

Reason

Research at the School of Nursing

May 2012 | Issue 3

Associate Professor
Robyn Dixon
New Director of The Domestic
Violence Clearinghouse



On our cover

In the third edition of REASON the editorial team invites you to read about the various research activities that have taken place in the School of Nursing recently. We update readers on newly funded projects, including celebrating the recent success of Associate Professor Robyn Dixon, featured on our cover, in securing the contract to manage the New Zealand Domestic Violence Clearinghouse.

Since our last edition, two staff members secured funding from the New Zealand Law Foundation and the New Zealand Heart Foundation for their research projects on the emergence of problem solving courts in Auckland and primary health care for patients with multiple long term conditions. We detail these projects with all other projects and publications being available on our website www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research. We also highlight the variety of studentship projects that took place over the 2011-12 summer and provide a feature of research being conducted by staff in the area of health inequalities – a key priority for The University of Auckland. Our postgraduate corner celebrates the submission of two staff member's PhDs, lists all current and recently completed Master and PhD students; and profiles one student's postgraduate journey. Finally, we welcome the new appointment of Dr Michal Boyd as senior lecturer, her clinical leadership in gerontology as a practising nurse practitioner will be of immense value to the School of Nursing.

As always, electronic copies of REASON are available on our website and you can also sign up for future editions by emailing nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of REASON,
Merryn Gott, Katey Thom, Simon Halpenny, Gary Bellamy, Susan Waterworth and Jacquie Kidd



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Scholarship awardee, page 3



Addressing equity in healthcare,
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role, page 10



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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 tatou katoa. Welcome to another edition of Reason. I am writing this whilst we are in the midst of our Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) preparations and putting together this record of our research activity over the last 6 months has served as a nice reminder of what all the form filling means in practice. PBRF is designed to ensure research money is allocated to Schools and Institutions where research activity is strongest and we anticipate that our performance will be better than of previous rounds, reflecting the significant growth in our research activities in recent years.

That growth is very evident in this edition. We showcase several research projects funded over the last 6 months, including those led by Susan Waterworth exploring practice nurse management of older people with heart failure, and Brian McKenna, whose innovative new project is looking at problem solving courts in New Zealand. A key goal for our Faculty is undertaking research that examines issues of health inequality, particularly for Maori. Within the School, this goal is central to much of our research activity and you can read about two new projects being undertaken in the areas of end of life care and mental health with a particular focus upon the needs and experiences of Maori. The appointment of Nicolette Sheridan as an Associate Professor within the School also strengthens our expertise in this area; Nicolette serves as Associate Dean Equity for the Faculty.

It's also great to announce the appointment of Dr Michal Boyd as a Senior Lecturer within the School. Michal is a practising Nurse Practitioner in Gerontology with Waitemata District Health Board and also leads a significant programme of research exploring issues pertinent to the highly important issues of Aged Residential Care provision. Browyn Pepperell, whose Master's project Michal supervised, also discusses her research project, and we provide other highlights from our postgraduate students (including more staff PhDs – well done Dr Helen Hamer!). We also showcase the work of Assoc Professor Andrew Jull whose research focus on evidence based practice and expertise in trial design is a real asset to the School. Last, but definitely not least, we now have three permanent Research Fellows appointed to staff and provide some information about their current research projects and wider role in supporting research activities within the School.

Finally, special congratulations to two of our Summer research students whose projects were judged to be amongst the best in the Faculty. You can read more about Rebecca Allenby's project on page 11 (alongside the fantastic achievements of her supervisor Assoc Professor Robyn Dixon in securing the contract to manage the New Zealand Domestic Violence Clearing House); we will bring you more information about Ahmed Abdile's project in the next edition of Reason. Ahmed, supervised by Dr Tony O'Brian, won the Wallath Prize for the top public health project conducted by a Summer student at the University of Auckland in 2011/2012. Well done Ahmed, and well done Tony!



Professor Merryn Gott

Prestigious Chinese Council Scholarship awardee to study at the School

In February the first Chinese Council Scholarship student to study in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences commenced her PhD programme in the School of Nursing under the supervision of Associate Professor Robyn Dixon and Dr Terry Anne Clark. Chinese Council Scholarships are very prestigious and highly contested. Shirley's dissertation will explore the sexual and reproductive health of Chinese students in New Zealand.

Zonghua (Shirley) Wang comes from Chongqing which is near Sichuan. Shirley came to New Zealand from the Third Military Medical University where she was completing a Masters in Nursing. She heard about New Zealand and The University of Auckland from Bill Abbott, a visiting scholar from Auckland City Hospital. Shirley says:

"I really cherish this opportunity to be here, eagerly chasing after any opportunities for improving my language and academic level, as well as gain international perspectives. I believe I am in the right place. When you get close to Auckland University, you will find it deserves its high reputation throughout the world, not only because of those world-renowned academic achievements, but also the friendly university culture. Also, what attracts me here is the gorgeous natural scenery. You cannot imagine how excited I was when I saw the grass in Auckland Domain! I know something marvellous is waiting for me.

In mainland China, nursing researchers' eyes are always on those patients in hospital, and few of them care about people in communities or schools, in spite of the great potential health needs. Maybe that is what brings me here, to learn more about the primary health care system in developed countries".



Zonghua (Shirley) Wang

Addressing equity in healthcare a focus for new Associate Professor

Newly appointed as Associate Professor in the School, Nicolette Sheridan also holds the position of Associate Dean Equity for the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, chairs the Faculty Equity Committee and is a member of the Faculty Executive and Council. Nicolette has been recognised with two appointments to chair research assessing committees in 2011 for the Health Research Council. From 2008 to 2009 she chaired the Ministry of Health Expert Advisory Group on Primary Health Care Nursing.

Nicolette's research interests are in the fields of primary health care, long term conditions and equity in the health system. She has published over 30 articles in the last three years and is lead author on several international papers, with the most recent, 'Health equity in the New Zealand health care system: a national survey', published in 2011 in the International Journal of Equity in Health. The first nursing paper from the 'Evaluation of the Primary Health Care

the Integrated Care Research Group within the South Auckland Clinical School and has collaborated on research ideas, developed proposals and conducted research that provides opportunities for other nurses to undertake research within an interdisciplinary clinical environment. For example, as the principal investigator of a study with Pacific co-investigators, she supervised one Samoan nurse's research masters and mentored four Pacific nurses in data collection and analysis methods.

In the past Nicolette coordinated a postgraduate diploma programme for 41 registered Māori nurses providing mobile clinical services. This successful cohort produced the first Māori Nurse Practitioner, more than 20 masters' completions, and one student is currently enrolled into a doctoral programme. She was awarded a University of Auckland Excellence Award in Equal Opportunities and in 2007 was awarded Te Amorangi National Māori Academic Excellence Award in recognition of her doctoral research on primary health care nursing. Nicolette is of Ngapuhi descent.

In 2010 Nicolette was appointed 'clinical champion' by the largest New Zealand primary health organisation, ProCare Network (800,000 enrolled patients). In this role she participated in the professional development of approximately 300 practice nurses and gave 13 lectures on population health practice. Also, in advocating a population health approach within general practice, she participated in a live online debate discussing the challenges for primary healthcare nurses. Nicolette has collaborated with nine District Health Boards, Northland, Counties Manukau, Waitemata, Waikato, Tairāwhiti, Taranaki, Wairarapa, West Coast and Southland on future primary health care service provision and undertaken consultation with Māori stakeholders in those areas. She is an advisor to external research projects, has judged innovation in clinical research for District Health Boards, and presented and hosted visiting government ministers and delegations, as well as international academics, such as Fulbright Specialist, Professor Marjorie Schaffer in 2012.

We wish Nicolette well on her new journey as Associate Professor in the School



Associate Professor Nicolette Sheridan

Strategy' has also just been published and Research tracking communication in primary care of people newly diagnosed with diabetes will be published in 2012.

In addition to her various research projects, Nicolette has supervised the work of more than 20 doctoral and masters students. She is a founding member of

New research initiative supports two projects in the School

The School of Nursing has received funding support for two projects from Te Whare Kura, a thematic research initiative hosted by the Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland. Te Whare Kura provides funding to enable quality research and develop the capabilities of future indigenous researchers. The principal focus is on research for, by and with indigenous peoples. In this close-up, we describe two projects aimed at doing just this.

An exploration of Te Kooti Rangatahi in Aotearoa

Drs Katey Thom and Jacquie Kidd are working on the first stages of a research programme that will use a whānau ora approach to explore the process and outcomes of various indigenous courts for young Māori offenders in Aotearoa. Te Kooti Rangatahi are problem solving courts which represent an alternative approach to offending and have a collective focus on problem solving with young offenders to find solutions to their offending behaviour. Jacquie explains that:

“Our focus on whānau ora enables the research to explore the impact of the court experience on the wider social context of the young person, as well as the person and their family”.

Central to the development of this project was the employment of Stella Black, a Māori researcher with a strong interest in programmes that attempt to address the inequalities that face young Māori in Aotearoa today. It is hoped that by involving Stella in the first stages of project development that she will continue her journey of researching Te Kooti Rangatahi as part of her postgraduate studies.

Currently the team are in the middle of reviewing the existing literature on international indigenous problem solving courts in order to identify how they work in practice in other jurisdictions and whether/how they have been researched. The findings of this review, coupled with a draft methodological framework incorporating a whānau ora approach, will be then put forth to a expert reference group that will oversee the team’s development of a proposal for a larger pilot study.



Jacquie Kidd, Stella Black & Katey Thom.

Advanced Age: Priorities for Māori and their Whānau in the Last Year of Life

Dr Mere Kepa (School of Population Health) and Professor Merryn Gott are bringing together a new research team in the development of a project to address Priorities in Care in the Last Year of Life amongst Māori in advanced old age, their family, whānau, and hapū. Other members of the research team include: Professor Ngaire Kerse, Dr Lorna Dyall, Dr Gary Bellamy, Karen Hayman and Stella Black.



Merryn Gott, Gary Bellamy & Stella Black.

Little is known about the priorities of care in the last year of life for Māori of advanced age, the family, whānau, and hapū. Public discussion of how best Māori might be supported at end of life has been dominated by health professionals, in particular, those working within Palliative Care. Palliative Care is underpinned by a particular understanding of the ‘good death’ (termed the ‘revivalist discourse’), which may not be congruent with the culture, preferences and priorities of Māori. Evidence of incongruence can be found in data indicating that Māori are under-represented as users of hospices, although the potential role of discrimination in limiting access cannot be ignored.

The domination of one particular way of understanding the ‘good death’ also shuts off professional and public dialogue of different ways of thinking about priorities at this stage of life. Moreover, a focus upon statutory health services deflects attention from wider interactions between health, physical environments, and economic security. This project will use qualitative methods to explore priorities for older Māori and their whānau at end of life. A key outcome will be informing a new research phase of the longitudinal ‘Lilacs’ study led by Professor Ngaire Kerse.

Summer students 2011

This year, twelve students worked alongside staff members at the School of Nursing to engage in a variety of projects to gain valuable research experience. Ranging from the opportunity to learn about systematic literature reviews to conducting face to face interviews with key healthcare personnel, it provided students with a great opportunity to experience the research process firsthand.

Two summer student projects were recognised by the Dean of The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences in March. Under the supervision of Tony O'Brien, Ahmed Abdile received the top award for a public health project – The Wallath Prize – for his project entitled 'Rates of self harm amongst mental health service users'. Rebecca Allenby, supervised by Associate Professor Robyn Dixon, was also highly commended for her project focused on updating the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse statistics factsheets (featured on page 11).

Other successful applicants and their projects were:

Tony Lee,

Safe medication management for older people.

Nisha George,

The transitional experiences of partners of patients with heart failure and the impact on health and well-being.

Mos Ses Jin,

The use of psychoactive medications in Age Related Residential Care within the three District Health Boards in Auckland, New Zealand.

Richard Chen,

The application of therapeutic jurisprudence by health and social care professionals: Assessing the evidence.

Jayana Devathanan,

Crime, mental illness and historical controversy.

Gi Hoon Han,

Understandings of Advance Care Planning amongst members of the general public: a systematic literature review.

Richard Chen,

Parent only versus family based approaches to weight loss in overweight and obese children: a systematic literature review.

Danting Wei,

Wikis and their effectiveness on helping first year nursing students in learning health terminologies.

Zoe Dyer,

Consultation with key stakeholders regarding the use of the VOICES bereavement questionnaire.

James Klaassen,

Gay and grey: The views of older lesbians and gay men regarding their expectations of aged residential care

In January, the School organised an event providing students with the opportunity to present their research to colleagues, nursing school staff and faculty wide staff members. The presentations were both interesting and informative, and testament to the amount of work students completed over a short period of time. Staff will continue to work with students to produce some interesting journal articles which we hope to feature in our next edition of REASON.



A selection of summer students and their supervisors



Close Up: Zoe Dyer

Zoe Dyer was awarded one of only two prestigious HOPE Foundation scholarships this year. The foundation was established as a charitable trust to assist the funding of research and education essential to the health and welfare of older people in New Zealand. Zoe, a fourth year medical student, used her scholarship to explore the views of key stakeholders in New Zealand regarding the potential use and applicability of a bereavement questionnaire which has been used extensively in the United Kingdom to capture experiences at the end of life. Zoe will be presenting her findings to the HOPE Foundation and the New Zealand Association for Gerontology later this year.



“This project involved interviewing healthcare professionals about their views of post-bereavement research in New Zealand. This has been a hugely valuable experience, initially daunting but in the end hugely enjoyable. I was constantly struck by the passion with which my participants spoke. After each interview, I left with the certainty that I wished to become a palliative care specialist. The opportunity to hear professionals speak passionately about their work and display a profound connection with their patients was inspiring. I was aware of the depth of understanding of the hardships, both physical and emotional, that faced their patients and their families. Alongside the ‘touchy feely’ issues, palliative care revealed itself to be a complex and challenging field- one in which patients are experiencing the extremes of illness”.

We are always keen to listen to feedback from students regarding their experiences and find ways in which we can improve things for subsequent years. Here are just a few things that they told us:

“This experience has made me realise how important research is for improving clinical treatment and the prevention of sickness. I have a new appreciation for the intricacies of doing a systematic review and the value of academic research in informing clinical decisions for larger populations”

“I hope that this experience will give me the courage to initiate and take part in projects that produce change in the way healthcare is delivered. I hope that these sorts of challenges will be a key part of my work in the future”

“My studentship has gone well so far. Perhaps there could be more opportunities to interact with the other students in discussion”

“I think that this studentship experience will definitely inform my clinical practice in the future. In my later years of my training, I will have the opportunity to go on a psychiatry run. What I have learnt through this project about the history of clinical care in mental health will help me”

“I decided to apply for this studentship because I wanted to gain some exposure to clinical research and clinical medicine. This was my first opportunity to conduct formal research in such a setting and I thought this would set me up well for my future years of medical school and also as a health practitioner, which it undoubtedly has”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience, although if I were given the opportunity next time, I would pursue a studentship that has a more extensive clinical component (e.g. the involvement of participants and applying specific clinical knowledge) and not the systematic review of literature, although I do not diminish the importance of the latter”

A spotlight on the research fellows in the School of Nursing

In this issue we profile the work our full-time research fellows are doing – there are now three permanent research fellows in the School of Nursing who are helping to raise the research profile of the School as well as developing researcher capacity through their various roles as ethics advisors, research managers and mentors for junior researchers.

Rosemary Frey

A newly appointed research fellow in the School, Dr Rosemary Frey gained her PhD in social psychology from the University of the West Indies – Mona, Kingston, Jamaica. Her dissertation research examined issues of gender, identity and emotional adjustment and involved analyzing both longitudinal quantitative data as well as qualitative data collected from four cultures (India, Jamaica, Canada and the United States).

Rosemary has an active research agenda with her interests ranging from issues in palliative care as well as education, gender, identity, and justice perceptions. Rosemary was project manager for the Health Research Council/Auckland District Health Board jointly funded project on potentially inappropriate admissions or interventions for patients with palliative care needs headed by Professor Merryn Gott. She is also currently project manager for a Counties Manukau District Health Board funded study examining barriers and facilitators to access to Totara Hospice South Auckland for Māori, Pacific and Asian cancer patients. Previous research

projects include a study examining the relationship between HIV/AIDS and tourism in Jamaica and the Bahamas, as well as a cross-cultural study of Jamaica and New Zealand examining Protestant Work Ethic endorsement and social justice values. Her recent publications include a chapter for Oxford University press which is a first of its kind history of the development of the discipline of psychology in the Caribbean.

Before migrating to New Zealand, Rosemary lectured for the University of Technology Jamaica's undergraduate Psychology programme. She is currently working with Cathleen Aspinall and Stephen Jacobs on a longitudinal study examining the effect of a communications educational intervention for undergraduate nursing students. Rosemary has also recently been appointed as a postgraduate research supervisor and ethics advisor for the School. She will also be Co-Director with Heather Baker of the School's new educational innovation unit, which we will feature in our next issue of Reason.

Gary Bellamy

Dr Gary Bellamy has also recently been appointed as a permanent research fellow in the School. He completed his PhD at the University of Sheffield conducting a study exploring women's understandings of sexuality, sex and sexual problems in the post-Viagra era.

His current research focuses upon potentially sensitive research topics ranging from palliative and end of life care to intellectual disabilities and sexuality related research. He is a member of the Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group conducting high quality, multi-disciplinary research that informs practice and policy in palliative and end of life care both nationally and internationally.

Gary's research has led to strong links with end research users and he is a key member of the research and public engagement sub-group of the National Advance Care

Planning Co-operative based at Auckland District Health Board. The Cooperative was formed in June 2010 by clinicians and academics from across the country and aims to ensure that Advance Care Planning (ACP) meets the needs of all New Zealanders. He is currently leading a range of studies exploring the role of ACP in end of life care, including an examination of general public understanding of ACP and the development of a model of ACP for people with intellectual disabilities and their families/whānau. More recently, Gary is part of a team investigating appropriate ways of working with older Māori and their family/whānau in the last year of life.

In addition to these activities, Gary also provides research supervision to a number of postgraduate and summer students each year and is a research ethics advisor to the School.

Katey Thom

Dr Katey Thom was appointed as a permanent research fellow in 2010. Katey carried out an in-depth investigation into the role of forensic psychiatrists in criminal trials involving the insanity defence in New Zealand as part of her PhD studies and it was during this time that she developed a strong interest in the application of mental health law and the human rights of people with serious mental illnesses.

Katey's current research is focused on exploring how mental health law works in practice. She currently leads two projects. The first project is focused on the decision-making of the Mental Health Review Tribunal and her second project, funded by The New Zealand Law Foundation, examines the statutory role of 'district inspectors' who act as watchdogs under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. Katey is continuing to build on this research programme by considering how she may translate her findings into making 'real' changes in mental health policy and service provision. So far this has included developing a project to investigate the feasibility of using advance care planning in mental health.

In collaboration with Associate Professor Brian McKenna, Katey has recently collaborated with judges in Auckland to explore the implementation of problem solving courts. These courts aim to bring together practitioners from the legal, health and social sectors to help offenders 'problem-solve' the underlying causes of their offending. Katey currently leads a project funded by the University of Auckland Faculty of Arts Te Whare Kura initiative to explore indigenous courts (see page 5) and she is also co-investigator on a New Zealand Law Foundation project featured on page 10.

As research manager for the School, Katey has helped develop various strategies to support staff in their research careers, including managing the research committee, peer review processes for grant applications, regular writing retreats, seminar series and a support group for staff writing publications. She is also an ethics advisor and a supervisor of postgraduate and summer students. Finally, twice a year Katey also coordinates the write-up, design and publication of REASON!

Supporting staff to write their research

The third writing retreat took place in November 2011 in the beautiful surrounds of Matakana, just an hour's drive from Auckland. Nine staff members attended the three-day retreat and worked on a variety of writing projects including their PhDs, funding applications and research publications. While the retreat was left relatively unstructured this time, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to come together for their work-in-progress groups once a day to discuss any issues with their writing.

At the end of each writing retreat, a feedback session is used to wrap up the event and give attendees the opportunity to help organisers improve future retreats for others. The opportunity to take time away from the office and focus upon their writing is proving to be very popular with applications far outweighing available places for the first retreat of 2012. Reflections from attendees in November last year on how the retreat had helped them in their writing activities have included some of the following:



Writing retreat attendees enjoying the surrounds of Matakana

‘Both writing retreats I’ve attended have given me an opportunity to put some intensive work into a specific writing project. On both occasions I’ve been able to make substantial progress towards either a publication or a PhD chapter. The opportunity to discuss work in progress with colleagues has also been an important benefit of the writing retreats. In the usual working week it is very difficult to give dedicated time to writing, and the retreats are very useful in providing that opportunity.’

‘Attending Matakana was a wonderful opportunity to sit and write without the day to day interruptions of phone calls, email, teaching and meetings. Writing always gets put on the back burner for more urgent things. A peaceful environment and flexible writing times (I am a peek early morning writer) along with the support to discuss my thoughts with colleagues was invaluable. I appreciated the opportunity – thanks.’

‘I found it helpful to have some focused time to write and the opportunity to discuss the progress and of my work and develop further ideas on how to construct the paper. It was good to share accommodation with a peer particularly someone who had a common understanding of my area of interest, and the small group meetings were also really helpful to give mutual feedback to each other. I also thought it could be a good opportunity to be a team building exercise particularly if you had a more focused group of people meeting over those few days, particularly if there was a requirement to complete a suite of papers by a research team.’

‘One of the major benefits of a writing retreat is the intensive time that can be allocated to a research project. Time away from the hustle and bustle of life and work gave us more time to think research.’

Due to favourable feedback regarding the venue of the last retreat, the next event is due to take place in April this year at the same venue. Stay tuned for our next edition of REASON where we shall look forward to giving you an update on our April retreat.

“It’s not just about heart failure”: optimising the primary health care role

Susan Waterworth, Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing, was awarded a small project grant in late 2011 from the New Zealand Heart Foundation for her project examining the potential role of practice nurses as a navigator in supporting patients with multiple long term conditions, and their family/whanau.

Susan will undertake the project with co-investigators Professor Merryn Gott, Professor Bruce Arroll and Dr John Parsons. Susan says:

“The project follows on from research conducted both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The potential to optimise the nursing role to address gaps in current management had been identified from previous research undertaken in New Zealand by myself and previous work in the UK by Merryn”.

The possibility of the Primary Health Care nurse acting as a navigator to provide continuity of care and to support the patient/whanau throughout their multiple interactions with health services has been particularly highlighted. However, to date, there is little evidence available from Primary Health Care nurses themselves that could inform the development of the nurse navigator role for people with long-term conditions; no research of this nature has been reported in New Zealand.



Susan Waterworth

Studying an alternative approach to criminal offending

Associate Professor Brian McKenna, Director of the Centre for Mental Health Research, recently received funding from the New Zealand Law Foundation to undertake a pilot evaluation study of problem solving courts in the Auckland region. Problem solving courts offer an alternative approach to criminal offending by addressing the psychological wellbeing of those whose maladaptive behaviour brings them to court in the first place. Brian will conduct the study alongside colleagues Drs Dominic Madell, Alice Mills and Katey Thom.

The number of problem solving courts is growing steadily in New Zealand and the research team are keen to capture and evaluate the courts as they continue to develop. There are now three domestic violence courts, several Rangatahi and Pasifika Courts (courts for young Maori and Pasifika), two speciality courts for at risk youth, one homeless court and a pilot adult alcohol and drug court is anticipated for later in 2012. Brian explains that his interest in these courts arose, in part, because “the enthusiasm and dedication of the judges involved in these courts are infectious”. He hopes that the project will commence the collection of data to “create an understanding of the processes put in place and their impact on preventing people returning to the criminal justice system”.

A crucial aspect that sets problem solving courts apart from mainstream court processes is the way in which judges collaborate with a host of community agencies to effectively “problem solve” with offenders to address the issues that first led them into court. Together they create an environment that aims to motivate, encourage, and reinforce defendants to participate in services and to seek positive outcomes, which will ultimately promote healthy behaviours and reduce recidivism. Brian argues that “the interactive style of the judge which combines both humanity and authority is crucial to the process”.

During the project development phase, the research team observed a number of these courts to familiarise themselves with how they work, which Brian found extremely interesting and, at times, moving:

“We have observed first hand a synergy between the legal process and the community. This was especially evident in the Rangatahi Courts run on the marae for Maori youth. The community gives a compassionate but strong message to the young person that it is time to change their behaviour...We also witnessed the first “graduation” of a person having completed the Te Timatatanga Hou Court (specialist court for homeless persons). The pride of the person was a sight to behold”

Problem solving courts were developed in the United States in the late 1980s and have extended to a number of jurisdictions throughout the world. The team are eager to explore, in collaboration with colleagues overseas, how these courts have been shaped to meet the demands of the New Zealand context. While the team anticipate the findings will be able to be compared with those from similar courts in the United States, Canada and Australia, Brian argues it is also important to “see how they take on a uniqueness when they are “transplanted” into a new jurisdictions. Part of our role is to determine what about these courts is unique to us”. With the support of the Law Foundation, the research team hopes to capture this uniqueness as the courts continue to develop in New Zealand.

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

In March 2011 the contract to run the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse was awarded by the Families Commission to the University of Auckland. It is the national clearinghouse for family violence research, policy and practice.

The project team is led by Associate Professor Robyn Dixon at the School of Nursing and Associate Professor Janet Fanslow from the School of Population Health. Other members of the team are Gay Richards (Information Specialist), Nicola Paton (Manager and Community Engagement Lead), Dr Pauline Gulliver (Research Fellow) and Dr Chris Paton (IT Specialist). The Clearinghouse is physically situated in the UniServices Innovation Building at the Tamaki Campus of The University of Auckland.

- Gather research on family violence from New Zealand and international resources
- Assist with finding evidence to guide practice, policy and research related to all types of family violence
- Manage and distribute family violence information, including: news, upcoming events, fact sheets issue papers and research



Associate Professor Robyn Dixon

In November 2011 a public re-launching of the Clearinghouse and its redesigned website was attended by some 150 academics and representatives from government and the family violence sector. The website is regularly updated with news, events and resources including recently published national and international research. The redesign of the website was led by Dr Chris Paton from the National Institute of Health Information. Please visit the website at <http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/>

A definitive aspect of the contract is to develop a research platform to underpin all the Clearinghouse activities. To this end, four fees bursaries have been awarded to students undertaking Masters level research in 2012 on the area of family violence. Students awarded the bursaries are studying at The University of Waikato, Massey University and The University of Otago. These scholarships are part of the strategy to increase research capacity in family violence across New Zealand. Internationally, nurses are at the forefront of family violence research and Robyn is very keen to encourage more nurses here in New Zealand to undertake research in the area.

To further enhance and build research capacity a Research Fellow, Dr Pauline Gulliver, has also recently been appointed. Pauline comes to the Clearinghouse from the Injury Prevention Research Unit at The University of Otago where her research focus was on surveillance, including projects looking at variation in child maltreatment rates.

The clearinghouse the team has also achieved several research milestones in its first year including:

- An update of Family Violence Statistics undertaken by our Summer Scholar Rebecca Allenby (featured below)
- The release of the Clearinghouse first Issues paper is on collaboration and co-operation in the family violence sector. You can view this paper at <http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/node/578>
- Undertaken a preliminary evaluation of the 'Blow the Whistle' campaign funded by the Ministry of Social Development.
- In May this year Robyn will be spending sometime visiting other clearinghouses in the United Kingdom and Canada as well as giving several presentations on the work of the NZFVC and seeking research collaborations with international colleagues

Summer student assists the Clearinghouse in updating their Fact Sheets

Summer scholar Rebecca Allenby worked with the Clearinghouse over the 2011-2012 summer. Supervised by Drs Dixon and Fanslow, she assisted them in updating the Fact Sheet on Family Violence Statistics, a project she was highly commended for by the Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. In addition, at her instigation, Rebecca also produced five subject specific Fact Sheets from the revised Summary Fact Sheet. These are currently being formatted and will be available on the website shortly.

Reflecting on her summer studentship, Rebecca explains that the project ...“ has informed my thinking in terms of realizing systemic limitations that exist when working with data from government and non-government organizations.

Data is often collected with one purpose in mind, and then is used for many other actions. In such instances it is important that data limitations are recognized. The complexity of this will inform me in my future practice as an academic in the family violence field as I have a much clearer idea of why 'perfect' data isn't always available, and of the kinds of limitations and caveats that accompany data sets”.

A condition of the scholarship required Rebecca to give a public presentation on the outcomes of her research. Such was the quality of her work, she has been invited to present at the Health Informatics Conference later this year.

Postgraduate corner

In this corner of REASON we explore the work of PhD and Masters students and, in doing so, highlight the array of postgraduate research opportunities available within the School of Nursing. On offer at the School are opportunities to undertake Nursing Honours, Dissertations, Master of Nursing by research portfolio or thesis, and PhD study.

The School celebrates the submission of PhD theses by staff members

Dr Helen Hamer successfully defended her thesis in late 2011 that explores mental health service users' understandings of citizenship. Helen's research was undertaken at a time when mental health service users were lobbying to be treated as full citizens with the same participation, rights and responsibilities as other citizens. Her study questions whether the current philosophy of 'recovery' underpinning our mental health services in New Zealand helps or hinders mental health service users' journeys towards full citizenship. As a registered nurse Helen has had many years of experience working with service users on their recovery journeys whilst teaching recovery competencies to mental health workers. A decade on, Helen was concerned that the goals of recovery-based services were not being realised and that the system was not facilitating service users' aspirations to be fully participating members of society, with the same rights and opportunities as other citizens. The notion of a social justice platform in the delivery of health care led her to explore what citizenship means for the vulnerable and marginalised in society.



Dr Helen Hamer

Helen undertook in-depth individual and focus group interviews with 17 service users and 12 key stakeholders and analysed her findings using a conceptual framework that focuses on the social, civil and political dimensions of citizenship. Her overarching finding was that service users experience 'conditional citizenship', which includes barriers and restraints to their participation and to the rights and responsibilities that others in society enjoy. Helen is currently busy writing up publications from her study to ensure the implications of her findings for the future of the recovery approach reach a wide audience.

On reflecting on her PhD journey Helen suggests: "The opportunity to be a member of a peer support group of PhD students working with the same primary supervisor helped immensely to maintain my focus and encouragement to complete the project. The journey can seem long and at times a lonely process, on reflection it has been a wonderful and exciting experience to be able to make a contribution to the research in the area of my passion as a nurse".



Barbara Daly

Barbara Daly also submitted her PhD in 2011. Her study aimed to identify the key issues for primary health care nurses in the management of diabetes. Barbara says she is "excited to have submitted my PhD and looking forward to the oral presentation to complete this work. After graduating as a registered nurse I cared for many patients who presented with preventable diseases related to smoking and unhealthy lifestyles. From this, I became interested in disease prevention specifically related to cardiovascular disease and diabetes". As the incidence of diabetes continues to increase in New Zealand, there is a shortage of specialist health professionals to manage the condition. This has led to expanded roles for primary health care nurses in the community management of diabetes.

Barbara surveyed the three main groups of nurses who provide community-based care for diabetes patients, including: practice nurses (who make up the largest group) district nurses (who provide a mobile home care services), and specialist nurses (who are either diabetes nurse specialists or chronic care management nurses and mainly consult patients with diabetes-related complications and/or co-morbidities). Barbara's cross-sectional survey of a random sample of 287 primary healthcare nurses constitutes the first comprehensive survey of nurses based in primary health care in a large urban area of New Zealand. She attained an incredibly high response rate of 86% due to the support and participation of primary health care nurses in Auckland. Of the total primary health

care nurses working in Auckland (n=1,091), 26% were randomly sampled and included 210 practice nurses, 49 district nurses and 28 specialist nurses. The nurses surveyed completed a self-administered questionnaire and participated in a telephone interview where information on nurse's knowledge of diabetes and how they managed diabetes patients was gathered from the telephone survey. The survey generated information to help Barbara describe the role played by primary health care nurses, and compare the different nurse groups, describe their knowledge of diabetes management and identify any education needs for primary health care nurses. Findings from the survey are in the process of being published.

Barbara gives some excellent advice to other potential PhD candidates, suggesting: "To anyone else embarking on a PhD I'd advise you to choose a subject that you are really passionate about and think about your existing skills and interests you have so you can hone these before your enrol. While the journey to complete is long, perseverance and persistence is the key to completing".

Take a look at a selection of our recently completed Masters students

Kristal Roache, Thesis,
A Lesbian Family in a Straight World: the Impact of the transition to parenthood on the couple relationship in planned families.
Supervisors: Helen Hamer and Robyn Dixon.

Helen Greenway, Research portfolio,
Visiting in the ICU: the New Zealand Landscape.
Supervisors: Jane Bebbington and Robyn Dixon.

David Drower, Research portfolio,
Early detection of in-hospital adult physiological deterioration.
Supervisor: Andrew Jull.

Leanne Rhodes, Research portfolio,
Palliative Care for People with Severe COPD : an audit of care. **Supervisor: Dianne Marshall.**

Emilia Hlatywayo, Thesis,
An exploration of the experiences of mental health and addictions nurses providing clinical supervision in a New Zealand District Health Board.
Supervisors: Kate Prebble and Tony O'Brien.

David Garland, Thesis,
Sub-Tenon's anaesthesia for cataract surgery: exploring the factors associated with pain.
Supervisors: Mathew Parsons.

Yonhee Seo, Thesis,
Exploration of the effect of haemodialysis modality on blood pressure in patients with end stage kidney disease.
Supervisor: Robyn Dixon.

Michelle Eccleston, Thesis,
A Prospective Observation Study of Nasal High Flow in a Cardiothoracic and Vascular Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit.
Supervisors: Reena Patel and Robyn Dixon.

Rosalie Charman, Research portfolio,
Feeding Heart Babies: investigating the feeding and nutrition needs of infants with single ventricle defects and the impact of a Home Monitoring Program.
Supervisor: Robyn Dixon.

Wendy Wang, Research portfolio,
Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Nurses' Perceptions of Caring for the sickest patients with 2009 influenza A (H1N1): A two phase Qualitative Study.
Supervisor: Michelle Honey.

Elizabeth Tilton, Research portfolio,
Day-stay for Paediatric Cardiac Catheterisation: measuring the Impact.
Supervisor: Sandra Oster and Michael Crossan.

Stephanie Young, Research portfolio,
Improving the Signal: an analysis into the afferent arm of deterioration.
Supervisors: Andrew Jull and Ann McKillop.

Close up: Bronwen Pepperell

In 2011 I completed the final stage of my Masters of Nursing by dissertation. I was interested in exploring the impact of a targeted education programme for registered nurses employed in the residential aged care sector. Together with Dr Michal Boyd a comprehensive programme call ACCEL (Aged Care Clinical Education and Leadership) was designed, and facilitated in 2010 with 15 registered nurses. The programme aimed to increase clinical skill development and clinical decision making to improve resident outcomes.

To measure the impact on resident outcomes, nurse sensitive quality indicators were monitored. These indicators included completed skin, falls and nutrition risk assessment, as well as the presence of skin tears, lower limb ulcers, pressure injuries and pressure ulcers. These assessments are required to be completed as part of normal practice within residential aged care and the data was collected on site at each participating residential aged care facility at the commencement of the programme and at six month post the conclusion. In brief, there was a marked difference between the two groups of data, with most results demonstrating statistical significance. It appeared that the number of risk assessments completed increased significantly and at the same time the presence of skin tear, lower limb ulcers and pressure injuries and ulcers decreased.



Bronwen Pepperell

My current role is at Taranaki District Health Board as a Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Community in the Older People's Health and Rehabilitation Service. The focus of this role is providing specialist gerontology nursing support for older people in the community setting. I work closely with a team of geriatricians, occupational therapists, physiotherapist, speech language therapist and social workers.

The six years I have spent completing my Masters Degree have flown by and my knowledge about nursing, evidenced based practice, advanced assessment, pharmacology, long term condition and leadership (just to mention a few topics) has grown significantly. Lastly I would like to take the opportunity to thank my supervisor, Dr Michal Boyd, and the University of Auckland post graduate staff for their mentoring during this journey.

A focus on evidence based practice

Associate Professor Andrew Jull has over 15 years experience in the effectiveness movement. As well as teaching evidence based practice and clinical trial design, he has led three Cochrane systematic reviews and been involved in the development of three national guidelines for the management of chronic leg ulcers, weight management and management of burns and scalds in primary care. In this issue of REASON we take the time to profile Andrew's career so far.

Dr Andrew is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, Senior Research Fellow at the Clinical Trials Research Unit and Nurse Advisor, Quality at Auckland District Health Board. He has had extensive acute care experience from multiple roles, many senior, at Auckland City Hospital. He has a Diploma in Business Studies (Massey University), a Master's degree in Nursing (Victoria University of Wellington), and a PhD in Medicine (University of Auckland).

Andrew has been an active researcher since he was awarded the Health Research Council Foxley Fellowship in 2001. In that time he has been lead investigator on research investigating the uptake of a clinical practice guideline, the impact of leg ulceration on quality of life, and clinical trials of treatments for leg ulceration (honey, progressive resistance exercise and NEXAGON). He has also been co-investigator on other studies including the eGAME feasibility studies and eGAME trial (testing the effect of active electronic games on preventing obesity in children), the TV watching feasibility study (TV restriction to prevent obesity in children), the Problem Gambling trial, and an Health Research Council partnership grant to investigate palliative care.

As Nurse Advisor, Quality for Auckland District Health Board, Andrew is active in patient safety initiatives. He led the implementation of an early warning scoring system and the development of a blood transfusion checklist, is clinical lead on the falls and pressure injuries project, and is involved with the Northern Region's First Do No Harm programme.

Andrew also supervises many students doing postgraduate research on cardiac rehabilitation outcomes, early warning scoring systems, health-related quality of life in morbid obesity, clinical pathways, leg ulcer clinics, high-flow oxygen, medication administration, and comparison of methods for blood pressure measurement.



Associate Professor Andrew Jull

A warm welcome for Nurse Practitioner Dr Michal Boyd

The School made the announcement in March this year that Dr Michal Boyd has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer. While lecturing at the University she will continue to spend part of her time continuing her clinical work as a Nurse Practitioner in older people's health at Waitemata District Health Board.

Michal has been a provider, leader and researcher of care management for older people since the early 1990s. Before moving to New Zealand from the United States, Michal held a joint appointment as a Nurse Practitioner and Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado. She has led the development and evaluation of advanced nursing roles as well as implementing innovative services for long term conditions and care coordination across primary, secondary and residential care settings. In 2011, Michal led the development of the Ministry of Health's Medicine Care Guides for Residential Aged Care and she was instrumental in the development of the Acute Intervention Respiratory Service, the Residential Aged Care Integration Programme, and the BRIGHT brief screening tool to identify older people at risk.

The School warmly welcomes Michal and we look forward to seeing her expertise being shared with our nursing students.

Head of School comments

This is our third edition of REASON and we are glad to be able to continue showcasing the success of staff members.

In this issue we celebrated the appointment of Dr Nicolette Sheridan as Associate Professor, Drs Gary Bellamy and Rosemary Frey as Research Fellows, and Dr Michal Boyd as senior lecturer. These appointments will undoubtedly strengthen the research capacity within the School. We also featured Associate Professor Robyn Dixon's successful bid to manage the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and heard about the work this initiative will achieve. Four of our staff members also received external funding intended to develop larger research programmes. We encourage you to have a look at our full list of projects and publications on our website at www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research.

Our postgraduate corner highlighted two PhD submissions by staff in the School and also presented the diverse range of Masters research being completed. This kind of diversity was continued with our summer research student's projects, with two of students receiving a top prize and highly commended award. The School also welcomed Zonghua (Shirley) Wang to the School of Nursing who will be looking into the sexual and reproductive health of Chinese students in New Zealand with the support of a prestigious Chinese Council Scholarship.

The School is currently being assessed through the Performance Based Research Funding exercise and this edition of REASON clearly shows we are on track to perform well.

We thank you for the positive feedback we have received about REASON and look forward to bringing you up to speed with our fourth edition later this year.



Associate Professor Judy Kilpatrick.



Enjoying our new premises

The School has now relocated to its new home at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences campus in Grafton. After a few years of refurbishments and major transformations, the School is now located in a brand new building.

Our contact details remain the same:

School of Nursing
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142

Web:
www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/son/research

Email:
nursingresearch@auckland.ac.nz

Phone:
+64 9 373 7599

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home should you come and visit the School.

