learnt in recruiting disadvantaged families to a birth cohort study. BMC Nursing (2018) 17:7. DOI 10.1186/s12912-018-0276-0.



Clinical A/Profesor Shilpi Ajwani BDS PhD MRACDS (DPH) FICD

Dr Teresa Anderson AM

Dr Teresa Anderson is Chief Executive of Sydney Local Health District, a position she has held since 2011.

She is responsible for the strategic and operational management of the District, which consists of Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) – Australia's premier quaternary hospital; Concord Hospital – a leading tertiary hospital; Canterbury and Balmain Hospitals; Sydney Dental Hospital, and Community Health, Mental Health, Drug Health and Population Health services. The District employs 12,000 staff who care for the health and wellbeing of around 700,000 people.

Teresa has 40 years' experience as a clinician and manager in the NSW public health system. She started her career as the sole speech pathologist at Liverpool Hospital in south west Sydney, where she developed an intervention package called Learning to Communicate. It was incorporated into the Miller Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting Program, the first randomised controlled trial of its type in Australia. Learning to Communicate is now used throughout Australia and several countries worldwide to assist parents to learn how to set up an environment that fosters early communication development.

Teresa is passionate about developing programs and services to support and improve the health and wellbeing of all people in the community. She has a well-established reputation for implementing strategies to foster innovation and best practice, supporting collaboration and building partnerships.

She is Chair of the Sydney Research Council, a partnership between the University of Sydney, the District and several geographically-proximate medical research institutes. She is an active member of the Sydney Health Partners Governing Council and Executive Management Group, one of the first four centres in Australia designated as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Teresa was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2018 for service to community health, and to public administration in NSW, as a clinician, manager and health service executive.



Dr Teresa Anderson AM PhD BAppSc (Speech Pathology)

Professor Andrew Baillie

As Conjoint Professor of Allied Health (Community Health), Andrew's role is to build allied health research capacity and support clinician-initiated research in Sydney Local Health District. Andrew is also the deputy lead of eHealth and Health Services Delivery Research theme in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. This work focuses on the translation and implementation of research into health services and on the development and evaluation of models of care for complex and chronic health problems.

Andrew is the chief investigator for the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use and the new NHMRC PREMISE Centre of Research Excellence into Prevention and Early intervention in Mental Illness and Substance Use. Andrew's focus is on understanding the paths into substance use and mental disorders and associated early interventions. He is involved in clinical trials of eHealth programs, including Inroads, an online resource for young adults with concerns about their anxiety and drinking and eCliPSE, an online portal to facilitate access to evidence-based online screening and eHealth treatments for people experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use problems.

Andrew's other research interests include applied psychometrics, self-regulation and the understanding and treatment of co-morbid anxiety and substance use disorders.

Select publications:

Morley, K., Baillie, A., Fraser, I., Furneaux-Bate, A., Dore, G., Roberts, M., Abdalla, A., Phung, N., Haber, P. (2018). Baclofen in the treatment of alcohol dependence with or without liver disease: multisite, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. British Journal of Psychiatry, 212(6), 362-369.

Sharpe, L., Williams, A., Martin, P., Nicholas, M., Welgampola, M., McPhee, I., Baillie, A., Dudeney, J., McGuire, B. (2016). Psychological therapies for the prevention of migraine in adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2016 (8), 1-9.

Grove, R., Baillie, A., Allison, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Hoekstra, R. (2013). Empathizing, Systemizing, and Autistic Traits: Latent Structure in Individuals With Autism, Their Parents, and General Population Controls. Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 122(2), 600-609.



Professor Andrew Baillie MPsychol PhD MAPS FCCLP

Professor Kirsten Black

Kirsten is a Clinical Academic Gynaecologist at Sydney Local Health District and Joint Head of the Discipline Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology at the University of Sydney.

Kirsten heads the specialist contraception service at RPA and works in the general gynaecology and menopause clinic at Concord Hospital.

She leads the medical student teaching in Perinatal and Women's Health at the Central Clinical School and co-leads a Masters course in Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

In 2018, Kirsten was awarded the Professor J.A. Young medal by the Faculty of Medicine for exemplary service to the Sydney Medical School, the university and the community and excellence in research.

Kirsten's research focuses on maternal and reproductive health in Australia and the Asia Pacific including preconception care and pregnancy planning and contraception.

She became a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians (RANZCOG) in 2002.

She chairs RANZCOG's special interest group in sexual and reproductive health and is a member of RANZCOG's Women's Health and Global Health Committees.

She has a Masters of Medicine in Women's Health from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.

She is a current investigator on two NMHRC-funded studies. One study aims to increase the use of long-acting reversible contraception in Australia. The other aims to develop youth-centred health promotion strategies to prevent and mitigate the adverse health impacts of adolescent pregnancy in Papua New Guinea.

Select publications:

Bateson D, Black KI. Preconception care - an important yet underutilised preventive care strategy. Medical Journal of Australia. 2018. Accepted for publication.

Taft A, Shankar M, Black KI, Mazza D, Lucke J. Prevalence and outcomes of unintended and unwanted pregnancy in Australia: a cross-sectional national random CATI study. Medical Journal of Australia. Accepted for publication 2018.

Black K. Intergenerational teen pregnancy and reproductive choice. Invited commentary. BJOG 2018 Published online August 1st 2018.

Cheney K, de Vries B, Barrett A, Farber R, McGeechan K, Ogle R, Black KI. Population attributable fractions of perinatal outcomes for nulliparous women associated with overweight and obesity, 1980–2014. Medical Journal of Australia. 2018; 208(3):119125.



Professor Kirsten Black MBBS MMed FRANZCOG MFSRH DLSHTM DDU PhD

Professor Elizabeth Denney-Wilson

Elizabeth is Conjoint Professor of Nursing in the Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Nursing School at the University of Sydney. She has academic qualifications in nursing, public health and epidemiology.

She completed her PhD in 2005 and since then her research has centred on obesity prevention and management with a focus on the role of nurses and the primary health care setting.

Elizabeth's main area of interest is the prevention of unhealthy weight gain in infants and young children by developing interventions, such as apps, that nurses and GPs can provide to parents, to complement the advice received from health care teams.

Elizabeth has long-term collaborations with researchers across a broad range of health disciplines and she has contributed to more than 50 peer-reviewed papers in the past 10 years.

Elizabeth supervises PhD, Masters by research and Honours students.

Select publications:

Key Lessons and Impact of the Growing Healthy mHealth Program on Milk Feeding, Timing of Introduction of Solids, and Infant Growth: Quasi-Experimental Study. JMU 2018 6(4): e78 Laws R, Denney-Wilson E, Taki S, Russell C, Zheng M, Litterbach E, Ong KL, Lymer S, Elliot R, Campbell KJ.

Infant formula feeding practices associated with rapid weight gain: A systematic review Jessica Appleton, Catherine Georgina Russell, Rachel Laws, Cathrine Fowler, Karen Campbell, Elizabeth Denney-Wilson April 2018 https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12602.

Infant formula feeding practices and the role of advice and support: an exploratory qualitative study (2018). Jessica Appleton, Rachel Laws, Catherine Georgina Russell, Cathrine Fowler, Karen J Campbell, Elizabeth Denney-Wilson BMC Paediatrics 18(1).

How is children's weight status assessed for early identification of overweight and obesity? Narrative review of programs for weight status assessment (2018). Kamilla Davidson, Helen Vidgen, Elizabeth Denney-Wilson, Lynne Daniels. Journal of Child Health Care.



Professor Elizabeth Denney-Wilson RN BN MPH PhD

Dr Bradley de Vries

Brad is an obstetrician and gynaecologist at RPA Hospital, a clinical senior lecturer in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology at the University of Sydney and is a NHMRC Early Career Fellow in the School of Public Health.

Brad has a Masters of medicine in clinical epidemiology and three research degrees including a PhD thesis on the prediction and prevention of caesarean section.

Brad has designed and conducted clinical observational studies and randomised controlled trials, and has experience in statistical methods such as logistic regression and time to event analysis.

Brad's current work focuses on methods of safely reducing the caesarean section rate and improving other maternal and perinatal outcomes.

Brad is leading clinical trials to assess if manual rotation from occiput posterior or occiput transverse position in labour prevents operative delivery, and developing methods to predict caesarean section for slow progress in labour with the aim of assessing induction of labour for preventing caesarean section.

Select publications:

Cheney K, Farber R, Barratt AL, McGeechan K, de Vries B, Ogle R, Black KI. Population attributable fractions of perinatal outcomes for nulliparous women associated with overweight and obesity, 1990-2014. Med J Aust. 2018; 208: 119-25.

Joseph FA, Hyett JA, McGeechan K, Schluter PJ, Gordon A, McLennan A, De Vries BS. A New Approach to Developing Birth Weight Reference Charts: A Retrospective Observational Study. Fetal diagnosis and therapy. 2017.

Rao U, de Vries BS, Ross GP, Gordon A. Fetal biometry for guiding the medical management of women with gestational diabetes mellitus for improving maternal and perinatal health (Protocol). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2017.



Dr Bradley de Vries BSc(Med)(Hons 1) MB BS FRANZCOG MM MM (Clin Epi) PhD

Professor Paul Haber

Paul is the Clinical Director of Drug Health Services at Sydney Local Health District, Head of the Discipline of Addiction Medicine at the University of Sydney, Conjoint Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney and Conjoint Professor at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales. He is also a Visiting Medical Officer in Gastroenterology/Hepatology at Justice Health.

Paul has a longstanding interest in blood borne viruses, particularly hepatitis C. He headed a project to identify vertical transmission of hepatitis C and linkage into care which is leading into further work addressing the challenges of managing maternal health in this setting.

Other areas of interest to Paul include the management of substance use during pregnancy. He is involved in research addressing the clinical challenges of developing a satisfactory model of care.

He is also interested in exploring strategies to aid the management of reproductive health, which is a recognised concern in this population, with its high rate of unplanned pregnancy.

Select publications:

Sharon Reid, Carolyn A. Day, David Bowen and Paul S. Haber. Vertical transmission of hepatitis C: testing and healthcare engagement. Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, in press 15 Nov 2017.

Delyse Hutchinson, Lee Taylor, Ron Rapee, Lucy Burns and Paul S Haber. Mental Health, Maternal Bonding and Parenting Stress in Women Attending a Specialist Perinatal Drug Health Service. Avid Science Publications. (Accepted book chapter, December 2016).

Victoria Buckley, Abdalvahed Razaghi and Paul Haber. Predictors of neonatal outcomes amongst a methadone- and/or heroin-dependent population referred to a multidisciplinary Perinatal and Family Drug Health Service. Australian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 53: 464-470, 2013.

Lee Taylor, Delyse Hutchinson, Ron Rapee, Lucy Burns, Christine Stephens, Paul S Haber. Clinical features and correlates of outcomes for high risk, marginalized mothers and newborn infants engaged with a specialist perinatal and family drug health service. Obstetrics and Gynecology International, 2012; 2012:867265. PMID: 23227054.



Professor Paul Haber MBBS (Hons) MD FRACP FACHAM

Conjoint Professor Philip Hazell

Philip is the Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services at Sydney Local Health District and Conjoint Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Sydney's Sydney Medical School.

Philip was awarded a PhD in 1997 for a thesis concerning automatic and effortful information processing in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

His other research output spans youth suicide and deliberate self-harm, mood disorders, autism, children in out-of-home care, systematic review of treatment effectiveness, psychological sequelae of disaster, and the evaluation of medical education.

In 2004, he was honoured by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award for Research in ADHD.

He is currently a co-investigator on funded longitudinal studies of children with ADHD and of determinants of health and wellbeing in adolescents in rural NSW.

He is also a co-investigator on a funded clinical trial of fluoxetine for autism.

Philip completed his undergraduate medical training with University of Otago in 1980 and trained in general psychiatry and child psychiatry in South Australia before he became a university lecturer and then Clinical Director of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Hunter New England Mental Health Service.

Select publications:

Hazell PL and Lewin TJ. Friends of adolescent suicide attempters and completers. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 1993; 32: 76-81.

Hazell PL, O'Connell D, Heathcote D, Robertson J, Henry D. Efficacy of tricyclic drugs in treating child and adolescent depression: a meta-analysis. British Medical Journal 1995; 310:897-901.

Hawton K, Arensman E, Townsend E, Bremner S, Feldman E, Goldney R, Gunnell D, Hazell P, van Heeringen K, House A, Owens D, Sakinofsky I & Traskman-Bendz L. Deliberate self-harm: A systematic review of the efficacy of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments in preventing repetition. British Medical Journal 1998;317:441-447.

Hazell PL, Carr V, Lewin T, Dewis S, Heathcote D, Brucki B. Effortful and automatic information processing in ADHD and Specific Learning Disorders. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 1999:40:275-286.



Conjoint Professor Philip Hazell BMedSc MBChB PhD

FRANZCP Cert Accred Child Psychiatry

Jennifer Jones

Jennifer is a Clinical Nurse Consultant in Child and Family Health Nursing and the Family Partnership Co-ordinator at Sydney Local Health District, Honorary Associate at the University of Sydney's Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery and Honorary Affiliate at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Jennifer has enjoyed over 30 years of experience in Community Health Nursing with a central focus in providing clinical nursing consultancy in child health, parent education and health promotion to families with young children. She draws on her clinical experience in primary health care, Aboriginal Health, midwifery, paediatrics, emergency, operating theatre and management to deliver lectures and tutorials to student nurses in tertiary settings and to mentor and support child and family health nurses in the workforce across NSW and Australia.

Her provision of clinical supervision for child and family health nurses, supports nurses and promotes safe clinical practice, and she has provided clinical supervision in metropolitan and rural and remote NSW.

Jennifer has extensive experience with refugee families and those from culturally and linguistic backgrounds and has worked in East Timor. She is a regular presenter at national and international conferences.

Her current research projects include focusing on reducing obesity in children; an updated review of infant feeding and activity apps; community health nurses' knowledge, skill and attitudes in hand hygiene and perinatal depression in pregnant women and new mothers.

Select publications:

Cheng H, Tutt A, Llewellyn C, Size D, Jones J, Taki S, Rossiter C, Denney-Wilson E. Content and Quality of Infant Feeding Smartphone Apps: Five-Year Update on a Systematic Search and Evaluation, JMIR Mhealth Uhealth 2020; 8(5):e17300.

Ogbo, F. A., Eastwood, J., Page, A., Arora, A., McKenzie, A., Jalaludin, B., Tennant, E., Miller, E., Kohlhoff, J., Noble, J., Chaves, K., Jones, J.M., Smoleniec, J., Chay, P., Smith, B., Oei, J., Short, K., Collie, L., Kemp, L., Raman, S., Woolfenden, S., Clark, T., Blight, V., Eapen, V., and for the Early Years Research Group. Prevalence and determinants off cessation of exclusive breastfeeding in the early postnatal period in Sydney, Australia. International Breastfeeding Journal (2017) 12:16.

Raman, S., Maiese, M., Vasquez, V., Jones, J.M., Gordon, P., Review of Serious Events in cases of (suspected) child abuse and/or neglect: A RoSE by any other name? Child Abuse and Neglect, 70 (2017) 283-291.



Jennifer Jones

RN RM Masters of Nursing (Paediatrics) Grad Dip Applied Science (Community Nursing) Associate Dip Community Health Nursing (Child and Family Health)

Dr Patrick Lan

Patrick is a nephrologist working at RPA, Canterbury and The Mater hospitals, closely working with obstetricians in the care of their patients.

He is also the Director of Physicians Education at Canterbury Hospital, and a tutor at the University of Sydney's Central Clinical School.

Patrick trained as a nephrologist at RPA and Concord Hospitals. Since then he has been exposed to obstetric medicine, particularly the clinical management of hypertension in pregnancy.

He completed a PhD at the University of Sydney focused on the clinical management of hypertension in pregnancy in 2018. During his PhD, Patrick performed a number of clinical trials assessing blood pressure measurement techniques during pregnancy, and early postpartum.

He also assessed the effect of aspirin on preventing mild-moderate preeclampsia, and how to better predict the future development of pre-eclampsia.

Patrick's current research areas focus on the clinical management of hypertension in pregnancy including how to best measure blood pressure in pregnancy, and how to better predict the future development of pre-eclampsia.

He is also interested in assessing the long-term effects of having had a pregnancy complicated by pre-eclampsia or gestational hypertension and the impact of hypertension in pregnancy and kidney disease.

Select publications:

Lan PG, Hyatt J, Gillin AG. Home blood pressure measurement in women with pregnancy-related hypertensive disorders. Pregnancy Hypertens. 2017 Oct; 10:213-219. doi:10.1016/j. preghy.2017.09.005.

Lan PG, Gillin AG, Pelosi M, Tooher J, Sandager P, Hyett J. Effect of early use of low-dose aspirin therapy on late-onset pre-eclampsia. Matern Fetal Neonatal Med. 2018 Jan 24:1-6. doi: 10.1080/14767058.2018.1427718.

Lan PG, Clayton PA, Hyett J, Gillin AG. Measuring blood pressure in pregnancy and postpartum: assessing the reliability of automated measuring devices. Hypertens Pregnancy. 2014 May; 33(2):168-76. doi: 10.3109/10641955.2013.843007.



Dr Patrick Lan
MB BS M Clin Epi PhD

Associate Professor Li Ming Wen

Li Ming Wen is Research Manager of the Health Promotion Unit at Sydney Local Health District, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney and Co-Stream Leader at the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in the Early Prevention of Obesity in Childhood (EPOCH).

Li Ming Wen has extensive research experience in the fields of medicine, social science and public health in China and Australia.

His current research interests include clinical trials and practice in the areas of obesity prevention, physical activity, nutrition, active transport, sexual health, and tobacco control with specific expertise in the evaluation of public health and health promotion initiatives.

Li Ming Wen was the Principal Investigator of the Healthy Beginnings Trial funded by NHMRC, which was a world-first randomised controlled trial of an early obesity intervention with young mothers and families in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of Sydney.

The trial has been adopted and adapted by many researchers in US, UK and China as a model to conduct early obesity intervention research.

Over the past 10 years, he has received more than \$5 million in peer-reviewed national and international competitive grants. He was the Winner of 2014 NSW Health Awards for the Preventive Health category. Li Ming Wen has also recently led a research team in a successful application for a NHMRC Partnership Project, titled "A partnership approach linking two randomised controlled trials for optimising early obesity prevention programs for children under 3 years; Wen L, Baur L, Rissel C, Hayes A, Phongsavan P, Xu H, Taki S.

He has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles in high impact journals including BMJ, IJO and JAMA Paediatrics as well as a number of book chapters.

Select publications:

Wen, L.M, Rissel, C., Baur, L., Hayes, A., Xu, H., Whelan, A., Hua, M., Shaw, M., Phongsavan, P. (2017). A 3-Arm randomised controlled trial of Communicating Healthy Beginnings Advice by Telephone (CHAT) to mothers with infants to prevent childhood obesity. BMC Public Health, 17(1), 1-10.

Wen, L.M. (2017). Effectiveness of Childhood Obesity Treatment Through 20 Group Education Sessions Over 6 Months: Does the Attendance of a Child Matter? JAMA Pediatrics, 171(7), 619-620.

Wen, L.M, Rissel, C., Cheng, Y., Richters, J., de Visser, R. (2017). Tobacco smoking and sexual difficulties among Australian adults: a cross-sectional study. Sexual Health, 14(4), 313-319.

Wen, L.M, Baur, L., Simpson, J., Xu, H., Hayes, A., Hardy, L., Williams, M., Rissel, C. (2015). Sustainability of effects of an early childhood obesity prevention trial over time: A further 3-year follow-up of the healthy beginnings trial. JAMA Pediatrics, 169(6), 543-551.



Associate Professor Li Ming Wen MD MMed PhD

Dr Hala Phipps

Hala is a Clinical Research Midwifery Consultant at Sydney Local Health District.

Hala has extensive experience in developing, conducting and completing clinical trials in line with relevant guidelines, trial protocols, timelines and targets.

Hala has completed a Master of Public Health and a PhD thesis that has utilised multiple research projects which led to the development of two randomised control trial protocols and two multicentre randomised control trials.

She is the first midwife to be awarded a Perinatal Research Scholarship from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Hala has a strong presence in the Midwifery research and development team promoting translational research and innovation in family-centred care. She is a key member of the Nursing & Midwifery Advisory Research Council for the Sydney Local Health District and is chair of the RPAH Nursing and Midwifery Research Unit.

As a midwife, Hala's focus is on undertaking and supporting translational research and to improve health outcomes of pregnant women and their families.

She currently leads an NHMRC-funded intrapartum RCT (The POP-OUT Trial) assessing a method of reducing caesarean and instrumental delivery – which is of world-wide interest for its impact on maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity.

Select publications:

De Vries B, Mcgeechan K, Phipps H, Hyett JA. Is sonographically measured cervical length at 37 weeks' gestation associated with intrapartum caesarean section? A prospective cohort study. Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica. 06, 2018 (0001-6349), 97 (6), p.668.

Smith S, Brooker G, Phipps H and Hyett JA. The Identification and Tracking of Uterine Contractions Using Template Based Cross-Correlation. Annals of Biomedical Engineering. 2017. 1-15.

Phipps H, Hyett JA, Kuah S, Pardey J, Ludlow J, Bisits A, Park F, Kowalski D, de Vries B. Persistent Occiput Posterior position - OUTcomes following manual rotation (POP-OUT): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial. Trials. 2015: 16.



Dr Hala Phipps RN RM BASc (Nursing) Grad Dip Health MPH PhD

Professor Michael Skilton

Michael is a vascular physiologist by training, and currently Professor and National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow at the Boden Institute of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders at the University of Sydney.

He graduated from the University of Queensland (BSc Hons I) in 1998, and was awarded a PhD from the University of Sydney (2005) for his thesis on "Nutrition and cardiovascular structure and function".

He subsequently spent time in Lyon, France at the Centre de Recherche en Nutrition Humaine Rhône-Alpes, and in Melbourne at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, before returning to Sydney in 2011.

Michael has published in high-ranking journals including the Lancet, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Pediatrics, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and Hypertension. He is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease.

He has been a Chief Investigator on research grants totalling over \$6 million, including the Small Baby Omega-3 (SO3) trial.

He has recently established the Nutrition and Cardiovascular Health project node at the Charles Perkins Centre, and leads the Nutrition and Cardiometabolic Disease group at the Boden Institute.

His main research interests lie at the intersection between nutrition and cardiometabolic diseases across the lifespan, age-appropriate assessment of cardiometabolic health, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Select publications:

MR Skilton, N Evans, KA Griffiths, JA Harmer, DS Celermajer. Aortic wall thickness in newborns with intrauterine growth restriction. The Lancet 2005; 365: 1484-1486.

MR Skilton & DS Celermajer. Endothelial dysfunction and arterial abnormalities in childhood obesity (invited review). Int J Obesity 2006; 30: 1041-1049.

MR Skilton. Intrauterine risk factors for precocious atherosclerosis (review). Pediatrics 2008; 121: 570-574.

MR Skilton, A Sérusclat, LM Begg, P Moulin, F Bonnet. Parity and carotid atherosclerosis in men and women: insights into the roles of childbearing and child-rearing. Stroke 2009; 40: 1152-1157.



Professor Michael Skilton PhD BSci (Hons I)

Dr Arianne Sweeting

Dr Arianne Sweeting MBBS(Hons) BSc (Neuroscience) GradDipHL FRACP PhD is a staff specialist, Department of Endocrinology, Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital, Sydney, NHMRC early career fellow at the Boden Collaboration of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders (Boden), University of Sydney; and Medical Investigator in the Clinical Trials Team at the Boden, University of Sydney.

Dr Sweeting is current President and Chair of the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society (ADIPS). She is a member of the NSW Adult Eating Disorder Medical Leads Subcommittee. Arianne is a lead Endocrinologist in the diabetes and pregnancy service and the adult eating disorder service at RPA Hospital. She undertook her doctoral studies on "Risk Management in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)" (University of Sydney, 2015-2018), supported by an NHMRC postgraduate research scholarship and Albert S McKern Sydney Medical School obstetric scholarship, for which she was awarded the Sydney Medical School Dean's Publication Prize in 2016. She has a long-term interest in research and advocacy for Women's Health.

Dr Sweeting's primary research interest is in GDM and obesity in early pregnancy, early prediction tools and nutrition interventions for GDM and other adverse obstetric outcomes, and eating disorders, with multiple peer-reviewed papers and national and international presentations. She is currently the RPA primary investigator for the TOBOGM Study, an international, multi-centre NHMRC-funded trial evaluating early diagnosis and treatment of GDM and one of the chief investigators for the MRFF NHMRC PREBABE trial.BOoking Gestational diabetes Mellitus: The TOBOGM Study, an international, multi-centre NHMRC-funded trial evaluating early diagnosis and treatment of gestational diabetes. She also has a research interest in eating disorders.

Select publications:

Sweeting AN, Wong J, Appelblom H, et al. A novel early pregnancy risk prediction model for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy 13 June 2018. DOI 10.1159/000486853.

Sweeting AN, Ross GP, Hyett JA, Wong J. Comment: An update on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in the first trimester: Is early testing justified? Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology 2017;5(8):571-573.

Sweeting AN, Ross G, Hyett J, Molyneaux L, Tan K, Constantino M, Harding AJ, Wong J. HbA1c to Identify High Risk Gestational Diabetes: Utility in Early Versus Standard Gestational Diabetes. Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 2017; 102:150-156.

Sweeting AN, Ross G, Hyett J, Molyneaux L, Constantino M, Harding AJ, Wong J. Gestational Diabetes in Early Pregnancy: Evidence for Poor Pregnancy Outcomes Despite Treatment. Diabetes Care 2016; 39:75-81.



Dr Arianne Sweeting MBBS (Hons) BSc GradDip Health Law FRACP PhD





