

## ***SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTRE***

### *Brief Overview:*

The above named centre was formerly named the Centre for Social Research. In November 2008 Professor S. Caroline Taylor was appointed Foundation Chair of Social Justice, located in the School of Psychology and Social Science, Faculty of Computing and Health Sciences. Professor Taylor was asked to assume a leadership role a Head of the centre.

Professor Taylor established a series of informal discussions with within the school for the purpose of re-invigorating the centre and making it more inclusive of all staff. At a meeting in March 2009 staff voted to change the name of the centre to the Social Justice Research Centre in order that the centre better reflect the diversity and mission of academics.

In March/April cluster groups were developed along with a new core management group made up of staff across the faculty. Centre meetings are held monthly with lunch provided and we have averaged around 16 staff at each meeting, Our first core management group meeting was held in May. Core management meeting will be held once every 2 months. A new centre website is currently under construction with plans for an official launch of the centre in August. Other activities have included 'conference watch' which will advise centre members of conferences from a range of disciplines that have themes of social justice and human rights. We are also developing a fortnightly forum for postgraduate students to informally meet with academic staff over light refreshments for the purpose of improving communication and relationships between centre staff and post-graduate students after students identified this as an area they would like to see improved. Dr. Eyal Gringert is taking the lead in developing this activity.

Following discussions with Professor Lynne Cohen, her research group (Resilience Research Group) have joined the centre and will become a central cluster within the centre. In May the head of the centre and 3 centre members met with the Head of the Sellenger Centre to discuss research collaboration. We have a project proposal that is currently being developed as a competitive grant application for the Australian Institute of Criminology. The grant will be submitted August this year.

### *Future Plans and Directions:*

#### Corporate Sponsorship:

Members are currently working on potential corporate sponsorship links to support postgraduate research scholarships. The Head of the centre has met with the DVC to discuss this area further.

### *'Just World Lecture Series'*

Sponsors are being sought to support this lecture series that would involve invitations being extended to national and international human rights and social justice advocates to present a public seminar at ECU. The expectation is to have a sponsor secured by the end of the year.

### *Cluster Groups*

These strategically organised groups are working individually and collectively within the centre to identify appropriate projects and build their profile within and external to the centre.

### *Annual Centre Seminar*

Some discussion has taken place regarding the centre hosting an annual seminar that is open to the public with invitations directed at local community, government, business and NGO groups for the purpose of showcasing our work and research and facilitating and increasing our community engagement. We are working towards the latter part of November as a potential timeframe for our first seminar.

## Members

Professor Caroline Taylor (1) (2) (6) (8) (13)

*Head, Social Justice Research Centre*

\*Note: numbers in brackets indicates membership of research cluster

Prof Alfred Allan (4) (11)	Prof Beth Armstrong (1) (3) (5) (7) (9)	Prof Craig Speelman
A/Prof Denise Charman	A/Prof Lynne Cohen (13)	A/Prof Trudi Cooper (1) (2) (3) (11) (12)
Dr Ricks Allan (4)	Ms Susan Badcoe	Dr Sue Bahn (1) (2) (3)
Dr Vicki Banham (1) (3) (10)	Dr Rodrigo Becerra	Dr Lauren Breen (1) (2) (3) (7) (8)
Dr Suzy Casimiro	Dr Paul Chang (1)	Dr Judith Cockram (1) (3) (7) (10) (11)
Dr Justine Dandy (1) (2)	Dr Greg Dear (1) (2) (4) (6) (10)	Ms Cathy Deeker
Ms Erin Donovan	Dr Deirdre Drake (1)(4) (5) (13)	Ms Cath Ferguson
Ms Maria Fernandez	Dr Mary Flaherty (1) (7) (9)	Dr Julie Fletcher
Dr Deborah Gardner	Dr Sarron Goldman	Dr Eyal Gringart (1) (5) (6)
Dr Andrew Guilfoyle (13)	Dr Peter Hancock (3)	Dr Bronwyn Harman (13)
Mr Craig Harms (13)	Dr Lekkie Hopkins	Ms Sheri Hudson (3)
Dr Elizabeth Kaczmarek (11) (13)	Dr Judy Kulisa (2) (3) (6) (12)	Ms Joanne MacDonald
Dr Dianne McKillop (1) (4) (9) (11)	Ms Charn Nang (1) (2) (5)	Dr Julie-Ann Pooley (13)
Dr Judith Pugh (1) (3) (7) (9) (12)	Dr Elizabeth Reid-Boyd	Ms Lynn Roarty
Dr Ken Robinson (1) (2) (3) (4) (10) (11)	Dr David Ryder	Ms Orietta Simons
Dr Anna Targowska (1) (2) (3)	Ms Susan Teather (1) (2) (3) (12)	Ms Pamela Weatherill
Ms Clare Wilson		

## Adjunct members

Professor Alan Black

Professor Sherry Sagers

Professor Margaret Sims

Professor David Bradley

## Research Clusters

- (1) Social Justice and Wellbeing
- (2) Children, Youth & Families
- (3) Social Program Evaluation
- (4) Forensic Psychology

- (5) Aging
- (6) Interpersonal Violence
- (7) Disabilities
- (8) Grief Loss and Trauma
- (9) Communication
- (10) Prisons
- (11) Mental Health
- (12) Community Development and Social Inclusion
- (13) Lifespan Resilience

## **Grants Awarded**

### **Faculty of Computing, Health and Science Small Grant Scheme 2009**

Chief Investigator: Dr Lauren Breen

Associate Investigators: Dr Moira O'Connor, Professor Moyez Jiwa

Project title: Exploring GP's conceptualisations of their patients' grief: Implications for treatment, referral, and professional development

Amount awarded: \$6000.00

### **Visiting Research Fellow (ECU Faculty Awards)**

Applicant: Professor S. Caroline Taylor

Visiting Fellow: Professor Susan Lea, Plymouth University, UK

Visiting ECU SJRC November 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 5 2009.

Total funds: \$6,500

## **Publications**

Breen, L. J., & Siggers, S. (2009). Wellness rhetoric: Implications for policy and practice in Australian childhood health and disability services. In C. A. Marshall, E. Kendall, M. E. Banks, & R. M. S. Gover (Eds.), *Disabilities: Insights from across fields and around the world* (Vol. 3, pp. 167-179). Westport, CT: Praeger.

Cripps, K. Davis, M. & Taylor, S.C. (2009) Sexual Violence in Aurukun: The Queen V BP, DK, PA, Koowarta, Wikmunea, Woolla, 2007. *Indigenous Law Bulletin* (Vol. 7, Issue 8, pp.14-17).

## **Refereed Journal Articles (in press)**

Baker, K., & Gringart, E. (in press). Body image and self-esteem in older adulthood. *Aging and Society*.

Breen, L. J. (in press). Professionals' experiences of grief counselling: Implications for bridging the gap between research and practice. *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*. Impact = 0.305.

Breen, L. J., & Darlaston-Jones, D. (in press). Moving beyond the enduring dominance of positivism in psychological research: Implications for psychology in Australia. *Australian Psychologist*. Impact = 0.640.

Breen, L. J., & O'Connor, M. (in press). Acts of resistance: Breaking the silence of grief following crash fatalities. *Death Studies*. Impact = 0.919.

Breen, L. J., & O'Connor, M. (in press). Family and social networks after bereavement: Experiences of support, change, and isolation. *Journal of Family Therapy*. Impact = 1.087.

Cripps, K. & Taylor, S. C. (2009) Whiteman's Law, Blackman's Law Bullshit Law: indigenous customary marriage revisited. *Balayai: Indigenous Law Journal*.

Taylor, S. C., Cripps, K. & Davis, M. (2009) A Necessary Rebuke. *Indigenous Law Journal*.

### **Edited Journal Special Issues**

Breen, L. J., & Pember, A.-J. (Eds.). (2009). Showcasing student research [Special issue]. *Australian Community Psychologist*, 21(1).

### **Non-refereed Publications**

Breen, L. (2009). Silenced voices: Experiences of grief. *Reflections: The Compassionate Friends of Western Australia*, 28(1), 10.

### **Funded Centre Staff:**

Fractional appointment for Research Assistant: currently vacant with replacement expected to be appointed end of July 2009.

Post-doctoral Fellow: Dr. Lauren Breen is funded by the SPSS and located within the centre.

### **Postgraduate students:**

2 PhD students attached to the Policing Just Outcomes Project, an industry and ARC funded project with Victoria Police are linked to the Centre. Both students are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Head of the Centre has been in discussions with a potential PhD candidate who is a full-time serving police officer in Queensland, seeking to undertake a part-time PhD.

