The Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) was established in 1989 and is based in the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies on RMIT’s City campus. It has a long history of conducting significant social science research on key areas of social change and social policy.

CASR is committed to the idea that effective and equitable policy choices need to be founded upon insightful public debate and that debate requires historically and theoretically informed applied social research. Areas of particular interest include:

- Workplace and industrial relations and policy
- Homelessness and public policy
- Family violence histories and policy
- The changing nature of paid work and welfare provision
- Methodologies for generating and using evidence for policy and practice
- Qualitative and quantitative methodologies
- Public sector evaluation
- State care and protection
- Disability

Researchers at the Centre for Applied Social Research work collaboratively on projects with colleagues at national and international universities, government bodies and industry organisations. Most CASR research is funded through national and international competitive grants.

CASR researchers are published widely and regularly, being cited in the media as expert on issues such as women and the workplace, homelessness, care and protection, the quality of working life and domestic violence policy.

The objectives and strategic focus of the Centre are:

- To conduct high quality applied social research on employment and workplace relations, social welfare provisions and social policy, disability services policy, and public sector evaluation
- To promote public discussion on public health, employment and social welfare policies
- To provide postgraduate research students with the opportunity to be involved in CASR’s interdisciplinary research activities
- To maintain the Centre’s emphasis on balancing peer-reviewed competitive grant research with contract research for industry partners and community agencies
- To maintain the Centre’s vibrant links with its environment. These links include relationships with the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies in which it is located, with other researchers in Australia and internationally, and with a range of industry partners and community agencies.

From left to right (standing): Paul Ramcharan, Chris Chamberlain, Yolande Wadsworth, Iain Campbell, Patricia Rogers.

From left to right (sitting): Kaye Stevens, Helen Marshall, Kay Cook.
CASR conducts nationally significant research on key areas of social change and social policy. We are committed to the idea that effective and equitable policy choices need to be founded upon insightful public debate and that debate requires historically and theoretically informed applied social research. Research staff in CASR have a broad range of interests, but our work converges around four themes.

One area of capability is the changing character of paid work and employment relations and related policy issues. The main strands of this research focus on new forms of employment; labour market restructuring; working time; industrial relations; work and family balance issues; and quality part-time work. The research conducted in these areas is also concerned with uncovering and mapping the connections that link the worlds of paid work and welfare.

Another group of colleagues in CASR focus on various disadvantaged groups, the changing nature of welfare provision and related policy issues. These researchers have particular expertise in: the enumeration of the homeless population; pathways to and from homelessness; issues related to domestic violence and related policy responses; life on welfare in Australia; the history of the women’s refuge movement; and the experiences of people who grew up in institutional care.

A third group of researchers works across disciplines on practice-informed evidence-based policy and practice in health and well-being. Projects focus on both developing and applying evidence about complicated and complex interventions. This research is undertaken with government and non-government organisations that address public health, health promotion, occupational health and safety, international development, family and community services, community development, natural resource management and housing.

The fourth area of capability is disability. Our expertise lies around contemporary social policies and practices, in particular human rights and individual funding. Researchers have experience of major policy reform and measuring outcomes of new initiatives. They have been involved in innovative research and evaluation directly affecting the structure and delivery of services and best practice in professional services.

In 2011, the research centre conducted a total of 23 contract research projects and 11 commercial projects. CASR staff were also involved in 10 ARC Linkage projects and 2 ARC Discovery grants. CASR staff published five books, as well as major research reports and articles in scholarly journals. The centre developed its research and policy output in a number of ways, including numerous presentations at public seminars, forums and conferences.

CASR is an established research centre with a track record of ARC success and substantial contract research. My colleagues produce high quality research which has community impact in a wide range of policy areas. This augurs well for the future and I look forward to working with them in 2012.

Professor Chris Chamberlain is the joint author of Youth Homelessness: Early Intervention and Prevention (1998), Counting the Homeless 2001 (ABS 2003) and Counting the Homeless 2006 (ABS 2008). In 2009, Chris completed reports on homelessness for each state and territory government. Chris is currently conducting research on boarding houses and undertaking an evaluation of the Melbourne Street to Home initiative. He is also supervising an ARC Linkage project investigating the role of housing and support in resolving chronic homelessness.

Chris Chamberlain
Director
Distinguished Scholars visit CASR

Professor Nicoletta Stame, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Rome and Professor Luca Meldolesi, Emeritus Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Naples visited CASR in late August and early September.

Professor Stame is a leading figure in evaluation in the European context, particularly in relation to issues of federal governance, and under conditions of complexity. She has an extensive publication record in Italian and English, including a leading book on the need for real time monitoring in place of periodic evaluation. Professor Stame has led the Italian Evaluation Society and the European Evaluation Society.

Professor Meldolesi has a long and distinguished research career, including significant publications. He has also served as an economic advisor to the Italian Government. His particular areas of research have included the evaluation of public expenditure, employment and the underground economy.

Professors Stame and Professor Meldolesi contributed to CASR’s research program on evidence based policy led by Professor Patricia Rogers.

Half a Citizen: Life on Welfare in Australia  NEW BOOK

By John Murphy (Melbourne University), Suellen Murray (CASR, RMIT), Sonia Martin (Social Work, RMIT), Jenny Chalmers (UNSW), and Greg Marston (Queensland University)

What is it really like to be unemployed and on welfare? Half a Citizen draws on in-depth interviews with 150 welfare recipients to reveal people struggling to get by on a low income, the anxieties of balancing paid work with income support, and how unstable housing makes it difficult to get ahead.

By investigating the lives beyond the statistics, Half a Citizen also explodes powerful myths on which welfare policy is based. The majority of welfare recipients interviewed are very active, in paid work, caring for children or for other family members, and they see themselves as contributing and participating citizens, even if they sometimes feel they are being treated as ‘half a citizen’. These stories of resilience and passion bear no resemblance to the images of dependence, laziness, and social isolation which underpin social policy and media debate.

This important new book won the 2011 Human Rights Award, Literature (non-fiction) category.

Purposeful Program Theory  NEW BOOK

By Sue C. Funnell and Patricia Rogers

Between good intentions and great results lies a program theory – not just a list of tasks but a vision of what needs to happen, and how. Now widely used in government and not-for-profit organisations, program theory provides a coherent picture of how change occurs and how to improve performance. Purposeful Program Theory shows how to develop, represent and use program theory thoughtfully and strategically to suit your particular situation, drawing on the fifty-year history of program theory and the authors’ experiences over more than twenty-five years.

Patricia Rogers is Professor of Public Sector Evaluation, CASR, RMIT. Sue Funnell is Director, Performance Improvement, a consulting company, and former President of the Australasian Evaluation Society.
Domestic Violence: Australian Public Policy  NEW BOOK
By Suellen Murray and Anastasia Powell
Thirty years ago, the New South Wales Task Force on Domestic Violence identified domestic violence as ‘a deep-seated national problem’. Advertising campaigns in the intervening years have advised us to say ‘no’ to violence and explained where, if we experienced domestic violence, we could get assistance. However, we know that domestic violence has not been eliminated.

Today, around a third of women experience violence from their partner, but has violence been reduced? What policies and programs have been put in place to tackle the problem? This book provides some answers to these questions. Associate Professor Suellen Murray (CASR, RMIT) and Dr Anastasia Powell (La Trobe University) review public policy responses to domestic violence in Australia. They consider how domestic violence has been understood and the policy approaches that have been taken.

This book is a ‘must read’ for all those working in the domestic violence field internationally. Professor Cathy Humphreys, University of Melbourne.

Building in Research and Evaluation: Human Inquiry for Living Systems
NEW BOOK LAUNCHED INTERNATIONALLY
After publishing the third book in her trilogy on research methods Adjunct Professor Yoland Wadsworth (CASR, RMIT) travelled to Scandinavia and the UK for the international launch by the US-based social science publisher Left Coast Press.

Yoland presented the ground-breaking ideas to a sequence of seminars in Norway, Sweden and England at which leading international figures in public health, business, international development and education launched the book. These included Dr Truls Gedde-Dahl, Foundation for Local Health Trials in Oslo; Professor Gerald Midgley, Hull University Business School’s Systems Studies Centre, and Professor Robert Chambers, of Sussex University, Institute for Development Studies.

By Yoland Wadsworth
For over 25 years, Do It Yourself Social Research has been used by students and professionals in sociology, social work, community development, education, health, welfare, psychology, management, environmental studies, legal studies and many other fields. Now thoroughly revised and updated, it takes the reader through the basics of research, providing advice from where to start to how to analyse your findings. It covers issues of management, budgeting and timing, finding resources, research methods and turning your findings into action. Do It Yourself Social Research will continue to be an essential reference for anyone doing research in the social sciences and human services.

By Yoland Wadsworth
Everyday Evaluation on the Run offers a practical overview of the main approaches to evaluation, strategies for involving stakeholders, and the evaluation industry’s toolbox of models and techniques. The author emphasises the core principles and concepts of evaluation, and the idea of building a culture of evaluation.

This third edition of Everyday Evaluation on the Run reflects current thinking on values in organisations and the need to use evaluation to guide future practice rather than just as an auditing process. With extensive examples, it is a handy reference for professionals and students in health, welfare, and community work, and in government and non-profit agencies.
School team lead by CASR selected for FaHCSIA provider panel

There will be increased opportunities for School staff to engage in applied research with the appointment of a School team to the Social Policy Research and Evaluation Panel of the Department of Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). CASR will lead the development of proposals for specific projects, seeking where possible to include researchers from across the School.

The panel is used to procure services in four areas: social policy research; evaluation; investment in data; and professional development. Areas of interest include carers, child support, communities, families and children, gambling and drugs, housing and homelessness, Indigenous Australians, mental health, people with a disability, seniors, volunteers and women. During the period of the panel, 2012-2015, the Department will notify panel members of relevant projects and invite proposals.

Clare Burton Scholarship

Belinda Johnson (Associate member, CASR) teaches in Social Science. Belinda won the prestigious Clare Burton Scholarship for research on gender equity. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding post-graduate student at an Australian Technology Network (ATN) University. Belinda’s research looks at the experiences of women who are casually employed in fashion retail work. Her thesis will examine the ways young women ‘do’ work and career in late modernity; how they negotiate precarious employment; how performances of femininity influence the type of employment undertaken; and what it is like to be precariously employed.

Evaluation of Alzheimer’s Australia Services for Special Needs Groups

In 2011, CASR undertook a major piece of research for Alzheimer’s Australia to evaluate their services to improve access for special needs groups. The evaluation reports on the achievements of 11 projects implemented by Alzheimer’s Australia to improve access to dementia services. The projects were undertaken in all states and territories. They focussed on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Intersex people; people with Younger Onset Dementia; and people in rural and remote locations.

The project was led by Kaye Stevens (CASR) with assistance from Dr Carmel Laragy (Social Work) and Professor Patricia Rogers (CASR).

Launch of Senior Practitioner Physical Restraint Direction Paper

In May, the Honourable Mary Woolridge, Victorian Minister for Health, Women’s Affairs and Community Services, launched the Senior Practitioner’s Physical Restraint and Direction Paper. Dr Paul Ramcharan (CASR) spoke at this event about his research on the views and experiences of people with disabilities and family carers which informed the Direction Paper. The Senior Practitioner is designated under the Disability Act 2006 to protect the rights of people with a disability who are subject to restrictive interventions and compulsory treatment. The Senior Practitioner’s Physical Restraint Direction Paper prohibits the use of specific types of physical restraint and aims to support people to achieve dignity without restraints.
**Australian Law Reform Commission expert witness**

May 2011, Kay Cook (CASR) was invited to present the findings of her child support research to the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into family violence and Commonwealth law. Dr Cook's work is cited extensively in the initial inquiry discussion documents and the final report.

**Visiting scholar at Linnaeus University, Sweden**

Dr Georgina Heydon (Associate member, CASR) teaches in Criminal Justice Administration where she is Director of postgraduate programs. Much of her collaborative work is aimed at fostering research in the area of Forensic Interpreting and Legal Communications. In May 2011, Dr Heydon was a visiting scholar at Linnaeus University, Sweden, with funding awarded by the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education. Dr Heydon gave a keynote address at the International Workshop in Forensic Linguistics at Linnaeus University. Her topic was 'Cross-examining the interview: the potential for using linguistic expertise when contesting the admissibility of police interview evidence'.

**Appointment to ABS advisory committee**

In September, Professor Chris Chamberlain, Director of CASR, was appointed to the prestigious ABS Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG). Chris is the author of Counting the Homeless 2001 (ABS 2003) and Counting the Homeless 2006 (ABS 2008). The role of the reference group is to advise the ABS on the development, collection, compilation, production and dissemination of robust statistics for understanding and reporting on homelessness in Australia.

**Introduction to NVivo 9**

In 2011, Dr Helen Marshall (CASR) ran a series of very successful workshops on NVivo at RMIT University, Melbourne University, Victoria University and Deakin University. The one day workshops were designed for postgraduate students and staff planning to use NVivo to manage the rich, messy qualitative data from interviews, ethnographies and documents in their research. These well-attended workshops will continue to be offered in 2012.
Dr Iain Campbell
Senior Research Fellow
Iain Campbell worked on several major projects to do with labour market restructuring, working time patterns and the quality of work. Prior to this appointment, he was an ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CASR, working on a project that examined trade union strategies and changing working-time patterns in Australia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Before joining CASR, he worked as a Research Fellow at the National Key Centre in Industrial Relations at Monash University. He has a background in the sociology of work, industrial relations and economic geography. His doctoral research at the University of Melbourne was on the topic of casual employment in Australia.

Iain is experienced in the use of official labour force statistics, both in Australia and cross-nationally. He can speak German and French and has an extensive knowledge of contemporary European debates and policy initiatives in the general areas of employment and social welfare. He is a member of several professional associations, including the International Sociological Association (ISA), the International Industrial Relations Association (IIRA) and the International Working Party on Labour Market Segmentation (IWPLMS).

Apart from working-time, his research interests include labour regulation, labour restructuring, casual employment, work and family issues, unemployment and the future of work.

Professor Chris Chamberlain
Director

Counting the Homeless 2006 found that the number of homeless people had increased from 99,900 in 2001 to 105,000 in 2006. These findings influenced the Commonwealth Government’s white paper on homelessness (The Road Home, 2008) which set the target to halve homelessness by 2020. The Australian Government will spend $7.8 billion over the next five years to reduce homelessness. Chris was invited to attend the 2020 Summit in Parliament House, Canberra because of his expertise on homelessness.

Chris has also completed reports on homelessness for each state and territory government. These reports provide information about the social characteristics and geographical distribution of homeless people at the local level. All state and territory governments use these reports to make decisions about the allocation of resources in their state.

Chris is currently working on an evaluation of the Melbourne Street to Home project (with Guy Johnson). This innovative program provides accommodation and long-term support for people who have experienced chronic homelessness. Chris is also working on a study of rooming houses.
Dr Sara Charlesworth
Principal Research Fellow

Sara Charlesworth has a background in social work, industrial relations and legal studies. She has extensive experience in the areas of equal employment opportunity, work/family balance and workplace reform. Sara was a member of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board from 1988 to 1994 and a member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal from 1994 to 2001. She is currently a member of the Victorian government’s Working Families Council.

Sara’s research interests centre on gender equality in employment at both the labour market and organisational levels. She has worked on many government and NGO funded research projects around pay equity, work and family balance, discrimination and industrial relations. She has undertaken a number of ARC funded projects and has just completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship on discourses of discrimination in the workplace. She is currently working with CASR colleagues on an ARC Linkage project exploring the impact on work/family balance of changing employment regulation through a regional perspective. Sara is also part of multi-university research team working on an ARC Discovery project examining the links between job quality and the mental health and well-being of working parents and their children.

Dr Kay Cook
RMIT Senior Research Fellow

Kay Cook was appointed to the Centre at the end of 2011 as a Vice-Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow. This prestigious four-year position enables Dr Cook to strengthen her examination of the intersections between social policies and family life. Dr Cook’s work explores how new and developing social policies such as welfare-to-work, child support and child care policies, transform relationships between the state, individuals and families. Given that these policies have a profound impact on the everyday experiences of their targets; Dr Cook’s work makes the personal impact of these policies explicit. By making explicit the connections between political processes and subjective responses, Dr Cook seeks to provide tangible evidence to policymakers and service providers to affect more humanistic reform.

Dr Cook’s ARC-funded research on single parents’ welfare to work transition; family daycare workforce reform; and the problematic nature of child support for low-income single parents have been taken up at a national level. She has contributed to the development of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010 General Social Survey and the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into Family Violence and Commonwealth Law. Through these projects, Dr Cook has maintained a successful record of engagement with non-government organisations including the Child Support Agency, the National Council for Single Mothers and their Children, and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Dr Cook is also recognised internationally as an expert qualitative researcher. She is a Member Scholar of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology and contributor to the SAGE Encyclopaedia of Qualitative Research Methods and forthcoming second edition of the Handbook of Interview Research.

Dr Helen Marshall
Senior Associate

Helen Marshall studied sociology and history at Monash University, and worked as a teacher in secondary schools and a post-secondary college before working at RMIT. After nearly thirty years as a teacher, she moved in 2006 to an associate position in CASR. She now specialises in the use of the computer program NVivo for managing qualitative data analyses.

She is active in The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), and has been editor of the electronic Qualitative Research Journal published by the Association for Qualitative Research.

Her PhD thesis on voluntary childlessness in 1993 led to the publication of Not Having Families (Oxford University Press), and to her interest in qualitative research methods that involve using computers in analysis of qualitative data. Her interest in teaching led to a textbook on the sociology of deviance and to a nation-wide project on sociology in Australian universities. Her other research interests include work-life balance, carework, and gender.
Ms Rosetta Moors  
Research Officer

Rosetta Moors joined CASR in December 2011, as the Research Officer working on the ARC Linkage project ‘Auditing the Victorian Charter: Australian and International Perspectives on Applied Human Rights’. Rosetta has a diverse background in social sciences research, having worked in such areas as socially responsible investing, third sector organisations, environmental management in Australian companies, industrial relations and stakeholder engagement processes, cultural rights, and online counselling and reporting of assault. Rosetta has an honours degree in Sociology, a Grad Dip in Organizational Change and Development and a Master of Business.

Suellen Murray joined CASR in 2004. Before that, she worked at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia, and a range of positions including those concerned with human services service delivery, policy development and program administration.

Her areas of research interest include the history of domestic violence services and social policy concerning domestic violence which were the topics of her book, More than Refuge: Changing Responses to Domestic Violence (UWA Press, 2002). She has also researched the life histories of people who grew up in care and co-authored the book, After the Orphanage: Life Beyond the Children’s Home (UNSW Press, 2009). In 2011, she published two co-authored books: Half a Citizen: Life on Welfare in Australia (Allen & Unwin) and Domestic Violence: Australian Public Policy (Australian Scholarly Publishing).

Paul Ramcharan has been involved in research for and with people with disabilities for over twenty years and has maintained an ongoing interest in self advocacy over that time, his most recent being an ARC linkage with colleagues at La Trobe University and Reinforce (a self advocacy group) about the history of self advocacy in Victoria. Since arriving in Australia in 2006 Paul has undertaken research around the views and experiences of people with disability and family carers of restrictive practices and has subsequently developed a Roadmap for Achieving Dignity without Restraint. Paul maintains a keen interest in disability research, human rights and inclusive research practice.

Paul has occupied many key research leadership positions over the years: he was a coordinator for the UK Department of Health of a national research initiative designed to support implementation of Valuing People, a national intellectual disability policy; he was on the social care research panel for the Big Lottery Fund in the UK, the largest research-giver outside of government; he has also been involved in a research commissioning group with the Social Care Institute of Excellence in the UK and is presently co-Chair of the Disability Research Reference Panel at the Department of Human Services, Disability Division.
Professor Patricia Rogers  
Professor of Public Sector Evaluation

Patricia Rogers research focuses on ways that evaluation can contribute to evidence-based policy and practice and organizational learning. She has worked in public sector evaluation and research for more than 25 years, across a wide range of programs including agricultural research, community development, criminal justice, dementia services, early childhood, education, health promotion, Indigenous housing, international development, and legal aid. In addition to working with government departments and ministries in Australia and New Zealand, she has worked with many international organisations and government bodies such as the Office of the Public Service Commission (South Africa), NONIE (the Network of Networks on Impact Evaluation), the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Health Scotland (UK), the World Bank Institute (USA), the Ministry of Finance (Malaysia), and the Foundation for Advanced Study In Development (Japan).

Patricia joined CASR in 2008, having previously been the Director of the evaluation research unit CIRCLE, and a Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University. From 1989 she lectured in research and evaluation methods in undergraduate and graduate programs in human services research, social work, community management, nursing, chiropractic, business and leisure studies programs at Phillip Institute, now incorporated in RMIT University.

Her current research focuses on evaluation methods that address complicated and complex aspects of interventions, with particular attention on the use of program theory and the evaluation of international development projects, programs and policies. In 2011 her major projects were the ‘BetterEvaluation’ collaborative project on evaluation methods (funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development) and a realist synthesis of community accountability interventions in international development (funded by the UK Department for International Development). Patricia delivered several invited addresses on addressing complication and complexity in evaluation.

Dr Judith Smart  
Adjunct Professor

Judith Smart is an adjunct professor at RMIT University and also a principal fellow at the University of Melbourne. She has published articles on Australian women’s organisations, conservative and radical, in the first half of the 20th Century, as well as historical studies of women and political protest, women and religion, women and consumer politics, attitudes towards the venereal diseases and measures for their control, labour youth organisation, the impact of war, the Miss Australia beauty contest and the Billy Graham crusade in Australia in 1959.

Current projects include (with Professor Emerita Marian Quartly, Monash University) an ARC Linkage–funded history of the National Council of Women of Australia; and an ARC Linkage, coordinated by Professor Patricia Grimshaw at the University of Melbourne, on Women and Leadership in 20th-Century Australia. She is also a Chief Investigator for another Linkage project (APAI) with Dr Suellen Murray (Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University), together with Domestic Violence Victoria, supervising doctoral candidate Jacqui Theobald’s history of the women’s refuge movement in this state. She is a past editor of Australian Historical Studies and the Victorian Historical Journal, on the publications committee of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, editorial committees of Women's Studies International Forum and Provenance (online journal of the Public Record Office of Victoria), a member of the executive of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Melbourne Branch), and also of the Victorian Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. She is a Royal Historical Society of Victoria Councillor and deputy chair of the History Council of Victoria. She has successfully supervised or co-supervised 7 PhD theses to completion.
Ms Kaye Stevens  
Research Fellow, Evidence Based Policy and Practice  
This research program focuses on the evidence about the generation, dissemination and utilisation of evidence that is ‘fit for purpose’ in policies and practice. As an evaluator Kaye has been involved in evaluations of Commonwealth and State government programs and the evaluation of community safety programs. Kaye has a human services practice background that includes direct service work, networking, research and policy development in the homelessness sector and service coordination in health and community services. Kaye has a particular interest in generating and using practice based evidence.

Kaye’s evaluation work includes the evaluation of Alzheimer’s Australia services to improve access for diverse groups, the evaluation of the Sustainable Farming Families program, the evaluation of community safety programs with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, a review of community education for natural disasters, the evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, and developing an evaluation framework for the mid-term review of the National Indigenous Housing Strategy.

Dr Yoland Wadsworth  
Adjunct Professor  
Yoland Wadsworth is one of Australia’s pioneers in the use of integral and transformative social research and evaluation methodologies in health, human and community services, including the use of action research, dialogic, participatory and complex at-scale ‘whole systems’ inquiry.

She is author of Australia’s best-selling research and evaluation texts – Do It Yourself Social Research and Everyday Evaluation on the Run (both 3e Allen & Unwin, 2011, over 58,000 copies); and the influential Knox Project early childhood services community studies in the 1970s, and (with Maggie McGuinness and Merinda Epstein) in the 1980s-1990s, the acute psychiatric services’ staff-consumer collaborative systemic evaluation studies: Understanding, Anytime, and Understanding and Involvement (U&I).

Yoland has recently completed her final methodology book and magnum opus regarding a transdisciplinary theory of inquiry as the dynamic for human services change and formation – Building in Research and Evaluation: Human inquiry for living systems (published in Australia/NZ and Asia by Action Research Press, Hawthorn and Allen & Unwin, Sydney 2010 – and elsewhere internationally through: Left Coast Press, San Francisco 2011). She is also the chief investigator and project manager of the NEAR Project undertaken over the past eight years in partnership with the state Department of Health and the University of Melbourne.

Yoland’s continuing research interests include the refinement of applications in practice of her trans disciplinary ‘correspondence’ theory of inquiry as the dynamic for living systems – in particular for the achievement of wanted change and stability by practitioners including consumers, professionals and managers of health/well-being, human/welfare and community services, and initiatives wider afield in all user-centred design, customer service applications, or self-organising activities etc. (using inductive-abductive-deductive ‘whole cycle’ methodologies of action research, consumer/provider dialogue, systemic inquiry; community-of-interest participation, narrative, evaluation.

Mr Liam Casey  
CASR Coordinator  
Administration and Finance
CASR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dr Liz Branigan
Swinburne University

Ms Jennifer Brooker
Youth work, RMIT

Assoc. Prof. Sara Charlesworth
University of South Australia

Dr Susie Costello
Social work, RMIT

Ms Kathryn Daley
PhD candidate, RMIT

Dr Georgina Heydon
Criminal justice administration, RMIT

Dr Adrian Howe

Ms Belinda Johnson
Social science, RMIT

Dr Guy Johnson
AHURI, RMIT

Assoc. Prof. Martyn Jones
Social work, RMIT

Dr Binoy Kampmark
Legal and dispute studies, RMIT

Dr Carmel Laragy
Social work, RMIT

Emeritus Professor Catherine McDonald
Social Work

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Swinburne University

Assoc. Prof. Jenny Martin
Social work, RMIT

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PVC (R&I), DSC, RMIT

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PhD candidate, RMIT

Dr Caroline Norma
Translating and interpreting, RMIT

Dr Tracey Ollis
Youth work, RMIT

Dr Angelika Papadopoulos
Social work, RMIT

Ms Katarine Patomaki
PhD candidate, RMIT

Dr James Rowe
Social science, RMIT

Ms Kim Hong Tran
PhD candidate, RMIT

Professor Rob Watts
Social science, RMIT

Dr Effie Zafirakis
Criminal justice administration, RMIT

Research Assistants

Ms Alissa Lykhina

Ms Susie Elliott

Mr Nicholas Herft

Ms Sandra Sesa

Specialist Researchers

Ms Noor Farida Fleming
CASR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CASR Advisory Committee is comprised of key research and innovation personnel from RMIT University and professionals from the field of social sciences external to the University.

Professor Daine Alcorn
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Research and Innovation, RMIT University

Professor Pavla Miller
Deputy Dean (Research and Innovation)
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Professor Chris Chamberlain
Director
Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University

Dr Iain Campbell
Senior Research Fellow
Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University

Professor Michael Bittman
Professor of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences
University of New England

Emeritus Professor Lois Bryson
University of Newcastle
and Adjunct Professor, RMIT University

Mr David Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
Jobs Australia

Ms Cath Bowtell
formerly Senior Industrial Officer
Australian Council of Trade Unions

Ms Sally Coutts
Research and Development Manager
Salvation Army Crisis Services

Professor Eleanor Holroyd
Discipline Head
Health Sciences, RMIT University
Researchers in CASR are committed to building ongoing research links with key stakeholders, and to lay the groundwork for potentially larger projects and research initiatives through partnerships and collaborative activities.

In 2011, CASR worked with a range of academics from RMIT University, community organisations, government departments, and other university research centres. These included projects with a local, national and international focus.

*International link

Alzheimer’s Australia
*American Evaluation Association
Association for Children
with a Disability
*Aston University (UK)
AusAID
Australasian Evaluation Society
Australia and New Zealand School of
Government
Australian Association of
Social Workers
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Housing and Urban
Research Institute (AHURI)
Australian Law Reform Commission
Australian National University
Australian Research Council
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Centres Against Sexual Assault
Charles Sturt University
Commonwealth Department of
Families, Housing, Community
Services and Indigenous Affairs
(FaHCSIA)
Community Matters
Deakin University
Department of Human
Services, Victoria
Department of Social Work,
University of Melbourne
Disability Advocacy Resource Unit
Domestic Violence Victoria
Early Childhood Intervention Australia
*European Union Results-Based
Management Community of Practice
*EvalNet (South Africa)
*Feedback Research Analytics
(South Africa)
*Forensic Linguistics in Practice
International Network
Health Department, Victoria
HomeGround Services
Industrial Relations, Victoria
Institute for Social Participation,
La Trobe University
Institutional Learning And
Change Initiative (ILAC)
*American Council for Voluntary
International Action (InterAction)
*International Fund for
Agricultural Development
*International Institute for
Qualitative Methodology
Jobs Australia
La Trobe University
Law Foundation (Australia)
*Linnaeus University (Sweden)
*McMaster University (Canada)
National Archives of Australia
National Council of Women of
Australia
National Disability Services, Victoria
National Foundation for
Australian Women
National Health Workforce Taskforce
National Library of Australia
Office of the Public Advocate
Office of the Senior Practitioner,
Department of Human Services,
Disability Services Division, Victoria
*Overseas Development Institute (UK)
*Pact, Inc. (Global)
Performance Improvement
Regional Development Victoria
*Rockefeller Foundation (USA)
Sacred Heart Mission
People (cont)

*Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
Swinburne University of Technology
*Technical Assistance Unit, Treasury (South Africa)
The Australian Sociological Association
*The Evaluators Institute, George Washington University (USA)
The Salvation Army Crisis Services
The Salvation Army Adult Services
Uniting Aged Care Victoria & Tasmania
Uniting Care Community Options
*University of Alberta (Canada)
*University of East London (UK)
*University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
*University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa)
University of Melbourne
University of New England
University of South Australia
University of Sydney
University of Tasmania
*Utrecht University (The Netherlands)
Victorian Advocacy League for people with Intellectual Disabilities (VALID)
Victoria University
Wesley Mission, Melbourne
Windermere Child and Family Services
Work and Family Policy Roundtable
Workforce Victoria
World Vision (Australia)
*York University (Canada)
Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)

VISITING PROFESSORS

Professor Luciano Meldolesi
University of Naples, Italy
Professor Nicoletta Stame
University of Rome, Italy
The Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) conducts significant national and international research on employment and workplace relations; social welfare provisions and social policy; and public sector evaluation.

Part of our research work is funded via competitive grants such as those offered by the Australian Research Council (ARC). Other research work is funded by federal and state governments, community organisations and institutes.

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**A Regional Perspective on Work and Family Balance and Changes in Employment Regulation**

*Grantor:* Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)
*Chief Investigators:* Sara Charlesworth (RMIT), Iain Campbell (RMIT) and Marian Baird (The University of Sydney)
*Industry Partners:* Workforce Victoria and Regional Development Victoria

Work/family balance is a focus of significant attention at the community, national and international level. This project will generate new knowledge about the ways in which employment regulation directly and indirectly impacts on employee work/family balance outcomes within different regional and industry contexts. A growing body of research recognises the linkages between employment regulation and effects on child and parent well-being and health, labour force supply, and economic outcomes. However, little is known about how geographical location shapes work/family balance. The research will thus contribute to improved understandings and to better social policy at the local, state and federal levels.

**The Housing Security Consequences of Underemployment**

*Grantor:* Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
*Research Team:* Iain Campbell (RMIT), Sharon Parkinson (RMIT) and Gavin Wood (RMIT)

Underemployment has increased steadily in past decades and now affects more people than unemployment. Though underemployment is likely to imply severe disadvantage in labour and housing markets, it remains a neglected topic. This project uses ABS data and HILDA data (over nine waves) in order to provide a comprehensive population-wide analysis of the consequences of time related underemployment as it relates to different housing tenures and household groups, and whether there is any link with housing stress.

**Work/life Outcomes in SME Construction Companies 2010-2011**

*Grantor:* Workforce Victoria
*Research Team:* Sara Charlesworth (RMIT) and Helen Lingard (Property and Construction, RMIT)

Until recently, work-family research has taken place almost exclusively in stable organisational environments with repetitive processes and regular work patterns. Consequently little is known about work-family experiences in the type of project-based work that characterises work in construction. The scoping study will address two key questions:

1. How do working hours, working time conditions and access to flexible work differ for construction industry employees in comparison to other employees in small (20 or fewer employees), medium (21-100 employees) and large enterprises (more than 100 employees)

2. How does the dynamic nature of work within the construction industry impact on the work/life experiences of construction industry employees in SMEs and how do these experiences differ from those employed by larger construction companies and in SMEs in other industries?
Australian Domestic Violence Public Policy: History, Discourse and Impact  
Grantor: Australian Research Council (Discovery Grant)  
Chief Investigator: Suellen Murray (RMIT)  
Domestic violence has significant costs to the community. Through a combination of textual analysis and interviews with key policy makers, the research documented the history of public policy responses to domestic violence in Australia for the past 30 years and analysed the range of approaches and their implications over this time. Various peer-reviewed journal articles have been published from this research and a book, Domestic Violence: Australian Public Policy, co-authored by Suellen Murray and Anastasia Powell, was published by Australian Scholarly Publishing in 2011.

150 Low Income Australians: A Group Biography over Time  
Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)  
Chief Investigators: John Murphy (University of Melbourne), Suellen Murray (RMIT), Jenny Chalmers (UNSW), Greg Marston (University of Queensland)  
Industry Partner: Jobs Australia  
This project, which was undertaken with Industry Partner Jobs Australia, examined how welfare-to-work policies are experienced. The project illuminated how incentives and obstacles are perceived; described patterns of interdependency; and analysed people’s values about welfare and obligation. A co-authored book arising from the research was published in 2011. Half a Citizen: Life on Welfare in Australia (Allen & Unwin) won the Australian Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction Literature.

Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)  
Research Team: Adjunct Professor Judith Smart (RMIT), Professor Emerita Marian Quartly (Monash University)  
This is an ARC-funded Linkage project, LP0883719 administered by the University of Melbourne, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, in partnership with the National Council of Women of Australia. The National Council of Women of Australia was the principal force behind the exercise of mainstream Australian women’s political citizenship across most of the twentieth century. The absence of a comprehensive history of this important peak body is a gap in current understandings of Australian women’s activism. This project has resulted in refereed articles and book chapters. Its primary aim is to rewrite the history of Australian feminism to demonstrate the evolution of national identity and the exercise of gendered citizenship in mainstream organisations refracted through the NCWA. It is due for completion at the end of 2012.
Women and Leadership in a Century of Australian Democracy

Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)
Research Team: Professor Patricia Grimshaw (University of Melbourne), Professor Joy Damousi (University of Melbourne), Professor Shurlee Swain (Australian Catholic University), Professor Marian Sawer (Australian National University), Professor Anna Haebich (Griffith University), Associate Professor Christina Cregan (University of Melbourne) and Associate Professor Judith Smart (University of Melbourne and RMIT)

This is an ARC-funded Linkage project LP100200304 administered by the University of Melbourne, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, in partnership with the Museum of Australian Democracy, National Library of Australia, National Archives of Australia, National Film and Sound Archive, National Foundation for Australian Women, Australian Nursing Federation, and eScholarship Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. The project promotes knowledge of women leaders in the past and present in a range of arenas, and disseminates its findings through the use of new technologies. The major outcomes will be at least 2 edited collections, a monograph and an eEncyclopedia. Smart and Swain are responsible for editing the encyclopaedia and Smart is an editor of one of the collections published in 2011, Founders, Firsts and Feminists: Women Leaders in Twentieth-century Australia. CASR’s Judith Smart, Suellen Murray and Jacqualine Theobald have contributed articles to this collection and Smart and Murray are writing entries for the online encyclopaedia. The project’s inclusiveness and breadth will extend awareness of the effectiveness of women’s leadership in many areas including Indigenous and migrant communities. By identifying the successful outcomes of women’s leadership, the project will offer young students and women from diverse backgrounds understanding of active female participation in politics, organisations and communities, and encouragement to exercise their capacities for agency and action. Findings will reach women’s advocacy groups including state and federal policy units.

History of the Women’s Refuge Movement 1974 to 2004

Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)
Chief Investigators: Suellen Murray (RMIT) and Judith Smart (RMIT)
PhD Researcher (APAI): Jacqui Theobald
Industry Partner: Domestic Violence Victoria

Using a rich archive of source material and in-depth interviews, this project traces the unique history of the women’s refuge movement in Victoria, from its initiation in 1974 through to a period of significant change in 2004. The doctoral student, Jacqui Theobald, began work on the project in 2007 and the thesis was completed and passed in 2011. The research will make a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge concerned with the history of domestic violence and these longer term perspectives will be beneficial to future policy and program development.

Pathways into and out of Homelessness

Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)
Chief Investigators: Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson
Industry Partner: The Salvation Army Crisis Services and HomeGround Services

Effective interventions to assist homeless people depend upon understanding the reasons why people become homeless and how they exit from homelessness. This research investigates people’s pathways into and out of homelessness, and explains why some people experience a short period of homelessness, whereas others remain homeless for a sustained period of time. The researchers examined 5526 case histories at two housing agencies in inner Melbourne, and gathered information on 4291 homeless people. The findings will inform our knowledge about best practice and effective service delivery. The research will influence the thinking of policy makers and service providers for some years to come.

Breaking the Cycle: the Role of Housing and Support in Resolving Chronic Homelessness

Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant)
Chief Investigators: Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson
PhD candidate (APAI): Naomi Bailey
Industry partner: Sacred Heart Mission

This is a longitudinal study of formerly chronically homeless people who are residents in a supportive housing facility in inner Melbourne. It will interview 40 residents twice over a 12 month period, analysing what factors enable people who have been chronically homeless to maintain their housing. The project will provide vital information on the best ways to assist chronically homeless people to remain housed and to address their social exclusion. It will enable policy makers and service providers to identify appropriate housing configurations and to develop support programs that better assist the chronically homeless.
Care Leavers, Access to Records and Identity

Grantor: University of Melbourne (from Australian Research Council (Linkage Grant))
Researcher: Suellen Murray (RMIT)
Chief Investigator: Cathy Humphreys (University of Melbourne)
Industry Partners: Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Department of Human Services, VACCA and others

This research is considering the impact of access to care records on the construction of care leavers’ identity and their health and well-being. It is providing evidence of the significance of these records and documenting care leavers’ experiences of seeking access to their care records. During 2011, interviews with care-leavers were undertaken and a workshop presented findings to 50 people from across the sector. Further research concerned with record-holders release of records is planned for 2012 and the publication of the findings in peer-reviewed journals.

On the Margins: Caravan Park Dwellers and Boarding House Residents

Grantor: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Chief investigators: Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie (Swinburne University)

This study will investigate the social characteristics and housing situation of people living in caravan parks and boarding houses. The study will involve a telephone survey of all caravan parks across Victoria, a review of the data available through the Victorian Boarding House Inspectorate, and field visits to boarding houses and caravan parks in 50 localities. The research will provide up-to-date information on changes in boarding houses and caravan parks across Victoria and investigate the feasibility of a national study.

The Role of the Street to Home Program in Providing Pathways out of Homelessness for Adult Rough Sleepers

Grantor: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Salvation Army Crisis Services and HomeGround Services
Chief investigators: Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson

One of the headline goals in the Australian Government’s White paper, The Road Home, is to offer supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who want it by 2020. The Streets to Home program is being implemented in each jurisdiction in order to advance this objective. The program is designed to assist people who have been sleeping rough to make the transition to sustainable supported housing. In Victoria, a consortium consisting of HomeGround Services, The Salvation Army Adult Services and The Salvation Army Crisis Services have been funded for three years to assist approximately 300 chronically homeless people into stable, sustainable housing. This project will undertake the evaluation of the Streets to Home initiative in Victoria.

Rough Sleeping in Rural and Regional Victoria

Grantor: Department of Human Services (Victoria)
Chief investigators: Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie

This project will provide a critical analysis of relevant quantitative data on rough sleeping, including the 2006 Census data on rough sleepers in rural settings, regional urban centres and coastal communities. This will enable a robust estimate of the number of rough sleeper in these areas. This information will guide the development of the second, qualitative element to the project. This stage will include current service responses and an analysis of Indigenous people who sleep rough in rural settings.
**Child care policy and the experiences of employed Alberta families with pre-school children (2011 – 2012)**

**Grantor:** Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (Canada)

**Chief investigators:** Rhonda Breitkreuz (University of Alberta), Damien Collins (University of Alberta), Kay Cook (RMIT University), Rhonda Gorkiert (University of Alberta)

This seed funding will support the development of a research proposal to assess the impact of childcare arrangements on families with pre-school children. In this seed study, we will undertake a review of the childcare literature in order to demonstrate how a broader project will contribute to existing knowledge or understanding about child care and its implications for policy and practice. We will also conduct focus groups with child care providers and policymakers as well as parents in order to generate appropriate questions for the development of a high quality child care survey to distribute to participants in the next phase of the project.

**An exploratory cluster trial of a sustainable capacity building intervention to promote positive child mental health in Family Day Care**

**Grantor:** Australian Linkage Council (Linkage grant)

**Chief investigators:** Elise Davis (University of Melbourne), Elizabeth Waters (University of Melbourne), Helen Hermann (University of Melbourne), Linda Harrison (Charles Sturt University), Margaret Sime (University of New England), Kay Cook (RMIT University), Andrew Mackinnon (Melbourne University), Bernie Marshall (Deakin University), Cathy Mihalopoulos (Deakin University)

**Industry partner:** Windermere Child and Family Services

This project aims to develop a community based intervention involving family day care staff, parents, and young children to promote social and emotional wellbeing for young children in low socioeconomic areas of Melbourne. The intervention will be developed in partnership with Windermere and family day care providers to ensure it is relevant, accessible and meets the needs of the sector and its workers. By doing so, we seek to maximise knowledge, confidence and skills of care providers in promoting social and emotional wellbeing in children inclusive of cultural diversity, developmental stage and disability status.

**The health implications of uncertain child support payments for children in low-income single parent families**

**Grantor:** Australian Research Council (Discovery grant)

**Chief Investigators:** Kay Cook (RMIT University), Elizabeth Waters (University of Melbourne), Robert Cummins (Deakin University), Elise Davis (University of Melbourne)

**PhD Researcher (Deakin University Postgraduate Scholarship):** Hayley McKenzie (Deakin University)

This project examines how uncertain, partial or missing child support payments affect the lives of low-income resident parents and their children. Survey data were collected monthly from 150 resident parents between 2008 and 2010. Through these surveys we tracked resident parent income and expenditure and a range of child and adult social and wellbeing indicators. In-depth qualitative interviews were also conducted with a sub-sample of participants between 2009 and 2011. A PhD thesis that resulted from this work was submitted in November 2011. Findings from this project were provided as evidence at the 2011 Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into family violence and commonwealth law and this project has informed a further investigation of the emotional nature of child support payment and receipt, with a Discovery grant application currently under review by the Australian Research Council.

**The implications of welfare reform for single parent families in their transition to paid work**

**Grantor:** Australian Research Council (Linkage grant)

**Chief Investigators:** Kay Cook (RMIT University), Paul Smyth (University of Melbourne), Elise Davis (University of Melbourne)

**Industry Partner:** Brotherhood of St Laurence

**PhD Researcher (APAI):** Eve Bodsworth (Deakin University)

This project conducted a real-time evaluation of the implementation of Australia’s welfare-to-work reforms for single parents. From 2007 – 2009, 350 single parents complete pre-employment and post-employment surveys that assessed a range of social, employment and wellbeing outcomes for parents and their children. Measures used in this survey informed the addition of social inclusion variables in the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ 2010 General Social Survey and findings from this and the associated PhD study contributed to submissions to the federal Social Inclusion Agenda. Work is currently underway to publish the findings of this longitudinal study, with several manuscripts submitted in 2011 to be published in 2012.
PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION

Narrative Evaluation Action Research (NEAR) Project – Phase 4
Grantor: Department of Health
Chief Investigator: Yoland Wadsworth (RMIT)
Collaborator: Karen Goltz (DHS N&WMR), John Wiseman (University of Melbourne), Gai Wilson, Ani Wierenga (University of Melbourne)

The NEAR project was initiated in 2003 by the then Victorian Department of Human Services, Western Metropolitan Region as a workforce development project with a strong emphasis on reflective change-oriented practice.

The aim of the project has been to build the capacity of community health agencies to evaluate and report on their Integrated Health Promotion programming using strengthened narrative annual reporting. It is designed as a process to enable health promotion staff, practitioners, community members and management to have an increased opportunity to reflect upon their activities as part of annual work plan evaluation cycles. The University collaborators have worked with more than 70 lead staff and management through the NEAR Phases 1, 2 and 3. The Phase 4 Evaluation Report was submitted at the end of 2010 and the project completed its reporting requirements with a well-attended Department of Health – organised roundtable seminar presentation in February 2011. A Phase 5 is foreshadowed with plans for new consulting arrangements to agencies. The project’s Guidelines continue to provide detailed guidance on the Department of Health’s Health Promotion evaluation webpages.

Evaluation of Alzheimer’s Australia Services to Improve Access for Special Needs Groups
Grantor: Alzheimer’s Australia
Research Team: Kaye Stevens (RMIT) Carmel Laragy (RMIT), Patricia Rogers (RMIT), Chris Chamberlain (RMIT)

This evaluation reported on the achievements of 11 Service Access Liaison Officer Projects implemented by Alzheimer’s Australia to improve access to dementia services for specific needs groups. The projects, which were implemented in all states and territories, have focused on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds; Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Intersex people; people with Younger Onset Dementia; and people in rural and remote locations (R & R).

Site visits and follow up data collection from the projects and their external stakeholders, and consultations with Alzheimer’s Australia’s National Advisory groups informed the evaluation findings. The evaluation made recommendations to inform Alzheimer’s Australia’s continued work to extend services to diverse groups in the community.
The BetterEvaluation project is developing a website that provides evaluators and those commissioning evaluations with relevant, credible, interactive and up to date information and guidance about choosing and using evaluation methods and approaches. The website will include case studies, feedback from evaluators who have used different methods and approaches and the advice of evaluation experts.

The first stage of the process involved consultations with a range of people and organisations working in development evaluation, a review of existing websites on evaluation methods, and specialist input regarding the development of co-created content and virtual communities of practice resulting in a detailed proposal by the four founding partners. During the 2011 ‘Proof of Concept’ phase a platform was established with a prototype website, an international advisory group, network of beta-partners, collaborative arrangements with complementary websites, and trials of processes for generating content, including method steward structures, writeshops, content curating, and narrative interviews. Workshops were held at evaluation conferences using material from the prototype site and gathering feedback for the next stage of development.

Systematic Review: Under what circumstances does increasing community accountability and empowerment improve educational outcomes, especially for the poor

Grantor: UK Department for International Development (DfID)

CASR, in partnership with World Vision Australia and Community Matters, was successful in its application for funding under an international competitive call by DfID, AusAid and 3IE (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation) for proposals for systematic reviews on questions nominated by development agencies. This systematic review will locate and synthesize the evidence about the effectiveness of community accountability and empowerment to address widespread problems in education such as low student participation, low quality teaching, insufficient resources (including the misdirection of allocated resources, and the failure to appropriately allocate resources), and parent involvement in and support for education. The review will use the realist synthesis approach, a particular type of systematic review which incorporates qualitative and quantitative data, and focuses on understanding how context influences the workings of causal mechanisms that produce impacts. (Professor Ray Pawson, the main developer of the realist synthesis approach, was a Visiting Professor at RMIT in 2007, supported by a grant from the RMIT International Foundation). The realist synthesis approach focuses on supporting appropriate generalisability by identifying ‘what matters’ about contexts or participant characteristics.

During 2011, Patricia Rogers worked with colleagues, including Dr Jonathan Makuwira (GSSSP), Bill Walker, (World Vision Australia), and Dr Gill Westhorp, (Community Matters), to develop a draft protocol for the review.

AusAID meta-evaluation

Patricia Rogers conducted an evaluation of AusAID’s system for technical review of evaluation reports. The evaluation included reviewing a sample of evaluation report drafts, the technical reviews and the final versions of the evaluation reports, and analysing patterns in report quality. The evaluation report was used to inform AusAID’s revision of its systems for monitoring and evaluation, including its processes and requirements for evaluation reports and reviews of reports.
InterAction Guidance on Impact Evaluation

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), with more than 190 members working in every developing country. Members are faith-based and secular, large and small, with a focus on the world’s most poor and vulnerable populations. With financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation, InterAction is developing a four-part series of guidance notes and webinars on impact evaluation. The purpose of the series is to build the capacity of NGOs (and others) to demonstrate effectiveness by increasing their understanding of and ability to conduct high quality impact evaluation. Patricia Rogers was engaged to write the first guidance note in the series “Introduction to Impact Evaluation”, providing a balanced view of issues and options for impact evaluation, taking into account recent controversies about what constitute credible methods for generating evidence and appropriate processes for engaging with vulnerable populations. The other titles in the series are: ‘Linking Monitoring and Evaluation to Impact Evaluation’, by Burt Perrin, Independent Consultant; ‘Introduction to Mixed Methods in Impact Evaluation’, by Michael Bamberger, Independent Consultant; ‘Use of Impact Evaluation Results’, by David Bonbright, Chief Executive, Keystone Accountability.

PALAMA EDP evaluation

Patricia Rogers was an advisor on this multi-year evaluation of the South African Public Administration Learning and Management Academy’s Executive Development Program, working with Feedback Research Analytics (South Africa), ICF International and Lin Thompson & Associates (Australia). The Executive Development Programme (EDP) is one of PALAMA’s flagship leadership development interventions aimed at enhancing the capacity of public service leaders. It aims to equip senior managers (Directors and Chief Directors) with the knowledge and skills required to perform effectively in day-to-day operations. The evaluation focused on the relevance of the curriculum; quality of teaching and assessment feedback; PALAMA’s processes in administration and management of the entire EDP experience from enrolment to graduation; and the effectiveness of the e-learning platform. The evaluation was due for completion in 2012.

HEARD (Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division) visiting fellowship

Patricia Rogers was invited as a Visiting Fellow for a three week visit to the Health and Economics Unit of the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, based in Durban. During her visit, Patricia met with researchers within HEARD, the School of Population Studies and Development Studies and others at the University of KZN, and also made presentations at the University of Johannesburg and Stellenbsoch University (Cape Town). She developed and delivered a one week course on monitoring and evaluation for HIV/AIDS project leaders.

Free State University research support to the Rockefeller Foundation Evaluation Office

Patricia Rogers was engaged by the Free State University as part of its project to provide research support to the Rockefeller Foundation Evaluation Office. Patricia’s work focused on the different ways of using program theory (logic models) as part of planning, monitoring and evaluating Foundation projects, particularly those with complicated and complex aspects, and different ways of using case studies.

European Union Community of Practice on Results Based Management

Patricia Rogers worked with participants in the CoP, together with evaluators Dr Jum Rugh and Dr Irene Guijt, to explore options for improving the evaluation of European structural funds. She delivered a presentation on “Evaluations that address the complicated and complex aspects of interventions” in Stockholm, Sweden on 18 September, 2011.
Disability

Roadmap for the Achieving Dignity without Restraint in Victoria
Grantor: Department of Human Services, VIC
Researcher: Paul Ramcharan (RMIT)

Development of a Resource for achieving Dignity without Restraint
Grantor: Department of Human Services, VIC
Researcher: Paul Ramcharan (RMIT)

Self Advocacy and Inclusion: What can be learned from Speaking Up?
Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage grant)
Research Team: Chris Bigby (LaTrobe University), Patsie Frawley (LaTrobe University) and Paul Ramcharan (RMIT)

Auditing the Victorian Charter
Grantor: Australian Research Council (Linkage grant)
Research Team: Rob Watts (RMIT), Mike Salvaris (RMIT), Lee Ann Bassa (LaTrobe University), Paul Ramcharan (RMIT) and Di Sisely (RMIT)

Increasing Collaboration of Service Users within Disability Services Division
Grantor: Department of Human Services, VIC
Research Team: Paul Ramcharan (RMIT) and Patsie Frawley (LaTrobe University)
Industry Partners: VALID Advocacy Inc. and National Disability Services, Victoria
Commercial Projects

PROVISION OF EXPERT ADVICE

CASF staff undertake a variety of commercial projects providing expert advice, consulting or professional development.

National
AusAID

CHEAN
Suellen Murray sits on the DSC College Human Ethics Advisory Network (CHEAN – or College ethics committee). With other CHEAN members, she reviewed applications at the monthly CHEAN meetings and provided advice to colleagues preparing ethics applications. She also conducted the ethics application workshop for postgraduate students.

NVivo Workshops
In 2011, Dr Helen Marshall (CASR) ran a series of very successful workshops on NVivo at RMIT University, Melbourne University, Victoria University and Deakin University. The one day workshops were designed for postgraduate students and staff planning to use NVivo to manage the rich, messy qualitative data from interviews, ethnographies and documents in their research. These well attended workshops will continue to be offered in 2012.

Developmental Leadership Program/Oxfam Australia
Patricia Rogers was an invited presenter and participant in a workshop on “Innovation in Monitoring and Evaluation: As If Politics Matters”, examining appropriate monitoring and evaluation for international development interventions that focus on the role of leaders and coalitions in development. The workshop was held 17-18 October 2012.

Sexual Assault Workforce Development Project
Grantor: Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) Forum
Consultant: Suellen Murray (RMIT)

As part of new initiatives to increase support to victim/survivors of sexual assault, the Department of Human Services funded the development and delivery of training for sexual assault workers in Victoria. Working with CASA Forum, Suellen provided expertise in the area of evaluation to ensure the curriculum is constantly improving. This project was completed in 2011.
Consulting

Minimum Daily Engagements for Casual Employees in Retail

Grantor: Shop Distributive and Allied Employees’ Association (SDA)
Consultant: Iain Campbell (RMIT)

This involved preparation of a second expert witness statement and further testimony in a case before Vice-President Watson in the Fair Work Australia tribunal. The case followed on from a similar prior case in 2010. It involved a renewed application, this time confined to schoolchildren, by employer associations to vary the General Retail Industry Award 2010 by reducing the current three hour minimum daily engagement for casual employees. The expert witness statement covered topics such as the employment of school children, the meaning of workforce participation, existing research on the wishes and interests of schoolchildren, and the principle of individual agreement.

Professional Development

Using logic models and theories of change (DFID, UK)

Patricia Rogers developed and led a short course for the UK Department for International Development at their headquarters in Kilbride, UK, on ways of using logic models and theories of change to plan, manage, monitor and evaluate international development projects and programs, drawing on her recent book with Sue Funnell. International development agencies such as DFID have a long history of using the logical framework, a particular type of logic model. The course looked at alternative ways of developing, representing and using program theory to improve project and program planning, management and evaluation.

Effective use of program theory and logic models for evaluation and Qualitative Data Analysis, The Evaluators Institute, George Washington University, Washington DC.

Patricia Rogers delivered two-day courses in the use of program theory and strategies for analysing qualitative data as part of The Evaluators Institute professional development program in Washington, DC (January), Chicago (April), and Washington, DC (July).
The provision of a research culture supporting postgraduate supervision is one of the central activities of the Centre. It concentrates this supervision in the University’s Doctor of Philosophy, Honours and Master of Social Science within the areas of community, welfare and youth services; housing; social policy, practice and evaluation; work, gender and inequality.

**PhD Completions**

Jacqui Theobald (PhD)
**Supervisors:** Suellen Murray and Judith Smart

Naomi Ngo (PhD)
The Experiences of Young Vietnamese-Australian Heroin Users Returning to their Homeland
**Supervisor:** Chris Chamberlain

**PhD Supervision**

Sian Anderson (PhD)
Building positive, included identities: The experience of engagement in self-advocacy by people with intellectual disabilities
**Supervisors:** Chris Bigby (LaTrobe University) and Paul Ramcharan

Naomi Bailey (PhD)
Breaking the Cycle: the Role of Housing and Support in Resolving Chronic Homelessness
**Supervisors:** Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson

Tonia Bruhn (PhD)
Using a community of practice to support evidence uptake
**Supervisor:** Patricia Rogers

Kathryn Daley (PhD)
Problematic Youth Drug Use: Understanding Young People’s Experiences
**Supervisor:** Chris Chamberlain

Christina David (PhD)
Delivering on its promise? Exploring individual funding for people with disabilities from a human rights based approach
**Supervisors:** Paul Ramcharan and Carmel Laragy
Kathy Douglas (PhD)
The Teaching of ADR in Selected Australian Law Schools: Towards Second-Generation Practice and Pedagogy
Supervisors: Sara Charlesworth and Helen Marshall

Christine Durham (PhD)
How people can Acquire Better Insight into Acquired Brain Injury: A Phenomenological study of factors that negatively and positively affect the lifeworld of people with ABI
Supervisor: Paul Ramcharan

Noor Farida Fleming (PhD)
Balancing the tensions between learning and accountability in development evaluation: To what ends?
Supervisor: Patricia Rogers and John Fien

John Grove (PhD)
The use of systems approaches to evaluate the roll-out of antiretrovirals in Zambia
Supervisor: Patricia Rogers

Alissa Lykhina (PhD)
Emotional and psychological abuse in non-physically violent intimate heterosexual relationships
Supervisors: Suellen Murray and Susan Costello

Theresa Lynch (PhD)
Understanding why women kill: Exploring the circumstances and motivations of why women kill friends, acquaintances and strangers (part-time)
Supervisor: Suellen Murray

Miriam Mandryk (MSocSci – Policy and Human Services)
Adoption and identity issues: Changes in legislation and access to records
Supervisor: Suellen Murray

Robyn Martin (PhD)
Revolving or Evolving Doors: What Factors, Conditions and Contexts Promote Sustainable Pathways out of Homelessness For Women?
Supervisors: Suellen Murray and Chris Chamberlain

Annette Mitchell (PhD)
Misrecognition: Barriers to social inclusion for people with physical disability
Supervisors: Carmel Laragy and Paul Ramcharan

Sharon Parkinson (PhD)
Insecurity: An employment and housing connection
Supervisors: Tony Dalton and Iain Campbell

Meredith Prain (PhD)
Getting in touch: Interactions between adults with congenital deaf-blindness and their disability support workers
Supervisors: Keith McVilly (Deakin University) and Paul Ramcharan

Marilyn Small (MSocSci – Policy and Human Services)
Freedom of Information and access to personal records
Supervisor: Suellen Murray
Books


Book Chapters


Monographs and Reports


*Coutts, S., Harris, L. & Jones, M. (2011) A ‘How To’ Guide for Establishing a Student Unit in a Community Based Agency; Report funded by Department of Human Services, Victoria. [Collaboration with St Kilda Crisis Services, The Salvation Army.]


**Journal Articles**


Conference Papers and Seminar Presentations


Ex-offenders.’ Paper presented at the International Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic.


*Laragy, C. (2011) ‘Individual funding is coming to a welfare service near you: why it can’t be ignored’, Centre Applied Social Research, RMIT University, October.


*Ollis, T (2011) ‘Social learning and the emotion of protest; embodiment, emotions and activism’. Researching Learning and Work, 7th International Conference, 4-7 December, China Normal University, Shanghai.


**Invited Presentations**


**Publications (cont)**

**Presentations**


**Working Papers**

**Media Citations as Expert**


Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Interview on ABC 1, Tasmania, 12 February.

Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Interview on 2UE, Sydney, 17 February.

Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Quoted in *The Age*, 17 February.


Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Quoted in *Border Mail*, 10 June.


Charlesworth, Sara (2011) Calls to legislate quotas for the number of women appointed to company boards’, AAP Newswire, 8 March.

Teaching
Rogers, Patricia (2011) ‘Evaluation for Public Sector Managers; Executive Workshop, Australia and New Zealand School of Government (with Dr George Argyrous).

Guest Lecturing
Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Lecture on ‘Functionalism and Marxism’, What is Youth Work, HWSS 2132, RMIT University, 31 March.
Chamberlain, Chris (2011) Social Surveys, One day workshop, Research Strategies, HUSO 2112/2079, RMIT University, 13 August.
Professor Julian May and Professor Patricia Rogers, University of Kwa Zulu Natal, 23 February, 2011.


For the period of 1st January 2011 to 31 December 2011

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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Grants Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC (Discovery and Linkage)</td>
<td>78,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industry</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>636,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>140,341</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>39,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>34,489</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Grants Scheme</td>
<td>27,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Infrastructure Block Grant</td>
<td>37,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds*</td>
<td>370,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>1,365,743</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and On-costs</td>
<td>757,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumable Materials</td>
<td>18,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Equipment, Repairs and Hire</td>
<td>8,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Costs</td>
<td>6,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>-103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations</td>
<td>8,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Motor Vehicle Expenses</td>
<td>60,617</td>
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<td>Staff Administration Costs (meeting/conferences and consultancy services)</td>
<td>165,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance, Legal and Other</td>
<td>4,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Expenses</td>
<td>22,373</td>
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<td>Grants to other institutions</td>
<td>121,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff and Student Related Expenses</td>
<td>52,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>2,044</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>1,227,966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OPERATING RESULT Surplus/(Deficit)** 137,777

* Surplus carried forward to 01 January 2011.
# Income not including deferred funds of $487,978 from current research contracts.