

2022



AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

5TH & 6TH MAY | MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

DEAKIN DOWNTOWN & ONLINE

TOWER 2, LEVEL 12 / 727 COLLINS ST MELBOURNE 3008



@ausfatherhood | #AFRS2022



This symposium acknowledges the traditional Wurrundjeri owners of the land upon which it is hosted.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022

08:45

WELCOME

Karen Wynter

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Skye Stewart, Proud Wergaia and Wemba Wemba woman; Midwife; Special Projects Officer, Red Nose Australia; Research Coordinator, Stillbirth Centre of Research Excellence

MOVEMBER INTRODUCTION

Peter Ekstedt

09:00

PRESENTATION SESSION 1 - PATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

Chaired by Jennifer Ericksen



SCAN FOR ABSTRACTS

1. S. Schilder: Measuring psychosocial risk of fathers in the perinatal period: A scoping review
2. Y. Byun: Fathers in Australia: A longitudinal study of fathers' psychological problems, and associations with children's social-emotional development
3. A. Kothari: "It's a lot of pain you've got to hide": a qualitative study of the journey of fathers facing traumatic pregnancy and childbirth
4. J. Herbert: Fathers' experiences of parenting and family-work life balance through the lens of COVID-19 lockdown
5. L. Francis: Mentalising as a mediator of the relationships between trait anger in men and subsequent emotional bond and involvement with infants; preliminary results*
6. M. Schulz: Co-parenting and parenting behaviour: The role of parent mental health for mothers and fathers in the postnatal period*
7. J. Holmberg: Mental health ally intervention for paternal mental health support*
8. R. Giallo: The Working Out Dads Trial: Progress on recruitment and learnings one year in!*

**Poster presentation*



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY ONE - THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022

10:15 **BREAK**

10:30 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - PROFESSOR CRAIG GARFIELD**

Chaired by Rebecca Giallo

Lessons learned from the United States: Including fathers in research, policy & beyond

11:30 **PRESENTATION SESSION 2 - DIVERSITY IN FATHERING**

Chaired by Tom Docking



SCAN FOR ABSTRACTS

1. R. Fletcher: Do we need father-centric models of care?

2. J. StGeorge: Rural fathers and SMS4dads - a narrative analysis

3. F. Forbes: Healthcare professional's experiences of working with culturally and linguistically diverse fathers during pregnancy, childbirth and infancy

4. L. D'Souza: A systematic review of same gender couples' transition to first time parenthood: The perspectives and approaches of fathers

5. A. Tarrant: Co-creating practice relevant knowledge and social interventions with young fathers and professionals: case studies from the UK

6. J. Goth: Chinese fathers as perinatal supports*

7. D. Violi: Non-resident fathers and desire: What relationship do non-resident fathers desire to have with their children and what factors, influences and experiences help/hinder the realisation of this desire?*

12:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

**Poster presentation*



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022

13:30 **PRESENTATION SESSION 3 - TRANSITION TO FATHERHOOD**

Chaired by Chris May & Karen Wynter

1. K. Hammarberg: Men's parenthood aspirations and understanding of factors that affect the chance of achieving them
2. A. Ghaleiha: Fathers help seeking behaviour and attitudes during their transition to parenthood
3. A. Hofmeier: "Dad taught me what I want for my children's father": The changing roles and impact of fathers in Australia
4. T. Moss: A fathers' influence on his children begins before conception: we should prepare Australian boys and men accordingly
5. E. Keech: Experiences of pregnancy and birth for non-birthing partners during COVID-19: Fathers perspectives*
6. A. Kothari: Screams, tears and a bundle of joy - but no cigar! The fathers and childbirth study*
7. S. Kennedy: Crossing the threshold safely - Preparing first time fathers*
8. C. May: Evidence informed text messaging in the transition to parenthood - SMS4dads*
9. J. So: Dads at Mealtimes: Exploring fathers' food parenting, feeding roles and experiences in tough times*



SCAN FOR ABSTRACTS

15:00 **BREAK**

15:30 **PANEL**

Chaired by Jennifer StGeorge; with Richard Fletcher, Anita Thomas, and Matthew Roberts

Reflections on the day's presentations

16:45 **END OF DAY**

**Poster presentation*



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY TWO – FRIDAY 6TH MAY 2022

09:00 **WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**
Karen Wynter

SUMMARY OF DAY 1
Chris May

09:15 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - PROFESSOR HIRAM FITZGERALD**
Chaired by Elisabeth Duursma
Fathers and Sons: The Risk-Resilience Continuum and Systemic Change

10:15 **BREAK**

10:30 **PRESENTATION SESSION 4 - ENGAGING FATHERS IN HEALTH SERVICES**
Chaired by Rebecca Giallo



SCAN FOR ABSTRACTS

1. K. Wynter: Expectant and new fathers' health literacy and engagement in maternity and early infant services
2. V. Watkins: Engagement in health services among expectant and new fathers: Qualitative findings from a cross sectional study
3. L. Comrie-Thomson: Engaging fathers in maternal and newborn health: insights and advice from a global review of men, women, and health providers perspectives
4. T. Docking: Translating research in hospitals, communities and the digital space
5. B. Moore: Investigating the first year of parenthood and its impact on a father's type 1 diabetes management, emotional wellbeing, and father-child relationship: a scoping review and phenomenological study*

11:30 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - DR CAMERON WILLIS**
Chaired by Karen Wynter
Making multi-sectoral collaboration work: Key ingredients for achieving sustainable change

12:30 **LUNCH BREAK**



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY TWO – FRIDAY 6TH MAY 2022

13:15 **PRESENTATION SESSION 5 - FATHER INCLUSIVE PRACTICE**
Chaired by Ashlee Borgkvist



SCAN FOR ABSTRACTS

1. R. Giallo: A rapid systematic review of father-inclusive practices and interventions in antenatal and community child health setting
2. S. Hokke: Exploring workplace barriers and supports of fathers' work-family balance: Interviews with Australian dads
3. A. Thomas: Applying a gender equality lens to Childbirth and Parenting Education (CBPE) - Training to upskill midwives with strategies to facilitate active engagement of fathers
4. R. Leonard: A multiple perspective exploration of health visitors' family focused practice with mothers with mental illness and their families: perspectives from the partners*

14:15 **BREAK**

14:30 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**
Chaired by Jacqui Macdonald

15:30 **CLOSE**
Karen Wynter

**Poster presentation*



ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

The **Australian Fatherhood Research Consortium** (AFRC) formed in 2017 with three key aims:

- (i) to advance the science of fatherhood;
- (ii) to inform practice and policy that supports men and their families; and
- (iii) to promote healthy inclusion of fathers in family life.

To guide the AFRC collaboration, five groups have been formed, specialising in different aspects of research and practice. The **Data Analysis** group was created to enable better collaboration across studies with research data on fathers, and is led by Dr. Jacqui Macdonald of Deakin University. The **Intervention** group was created to bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers interested in contributing to the development and evaluation of intervention programs for fathers, and is led by Dr. Levita D'Souza of Monash University. The **Literature Review** group was formed to evaluate and synthesise the existing literature on fathers, and is led by Dr. Karen Wynter of Deakin University. The **Science Communication** group was formed to translate the AFRC group's findings from the research domain into the public domain to raise the profile of fathers in policy and practice. It is led by Dr. Chris May, University of Newcastle. The **Early Career Research** Group was created to ensure fatherhood research remains sustainable by fostering new researchers and their opportunities for collaboration. It is led by PhD candidate, Lauren Francis, Deakin University.

FIND OUT MORE:

Web: <http://mappresearch.org/fatherhood-consortium>

Twitter: @ausfatherhood | #AFRS2022

Linked In: [australian-fatherhood-research-consortium](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-fatherhood-research-consortium)



Australian Fatherhood
Research Consortium



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Scan to explore partnership opportunities with Movember's mental health and suicide prevention programs.



JOURNEY OF FATHERHOOD | ARTWORK BY KAIDEN POWELL

SMS4dads





Kaiden (Kaido) Powell is the father of Yindyamarra. He is a proud Aboriginal man who grew up on Wiradjuri country. He currently lives on the lands of Arakwal – inland from Byron Bay. Kaido is an SMS4dads participant and member of the Aboriginal Mens Advisory Group. In 2021, SMS4dads commissioned Kaido to create an original artwork about his journey into fatherhood.

“Overall it’s about an inner and outer story. The coastal spirit is in the bottom right corner, and the inland spirit in the top left. It represents mob communicating from all over Australia – wherever the footprint of SMS4dads covers. You’ve got dads sitting in circles, gaining knowledge, absorbing information from SMS4dads... and all those symbols in the ground also, they are men. For me that represents men’s business – men sitting together, sharing, listening and learning in a safe and loving space.

There’s that theme that no matter where you come from, you’re able to have those conversations and talk about what it’s like being a dad. That sense that you are not alone, and that there are other fathers out there experiencing it as well – from all over Australia, whether that’s coastal or inland.

The orange shape inside the centre circle represents a bub with their dads footprints circling them. So that’s an overview – our older people watching over us and looking after us – our forefathers and grandfathers – and being around spaces with men, with our babies in the centre.”

AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM STEERING COMMITTEE



MEET THE 2022 AFRS STEERING COMMITTEE

Convenor: Karen Wynter, Deakin University
Assistant: Georgia Zomboulis, Deakin University

Organising Committee:

Ashlee Borgkvist, University of South Australia
Elisabeth Duursma, University of Wollongong
Jennifer Ericksen, Parent-Infant Research Institute, Austin Health
Rebecca Giallo, Deakin University
David Hawkins, Dads Matter, City of Casey
Jacqui Macdonald, Deakin University
Chris May, University of Newcastle
Jennifer StGeorge, University of Newcastle

THIS SYMPOSIUM IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND EARLY EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development (SEED) aims to promote emotional health from conception to young adulthood and into the next generation. SEED recognises the seminal role that experiences in early emotional life have on social development, that every age and stage matters in building wellbeing, and that confidence in holding positive and painful emotion is essential to felt security across the lifecourse.

SEED advises on the most effective approaches to promoting wellness and intervening at the earliest opportunities in troubled pathways. SEED brings together life-course, clinical and public health research and practice to describe the major milestones in emotional life. SEED then engages systems for translating our research knowledge broadly to the community, organisations and government.

SEED's Lifecourse and Surveillance Theme aims to improve our understanding of the developmental origins of mental health and disorder. This area of work is guided by SEED's population based longitudinal studies of social-emotional development, including the Men and Parenting Pathways (MAPP) Study. It supports research into the developmental origins of mental health and disorder, within and across generations.

Find out more about SEED at:
<https://www.deakin.edu.au/seed>



THIS SYMPOSIUM IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



Through excellence in collaborative research, the Institute for Health Transformation aims to strengthen health systems by transforming how we design and deliver health prevention and care, both in Australia and around the world.

By integrating population health, health systems and services research across the broad spectrum, from wellness to complex chronic disease and end-of-life care, we aim to transform health, from prevention to care, so we can:

- activate healthy populations and communities
- innovate health service delivery and design
- optimise transitions between care and community
- drive equity and value in health and care.

Our team of multidisciplinary researchers represent four key research domains: health economics, determinants of health, obesity prevention, and quality and patient safety. The convenor of AFRS 2022, Dr Karen Wynter, works in the Centre for Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) - Western Health partnership at the IHT.

Find out more about IHT at:
<https://www.deakin.edu.au/iht>

THIS SYMPOSIUM IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Family Action Centre (FAC) is a research and practice centre focused on families and their communities. The Centre produces innovative, dynamic and enduring work that aims to strengthen family and community well-being. The FAC is committed to addressing factors that affect health and wellbeing, and the social and educational paths of families, particularly for those challenged by increasingly complex vulnerabilities.

The FAC is a national leader in fatherhood and family wellbeing research, with a focus on fathers of young children and babies and supporting these fathers in their relationship with their families. An emerging area of research strength is Strong Families-Capable Communities with its focus on harnessing the collective capabilities of communities to address complex problems confronting families. The Centre's research in these fields provides evidence for policy and service system innovations that better mobilise capabilities to improve individual, family and community outcomes.

The Centre delivers family support and outreach services, such as parenting programs, family inclusive practice programs and health evaluation initiatives. The wealth of outreach expertise and experience, supports and grounds the teaching and research. The Centre hosts a range of students from various disciplines in an inter-professional placement unit, and also provides opportunities to student volunteers to participate in our family support programs, where they liaise with human service workers in education, health, and family and community services.



Contact FAC at: family@newcastle.edu.au