

Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG)

Quarterly Newsletter - January 2023



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Message from the Director

As we welcome in the new year, the Collaborative Evaluation and Research Group (CERG) would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members and to celebrate the achievements to date.

The CERG members are very productive with journal publications, project reports and grant applications, many of which have been successful.

In 2023, CERG will be working towards becoming a research centre based off the

success of the staff and members.

Watch out for the event calendar for professional development opportunities, in particular strategic planning and grant writing.

We would like to welcome our newest CERG staff members, Xin Chen who will be providing administrative support, Dr Daria Soldatenko who will be based on the Mt Helen campus 2 days a week and Libby Miller who will be based at the Gippsland campus 1 day a week.

We are looking forward to another successful year ahead making a significant contribution to the communities and agencies that we work in partnership with.



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CERG Announcements

Promotions update

- ***Professor Joanne Porter***
- ***Professor Aziz Rahman***
- ***Associate Professor Blake Peck***
- ***Senior Lecturer Bindu Joseph***

Accepted to conference

- *Sam Fenton* - New York, USA
- *Bindu Joseph* - Texas, USA
- *Libby Miller* - Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Grant success

- *Dr Meghan Casey*
Casey City Council
Improving physical activity among women in City of Casey using a co-design approach - **\$40,670**
- *Professor Carolyn Unsworth*
Department of Transport and Planning
Wheelchair containment system on buses - **\$332,639**
- *Nicole Coombs*
Gippsland Primary Health Network (GPHN)
Farm World Health Check Clinic - **\$42,000**

Staff changes

We would like to introduce you to a number of new faces in CERG who are making tremendous contributions on a number of projects:



Natalie Bransgrove - Research Fellow

CERG welcomes Natalie, a Registered Nurse with her Master's in Public Health, specialising in Health Promotion. Natalie has recently received a full time PhD scholarship at Federation University with CERG, where she will focus on the DELIVER project, exploring innovative access to care solutions for older Australian's. Natalie brings with her previous health care system knowledge and experience, passion for gender equality, and strong community connections.



Libby Miller - Research Fellow

CERG also warmly welcomes Libby Miller, a Registered Nurse with a variety of clinical experience. Libby is near completion of her PhD at Federation University, where she is investigating environmental factors within the acute hospital setting - the natural, built, social (behaviour and language), and symbolic environments where people may receive bad news about their life-limiting illness. Libby brings a wealth of knowledge in qualitative research methods and analysis.



Dr Daria Soldatenko - Research Fellow

The CERG would also like to welcome Daria to the team. Daria is an experienced researcher who holds two PhDs. She has 12 years of research experience across tourism, education, and ecology. Daria has worked as a Research Associate and Assistant, both in Russia and Australia. She has strong quantitative, research, statistical and data interpretation skills, and will be a tremendous asset and valued member of the team.



Meg Jackson - Research Fellow

It's a pleasure to announce that Meg has been successful in promotion from Research Assistant to Fellow. Transitioning from clinical nursing to research and academia, Meg has been a part of the CERG team for a year now. She leads a number of projects and collaborates with partners both internally and externally. Meg is soon to finish her PhD exploring lived experiences of ED nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current Projects

Cyan Moon Project - Preparation and resilience of extreme sportspeople

The CERG have followed the professional journey of crew members competing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race 2022.



ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE 2022



THE YACHTS

Cyan Moon



Exploration into the crews preparation, excitement, fears, expectations and post race reflections was undertaken.

By using the Four-Coactive Model of player preparation: technical, tactical, psychological and physical, a deeper understanding of elite athlete preparation for extreme sports has been obtained.

Findings from the project are currently being collated and analysed by a number of the CERG team and the wider CERG membership.

'I Am Deadly' Project - Koorie student work readiness program



Designed by Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) in the Latrobe Valley, the 'I Am Deadly' program provided work readiness skills to 15 local Koorie students. The CERG evaluated the program throughout terms 1 to 4 in 2022.

The program received high praise from the students, teachers, mentors and stakeholders involved. Many students achieved employment and trade opportunities as a result of the program. Students also voiced their increased confidence in talking to others, building friendships and employment networks for the future.

Work placement and industry hosts enjoyed students enthusiasm and involvement in the range of activities provided.

Media release - 'I Am Deadly' project

Australian Evaluation Society (AES) Conference 2022

Deputy Director Val Prokopiv represented the CERG at the AES conference in Adelaide. AES is a leading organisation in the evaluation space, promoting improvements in theory, practice and use of evaluation.



With the conference theme being "Weaving evaluation into the whole", Val presented findings from the Gippsland Latrobe Aboriginal Advocacy and Support Service (GAAS) project.

The Gippsland Aboriginal Advocacy Support Service (GAASS) is a service provided by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, their families and carers to understand the NDIS and access services within the Gippsland Region.

CERG evaluated the processes and outcomes of GAASS's work, identifying the service as filling a gap in current service provision.

CERG Publications

CERG have recently had a number of papers published in a range of academic

journals:

Porter, J. E., Dabkowski, E., Ghasemirdekani, M., Barbagallo, M. S., James, M. H., Prokopiv, V., & Wright, W. (2022). The impact of nature-led recovery initiatives for individual and community health post disaster: a systematic literature review. *Reviews on environmental health*, [10.1515/reveh-2022-0061](https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2022-0061).
<https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2022-0061>

Porter, J., Dabkowski, E., Connolly, O., & Prokopiv, V. (2022). Compliance with the Zero Suicide Initiative by Mental Health Clinicians at a Regional Mental Health Service: Development and Testing of a Clinical Audit Tool. *Nursing Reports*, 13(1), 29–42. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nursrep13010003>

Porter, J. E., Dabkowski, E., Prokopiv, V., Missen, K., Barbagallo, M., & James, M. (2022). An exploration into early childhood physical literacy programs: A systematic literature review. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, 0(0).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/18369391221118698>

James, M. Porter, JE, Kattel, S, Prokopiv, V. Hopwood, P. (2022) Peer Educators in the Facilitation of Sexuality and Respectful relationships Education for people with an Intellectual Disability: A scoping review and narrative synthesis. *Sexuality and Disability*. Accepted In Press

View our Publications



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About us

The Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG) works in partnership to build evaluation capacity, research and expertise. CERG understands the value of listening to the community and has the ability to deliver timely, rigorous and

sustainable evaluations tailored to the needs of a wide variety of organisations. CERG provides training, workshops and mentoring to build capacity to enable organisations to conduct meaningful evaluations.

Visit our website

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