Research Overview and Opportunities

Professor Steve Allsop
NDRI Director
Overview

• History
• Part of Faculty of Health Sciences
• WHO Collaborating Centre
• Relevance of NDRI to national strategy and beyond
• Key result areas:
  – Conduct high quality research that will contribute to primary prevention of harmful drug use and reduction of drug related harm
  – Disseminate research findings to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, community interest groups and the public; and contribute to the building of national capacity for research in the prevention of drug related harm
• Links to a range of stakeholders (e.g. Health; Police; Drug consumers; Community)
Activities, outputs and outcomes

- Wide range of opportunities for HDR supervision and for casual work/research careers

- Varied professional background
  - Psychology
  - Public Health
  - Epidemiology
  - Anthropology
  - Medicine
  - Sociology
• Engage in range of research and related activities
  – Mapping effective interventions
  – Indigenous program
  – Cannabis
  – Alcohol monitoring
  – School drug education
  – Justice/Offender health
  – Injecting drug use
  – Community interventions
  – Alcohol and ageing
  – Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequality
  – Ethnographic research – young people and drug and alcohol use
  – Amphetamine Type Stimulant Strategy
Alcohol Policy Research
Examples of current projects

- National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
- Alcohol outlet density and related harm
- An investigation of the nature, extent and effects of point-of-sale promotions for alcohol beverages
- Australian Alcohol Aetiologic Fractions for Emergency Department Presentations (AAAFED)
- Evaluation of public health and safety impact of Extended Trading Permits for Perth hotels and nightclubs
- NDSHS 2004 drinking prevalence study
- The estimate of the direct and indirect economic costs of alcohol incurred by Local Government
- The range and magnitude of alcohol’s harm to others
- Alcohol and other drug use at school leaver celebrations in Western Australia
Alcohol policy research team

- Tanya Chikritzhs
- Richard Pascal
- Christian Gardner
- Wendy Loxley
- Paul Catalano
- Michaela Evans
Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequality
Research Strands

- Impact of early intervention (maternal health, child health and early learning and care) on health and well being (including substance use) among marginalised populations; e.g. evaluations of early learning initiatives in East Kimberley & central Australia
- Child-focused, family-centred, youth-led models of community development; e.g. *Jaru Pirrjirdi* project
- Social inequalities and their impact on health and substance use outcomes e.g. ARC Catalyst
- Mixed-method, participatory approaches to research and evaluation, e.g. NH&MRC Indigenous research training
Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequality Team

Lynn Roarty  Prof Sherry Saggers  Dr Katie Frances

• Collaborative research also with Professor Dennis Gray, A/Professor Ted Wilkes, Ms Annalee Stearne, Dr Mandy Wilson & Mr Michael Doyle (Indigenous Australian Research Team)
Community and School Interventions
Examples of Research Strands

• Alcohol Use and Pregnancy
  – Formative intervention research
  – Systematic literature review of interventions to reduce alcohol use during preconception, pregnancy and breastfeeding
  – Surveys with pregnant women who drink – demographics, situation and circumstances – directions for potential intervention
  – Impact of low level alcohol use during pregnancy
• Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project
• School Drug Education
• School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) - ongoing national and international dissemination
Community and School Interventions Team

- Associate Professor Richard Midford
- Dr Nyanda McBride
- Dr Rina Cercarelli
- Ms Andreia Schineanu (KAAP)

- Susan Carruthers and Sherry Saggers also involved in FASD research
Justice Health
Justice Health Research

Who:
- Adult Prisoners
- Juvenile offenders
- Ex-offenders
- Community orders
- Courts

Interventions:
- Violent offending
- Alcohol

Standards & Advocacy & Policy:
- Medicare
- PBS
- NMDPH

Indigenous incarceration

Risk Behaviours:
- Sexual
- Gambling
- Tobacco
- Violence
- Injury

Mental illness co-morbidity

Communicable Diseases:
- STI & BBV
- NPEBBVS

Substance use problem
- IDU
- Alcohol

Justice Health Research at NDRI

ndri.curtin.edu.au
Justice Health Team

A/Prof Tony Butler
Dr Susan Carruthers
IDU/ Hepatitis C
Dr Jocelyn Grace
Capacity Building Grant
Dr Eva Malacova
TBI & offending

Jocelyn Jones
PhD Scholar
(Juvenile offending)
James Fetherston
PhD Scholar
(Hepatitis C)
Michael Doyle
MPH Scholar
Jackie Sparrow
Research Assistant
Indigenous Research
Examples of Current Projects

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cannabis Interventions
- Bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use
- Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians
- Identifying Areas of Greatest Need in Indigenous Substance Misuse Intervention
- Not just scholars but leaders: learning circles in Indigenous health research
- Randomised controlled trial of an intensive smoking cessation intervention in Kimberley Aboriginal PHC settings
- Restor(y)ing Aboriginal Parenting: Developing a culturally relevant program to support Aboriginal parents promoting their children’s behavioural and social competence and readiness for school learning
- Support of Tangentyere Council Research Hub
- The Tangentyere Council Family Wellbeing Program
- Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Program
Illicit Drug Use Research
Drugs and Policy

Legislative and Regulatory Approaches
- Legislative options for cannabis
- Research on strategies to respond to drink and drug driving

Illicit Drug monitoring
- IDRS - Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDUs)
- ERDS – Ecstasy and Related Drugs (‘party drugs’)

Other projects and interests
- Drug users and the on-line environment
- Knowledge Transfer – Bridging the research to policy gap
Drugs and policy team

Simon Lenton

Candice Rainsford

Jessica George

Monica Barratt (PhD candidate)
Illicit Drug Trends

Candice Rainsford
NDRI Research Associate
BA (Psychology and Addiction Studies)
Edith Cowan University
EDRS and IDRS

Coordinator of the WA Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) and the WA Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

- These are annual nationally run studies designed to monitor trends in illicit drug use and markets across Australia.
- They serve as an early warning system, identifying emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets.

The EDRS and IDRS work by triangulating three data sources:
- 100 interviews with regular drug users per study
- Interviews with key experts
- Analysis and examination of secondary indicator data
An example of what these studies can tell us:

Recent methamphetamine use (*source: IDRS & EDRS*)
Project Participation

In the two years I have been with NDRI I’ve had the opportunity to participate in a range of projects.

• EDRS/IDRS, first as a research assistant and then as project co-ordinator
• A post-change study of cannabis law in WA
• A national epidemiological study of psychostimulant use and its outcomes
• Research into point of sale alcohol advertising and promotions.
• Training of Health WA staff for the implementation of the Smoke free WA Health System Policy
My experience working at NDRI...

• Excellent mentorship and hands on work experience for new graduates
• Publications and the potential for peer-reviewed publications
• Opportunities to work on national level projects
• Networking opportunities with researchers and AOD professionals locally and across the country
• The potential for national conference presentations

Future career aspirations:
I hope to continue working for NDRI on the 2010 WA EDRS/IDRS, then hopefully apply for a scholarship to start my PhD in 2011.
Indigenous Australian Research: Working in and with Indigenous communities

Anna Stearne
Research Projects

Identifying Areas Of Greatest Need: Indigenous Australian Substance Misuse Interventions

Indigenous Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Bibliographic Database

www.ndri.curtin.edu.au
Mt Theo-Yuendumu
Substance Misuse
Aboriginal Corporation

Research Projects

The evaluation of the COMGAS scheme
PhD project: Alcohol and other drug use at Leavers celebrations

Tina Lam
PhD Candidate
So far ...

- research proposal
- create surveys
- observing the celebrations on Rottnest Island
- running pilot groups
- first survey currently live
To go...

- Fieldwork (November 2009)
- post-Leavers survey
- co-ordinating 20 volunteers
- Data analysis
- Thesis writing
It’s not just supervisors that help...
For further information on scholarships and research:

CD
Please take an information CD with you

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