CPHCE Bi-monthly Newsletter

April 2021

Highlights

- **The CHW extending care in the community project is a NHMRC funded project which involves CHW following up patients who had been recently discharge from the hospital into the community**. The project commenced on the 1st April with a six months codesign process to further refine the role of the CHW and develop a training program for them. Participants in the codesign project will include staff from Sydney LHD, patients and carers, GPs, community pharmacists and local community organisations.

- **CPHCE is working with Swinburne and Newcastle University as part of the SUNNY consortium on a mental health literacy responsiveness project for the NSW Mental Health Commission.** Following an extensive codesign phrase and consultation with primary health networks, the SUNNY team are now developing educational and quality improvement resources. These include a series of brief fact sheets, interactive educational programs for health providers and a set of resources to help services to improve their responsiveness to people with mental health issues, from the first point of contact or intake through to follow up.

Projects

- **CPHCE Informatics and eHealth stream update**

  Seminars:
  The stream is running a series of online seminars with a focus on the impacts of informatics and eHealth on primary health care and equity. Our first seminar looks at the growing interest in deploying artificial intelligence (AI) strategies to achieve improvements in public health. Equity must be central to the implementation of AI across health systems. In this seminar, we talk about the opportunities and risks for the use of technology in various public health domains and the impact on equity.

  Current key research and development areas:
  i. Informatics: We are applying clinical, administrative, routinely collected datasets and contextual information to solve problems, quality improvement and to inform decision making in clinical practice, health service development and policy development using the CES Primary and Community Cohort and other data resources. One example is a project that examined the association between social isolation/living alone and health service use/health outcomes. Social isolation was not found to be associated with higher service use or mortality. Living alone was significantly associated with increased emergency department (ED) presentations and hospitalisations but not GP use or mortality. For further information on informatics contact Margo Barr margo.barr@unsw.edu.au

  ii. eHealth: We are evaluating the use, impact and outcomes of information and communication technologies to support the delivery of enhanced models of primary healthcare and improved wellbeing. These projects include telehealth, the use of electronic shared care plan portals and mHealth for disease prevention and management across different age groups and literacy levels. One example is the colorectal cancer shared e-care plan project at South Eastern Sydney LHD. We are evaluating the experiences of participants in shared follow-up care using an interactive care plan to improve communication between consumers, specialists and GPs. This model is being extended to breast and lung cancers and is also being employed in the mental health for clozapine management at SESLHD and improving the physical health of people experiencing severe mental illness at Sydney LHD. For further information on shared e-care plans contact Jane Taggart j.taggart@unsw.edu.au

- **CPHCE was engaged to review the recently introduced Waterloo Healthy Living Link Worker role**, to assess the extent to which the program has achieved the expectations of the community and Sydney Local Health District and to propose options or recommendations for the future of the role and similar programs across the district. The review consisted of three components: (1) the position establishment review; (2) a literature review and (3) semi-structured interviews with Waterloo community group members, local non-government and government organisations and key Sydney Local Health District service providers working with the role.

  i. The key recommendations from the evaluation were:
  ii. Investigate opportunities to extend the health navigation work within Waterloo and across the Health District
  iii. Concentrate the work on significant issues faced by the community
  iv. Involve the community in the program of work
  v. Establish ongoing mechanisms to improve collaboration between the Waterloo Health Living Program, individual Sydney Local Health District services and the community

vi. Link the Waterloo Health Living Program with other similar programs within Sydney Local Health District or wider.

Please find links to the summary of the report as well as link to the final report here.

- **The SHAReD project** commenced preliminary work in February 2021, including setting up governance, codesigning the intervention and preparing an ethics application. The SHAReD study aims to improve the coordination of care between mental health services and primary care to better manage risk factors for heart disease and diabetes and improve the health of people living with severe mental illness. It will introduce telehealth and web-based shared care plans between consumers, mental health services and general practices allowing them to better communicate with each other and plan care. We will evaluate the quality of care provided and consumers' experience, as well as the impact on quality of life. We will weigh up the costs and benefits to inform its dissemination across NSW.

- **Shisha No Thanks won the Business Campaign of the Year award in the Premier's Multicultural Communications Awards** - more information please click here.

    Shisha No Thanks has been a Cancer Institute NSW-funded project on raising awareness of the harms of waterpipe use . The project was led by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and involved community partners, four Health Districts and the Multicultural Health Communication Service. The South Eastern Sydney Research Collaboration Hub (SEaRCH) evaluated the project, which found a significantly higher proportion of Arabic-speaking young people reporting that they were aware of the harms of shisha smoking (pre: 45%, post: 68%).

    The project team are organising a free Research to Practice Forum at 3pm-5pm AEST on Friday 28 May, featuring an impressive line-up of local and international speakers and is sure to be an interesting session. RSVP please click here.

Publications

- Gender and ethnic diversity in global ophthalmology and optometry association leadership: a time for change
  By Aryati Yashadhana, & more

- Exploring fear of COVID-19 and its correlates among older adults in Bangladesh
  By Sabuj Kanti Mistry, Uday Narayan Yadav, Mark Harris & more

- Has the IJE's Cohort Profile series achieved its aims?
  By Freddy Sitas & more

- Enhancing equitable access to cancer information for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to complement beliefs about cancer prognosis and treatment
  By Cathy O'Callaghan, Ben Harris-Roxas & more

- Substance use, suicidality, and sexual activity among secondary school adolescents from Bhutan and Nepal
  By Catherine Spooner & more

- Community Health Workers as Healthcare Navigators in Primary Care Chronic Disease Management: a Systematic Review
  By Sabuj Kanti Mistry, Elizabeth Harris, Mark Harris & more

- The Virtual Care Experience of Patients Diagnosed With COVID-19
  By Fiona Haigh & more

People

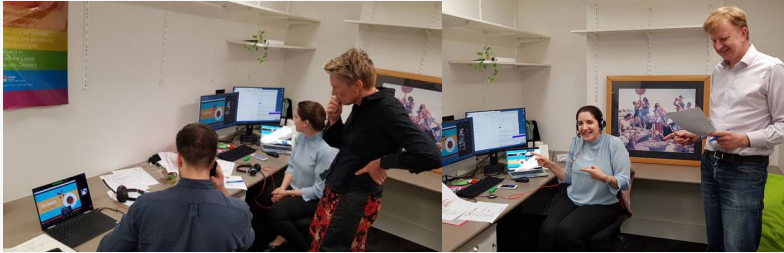- **Dr Zelalem Mengesha – Research Fellow, CHETRE**
  Dr Zelalem Mengesha joined the CPHCE, CHETRE in January 2021. He completed his PhD titled 'Sexual and reproductive health care of refugee and migrant women in Australia: a mixed methods study of health care professional perspectives' at Western Sydney University. He is an expert in mixed methods and Q methodological research as well as sexual and reproductive health care. Zelalem is passionate about refugee health research and committed to reducing health inequities by sharing insights that trigger practice, service delivery and system change.

Communication & Education

- Elizabeth Denney-Wilson has been accepted to a WHO Guidelines committee. The committee will develop guidelines, using a primary health care approach to prevent and manage excess weight in infants and children.

- Dr Kylie Vuong has been accepted into the RACGP Future Leaders program.

- Patrick Harris presented at Health and Transport Planning Policy, Transport Health Assessment Tool for Melbourne (THAT-Melbourne) Webinar on 21 April.

- PhD student Vera Buss travelled to the Northern Territory to assist in a research study conducted by CSIRO in the Howard Springs quarantine facility. CSIRO has a field team collecting samples and information from quarantined returning travellers. The study aims to assess methods of screening for SARS CoV-2 virus infection which may reduce the burden on travellers and the costs to various stakeholders.

- The HERDU team helped facilitate the Waterloo Collaborative Group workshop in March with over 30 representatives from human services agencies, NGOs and the local community.

- **CPHCE Research Translation Webinar: Predictors of service use amongst people aged over 75 years in Central and Eastern Sydney**
  CPHCE in collaboration with Sydney Local Health District (SLHD), South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) and Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) are hosting a research translation webinar. The aim of the webinar is to highlight research findings, explore ways to maximise use of the findings to inform/improve policy and practice and identify opportunities or activities to improve integration and coordination of care between health, GPs, specialists and community.

  Dr Stephanie Ward from Prince of Wales Hospital will present on Evidence translation. As expert geriatrician for the ABC's award-winning TV series, Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds Dr Ward will discuss the physical and mental benefits of bringing together the young and old.

  Date: Wednesday 5 May
  Time: 10-11.30am
  Registration here

- **Mitigating technology bias in health care**
  This seminar is part of a series of seminars hosted by the Informatics and eHealth stream under the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity.
  Public health policies in high income countries today are mostly driven by data. In this direction, evidence-based policies are expected to be more robust and responsive to the population needs. There is a growing interest in deploying artificial intelligence (AI) strategies to achieve improvements in public health. Equity must be central to the implementation of AI across health systems. In this seminar, we talk about the opportunities and risks for the use of technology in various public health domains and the impact on equity.

  Date: Tuesday, 18 May 2021
  Time: 10 am – 11 am
  Registration here
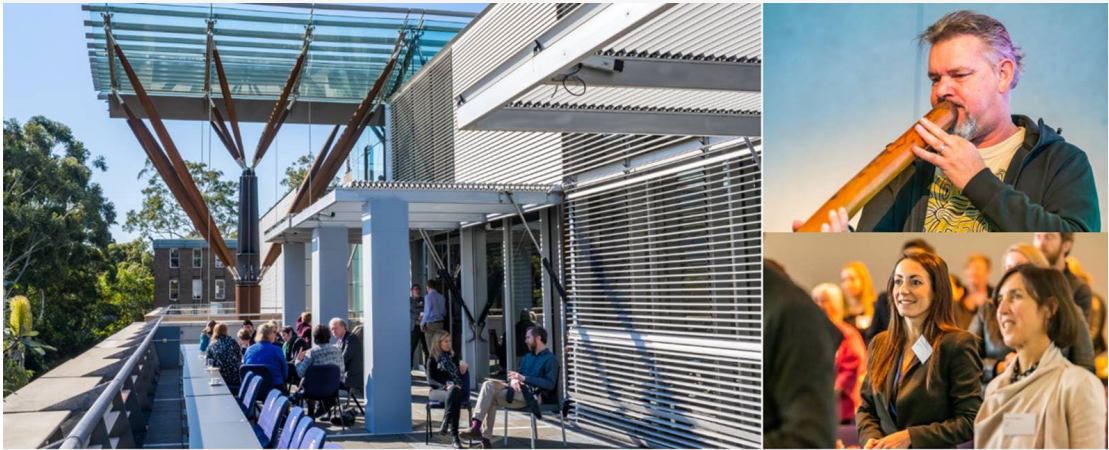
- Jailing child-killing drivers won't stop the slaughter, - WalkSydney.org
  By Chris Standen

- [Equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines for refugees in Australia](#) - The BEE Report Issue 2021-no.4 (14 April 2021)
  By Abela Mahimbo

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