

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK
SCHOOL OF COUNSELLING, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORK

December 2020

GOVERNANCE

Director

Professor Christa Fouché

Management Board

Wendy Bremner (Chair): General Manager, Coeliac NZ

Julie Moore: Research and Evaluation Manager, Graeme Dingle Foundation

Laura Chubb: Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland

Associate Professor Kerry Gibson: School of Psychology, University of Auckland

Dr John Fenaughty, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland

Robyn Rummins: Quality Advisor Research/Evaluation, Family Success Matters

Eve Hay: Business Development Manager, Manukau Urban Māori Authority

Dr Kelsey Deane: Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland

Associate Professor Jay Marlowe: Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland

Staffing

The Director of the Centre, Christa Fouché, has a 0.5FTE academic appointment in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. This role includes a fractional research workload allocation to oversee the Centre's activities.

Suzette Jackson was employed as administrator to CCRE on a casual basis through CCRE project funding. Research assistants were employed on a casual basis and staff appointed on consultancy contracts, all funded through CCRE partnership projects.

At the end of 2020, the Director, Chair of the Board and two Board members, Eve Hay and Robyn Rummins resigned. Allen Bartley, current academic head for the school, was appointed as interim Chair of the Board and Laura Chubb as interim Director.

CENTRE OVERVIEW

Working in collaboration with the social services sector, the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation (CCRE) strives to increase research and evaluation capacity through targeted support and networking. Its vision is a social services community which has the research and evaluation skills (including implementation, dissemination and utilisation) to enhance practice. We work with not-for-profit and community-based organisations to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector, through training in research and evaluation, in order to contribute evidence of what works.

Pūtahi Rangahau Ngātahi represents everything that the Centre stands for. The Centre's core mission is to bring together practitioners, researchers, students, and other stakeholders, to advance evidence for the social sector. Pūtahi implies a coming together from different places, an intersection; it broadly translates to 'research collaboration'. The merging of two rivers in the Centre's image, depicted in the iconic New Zealand image of the Kawarau River valley near Queenstown, represents the notion of partnership, the flow of ideas and the weaving together of collaborations.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The centre is committed to building evidence of promising practices in communities through affirming partnerships.

The goals of the Centre are two-fold:

1. Develop collaborations by:

1. Promoting connection with stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector and key partners both nationally and internationally.
2. Facilitating opportunities within and across sectors to enhance collective learning and engagement.

2. Increase research and evaluation capacity by:

- Coaching and mentoring organisational leaders and human services professionals to develop their own research capabilities so that they can evaluate, refine and improve their own social programmes.
- Supervising or facilitating research on the many exemplary or innovative programmes and interventions relevant to local communities in New Zealand.
- Developing and promoting collaborations with stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector and key partners both nationally and internationally.
- Partnering with our large stable of community partners to develop sector-wide research priorities.
- Developing specialised leadership capabilities to support organisational readiness for research in the non-profit sector.
- Ensuring the development of a robust evaluation approach to interventions.

PARTNERSHIPS

Building on successful initiatives, the Centre has grown partnerships in 2019 and 2020 with several practice organisations and University Units. However, as with all research endeavours, the partner organisations and the Centre's activities were severely impacted by COVID-19. Many partnership initiatives had to be put on hold and several cancelled. The following research and consultancy projects to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector have been completed in 2020 or are in progress.

Immersive Reality Experiences (IRE) Technology for Improving the Wellbeing of Young People in Hospital: Proof-of-Concept Study

The Patience Project Charitable Trust aims to promote a new form of social connectedness for young people suffering a long-term illness through the use of immersive 360-degree live streaming technology. A formative assessment of a pilot programme was undertaken in 2018 to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the project in order to inform future implementation. A paper detailing the findings of this study are pending publication in the International Journal of Inclusive Education. Building on this research, a proof-of-concept

project was funded through the Starship Foundation in partnership with The Patience Project Charitable Trust and ADHB/Starship Hospital in 2019 and completed in 2020.

Funding: \$88,644

Status: Dissemination in progress.

Building Capability and Partnerships in Northland

This cross-university initiative developed during 2017-18 alongside local council, iwi, and social service decision-makers in Northland to support their goals of delivering quality interventions in partnership with local communities. The project received additional funding for 2019-21 with the aim to develop increased understanding of localized social service challenges in Northland and significantly enhance relationships with core stakeholders, including iwi and a range of social service, district health board and local government leaders. Community engagement in 2019 resulted in a joint full-day capacity-building workshop in Whangarei. It was hosted by CCRE in partnership with the Public Policy Institute and the Business School with representatives from several social, health and community sector organisations, Ministry of Social Development and the Whangarei Council.

We additionally engaged in a series of activities to understand one paradigm-breaking initiative in Northland and produced on invitation, a research report based on key informant interviews about the process that has resulted in the formation of the Te Kaupapa Mahitahi Hauora-Papa o Te Raki Trust. A programme of work for 2020 came to a halt due to COVID-19 after a very successful hui in Waitangi in December 2019. These dissemination activities have now been re-started in partnership with a consultancy agency Navigator Ltd.

Funding: \$66,000 additional Vice-Chancellor strategic development funding

Status: Phase 1 (2017-2019) completed. Phase 2 completed and dissemination underway. CCRE alongside the other University partners will further engage with several successful initiatives to help promote a model for shifting the capability for effective social intervention from government to community.

Auckland Council

CCRE partnered on a bid to Auckland Council for innovation funding to build research capacity with community youth arts programmes. We built partnerships with 8 youth programmes and delivered 3 workshops during 2020. A final workshop and agency-based coaching with all these partners will continue in 2021 and culminate in a symposium by mid 2021 where learning, experiences and results will be shared. This collaboration will enable good opportunities to pilot a new model for professional development in this sector.

Funding: \$20 000

Status: In progress

Manukau Urban Māori Authority (MUMA)

In partnership with MUMA, CCRE conducted a rapid survey on Whānau Perspectives During COVID-19 Alert Level 3. The survey was administered by MUMA assessors from 27 April 2020 to 13 May 2020. In total, 374 surveys were captured. The partnership provided learning for CCRE researchers and MUMA assessors. Not only will the findings impact service delivery, but the learning from conducting the survey will be instrumental in future considerations of evidence.

Funding: \$20 000

Status: Completed

Kwacha Afrika Youth Empowerment Centre: Knowledge Translation Project

In 2020, CCRE supported Kwacha Afrika Youth Empowerment Centre, a Kenyan community-based organisation (CBO), in partnership with Dr Laura Ann Chubb to conduct three participatory envisioning workshops for a project entitled “*Participatory design of locally-derived adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health training resources*” in Mombasa, Kenya. This was a knowledge translation project. Through participatory workshop activities youth organisation volunteers shared their knowledge and experiences of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) resources and services. Through co-creation activities during the workshops, volunteers translated their knowledge into a training guidelines for their practice with their communities (i.e., educational outreaches and health seminars) which responded to the cultural and contextual nuances around sexual wellbeing. This was an important project as current sex-related educational engagement tools for activities in rural Kenyan communities are largely framed within Western discourses and do not always reflect the cultural and context-specific issues people in these communities face. Initial findings were shared with the CBO staff to inform programme delivery which has inspired a future sexual health education initiative *Moonlight Theatre*. Further contributions to social action include being accepted to share findings at the Virtual World Community Development Conference 2020-2021 hosted by Kenya, the 2021 Virtual Aotearoa Community Development Conference as well as aiming to disseminate the work in a Community Development Journal publication.

Partial CCRE Funding: \$5000

Status: Completed

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 CCRE hosted several professional development opportunities with **visiting scholars** and engagement with CCRE practice partners and Faculty members. These were all cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 related restrictions and demands on frontline social workers.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

At their final meeting for 2020, the Board accepted the resignation of the Director, Chair of the Board and two Board members. A discussion about the future of CCRE resulted in a proposal for exploring innovative ways for CCRE to better align with existing partnerships and research expertise in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. The Board also supported closer connection between CCRE student engagement activities and initiatives underway as part of the Social and Community Leadership programmes in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work, using the CCRE 'Student Engagement Model'. To enable this model to be further explored, Associate Professor Allen Bartley, current academic head for the school, was appointed as interim Chair of the Board and Dr Laura Chubb as interim Director.

FINANCIAL STATUS

All projects were administered by either UniServices, with oversight by the local Research Services Manager Usha Bhatia, or as School projects through University Financial Services, with oversight by the Head of School Dr Allen Bartley. The Centre does not have a cost code and the Director has no financial reporting responsibility.

Professor Christa Fouché, Director
16 December 2020

Ms Wendy Bremner, Chair of the Board
16 December 2020