

# Reason

Research at the School of Nursing

March 2011 | Issue 1



## On our cover

The editorial team welcomes you to the first edition of REASON. As you will see from this issue, we have much to report as 2010 was a busy year for researchers in the School of Nursing.

Several staff members achievements are detailed and key publications are in evidence in this edition. To see a full and updated list of our projects and publications please visit our newly refurbished website at [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research). Our postgraduate section in this issue illustrates the variety of fascinating research being undertaken by our Masters and PhD students. The School also had a burst of enthusiasm from undergraduate students over the summer, with the summer research studentships being hailed as a great success.

The editorial team would be pleased to hear from you should you have any comments on this issue. Electronic copies of REASON are available on our website and if you would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive copies please contact us at: [nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz).

We hope you enjoy reading REASON,

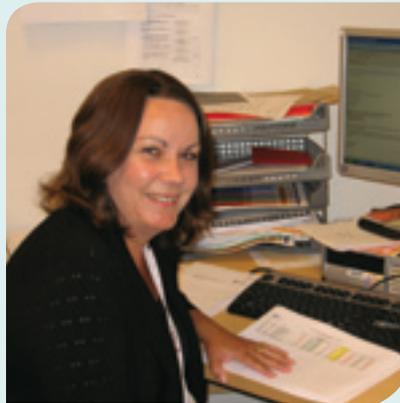
Merryn Gott, Katey Thom, Gary Bellamy, Simon Halpenny, Susan Waterworth, Anna King, Stephen Jacobs, Jacque Kidd, Ann McKillop and Karen Hoare.



Some of the editorial committee, left to right: Simon Halpenny, Katey Thom, Stephen Jacobs, Gary Bellamy, Merryn Gott, Ann McKillop & Susan Waterworth.



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STAR: Building capability in health research pg.11

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School of Nursing  
 Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences  
 The University of Auckland  
 Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand  
 tel +64 9 923 7563 . <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research>

## Foreword

**Kia ora and welcome to this first edition of REASON, our new research newsletter which will be published twice a year to update you about research activities at the School of Nursing.**

This edition provides you with an overview of 2010, which has been a very productive and busy year for us. It was also my first year both as Director of Research in the School, and in New Zealand, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support in everything from figuring out new research systems to identifying the best beaches! It's a very exciting time for research within the School and, in reading this newsletter, I am sure you will agree that we are building our future research capacity from a very strong foundation.

In our first edition we wanted to provide you with an overview of the sorts of research we are currently conducting within the School, as well as the great work undertaken by our postgraduate students. In future editions we will focus on specific projects and issues we haven't had the space to address here, such as the strong links we have between teaching, research and clinical practice and our research relating to Māori. We pride ourselves on conducting research with the potential to inform change in the health and social care system within a relatively short time frame. Indeed, our strong links with clinicians and policy makers was evidenced in the two Health Research Council 'partnership grants' we secured in 2010; we are also currently waiting on the outcome of three further shortlisted applications under this scheme, as well as bids under the Health Research Council annual funding round involving Dr Nicolette Sheridan, Dr Terryann Clark, and led by Associate Professor Andrew Jull. We will provide you with an update on these applications in the next edition of REASON.

It is successes of this nature amongst colleagues that this newsletter provides an opportunity to share. In that vein I'd like to congratulate colleagues who successfully obtained their PhDs this year. I'd also like to recognise the efforts that have been made this year in securing and disseminating research. We published, or had accepted for publication, over 80 papers last year. Our external research income almost doubled and, with our next writing retreat focused on grant writing, I'm hoping for great things next year! Tony O'Brien and colleagues in the Centre for Mental Health Research hit the headlines (and the radio) with their research on Tasers. Our work continues to expand internationally; for example, Dr John Parsons is working with colleagues in several countries to explore issues relating to social isolation amongst older people.

So thank you for finding the time to have a look at what we are doing. If you have any feedback, we would be very pleased to hear from you. We always welcome opportunities to collaborate both locally and internationally and are always keen to hear from students who would like to work with us at a postgraduate level. Building our research capacity into the future is a key priority for me, and we place great importance on providing excellent support and supervision. Finally, if you are local to Auckland please do come along to one of our lunchtime seminars and learn more about us in that way. Ka kite ano!



Professor Merryn Gott, Director of Research.

## Doctoral Student wins prestigious award

**Rachael Parke, a registered nurse who works in CVICU at Auckland City Hospital and a doctoral student with the School of Nursing, recently won a Health Research Council Clinical Training Research Fellowship.**

This highly sought-after competitive career award will fund Rachael to undertake a PhD, providing her with a stipend and covering her university fees and some research expenses. These awards are a real vote of confidence and reflect the calibre of the candidate, and the host institution proposed for the training as well as the intended project. Under the supervision of Associate Professors Andrew Jull and Robyn Dixon, Rachael aims to determine whether the use of prophylactic nasal high flow oxygen improves pulmonary function following cardiac surgery. Working with patients at Auckland City Hospital, and building on earlier pilot work, Rachael will be undertaking a 340 patient randomised controlled trial to test the nasal high flow oxygen treatment with some equipment being supplied by Fisher & Paykel Healthcare.



Rachael Parke, Doctoral student.

## School of Nursing lunchtime seminars

In August 2010 the School launched a lunchtime seminar series providing an opportunity to showcase research being undertaken by staff members and graduate students to the wider public.

The series was opened by Jacquie Kidd and Debra Lampshire who presented their newly completed report for the Mental Health Foundation entitled 'mental health services under challenge'. Then in September a current PhD nursing student, Lara Baylis, spoke about 'challenges to the development of reproductive health literature amongst adolescents'. Researchers from outside the School were also invited to present and in October, the School heard two fascinating presentations from Debbie Dunsford and Claire Gooder from the Department of History at the University of Auckland. In November and December seminars on the latest projects completed by two research centres in the School were given. Deborah Widdowson and Robyn Dixon, from the Centre for Child and Family Research, presented on the effects of parent involvement in school-based preschool education while Brian McKenna, Katey Thom and Anthony O'Brien, from the Centre for Mental Health Research, discussed the findings from their study on media reporting of suicide in New Zealand.

The seminar series looks set to host further great presenters in 2011 and we invite any interested parties to contact us should they be keen to present or join our distribution list for advertisements of upcoming seminars. Upcoming and previous seminars will also be posted on our website. All enquiries should be directed to the School at nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz.

## Summer students 2010

Summer time brought sunshine to the University of Auckland and, for undergraduate students, the opportunity to become involved in ongoing research projects within the School of Nursing. The studentships covered a range of topics reflecting both the significance and breadth of research currently in progress within the School. Competition was fierce but the successful students and their projects were:

**Rachel Banfield:** Assessing the perceived competence of non-specialist palliative care clinicians in palliative care provision.

**Zara Schofield:** Culturally appropriate palliative and end of life care.

**Theodora Yin:** Hearing the voices of cognitively impaired older people in end of life care decision making.

**Luke Burgess:** A qualitative analysis of a users' experiences of a wireless ECG monitoring system.

**Vicki Currie:** New Zealand clinical trial activity 2005-2009.

**Sarah Mah:** Investigating consumer health information needs in New Zealand.

**Olivia Marti:** Taser use and its effects: appraising the evidence.

**Zoe Dyer:** Long-term outcomes of forensic rehabilitation: a retrospective study of patient pathways through hospital and the community.

**Rahul Anand:** The relationship between sport participation and physical and academic self-concept.

**Katinka Graham:** A novel tool to minimize patient anxiety in clinical situations.

**Louise Walker:** Improved health outcomes for ageing people with intellectual disabilities.



Some of the summer students and their supervisors. Left to right: Deborah Widdowson, Zoe Dyer, Olivia Marti, Merryn Gott, Zara Schofield, Katey Thom, Robyn Dixon, Tony O'Brien, Gary Bellamy, Susan Waterworth.

Their work was presented at a series of lunchtime seminars and demonstrated the enormous amount of effort and commitment that had been invested in their projects over the summer. For some, it was their first taste of research and these are some of the experiences reported:

*"I have gained a greater appreciation of the contribution that qualitative research provides, offering a depth and richness of information that quantitative studies may miss"*

*"I have also come to realize that being from a particular ethnic group does not define what your cultural beliefs are, and therefore nursing care needs to be individualized, yet cater to each person's cultural and religious needs"*

As well as gaining valuable research practice, students also highlighted the value of the experience in terms of informing their clinical practice. A similar scheme will be run in December 2011.

## PhD graduands for 2010

In 2010 the School of Nursing celebrated the successful completion of four staff member's doctorates with the University of Auckland.



### Stephen Jacobs

**Implementation as a systematic manageable process rather than a Pandora's box of confusion: Reshaping community home care services for older people.**

**Supervisors: Matthew Parsons and Paul Rouse**

The population is ageing with a concomitant increase in people living with chronic conditions, leading to increased demand for home care services that support people to maintain or increase their independence and level of functioning as long as possible. Finding a methodical approach to develop and implement such services is a vital task for the people responsible for funding them. Stephen's research developed an implementation pathway, incorporating a performance management and measurement system, that is accepted by the sector as a method for developing and implementing restorative home care services for older people.

Stephen is currently a senior lecturer in the School of Nursing and Co-Director of the Applied Ageing Research Group, researching in the areas of carers, dementia, workforce, leadership and management.



### Anna King

**Creating sustainable home care services for older people.**

**Supervisors: Matthew Parsons and Elizabeth Robinson**

Anna undertook a randomized controlled trial evaluation of a new and innovative way of delivering home care to older people. Traditional models of home care have been demonstrated to be linked with poor client satisfaction, high staff turnover and low quality. The restorative home care intervention represented a new approach that supported older people to achieve their goals and aspirations and focused on maximizing independence whilst building geographically defined teams of support workers and health professional coordinators. Anna's findings identified that older people receiving the intervention had a higher health related quality of life. Support workers also reported higher satisfaction and staff turnover reduced from forty-three percent to eighteen percent. Finally, more older people were appropriately identified for reduced support or discharge.

Anna is currently employed as a lecturer at the School of Nursing. She is the named evaluator of a pilot study, funded by Health Workforce New Zealand, evaluating a Gerontology Nurse Specialist role within primary health care.



### John Parsons

**Goal facilitation for older people.**

**Supervisors: Martin Connolly, Paul Rouse and Nicolette Sheridan**

Funded by Health Research Council Disability Research Placement Programme grant John's study blended both health care and health management to explore the impact of a designated goal facilitation tool on health related quality of life, social support and physical function among a sample of 205 community dwelling older people referred for home based support services (HBSS). A comprehensive model was developed to consider the complex interactions inherent within the healthcare and social system within which the study occurred. The study findings contribute to a greater understanding of the factors necessary to implement improvements in the services provided to older people receiving assistance in the home and highlight the complex interaction between the client, their family/whānau, the assessment and service delivery organisations and the direction provided by local and national policies and directives.

John is currently a senior lecturer at the School of Nursing and is principal investigator on a large trial in South Auckland investigating the management of chronic conditions.



### Katey Thom

**Constructing a Defence of Insanity: The Role of Forensic Psychiatrists.**

**Supervisors: Mary Finlayson, Brian McKenna and Warren Brookbanks (advisor)**

Katey investigated the role of forensic psychiatrists in trials involving the insanity defence. Drawing on data generated through qualitative methods, her research provided 'thick descriptions' of how the role works in practice as forensic psychiatrists, together with their instructing lawyers, construct the defence. Katey accessed data from multiple sources, including interviews with lawyers and forensic psychiatrists, courtroom observation, and the collection of medico-legal texts. She used contemporary socio-legal studies to explore how the hybrid nature of the insanity defence brings lawyers and forensic psychiatrists together in a way that the boundaries which should ideally define their discrete functions become blurred. Katey's findings have significant implications not only for the continued use of forensic psychiatrists in insanity cases, but also public understandings of madness.

Katey is currently employed as research manager/research fellow at the School of Nursing. She is leading two projects on the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the role of District Inspectors under mental health legislation.

## Centre for Mental Health Research news

2010 was an exciting year for the Centre for Mental Health Research with Brian McKenna being successful in obtaining Health Research Council funding for a research partnership project with Auckland Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services that will evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of a 'best practice' service delivery model to address the high rate of serious mental illness for New Zealand prisoners, estimated to be 10 -15% of the prison population. Successful evaluation could provide a benchmark for the national implementation of an improved model of care.

Katey Thom received funding through the University of Auckland Faculty Research Development Fund for her qualitative study that aims to find out how members of the New Zealand Mental Health Review Tribunal make decisions regarding individuals appealing their legal status under mental health legislation. The study, which involves interviews with tribunal members and observation of several tribunal hearings, will explore the tension involved in balancing individual rights with public safety.

The Centre also completed several projects this year, including Jacquie Kidd and Debra Lampshire's project entitled *Services under challenge: Critical success factors in meeting high and complex needs of people in mental health care*. This project, funded by the Mental Health Foundation, took the unusual approach of examining care that was successful from the perspective of service users and their families. The study found that successful services tend to focus on the social determinants of health such as safe housing, a steady income and good personal relationships as the most important foundations for reducing the isolation and recurrent admissions experienced by people with high and complex needs.

Another study found that 21% of Taser incidents between 2006 and 2007 in New Zealand involved people in mental health emergencies. The study, undertaken by Anthony O'Brien, Brian McKenna and Katey Thom, analysed the police tactical operations database during the trial of Tasers by New Zealand police. They found that Tasers were more than twice as likely to be discharged at mental health emergencies than at criminal arrests. There were also two incidents of involvement of a Taser as part of the police response to inpatient mental health services. The study concluded that guidelines are needed to manage the future use of Tasers in mental health emergencies.

A report commissioned by the Ministry of Health indicated that journalists generally approach the reporting of suicide in an appropriate manner. Brian McKenna, Katey Thom, Gareth Edwards and Anthony O'Brien analysed newspaper, internet, television and radio items on suicide over a 12-month period. Although there was evidence that the media generally reported appropriately on suicide, the report still found possibilities for improvement. Few items focussed on people overcoming their difficulties or provided information to assist people struggling with suicidal ideation. The report concluded by suggesting that making media guidelines on suicide reporting more succinct and journalists more aware of their existence would contribute to quality reporting on suicide.

Full citation: McKenna, B.G.; Thom, K.A.; Edwards, G.; Nairn, R.G.; O'Brien, A.J.; Leary, I. (2010). *Reporting of suicide in the media: Content and case study analysis*. Te Pou, the National Centre of Mental Health Research and Workforce Development.

**The Centre for Mental Health Research was formed in response to a growing demand for high quality research in the field of mental health and addictions. The Centre works in partnership with mental health service users and other stakeholders to conduct and support mental health research that:**

- Contributes to our understanding of mental health and addictions and its impact on individuals, whanau and the wider community.
- Reduces discrimination towards people experiencing mental health problems.
- Facilitates effective mental health care delivery.
- Improves the mental health and well being of all New Zealanders.

### Current members:

Director, Associate Professor Brian McKenna  
Mr Tony O'Brien, Senior Lecturer  
Ms Helen Hamer, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Katey Thom, Research Fellow  
Dr Kate Prebble, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Jacquie Kidd, Senior Lecturer  
Mr Gareth Edwards, Consumer Advisor  
Ms Debra Lampshire, Senior Tutor and Consumer Advisor  
Ms Jane Barrington, Lecturer



cmhr  
CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

### Key publications for 2010:

Kidd, J.D. (2010). 'Cultural boundary surfing in mental health nursing: a creative narration'. *Contemporary Nurse*, 34(2), p277-288.

Kidd, J.D.; Finlayson, M.P. (2010). 'Mental illness in the nursing workplace: a collective autoethnography', *Contemporary Nurse*, 36 (1-2), p21-33.

McKenna, B.; Thom, K.; Howard, F.; Williams, V. (2010). 'In search of a national approach to professional supervision for mental health and addiction nurses: The New Zealand experience.' *Contemporary Nurse: A Journal for the Australian Nursing Profession*, 34(2), p267-276.

O'Brien, A.J.; McKenna, B.G.; Thom, K.A.; Diesfeld, K.; Simpson, A.I.F. 'Use of Tasers on people with mental illness. A New Zealand database study', *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, in press.

Prebble, K.; Kidd, J.; McKenna, B.; Crowe, M.; Deering, D.; O'Brien, A.; Gooder, C. 'Implementing and maintaining nurse-led health living programmes in forensic inpatient settings: An illustrative case study. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, in press.

Explore our projects further at [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/cmhr](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/cmhr)  
All enquiries should be directed to: Brian McKenna, Director. +64 9 923 9554 | [b.mckenna@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.mckenna@auckland.ac.nz)

# The Applied Ageing Research Group news

The Applied Ageing Research Group had a very successful year in 2010 becoming recognised as a separate research and consultancy group, operating through Uniservices, the business arm of the University of Auckland.

The Applied Ageing Research Group was formed to improve the wellbeing (experiences and outcomes) of older people, by ensuring high quality research is used to inform service organisation and delivery. The work primarily focuses on home and community health care services for older people, and incorporates the following:

- **Workforce development, service development and implementation, family carers, pharmaceuticals and dementia.**
- **A broad scope of work which involves integration and coordination across service boundaries to include hospital, primary care and residential care services.**
- **Translation of evidence-based research into daily practice.**

## Current members:

Associate Professor Matthew Parsons, Co-Director  
Dr Stephen Jacobs, Co-Director, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Diane Jorgensen, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Michelle Honey, Senior Lecturer  
Dr John Parsons, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Anna King, Lecturer  
Anne Williamson, Clinical Lecturer  
Shereen Moloney, Project Manager  
Christine Smith, Project Manager  
Susan Waterworth, Senior Lecturer

Cathleen Aspinall, Senior Tutor  
Lisa Stewart, Senior Tutor  
Jo Agnew, Senior Lecturer  
Sarah Masson, Project Manager  
Helen Malcolm, Senior Lecturer  
Anecita (Gigi) Lim, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Ann McKillop, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Jacqui Kidd, Senior Lecturer  
Deb Rowe, Lecturer  
Dr Philippa Miskelly, Research Fellow

## Technology

The team conducted a number of successful user trials of innovative equipment for those with disabilities and /or long term conditions in 2010. This work is being undertaken under contract for equipment suppliers within New Zealand and Korea. Completed user trials included: an assistive walking device with novel features; a tool for monitoring continence; and a wireless ECG monitoring system.

## Dementia Care

Diane Jorgensen completed an evaluation of an intervention to assist older people with dementia to stay at home in 2010. This intervention looked at restorative home support using a key worker and maximum support if needed. A total of 291 interviews were conducted. A project has now begun with the University of Queensland to develop a self assessment tool for family carers of people with dementia to assist them in their discussions with health professionals.

## Training

The team provided a standardised group based and experiential training package to a number of clinicians in District Health Boards and homecare providers within New Zealand and Australia. This package was informed by research undertaken by Group members and international evidence relating to quality improvement in home care service delivery. A training resource was also developed and funded by Careerforce (National ITO) to help deliver a new training module for untrained homecare and aged residential care staff.

## Service Development

The Group has been working with a number of District Health Boards developing and implementing a performance management quality improvement approach to home care for three years. This has resulted in the development of an implementation pathway.

The Group has also begun research with District Health Boards and the School of Business at The University of Auckland to develop a case mix approach to funding home care services.

Finally, the team also created an electronic tool to assist with the formulation of high quality individually tailored support plans for older people receiving home care within New Zealand. This work has been informed by the findings of randomised controlled trials conducted by members of the team.

## Workforce Development

A study into the scope of practice for community health workers commenced. This study, funded by Counties Manukau District Health Board, is comprised of two parts. The first part, which has been completed, explored the roles of the community health workers from their perspective, as well as community health workers, service providers, District Health Board managers, clients of the service, doctors and other health professionals. The second part will evaluate the process of developing the scope of practice and competencies for community health workers.

## Key publications for 2011:

Jorgensen, D. Parsons, M., Jacobs, S., Arksey, H. (2010). The New Zealand Informal Caregivers and their Unmet needs. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 123, p1317

Jorgensen, D. Arksey, H., Parsons, M., Jacobs, S. (2010). Caregiver assessment of support need, reaction to care and assessment of depression. *Home Healthcare Services Quarterly*, 28(4).

Waterworth, S. Jorgensen, D. (2010). It's not just about heart failure. *Health and Social Care in the Community*, 18(2), p199-207.

Parsons, M. Jorgensen, D. Dixon, R. Jacobs, S. Parsons, J. Disability support users. *Home Healthcare Services Quarterly*, in press.

Shih, L, Honey, M.L.L. The impact of dialysis on rurally based Maori and their whanau/families, *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, in press.

Honey, M.L.L. (2010). Methodological issues with case study research, *Kai Tiaki Nursing Research*, 1(1), p9-11.

Honey, M.L.L., Bycroft, J.J. Tracey, J. Boyd, M. and McLachlan, A. (2010). Quality processes that maximise the Health Navigator web portal as an enabler for consumers and health professionals, *Health Care and Informatics Review Online*, 14(1), p1-6.

All enquiries should be directed to: Stephen Jacobs, Co-Director, The Applied Ageing Research Group  
Ph: +64 9 9627315 | s.jacobs@auckland.ac.nz

# Centre for Child and Family Research news

The Centre for Child and Family Research, Te Ara Tupuranga, is comprised of a multi-disciplinary group of researchers combined administratively to ensure high quality research relating to national issues concerning children and families. The Centre is committed to:

- Conducting research that influences the well-being of children, young people and families.
- Forging partnerships between the University and the community, making professional knowledge and expertise accessible to all.
- Working closely with professionals and organisations in a wide variety of fields, including education, health and welfare, both nationally and internationally.
- The principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi and uses a bi-cultural partnership approach to research.

## Current members:

Co-Director, Associate Professor Robyn Dixon  
Co-Director, Dr. Deborah Widdowson  
Senior Researcher, Trisha Meagher-Lundberg



CENTRE FOR  
CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

## Current collaborations:

The Centre is currently collaborating with Dr. Janet Fanslow, School of Population Health, to conduct a review of the Family Violence Intervention Guidelines for the Ministry of Health. The review will be completed in August this year.

Dr. Elizabeth Bannister from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, and Dr Pat Bullen, School of Education are currently collaborating with Centre members on a Marsden application to conduct research in the area of health literacy amongst adolescents. We will update you on the outcome of this application in the next edition of REASON.

## Other projects underway or recently completed:

We are about to commence an evaluation of the Cross Cultural Training Course for the Waitemata District Health Board. Cross Cultural Training Course is a cultural training programme designed to improve the patient care of culturally and linguistically diverse clients within the New Zealand health care system. The evaluation will involve conducting an online survey of several cohorts of medical professionals before and after completion of Cross Cultural Training Course using the Cultural Competence Assessment Instrument (Doorenbos, Schim, Benkert & Borse, 2005) to measure change in cultural competence.

The three-year evaluation of the Parent Mentoring Programme in Manukau was recently completed for the Ministry of Education. This evaluation measured the outcomes for children who had participated in a Parent Mentoring Playgroup with their parent prior to school entry and compared their outcomes to new entrants who had experienced other pre-school education and those who had not experienced any formal pre-school education two years after school entry. The evaluation involved use of a mixed methods design.

## Recent publications

Denny, S.J., Grant, S., Utter, J., Robinson, E.M., Fleming, T.M., Milfont, T.L., Crengle, S., Clark, T., Ameratunga, S.N., & Dixon, R., (2011). Health and well-being of young people who attend secondary school in Aotearoa, New Zealand: What has changed from 2001 to 2007? *Journal of Paediatric Child Health*, in press.

Dixon, R.S., Tse, S. S., Rossen, F. V., & Sobrun-Maharaj, A. (2010). *Family resilience: The settlement experience for Asian immigrant families in New Zealand*. Families Commission. View online at: <http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/sites/default/files/downloads/family-resilience.pdf>

Peterson, E.R., Rubie-Davies, C.M., Elley-Browne, M.J., Widdowson, D.A., Dixon, R.S. & Irving S.E, Who is to blame? Students, teachers and parents views on who is responsible for student achievement. *Research in Education*, in press.

Dixon, R., Maddison, R., Ni Mhurchu, C., Jull, A., Meagher-Lundberg, P., & Widdowson, D. (2010). Parents' and children's perceptions of active video games: A focus group study. *Journal of child health care: For professionals working with children in the hospital and community*, 14(2), p189-199.

Rubie-Davies, C.M., Peterson, E., Irving, E., Widdowson, D., & Dixon, R. (2010). Expectations of achievement: Student, teacher and parent perceptions. *Research in Education*, 83, p36-53.

Widdowson, D. & Dixon, R. The effects of parent involvement in school-based preschool education on student outcomes. Under review for *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.

## All enquiries should be directed to:

Associate Professor Robyn Dixon, Co-director  
ph: +64 9 9237388,  
[r.dixon@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.dixon@auckland.ac.nz)

Dr Deborah Widdowson, Co-director  
ph: +64 9 9237380,  
[d.widdowson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.widdowson@auckland.ac.nz)

# Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group news

The palliative and end of life care research group has been established to conduct high quality, multi-disciplinary research that informs practice and policy in palliative and end of life care both nationally and internationally. Our specific aims are:

- To explore factors that enable people to 'live well' in the last years of their life and achieve a death that, where practical, is in line with their views and preferences.
- To provide evidence to underpin new models of care and support required to meet the palliative care needs of ageing populations.
- To focus specifically upon populations who are known to be at risk of receiving sub-optimal care at the end of life, for example minority cultural and ethnic groups, older people, people who lack capacity, and people with conditions other than cancer.
- To ensure that, through education, research training and postgraduate supervision, capacity exists within NZ to develop this research and service development agenda.

## Members

**Professor Merryn Gott, Director**

**Dr Gary Bellamy, Research Fellow**

**Ms Susan Waterworth, Senior Lecturer**

**Dr Rosemary Frey, Project Manager**

**Professor Christine Ingleton, Visiting Professor**

We place great importance on collaboration and work with a wide range of researchers and organisations nationally and internationally.

2010 has been a busy year with a number of exciting developments. Merryn Gott successfully led a research bid which has been funded by the Health Research Council grant in partnership with Auckland District Health Board to explore the means of optimising palliative care management within Auckland City Hospital. The project has a particular focus upon identifying the extent of potentially avoidable hospital admissions amongst patients with palliative care needs and will provide evidence to inform specific service developments within Auckland District Health Board.

We were pleased to welcome Rosemary Frey as manager for this project who joins us from the University of the West Indies. This work compliments a UK study Merryn is leading together with Christine Ingleton funded by the National Institute for Health Research and exploring potentially avoidable hospitalisations within two acute hospitals in England.

Susan Waterworth's work on older people with heart failure has begun to be disseminated and is informing exciting new work in this area, particularly in relation to decision-making.

Gary Bellamy has been involved with a number of projects and his work on culturally appropriate end of life care in New Zealand and palliative care for people with dementia will be presented at the European Association of Palliative Care Conference in May in Lisbon. Merryn and Christine will also launch their new edited book at this conference; published by Oxford University Press it draws together international perspectives on ways to improve palliative and end of life care for older people. They have also both been appointed as associate editors to the new journal *BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care*.

Finally, we are pleased to have a number of new postgraduate students undertaking BN(hons), Masters and PhD studies with us exploring significant new areas of research.

## Current projects

**Potentially inappropriate admissions/interventions amongst hospital in-patients with palliative care needs.** Merryn Gott, Barry Snow, Taima Campbell, Anne O'Callaghan, Jackie Robinson, Andrew Jull, Michal Boyd, George Laking, Gary Bellamy, Rosemary Frey. Funder: Health Research Council and Auckland District Health Board.

**Transitions to palliative care for older people in acute hospitals.** Merryn Gott, Christine Ingleton, Jane Seymour, Bill Noble, Mike Bennett, Mark Cobb, Tony Ryan, Clare Gardiner. Funder: National Institute of Health Research Service Delivery and Organisation Programme.  
Website: <http://www.transitionstopalliativecare.co.uk/>

**Representing self, representing ageing.** Lorna Warren, Merryn Gott, Susan Hogan, Naomi Richards. Funder: Economic and Social Research Council.  
Website: <http://www.representing-ageing.com/>

**Pre-protocol work to develop a RCT to enhance patient-professional communication about end of life issues in life limiting conditions other than cancer.** Sarah Barnes, Merryn Gott, Clare Gardiner, Sheila Payne, Neil Small, David Seamark, David Halpin.  
Funder: BUPA.

**A systematic review to identify factors that support partnership working between generalist and specialist palliative care providers.** Clare Gardiner, Merryn Gott, Christine Ingleton.  
Funder: Cancer Experiences Collaborative.

**A systematic review of the evidence for optimum hospital environments for older people dying from cancer.** Clare Gardiner, Merryn Gott, Christine Ingleton, Sarah Barnes, Louise Brereton.  
Funder: The University of Sheffield.

**A pilot study to explore the effects of the Shipman murders on opiate prescribing in cancer palliative care.** Clare Gardiner, Merryn Gott, Christine Ingleton, Philippa Hughes.  
Funder: North Trent Cancer Network.

**An evaluation of bereavement support services for older adults.** Gary Bellamy, Merryn Gott, Rosemary Frey, Ngaire Kerse. Funder: The University of Auckland.

**Piloting a 'satisfaction survey' for hospice patients in New Zealand.** Gary Bellamy, Merryn Gott, Sandra Oster, Rosemary Frey. Funder: Hospice New Zealand.

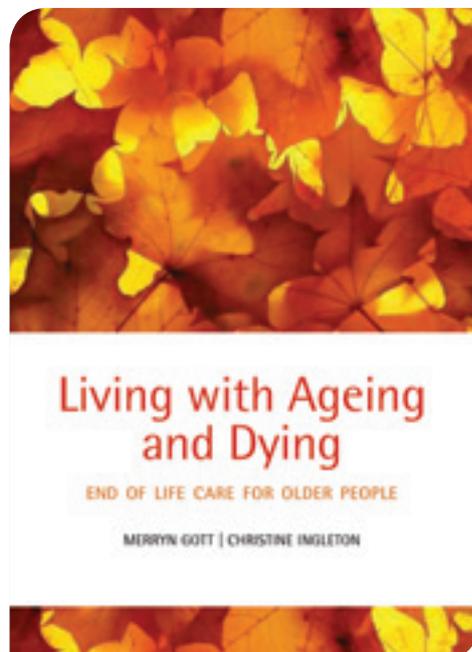
## Key recent publications

Almack K, Seymour J, Bellamy G. (2010). Exploring the impact of sexual orientation on experiences and concerns about end of life care and on bereavement for lesbian, gay and bisexual older people. *Sociology*. Volume 44(5): 908-924

Gott M, Ingleton C, Bennett MI, Gardiner C. Transitions to palliative care in acute hospitals in England. *British Medical Journal*. In press.

Waterworth S, Gott M, Raphael D, Barnes S. Older people with heart failure and General Practitioners - Temporal reference frameworks and implications for practice. *Health and Social Care in the Community*. In press.

Gardiner C, Cobb M, Gott M, Ingleton C. Barriers to palliative care provision for older people in acute hospitals. *Age and Ageing*. In press.

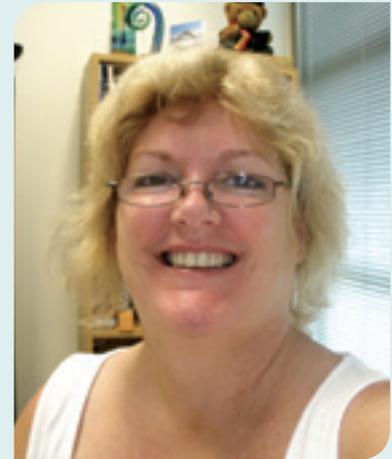


## More research highlights

### A whanau ora approach to health care for Maori

The Health Research Council funded Oranga Tane Maori research project began in early 2009 to explore the whanau ora experiences of Maori men with chronic disease or cancer. This project employs a Kaupapa Maori methodology which includes the principles of whakapapa, whanau, te reo, tikanga, rangatiratanga, and aroha ki te tangata.

The project is being conducted by a multidisciplinary collaboration from the Waikato Clinical School and Te Puna Oranga (Waikato District Health Board), bringing together both Maori and non-Maori researchers with a range of associated skills and shared concerns surrounding Maori health. A key emphasis is placed on the relationship between the research and the community that it serves. Whanau ora (healthy families) is a complex concept that has emerged from traditional Maori ways of viewing health, but has only recently been accepted and promoted in the health policy environment in New Zealand. The complexity of whanau ora lies in the delicate balance between the overall health of whanau members and their connection to each other, their wider communities, ancestors and the land, and the physical, emotional, spiritual and social health of the individual who has specific health and illness issues. The project has completed a systematic literature review and an evaluation of whanau ora services in the Waikato area. Te Korowai, a framework for service evaluation and data analysis, is currently under review; this was developed when it became clear that there was no existing framework to guide whanau ora health service evaluations or analyse data from qualitative interviews with Maori men.



Dr Jacquie Kidd



### Advocating for the health and wellbeing of our youth

Dr Terryann Clark is a senior lecturer at the School of Nursing, Chair of the multidisciplinary Adolescent Health Research Group and works part-time as a clinician with young people. Terryann is passionate about advocating for the health and wellbeing of youth, and along with colleagues from the Adolescent Health Research Group she has undertaken several large scale representative youth health surveys of young people. More recently, she led a study that investigated the health and wellbeing of youth attending Alternative Education. This study found that young people who are 'kicked out of school' have significant unmet needs. They have high rates of mental health concerns, substance use and other risk taking behaviours. "These are very vulnerable youth, who have significant health, education and social issues – yet they lack the most basic health services that mainstream schools students take for granted" says Dr Clark. For information about the Alternative Education survey and other Adolescent Health Research Group publications go to [www.youth2000.ac.nz](http://www.youth2000.ac.nz)



### Nursing workforce and consumer experiences

Dr Nicolette Sheridan (far left) is Associate Dean Equity, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, a senior lecturer in the School of Nursing, and a founding member of the Integrated Care Research Group, School Auckland Clinical School. Dr. Sheridan is of Ngapuhi descent. Her research focuses on the nursing workforce and consumer experiences, and includes: an evaluation of government policy impact on the primary health care nursing workforce; tracking the communication in primary care of people newly diagnosed with diabetes; assessing evidence based practices in chronic condition management across New Zealand district health boards; and understanding the health care experiences of Pacific older people with long term conditions. Since 2007 Dr Sheridan has been a panel monitor for the Health Research Council and District Health Board New Zealand 'assessing health services' research project. She also chaired the Ministry of Health Expert Advisory Group on Primary Health Care Nursing and is currently the NZQA academic monitor of the kaupapa Maori nursing programme, 'Te Ohanga Mataora Paetahi', Bachelor of Health Sciences Maori Nursing, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi.



### Healthy lungs for under two's

Karen Hoare is co-investigator on an Health Research Council funded study entitled 'Healthy Lungs; an intervention study'. This study is a Randomised Control Trial examining if enhanced primary care of children less than two years old who have been admitted to hospital with severe pneumonia will prevent them from developing bronchiectasis. She is also starting the third year of her PhD by publication. Her PhD is entitled 'How do practice nurses use information in their work'. She has currently submitted four publications and completed three chapters.

Explore our projects further at [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research)  
All enquiries should be directed initially to: [nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz)

# Building capability in health research



Over the past three years the STAR project has been working to help build research capacity in nursing across New Zealand.



Associate Professor Mary Findlayson

Directed by Associate Professor Mary Findlayson and funded by the Tertiary Education Commission, STAR invested \$2.7 million into nursing and allied health disciplines to enhance research capability. STAR was a collaborative effort involving five New Zealand consortium universities led by The University of Auckland.

Key to the mission of the project was developing research capability by focussing on new and emerging researchers and building interdisciplinary and inter-university collaborations. Using the theme of 'Reducing the burden of chronic conditions', STAR funded two rounds of research grants, three rounds of PhD scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships, and a visiting scholars' programme.

Several researchers from the School of Nursing were amongst those successful in receiving research grants and scholarships. Lara Baylis was awarded a scholarship for her PhD project entitled 'Adolescents and health literacy'. Principle investigators John Parsons, Nicolette Sheridan, Brian McKenna, Kate Prebble, Mathew Parsons and Michelle Honey were also successful obtaining research grants.

## Research projects supported by STAR

### Consumers with chronic conditions

Project lead:

#### Dr John Parsons

John's project explored the impact of two innovative interventions which may influence treatment for frail older people: GrandStand© and Vibration training. The project aimed to determine the safety of such interventions and explore the impact on physical function and quality of life.

### The efficacy of nurse-led health living programmes for people in forensic mental health units

Project lead:

#### Associate Professor Brian McKenna

This mixed methods study investigated the efficacy of two healthy living programmes introduced by nurses in forensic mental health units in New Zealand in an attempt to reduce the burden of chronic physical illness for people with serious mental illness.

### Chronic conditions and care: perspectives of Pacific older people

Project lead:

#### Dr Nicolette Sheridan

The purpose of Nicolette's study was to record and interpret the experiences of 100 Pacific older people with chronic conditions and their primary informal

caregivers in Auckland and Hawkes Bay. The information generated through life stories and experiences with the health care system will contribute to the development of models of chronic care that are flexible, address family dynamics and take into account traditional and contemporary Pacific views of health.

### Legislating for care: An exploration of the role of care managers under the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003

Project lead:

#### Dr Kate Prebble

The aim of Kate's descriptive mixed method study was to explore how the care manager role introduced by the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 works in practice and also see how it contributes to better outcomes for intellectually disabled offenders.

### Personal trainer assisted strength training programme for Pacific men with diabetes

Project lead:

#### Associate Professor Mathew Parsons

Mathew's project sought to evaluate the impact of a personal trainer supported 6-month gym based resistance exercise programme

for Pacific men versus green card prescription on adherence, insulin sensitivity, costs and satisfaction.

### Exploring the physical health needs of service users with serious mental illness

Project lead:

#### Associate Professor Brian McKenna

This project aimed to describe how people with serious mental illness currently use health services and how they perceive their health and risks related to the treatment they receive in order to inform better delivery of physical health services to people with serious mental illness.

### Consumers in primary care health information needs analysis

Project lead:

#### Dr Michelle Honey

Michelle's research sought to generate information on consumer requirements in order to ensure health information provision is accessible, appropriate and acceptable. The findings will inform future health information provision so that it better supports consumers with chronic conditions.

Read more about these projects on our website: [www.starproject.ac.nz](http://www.starproject.ac.nz)

## Postgraduate research corner

The School of Nursing offers an array of postgraduate research opportunities, including options for Nursing Honours dissertations, Master of Nursing by research portfolio or thesis and PhD study. Explore the exciting Master and PhD projects currently underway in the School of Nursing.

### PhD projects

#### Nabeel Abdrabalnabi

Ageing in place for older people with dementia.

**Supervisors:** Mathew Parsons and Diane Jorgensen.

#### Barbara Daly

Management of diabetes by primary health care nurses.

**Supervisors:** Bruce Arroll, Nicolette Sheridan, Tim Kenealy.

#### Lara Baylis

Adolescents and health literacy.

**Supervisors:** Robyn Dixon and Nicolette Sheridan.

#### Mark Garisch

Identification of success factors in the implementation of new technology in the public health sector.

**Supervisors:** Mathew Parsons and Antony Rouse.

#### Helen Hamer

Mental health service users as citizens in a recovery paradigm: the implications for mental health.

**Supervisors:** Mary Finlayson and Helen Warren.

#### Sarah Hunter

The impact of fertility damage and premature menopause from cancer treatments.

**Supervisors:** Mary Finlayson and Jacquie Kidd.

#### Anecita Lim

Nurses prescribing decisions: an exploratory study.

**Supervisors:** Nicola North and John Shaw.

#### Helen Malcolm

Growing older in New Zealand: perceptions and expectations of today's adults regarding their ageing and future support.

**Supervisors:** Robyn Dixon and Diane Jorgensen.

#### Dianne Marshall

Professional Competence: The nurse's role in the surgical team using a human factors approach.

**Supervisors:** Mary Finlayson and Kathleen Callaghan.

#### Anthony O'Brien

Application of Mental Health Legislation.

**Supervisors:** Rob Kydd and Brian McKenna.

#### Rachael Parke

Can nasal high flow therapy prevent respiratory complications following cardiac surgery?

**Supervisors:** Robyn Dixon and Andrew Jull.

#### Laine Perkuma

Primary Health Care provider knowledge and attitudes leading to their management of pain.

**Mary Finlayson and Kathleen Callaghan.**

#### Kathryn Peri

Promoting independent living study.

**Supervisors:** Ngaire Kerse and Nicola North.

#### Deborah Rowe

Exploring the culture of safety in the contemporary healthcare organisation in New Zealand.

**Supervisors:** Mary Finlayson, Nicolette Sheridan and Susan Carter.

#### Barbara Smith

An exploration of the combat experience of RNZAF aircrew of WW2, from the perspective of the veterans, their spouse/ partner, children and/or grandchildren.

**Supervisors:** Mathew Parsons and Jennifer Hand.

#### Lisa Stewart

Aligning undergraduate nursing education to meet the future health needs of an ageing population.

**Supervisors:** Mathew Parsons and Mark Barrow.

#### Marea Topp

Alcohol and other drug use of nurses in New Zealand.

**Supervisors:** Mary Finlayson and Peter Adams.

#### Noeline Whitehead

Benchmarking in residential aged care.

**Supervisors:** Mathew Parsons and Antony Rouse.

### Close Up: Deborah Rowe

Deborah is currently completing her PhD which explores cultural safety in the contemporary healthcare organisation in New Zealand. She was a clinical charge nurse for eight years at the neonatal intensive care unit at Auckland City Hospital before embarking on an academic career. Deborah says she was inspired to enrol in a PhD after "her clinical experience and knowledge of adverse events prompted her to raise questions about the level of safety within public hospitals". Her research responds to the increasing calls for accountability within the health sector. With the increasing media coverage of adverse events, Deborah explains that "the public are becoming more aware of the number of adverse events that are occurring". Deborah's research focuses on the implementation of recommendations made by the New Zealand Health and Disability Commissioner (an external auditing agency) relating to medical errors and adverse events in the public hospitals of New Zealand. Her study is important to nursing practice as nurses are pivotal in maintaining a safe healthcare system: "nurses are the gatekeepers of safe nursing practice and as the last point of contact for patients before any healthcare procedure is carried out, have a leadership role in the healthcare system necessary for "transforming" work environments. By transforming the way patient healthcare is delivered, threats to patient safety can be reduced".

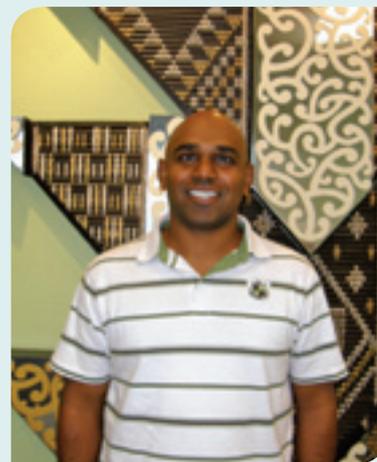


## Close up: Luren Reddy

Luren is midway through his Masters research project which aims to explore the experiences of community mental health nurses who have experienced the suicide of a client. He hopes to “recommend strategies to support community mental health nurses who experience a client suicide in the future, as well as inform undergraduate and post graduate mental health nursing education”.

The project involves qualitative interviews with a purposive sample of community mental health nurses who have had experience of a client suicide. Luren has completed his fieldwork and is currently busy transcribing the interviews. He will then analyse the interviews thematically.

While undertaking his postgraduate research, Luren is working as a nurse educator for the mental health and addictions service at Waikato District Health Board. He says that “post graduate study has grounded my practice and focused me on evidence based contemporary nursing practice. Attentiveness to the socio-political climate, media and impact of policy on nursing is another significant aspect of post graduate study now embedded in my practice”.



## Masters projects

### Nicola Corna

CPAP therapy in patients with diabetes mellitus and obstructive sleep apnoea. Does it improve glycaemic control?

**Supervisor: Heather Baker.**

### Patricia Crogan

Nurses’ perceptions of their role in quality improvement change.

**Supervisors: Susan Waterworth and Jagpal Benipal.**

### Michelle Eccleston

An observational study of nasal high flow therapy in intensive care practice: Predictors of success and failure.

**Supervisors: Reena Patel and Robyn Dixon.**

### Catherine Fleckney

Attitudes to caring for youth in child health services.

**Supervisors: Robyn Dixon and Terry Ann Clarke.**

### David Garland

Exploring the factors associated with reduction in patient pain in relation to a Sub-Tenon’s anaesthetic eye block for cataract surgery.

**Supervisor: Mathew Parsons.**

### Emilia Hlatwyayo

An exploration of the experiences of mental health and addictions nurses who provide clinical supervision within a New Zealand District Health Board.

**Supervisors: Kate Prebble and Anthony O’Brien.**

### Paula Murray

Nurses’ perceptions of the effectiveness of integrated care pathways.

**Supervisor: Mary Finlayson.**

### Kusum Narayan

What are the experiences of registered nurses regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation decisions for end of life/dying patients?

**Supervisors: Lisa Stewart and Robyn Dixon.**

### Lurendharen Reddy

What are the experiences of community mental health nurses whose clients commit suicide?

**Supervisor: Jacquie Kidd and Kate Prebble.**

### Kristal Roache

The transition to parenthood: The impact on lesbian couple relationships in planned families.

**Supervisors: Helen Hamer and Robyn Dixon.**

### Margaret Robinson

The role of nurses in a community mental health service.

**Supervisors: Anthony O’Brien and Jacquie Kidd.**

### Karen Schimanski

Comparison of the left upper arm and forearm non-invasive blood pressures in adult emergency department patients: A randomised cross over study.

**Supervisors: Andrew Jull and Nancy Mitchell.**

### Carol Schneebeli

Education and stigma: Barriers to realising the potential of mental health care in primary health care context.

**Supervisors: Jacquie Kidd and Mary Finlayson.**

### Yonhee Seo

What is the effect of blood pressure when changing from haemodialysis to haemodiafiltration.

**Supervisor: Robyn Dixon.**

### Jacqueline Watkins

Nurse first assist in PEG placement: A logical progression.

**Supervisor: Heather Baker.**

## Interested in postgraduate study?

We would love to hear from you. For further advice contact:

**Mrs Pamela Strange,**  
Programme Administrator,  
ph: +64 9 923 2146,  
p.strange@auckland.ac.nz

**Associate Professor Robyn Dixon,**  
Programme Director,  
ph:+64 9 9237388,  
r.dixon@auckland.ac.nz

## School visitors

Professor Karen Francis, Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Monash University's Gippsland campus, visited New Zealand for a week in August 2010.



Professor Francis is recognized nationally and internationally for her contribution to the development of rural nursing as a specialist discipline. She held the position of President of Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives (now the Faculty of Rural Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Nursing Australia) for a period of seven years, a contribution that was recognized in 2008 when she received the President's award for outstanding service. She continues to advocate on behalf of rural nurses and midwives through her work as an executive member of the Faculty of Rural Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Nursing Australia. Professor Francis is a fellow of the Joanna Briggs Institute and the Royal College of Nursing, Australia. Karen presented 'PhD by publication' to staff and students within the School of Nursing and to the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care within the

School of Population Health. She has supervised 29 students (both domestic and international) to complete their PhD's. Eleven of these students completed their PhD by publication or partial publication. Professor Karen Francis was also interested in Karen Hoare's role as a Nurse Practitioner for Children and Young People within primary care. Karen spent one day observing Karen Hoare running her nurse-led clinic and conducting home visits from the practice where she is a partner with four general practitioners in Manurewa, South Auckland. Since visiting New Zealand Professor Francis has been awarded \$5.4 million (AUS) from Health Workforce Australia. The grant is to lead the development of a Primary Care Centre, collaboratively between the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University and the local health board.

## Writing retreat

Eleven staff members enjoyed the first School of Nursing writing retreat over three days in October. The retreat was a tremendous success with staff working hard to complete the final versions of nine papers and begin work on a further four papers. They also found time to enjoy the idyllic surrounds of Waiheke Island resort. Workshops and group discussion sessions provided support and motivation for staff as they were going about their writing.

Staff reported that the retreat allowed them learn what others were researching and build supportive networks for their ongoing writing.

**"The retreat enabled the ability to switch off from other work pressure in an environment where others were all working to similar goals. Peer feedback and support sessions were invaluable".**

**"I have invited a nursing colleague to be a co-author on a paper as a result of the retreat. That would not have happened if I didn't get to talk to my colleagues. Really useful to learn about each other's interests and experience".**

Many discussion groups organised as part of the retreat have continued to occur during the year and staff have begun to prioritise their writing by setting aside specific times for writing during their day. The writing retreat has now become permanent fixture for the School of Nursing, with two more planned to take place in March and October 2011.



# Head of School comments

## Success for the School in 2010

The School had an extremely successful year in 2010 and I am thrilled that we are able to share the achievements of staff members with you in this newsletter. This year looks set for further successes and REASON will bring you the latest updates twice a year.

We recently welcomed Professor Merryn Gott as the Director of Research whose support has led to many excellent initiatives that aim to develop research capacity in the School, including this newsletter!

The research groups in the School continue to grow, leading to a number of new collaborations and projects. It is wonderful to see the array of projects being undertaken by postgraduate students enrolled in the School and we thoroughly enjoyed providing summer students with their first taste of research over the summer months.

As evidenced in this newsletter, the number of successful funding applications and publications flourished in 2010, placing the School in a good position for the upcoming Performance Based Research Funding submissions at the end of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial team for putting this newsletter together.

We hope you have enjoyed reading REASON and we look forward to bringing you more news later in the year.



Associate professor Judy Kilpatrick.

## Take a look at our new research website

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research)

The School of Nursing has launched a new research website this year. Our research homepage provides a base to explore the projects being undertaken by our staff, research centres and groups, as well postgraduate students.

Research news and any events taking place in the School of Nursing are also made available on the research website. You can download all issues of REASON and join our mailing list to subscribe to future issues of REASON from the research website.

Information on how to become involved in research with the School of Nursing is also available and where possible we have included relevant links to other sections of The University of Auckland website.

The website aims to be informative and easy to navigate. It is a work-in-progress and we aim to add new pages and links to further information as we progress through 2011. We welcome feedback from you about our research pages which you can supply by clicking the "feedback on this page" link at the bottom right of the research website homepage.



