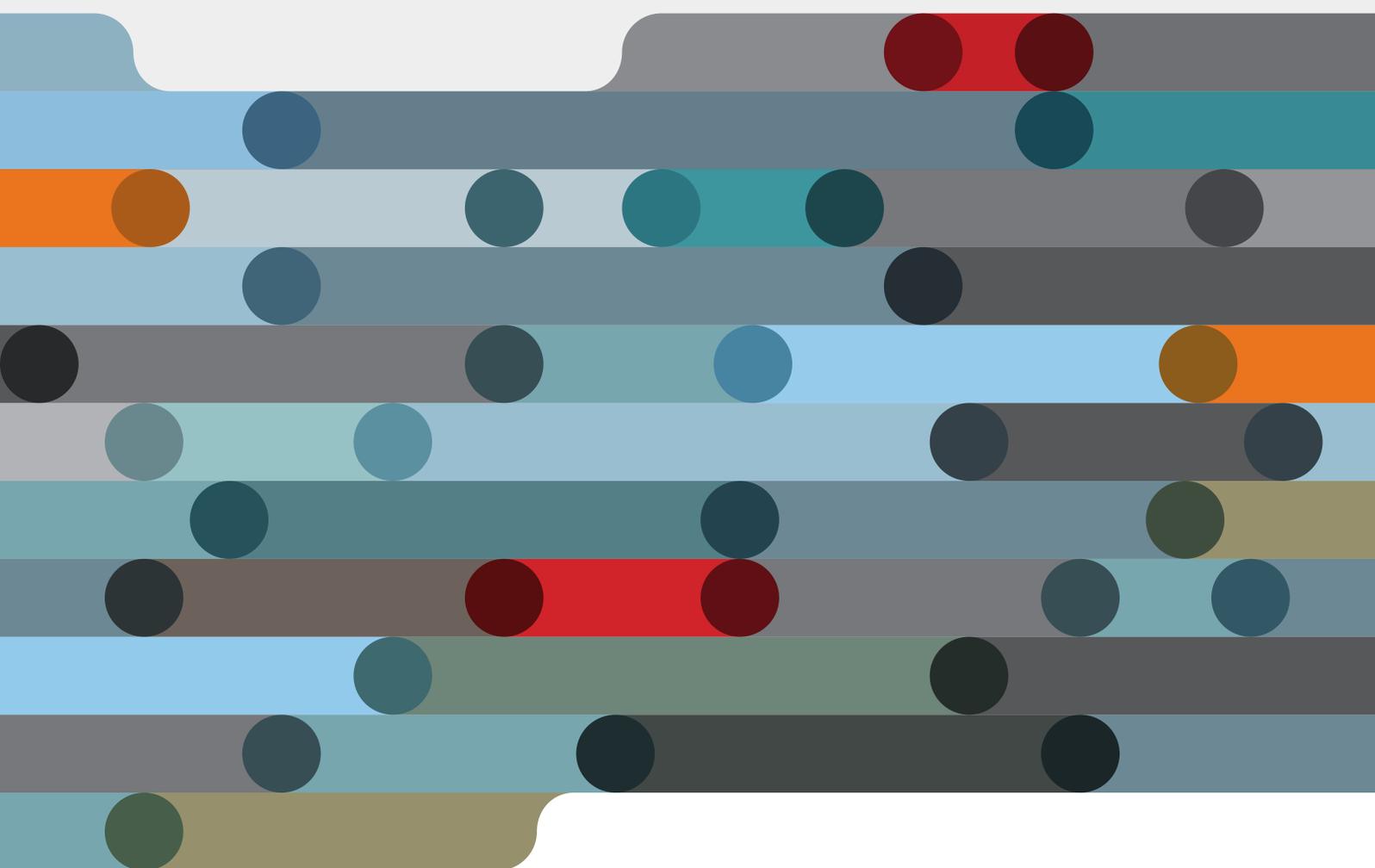


Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health
and
Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science
(Swinburne University of Technology)

Annual Research Report

JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022



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The Annual Research Report is available on our website:
www.forensicare.vic.gov.au

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Report by Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM

University Distinguished Professor and Director, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.
Executive Director of Psychological Services and Research, Forensicare.

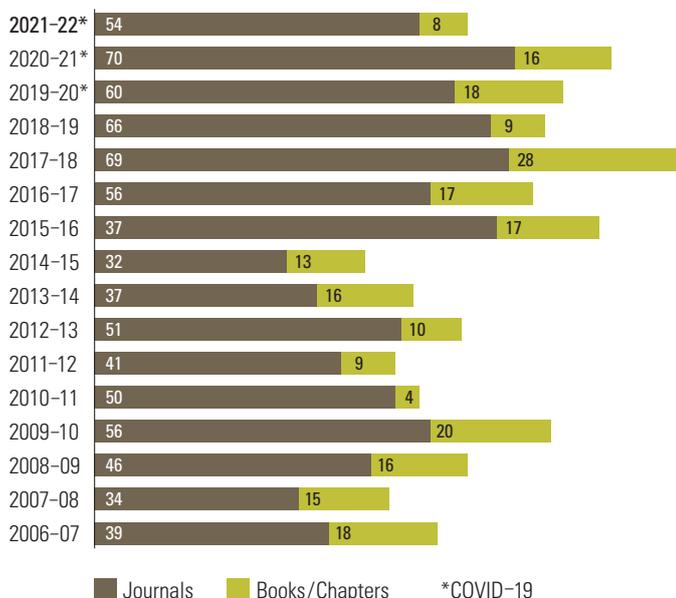
Welcome to the 2021–2022 Annual Research Report for the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare) and the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS).

I am pleased to report that despite the ongoing pandemic, our research and training activities continued throughout the year, and began to normalise during the second half of the fiscal year.

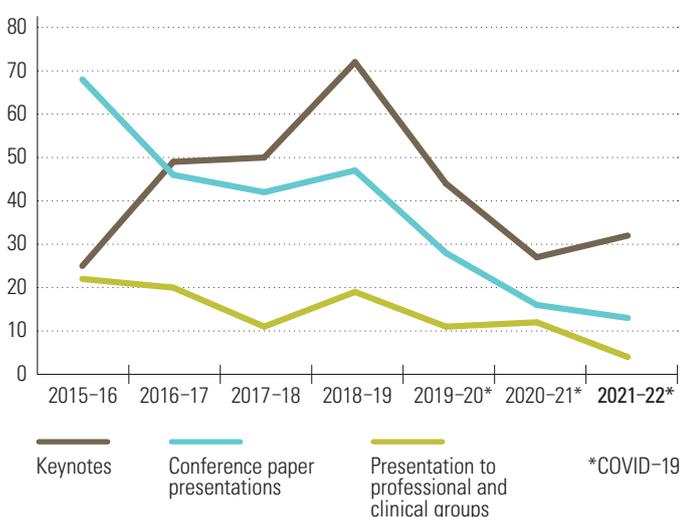
The CFBS has continued to see growth in income secured to deliver research, service evaluation, and professional training. In 2021–2022 we secured \$4,066,539 in funding, comprised of \$3,945,194 for research/evaluation and \$121,344 for training.

Highlighting our productivity, in 2021–2022 CFBS and Forensicare staff published 54 peer-reviewed journal articles, plus eight books/chapters. We also completed 17 industry reports for a range of clients and partners, including Forensicare. Although conferences were just starting to return, our staff gave four invited keynote presentations at national/international conferences.

Publications



Presentations



Staff appointments and movement

Forensicare appointed Dr. Trentham Furness to the position of Research Manager. Dr. Furness has more than a decade of experience developing and implementing research projects in mental health services.

Dr. Justin Trounson, Senior Lecturer at the CFBS, resigned his position to focus on private practice. Dr. Trounson made contributions in both the CFBS and Forensicare more widely in wellbeing and Aboriginal cultural sensitivity.

Dr. Benjamin Spivak was promoted to Senior Lecturer in recognition of his growing expertise and profile in forensic mental health research.

Professor Michael Daffern served as Acting Director of the CFBS during my secondment to the role of Acting Dean, School of Health Sciences (February–June).

Development of the Forensicare Research Strategy 2021–2026

A major activity during the year was the development of a set of research priorities that are consistent with the Forensicare Strategic Plan. We identified six research priorities following key stakeholder engagement and expert consultation over multiple workshop and planning sessions. The priorities were subsequently approved by the Forensicare Operational Research Committee (ORC). The strategic priorities are founded in the nexus between science and practice, with each informing the other to ensure excellence and evidence-based practice in our service. Our six research priority areas also align with the Forensicare vision: meaningful lives lived safely; hope in recovery; connected care.

The Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program

The Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program (FMHPDP) is a training initiative jointly developed and delivered cooperatively by the CFBS and Forensicare to further the skill development of clinicians and service providers who interact with the forensic mental health and justice systems. This is a particularly important topic in light of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, which has recommended a substantial increase in the capacity of the forensic mental health system. Increasing capacity requires significant investment to educate and train clinicians and service providers. As such, the FMHPDP plays a pivotal role in supporting the mental health and forensic mental health workforce development and training in Victoria. The FMHPDP commenced in 2022 and has held a range of professional development workshops to audiences comprising mental health professionals, non-governmental organisation staff members, and staff from the criminal justice system. The programs have been very well attended and participants have been very positive about the offerings.

Notable and significant measures of research excellence

Forensicare and the CFBS have a proud history of scholarly excellence. For 2021/22, there has been recognition of outstanding contribution to research in forensic and behavioural science.

Staff

- Dr Nina Papalia commenced a Fulbright Fellowship at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, received the Swinburne University of Technology Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Early Career), and a Competitive Trainee Award (International) at the Summer Training Institute for Early Career Scholars in Child Abuse & Neglect from Pennsylvania State University.
- Associate Professor Stephane Shepherd received the Swinburne University of Technology Vice-Chancellor's Service Excellence Award and was appointed to the Victorian Youth Parole Board
- Dr Meredith Gray was awarded the 2022 RANZCP Medicott Award for excellence in research in forensic psychiatry
- Dr Tessa Maguire was appointed as the School of Health Sciences ECR representative on the Swinburne Early Career Research (ECR) Advisory Committee
- Lorrae Mynard received an Occupational Therapy Australia Research Fund grant 2021.

Students

- Israa Altwaijiri was awarded a Madeleine Capicchiano bursary from Graduate Women Victoria and Australian Communities Foundation
- Yiota Zingirlis received a Health Education and Training (HETI) Award in Mental Health Research
- Dr. Grant Blake was nominated for the Iain Wallace Research Medal
- Dr. Reece Cossar won the Dean's Award for Best Higher Degree Research Thesis
- Maicee Harrison was the successful recipient of a Gowrie Scholarship from Australian National University.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, our research and training activities continued throughout the year, and began to normalise during the second half of the fiscal year.

Preparing this annual report is a bittersweet moment for me. It is my last report as I have now stepped down as Executive Director, Psychological Services and Research from Forensicare and as the Director of the CFBS at Swinburne University of Technology. When I was recruited to Australia more than 20 years ago, never did I dream that we would be able to develop such a rich and vibrant research centre and culture. This work – and the great support I have received – has truly been a great pleasure. Supervising, mentoring, and working alongside so many exceptional people has been my life's honour.

I want to thank Maree Stanford, who has worked diligently as my Executive Assistance for 20 years. She helped organise my office and work in a way that enabled me to succeed. I owe her a debt of gratitude for her support, expertise, and graciousness. Over many years, I have also benefitted from the wisdom and support of Professor Michael Daffern, who has assumed the Directorship of the CFBS. Brett McIvor has been a fantastic Research Centre Coordinator and has been promoted to Operations Manager – he keeps the machine running. Dr. Trentham Furness has jumped into the role of Research Manager for Forensicare, and done so with skill and collegiality.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to the CFBS staff members, students, and Forensicare researchers who are such a vital part of our work. Dr. Margaret Grigg, CEO of Forensicare, and Professor Bruce Thompson, Dean of Health Sciences until January 2022, have provided very strong support to me and the CFBS.



Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM FAPS

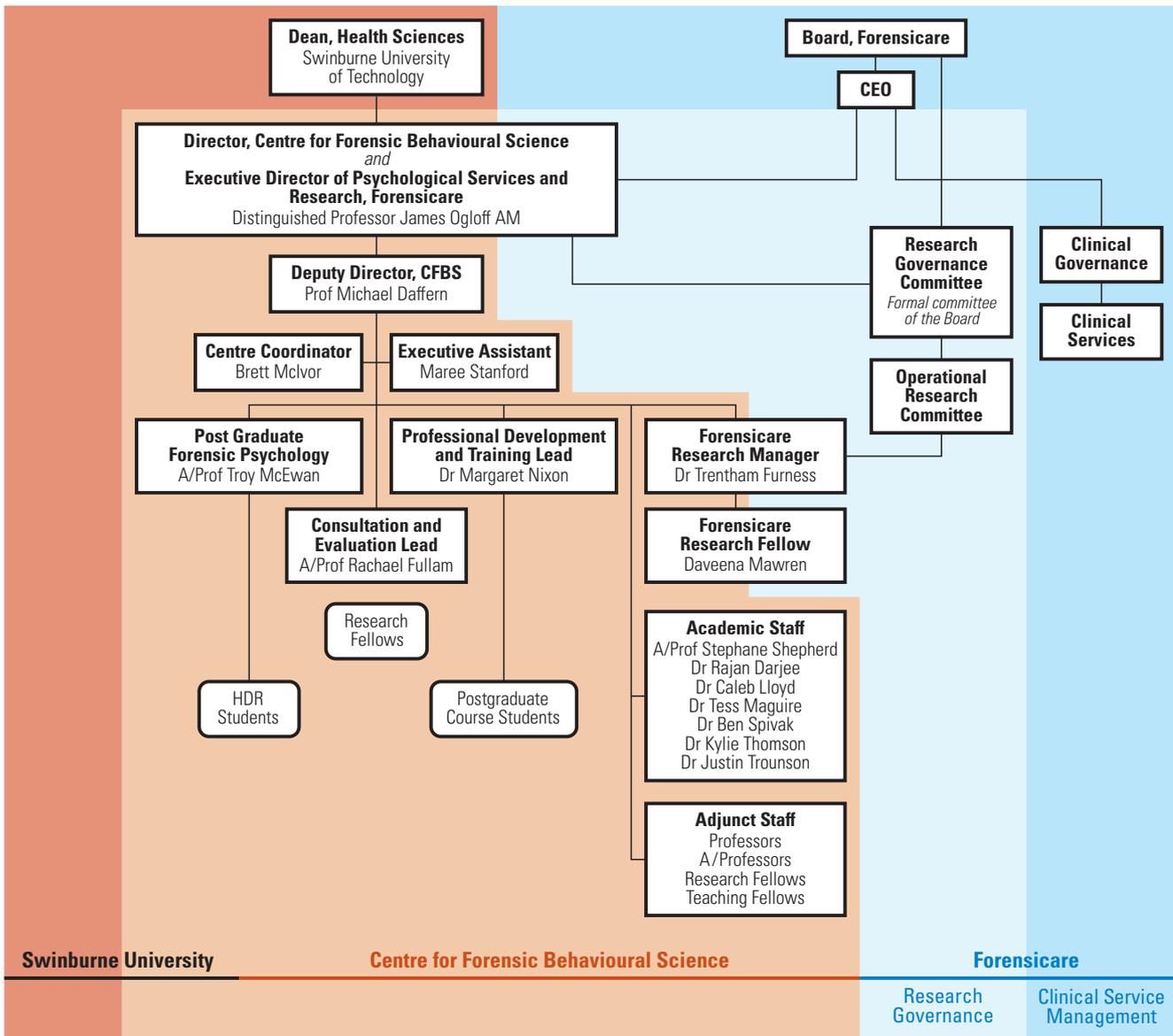
*Executive Director of Psychological Services and Research and
Director, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science*

Forensicare – CFBS Research Program

Research and evaluation at Forensicare are conducted through the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS). The CFBS operates under the auspices of Swinburne University of Technology and serves as the research arm of Forensicare. This partnership ensures high quality independent research is undertaken to better inform clinical practice and support the needs of consumers and carers at Forensicare. The program also supports Forensicare staff to build their research capability through partnering with academics with lived experience and/or clinical expertise across a variety of disciplines, including psychology, psychiatry, nursing, social work and occupational therapy. The statutory functions and powers of Forensicare include the requirement “to conduct research in the fields of forensic mental health, forensic health, forensic behavioural science and associated fields” and to “promote continuous improvements and innovations in the provision of forensic mental health and related services in Victoria” (*Mental Health Act 2014* s.330(g) & s.330(h)).

Forensicare’s requirement to conduct research is quite unique among forensic mental health services in Australia. All too often, a tension exists between research and practice in clinical services, and forensic mental health services are typically no different. The research program enables a critical nexus between science and practice, with each informing the other to ensure excellence and evidence-based practice in service delivery. The research program is driven by the Forensicare Research Department, which supports Forensicare staff to build their research capability, facilitates research that aligns with Forensicare’s strategic priorities and promotes dissemination of research outcomes and translation.

Forensicare and CFBS organisational arrangements



Forensicare research governance

Research coordination and oversight at Forensicare is provided by a hierarchical structure of two committees and a number of key policies, agreements and organisational documents.

Research governance framework

All research conducted at Forensicare is guided by the Forensicare Research Governance Framework. The Framework is informed by, and developed in accordance with, two key Federal publications; Joint National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council documents, the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) and the Joint National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council, National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2018).

Forensicare Swinburne Research Governance Committee

This committee was jointly established by Forensicare and Swinburne University of Technology to govern research across Forensicare and the CFBS. The committee comprises a range of senior level representatives from both Forensicare and Swinburne, including the Forensicare Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and two Forensicare Board members.

Forensicare's Operational Research Committee

The Operational Research Committee (ORC) provides a formal structure for developing and monitoring research across the organisation. The ORC acts as the main gateway for researchers wishing to gain approval to conduct research involving Forensicare staff, consumers, or resources. The ORC reviews all grant applications and research proposals in order to establish operational support for the project before they are submitted to an external Human Research Ethics Committee for approval. In addition, the ORC monitors the receipt of ethical approval for each operationally approved study and reviews the progress of each approved project against their specified milestones. The key responsibilities of the ORC include:

- Review of all research applications involving Forensicare staff, consumers, or resources,
- Development and implementation of the Research Operational Plan,
- Providing oversight to research activity within the organisation,
- Development and implementation of research governance policies and guidelines,
- Identification of service evaluation priorities,
- Development of mechanisms to engage Forensicare staff in research, and
- Development of mechanisms to disseminate research findings and to ensure translation for use within Forensicare.

Forensicare Operational Research Committee membership 2021–2022

Professor James Ogloff (Chair)

Executive Director of Research and Psychological Services

Dr Danny Sullivan

Executive Director, Clinical Services

Mr Terry Runciman

Executive Director of Prison Services

Ms Jo Ryan

Director of Nursing

Dr Chris Quinn

Senior Mental Health Nurse

Ms Cayte Hoppner

Chief Coordinating Officer

Ms Anthea Lemphers

Executive Director, Community Operations

Dr Aleksandra Belofastov

Director of Psychological Services

Ms Marissa Davidson-Blue

Chief Occupational Therapist

Ms Larissa Dern

Chief Lived Experience

Ms Teresa Kudinoff

Operations Manager, Inpatient Acute

Mr Liam Shaw

Operations Manager, Inpatient Rehabilitation

Ms Fiona Whitecross

Executive Director, Inpatient Services

Ms Brittany McVeagh

Consumer Consultant

Ms Daveena Mawren

Forensicare Research Fellow

Dr Tess Maguire

Senior Lecturer Forensic Mental Health Nursing

Dr Trentham Furness

Forensicare Research Manager.

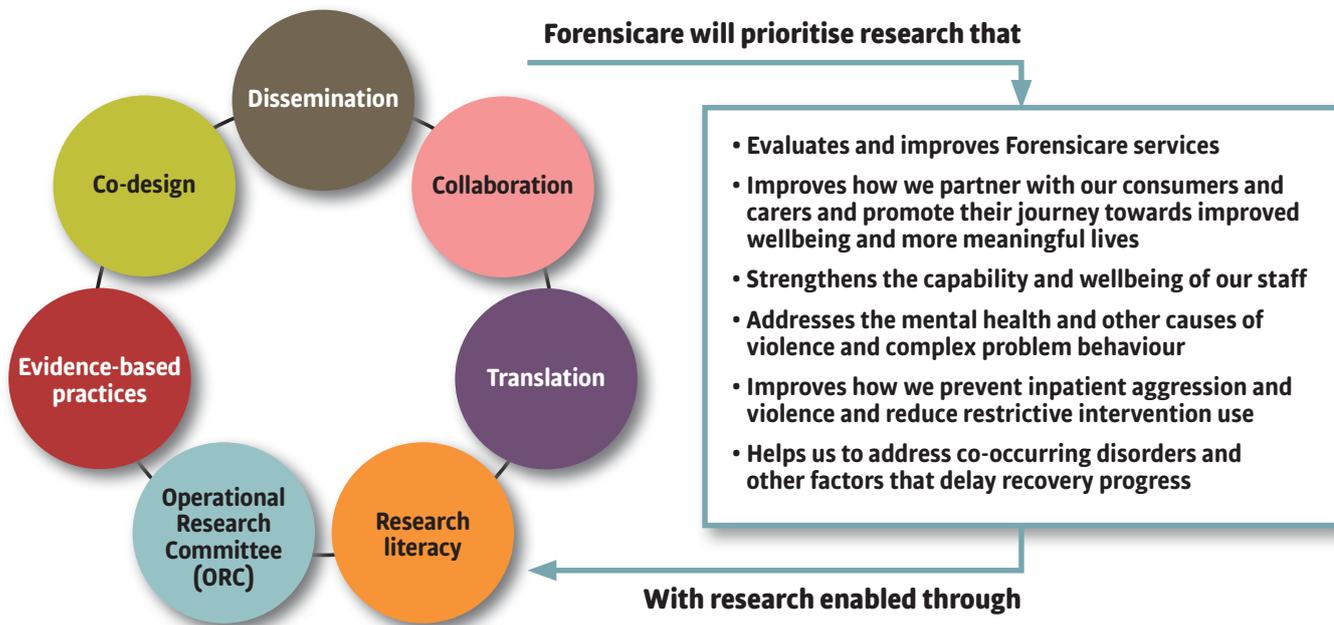
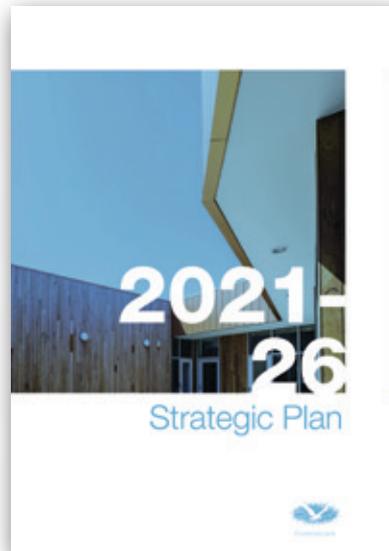
Forensicare – CFBS Research Program

Forensicare Research Strategy 2021-2026

The last financial year saw the release of The Operational Plan; Strategic Direction 4 – Research, Education & Innovation 2021-2026. The Plan was developed to meet the outcomes of Research Direction 4 of the Forensicare Strategic Plan 2021-2026:

- 4.1 Promote innovation, knowledge creation, translation and application best practice in forensic mental health services
- 4.2 Strengthening the research capability of Forensicare staff and aligning with future service directions
- 4.3 Teaching, training and education in forensic mental health services across Victoria supports the prevention, early intervention and recovery of those living with mental illness and engaging in offending behaviours.

The Operational Plan details seven key elements to meet the outcomes of Strategic Direction 4. The elements overlap and intersect, as such no single element has priority over another. The plan included six priorities and enablers (see figure below) developed following extensive consultation with key stakeholders across the organisation. The strategic priorities are founded in the nexus between science and practice, with each informing the other to ensure excellence and evidence-based practice in our service. The six research priority areas also align with the Forensicare vision: meaningful lives lived safely; hope in recovery; connected care.





The Research Strategy comprises six priority areas designed to facilitate research, innovation and education at Forensicare

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS) was established as a partnership between Monash University and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare) in 2007. It marked the culmination of 15 years of excellence in forensic mental health and forensic behavioural science in Victoria. Forensic behavioural science concerns the study of factors that underlie offending and human behaviour in the legal system. In January 2014, the CFBS relocated to Swinburne University of Technology. The establishment of CFBS has ensured the sustainability of research in forensic mental health and forensic behavioural science at Forensicare.

The CFBS is Australasia's leading centre for excellence in the areas of forensic mental health and forensic behavioural science research, teaching and practice development. It is envisaged that the CFBS will evolve and strengthen the field of forensic behavioural science, both in Australia and internationally. A key focus of the CFBS is to transfer academic and clinical excellence into practice in the health, community services and criminal justice sectors.

It brings together academics, clinicians, researchers and students from a variety of disciplines. The specialist areas of psychiatry, psychology, social work, law, nursing, occupational therapy and epidemiology are all represented. Additional expertise is available through affiliations established with industry partners, such as Victoria Police and Corrections Victoria, and international experts.



CFBS staff members

The Centre has 26 Swinburne academic staff members, including 13 core members, 12 research fellows and one project officer. Over 15 sessional research assistants are also contracted to work across a range of research activities.

Core Academic Staff Members

- Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM (Director)
- Professor Michael Daffern (Deputy Director)
- Associate Professor Rachael Fullam (Evaluation and Consultation Lead and Catalyst Consortium Manager)
- Associate Professor Troy McEwan
- Associate Professor Stephane Shepherd
- Dr Trentham Furness (Forensicare Research Manager)
- Dr Rajan Darjee (Senior Lecturer)
- Dr Caleb Lloyd (Senior Lecturer)
- Dr Tessa Maguire (Senior Lecturer Forensic Mental Health Nursing)
- Dr Margaret Nixon (Lecturer)
- Dr Benjamin Spivak (Lecturer)
- Dr Kylie Thomson (Senior Lecturer)
- Dr. Justin Trounson (Lecturer)

Research Fellows

- Dr Elizabeth Daff
- Dr Ashley Dunne
- Dr Marie Henshaw
- Dr Natasha Maharaj
- Dr Anne Sophie Pichler
- Dr Nina Papalia
- Dr Janet Ruffles
- Dr Melanie Simmons
- Dr. Reneta Slikboer
- Ms Charlotte Boyce
- Ms Tina Hosseini
- Ms Daveena Mawren

Project Officer

- Ms Katie Richardson

Associate Members

- Associate Professor Jeffrey Pfeifer (Psychological Sciences)
- Dr Joel McGregor (Lecturer and Discipline Convener, Criminology)
- Dr Jason Skues (Senior Lecturer, Psychological Sciences)

CFBS Adjunct Staff Members

Adjunct Professors

- Professor Brian McKenna (Auckland University & Mason Clinic, New Zealand)
- Professor Min Yang (Sichuan University, China)
- Professor Stephen Wong (University of Saskatchewan & University of Nottingham)
- Professor Rosemary Sheehan (Monash University)
- Professor Mark Rallings (The University of Queensland)
- Professor Michele Pathé (Consultant)

Adjunct Associate Professors

- Associate Professor Stefan Luebbers (Alfred Health)
- Associate Professor Suzanne Strand (Örebro University, Sweden)
- Associate Professor Stuart Lee (Alfred Health)
- Associate Professor Danny Sullivan

Adjunct Research Fellows

- Dr Calvin Jutasi (Forensicare)
- Dr Caroline Lambert (Tandem)
- Dr David Thomas (Consultant Psychiatrist, Forensicare)
- Dr Emma Alleyne
- Dr Flora Gilbert (Principal Psychology Educator, Forensicare)
- Dr Lillian Debortoli
- Dr Niki Loft (Forensicare)
- Dr Shelley Turner (Forensicare)
- Dr Svenja Senkans (Ameos Gruppe)

Adjunct Industry Fellow:

- Dr Cleo Brandt (Victoria Police)
- Dr Trentham Furness (Forensicare)

Adjunct Clinical Associates:

- Dr Ahona Guha (Psychologist, Forensicare)
- Dr Aleksandra Belofastov (Director of Psychological Services, Forensicare)
- Dr Bianca Levis (Neuropsychologist, Forensicare)
- Dr Bonnie Albrecht (Senior Forensic Psychologist, Forensicare)
- Mr Chris Drake (Principal Psychologist, Problem Behaviour Program, Forensicare)
- Dr Chris Quinn (Senior Mental Health Nurse, Forensicare)
- Dr Claudia Mulder (Lead Clinician, Personality Disorder Initiative, Forensicare)
- Dr Rachel Campbell (Senior Psychologist, Forensicare)
- Dr Rachel MacKenzie (Private Practice)
- Dr Neira Ott, Senior Psychologist (Alfred Health)
- Dr Keerthana Rudhra, Psychologist (Forensicare)
- Dr Lauren Ducat, Senior Psychologist (Forensicare)
- Dr Lisa Clarke, Psychologist (Private Practice)
- Dr Lisa Forrester, Psychologist (Children's Court)
- Dr Melisa Wood (Principal Psychologist, Court Reports, Forensicare)
- Ms Lorrae Mynard (Lead Occupational Therapist, Forensicare)
- Dr Matt Frize (Director, Department of Families, Fairness & Housing)
- Ms Susie Hancox (Forensicare).

CFBS tertiary education programs

One of the objectives of the CFBS is to provide postgraduate training opportunities to people who work in the forensic behavioural science or forensic mental health fields. To this end, we have developed the Graduate Program in Forensic Behavioural Science and the Graduate Program in Forensic Psychology.

Graduate programs in forensic behavioural science

Professionals who work in forensic mental health/behavioural science contexts, or with forensic populations (such as offenders) require specialised skills. The Graduate Certificate in Forensic Behavioural Science, Graduate Diploma of Forensic Behavioural Science, and Master of Forensic Behavioural Science are the only courses of their kind in Australia to provide such specialised training to a range of professionals/students who are working in (or are seeking to work in) forensic contexts. The CFBS also offers both a Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Forensic Mental Health Nursing, and the newly created Graduate Certificate in Forensic Psychiatric Practice, which is the only specialised course for the practice of psychiatry in forensic settings currently on offer in Australia. These courses provide advanced (Grad Cert) through to highly specialised (Master's degree) education and training in the core issues and theories required for effective practice in forensic settings across a range of disciplines. Students will develop both a knowledge base and practical skills to enable them to work with the diverse range of clients and professionals encountered in forensic practice. Teaching staff in the program have clinical as well as academic responsibilities, ensuring the course content is empirically grounded and relevant to the challenges associated with working in forensic settings.

The program is offered online on a part-time basis, and students can elect to complete individual units, or to graduate with a Post-Graduate Certificate (4 units), Post-Graduate Diploma (8 units) or the Masters degree (12 units). Admission to the program is available to students who possess a relevant tertiary qualification or significant relevant work experience.

Graduate Certificate in Forensic Behavioural Science

The Graduate Certificate provides the necessary basic knowledge and training to enable a range of professionals to work within forensic settings. The course provides a comprehensive introduction to the key principles and work practices in forensic fields, including an overview of relevant legal systems and procedures, and the fundamentals of violence risk assessment and management.

Graduate Diploma in Forensic Behavioural Science

The Graduate Diploma in Forensic Behavioural Science is designed to provide advanced training to enable a range of professionals to work effectively and independently within forensic settings. Graduates acquire in-depth knowledge and skills in various aspects of forensic behavioural science, including legal and correctional system functioning, fundamentals of violence risk assessment and management, and comprehensive understanding of complex systemic, individual and mental health factors that influence offending behaviour.

Master of Forensic Behavioural Science (Coursework)

The Master of Forensic Behavioural Science comprises coursework and research training that enables graduates to work effectively with the widest range of forensic environments and populations, and to deal with complex and challenging issues in an autonomous manner. In addition to acquiring in-depth knowledge and skills in various aspects of forensic behavioural science, graduates gain knowledge of fundamental research methods, and then may elect to complete either the coursework stream, or the research stream, where they develop their ability to conduct a research project independently.

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science

Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health Nursing

The Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health Nursing provides a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practice of nursing in forensic mental health, including key legal principles and legislation, and core clinical skills (such as violence risk assessment and management), enabling graduates to work effectively in forensic contexts or with forensic patients.

Graduate Diploma in Forensic Mental Health Nursing

Building on the graduate certificate program, students in the Graduate Diploma will acquire in-depth knowledge and skills required to work effectively in forensic mental health nursing, including understanding legal and correctional systems, advanced instruction in the complex systemic and individual mental health factors that influence offending behaviour, and how to work effectively with challenging patients and behaviours.

Graduate Certificate in Forensic Psychiatric Practice

The Graduate Certificate in Forensic Psychiatric Practice provides specialised education to meet the requirement of the Advanced Training program for registrars in psychiatry in Australia. The course includes a specialised unit specifically focussed on the practice of psychiatry in a forensic context, and the skills and knowledge required by psychiatrist wishing to practice as a consultant in forensic settings.

Graduate program in forensic psychology

To become qualified forensic psychologists, the Psychology Board of Australia requires that, following a four-year course in psychology, students undertake postgraduate training. The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council requires particular topics be covered in coursework and clinical supervision. Swinburne offers two streams: the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical and Forensic) and the Graduate Diploma in Forensic Psychology.

Doctor of Psychology (Clinical and Forensic)

This post-graduate training program combines intensive training in clinical and forensic psychology coursework, clinical placements and a research thesis. It is designed to train highly qualified clinicians and researchers who can work in either or both practical or academic roles in clinical and forensic psychology domains. The course is offered as a four-year, full-time program. It is designed for students who have completed a four-year degree in psychology.

Graduate Diploma in Forensic Psychology

The Graduate Diploma in Forensic Psychology is a post-graduate course of study that provides advanced training in forensic psychology. The course comprises four coursework units and clinical placements over two years. Students engage with forensic mental health and justice agencies and complete placements allowing them to acquire expertise in a practical setting under the supervision of a forensic psychologist. Enrolment is open to registered psychologists who already hold an endorsement by the Psychology Board of Australia in another relevant area.

Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program

The Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program (FMHPDP) provides a professional development program for individuals, teams and organisations looking to expand their knowledge and understanding of forensic behaviour and mental health issues. Workshops are provided throughout the year and are also available on request. Since re-launching as a joint initiative between Forensicare and the CFBS earlier this year, a total of 10 workshops have been held with over 200 registrations.

CFBS Research

Researchers at the Centre conduct a range of clinical, epidemiological and experimental research across seven key research streams within the field of forensic behavioural science.

Aggression and violence

Complex criminal behaviour

Forensic mental health

Psychology and legal processes

Childhood maltreatment and youth offending

Culture, psychology and law

Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Independent consultation and service evaluation

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science is a nationally and internationally recognised provider of consultation, evaluation and primary research services across correctional and health settings. Led by Associate Professor Rachael Fullam, CFBS staff work closely with a range of organisations to:

- provide expert advice
- provide literature, best practice and state of the science reviews
- develop and validate specialist assessments, programs and focused interventions
- conduct evaluation of new and existing services
- contribute to the development and revision of public policy.

In the last financial year, the CFBS has been contracted for consultation and evaluation services by Queensland Corrective Services, Victoria Police and Court Services Victoria. In addition, Forensicare is increasingly contracting formal service evaluation to the CFBS. Although many CFBS staff hold joint Forensicare and Swinburne appointments, when undertaking contracted evaluation work for the CFBS, they do so strictly within a research role. All research conducted at Forensicare is overseen by a number of research governance committees and guidelines that are independent of clinical governance processes.

Grant funded research

Over the years the CFBS has been successful in securing grant funding to support a broad range of clinical, epidemiological and experimental research. The table on the following page outlines the grant funded projects underway (or completed) during the last financial year. A detailed overview of each project is provided in the next section of the report, under the associated key research stream.

Research stream: Aggression and Violence

Lead Researchers (CFBS)	Project	Funding body	Value
Dr. Caleb D. Lloyd Dr. Ariel Stone	Acute Dynamic Risk Assessment Program / DRAOR and SDAC-21 Case Management Tools Implementation and Evaluation	Department of Justice	\$412,500
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd Prof. James Ogloff Prof. Michele Pathé	Preventing Violent Extremism in Victoria – Exploring the profiles of young Victorians at-risk	Department of Justice and Community Safety, Countering Violent Extremism Research Grants	\$84,175

Research stream: Complex criminal behaviour

Lead Researchers	Project	Funding body	Value
Prof. James Ogloff Dr. Marie Henshaw	Preventing repeat child exploitation material offending: A psychological intervention approach	Australian Institute of Criminology, Child Exploitation Material Reduction Research Program	\$150,887
A/Prof. Troy McEwan Dr. Nina Papalia	Emergency department presentations for mental illness, substance use, and self-harm among family violence victims and perpetrators: Identifying opportunities for prevention.	Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation	\$15,572
Prof. James Ogloff Dr Marie Henshaw Prof. Denise Meyer	Understanding and responding to online child sexual exploitation offenders	Australian Research Council, Linkage Grant Program	\$482,366

Research stream: Psychology and legal processes

Lead Researchers	Project	Funding body	Value
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd	The consideration of culture in pre-sentence reports	Swinburne University Faculty of Health, Arts and Design Research Development Grant (Early Career Researcher)	\$9,940

Research stream: Childhood maltreatment and youth offending

Lead Researchers	Project	Funding body	Value
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd Dr. Nina Papalia Dr. Cieran Harris	Exploring the transition from youth to adult offending – A 10-year follow-up study of Australian young people in custody	Australian Institute of Criminology	\$80,790.88

Research stream: Culture, psychology and law

Lead Researchers	Project	Funding body	Value
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd	Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre	Neighbourhood Justice Centre	\$50,000
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd Dr. Benjamin Spivak	The impact of micro-aggressions on the distress levels of Indigenous university students	Swinburne University Indigenous Studies Research Grant	\$5,000
A/Prof. Stephane Shepherd	Cross-cultural violence risk assessment	Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award	\$336,996

Research stream: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Lead Researchers	Project	Funding body	Value
Dr. Caleb D. Lloyd	Offender decision making and desistance from crime	United States Department of Justice National Institute of Justice Research, Development, and Evaluation Grant Award	\$458,950
Prof Michael Daffern	Turning the tide on Prison Violence	New Zealand Government	\$216,508.35 (NZD)

Key CFBS research streams:

Aggression and violence

Leads: Professor Michael Daffern and Dr Kylie Thomson

Acts of aggression and violence – including assault, homicide and sexual violence – represent some of the most harmful of all antisocial behaviours. They are associated with substantial personal and social harms and have an enormous financial impact, costing economies billions of dollars each year in health care, legal and justice system costs, absenteeism from work and lost productivity. Given the extent of the burden resulting from aggression and violence and the large proportion of prisoner populations who have been convicted of violent crimes, it is critical we devote attention and resources to the development of violence prevention and intervention programs.

Our work in this stream includes ongoing service-oriented studies aimed at reducing incidents of violence and aggression at the hospital.

Grant funded research in progress

Preventing violent extremism in Victoria – Exploring the profiles of young Victorians at-risk

Department of Justice and Community Safety, Countering Violent Extremism Research Grants (\$84,175.04)

Stephane Shepherd, James Ogloff, Michele Pathé, Mario Scalora, Zora Sukabdi

Rationale and aims:

The aims of the study are to:

- Identify risk factors for youth extremist behaviour,
- Identify mental health concerns of youth at risk for extremist behaviour, and
- Identify risk profiles that differentiate between youth who have been of interest to police for browsing online extremist websites, youth who are members of extremist groups but have not acted and youth who have been investigated for carrying out/plotting an act of violent extremism.

Methodology:

- Through collaboration with Victoria Police we will obtain file information for young people (N = 120-150) aged 16-25 years who have been identified or apprehended by police for extremist activity. In 2018, the Victoria Police joined forces with Forensicare and the Victorian Fixed Threat Assessment Centre to identify and monitor high risk individuals who pose a threat to the Victorian community. Part of this relationship involves the reciprocal sharing of offending and mental health data.
- The files in this study will include client information pertaining to: prior offending/victimisation history, age, gender, ethnic background, religion, citizenship/migration information, involvement in education/work, family information, mental health history and nature of threats/behaviour/crime.

Progress:

- Literature review complete.
- Ethics approval received.
- Data received and undergoing linkage process.

Doctoral research in progress

Riley Luke

Michael Daffern, Ashley Dunne

Exploring the Assessment of the DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorder (AMPD) and the relationship between the AMPD criterion and aggression

Rationale and aims:

- Personality Disorder (PD) is highly prevalent within offender populations and has been frequently associated with high rates of aggression and violence. As such, the accurate classification, assessment, and diagnosis of PDs is critical to mental health clinicians and those working within the criminal justice system when determining violence risk and treatment need.
- This project will aim to identify the most efficient, reliable, valid and accepted approach to assessment of Alternative Model for Personality Disorder (AMPD) self and interpersonal functioning, and trait profiles in a non-clinical sample. This project will also explore the relationship between the AMPD and aggression, and will examine whether Criterion A reliably measures severity of PD.
- While this study does not involve a forensic population, it is hoped that the findings of this research in a non-clinical sample will inform any future investigations into the relationship between PD and aggression in forensic populations.

Methodology:

- A maximum of 150 participants will be recruited through Swinburne University's Research Experience Program (REP) and the general population.
- 10 per cent of the sample will complete a follow-up assessment in order to assess test-retest reliability of the AMPD measures. An additional 10 per cent will be scored by two interviewers in order to assess inter-rater reliability of the measures.
- Participants will be administered the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-5 Alternative Model of Personality Disorder (SCID-5-AMPD) Module III, Level of Personality Functioning – Self-Report (LPFS-SR), the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 (PID-5), The Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire-IV (PDQ-IV), Standardized Assessment of Severity of Personality Disorder (SASPD) and the Life History of Aggression scale (LHA-S-A).

Progress:

- This study has received ethical approval from the Swinburne University of Technology Human Research Ethics Committee.
- Close to 100 participants have been recruited and tested. It is hoped that data collection will be completed by October 2022.

Completed staff-initiated research

Using machine learning to enhance violence risk assessment

Melanie Simmons, Caleb Lloyd, Michael Daffern, Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak, Neil Thomas, Sachi Liston

Rationale and aims:

- Determine whether the Dynamic Appraisal of Situational Aggression (DASA) risk assessment tool can be used to predict adverse outcomes at Thomas Embling Hospital (e.g., aggression, self-harm, substance use, leave deviation).
- Investigate whether machine learning can be used to improve the DASA when used to predict aggression, self-harm, substance use, or leave deviation.
- Understand and describe the incidents of self-harm at Thomas Embling.

Methodology:

- Retrospective file review involving risk assessments, demographic information, psychological information, and incident reports drawn from the Patient Management Information (PMI) system.

Research and Conclusions:

- The inclusion of additional information (aggressive incident 10 days prior to assessment) when assessing the risk of aggression improved the prediction and discrimination of the DASA as it is currently completed.
- The use of complicated machine learning algorithms provided the best performance compared with the DASA on its own and simple algorithms. However, the improvement observed was trivial.
- As such, using a model which included the previous 10 days of DASA and aggressive behaviour resulted in a significant improvement in prediction above the DASA as it is currently conducted, while being more simplistic than complicated models using all available data points that resulted in marginal improvements in prediction and discrimination.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The enhanced DASA (aggressive incident 10 days prior to assessment variable) would be easy to integrate into current IT systems, while providing marked improvements in prediction and discrimination.

Outputs to date:

- Results are being prepared for publication.

Key CFBS research streams: Aggression and violence

Completed doctoral research

Natasha Mahony

Michael Daffern, Ashley Dunne

Investigating the validity of the DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorder in an Australian offender population

Rationale and aims:

- To examine the validity of scales developed to assess features of PD according to the new DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorder.
- To examine the relationship between these novel PD assessment instruments and aggression.

Methodology:

- A cross-sectional study was designed to investigate the internal consistency, and the convergent, discriminant and criterion validity of the Level of Personality Functioning Scale (Self-Report) and the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 within a sample of Australian male prisoners, and to examine the relationship between these measures and aggression.
- Descriptive statistics, Spearman's rank-order correlation analysis, McNemar chi-square test for paired samples, binary logistic multiple regression, hierarchical multiple regression, and Mann-Whitney U tests were all utilized to address the research aim and questions.

Results and conclusions:

- Overall, the findings suggest that the Level of Personality Functioning Scale-Self-Report may be redundant to the diagnosis of personality disorders and more accurate diagnosis may be made with reference to the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 alone. The inclusion of impairment in personality dysfunction within the Alternative Model for Personality Disorder may either be superfluous or may need refinement. Alternatively, impairment in self and interpersonal functioning may be better assessed using different methods, including clinical interview and review of collateral information.
- The findings reiterate the importance of personality disorders to aggression, and maladaptive personality facets to both self-reported and official police records of aggression. However, the study of the personality disorders -aggression relationship is complicated by the use of different measures of aggressive behaviour (such as self-report, informant report, and official records). Consequently, researchers should be mindful that different means of measuring aggression can influence the nature and extent of the relationship between personality disorders and aggression.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- It appears that the Level of Personality Functioning Scale (Self-Report) does not adequately capture personality functioning in prison settings and it may benefit from revision before it can be adopted into forensic psychological practice. Conversely, the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 demonstrated good abilities to assess for pathological traits within a male Australian prisoner sample. As such, greater integration of this tool into forensic settings is warranted.
- As the recent case of *Brown v The Queen* noted that an accused with a personality disorder would need it to be severe enough to profoundly affect their cognitive capacity and behaviour to be relevant to sentencing, and that this severity is of more importance than the categorical diagnosis. Consequently, the Alternative Model of Personality Disorder could be employed within psycho-legal contexts where the impact of personality disorder is being considered.
- Many structured risk assessment tools include presence of a personality disorder as a significant risk factor. However, the present results suggested that comprehensive assessment of level of personality functioning and maladaptive traits, rather than just the presence of a personality disorder diagnosis, may prove useful in these tools. Given the variable manifestation of personality disorders, assessing for traits that have empirically been linked to aggression, such as Hostility, may produce better outcomes.



A total of one book, seven book chapters
and 54 journal articles were published
by CFBS staff and students
in the last year

Key CFBS research streams: Complex criminal behaviour

Lead: Associate Professor Troy McEwan

This research stream brings together our research into stalking, harmful sexual behaviour, family violence, deliberate fire-setting and radicalisation and extremism. Each of these behaviours may or may not involve aggression or physical violence, but they nonetheless cause significant individual and social harm. All of them have complex psychological and social determinants, making them important areas in which to develop knowledge about prevention and intervention. Over the past two decades, our researchers have investigated why these behaviours occur (or are sustained) and what approaches may be most effective for managing them.

Grant funded research in progress

Preventing repeat child exploitation material offending: A psychological intervention approach

Australian Institute of Criminology, Child Exploitation Material Reduction Research Program (\$150,887)

James Ogloff, Marie Henshaw, Jonathan Clough, Rajan Darjee, Reneta Slikboer

Rationale and aims:

- A growing body of research indicates that child exploitation material offenders without a history of contact sexual offending (Child Exploitation Material [CEM]-only) differ in terms of their risk profiles and treatment needs when compared to traditional 'offline' child sexual offenders.
- There are currently no CEM offence-specific intervention programs within Victoria that aim reduce recidivism among CEM-only offenders.
- The project aims to enhance the efficacy of intervention approaches to CEM offending by developing and piloting an empirically-informed psychoeducation and skills-based group program for CEM-only offenders.

Methodology:

The project will be conducted over four phases:

- Phase 1 – Review of CEM treatment literature and existing local and international CEM treatment programs.
- Phase 2 – Development of CEM-COPE Program in consultation with local and international expert consortium members.
- Phase 3 – Program pilot through Forensicare's Problem Behaviour Program. A preliminary evaluation of program utility and efficacy will be conducted via analysis of pre-/post-treatment measures and both participant (n~32) and facilitator (n~8) feedback on the utility, relevance and feasibility of the program.
- Phase 4 – Program refinement and revisions based on pilot study outcomes and further consultation with consortium.

Progress:

- Phases 1 and 2 of the project are complete
- Phases 3 and 4 are ongoing:
 - research and ethics applications prepared and submitted – completed.
 - completed recruitment and program delivery for one round (2019–20), prior to pilot component being suspended 2020–22 due to COVID.
 - recommenced recruitment and program delivery for second round recommenced in July 2022.
 - given COVID-related delays, negotiation with the Australian Institute of Criminology is underway to extend contract to allow ongoing piloting of the program into 2023.

Emergency department presentations for mental illness, substance use, and self-harm among family violence victims and perpetrators: Identifying opportunities for prevention.

Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation (\$15,572)

Troy McEwan, Nina Papalia, Melanie Simmons, Benjamin Spivak

Rationale and aims:

- The project aims are tailored to identify (1) the nature/scope of mental-health-related ED presentations in FV victims/perpetrators, (2) the factors (e.g., demographic, type of family relationship between victim and perpetrator) that signal increased risk of crisis mental-health presentations, and (3) how police contacts for FV and ED presentations are temporally related.
- This knowledge can be used to inform policy to direct services toward victims/perpetrators at the highest risk of crisis mental-health presentations, at the most opportune time.

Methodology:

- Data-linkage design, combining information about the same individual from multiple data sources using unique identifiers.
- Approximately 1500 randomly sampled dyads (victim/perpetrator) with a FV incident recorded by Victoria Police in 2016–2017.
- Each victim/perpetrator has been linked to their records in the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD), which includes details of presentations to Eds within Victorian public hospitals. Lifetime ED presentations for each individual were extracted from the VEMD until the end of 2018.
- Mental health ED presentations in the FV sample will be compared to mental health ED presentations in the general Victorian population.

Progress:

- A postdoctoral research fellow appointed to assist with cleaning and preparing the Victoria Police and VEMD datasets.
- Submitted an application to the Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) to access Victorian population ED data to compare with the FV sample. These data have been received.
- Data analyses are underway.

Understanding and responding to online child sexual exploitation offenders

ARC Linkage (\$482, 266)

James Ogloff, Marie Henshaw, Reneta Slikboer, Denny Meyer, Jonathan Clough, Rajan Darjee

Rationale and aims:

- Empirical knowledge of the characteristics, risk and needs of the diverse and growing population of Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) offenders is limited in size and scope. Novel questions continue to arise alongside ongoing advancements in digital and telecommunications technologies.
- This project aims to enhance knowledge and criminal justice policy and practices related pertaining to the investigation, management and rehabilitation of OCSE offenders.

Methodology:

This mixed-methods program of research comprises six major studies conducted in partnership with Monash university, Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria and the Australian institute of Criminology:

1. Quantitative descriptive account of law enforcement OCSE reports received by the Victoria Police Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team between 2014 and 2019.
2. Quantitative data-linkage cohort study to compare the demographic and state and federal offending characteristics and trajectories of Victorian OCSE offenders (contact and dual sexual offenders) charged between 2004 and 2019.
3. Quantitative examination of the predictive validity of both existing law enforcement case prioritisation and clinical risk assessment tools, as well as additional case variables among approximately 600 OCSE offenders.
4. Quantitative validation of novel/refined case prioritisation and risk assessment tool(s) among a sample of approximately 300 OCSE offenders.
5. A comparative analysis of psychological survey and sexual interest measure data for approximately 200 OCSE offenders and 200 community controls, as well as investigation of offence processes of a sub-sample of approximately 20 OCSE offenders using qualitative interview.
6. Descriptive examination of sentencing patterns and decisions for OCSE cases finalised in Victorian courts over a 12-month period.

Progress:

- Data collection underway for studies 1–5.
- Ethics application in preparation for study 6, with data collection expected to commence in mid-2023.

Key CFBS research streams: Complex criminal behaviour

Doctoral research in progress

Israa Altwaijiri

Troy McEwan, Benjamin Spivak, Nina Papalia

Examining Mental Health Outcomes for Adult Male Victims and Perpetrators of Family Violence

Rationale and aims:

- The mental health outcomes in male victims and perpetrators are neglected in the current literature. Our project aims to address the gap in the literature by identifying the range of mental health outcomes in adult male; (a) victims; (b) perpetrators; (c) victims/perpetrators of family violence.
- In particular, the findings of this project can be implicated in devising appropriate cost-effective intervention for victims and perpetrators of FV which may further reduce the mental health burden of family violence in Australia.

Methodology:

- A systematic review existing research concerning mental health outcomes in male victims and perpetrators of FV using PRISMA guidelines
- A community sample collected from Victoria Police will be used to examine the temporal relationship between family violence and major health presentations in male victims and perpetrators of FV in Australia. The analysis will involve data linkage with the following databases:
 - Victorian Psychiatry Case Register (VPCR) for each person across their lifetime
 - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data.
 - Medicare mental health data.
 - Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data.

Progress:

- Data have been extracted and analysis underway.



Catie Bridgeman

Troy McEwan, Margaret Nixon

What stops stalking? A mixed methods investigation of stalking desistance

Rationale and aims:

- Stalking affects nearly 1 in 6 adults during their lifetime and is associated with significant harm to victims. Much of the harm is derived from the persistent nature of stalking, which often continues for months or even years.
- There is virtually no research examining why stalking stops, though almost all episodes do. This research will investigate which stalkers stop, and what is associated with stopping.
- The aim is to identify both individual factors associated with people who stalk, and risk management strategies used by police and stalking victims that can help bring stalking to an end.

Methodology:

- The project uses a mixed methods design incorporating three studies.
- Study 2 is a quantitative study using a dataset of approximately 200 clients of Forensicare's Problem Behaviour Program who consented to their police data being followed up over 5 to 10 years. This sample will be examined to identify what individual characteristics identified at assessment are associated with having no further stalking reports to police.
- Study 3 is currently in development. It will be a qualitative study, likely involving review of a random selection of stalking cases managed by police during a recent trial. We are seeking permission to interview police and stalking victims to identify what was perceived as effective in stopping stalking.

Progress:

- The project is in its first 12 months and remains in development.
- Study 1 is underway and a paper is currently in preparation.
- Data for Study 2 has been previously collected, ethics approvals are in place, and data analysis will commence over the summer of 2022-23.
- Study 3 will be further developed in early 2023.

Claire Bryce

Troy McEwan, Benjamin Spivak

An investigation into the risk assessment framework in domestic violence cases**Rationale and aims:**

- Intimate partner violence has widespread financial, health, administrative, and social consequences at an individual, community and societal level but remains an area of research that is relatively limited in comparison to general violent or sexual offending.
- The aim of this study is to validate an existing risk assessment which may contribute to the existing literature by improving safety planning, treatment planning, resource allocation, education, and communication in relation to intimate partner violence.

Methodology:

- Data will consist of information contained within offender files from Corrections Victoria (prison sample) and client files from Forensicare (community sample) obtained via the Catalyst Consortium.
- Analyses will explore the reliability and validity of the SARA v2 and SARA v3 via three studies:
 - predictive validity of the SARA v2 (prison sample).
 - predictive and inter-rater reliability of the SARA v3; and concurrent validity against the Stalking Risk Profile (community sample).
 - incremental validity of the SARA v2 against the LS/RNR (prison sample).

Progress:

- Literature review has been completed/submitted.
- Ethics approval granted.
- Data collection completed.
- Data analysis is complete and thesis write up is in final stages.

Madeleine Brygel

Troy McEwan

The utilisation of mental health services in women involved in intimate partner violence**Rationale and aims:**

- Although considerable research has examined the mental health of female victims of intimate partner violence, fewer studies exist to document the mental health of female perpetrators, or females who are both victims and perpetrators.
- Furthermore, literature on the mental health service utilisation of these populations has been scarce, and what has been published exclusively focused on contact preceding intimate partner homicide.
- Thus, we aim to explore the frequency, nature and timing of mental health service contact for women involved in victimisation, perpetration and mutually violent relationships.

Methodology:

- Data-linkage methodology to explore the prevalence of various types of mental health service usage in a sample of women with police contact for family violence.
- The project will use Victoria Police records of approximately 2,000 randomly selected women who had contact with police for family violence.
- This data will be linked with mental health service usage data, from both the public and private system.

Progress:

- The study is in the early stages of development.
- The literature review has been completed.
- Mid candidature review scheduled for end of 2022.

Key CFBS research streams: Complex criminal behaviour

Doctoral research in progress

Erika Fortunato

James Ogloff, Marie Henshaw and Reneta Slikboer

Understanding the offence characteristics and trajectories of female online child sexual exploitation offenders

Rationale and aims:

- There is limited research on female online child sex offending, with studies thus far primarily offering descriptive outlines of these females without considering offence trajectories, including recidivism rates. Furthermore, unique differences have been identified between females who perpetrate offline sexual abuse compared to male perpetrators, including the greater tendency of females to engage in co-perpetration with a male partner.
- Whether similar patterns exist in the context of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) has not been well explored. Thus, there is a need to characterise the offending characteristics and trajectories of female OCSE offenders.
- The aim of this project is to characterise the offending characteristics and trajectories of a female sample of Victorian OCSE offenders in comparison with offline and dual (those with both online and offline offences) child sexual offenders. There will also be a focus on comparing the characteristics of female OCSE offenders against male offenders.

Methodology:

- This research forms part of a larger pseudo-prospective data linkage project funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects Scheme, in formal partnership with Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria, and the Australian Institute of Criminology. It will involve the linkage and extraction of routinely collected person-level data from various databases. Various statistical techniques will then be utilised to identify the features that differentiate female OCSE offenders, offline offenders, and dual offenders.
- Further analyses will also be undertaken to compare female OCSE offenders to male offenders, as well as to determine reoffending rates and predictors of recidivism for the female sample.

Progress:

- An ethics amendment has been submitted and is pending approval. Data collection should commence in late 2022.

Veronique Jahoo

James Ogloff, Marie Henshaw, Rajan Darjee

Prioritising online child sexual abuse offenders for investigation

Rationale and aims:

- The continuous advances in technology and internet access have become significant factors in online criminality, including a notable escalation in online child sexual abuse (OCSA) offences, which broadly refer to the production, distribution, access, and possession of online child sexual abuse material (CSAM), as well as the online solicitation and grooming of minors.
- In 2019, 14,000 referrals of CSAM offences were made to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), which represents an increase of 5000% in just over one decade.
- Given the rising number of referrals of OCSA offenders, the police are confronted with the challenge of identifying cases that pose the greatest risk to the community so that their resources can be efficiently and effectively targeted.
- Several risk assessment and case prioritisation tools have been utilised and developed in response to this growing demand. However, concerns and criticisms have been raised over the accuracy of these tools in predicting risks of reoffending and contact offences among OCSA offenders. As such, further research is needed to improve case prioritisation practices for law enforcement. This research aims to evaluate and develop a tool that can assist Victoria law enforcement in their work.

Methodology:

- The research will be conducted in three phases and will include approximately 900 offenders randomly selected from a Victoria Police sample.
- Phase 1 will assess the validity of six notable risk assessment and case prioritisation tools (i.e., Static-99R, CPORT, KIRAT-2, Risk Matrix 2000, SHARP and TRIST) in predicting risk and discriminating between recidivism outcomes at the investigative stage.
- Phase 2 will assess empirically linked predictors of reoffending and contact offending and seek to develop a novel tool with improved predictive and discriminant validity.
- Phase 3 will assess the predictive validity of the novel tool and compare it to the six existing tools.

Progress:

- Data extraction for phase 1 and 2 of the research is imminent.

Emma Norgate

James Ogloff, Marie Henshaw, Rajan Darjee

Psychological characteristics and offence processes of Online Child Sexual exploitation offenders

Rationale and aims:

- Research indicates that online child sexual (OCS) offenders are different from contact offenders and are a heterogeneous group with a more complex aetiology than present assessment and treatment frameworks can address. Current research evidence is limited by a lack of clarity in defining subgroups and a reliance on drawing evidence from existing records.
- **The aims of this study are to:**
 1. Explore psychological characteristics of OCS offenders and compare across offender subgroup and levels of risk/service needs.
 2. Explore psychological characteristics of OCS offenders and compare to the general population.
 3. Explore whether psychological characteristics and sexual deviance differ among OCS offender subgroups and general population.

Methodology:

- Quantitative study design with over 400 participants.
- Online questionnaire comprising a range of psychometric measures.
- Implicit measure of sexual deviance.

Progress:

- JHREC & SUHREC ethics amendments submitted and approved.
- Data collection in progress.



Zhi Xiang On

Troy McEwan, Benjamin Spivak, Rachael Fullam

The effects of Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model guided policing of family violence

Rationale and aims:

- Currently, in Victoria (Australia), the police department have been implementing a tiered police response to family violence using the RNR-principle. When approaching family violence incidents, frontline police officers complete a brief risk assessment tool, supplemented by a range of other risk-related information, which involves a further comprehensive risk assessment and a subsequent risk management by specialist policing units. The first stage of this tiered police response was the use of VP-SAFvR – a tool designed to assess any future family violence within the same family system.
- The aim of this study is to evaluate the outcome of family violence of this newly implemented tiered police response informed by RNR-principle. It is hypothesised that this tiered police response would reduce recidivism.

Methodology:

- Two samples were collected to evaluate the effectiveness of frontline risk assessment, namely the evaluation sample and the control sample.
- The evaluation sample adopted a tiered risk assessment and targeted risk management process, in which three separate risk assessment instruments were administered at different points of the police response to a family violence incident.
- For each incident, demographic information (i.e. age, gender, relationship status), VP-SAFvR scores, B-SAFER and CRA-NI scores (if applicable), VP-SAFvR scores, classification outcome of B-SAFER and CRA-NI (if applicable), offending history and follow-up incidents and charges were extracted.
- All incidents were followed up until 28 February 2018, with a minimum of six months available to follow-up in each case.

Progress:

- First paper detailing findings is in preparation.
- Draft thesis review in March 2022.

Key CFBS research streams: Complex criminal behaviour

PhD research in progress

Alannah Cooper

Troy McEwan, James Ogloff

The relationship between individuals committing lone actor grievance-fuelled violence and family violence.

Rationale and aims:

- Fatal family violence (FFV) is often excluded from discussions of Lone Actor Grievance Fuelled Violence (LAGFV) based on the belief that the offenders are conceptually distinct in their motivations and characteristics.
- This claim is to be reviewed, identifying similarities and differences of offenders via three studies (thesis by publication).

Methodology:

- Study 1: A literature and scoping review of LAGFV (eg. lone actor terrorism, school and workplace killings, hate killings) and FFV (eg intimate partner homicide, family killings), comparing similarities and differences in offender characteristics, motivations and behaviours.
- Study 2: Examination of Victoria Police holdings (Victoria Fixated Threat Assessment Centre). Sample will be of individuals who have been accepted referrals to the centre due to the presentation of risk of LAGFV. The review will focus on the presence of family violence among these individuals.
- Study 3: Contrast the characteristics of grievance-fuelled homicide offenders and FFV offenders in a sample of Victorian homicides.

Progress:

- Research paper documenting findings of the literature review and scoping is in preparation.

Completed PhD research

Bradley Reich

Margaret Nixon, Troy McEwan

Evaluating cognitive and affective factors related to stalking perpetration

Rationale and aims:

- Despite stalking being criminalised for over 30 years, there has been a paucity of explanatory models applied to stalking behaviours. Existing explanations are limited in their ability to establish empirically testable predictions and to inform stalking treatment.
- Social-cognitive theoretical models have been used to describe aggression, harmful sexual behaviours, and firesetting and have the potential to be equally applicable to stalking behaviours.
- The current thesis aimed to test whether particular cognitive and affective factors identified in social cognitive theory can differentiate between people who stalk and those who engage in interpersonal aggression but not stalking. In addition, a secondary aim was to determine whether these characteristics also differentiate between these groups and those who do not report stalking or aggression.

Methodology:

- The research design was a between groups cross-sectional analysis with participants recruited from the Swinburne University Research Experience Program (REP).
- Participants completed a self-report test battery containing research-derived cognitive and affective measures. Based on the response to self-report questionnaires, participants were classified into three groups; a) individuals who self-reported stalking only (n = 43), b) interpersonal aggression only (n = 77), and c) neither stalking nor interpersonal aggression (n = 274).
- A series of between groups analyses were then conducted to examine knowledge structures proposed as relevant to stalking behaviour i.e., entitlement, rumination, maladaptive relational cognition, aggression-supportive cognition and antisocial cognition.

Results and conclusions:

- Self-reported stalkers endorsed greater rumination about past relationship breakups than aggressive individuals, demonstrating a key distinction in the knowledge structures proposed to contribute to stalking behaviour as opposed to interpersonal aggression.
- Stalkers also differed from those who did not use stalking or aggression on other forms of maladaptive relational cognition, including relationship uncertainty rumination and relational entitlement.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Understanding key differences in the psychological mechanisms influencing the use of these problem behaviours is an integral part of determining which cognitive and affective factors to address in targeted management and treatment protocols for stalking.
- The study findings also provide preliminary support for the use of social-cognitive theory to explain stalking behaviour.



Research at the Centre comprised
30 doctoral projects, 13 PhD projects,
10 grant funded projects and
18 staff-initiated projects

Key CFBS research streams:

Forensic mental health

Leads: Associate Professor Rachael Fullam and
Dr Trentham Furness

Consumers accessing forensic mental health care often display co-occurring mental illness, problematic substance use, personality dysfunction, and social and cognitive disability that increases the likelihood of violent or offending behaviour. Specialist environments, systems and interventions are needed in prison, hospital and community settings to maintain safety while therapeutically treating the cause of offending.

Our research examines how mental illness and responsivity factors (such as cognitive impairment, personality dysfunction and trauma) influence offending and how interventions (environments, risk prediction instruments and therapy) and workforce development models in forensic mental health settings can maximise safety, recovery and reduced offending. Our research in the area of forensic mental health benefits from the strong partnership between the CFBS and Forensicare. Research in forensic mental health addresses questions related to the assessment and treatment of people with a mental disorder and a history of offending, or those who are at risk of offending. The work aims to further understand these relationships, to establish effective treatment models for mentally ill offenders, and to reduce and eliminate offending by people with mental illnesses.

Formal service evaluation in progress

Forensicare cultural reform evaluation

James Ogloff, Anne Bardoel, Nikola Djurkovic, Trentham Furness, Rachael Fullam, Charlotte Boyce

Rationale and aims:

- The aim of the cultural reform evaluation is to identify the extent to which Forensicare initiatives into cultural reform have affected staff relative to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and discrimination. The evaluation report will address the following key questions:
 1. Have Forensicare staff experienced any change in bullying, harassment, discrimination, and workplace culture across the first year of cultural reform?
 2. What is the level of awareness and how do Forensicare staff perceive the culture review and specific cultural reform activities implemented since August 2021?
 3. What do Forensicare staff perceive as strengths of the current workplace climate/culture, and what do they see as the path forward to continually improve workplace culture?

Methodology:

- Iterative mixed methods design, obtaining quantitative data from surveys and Forensicare People & Culture data, and qualitative data from focus groups across the three directorates.

Progress:

- SUHREC approval received.
- Survey 1 (of 2) disseminated, data collected and analysed.
- Interim report (survey 1 findings) delivered to Forensicare May 2022.
- Five focus groups completed (of six total)

Staff-initiated research in progress

A descriptive study of young people with a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) accepted by a fixated threat assessment centre (FTAC) in Australia

Meredith Gray, Jennifer McCarthy, Daveena Mawren

Rationale and aims:

- To gain an in depth understanding of the cohort of young people on the autistic spectrum who are referred to VFTAC.
- To identify interventions that have resulted in a reduced concern level for this cohort.
- To identify trends in the ideology and exposure to radicalisation and examine whether this differs between those young people referred with ASD and those without.

Methodology:

- The study will include accepted VFTAC clients who were aged between 15-24 at the time of referral, both those with autism (or suspected) and those without
- The study will involve a retrospective file review and will collect data regarding referral source, demographic variables, police holdings, offending history, mental health and comorbidities, trauma and significant stressors.

Progress:

- As the data were initially collected by intelligence analysts as part of brief for Victoria Police Counter Terrorism Command, 'cleaning' commenced to ensure integrity of the data and prepare the dataset for further statistical analysis.
- As significant issues were observed in the database, the data will be re-collected from the relevant data sources to ensure its integrity.

Carer experience and outcomes of Single Session Family Consultation model

Daveena Mawren, Shelley Turner, Grant Burkitt, Brendan O'Hanlan, Nick Barrington

Rationale and aims:

- The Single Session Family Consultation (SSFC) model was introduced to three units of the Thomas Embling Hospital in early 2022. This study aimed to examine carer experience and acceptability of the model to inform expansion across the hospital.
- Although emerging research highlights the value of SSFC for carers, patients and clinicians in mental health settings, there is no evidence of the acceptability of the model among carers in forensic mental health settings, where carers report higher rates of emotional burden and stress.

Methodology:

- A mixed methods design was adopted:
 - interviews were conducted with carers to examine engagement with the SSFC program (including barriers and facilitators to uptake), perceived usefulness and outcomes of the sessions.
 - data recorded by clinicians delivering the SSFC sessions were also recorded to monitor the implementation of pf the program (ie., average number of sessions per family, outcomes of the sessions, reasons sessions were not conducted etc).

Progress:

- Data collection commenced in June 2022
- Due to significant issues with the implementation of the SSFC, the study has paused to 'take stock' and address the challenges identified by staff involved with the SSFC delivery.

Supporting clinician-led projects at Forensicare is a key focus of the Forensicare Research Department

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Staff-initiated research in progress

Evaluation of the Forensicare Postgraduate Nursing Program

Tessa Maguire, Jo Ryan, Brian Mckenna, Margaret Nixon, Daveena Mawren, Rebecca Loft

Rationale and aims:

- The graduate program at Forensicare was developed in 1994. Over the years the program has evolved, and since the introduction of the program there has been one formal evaluation.
- Since this evaluation, the service has seen considerable growth in nursing, and with recent expansions in the service, which has also resulted in an expansion of the program, changes to the university provider, additional options for clinical placements.
- Against this background it was considered timely to undertake an evaluation to determine if the program is meeting the needs of the postgraduate nurses, and the service.

Methodology:

- A descriptive qualitative research design will be used in this project, where semi structured interviews will be used to explore the experience of participants in regards to the graduate program.
- All graduate nurses who have completed the program in the last two years will be invited to participate in this study. Nurses who have provided preceptorship/mentorship to the graduate and postgraduate nurses in addition to unit managers, and the clinical nurse educators will also be invited to participate in the study.

Progress:

- Data collected and analysis commenced.

Exploration of the Clinical Reasoning Cycle in Forensic Mental Health Nursing

Tess Maguire, Jo Ryan, Michael Olasoji, Loretta Garvey, Georgina Willetts

Rationale and aims:

- To date the systematic guide to patient-centered care across Forensicare has been guided by the Nursing Process (NP).
- The Clinical Reasoning Cycle (CRC) is an alternative evidence based framework that has been developed for nurses, and can be used to assist with clinical judgement and clinical decision making.
- While it has been suggested that the CRC is suitable for a range of patients and situations, research has focused on general acute health settings, and no research has been conducted in a forensic mental health setting.
- This project aims to explore the NP and the CRC to determine which one might be the most suitable as a systemic guide for the provision of patient centred care in a forensic mental health setting.

Methodology:

- This study used a modified Nominal Group Technique (NGT) to collect data from senior mental health nurses and graduate nurses.
- The NGT is a structured face-to-face consensus method, which enables the integration of ideas and judgements from knowledgeable individuals, to gain a group consensus on a particular topic (Parthasarathy & Sharma, 2014).
- As such, the NGT can be used to inform nursing education as a method of extracting the collective knowledge of a group (Foth et al., 2016).

Progress:

- All data have been collected data and analysis is underway.

We collaborate with researchers from a range of universities and healthcare settings to strengthen our expertise and impact.

The use of tele- and video-conferencing facilities to facilitate forensic assessments and treatment during the 'COVID-19 working restrictions'

Michael Daffern, James Ogloff

Rationale and aims:

- The aim of this research is to explore the use of tele and video-conferencing facilities amongst forensic psychologists and psychiatrists during the COVID-19 workplace restrictions.
- The research study will build upon previous research conducted by Daffern and Ogloff (2020) conducted in the early stages of the pandemic.
- Specifically, the research will examine clinician experience conducting assessments and treatment via tele/audio-visual equipment, including the advantages and disadvantages to the practice and explores issues relating to wellbeing given the new workplace restrictions.

Methodology:

- The data collection method involved an online survey using Qualtrics with multiple questions that asked about practitioners' experiences conducting forensic work via tele and video conferencing.
- The survey was distributed to all psychologists and psychiatrists in forensic mental health settings across Victoria.
- Survey items focused on practical issues such as problems with technology, confidence and competence in working with clients using audio-visual platforms, whether there are particular work tasks or clients with particular characteristics or mental health concerns for whom tele- or audio conferencing may be compromised, ethical issues, and questions relating to self-care.

Progress:

- Data collection is complete.
- Data analysis and comparison of results with the 2020 survey is underway.

What is the impact and utility of the Digital Bytes project for staff and students at Forensicare?

Caroline Lambert, Ronnie Egan, Robyn Martin, Shelley Turner

Rationale and aims:

- The aim of the research is to better understand the impact and utility on students and staff, of a co-created student, staff and consumer learning space, and an innovative digital product, known as 'Digital Bytes'.
- The Digital Bytes are digital patient stories of between 3–5 minutes in length that have been co-created between social work students and consumers at Thomas Embling Hospital.

Methodology:

- Mixed methods study design.
- Use of a scoping review mapping existing of existing related studies, and one-on-one semi structured interviews of staff and students. Thematic analysis of interviews was completed using Braun and Clarke's (2006) 6 phased framework.

Progress:

- Scoping review, data collection and initial analysis of themes has been completed. Write up has commenced.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Doctoral research in progress

Qemalie (Keema) Bairami

Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak, Cieran Harries

Examining the characteristics and intervention outcomes of individuals referred to Victorian counter-terrorism and -extremism initiatives

Rationale and aims:

- The events of 9/11 have resulted in an increasing interest in understanding the nature of, and pathways toward terrorism. Globally, the rising numbers of extremist groups and radicalised individuals has led to an increased threat of terrorism and homegrown violent extremism, as well threats to security by fixated and grievance-fuelled individuals. This has resulted in the establishment of counterterrorism, violent extremism and grievance-fuelled/fixated threat initiatives, including Australia's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiatives and Fixated Threat Assessment Centres (FTACs).
- Little is known regarding the characteristics of individuals who enter FTAC/CVE programs and whether differences in characteristics and outcomes exist between subgroups of individuals. Further, there is limited research which has examined the characteristics and outcomes of individual extremists and ideological groups across and between different governmental agencies (i.e., FTAC and CVE) and the effectiveness of such agencies.
- To address this knowledge gap, this study aims to comprehensively examine the sociodemographic, risk, and clinical characteristics of extremists in Victoria who have been referred to Victorian FTAC or CVE programs.

Methodology:

- Participants will include 172 individuals referred to Victorian FTAC and/or CVE programs;
- Secondary quantitative data will be drawn from several state-wide datasets administered by Victoria Police, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice and Community Safety;
- Analytical techniques include: independent samples t-tests, z-tests, analysis of critical chi-square values, multinomial logistic regression analyses, and an interrupted time series design using Poisson regression analyses to model count data.

Progress:

- Candidature confirmed.
- Ethics approval for use of secondary (external) data passed.
- On schedule to begin data analyses in December, 2022 – January, 2023.

Stephanie Fernandez

Maja Nedeljkovic, Michael Daffern, Richard Moulding

Exploring phenomena of aggressive intrusive thoughts and aggressive scripts: the influence of associated beliefs and features

Rationale and aims:

- The aim of this research is to explore the phenomenology of aggressive intrusive thoughts and aggressive scripts, in non-clinical, OCD, and forensic samples of individuals.
- Further, the research aims to understand the features of aggressive intrusive thoughts in OCD, including their frequent, intrusive, ego-dystonic and distressing nature, and use these features to compare how aggressive scripts are experienced by violent offenders.

Methodology:

- A critical review was conducted to explore whether these AITs and aggressive scripts share similarities with regards to well established features from intrusive thought research, including frequency, intrusiveness, influence of maladaptive appraisals, associated emotional experiences, and thought control strategies.
- An online non-clinical study was conducted to investigate the differential predictors of AITs and aggressive scripts including both general and specific beliefs pertinent to OCD and forensic populations, and comparing this between AITs and aggressive script rehearsal. The final sample comprise 460 non-clinical participants (73% females) with a mean age of 31.53 years (SD = 10.88), who completed a battery of self-report measures.
- A qualitative research study will be conducted where individuals with OCD, and individuals with a violent history accessing the community problem behaviour program will be asked about their experience of aggressive intrusive thoughts and aggressive scripts.

Progress:

- A critical review and a non-clinical online study has been completed. Both these studies have been written as research papers, and are currently being prepared for submission to journals for publication.
- The qualitative research study has recently commenced with recruitment underway.

Amirtha Lakshman

Michael Daffern, James Ogloff

The use of tele-services for forensic psychiatric and psychological pre-sentence assessment reports

Rationale and aims:

- Forensic mental health services relied heavily on tele services to provide assessments to clients during the lockdown restrictions associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Psychological and psychiatric pre-sentence assessment reports are regularly called upon by judges to guide sentencing outcomes, and Forensicare staff perform hundreds of these assessments each year.
- The current study aims to compare the similarities and differences between in-person (face-to-face) and tele-service pre-sentence reports prepared for the County Court of Victoria.
- Additionally, it aims to examine the impact and reliability of tele-service pre-sentence reports on sentencing, by examining references made to the reports in the sentencing comments

Methodology:

- Approximately 300 pre-sentence reports (conducted via tele-services and in-person) and their associated sentencing comments will be paired and analysed to explore the reliability and acceptability of assessments conducted via tele-service platforms.
- A coding sheet developed by Tam, Daffern and Ogloff (2018) with variables anticipated to influence sentencing outcomes will be modified, to record data from the pre-sentence reports and sentencing comments. The variables pertaining to report characteristics, psychometric tools used, issues with conducting and reporting on assessments via tele-services, report recommendations, and the court's comments on the pre-sentence reports will be recorded. The data for assessment reports completed in-person will be analysed and compared with assessment reports completed through tele-services.

Progress:

- Ethics approval was granted by the Justice Human Research Ethics Committee for the County Court to provide access to unpublished sentencing comments.
- Data collection has commenced and is anticipated to be completed by February 2023.

Monique Sondhu

Michael Daffern, Ashley Dunne

Assessing and exploring the effectiveness and delivery of a violence intervention program at Thomas Embling Hospital

Rationale and aims:

- There is limited research evaluating intervention programs for people with a serious mental illness who have a history of violence.
- The Life Minus Violence-Enhanced (LMV-E) is an intensive multimodal cognitive behavioural program that has some preliminary support and has recently been introduced at Thomas Embling Hospital as the primary violence intervention program.
- This study aims to explore patient change on measures of violence and aggression after participating in the LMV-E program at Thomas Embling Hospital. Additionally, it aims to understand from the perspective of participants, facilitators, and staff members whether the program is helpful and any barriers and enablers in implementing intensive programs.

Methodology:

- Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected to comprehensively evaluate the LMV-E program and its delivery at Thomas Embling Hospital.
- Primary outcome measures will be collected from participants before and after the program.
- In addition, interviews will be completed with participants of the program, facilitators delivering the program, and staff members of the organisation. Both quantitative and qualitative follow-up data for participants of the program will also be collected.

Progress:

- Ethics application has been completed and approved.
- Data collection has commenced, with the first iteration of the LMV-E program completed and the second iteration commencing soon at Thomas Embling Hospital.
- Transcribing and coding for interviews is in progress.
- Other data management for the quantitative part of the project is in progress.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Doctoral research in progress

Han-Mari Cronje

Margaret Nixon, Susan Rossell

Cognitive impairments among forensic mental health inpatients, and its impact on problem behaviours, functioning and recovery

Rationale and aims:

- The experience of cognitive impairments among mental health inpatients has received increased attention. It is known that the presence of cognitive impairments can impact inpatients' behaviour, functioning, and ability to engage in treatment, which may all have implications for their mental health recovery.
- Unfortunately, the experience and impact of cognitive impairments among forensic mental health (FMH) inpatients tend to be overshadowed by more immediate concerns (e.g., acute mental illness), hence may not be accurately recognised, assessed or addressed.
- Additionally, the potential for cognitive functioning to be improved by cognitive skills programs has been rarely investigated among forensic samples. Given the unique environment of forensic hospitals, these are important research areas to address.

Methodology:

- Study 1: A retrospective audit of patients at the Thomas Embling Hospital to 1) explore the use of cognitive assessments, 2) characterise inpatients' cognitive impairments, and 3) understand the relationship between cognitive functioning and the risk of aggression and functional skill capacity
- Study 2: An evaluation of an adapted version of a cognitive skills program, Thinking Minds, to 1) investigate its efficacy in improving cognition, quality of life and functional capacity, 2) determine whether treatment outcomes can be predicted by baseline cognitive functioning, and 3) explore the subjective experiences of inpatients partaking in Thinking Minds.

Progress:

- Data collection and analysis of the first study has been completed earlier in 2022 and is in the process of being disseminated.
- Recruitment and data collection for the second study has started in early 2022. It is anticipated that data collection for study two will be completed early 2023.

Trisha Evers

James Ogloff, Jeffrey Pfeifer

Enhancing wellbeing and resilience within prisons: A psycho-educational approach for correctional officers

Rationale and aims:

- Correctional officers (COs) often experience a complex and difficult work environment, with daily exposure to occupational, organisational and personal challenges, together resulting in chronic high levels of stress.
- Prolonged exposure to such stress leads to compromised well-being, increased physical health risks, and poorer mental health outcomes. The adverse impacts of these stressors highlight the importance of interventions that target wellness and resilience-building specific to COs.
- This research project aims to address officer wellbeing by implementing a targeted intervention and evaluating its efficacy in improving and maintaining officer well-being.

Methodology:

- Approximately 450 correctional officers were invited to take part in the research, with officers assigned to treatment (a brief, targeted psycho-educational intervention) or control group. Pre-, post- and delayed-post data (T1, T2 & T3) were collected to measure the effectiveness of the intervention in improving well-being outcomes.

Progress:

- All data collection and analysis is complete.
- A Systematic review (Paper 1) been published in Criminal Justice and Behavior.
- Paper 2 exploring SEM analysis of officer wellbeing ready to submit for publication. (Evers, T., Ogloff, J. R. P., Meyer, D., Daffern, M., Pfeifer, J., Skues, J., Trounson, J. S., Louise, S., & Roach, D. Towards a Model of Stress and Wellbeing in Correctional Officers.)
- Paper 3 assessing effectiveness of officer wellbeing intervention completed and ready to submit for publication.
- Final thesis draft being reviewed for submission on 19 December 2022.



Alissa Lever

Michael Daffern, Caleb Lloyd, Kylie Thomson

Therapist Perspectives on Building Alliance, Including with Clients with a History of Criminal Behaviour

Rationale and aims:

- Psychotherapy often involves building a therapeutic alliance and research has suggested that the strength of the alliance is associated with treatment outcomes. However, treatment can be complex and it is not clear how some client and contextual factors may influence this alliance, especially with clients who have committed a criminal offence.
- This project seeks to explore the perspectives of psychologists in relation to aspects of the therapeutic relationship.

Methodology:

- The project currently involves a short online questionnaire for therapists with both clinical and forensic experience to complete. The survey involves fictional case studies that require the therapist to consider how they would approach developing alliances with clients who have varying characteristics.
- The second stage of the project comprises in-depth semi-structured interviews with staff. These interviews will expand on key themes identified in the surveys, such as the development of bond.

Progress:

- Data collection and analysis from the survey is complete. Publication from these results is being written.
- Ethics for the second part has been submitted and focus groups will be conducted soon.

Veronica Meredith

Stephane Shepherd, Melanie Simmons

The START, Sex, and Trauma as Predictors of Aggression over Time in a Comparative Sample of Male and Female Forensic Inpatients

Rationale and aims:

- There is little research that explores sex comparisons in the predictive validity of the START. Two studies have explored the STARTs utility using female samples only, and while these provide important data for a baseline understanding of female profiles of Risks and Strengths, the opportunity to compare outcomes with comparative male samples limits the ability to analyse the relative importance of Risks and Strengths for either sex.
- Most of the sex comparisons undertaken for risk assessment validity are hampered by small or vastly unequal sample sizes for women compared to men
- This study aims to:
 - sex comparison of START outcome variables
 - explore short-term predictive validity of the START and test for sex comparisons
 - explore long-term predictive validity of the START and test for change over time and sex comparisons
 - explore time, trauma, and sex as predictors of aggression.

Methodology:

- The study is based on a retrospective/prospective file review with longitudinal data from a comparison sample of 39 male and 39 female patients. Aggression incidents coded from Riskman and file review utilising search terms. START assessments were collated from patient files.
- Non-parametric and parametric tests conducted to explore differences in the START and Aggression by sex. Generalised Linear Modelling utilised to predict aggression in the short term. Hierarchical Linear Modelling utilised to predict aggression and measure change in START variables over time. Trauma coded from HCR20V3 and file review.

Progress:

- Analysis has been completed and thesis is underway. Literature review, method, analysis plan, and study chapters completed. Discussion in draft stage.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Doctoral research in progress

Ella Modini

Margaret Nixon, Rachael Fullam, Stephen MacFarlane

Estimating the prevalence of dementia in Victorian prisons

Rationale and aims:

- Given the increase in the ageing prison population, along with their predisposition to dementia risk factors, it may be inferred that dementia rates are higher in the incarcerated population versus the general population. No data exists to illustrate the current prevalence rate of dementia in Australian prisons. Therefore the experience of dementia in Australian prisons can only be inferred. Prisoners with dementia become more vulnerable not only to other prisoners, but also can be misunderstood by prison staff.
- This project aims to establish the current prevalence rate of dementia in a representative sample of Victorian prisoners, as well as report on the subjective quality of life of prisoners who are found to have cognitive impairment. This project also aims to explore the utility of the Mini-ACE, a brief cognitive assessment tool, for dementia screening in prisons.

Methodology:

- This study employs a mixed methods design. A target sample of 100 prisoners over the age of 60 will be invited to complete a one-hour cognitive assessment. Participants will also complete a short quality of life assessment, as well as any psychopathology. The cognitive assessment employed for the study, the ACE-II measures performance over cognitive ability across six domains. Data from this study will be used to post hoc score the Mini-ACE, to assess its utility as a screening tool in custodial settings.
- A qualitative study will also be conducted with prison custodial and health staff to determine their subjective experience of identifying and caring for prisoners with dementia.

Progress:

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on the project. To date, no data collection has commenced, although access to sites is anticipated in early 2022.
- The qualitative component has been expanded to ensure the study is of sufficient merit and achievable within the candidature of the student researcher.

PhD research in progress

Lorrae Mynard

Ellie Fossey, Louise Farnworth, Genevieve Pepin

Implementing occupational formulation and goal setting within the occupational therapy practice process at Forensicare

Rationale and aims:

- Occupational formulation is a newly described approach for synthesising assessment data and collaboratively planning goals and therapy within occupational therapy. However, the approach has not been empirically tested. The aims of this research are:
 - to strengthen the occupational therapy practice process and embed a structured approach to occupational formulation and goal setting.
 - to assess the clinical impact of using this MOHO-based approach to occupational formulation and goal setting.
 - to contribute to the evidence for knowledge-to-practice translation in occupational therapy.

Methodology:

- A participatory action research (PAR) approach is being used including these key elements:
 - a project steering group (comprising lead occupational therapists) working alongside investigators to plan key conceptual and operational aspects of the project (monthly, in progress)
 - co-design and facilitation with occupational therapy leads of face-to-face (conducted Feb 2021) and separate online training modules for new staff and clinical students and Microsoft Teams channel as a central resource (completed)
 - co-facilitation of community of practice sessions and coaching sessions by the lead investigator and other lead occupational therapists (twice monthly, in progress).
 - optional reflective surveys are used by participants to record/share experiences of implementing occupational formulation (ongoing).
 - a detailed reflective journal and audit trail is being maintained (ongoing).
 - anonymous data will be drawn from relevant records: training records, attendance records, session minutes.
- A longitudinal, mixed methods approach is being used for project evaluation. Surveys will be used to evaluate occupational therapists' professional thinking and practice at baseline six-months, 12-months and 24 months

Progress:

- Baseline (completed), six-month (completed), 12-month (Feb 2022) and 24-month (Feb 2023) surveys will be used to evaluate occupational therapists' professional thinking and practice (initial analysis in progress).
- An Occupational Therapy Australia Research Fund grant was awarded (June 2021) to support qualitative data gathering (focus groups and interviews with occupational therapists and interviews with consumers) (March – May 2022).
- There has been positive initial feedback from therapists, consumers and colleagues. It has become apparent that the anticipated 12-month implementation period will be insufficient, thus the active implementation phase will be extended by 12 months (until early 2022).

Beatrice Raymond

Troy McEwan, James Ogloff

**Wrinkles in Sexual Behaviour:
Risk Assessment with Aged Sex Offenders**

Rationale and aims:

- To investigate the predictive validity of the Static-99 measures (2003 and 2016), SVR-20 and RSVP in an Australian sample of aged sex offenders. Specifically, to determine whether these tools (actuarial and SJP) are able to effectively differentiate between recidivist and non-recidivist aged sexual offenders.
- To investigate what risk factors are most relevant to forming judgements of high and low risk in a sample of aged sexual offenders compared to a sample of younger sex offenders. Specifically, to identify whether there are particular risk factors or combinations of risk factors that appear to be particularly relevant to forming judgements of high and low risk of recidivism.
- It is hypothesised that current risk assessment tools may need to be modified to account for differences that are experienced as we age such as reduced sex hormones, frailty, diminishing social contact and change in living arrangements.

Methodology:

- Data will be coded from existing data as well as data collected from volunteers in the community and volunteers who are prisoners/offenders who are currently subject to judicial orders.

Progress:

- Study 1. The predictive validity of the Static-99R with an aged sex offender population. Data identified, collated and analysed.
- Study 2. Data obtained from established data set and coding the information with regard to the aged sex offenders, using the SVR-20 and RSVP to assess recidivism. Data identified, collated and analysed.
- Study 3. Comparison of aged sample with younger sample and the use of the RSVP. Comparison to be completed using partially ordered scalogram by coordinates (POSAC). Data identified, collated and being analysed.

Our students conduct high quality research, with six receiving awards in the last year in recognition of their work.



Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Honours research in progress

Sarah Talbot

Lorrae Mynard, Danielle Ashley, Susan Darzins, Anna Urbanowicz

The experience of everyday digital technology in daily life for people receiving forensic mental health consumers transitioning to community

Rationale and aims:

- The aim of this research project was to investigate the lived experiences of Forensic mental health consumers in accessing and utilising everyday digital technology when transitioning to the community.
- This research is important as the findings may provide insights into the challenges consumers are facing when accessing and using everyday digital technology within the community and may inform clinical practice within forensic mental health settings such as at Forensicare.

Methodology:

- Qualitative study design with a phenomenological approach.
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted with consumers at Thomas Embling Hospital with regular community leave as well consumers living in the community with links to the forensic mental health services (Community Treatment Team).
- Reflexive thematic analysis was conducted on the interview data to extract emerging themes.

Progress:

- Approval received from ACU HREC and Forensicare ORC.
- Data collection is underway.

Shannon Scott

Lorrae Mynard, Danielle Ashley, Susan Darzins, Anna Urbanowicz

The use of everyday digital technology in daily life for people receiving forensic mental health services

Rationale and aims:

- Digital technology is part of many everyday tasks in western society, and those with limited access to or skills for digital technology may be disadvantaged in accessing community opportunities. People receiving forensic services may have limited access to technology given the restrictions of forensic environments.
- The purpose of this study was to explore access to, and use of, everyday digital technology among consumers receiving forensic mental health services experience.
- The study also explored forensic mental health consumers' skills, knowledge and attitudes regarding everyday digital technology.

Methodology:

- Consumers residing on rehabilitation and sub-acute units of Thomas Embling Hospital of the hospital were invited to take part paper-based surveys about access, use and confidence using everyday digital technology.
- Surveys took approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.
- Descriptive analysis was conducted on the data collected.

Progress:

- Approval received from ACU HREC.
- Data collection has commenced.

Key outcomes from research relevant to Forensicare consumers are presented regularly at the Consumer Advocacy Group meetings

Completed formal service evaluation

Evaluation of the Clinical Support Team at Thomas Embling Hospital

Rachael Fullam, Tess Maguire, Trentham Furness, Katie Richardson

Rationale and aims:

- The CST is a mobile support team (senior forensic mental health nurse + Clinical Support Assistants with security expertise) that commenced in October 2020. The CST team respond to campus wide incidents and support seclusion medical reviews.
- It is important to evaluate the impact of this new service model on staff and consumer safety and therapeutic care.

Methodology:

- Staff surveys examining perceptions of the implementation and impact of the CST will be conducted at two time points; immediately post commencement of the CST (ramp up phase) and 12 months post commencement.
- Focus groups with front line unit staff and the CST working groups will be conducted during the ramp up phase.
- Interviews with consumers 12 months post commencement to examine their perceptions of the CST on consumer safety and recovery.
- Analysis of clinical incident data pre and post introduction of the CST
- Analysis of aggression and restrictive intervention data, and ward atmosphere data pre/post introduction of the CST

Results and conclusions:

- CST implementation: The various data points for the evaluation suggest that while implementation of the CST team has been achieved, the implementation has occurred without formal and systematic plans in place to guide the process. It is likely that much of the more detailed communication around the role of CST occurred after commencement of the team and was facilitated by the team attending units. This is not necessarily a limitation because the nature of the team and the role that they play across the hospital lends itself to continuous implementation with the team in situ.
- CST operation: Overall, it appears that throughout the period of CST operation examined, unit and management staff, and consumers who participated in the evaluation largely held positive views about the way in which the CST operates. There was a clear desire from unit and management staff to increase the size of the CST to make the team more available across key units in the hospital. The provision of training to CST members was another key issue that emerged with a perceived need to expand the specialist training that CST members receive.
- CST impact: The evaluation findings suggest that while in general unit staff and consumers held largely positive views on the impact of the CST, it is difficult to objectively assess the impact across the other sources of data available for the evaluation. Fundamentally, the TEH environment is complex with multiple co-occurring factors that may influence the management of aggressive incidents and the use of restrictive interventions. As such it is often extremely difficult to isolate the impact of a single initiative.

Clinical Implications and Research Translation:

- Formal implementation frameworks and ongoing implementation processes should be used to guide implementation of clinical and other initiatives at Forensicare.
- The evaluation identified a number of improvements that could be made to improve the management of aggression at the hospital:
 - provision of more extensive training to CST members,
 - increased provision of M4 training across the hospital,
 - Improved documentation of aggressive incidents including establishing the required level of detail and language.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Completed formal service evaluation

Evaluation of the Forensic Mental Health Service at Ravenhall Correctional Centre

Margaret Nixon, Rachael Fullam, James Ogloff, Charlotte Boyce, Elizabeth Daff, Ryan Veal

Rationale and aims:

- Mental illness is highly prevalent in prison populations, and the resulting negative outcomes (both for the individual and prison system) are established (Ogloff, 2015; Victorian Ombudsman, 2015). Consequently, there has been a growing push for increased access to mental healthcare and intervention within the Victorian prison system (Victorian Ombudsman, 2011, 2015).
- Given the Forensic Mental Health (FMH) Service is in its infancy, it is essential that a thorough, comprehensive, and reliable evaluation is conducted to determine the service's efficacy in improving prisoner mental health and wellbeing and reducing reoffending, which can be used to adapt and improve programs as required.
- This study aims to:
 - Examine the characteristics of prisoners referred for mental health treatment, the nature of services received, pathways pre and post admission to the mental health service and to investigate staff and patient experience with the service,
 - Explore the experiences of prisoners engaged with the FMH Services at the Ravenhall Correctional Centre (RCC),
 - Explore the impact of the introduction of the FMH Services at RCC from the perspective of staff delivering and interacting with the service,
 - Define any challenges to the effective delivery of the FMH Service at RCC, and
 - Document any changes to the nature of the delivery of FMH Services at RCC over time.

Methodology:

- The evaluation utilised mixed-methods, collecting qualitative and quantitative data to inform ongoing service development and delivery.
- Qualitative study: data will be collected via surveys, interviews, and focus groups completed by patients, staff, and key stakeholders.
- Data linkage study: Forensicare data including patient characteristics and service provision will be linked to external agency data including mental health services, corrections, and police.

Results and conclusions:

- The FMH Service at RCC generally showed responsiveness and flexibility to meet its aims.
- Staff reported lacking clarity regarding roles and responsibilities, and difficulty with communication between organisations and management within Forensicare.
- Staff took pride in their work and patients uniformly appreciated the care received.
- Referrals and admissions functioned as intended, with each unit receiving appropriate consumers.
- Moroka's program length did not align with its stated purpose and Tambo was under-utilised because of its referral criteria.
- System related factors such as a high proportion of remandees and issues with homelessness made some responsibilities, such as discharge planning, more difficult.
- Consumers had increased planned and decreased crisis engagement after contact with the FMH Service at RCC, compared to pre-engagement with the FMH Service, suggesting better engagement with mental health treatment.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Results have shown the impact of inconsistent psychometric assessment and how improvements to this may increase the ability to detect service effectiveness.
- Results have highlighted service and system difficulties which have been overcome in some cases by collaboration and communication between organisations and roles.
- Results have highlighted that increased attention to behavioural risk assessment by a highly skilled workforce and implantation of intervention to address this may increase opportunities to reduce the chance of consumers returning to prison.
- This evaluation has shown areas where Forensicare's FMH Service at RCC is operating in line with recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Completed staff-initiated research

An exploration of the needs of forensic mental health consumers residing in or transitioning to community settings

Ashley Dunne, Lorrae Mynard, Danielle Ashley, Rajan Darjee, Shelley Turner, Janet Ruffles

Rationale and aims:

- This study aims to contribute to the limited body of knowledge regarding the needs of forensic mental health consumers residing in or transitioning to the community.
- The study explores the social, clinical, health, and functional needs of Forensicare community accessing consumers from the perspective of the consumer, as well as that of personal and professional informants. The study also explores consumer experiences of transitioning and reintegrating to the community from Thomas Embling Hospital (TEH).

Methodology:

- Data were collected with the consumer and then their nominated personal and professional informant through completion of the Camberwell Assessment of Need Forensic Short Version (CANFOR-S), a semi-structured interview that quantitatively summarises need information across 25 domains of the consumer's life.
- This approach was intended to allow for triangulation of findings to enhance understanding of the needs and experiences of Forensicare community accessing consumers.

Results and conclusions:

- Participants in all groups identified physical health as a complex area of ongoing unmet need, with management of persistent medication side effects and weight management commonly referenced by consumers. Consumers did, however, convey a good understanding of their physical health issues and were engaged with health professionals to support their medical needs. The other area of unmet need identified by all groups was in the area of social needs, namely limited daytime activities and/or social connections or company.
- On average, professional and personal informants reported a higher number of consumer needs (social, medical etc) than disclosed by the consumers.
- Sexual expression was a concern for some consumers but not identified as a need by either informant group.
- Helpful factors identified in meeting consumer needs included external support networks comprising both social supports (family and friends) and clinical supports (including Forensicare and other community support services, such as NDIS). These support networks were also highlighted as playing an important role in facilitating a positive experience of community transition and a sense of community belonging and contribution.
- Perceived levels of community stigma on the part of members of the public and support services was identified by all groups as negatively impacting consumer confidence and willingness to seek out social connections and activities.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The findings reinforce the importance of including consumer perspectives to facilitate more collaborative and comprehensive care planning.
- Peer support from fellow FMHS consumers was noted to be particularly helpful by a number of consumers, leading to the suggestion that a 'drop in' facility or group for consumers transitioning to the community could be helpful.
- Ongoing focus on supporting consumers manage their physical health should be a clinical priority within any care pathway provided.
- Ongoing advocacy and education to external community stakeholders is integral to enabling consumers to access required supports to successfully transition into the community.



Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Completed staff-initiated research

Occupational trauma in staff at a high security forensic mental health hospital: Symptom prevalence and risk-resilience factors

Niki Loft, Russell Deighton

Rationale and aims:

- Occupational trauma exposure can be direct (e.g. violence, suicide) and/or indirect (e.g. burnout, secondary traumatic stress, compassion fatigue).
- The study aims to investigate links between exposure (direct and indirect) and the role of empathy processes, and experiences of coping and resilience.

Methodology:

- Quantitative method:
 - an online survey was distributed to staff at the Thomas Embling Hospital (n=53 participants)
- The survey comprises a range of standardised measures assessing post-traumatic stress and empathy regulation as well as questions around workload and history of trauma.
- Qualitative interviews:
 - semi-structured interviews examining experience of coping with direct and indirect exposure to traumatic stress at work experience of resilience and coping in the face of distress (5 participants)
 - qualitative study will adopt an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Results and conclusions:

- A total of 53 participants completed the online survey. Survey results indicated:
 - on average, staff disclosed higher PTSD symptoms levels than staff in general hospital settings
 - 83% of responding staff had experienced violence/threats to safety
 - 69% of responding staff had witnessed patient self-harm or suicidality
 - 85% of responding staff had witnessed violence.
- Key themes from the interviews with staff:
 - Toll of the workplace – violence and trauma, physical demands, pressure, relationships with patients
 - Separation between work and home
 - Coping with stress – external and physical coping strategies, internal and mental coping strategies, sense of purpose
 - Becoming desensitised as a way of coping
 - Mental health in the workplace – work culture, sense of resilience
 - Order and structure
 - Processing trauma (processing events in discussion, debriefing, reflective practices)
 - Support in the workplace (peer support, validation, management).
- There is a clear need for a greater focus to be placed on the impact of workplace trauma, coping, and resilience on staff in the forensic mental health field. Both direct and indirect traumatic experience have been identified as prevalent in those that work with individuals seeking help for trauma, however research on its impact on those in the forensic mental health field is scarce.
- Although, there are various individual factors that can interact with the impact of workplace trauma exposure, impact the motivation to engage in certain coping strategies, and impact the individual's decision to engage in strategies that promote resilience.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The findings suggest that forensic mental health staff are at risk of workplace trauma exposure and highlights the need to mitigate these experiences with coping strategies that foster resilience.
- It is important that workplaces take individual characteristics into account to attempt to accommodate the needs of their staff as a whole. While this may be a difficult to attain, acknowledgement that workplaces are recognising the needs of their staff and enacting strategies to support staff might in itself provide a more supportive and safer environment.
- It is hoped that through ongoing research, findings will reveal how the resilience of this professional population can be bolstered and leveraged to ensure that they can continue to support and service their vulnerable patients in ways that are ultimately both sustainable and rewarding.

Outputs to date:

- Results will be presented at the Forensicare Research Dissemination Seminar.
- A manuscript is being prepared for publication in a scientific journal.

Offender change within in-prison rehabilitation programs

Caleb D. Lloyd, Cole A. Higley, Ralph C. Serin, Laura J. Hanby

Rationale and aims:

- The purpose of this study is to explore motivation and engagement in rehabilitation among offenders attending psychosocial programs while incarcerated in prison.
- Past research has shown that evidence-based rehabilitation programs are the most effective way to reduce future criminal behaviour. Yet, most research is conducted at the program level, and less is known about which individual features are associated with successful program completion, and reduced recidivism following program attendance.
- This research is designed to contribute to a better understanding of pathways through prison rehabilitation to offending outcomes in the community.

Methodology:

- Archival data routinely collected by Correctional Service of Canada were provided for analysis, representing over 10,000 individuals. This dataset is unique for providing data at the following three points in time:
 - background features at prison intake
 - pre- and post-rehabilitation ratings of program engagement, and
 - post-release recidivism.
- Research questions involve examining the relationship among:
 - demographic variables
 - offending history
 - psychosocial variables assessed during prison intake
 - attendance and engagement during programs
 - assessments of program engagement rated by program providers, and
 - official records of reoffending.

Results and conclusions:

- The efficacy of group-based rehabilitation programs is partly related to the competencies and engagement of each individual in the group, yet the broader group dynamic occurring in each program group is also important. These individual and group features interact with each other.
- The composition of the group is even partly related to recidivism outcomes.
- Older group participants and those rated with higher pre-program motivation are more likely to successfully complete programs and remain crime-free. There is greater potential to reduce risk among high-risk individuals who attend programs with higher motivation or who are older than the typical group participant.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- When delivering group programs, practitioners should attend to group composition and group dynamics, with special attention on how high-risk participants may be disrupting learning and risk-reduction among relatively lower risk participants.
- Practitioners should consider client motivation and consider ways to enhance motivation prior to the start of rehabilitation programming, as higher motivation can be a specific responsivity factor.
- Practitioners should not discount the potential for change among older individuals who are high risk. Older clients may have greater readiness for change even in the context of higher risk for recidivism.

Outputs to date:

Higley, C.A., Lloyd, C.D., & Serin, R.C. (2019). Age and motivation can be specific responsivity features that moderate the relationship between risk and rehabilitation outcome. *Law and Human Behavior*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1037/lhb0000348

Higley, C.A., & Lloyd, C.D. (2017, March). The risk principle paradox: Exploring which high-risk offenders successfully change during rehabilitation programs. Paper presented to the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Convention, Seattle, WA.

Lloyd, C.D., Hanby, L.J., & Serin, R.C. (2014). Rehabilitation group co-participants' risk levels are associated with offenders' treatment performance, treatment change, and recidivism. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 82, 298-311. doi:10.1037/a0035360

Lloyd, C.D., Hanby, L.J., & Serin, R.C. (2012, March). Interactions between risk, offender competencies, and intervention type in predicting correctional program performance. Poster presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Convention, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Completed staff-initiated research

The impact and experience of the Reflective Practice Program at Thomas Embling Hospital

Daveena Mawren, Rachael Fullam, Stuart Lee, Meera Aurora

Rationale and aims:

- The implementation of the Reflective Practice Program for staff members at the Thomas Embling Hospital commenced in 2019. A prospective evaluation of the service will be conducted concurrently in order to inform the development of the program and impact on staff.

Methodology:

- A staff survey was conducted prior to service implementation and 6 months post implementation in order to assess change in reflective practice capacity, as well as staff wellbeing and self-efficacy.
- Interviews with key clinical stakeholders were conducted 6 months post implementation in order to explore staff experience with the program and the impact throughout the wider hospital.

Results and conclusions:

- The program was positively received by clinicians and key clinical stakeholders, with over 70% of staff felt that reflective practice would be useful for staff at the hospital.
- Staff post-implementation reported significantly higher scores on confidence in their work when compared to staff pre-implementation. Where individual change in staff scores could be assessed pre and post implementation of the program, significant change in correlates of reflective practice capability were observed with a significant reduction in uncertainty in their work and increase in confidence reported.
- Early career clinicians (five years or less experience at the hospital) reported lower confidence and higher stress when compared to more experienced counterparts.
- Although it was too early in the program to detect change on the unit but still felt “there was a lot of benefit” to the program following attendance. In particular, staff reported strengthened “team cohesion” on the unit and felt the program promoted “confidence, learning and morale”.
- Staff highlighted a need for increased and consistent access to the program in order to better meet the needs of staff.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Results suggest the novel Reflective Practice program offers an acceptable and effective model to improving the wellbeing, learning and morale of a forensic mental health workforce.
- The findings also highlight the need to support practice development and wellbeing in early career clinicians, where low confidence and high stress are predominant.
- The study was conducted on a very small sample due to the nature of the implementation of the program (flexible program schedule to accommodate clinician rosters) and further research is required to inform program development.

Completed doctoral research

Stephanie Butler

Michael Daffern, Margaret Nixon, Rachael Fullam

Validity of current risk assessment instruments for the prediction of sexual offending

Rationale and aims:

- This project aims to examine the predictive validity of the RSVP, Static-99, and LS/RNR
- The focus of the study is on severity of reoffending and which risk instruments are best able to predict the degree of harm associated with violent or sexual recidivism

Methodology:

- Data extracted from Corrections Victoria and Victoria Police databases
- Analyses comprised descriptive statistics, logistic regression and cluster analyses

Results and conclusions:

- Predictive validity, as determined by the area under the curve (AUC), of the total score for the RSVP was weak and not significant for either violence or sexual recidivism.
- The Static-99 total score significantly predicted both violent and sexual recidivism with AUC values displaying strong effect sizes.
- The LS/RNR total score significantly predicted violent recidivism with a moderate effect size, but did not significantly predict sexual recidivism, non-sexual non-violent recidivism, or other recidivism.
- The RSVP and LS/RNR were not found to incrementally add to the ability of the Static-99 to discriminate between recidivists and non-recidivists for sexual, violent, non-sexual non-violent, and other recidivism.
- The RSVP and Static-99 were found to predict the relative risk of sexual recidivism at any time when used independently but did not when used together or with the LS/RNR.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The present results suggest that the Static-99 is the most well-supported risk measure for the assessment of sexual recidivism risk and the effects reported in this study were similar to those reported previously.
- The RSVP lacked predictive validity for sexual, violent, non sexual non-violent, and other recidivism. The RSVP was not able to discriminate between recidivists and non-recidivists across these types of recidivism, and AUC values were non-significant with small effect sizes. Although the RSVP was non-predictive of sexual recidivism risk in this study, further research is required to determine whether it adds value to treatment planning and change assessment.
- The LS/RNR was able to discriminate between violent recidivists and non-recidivists with moderate ability. However, AUC values for non-sexual non-violent and general offending were not significantly able to discriminate between recidivists and non-recidivists, with effect sizes also being small.

Completed PhD research

Grant Blake

James Ogloff, Jeff Pfeifer, Andrew Carroll, Rachael Fullam

Evaluating fitness to stand trial in Australia

Rationale and aims:

- Fitness to stand trial refers to a criminal defendant's capacity to meaningfully participate in their trial. When a defendant's psycho-legal abilities are questioned, mental health evaluators are typically engaged to assess the accused's mental state and ability to participate. Problematically, there is no standardised fitness assessment tool to address the Australian legal criteria.
- This research aims to develop and validate Australia's first fitness to stand trial assessment tool.

Methodology:

- First, we meta-analysed the psychometric properties of four international fitness stand trial measures to determine best practice.
- Second, we undertook a review of all fitness to stand trial appeals in Australia to determine the appropriate threshold of impairment to be found unfit to stand trial.
- Third, to determine strengths and weaknesses in current assessment practices, we analysed fitness to stand trial reports prepared in the last 10-years held by Forensicare.
- Fourth, we developed and pilot tested fitness to stand trial interview items with an online sample of almost 393 community members.
- Fifth, we selected the best supported fitness measure from Study 1 then modified it to meet Australian legal standards from Study 2. We embedded the test within a broader assessment protocol to improve assessments, per the findings from Study 3. We developed scoring guidelines based on findings from Studies 2 and 4. In Study 5, experts (e.g., judges, psychiatrists) reviewed the proposed measure and rated the relevance of each test item to the legal standard. We then revised the measure further and commenced in-vivo pilot testing.

Results and conclusions:

- The ANZ-EFST-R is the first standardised measure of fitness to stand trial designed to address Australian fitness laws. The ANZ-EFST-R was developed to meet the expectations for a fitness evaluation outlined in case law and legislation, and the scoring criteria were developed to meet the legal expectations for a 'commonsense' evaluation.
- The ANZ-EFST-R enables structured clinical decision making of fitness, rather than relying on cut-scores, to ensure that case specific nuances and case law may be incorporated into the formulation.
- The ANZ-EFST-R has demonstrated good preliminary signs of reliability and validity.

Clinical implications and Research translation:

- The ANZ-EFST-R is currently being used by a limited number of clinicians across Australia and New Zealand who have reported numerous benefits to using the measure.
- Since the introduction of the ANZ-EFST-R, there have been discussions in the New Zealand and Australian courts about requiring that a standardised measure of fitness be used by evaluators to improve reliability, validity, evaluator agreement, and transparency of opinions.
- A youth version of the ANZ-EFST-R has since been developed following the findings from this PhD thesis. The Youth ANZ-EFST-R is being used in Queensland with interest from interstate stakeholders for routine implementation within their jurisdiction.

Key CFBS research streams: Forensic mental health

Completed PhD Research

Cieran Harries

James Ogloff, Stefan Luebbers

The (in)effectiveness of outpatient commitment in reducing violence among people with psychotic disorders: A matched cohort study

Rationale and aims:

- Effective management of psychotic illnesses is critical to reducing their burden. While the provision of community-based mental health care has the potential to enhance patients' quality of life, most services are woefully underfunded and unable to meet their clients' needs.
- Provisions outlined in mental health law allow for the involuntary treatment of those at greatest risk of deterioration and harm, while enabling them to reside in the community.
- Despite widespread – and increasing – reliance on and acceptance of its effectiveness (particularly in Victoria), outpatient commitment has little, if any, impact on rates of hospital recidivism and service use among those with psychosis, whilst studies addressing its impact on risk of violence are lacking.
- This study examines the impact of outpatient commitment on violent offending among people diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Methodology:

- This study involves the linkage of patient data across three state-wide administrative databases (i.e. Victorian Psychiatric Case Register, Law Enforcement Assistance Program, and the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages).
- A controlled interrupted time series (CITS) was used to compare the baseline and post-treatment rates of violent offending between treated and untreated patients over a 3.5-year period.

Results and conclusions:

- There were few indications that outpatient commitment was effective in reducing violent offending. Although there was a significant increase in the number of non-offenders in the month following the implementation of a CTO, there was no immediate change in the rate of violence among those charged or in longer-term trends of offending behaviour.
- Moreover, the observed change in the level of non-offending in committed patients was smaller than that observed among non-committed patients.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Greater recognition of patients' autonomy and more balanced decision-making is required. Clinicians must examine their attitudes towards people with mental disorder, the use of commitment, and the limits of their expertise. This, coupled with the proper identification of risk and the delivery of interventions that target risk and protective factors will improve the likelihood that intervention is successful in reducing violence while ensuring that appropriate care is provided to those who need it, without infringing on the rights of those who do not.





Our research aims to establish effective treatment models for mentally ill offenders, and to reduce and eliminate offending by people with mental illnesses

Key CFBS research streams: Psychology and legal processes

Leads: Professor James Ogloff and Dr Benjamin Spivak

In many areas of the justice system, the law makes assumptions about human behaviour. These include standards for the mental competence of individuals to stand trial, the ability of jurors to understand the law, consistency in sentencing, and the accuracy of witness testimony. Where these assumptions are wrong, the consequences can be extremely serious and lead to unjust outcomes. Psychological research can be used to examine these assumptions and determine approaches to bring the law in line with a realistic understanding of human psychology.

Our research on psychology and legal processes focuses on:

- **The operation and effectiveness of specialist courts**
- **People's perceptions of the fairness of the justice system**
- **Juror and judicial decision making**
- **Eyewitness' memories for events and people.**

Completed grant funded research

The consideration of culture in pre-sentence reports

Swinburne University Faculty of Health, Arts and Design
Research Development Grant (Early Career Researcher)
(\$9,940)

Stephane Shepherd, Thalia Anthony, Elena Marchetti, Justin Trounson, James Ogloff, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Rationale and aims:

- Ascertain if and how Aboriginal cultural and community issues are addressed in Victorian pre-sentence reports.
- Identify differences in the nature of pre-sentence reports between the conventional County Court and Koori County Court.
- Evaluate the emphasis placed on issues of risk and reoffending (based on criteria relating to offending history, substance abuse, psychological deficit) as opposed to issues that would be relevant to cultural identity and strengths (including where the person grew up, relationships in community, support networks, availability of Aboriginal programs)

Methodology:

- We will obtain a total of approximately 60 County Court (30 Koori Court) pre-sentence reports from the Victorian Department of Justice. All reports will be for Koori offenders. The reports will be qualitatively and quantitatively analysed in partnership with research assistants from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.
- Qualitative analyses will identify common themes and references to Aboriginal cultural considerations. The qualitative program Nvivo will be utilised for this analysis. A comparison with a prototypical Gladue report employed in Canadian courts will be conducted to ascertain areas of inattention to culture. The incidence of references to cultural themes and placement of those references in the report (i.e., in sections pertaining to the client's mental health issues, violence risk, environmental circumstances, demographics only) will be tallied. We will then examine whether incidence and placement impact the likelihood of cultural issues being referred to in the reports' recommendations section and whether these findings differ by offence type.

Results and conclusions:

- Pre-sentence reports (PSRs) provide important information about an individual's background and circumstances to assist judicial officers in the sentencing process. The present study analysed PSRs for 63 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people sentenced by either an Indigenous sentencing court or a mainstream court in the Australian State of Victoria.
- Using natural language processing (NLP) techniques, our analyses revealed few differences between PSRs conducted for each court. However, PSRs were found to predominantly feature key words that are risk-based, with mainstream court PSRs more negatively-worded than the Indigenous sentencing court's PSRs. This may have been due to the inclusion of results from a risk and needs assessment tool. Pro-social factors did comprise over one-third of extracted keywords, although the number of strengths-based culture-related keywords in particular was low across PSRs in both courts. It is possible that courts may not be receiving all the information needed to promote individualized justice.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The inclusion of skewed cultural information in PSRs can reinforce punitive assumptions relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' deficit and risk. Therefore, a holistic and strengths-based account of the individual's culture would benefit courts' capacity to account for the prosocial value of culture and/or the constraints posed by systemic racism and inter-generational experiences of colonisation in the individual's life.
- As set out in this article, First Nations justice or legal organisations can play an important role in preparing reports for sentencing that do not rely solely on a risk framework. They are well-placed to address cultural issues in a manner that promotes First Nations standpoints, strengths-based approaches and culturally appropriate sentence options. These reports are emerging across Australia in response to the limitations of PSRs, including those set out in this study.

Outputs to date:

Coulter, D., Forkan, A.R.M., Kang, Y., Trounson, J. S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). Culture, Strengths, and Risk: The Language of Pre-Sentence Reports in Indigenous Sentencing Courts and Mainstream Courts. *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (In Press)

Coulter, D., Forkan, A.R.M., Kang, Y., Trounson, J.S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S.M. (2022). Pre-sentence reports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: An Analysis of language and sentiment. *Trends & issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*. (In Press).



Associate Professor Stephane Shepherd received the Swinburne University of Technology Vice-Chancellor's Service Excellence Award for his extensive work at the intersection of culture and the criminal justice system

Key CFBS research streams: Psychology and legal processes

Completed PhD research

Michael Trood

James Ogloff, Benjamin Spivak

Judicial supervision across populations and in mainstream criminal courts

Rationale and aims:

- Judicial supervision, or the repeated review of an offender's treatment progress and compliance by a judicial officer as part of a court program or order, is a key feature used throughout courts that employ a problem-solving approach. Nonetheless, there remain several unanswered questions concerning the influence of judicial supervision on reducing recidivism and improving participant quality-of-life across populations. Moreover, it is unclear whether the 'best practices' of judicial supervision identified by the research literature are effective across populations, or how they are used on mainstream court lists that incorporate judicial supervision.
- This thesis aimed to address these gaps in the literature by: first, investigating whether there is an average effect of judicially supervised programs on both reduced recidivism and improved quality-of-life across all court types and populations in both the international and trans-Tasman contexts; second, examining whether the effects are influenced by the best practices of judicial supervision, and; third, exploring judicial officers' practices of judicial supervision in mainstream courts.

Methodology:

- Three empirical studies were conducted to address these knowledge gaps. The first comprised a systematic review and meta-analysis of the extant international literature comparing participants who received a judicial supervision intervention with comparisons who did not on either or both recidivism or quality-of-life outcomes before and after treatment. The second systematically reviewed and meta-analysed independent investigations of judicial supervision interventions from Australia and New Zealand. The final empirical study qualitatively analysed data gathered from interviews with $n = 15$ magistrates and surveys of $n = 43$ magistrates relating to their use of judicial supervision on mainstream court lists.

Results and conclusions:

- The results revealed that judicial supervision programs associate with meaningful reductions in recidivism compared to traditional justice processes. The results also tentatively suggest judicial supervision interventions have a stabilising effect on quality-of-life outcomes.
- However, there is considerable variability between investigations examining judicial supervision which is partly attributable to population differences, methodological characteristics, and programmatic features.
- Lastly, judicial officers on mainstream courts face several challenges to imposing judicial supervision that likely affects the efficacy of its use relative to that of problem-solving courts.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Overall, the findings support judicially supervised court programs as conducive to desirable offender outcomes but underline that there is considerable variability that exists in its practice at the levels of population, court, and judicial officer that affect its efficacy.

Outputs to date:

- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B. L., Sivasubramaniam, D., & Shepherd, S. (2022). Magistrates' experiences of judicial supervision in mainstream courts. *Journal of Judicial Administration*, 31(3), 115-137.
- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B. L., & Ogloff, J. R. P. (2021). The effects of judicial supervision on recidivism of offenders in Australia and New Zealand: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychiatry, psychology, and law*, 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2021.1956385>
- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B. L., & Ogloff, J. R. P. (2021). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of judicial supervision on recidivism and well-being factors of criminal offenders. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 74. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2021.101796>
- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B., Ogloff, J. (2020). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of judicial supervision interventions on recidivism, health, and well-being of criminal offenders in Australia and New Zealand. Paper presented digitally at Building Bridges 2020. November 2020, Swinburne University of Technology.
- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B., Ogloff, J. (2019). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of judicial supervision on recidivism of criminal offenders. Paper presented at Prato 2019: Working with violence in Adults and Youth. Effective clinical, welfare and legal strategies. September 2019, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology & Forensicare, Prato, Italy.
- Trood, M. D., Spivak, B., Ogloff, J. (2018). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of judicial supervision on recidivism, health, lifestyle factors of criminal offenders. Paper presented at Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference, Melbourne, Australia.



Robert Bonett

James Ogloff, Stefan Luebbers, Nina Papalia

The Impact of Group Conferencing on Youth Offending

Rationale and aims:

- Group conferencing is a widely used justice mechanism guided by the principles of Restorative Justice. Typically, a conference includes the attendance of an offender, their victim(s), families and supporters of both, a police officer and other key stakeholders, who are brought together for a facilitated discussion about how to address the harm caused by a crime and prevent it from happening again. Conferencing aims to meet victim needs and reduce reoffending.
- Evidence regarding conferencing and youth offending has been limited to studies of low-risk young people who have committed minor crimes, despite the program being used in some jurisdictions with high frequency and severity young offenders. Furthermore, the mechanisms by which group conferencing reduces reoffending remain unclear.

Methodology:

- Retrospective review of 2,366 young people processed through the Children's Court between 2010 and 2018.
- Life-course analyses to examine the potential effect of conferencing on recidivism among attendees versus non-attendees while controlling for key risk factors and the timing of conferencing participation within youth development.
- Individual characteristics, conference elements and sentencing variables were coded from case files in a subsample of 567 conference completers. Binary logistic and negative binomial regression were used to examine the association of types of victim, police and family participation on the likelihood and rate of recidivism.

Results and conclusions:

- Conferencing is effective at reducing the likelihood of continued offending among young people when compared to a cohort processed by the courts. This effect was consistent for higher-risk and lower-risk youth, and violent and property crimes.
- The program elements most strongly associated with reduced reoffending were the presence of secondary victims (individuals who were indirectly harmed by an offence) and the police informant who investigated the offence.
- Importantly, recidivism reduction is not contingent on the participation of a primary victim and can be enhanced by the inclusion of people with personal but indirect experience of the crime.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The study results highlighted the importance of ensuring Conferencing is available to youth regardless of whether victims are inclined to participate. The unique potential of conferencing as a justice mechanism needs consideration beyond the facilitation of victim-offender interactions.
- Cases referred to conferencing should not be based on whether a crime had a personal victim, but rather, whether there are needs that can be met through mobilising a support network for a young person.
- Conferencing should not be relegated to a diversionary status for non-serious crimes and should continue to be used in cases of serious crime with higher risk youth.
- Conferencing should be available at various stages of criminal justice processing. Further research is required to better understand readiness to engage in a conference, however, a post-sentencing scheme may be a more effective way to service hard-to-engage individuals.



Forensicare research guidelines were updated to facilitate a co-design framework and translation of findings into practice

Key CFBS research streams:

Childhood maltreatment and youth offending

Leads: Professor James Ogloff and Dr Nina Papalia

Child maltreatment is a leading contributor to the development of a range of mental disorders, drug use, self-injurious behaviour and suicide attempts, and behavioural disturbances among children and adolescents. Our researchers focus on identifying the individual, family and contextual factors that place maltreated children at greatest risk of developing early mental health and behavioural disorders. Our work includes developing knowledge for preventative interventions to alter high-risk pathways and buffer children against negative impacts of early trauma and adversity. Furthermore, the research team has investigated models of effective assessment, intervention and management for working with young people who have had contact with the criminal justice system.

Grant funded research in progress

Exploring the transition from youth to adult offending – A 10-year follow-up study of Australian young people in custody

Australian Institute of Criminology (\$80,790.88)

Stephane Shepherd, Nina Papalia, Cieran Harris

Rationale and aims:

- This research will identify the key social, clinical and historical factors associated with future adult justice system involvement by following a cohort of adolescents in custody in Victoria over a 10-year period (2011-2021).
 1. Ascertain the proportion of the youth custodial sample that progressed to the adult justice system.
 2. Identify differences in youth to adult system transition across gender, ethnicity, child protection status, and other socio-demographic factors.
 3. Identify differences in youth to adult system transition by offence versatility.
 4. Identify which historical, clinical and environmental factors predict adult justice involvement.
 5. Identify which protective factors predict desistance (i.e., adolescent-limited offending).

Methodology:

- This study adopts a data linkage approach to examine cohort of adolescents in custody in Victoria over a 10-year period (2011-2021). Data pertaining to the cohort will be extracted from a range of sources including Victoria Police and Corrections Victoria. Descriptive and multivariate statistics will be used to investigate:
 1. the proportion of the youth custodial sample that progressed to the adult justice system.
 2. Differences in youth to adult system transition across gender, ethnicity, child protection status, and other socio-demographic factors.
 3. Differences in youth to adult system transition by offence versatility.
 4. Historical, clinical and environmental factors predict adult justice involvement.
 5. Protective factors predict desistance (i.e., adolescent-limited offending).

Progress:

- All ethical approvals have been obtained and data have been extracted.

Key CFBS research streams: Childhood maltreatment and youth offending

Completed doctoral research

Anna Moriarty

Stefan Luebbers, Stephane Shepherd, and Nina Papalia

Differentiating crossover youth: Examining psychological characteristics in a multicultural Australian youth justice cohort

Rationale and aims:

- Crossover youth have been found to commence offending at a younger age, commit more offences, and commit more serious offences than youths without a child protection history.
- Based on a number of theories in the delinquency literature that seek to explain why juveniles offend, it could be hypothesised that crossover youth may display higher levels of psychopathology, a hypervigilance to anger in others, lower levels of inhibition, and higher levels of impulsivity, than juveniles who offend but don't have Child Protection histories.
- This study therefore aims to:
 - investigate whether crossover youth have higher levels of psychopathology, are more hypervigilant to anger in others, have higher levels of impulsive aggression, and have lower levels of inhibition, compared to youths who offend and don't have a child protection history
 - investigate whether levels of psychopathology, impulsive aggression, inhibition, and hypervigilance to anger are associated with severity and chronicity of offending in a juvenile justice cohort
 - investigate the impact of gender and ethnocultural background on crossover status, severity of offending, and chronicity of offending.

Methodology:

- This study utilises pre-existing data from participants who were incarcerated in juvenile detention facilities in Victoria between July 2011 and June 2012.
- Participants completed a battery of psychometric tests that measured psychopathology, emotion recognition sensitivity, inhibition, and impulsive aggression.
- Linkage methodology was also utilised to extract participants' criminal histories, and involvement with Child Protection services.
- Data analysis was undertaken to determine the associations between participants' criminal records, Child Protection status, and results of their psychometric testing.

Results and conclusions:

- It was found that impulsivity, impulsive aggression, and identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were associated with having a child protection history in this juvenile justice cohort;
- Having a child protection history was associated with both having a violent index offence, and a higher number of previous justice orders in this juvenile justice cohort;
- Sensitivity to anger was associated with having a violent index offence, while being male was associated with having a higher number of previous orders;
- Having a child protection history moderated the relationship between ethnocultural group and previous number of orders, as well as the relationship between externalising psychopathology and number of previous orders.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- It is crucial that interventions are implemented with children involved with child protection services in order to minimise these youths' trajectories to severe and frequent offending;
- Young people involved with child protection may benefit from interventions that address impulsivity and impulsive aggression with the aim of minimising their risk of crossing over into the justice system;
- Tailoring interventions to address hostile attribution biases in justice-involved youth may address violent offending;
- The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in Australia's child protection systems must be urgently addressed.

Abigail Sheed

Troy McEwan, Melanie Simmons, Nina Papalia

Understanding family violence use by young people: an examination of risk and situational factors

Rationale and aims:

- The project is focused developing a greater understanding of family violence used by young people aged 10 – 24 years and to explore ways to improve risk assessment with this population. There are four primary aims of the research:
 - First, to determine what differentiates young people who only engage in violence toward family members from those whose violence is part of a wider pattern of offending behaviour.
 - Second, to identify key risk factors associated with young peoples' use of violence and risk for recidivism.
 - Third, to determine whether the current tool used by Victoria Police for family violence incidents, the Victoria Police Screening Assessment for Family Violence Risk (VP-SAFvR), accurately assesses the risk of family violence-related recidivism among young people aged 10-24 years.
 - Fourth, to determine the situational/contextual variables involved in young peoples' use of violence within the family context.

Methodology:

- The research will employ a prospective follow-up design using data from Victoria Police databases. It involves the analysis of all police-reported incidents of family violence in Victoria during the four-month period between 1 September and 31 December 2019 (index period) in which a young person aged 10 to 24 (inclusive) was listed as the aggressor in a family violence incident (N = 5014).
- This was drawn from a wider population of all 24,419 family violence reports recorded by police during the same period. Data of each young person is linked to historical data held in police databases and police outcome data collected over the six-month follow-up period. De-identified police narratives will also be examined to identify the situational and contextual factors which are related to young peoples' use of family violence.

Results and conclusions:

- The findings suggested that young people who were reported to police for using family violence were typically male and disproportionately from low socioeconomic backgrounds and rural/regional locations. There were similar rates of police-identified mental health issues and family violence recidivism between those aged 10-14 years, 15-19 years, and 20-24 years.
- Substance abuse, unemployment/school truancy, and intimate partner abuse were found to be higher among those aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years, while accessibility (i.e., disability-related) needs, child-to-parent abuse, and police-reported family violence victimisation during childhood were higher among those in 10-14 years.
- The VP-SAFvR displayed moderate discriminative validity (AUC = .65), and adequate predictive validity, when used to assess young family violence-users aged 10-24 years. It similarly exhibited moderate discriminative validity across age, sex, and relationship of abuse.
- Young people who engage in family violence alongside other offending behaviour displayed a higher level of risk and need than those who exclusively engaged in family violence.
- Interpersonal conflict (e.g., verbal arguments) and parental limit-setting (e.g., enforcing rules) were the two most common situational triggers for child-to-parent abuse. Additional situational factors found to be relevant include mental health issues, third party involvement, weapons, and substance abuse.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- There are age-related differences in the sociodemographic, psychosocial, and family violence characteristics of young people who engage in abusive behaviour, indicating a need for police and services to adopt a developmentally-sensitive approach to assessing, managing, and intervening with young people who use family violence.
- Those who engage in both family violence and other offending need to be prioritised for assessment and intervention, given their higher level of risk and need than those who exclusively engage in family violence.
- The VP-SAFvR is a valid and reliable tool for assessing young people's (i.e., those aged 10-24 years) risk of engaging in family violence within six months of the index incident.
- Risk management and intervention strategies should be individually tailored and include consideration of situational factors relevant to the young person's use of family violence (e.g., difficulties with interpersonal conflict and parental limit-setting).

Key CFBS research streams: Childhood maltreatment and youth offending

Completed doctoral research

Maddison Riachi

Troy McEwan, Nina Papalia, Benjamin Spivak

Mental Health and Youth Family Violence

Rationale and aims:

- The literature on young people who use violence in their family and intimate relationships has to date largely investigated different forms of youth family violence (e.g. child to parent abuse and youth intimate partner abuse) independently. This impedes development of a comprehensive understanding of potential common risk factors and points of intervention.
- Most research has also focused on the characteristics of perpetrators of Youth Family Violence (YFV), rather than victim survivors, or dyadic interactions between the two, leaving a significant gap in understanding this form of relational violence in its entirety. Further, most research to date has focussed on correlates of YFV, as opposed to determining the difference between risk factors and risk markers for YFV.

Methodology:

- This thesis uses data-linkage methods to address these limitations with a specific focus on the mental health (an identified correlate of YFV) and mental health service utilisation of 361 young people (aged 25 years and under) whose violence towards their family members or intimate partners brought them to the attention of Victoria Police, while simultaneously investigating the mental health and mental health service utilisation of the victims.
- The sample of young people and their victims as provided by Victoria Police were linked with national Australian health records from the Medicare Benefits Scheme and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from January 2010 to January 2018, capturing contact with private mental health providers such as psychiatrists, psychologists and general practitioners. The sample was also linked with lifetime health records from the Victorian public mental health database, capturing crisis and continuing care mental health service provision.

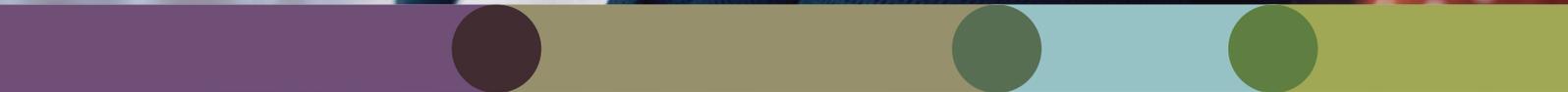
Results and conclusions:

- The studies that comprise this thesis demonstrate that YFV users and victims predominantly access Medicare rebated mental health services, are most commonly prescribed analgesics and antidepressants/anti-anxiety medications.
- Where participants accessed public mental health services, substance use disorders, mood disorders and stress disorders appear to be the most common mental health diagnoses in both users and victims.
- There was a temporal association between YFV incidents and mental health service use for YFV users, specifically when mental health services were accessed prior to YFV incidents. There was also a higher likelihood of YFV users being diagnosed with a mental health disorder before the onset of police contact for YFV incidents. No such relationship was found for YFV victims.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The findings of this research indicate that mental health interventions have a place as part of a wider response to YFV, but such interventions are unlikely to be sufficient to reduce YFV in isolation.
- There is a clear need for multidisciplinary services that can respond to the complex needs of young people who use family violence, and their families, which includes skilled clinicians with experience in forensic assessment and intervention.





Eight awards were received by staff and students at the Centre in the last financial year

Key CFBS research streams: Culture, psychology and law

Leads: Associate Professor Stephane Shepherd and
Dr Justin Trounson

Australia is becoming increasingly diverse. The multicultural composition of the criminal justice system is also changing, which has ramifications for forensic practice. Culture can shape an individual's worldview, norms, motivations, beliefs, expected behaviours and practices. It can also influence health-seeking behaviours, treatment considerations and how individuals interact with clinical/correctional service providers. It is therefore critical that we ensure that our professional methods are culturally fair, relevant and non-discriminatory at the intersection of psychology and law. Our researchers in this area have affiliations with key multicultural researchers from other research institutions around Australia and internationally, as well as strong partnerships with community organisations including Mahana Culture and Afri-Aus Care.

Grant funded research in progress

Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre

Neighbourhood Justice Centre (\$50,000)

Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak, Diane Sivasubramaniam, Sinead Cloonan-Thomas, Linda Ashford, Akuch Anyieth, Justin Trounson, Dr. Nina Papalia, Cieran Harris

Rationale and aims:

- This study seeks to examine perceptions and experiences of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) by both clients and stakeholders to evaluate the efficacy of this community court model for CALD groups, specifically from African Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

The project aims to address the following research questions:

1. Do clients perceive fairness in the NJC process and how does this impact client satisfaction and confidence in the NJC approach?
2. To what extent do clients perceive improvements in wellbeing as a result of the NJC Client Services model?
3. How does the NJC client experience differ across cultural backgrounds?
4. How is the NJC approach viewed by internal stakeholders (i.e., staff) and external justice system stakeholders?

Methodology:

- A mixed method design comprising surveys and focus groups of NJC clients, staff and stakeholders.

Progress:

- Ethics approval is underway.

Our research explores the needs of multicultural clients in psycho-legal settings and best practice for working effectively.

The impact of micro-aggressions on the distress levels of Indigenous university students

Swinburne University Indigenous Studies Research Grant (\$5,000)

Stephane Shepherd, Yin Paradies, Scott Lilienfeld, Diane Sivasubramaniam, Benjamin Spivak

Rationale and aims:

- A growing body of Australian research has demonstrated associations between racism and poor mental health outcomes. Yet, remarkably, there is no scientific research on micro-aggressions in Australian settings.
- This study provides a novel opportunity to investigate both the perceptions and impact of micro-aggressions on Indigenous Australian university students.
- Prior research has indicated that many Indigenous Australians endure experiences of explicit racism which have detrimental psychological consequences. It is of interest to determine if the perception of micro-aggressions directly prompts similar adverse psychological reactions and, additionally, what factors induce (or mitigate) the likelihood of an individual taking offence from micro-aggressions.

Methodology:

- A total of 600 Swinburne University students (200 Indigenous Australian; 200 Anglo-Australian; 200 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) were recruited to participate in the study.
- Students at Swinburne completed the Research Experience Program (REP), in which they participated in research as a learning exercise in exchange for course credit. Participants were invited to complete an anonymous online survey, and complete four questionnaires and additional demographic information.
- This is the first project to ascertain how multicultural university students interpret micro-aggressions, what factors underpin these interpretations, and what impact micro-aggressions have on their wellbeing. Information from the study will also inform us as to which particular types of micro-aggressions students find inappropriate.

Progress:

- A paper is being prepared to disseminate study findings.

Staff-initiated research in progress

An examination of the impact of rater cultural bias on risk assessment in the Australian criminal justice system

Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak, Caitlin Cohen

Rationale and aims:

This project will conduct three major studies to address the following research questions:

- Are there any observable differences in risk scores on both ARAI's and SPJ's for BIPOC compared to Anglo-Australian offenders?
- Does the inclusion of culturally specific information affect risk assessment scores and recommendations for treatment?
- How might a clinicians' own political leanings and understandings of social disadvantage (collective trauma and racism) impact upon their perceptions of risk for BIPOC offenders?

Methodology:

- Study 1: This study will use a between-subjects design to assess whether rater cultural bias impacts the administration of ARAI and SPJ on culturally diverse offenders.
 - i. Three video vignettes will be used to depict the same clinical encounter but with three different offenders (one of Indigenous-Australian background, one of Pasifika-Australian background and one of Anglo-Australian background). Extensive screening processes will be undertaken to ensure that actors are deemed similar on all accounts except for culture.
 - ii. In this study, clinicians will be randomly assigned to a vignette, and asked to assess using the LS/RNR and HCR-20.
- Study 2. This study will expand on Study 1, by including culturally specific information (statements about experienced racism and hardship) within each of the vignettes. A secondary analysis will be used to assess whether statistical differences exist between scores on both versions of the vignette, indicating whether culturally specific information has any impact on risk as perceived by the rater.
- Study 3. This study will examine additional qualitative information provided by raters regarding their understanding and knowledge of social disadvantage, including experiences of racism, loss of cultural identity, intergenerational trauma, and hardship. This qualitative information will be collected from participants involved in Study 1 and 2, and may provide an additional lens to which the findings of previous studies are interpreted and understood.

Progress:

- Applications are being prepared to obtain ethical approval for the project.

Key CFBS research streams: Culture, psychology and law

Staff-initiated research in progress

South-Asian community attitudes towards violence against women

Stephane Shepherd, Dean Kodagoda, Iswa Chaudhry, Natasha Maharaj, Elizabeth Daff

Rationale and aims:

- To investigate the attitudes of South-Asian communities towards family violence, and the extent to which these attitudes differ from the mainstream population.

Methodology:

- Data will be extracted from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey conducted by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety.
- A questionnaire will also be administered to participants. The questionnaire consists of 17 demographic questions and an additional 18 questions for perpetrators, 17 for victim-survivors and 11 for third-party workers.

Progress:

- Ethics approval is being sought from Department of Social Services.
- Data have been received and preliminary analyses have been conducted.

Doctoral research in progress

Houda Boucetta

Benjamin Spivak, Troy McEwan

Evaluating fairness in Intimate Partner and Family Violence (IPFV): Towards intersectionality

Rationale and aims:

- To improve police decision-making in cases of IPFV and ultimately optimise outcomes for victim-survivors of IPFV from vulnerable, minority or marginalised communities. This will be achieved by:
 - Reviewing and synthesising existing literature on IPFV risk assessment and fairness in other forms of violence risk assessment.
 - Exploring and registering the extent of fairness disparities across different vulnerable groups within the context of Victorian police IPFV risk assessment.
 - Using novel algorithmic adjustments to attempt and optimise Victoria police's risk assessment methods for the different vulnerable groups within the population.
 - Exploring how user and stakeholder perspectives and approaches can impact the risk assessment process focusing on First Nations and as well as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse cases.

Methodology:

- The research will comprise three studies and employ a mixed-methods approach. The first two studies will utilise a sample of IPFV reports from Victorian police over a 6-month period in which police officers used the Victoria Police Screening Assessment for Family Violence Risk (VP-SAFvR) to determine IPFV risk.
- The first study aims to quantitatively register the extent of disparities in the fairness of the VPSAFvR using different fairness metrics.
- The second study aims to explore how a novel method of algorithmic adjustment can optimise fairness for multiple vulnerable groups simultaneously.
- The third study will be a comparative multiple case study of different police divisions looking at how user perspectives and approaches of uniformed Victoria Police maybe impacting on the efficacy and fairness of the VPSAFvR for vulnerable groups.

Progress:

- As of the 30th of June 2022, progress has been made in reviewing and synthesising the literature on IPFV risk assessment and fairness in other forms of violence risk assessment. Writing of the literature review as well as the ethics applications have also commenced.

Iswa Chaudhry

Stephane Shepherd, Natasha Maharaj, Elizabeth Daff

Experiences and perceptions of family violence amongst South-Asian communities in Australia

Rationale and aims:

- With the recent growth in migration patterns, the South-Asian community is a prominent ethnocultural CALD group that has reported high levels of family violence. However, research pertaining to family violence within South-Asian communities in Australia is scarce.
- Studies from other Western democracies have revealed that immigrant South-Asian women and the South-Asian diaspora at large are disproportionately impacted by family violence. Women from a South-Asian background, similar to other women of colour, are susceptible to intersecting forms of oppression and abuse, such as race, class, residency status issues, and culturally-specific forms of abuse, which subjects them to a greater susceptibility of violence.
- Similarly, South-Asian perpetrators of family violence are also influenced by a myriad of factors such as cultural normalisation or minimisation of abuse, gender-role expectations, the need to preserve family honour, acculturation and resettlement stressors, as well as systemic and practical barriers to access services.
- Therefore, this research aims to explore the experiences and perceptions of family violence within the South-Asian communities in Australia.

Methodology:

- We aim to interview 10-12 victim-survivors, perpetrators and third party workers (i.e. legal representatives, community advocates and faith-based leaders).
- The victim-survivors and third-party workers will be recruited from various community-based and specialist family violence organisations whilst the perpetrators will be recruited from Correction's Victoria, namely those serving a Community Correction Order for their Index offence as family violence.
- The research will utilise a qualitative, phenomenological approach to contextualise the findings into the Ecological Systems Theory.

Progress:

- Pre-confirmation completed.
- Ethics approval obtained from Corrections Victoria Research Committee.
- Ethics submission made to JHREC.

Maicee Harrison

Justin Trounson, Stephane Shepherd

Exploring the relationship between justice involvement and the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Rationale and aims:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are highly overrepresented at every phase of the Australian justice system. Previous research shows that the experience of incarceration on Aboriginal people is detrimental to their health and wellbeing. However, there is relatively little research investigating how an individual's wellbeing might influence whether they become involved with the justice system.
- The proposed thesis will examine the Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have both experienced and not experienced involvement with the justice system. The overall aim is to investigate if Aboriginal people who have no justice system involvement present with particular SEWB indicators or protective factors, that could be utilised in policies aimed at reducing overrepresentation.

Methodology:

- The thesis will comprise three studies. The first study will quantitatively examine the SEWB factors of Aboriginal children aged 10 to 15 years in relation to justice system involvement from a dataset provided by the Next Generation Project.
- The second quantitative study will utilise the 2014 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) to explore the SEWB factors of Aboriginal young people aged 16-24 years who have no contact with the justice system as compared to those who have.
- Finally, the third study will explore the SEWB factors of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over who have no prior contact with the justice system as compared to those who have had contact. Through a qualitative analysis of participants' stories and experiences of their life trajectories.

Progress:

- Overall, preparations are being made for the Confirmation of Candidature.
- Study one has ethics approval and we are in the early stages of analysing the dataset.
- Approval has been gained to utilise microdata from the 2014 NATSISS for study two and ethics applications are being prepared.

Key CFBS research streams: Culture, psychology and law

Doctoral research in progress

Samantha Venner

Stephane Shepherd, Diane Sivasubramaniam

Clinical reliability in forensic risk assessment

Rationale and aims:

- The Level of Service/Risk Need Responsivity (LS/RNR) and Historical, Clinical and Risk Management Scale (HCR-20 V3) are widely used in Australia to estimate offender risk of reoffending and inform treatment plans. However, there is little research examining their interrater reliability. Our research aims to identify whether these instruments are commensurately reliable when used by a diverse range of professional risk assessors, such as psychologists, correctional officers and youth workers. Results of this study will inform risk assessment training procedures and identify whether the use of the LS/RNR and HCR-20 is useful and reliable.

Methodology:

- Professional risk assessors will view a vignette of an offender risk interview and complete the LS/RNR and/or HCR-20 (depending on their training). Risk scores will be calculated and compared to determine interrater reliability.

Progress:

- Ethics approval received.
- Data collection commenced.

PhD research in progress

Heshani Samantha De Silva

Troy McEwan, Stephane Shepherd

Family violence, risks and help-seeking behaviours among South-Asian Australians

Rationale and aims:

- International research suggests that South Asian immigrants may be particularly vulnerable to experiencing family violence. South Asians are one of Australia's largest growing immigrant populations – yet little is known about their experiences of family violence in Australia. My project aims to explore the following to gain better insight into the occurrence of family violence among South Asian Australians and compare this to Anglo-Australians:
 - Identify the prevalence, incidence rate and nature of family violence.
 - Identify shared and unique risk factors for family violence.
 - Explore help-seeking behaviours and service access.

Methodology:

- Data were obtained through:
 - The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) data through Tablebuilder and Datalab platforms.
 - Family Violence Reports made to Victoria Police across an 18-month time period.

Progress:

- Data have been analysed and two papers documenting the study findings are complete (one submitted to a journal, one being prepared for submission).
- Further analysis is underway to explore: 1) the needs of those who access the police 2) provide insight into how other service providers can help SAAs prior to the police and 3) indicate who may not be able to access the police.

Completed grant funded research

Cross-cultural violence risk assessment

Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (\$336,996)

Stephane Shepherd

Rationale and aims:

- To investigate the cross-cultural predictive accuracy of adult violence risk assessment instruments in an Australian correctional sample of Indigenous, CALD and white Australians.
- To test for measurement bias within the structure of each instrument to determine if the instruments are measuring risk the same way across culture.
- To gather the perspectives of Indigenous medico-legal workers on how risk factors should be culturally contextualised and appraised.
- To identify the existence and extent of cross-cultural evaluator bias.

Methodology:

- Approximately 2300 completed risk instrument files (LS/RNR = 1200; VRS = 800; HRC-20 = 300) were obtained. For each individual, we obtained reoffending data for up to three years post-release from custody.
- Reoffending data (charges) was obtained from the Victorian Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database.
- Ethical approval was sought from the Department of Justice and Regulation Human Research Ethics Committee, Swinburne University Human Research Ethics Committee and the Victoria Police Human Research Ethics Committee. National Coronial Information Service (Department of Justice) data were obtained to exclude deceased participants from the analysis.

Results and conclusions:

- The discrimination of the risk assessment instrument was explored using the area under the curve (AUC) and cross area under the curve (xAUC). Minor differences in discrimination between groups was found when utilising the traditional AUC, however, notable differences were identified using the xAUC.
 - Specifically, the LS/RNR was unable to effectively discriminate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non-reoffenders from non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reoffenders.
 - Disparities were also identified for fairness definitions including error rate balance and statistical parity, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders consistently having a higher false positive rate and scoring significantly higher on the LS/RNR.
- A number of statistical learning methods were found to increase the discrimination of the LS/RNR. Pre-processing approaches were found to lead to notable reductions in xAUC, the false positive rate and statistical parity discrepancies. Last, as some of these approaches resulted in algorithms that were not easily interpretable, the importance of predictors were ascertained through Shapley values. Specifically, current drug use and items relating to criminal history and current unemployment were found to be important predictors of future offending.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- This research has established that the LS/RNR appears to violate several definitions of fairness across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from Australia. Further, the use of novel statistical learning methods and various processing approaches were shown to demonstrate utility in ameliorating the violated fairness definitions.
- More work is needed to explore the inherent trade-offs that exist within the pursuit of cross-culturally fair violence risk assessment instruments. Exploring the trade-offs between fairness definitions, fairness and instrument performance, and performance and transparency will all be useful in gaining an understanding of the best possible acceptable trade-offs that can be achieved. Further, having these trade-offs and their consequences explicitly demonstrated will aid policymakers in determining which side of each trade-off may be the most applicable for them to satisfy.

Outputs to date:

Ashford, L.J., Spivak, B.L., & Shepherd, S. M. (2021). Racial Fairness in Violence Risk Assessment: A Review of the Literature. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. doi: 10.1080/1068316X.2021.1972108

Ashford, L. J., Spivak, B., Ogloff, J. R. P., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). The cross-cultural fairness of the LS/RNR: An Australian Analysis. *Law & Human Behavior (In Press)*.

Key CFBS research streams: Culture, psychology and law

Completed PhD research

Linda Ashford

Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak

Advancing cross-cultural approaches to violence risk-assessment

Rationale and aims:

- The cross-cultural fairness of violence risk assessment instruments that are used to assess an individual's risk of reoffending has received recent scrutiny. This is due to differences in performance among cultural majorities and cultural minorities (e.g., African Americans and Indigenous populations of Australia and North America) in the literature.
- Definitions of fairness that can impact a risk assessment instruments overall utility (e.g., fairness among misclassifications and fairness among predictive accuracy) are less often discussed, with the limited literature often noting significant cross-cultural disparities.
- To address these gaps in the literature, this research aimed to:
 - i) explore the level of fairness of the Level of Service/Risk Need Responsivity (LS/RNR) instrument for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from Victoria, Australia and
 - ii) to increase fairness through statistical learning methods.

Methodology:

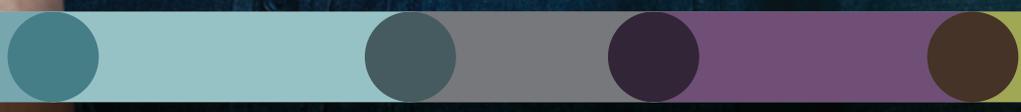
- LS/RNR completions and reoffending data for 380 individuals, 180 of whom identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders and 200 who were classified as non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, were assessed to establish fairness.
- Fairness definitions including error rate balance, calibration, predictive parity, and statistical parity were measured. Disparities among fairness definitions were then addressed using statistical learning methods to increase the fairness of the LS/RNR.

Results and conclusions:

- Although the LS/RNR was able to discriminate offenders from reoffenders at a similar level for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, disparities among fairness definitions were also identified. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders had higher scores on the LS/RNR, and non-reoffenders were classified as high risk more often.
- Various statistical learning methods were found to not only increase the ability of the LS/RNR to discriminate reoffenders from non-reoffenders, but also increase the fairness between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, with statistical parity and error rate balance notably improved.
- For the statistical learning methods that aided in increasing the fairness of the LS/RNR, items around current drug use, unemployment, and criminal history were the biggest contributors to predicting reoffending.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- The LS/RNR for the present sample violated several fairness definitions that may have direct implications in practice if the instruments total risk score is being used to influence decision making.
- Statistical learning methods demonstrated promise to create a fairer assessment of risk and future research should explore these approaches further and how they might be implemented in practice.
- Policymakers need to be aware of the trade-offs that exist in the pursuit of a cross-culturally fair risk assessment. Various fairness definitions are often incompatible with each other, requiring thoughtful deliberation of which type of fairness between groups is the most important to satisfy.



**Research at the Centre
was published or presented in
Europe, USA, the UK and Asia**

Key CFBS research streams: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Leads: Professor Michael Daffern and Dr Caleb Lloyd

Research consistently concludes that a correctional system is effective when it makes human service a top priority. Human service includes rehabilitation (programming that targets the reasons people stay involved in crime), reintegration (preparing and assisting people to successfully transition to the community after prison), and management (making well-informed decisions about which people pose risk to others and how to address that risk). The behavioural sciences are a critical source for the evidence-based approaches that define best practice within corrections. Our team draws on these empirical traditions to design, evaluate and support human service within contemporary corrections.

Key projects in this area include developing and testing a group therapy to treat aggressive scripts in an incarcerated offender population, comparison of open-ended and closed psychological treatment for sexual offenders, evaluation of the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) in Corrections Victoria and offender decision making and desistance from crime during community supervision.

Grant funded research in progress

Acute Dynamic Risk Assessment Program / DRAOR and SDAC-21 Case Management Tools Implementation and Evaluation

Department of Justice and Regulation (\$412,500)

Caleb D. Lloyd, Darcy Coulter, Ariel Stone

Rationale and aims:

- Community case management practice inherently raises several important questions about offender clients, for example: (a) How can supervision officers best assess and manage the actively changing (and volatile) nature of offender transitions to the community?, (b) What are a client's "triggers" to re-offend?, (c) Has the client demonstrated gains from their prior rehabilitation experiences, and are these gains being maintained or lost?, and (d) Is there a way to orient clients toward long-term success?
- The Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) is a 19-item case management tool that assists the assessment of stable risk factors, acute risk factors, and protective factors in the post-release, community context.
- A critical and under-researched element involves the development of an empirical rationale for how to best combine information from multiple risk assessments (e.g., DRAOR plus LS/RNR, Static-99, and / or VRS scores).

Methodology:

- The implementation of DRAOR and SDAC-21 in Corrections Victoria offers a number of opportunities to examine the use of these case management tools in a new correctional jurisdiction.
- There are a number of planned analyses, including examining whether DRAOR scores (a) predict recidivism, (b) change in the expected direction across time, (c) predict recidivism to a greater degree when re-assessed, and (d) flag short-term future violent recidivism.
- Analyses will focus on whether DRAOR scores provide incremental predictive validity above existing risk scores (e.g., LS/RNR, Static-99, VRS).
- If so, this research will develop an empirical rationale for appropriately combining scores from multiple instruments that are characterised by different time frames (long-term risk vs. short-term risk) and purposes (defining level of service vs. case management).

Progress:

- Final version of the project and analysis report completed and submitted to Corrections Victoria in December 2021.
- Disseminated findings through a series of presentations to stakeholder groups within Corrections Victoria between August 2021 and February 2022.
- Submitted a peer-reviewed publication describing project results; article was invited to be revised and resubmitted and is in process toward re-submission.
- Provided refresher DRAOR training and train-the-trainer sessions to Corrections Victoria staff through 2022.

Offender decision making and desistance from crime

United States Department of Justice National Institute of Justice Research, Development, and Evaluation Grant Award (\$458,950)

Caleb D. Lloyd, Ralph C. Serin

Rationale and aims:

- Multiple theories of criminal behaviour emphasise thinking styles as a key factor that underlies offender motivation to commit crime. Research rarely attempts to integrate and compare these explanations. This study employs comprehensive assessment of offender thinking styles using a multi-theoretical approach.
- The first aim of this study is to conduct focus groups with offenders to elicit their thoughts about what leads them to decisions to commit crime, or resist crime. The second aim of this study is to observe offenders' thinking styles across time.
- To inform offender rehabilitation and management, analyses will examine the relationship between thinking styles and re-offending.

Methodology:

- First, this study used a focus-group design, employing a semi-structured interview with small groups of people on community supervision.
- Focus group participants were nominated by their supervision officers as successfully completing the requirements of their probation.
- Second, this study employs a prospective, longitudinal, multi-wave questionnaire design.
- In two U.S. jurisdictions, a large sample (350 total) of people on community supervision self-reported their thinking styles across a six-month period.

Progress:

- Data organisation and preparation for analysis are currently ongoing. Two doctoral students submitted their theses in 2021 using data from this project. One doctoral student's thesis using these data is scheduled for submission in 2023.
- Manuscripts describing results are in preparation for submission to peer review journals.

Turning the Tide on prison violence

Ministry of Business Enterprise and Employment, New Zealand Government (\$216,508.35)

Rationale and aims:

- Recent reviews indicate an increasing rate of interpersonal aggression across most prisons in NZ.
- This study seeks to understand prison violence and the contexts in which it occurs. The projects aims to develop localised interventions to reduce violence and improve safety and wellbeing for prisoners and staff in these settings.

Methodology:

- Phase one of the study draws on Indigenous knowledge (mātauranga Māori) and "ecological perspectives" to explore the drivers for violence and aggression. This includes, interviews with prisoners, family members and staff at participating prisons, as well as a review of the policies and procedures and site inspections.
- Phase two involves the co-design of projects, interventions and resources to reduce violence on-site.

Progress:

- Phase one data collection underway.

Our work aims to better understand and support the needs of consumers and carers, whilst ensuring our service delivery is evidence-based.

Key CFBS research streams: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Staff-initiated research in progress

Community volunteers working with correctional populations

Caleb D. Lloyd, Cole A. Higley, Ralph C. Serin, Sarah Lazzari

Rationale and aims:

- The purpose of this study is to explore demographic information and personal motivations among community volunteers who spend time with individuals in the criminal justice system (e.g. those who teach courses to inmates in prison or assist individuals on parole as they re-enter the community).
- Individuals who volunteer with offender populations are an under-studied group, especially ex-offenders who seek to return to the system to provide volunteer rehabilitative services.
- There are reasons to suggest volunteers may be more effective agents of rehabilitation, compared to criminal justice employees.
- However, volunteers may not have the skills or training to effectively assist individuals who are incarcerated or being supervised in community corrections.

Methodology:

- Community participants who regularly volunteer with a state Department of Corrections in the US were required to complete an online training module to maintain their volunteer status.
- Individuals were randomly assigned to receive one of three e-learning interventions. Each of these interventions outlined a different approach to motivating individuals to stay crime-free (i.e. risk avoidance, strengths-based and community building approaches).
- Embedded within the training, participants were asked to self-report information about their volunteer experiences, motivations for volunteering with offenders and demographic information.

Progress:

- One academic manuscript describing new results from this study was submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
- One proposal for a conference presentation was submitted to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting to be held March 14–18, 2023.

Improving community corrections practice with use of a case management tool: the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR)

Caleb D. Lloyd, Ralph C. Serin

Rationale and aims:

- Community case management practice inherently raises several important questions about offender clients, for example:
 1. How can supervision officers best assess and manage the actively changing (and volatile) nature of offender transitions to the community?
 2. What are a client's 'triggers' to re-offend?
 3. Has the client demonstrated gains from their prior rehabilitation experiences, and are these gains being maintained or lost?
 4. Is there a way to orient clients toward long-term success?
- The Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) is a 19-item case management tool that assists the assessment of stable risk factors, acute risk factors, and protective factors in the post-release, community context.

Methodology:

- To date, our database includes DRAOR assessments on over 10,000 offenders, representing several 100,000s of repeated assessments.
- Primarily, these assessments have been drawn from two jurisdictions that implemented DRAOR into their standard community corrections practice: Iowa (United States) and New Zealand.
- In these jurisdictions, at every meeting with an offender client, a community corrections supervision officer will rate the 19 DRAOR items to assess whether important case management-relevant changes have occurred in the client's life.
- From a risk assessment viewpoint, these data have allowed us to conduct a variety of statistical analyses, and conclude that DRAOR scores:
 - predict recidivism
 - change in the expected direction across time
 - predict recidivism to a greater degree when re-assessed, and
 - flag short-term future violent recidivism.

Progress:

- Data collection and assisting front-line officers to conduct DRAOR assessments with fidelity is ongoing (in Corrections Victoria, New Zealand, and other sites worldwide).
- One new academic publication was accepted in 2022.
- Other academic manuscripts describing these data are under review and in preparation.

Protective factors and their relationship with risk factors when predicting recidivism

Caleb D. Lloyd, Ralph C. Serin, Nick Chadwick, Simon Davies, Devon Polaschek

Rationale and aims:

- Clinicians and clients typically prefer a strengths-based approach to risk management. Many researchers and clinicians have adopted strengths-based language into their offender management practice.
- However, the definition, meaning, and function of protective factors is debated in the literature. The key debate centres on whether proposed protective factors are truly independent from risk factors.
- The purpose of these series of studies is to describe and test the inter-relationships between protective factors, risk factors, and recidivism.

Methodology:

- To date, three datasets from community corrections jurisdictions have been used to examine the statistical nature of protective factors.
- This has included the use of factor analysis to test whether protective items represent a separate latent construct, compared to risk factors.
- Also, we have examined how the presence of protective factors may moderate the relationship between risk and criminal recidivism.

Progress:

- The primary statistical analyses have been conducted, and additional analyses and presentation of results are underway.
- One academic manuscript describing these results was recently published, and another manuscript is in preparation.

Supervision officer/offender client relationships: The role of officer skills, alliance, and client perception of officer interventions

Caleb D. Lloyd, Jennifer Eno Louden, Tamara Kang, Elijah Ricks

Rationale and aims:

- This study aims to examine whether there is an association between the techniques that supervision officers use in sessions with offender clients (on probation) and the clients' perceptions of (a) their relationships with their officers, and (b) the content and helpfulness of their mandated meetings.
- The overarching goal of the project is to explore the nature of offender-officer relationships, and describe how offender clients view their supervision officers' attempts to manage their risk to re-offend and support them in attaining crime-free lifestyles.
- This study is exploratory and observational, and hopes to understand:
 - how offender clients' perceptions of their relationships with their supervision officers vary
 - whether officers have similar relationships with all clients on their caseload
 - how offender clients perceive management techniques used by their supervision officers, and
 - which techniques and relationship qualities are related to offenders reporting a high degree of investment in staying crime-free.

Methodology:

- The project involves a mixed method approach.
- Clients living in the community under correctional supervision will be asked to self-report their experiences of supervision sessions. This includes self-report questionnaires presented on hand-held computer touch-screen tablets, through which offender participants will be asked to self-report their perceptions of the session meeting they recently completed with their supervision officers, their overall sense of relationship with their supervision officers, and their investment in attempting to stay crime-free.
- Audio recordings will also be collected and coded, to provide observational records of session content.
- Questionnaire responses collected after a recent training attended by supervision officers be used to explore how officer beliefs may be related to alliance and client perceptions.

Progress:

- Supervision officers have received new training in evidence-based practices, which will result in variation across officers in new adoption of important offender supervision skills.
- Supervision officers have completed post-training questionnaires about their beliefs regarding supervision skills.
- Audio recording of sessions have been completed for some of the sample, with new audio recordings planned as the training sessions are implemented for all staff.
- In the past year, there has been delays to this project due to COVID-19.

Key CFBS research streams: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Staff-initiated research in progress

The feasibility of de-carceration in Australia

Stephane Shepherd, Benjamin Spivak, Laura Cutroni

Rationale and aims:

- Identify the demographics of the Victorian prison population over the past 20 years (culture, offence type) and track changes over time.
- Explore if the prison admissions reflect crime rates over the past 20 years.
- Explore the risk ratings, index offences, and dropped charges among current prisoners in Victoria.

Methodology:

- A retrospective audit of the Victorian prison population will be conducted in order to examine changes in risk, index offences and crime rate over the last 20 years.

Progress:

- Ethical approval received and literature review complete.
- Data collection about to begin.

Understanding predictors of imminent offending: Which risk domains signal short-term recidivism?

Caleb Lloyd, Melanie Simmons

Rationale and aims:

- Research on assessment of violence risk has begun to move toward seeking 'real time' risk assessment, whereby risk estimates are continually updated to assess short-term risk for violence.
- This review of the existing literature will provide guidance regarding which risk factors show most promise for predicting short-term offending in a community corrections context.
- The goal of this literature review is to summarise the existing knowledge toward identifying the necessary features that would be rated in a threat assessment that shows promise for predicting imminent violence.

Methodology:

- A review of the academic and government literature will identify the studies that have examined re-assessment of risk factors in a community context.
- A discussion of research methodology will highlight how to best study change in risk, imminent risk, and short-term prediction of recidivism.
- A synthesis of the existing literature will point to the risk domains that show most promise as signals or 'flags' for imminent recidivism.

Progress:

- A "fact sheet" style brief for non-academic readers has been completed and distributed to agency partners.
- An academic journal article is in preparation.

Doctoral research in progress

Rose Tingate

Margaret Nixon, Rachael Fullam

Recidivism among females with intellectual disability: Understanding desistance for a highly vulnerable group

Rationale and aims:

- Females with intellectual disability and acquired brain injury are proportionally overrepresented within the criminal justice system and represent a highly vulnerable group. Little research so far has focused specifically on how recidivism may be reduced and reintegration may be encouraged and supported among this group, however it has consistently been identified as a gap in the intellectual disability research.
- This project aims to collate the existing understandings of recidivism and factors that may promote desistance among this group, map out available services, build an understanding of the kinds of supports available and the work that they do with this population, and amplify the voices of those with lived experience.

Methodology:

- Study One involves a systematic review of the literature
- Study Two is a survey of available support services and individual disability and forensic case workers; all NDIA-registered organisations and forensic organisations across a selection of states will be included.
- Study Three will be a series of qualitative life-story interviews with 2-4 females with ID to provide them the opportunity to share their own experiences and recommendations for supports.

Progress:

- The systematic review data extraction is complete and is currently in write-up, in the hopes of being submitted for publication in early 2023. The survey and analysis has been completed and the project is being developed for publication in 2023.
- Study 3/interviews have received ethics approval from SUHREC and recruitment has begun across a number of organisations. The draft thesis review occurred on 29.11.2022 and the panel expressed that the project is moving along well.

Jamie Ung

Caleb Lloyd, Michael Daffern

Turning away from crime: The natural course of change in trait impulsivity, criminal self-efficacy and agency

Rationale and aims:

- This dissertation seeks to understand how desistance related variables affect whether people on probation successfully desist from crime. It draws on research from both psychological and criminological literature and intends to validate three unique measures, understand how participants' scores on each measure changes throughout probation, and to establish whether these changes are predictive of their time until recidivism.
- It is hoped that this dissertation will expand the field's knowledge on potential factors which may be integral in facilitating peoples' desistance from crime.

Methodology:

- This research relies on longitudinal data sourced from two correctional agencies in North America. The measures used in this dissertation include The Agency for Desistance Questionnaire (Lloyd & Serin, 2012), the Criminal Self-Efficacy Scale-15 (Brown, 1998), and the UPPS-P Impulsive Behaviour Scale (Lynam et al., 2009).
- Participants were currently completing probation and were requested to complete several measures on three different occasions spaced approximately four months apart. The data analysis plan includes the use of exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, multilevel modelling, and cox regression survival analysis.

Progress:

- This dissertation will be disseminated across three peer-reviewed academic papers in journals which address the intersection between psychology and criminology. So far, three papers have been drafted and intend to be published in the coming year.

Yiota Zingirlis

Michael Daffern, Caleb Lloyd, Janet Ruffles

A longitudinal study of the assessment and outcomes of Forensic Patients on Conditional Release within NSW

Rationale and aims:

- Forensic Patients are individuals who have committed serious crimes although due to having a major mental illness, are found to not be criminally responsible, and instead in need of psychiatric treatment. Whilst many studies have focused on establishing re-offending rates in this population, there is a gap in the literature with regards to understanding what predicts positive outcomes (beyond an absence of re-offending), such as stability in psychosocial circumstances. Furthermore, there has been limited investigation of the factors that contribute to adverse clinical outcomes such as deterioration in mental health, relapse into substance use, self-harm, and suicide.
- The project seeks to examine the personal, clinical and offence related factors that influence mental health, offending and psychosocial outcomes for forensic patients in NSW following conditional release from secure settings into the community.

Methodology:

- This is a retrospective cohort study. This study will include administrative data of Forensic patients conditionally released within community settings under the oversight of the NSW Community Forensic Mental Health Service between the years of 2006 to 2020.

Progress:

- Establishment of an Aboriginal Community Reference Group.
- Submission of ethics applications to two HRECs:
 - Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Service HREC
 - AH&MRC HREC.

Key CFBS research streams: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Completed PhD research

Darcy Coulter

Caleb Lloyd, Justin Trounson

Addressing Contemporary Issues in Correctional Risk Assessment Through the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry

Rationale and aims:

- A number of critical challenges in contemporary correctional risk assessment exist. These include:
 - A large number of correctional risk assessment tools are currently used internationally, with their estimates of recidivism risk not being directly translatable to other risk assessment tools' estimates.
 - Correctional risk assessment tools are often developed and validated using non-Indigenous samples. Despite this, these tools are often used with Indigenous individuals in various countries.
- Whereas risk propensity is known to vary within individuals across the life course and is expected to vary across shorter periods of time, contemporary risk assessment practice has only recently begun to address the problem of quantifying change in risk, including how to best update risk profiles to account for short-term, imminent, and changing risk.
- Aims of the research are to investigate:
 - How the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) can be combined with a long-term static risk tool, and the resulting risk estimate communicated in a standardised manner.
 - If DRAOR performs equally well across both New Zealand Māori and New Zealand European samples. The predictive validity of DRAOR in an Australian sample, and how the incorporation of change affects its performance.

Methodology:

- Corrections Victoria and New Zealand Department of Corrections provided results from their DRAOR and other risk assessments.
- I linked these data with relevant recidivism data to answer questions about the DRAOR's utility in predicting recidivism.
- Using these data, I conducted various statistical analyses to address the above aims.

Results and conclusions:

- Compared to static risk only, results demonstrated that combining dynamic and static information (1) enhanced concordance with previously proposed recidivism rates for average and lower-risk individuals, (2) decreased concordance with proposed recidivism rates for higher risk individuals, and (3) improved the conceptual alignment to the Five-Level Risk and Needs levels of criminogenic needs.
- Case managers assessed the majority of DRAOR items similarly for both Māori and New Zealand Europeans on parole. DRAOR was also able to discriminate between recidivists and non-recidivists equally well across groups. Base rates of recidivism differed between the two groups, but calibration analyses demonstrated that these differences were consistent across all possible scores.
- The most accurate models for predictive discrimination used an initial measure of criminal history with updated assessments of theoretically fast-changing dynamic factors.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Although the use of a standardised language of correctional risk and needs levels is gaining traction, standardised methods for communicating the combined results of multiple correctional risk and needs assessments does not yet exist. The correctional psychology field should continue to investigate how to combine tools in theoretically and practically meaningful ways.
- Users of risk and needs assessment tools that have not been validated with Indigenous Peoples should be mindful that assessments may be measuring different constructs for their Indigenous clients than for their non-Indigenous clients, and scores may represent different predicted recidivism rates.
- Corrections agencies may achieve prediction of recidivism, an understanding of the needs of their clients in the context of intervention and their current triggers and life destabilisers through the combined use of a comprehensive evaluation of risk and criminogenic needs (e.g. LS/RNR) and a quicker-to-score assessment of acute factors such as DRAOR.

Cole Higley

Caleb Lloyd, Michael Daffern

Three sides of the same cognitive coin: A multi-theoretical evaluation of the relationship between offender perceptions and desistance from criminal behaviour

Rationale and aims:

- Broadly, this project looks to investigate potential pathways that offenders may experience on their way to desisting from criminal behaviour, through rehabilitation.
- Specifically, this projects aims to understand the role of changes in dynamic risk factors (changeable aspects related to criminal behaviour) and changes in offender criminal identity with how offenders desist from criminal behaviour.

Methodology:

- To assess dynamic risk factors related to attitudes towards criminal behaviour and criminal identity, offenders on probation and parole were given a series of questionnaires at three time points while under supervision. Changes from time point to time point will be analysed to determine how these changes will be related to changes in criminal behaviour and future reoffending.

Results and conclusions:

- Perceptions of a future with criminal behaviour, as well as attitudes towards violence, entitlement, antisocial intent, and antisocial associates become more prosocial overtime. None of the emotion factors were related to change in attitudes and beliefs but a minority of personality traits were related to changes in how individuals perceived a future with criminal behaviour.
- The focus group participants' description of their process of desistance from criminal behaviour aligned with existing themes related to broader desistance theories.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- These findings lay the initial groundwork for future research to explore how stable individual traits can be related to more prosocial cognitive changes from clients under community supervision. Thus, these findings are the very first steps in understanding how changing identities are potential treatment goals for individuals under community supervision are, as well as, encouraging individuals under supervision to engage in the process to desist from criminal behaviour.



Key CFBS research streams: Rehabilitation, reintegration and offender management

Completed PhD research

Ariel Stone

Caleb Lloyd, Benjamin Spivak, Nina Papalia

Patterns of Change in Assessed Risk for Recidivism: Jointly Modelling Intra-Individual Change and Associated Recidivism

Rationale and aims:

- Examine how risk assessment scores change following release from incarceration and how change patterns relate to recidivism outcomes.
- Test which aspects of intra-individual change are most closely associated with recidivism. In other words, if one considers individuals' entire history of risk assessments as a single trajectory, which features of that trajectory would be indicative of recidivism risk?
- Introduce joint modelling as a way to examine the relationship between clients' evolving risk profiles and recidivism outcomes.

Methodology:

- Data analysed were routine practice dynamic risk assessment scores from individuals paroled in New Zealand (N = 3421, N assessments = 92,000) and official record recidivism outcomes.
- I used joint latent class modelling (JLCM) to test if there were groups with qualitatively different patterns of change in assessed risk with different associated recidivism outcomes.
- I used shared random effects modelling (SREM) to test which aspects of intra-individual change were most associated with recidivism.

Results and conclusions:

- Latent group structures did not improve recidivism prediction, but results indicated multiple pathways to recidivism. Both groups with increasing risk levels and groups with apparent rapid decreases in risk had similarly high rates of recidivism. In contrast, only a single trajectory, marked by low initial risk that decreased steadily, was associated with desistance.
- Intra-individual trajectories of assessed risk were associated with recidivism, regardless of which association structure I examined. Using different aspects of intra-individual change to predict recidivism did not impact the ability to discriminate between individuals who did and did not recidivate, but current scores and recent change predicted recidivism more efficiently than entire assessment histories.
- Joint modelling is well-suited to modelling intra-individual change in psychosocial risk factors in the context of data with non-random attrition. This is critical for modelling how individuals change across re-entry, given the prevalence of recidivism early in the months following release from incarceration.

Clinical implications and research translation:

- Practitioners should attend primarily to current risk presentations (anchored to initial static risk assessments) when assessing likelihood of imminent recidivism, rather than longer-term patterns of assessed risk.
- Patterns of change may be useful for identifying participants who are desisting. Specifically, in the context of low static risk scores, consistent, incremental reduction of risk characterises desistance. Some clients may benefit from supervision aimed to facilitate stability.

Outputs to date:

- Stone, A. G., Spivak, B. L., Lloyd, C. D., Papalia, N. L., & Serin, R. (2022). Clients' current presentation yields best prediction of criminal recidivism: Jointly modelling repeated assessments of risk and associated recidivism outcomes in a community sample of paroled New Zealanders. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ccp0000766>
- Stone, A. G., Lloyd, C. D., Spivak, B. L., Papalia, N. L., & Serin, R. (under review). Trajectories of change in acute dynamic risk ratings and associated risk for recidivism in paroled New Zealanders: A joint latent class modelling approach.
- Stone, A. (2021, December). Patterns of Change in Assessed Risk: Multiple Pathways to Recidivism, One Pathway to Desistance [Seminar presentation]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science Research Seminar, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.



Two Research Dissemination Seminars were held to promote research projects findings to Forensicare staff

Research outputs

Journal titles by country of publication and author July 2021 – June 2022

Journal title	Number of publications	Country	Authors
Aggression and Violent Behaviour	1	UK	Elvin, Little, Wood, Gannon, Alleyne , Ciardha
Australasian Psychiatry	1	UK	Shepherd
Australian Psychologist	1	USA	Beaini, Shepherd
Trauma, Violence and Abuse	1	UK	Baidawi, Papalia , Featherston
Behavioral Sciences & the Law	1	UK	Parkhill , Nixon, McEwan
Crime and Delinquency	1	USA	Tillyer, Smith, Lloyd
Psychology, Public Policy and Law	1	USA	Sheed , Papalia , Spivak , McEwan , Luebbers
Crime, Law and Social Change	1	Europe	Sukabdi , Daffern , Ogloff , Suwattano
Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology	1	USA	Daffern , Shea , Dunne , Papalia , Thomson, Simmons , Ogloff
Child Maltreatment	1	USA	Papalia , Mann, Ogloff
Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	2	UK	Maguire , Ryan, Fullam, McKenna Simmons , Maguire , Ogloff , Gabriel, Daffern
Connections	1	Europe	Mynard
Journal of Safety Research	1	UK	Meyer , Muir, Silva, Slikboer , McIntyre, Imberger, Pyta
Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice	1	UK	Selenius, Fälth, Svensson , Strand
Nurse Education in Practice	1	UK	Maguire , McKenna , Daffern
Journal of Forensic Nursing	1	USA	Matthew, Collier, McKenna
Sociology of Health & Illness	1	UK	Delbridge, Jovanovski, Skues , Belski
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry	3	NZ	Albrecht , Spivak , Daffern , McEwan Cossar , Wilkinson, Scott, Dietze, Quinn, Kinner, Aitken, Walker, Curtis, Butler, Ogloff , Stoové Yang , Tyrer, Johnson
Nordic Journal of Criminology	1	Europe	Stjernqvist, Petersson, Strand
Law and Human Behavior	1	USA	Ashford , Spivak , Ogloff , Shepherd
New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online	1	NZ	Came , Baker, McKenna , McCreanor
International Journal of Forensic Mental Health	2	UK	Blake , Ogloff , Fullam Ogloff , Rose , Meyer , Benson, Shepherd , Pfeifer, Louise, Trounson , Skues , Daffern
Journal of Interpersonal Violence	2	USA	Hosie , Dunne , Simpson, Daffern Perley-Robertson, Serin , Chadwick
Journal of Personality Assessment	1	USA	de Vogel, De Beuf, Shepherd , Schneider
Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues	1	AUS	Harrison , Trounson
Criminal Justice and Behavior	1	USA	Woldgabreal, Day, Daffern , Lloyd, Graffam
International Journal of Drug Policy	1	Europe	Cossar , Stewart, Wilkinson, Dietze, Ogloff , Aitken, Butler, Kinner, Walker, Curtis, Kirwan, Stoové
Disability and Society	1	UK	Trounson , Gibbs , Kostrz, McDonald, Peters
Journal of Clinical Psychology	1	USA	Hosie , Simpson, Dunne , Daffern
Journal of Mental Health	1	UK	Isobel, Gladstone, Goodyear, Furness , Foster
Law and Human Behaviour	1	USA	Ashford , Spivak , Ogloff , Shepherd
Journal of Judicial Administration	1	AUS	Trood , Spivak , Sivasubramaniam, Shepherd

Journal titles by country of publication and author July 2021 – June 2022 *continued*

Journal title	Number of publications	Country	Authors
Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	1	UK	Taylor, Mynard, Farnworth
Psychiatry, Psychology and Law	4	AUS/NZ	Brookenstein, Ogloff, Campbell, Chu, Daffern
			Clarkson, Darjee
			Raymond, McEwan, Davis, Reeves, Ogloff
			Blake, Ogloff, Antolak-Saper
Policing and Society	1	UK	Spivak, McEwan, Luebbers, Ogloff
Journal of Threat Assessment Management	3	USA	Jutasi, McEwan
			James, MacKenzie, Allen, Wolfe Murray, De Silva, Yang, Farnham
			James, Allen, Wolfe Murray, MacKenzie, Yang, De Silva, Farnham
International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology	1	USA	Morrison, Fullam, Thomson, Meyer, Daffern
International Journal of Mental Health Nursing	2	UK	Maguire, Garvey, Ryan, Olasoji, Willetts
			Maguire, Garvey, Ryan, Willetts, Olasoji
Psychology, Crime and Law	1	UK	Klepfisz, Daffern, Day, Lloyd
Addiction	1	UK	Cossar, Stewart, Winter, Curtis, Dietze, Ogloff, Stoove
Legal and Criminological Psychology	1	USA	Cloonan-Thomas, Daff, McEwan
Journal of Personality disorders	1	USA	Cavelti, Thompson, Betts, Fowler, Luebbers, Cotton, Chanen

Published research

Number of publications by type: 2006 – June 2022

Year	Journal Articles	Books	Chapters in books	Articles in press	Books / Chapters in press books
2021-2022	43	1	4	11	3
2020-2021	57	2	6	13	8
2019-2020	53	1	12	7	5
2018-2019	49	1	3	17	5
2017-2018	61	0	12	8	16
2016-2017	40	1	7	16	9
2015-2016	57	1	9	10	7
Jan-Jun 2015	24	3	5	8	5
2014	37	0	16	–	–
2013	44	0	5	7	5
2012	41	1	8	–	–
2011	34	0	2	16	2
Jul 2009-Dec 2010*	47	4	9	9	7
2008-2009	32	1	8	14	7
2007-2008	16	0	7	18	8
2006-2007	28	0	6	11	12

*18 month period

Presentations and research translation activities

Year	Invited address/Keynote speech		Conference Paper presentation		Presentations to clinical and Professional groups	
	National	International	National	International	National	International
2021-2022	2	2	6	7	31	1
2020-2021	11	1	14	2	26	1
2019-2020	5	6	9	19	42	2
2018-2019	6	13	25	22	59	13
2017-2018	5	6	14	28	20	30
2016-2017	7	3	19	27	35	14
2015-2016	18	4	24	44	17	8

Appendix 1

Publications list

Journal articles

- Albrecht, B., Spivak, B., Daffern, M., & McEwan, T. E. (2022). The temporal relationship between mental health service use and stalking perpetration. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00048674211072449>
- Baidawi, S., Papalia, N., Featherston, R. (2021). Gender differences in the maltreatment-youth offending relationship: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380211052106>
- Beaini, D., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). Working with Arab women with PTSD: What do we know? *Australian Psychologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00050067.2022.2033950>
- Blake, G., Ogloff, J. R. P., Fullam, R. (online). Knowledge and opinions of fitness to stand trial elements in Australia. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14999013.2021.1966140>
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Appendix 1

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- Blake G. A., Ogloff, J. R. P. & Antolak-Saper, N. (in press). Special considerations to the assessment of fitness to stand trial in Australia. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*.
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- Klepfsiz, G., Lloyd, C. D., Day, A., & Daffern, M. (In press). Increasing client motivation ratings across violence rehabilitation are promising predictors of reduced post-custody recidivism. *Psychology, Crime & Law*.
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Books and book chapters

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Warren, L., Mullen, P.E. & McEwan, T.E. (2021). *Explicit threats of violence*. In R. Meloy and J. Hoffman (Eds) *International Handbook of Threat Assessment* (2nd ed.) Oxford University Press.

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Enticott, P., Curtis, A., & Oglloff, J. R. P. (in press). *The neurobiology of aggression and violence*. In S. Hupp and J. Jewell, *The Encyclopaedia of Child and Adolescent Development*. West Sussex, UK: John Wiley.

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Veal, R., & Oglloff, J. R. P. (in press). *The concept of psychopathy and risk assessment: Historical developments, contemporary considerations, and future directions*. In P. B. Marques, M. F. Paulino, & L. Alho (Eds.), *Psychopathy and criminal behavior: Current trends and challenges*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier Academic Press.

Reports

Blakemore, T., Dean, L., Stuart, G., McGregor, J., Hansen, K., Davies, K. & Turley, L. (2022). *The wisdom of women and workers: practice considerations for designing assertive outreach services for women experiencing homelessness*.

Daffern, M., Ruffles, J., Fullam, R., Thompson, K., Pichler, A. S., Trounson, J., Wild, S., & Oglloff, J. R. P. (2022). *Evaluation of New and Enhanced Service Responses to Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse: Outcome Evaluation Report*. Prepared for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland.

Davies, S. Gelb, K., Spivak, B. & McEwan, T. (2021). *A review of research into specialist court responses to family violence since the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence*. Prepared for Court Services Victoria by the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne Australia.

Fullam, R., & Pichler, A. S. (2021). *Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Services Data Collection Plan: Part Two*. Prepared for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland.

Fullam, R., Maguire, T., Richardson, K., & Furness, T. (2022). *Final Report: Evaluation of the Clinical Support Team at Thomas Embling Hospital*. Prepared for Forensicare, Melbourne, Victoria.

Fullam, R., Ruffles, J., Thompson, K., Pichler, A. S., Trounson, J., Daffern, M. & Oglloff, J. R. P. (2022). *Evaluation of New and Enhanced Service Responses to Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse: Process Evaluation Report*. Prepared for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland.

Oglloff, J. R. P., Kennedy, H., & Doyle, M. (2021). *Forensic Service Comprehensive Model of Care Review*. Report prepared for the Mental Health and Addictions Program, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Canada.

Lloyd, C.D. (2021). *Evaluation of the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Re-Entry (DRAOR) case management tool implemented in the parole and post-sentence cohorts in the Department of Justice and Community Safety (Corrections Victoria)*. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne Australia.

Maguire, T., Daffern, M. D., McEwan, T., & Oglloff, J. R. P. (2021). *Reducing Aggression in Vaccination Hubs. Prepared for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Austin Hub*. The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne Australia.

Mawren, D. & Furness, T. (2022). *Review into Alcohol and Other Drug Service at Thomas Embling Hospital*. Prepared for Forensicare, Melbourne Australia.

Mawren, D., Lee, S.L. & Oglloff, J.R. (2021). *Investigating the impact of the DUNDRUM-1 and DUNDRUM-2 in prison settings: Final Report*. Prepared for Forensicare. Melbourne, Australia.

McEwan, T., Ashford L., Richardson, K. & Fullam, R. (2021). *Victorian Fixed Threat Assessment Centre Joint Extracted De-identified Database Review*. Prepared for Victoria Police, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 1

McEwan, T.E., Phillips, L. & Pathé, M. (2021). *Survey of Victorian MPs' Experiences of Threat, Harassment and Stalking*. Prepared for Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria.

Nixon, M., Lloyd, C., Pichler, A.S., & Fullam, R. (2021). *Interaction of people with disability and the justice system: a NSW linkage study*. Prepared for the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, NSW, Australia.

Nixon, M., Daff, E., Boyce, C., Richardson, K., Veal, R., & Fullam, R. (2021). *Final Report: Evaluation of the Forensic Mental Health Services at Ravenhall Correctional Centre*. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia.

Mynard, L., Fossey, E., Farnworth, L., & Pepin, G. (2021). *A scoping review protocol on occupational formulation*. Delivered to Monash University.

Phillips, L., Pathé, M., & McEwan, T. (2021). *Victorian Parliamentarians' Experiences of Harassment, Threats and Stalking*. Victorian Parliamentary Library Fellowship Paper. Parliament of Victoria.

Appendix 2

Presentations and research translation activities

Peer reviewed conferences

Keynote addresses

Ogloff, J. R. P. (August 2021). *Mental Health Assessments: In Conversation with Distinguished Professor Ogloff AM*. Delivered at the Law Institute of Victoria Criminal Law Conference, Melbourne.

Ogloff, J. R. P. (September, 2021). *Models of Care and Operations in Forensic Mental Health*. Invited address delivered to the Northern Territory Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Division. Darwin, NT.

Ogloff, J. R. P. (October 2021). *The Long-Term Effects of Child Sexual Abuse: Social, Psychological and Criminological Sequelae*. Invited address delivered to the Department of Psychiatry Special Lecture Series, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Ogloff, J. R. P. (May 2022). *The Long-Term Effects of Child Sexual Abuse: Social, Psychological and Criminological Sequelae*. Delivered remotely at the International Forensic Psychiatry Lecture Series, St. Joseph's Healthcare and McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

Paper presentations

Altwajjiri, I. A. (June, 2022). *Examining the mental health outcomes for male perpetrators of family violence* [Paper presentation]. International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Conference, Berlin, Germany.

Blake, G. A., & Leach, C (November, 2021). *Evaluating fitness to stand trial in Australia*. Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law. 40 Years of ANZAPPL Congress – Reflections and Future Challenges. Virtual Conference.

Fullam, R., Luebbers, S., Pichler, A.-S., & Ogloff, J. R. P. (October, 2021). *Pilot evaluation of the embedded youth outreach program* [Paper presentation]. Australia & New Zealand Society of Evidence Based Policing Conference, Virtual.

McEwan, T. E., Cloonan-Thomas, S., & Daff, E. (November, 2021). *Adolescent stalking victimisation and perpetration in an Australian sample* [Paper presentation]. 40th Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law Annual Congress, Virtual.

Mynard, L. (June, 2022). *Implementing and Evaluating Occupational Formulation: A participatory Action Research Approach* [Paper presentation]. OT Exchange, Melbourne, Australia.

Mynard, L. (June, 2022). *Occupational formulation: A crucial tool for mental health occupational therapists* [Paper presentation]. OT Exchange, Melbourne, Australia.

Ogloff, J. R. P. (March, 2022). *Understanding the relationship between mental illness and offending: Steps toward effective intervention* [Paper presentation]. Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry 2022 Conference, Virtual.

Quinn, A., Simmons, M., Spivak, B., & Bergmeir, C. (2022, July). *RNN-BOF: A Multivariate Global Recurrent Neural Network for Binary Outcome Forecasting of Inpatient Aggression*. International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, Italy.

Reich, B., McEwan, T. E., & Nixon, M. (November, 2021). *Understanding psychological characteristics that differentiate stalking and interpersonal violence* [Paper presentation]. 40th Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law Annual Congress, Virtual.

Riachi, M., McEwan, T. E., Papalia, N., & Spivak, B. (November, 2021). *The mental health and mental health service utilisation of perpetrators and victims of youth family violence* [Paper presentation]. 40th Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law Annual Congress, Virtual.

Riachi, M. A., McEwan, T., Spivak, B., & Papalia, N. (November, 2021). *The psychopharmacological treatment of youth family violence users and victims* [Paper presentation]. 40th Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law Annual Congress, Virtual.

Trood, M. D. (December, 2021). *A systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Judicial Supervision Interventions on Recidivism of Criminal Offenders in Australia and New Zealand* [Paper presentation]. 33rd Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, Virtual.

Turner, S. (June, 2021). *Towards family inclusive practice in forensic mental health: The single session family consultation pilot* [Paper presentation]. Healthcare in Secure Settings, Sydney, Australia.

Presentations to professional community groups

Blake, G. A. (2022). *The Australian and New Zealand evaluation of fitness to stand trial – Revised*. Webinar delivered to NSW College of Forensic Psychologists, Remote.

Daffern, M. (2022). *Case formulation*. Presentation. PBP program, Forensicare. Melbourne, Australia.

Daffern, M. (2022). *Presentation on DASA*. Lecture Series delivered to International Forensic Psychiatry, Canada.

Daffern, M. (2022). *Working remotely with justice involved clients: Challenges and opportunities*. Workshop delivered to Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program, Forensicare, Melbourne, Australia.

Daffern, M., & Maguire, T. (2022). *DASA + APP workshop*. Workshop delivered to Albury Wodonga Health, Albury, Australia.

Daffern, M., & Maguire, T. (2022). *DASA + APP workshop*. Workshop delivered to Albury Wodonga Health, Albury, Australia.

Maguire, T., McKenna, B., & Daffern, M. (2022). *The development of the eDASA + APP*. Workshop delivered to Peninsula Occupational Violence Steering Committee. Online.

Maguire, T., McKenna, B., & Daffern, M. (2022). *eDASA + APP teaching study*. Workshop delivered to Victorian Prevention of Clinical Aggression Forum, Melbourne, Australia.

Maguire, T., Ryan, J., Garvey, L., Willets, G., & Olasoji, M. (2022). *Exploration of the utility of the nursing process and the clinical reasoning cycle as a framework for forensic mental health nurses*. Presentation delivered to Forensicare Research Dissemination Melbourne, Australia.

Meredith, V. (2022). *The short-term assessment of risk and treatability (START) a sex comparison in assessment & prediction of risk of aggression over time at Thomas Embling Hospital*. Presentation delivered to Forensicare Research Dissemination. Melbourne, Australia.

Appendix 2

- McEwan, T. E. (July, 2021). *Train the trainer, Victoria police case prioritisation response model for family violence*. Delivered to Victoria Police, Melbourne, Australia.
- McEwan, T. E. (November, 2021). *Victoria police case prioritisation response model for family violence*. Delivered in to Victoria Police, Melbourne, Australia.
- Modini, E. (September, 2021). *Dementia in Victorian prisoners: A review of the literature*. Presentation to Hammond Care Dementia Centre, Melbourne, Australia.
- Moriarty, A. (August, 2021). *Differentiating crossover youth: Examining psychological characteristics in a multicultural Australian youth justice cohort*. Swinburne University of Technology Psychology Department, Melbourne Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (November, 2021). *Exploring the role of mental illness and offending*. Workshop delivered to Mental Health Advice and Response Service, Forensicare, Melbourne, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (August, 2021). *HCR-20 training*. Delivered to Corrections Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (November, 2021). *Managing and engaging individuals with severe personality disorder*. Workshop delivered to Department of Justice & Community Safety, Melbourne, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (October, 2021). *PCL-R training*. Delivered to Corrective Services, NSW, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (July, 2021). *PCL-R training*. Delivered to Corrections Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (July, 2021). *SAVRY training*. Delivered to Orygen, Caraniche and Forensicare staff, Melbourne, Australia.
- Shepherd, S. M. (October, 2021). Guest Speaker at Neighbourhood Watch Victoria Annual General Meeting and Community forum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tUqTxXd2jo>
- Shepherd, S. M. (December, 2021). *Working with CALD young people who are justice-involved*. Delivered to Caraniche Professional Development, Melbourne, Australia.
- Shepherd, S. M. (December, 2021). Youth Crime Program Planning Day. Guest speaker at Victorian Legal Aid, Melbourne, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (2022). *Court report training*. Workshop delivered to Forensicare, Fairfield, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (2022). *HCR-20 Training*. Workshop delivered to The Top End Mental Health & Alcohol and Other Drug Services. Northern Territory, Australia.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (2022). *PCL-R training*. Workshop delivered to Corrections Victoria, Remote.
- Ogloff, J. R. P. (2022). *Understanding personality disorders and offending*. Workshop delivered to Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program, Alphington, Australia.
- Riachi, M., McEwan, T., Spivak, B., & Papalia, N. (2022). *The mental health and mental health service utilisation of young people engaging in violence in the home*. Workshop delivered to Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. Melbourne, Australia.
- Shepherd, s. (2022). *Using your privilege for societal change*. Chair panellist at Leadership Victoria, Abbotsford, Australia.
- Shepherd, S. M. (2022). *CALD youth in the justice system*. Workshop delivered to YSAS Community of Practice. Melbourne, Australia.
- Shepherd, S. M. (2022). *Working with CALD young people who are justice-involved*. Guest presentation to Griffith University Criminology Program, Queensland.
- Shepherd, S. M., Singh, M., & Floyd, D. (2022). *Juvenile justice?* Invited panellist at the Australian Youth Futures Summit, Remote.

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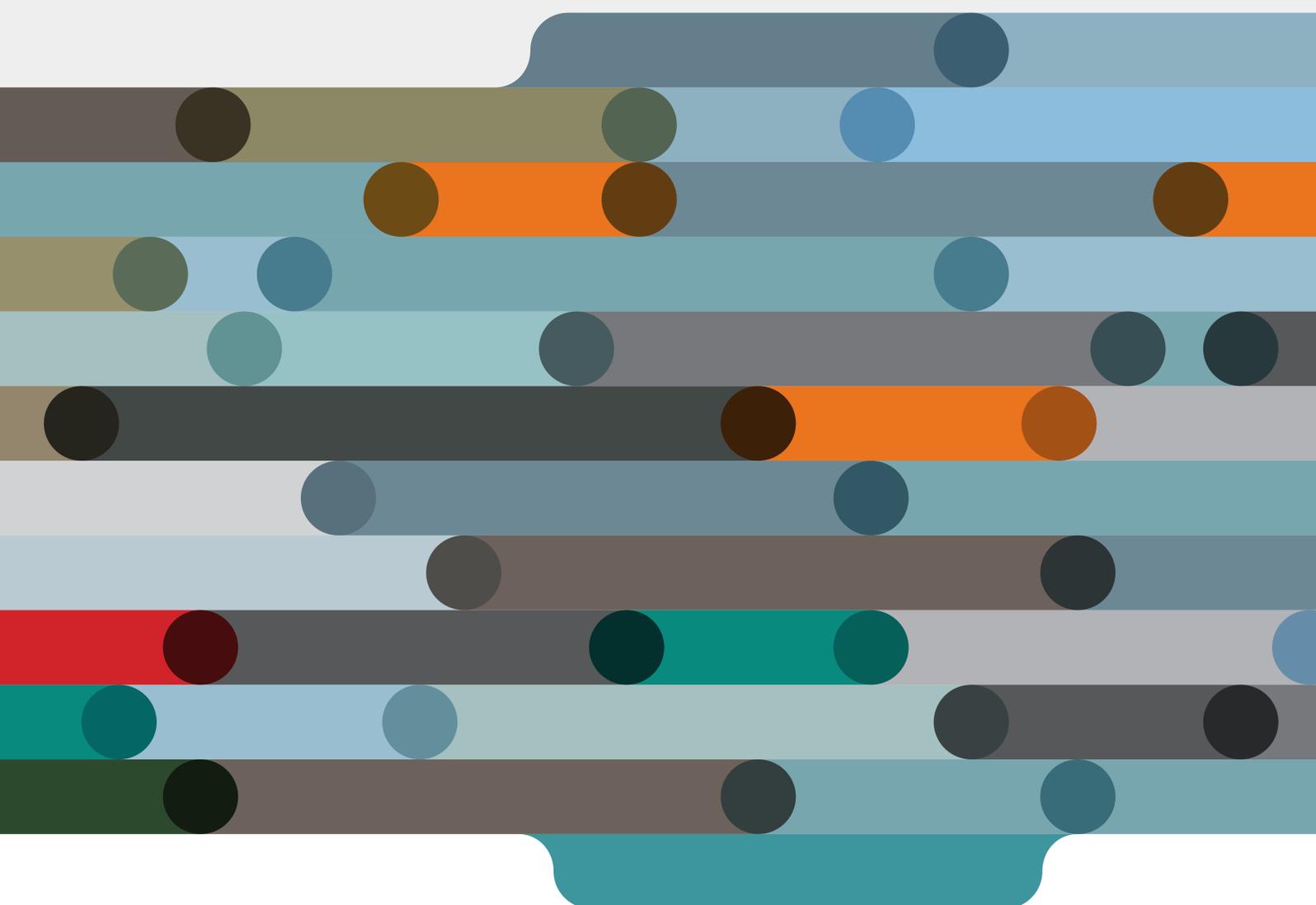
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