



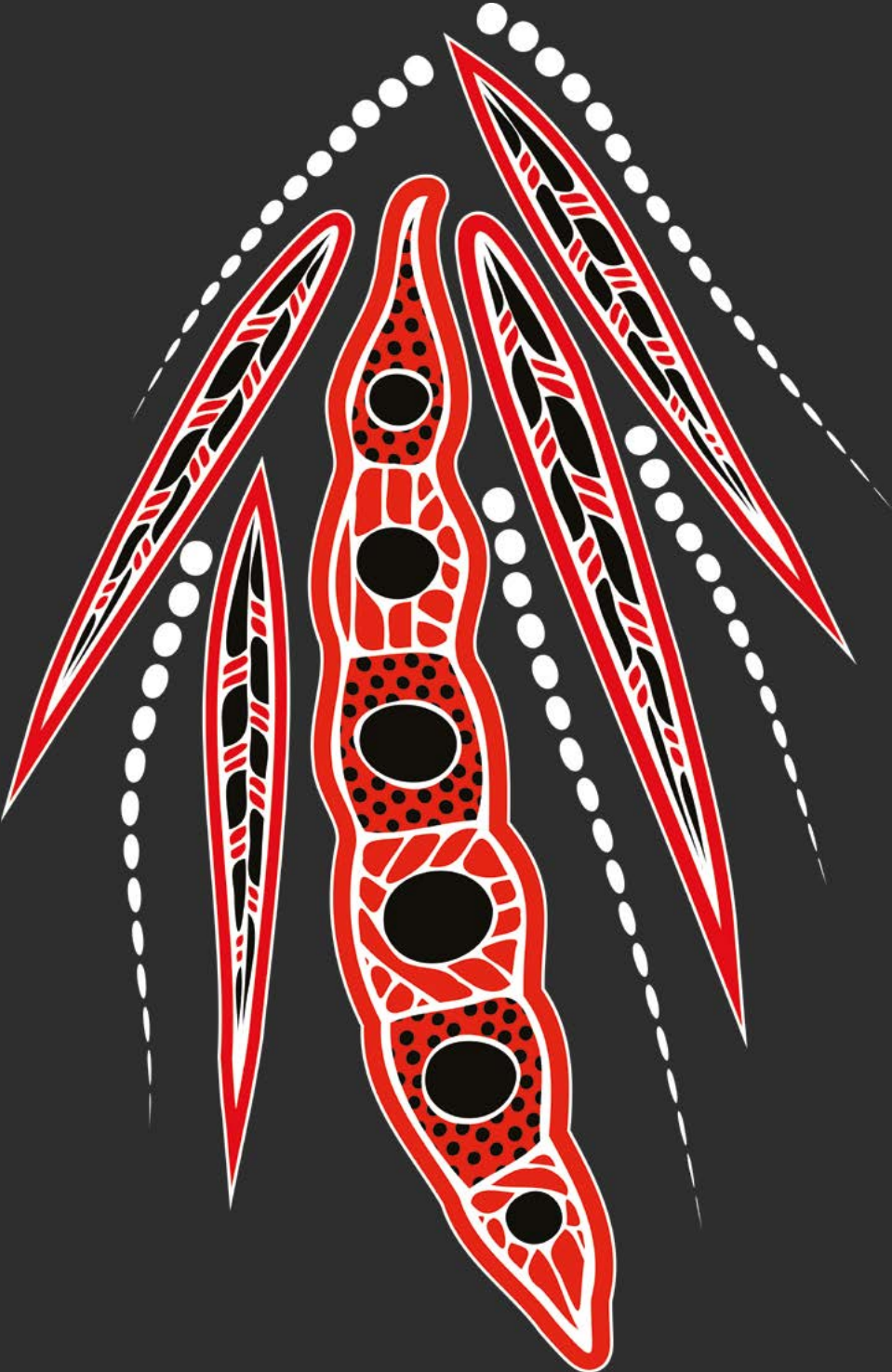
Faculty of Health



School of Public Health

Annual Report 2024





Acknowledgement of Country

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands our university stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.



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Our Commitment to Public Health

From the Head of School



I am privileged to lead this talented and dedicated team of academics and professional staff, as we continue to work together toward our mission to improve population health by addressing health inequities in Australia and globally. I am inspired every day by our team's commitment to providing leadership and excellence in collaborative learning, workforce capacity building, health systems strengthening, authentic engagement with stakeholders and research translation. With great pride, I present the School of Public Health Annual Report, celebrating our significant achievements throughout 2024.

I will begin this annual report by highlighting our outstanding achievements across the three pillars of research, teaching and learning, and community engagement – which are the foundation of all our endeavours at the School of Public Health.

This year, our dedicated researchers successfully secured an impressive \$21 million in research funding. We also produced over 175 high-quality, peer-reviewed journal publications. Additionally, we have significantly expanded our extensive network of esteemed collaborators, working with researchers from Canada, the US, the UK, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Brazil, among others.

There was much to be thrilled about in teaching and learning. As one of the key elements of our School's Mission Statement is to provide leadership in Indigenous health education, it was very pleasing that Tiana Thomas, a student in the Master of Health Services Management, was awarded the Guy Morrison Prize for Excellence, recognising outstanding achievement by an Indigenous student in their coursework.

Across all our courses, student feedback this year was remarkably positive. This is a clear confirmation of our staff's commitment to high-quality teaching, where they undertake an ongoing cycle of peer review, and collaborate with local health districts, industry stakeholders, and Indigenous communities, all to deepen the learning experience provided to our students. We also ensure that our courses are of the highest industry standard of quality, and this year, several programs successfully achieved reaccreditation.

Our staff and students continued to make a difference in our communities through strong collaboration with our key partners. We worked with a range of different partners such as First Nations organisations, international Ministries of Health, and Australian NGOs, to make significant positive impact in areas such as Indigenous health, HIV and sexual health, women's and children's health, chronic diseases, disability, aged care, and health services management.

We were thrilled to have welcomed several new academic and professional staff members in 2024. Dr Jane Havelka joined our Girra Maa Indigenous Health discipline. Dr Kirsten Baker, Mr Tristan Carter and Katie Burnett joined our Public Health discipline. Through the transfer of the postgraduate Palliative Care program to the School of Public Health, we were excited to welcome Associate Professor Michelle DiGiacomo, Associate Professor Tim Luckett, and Dr

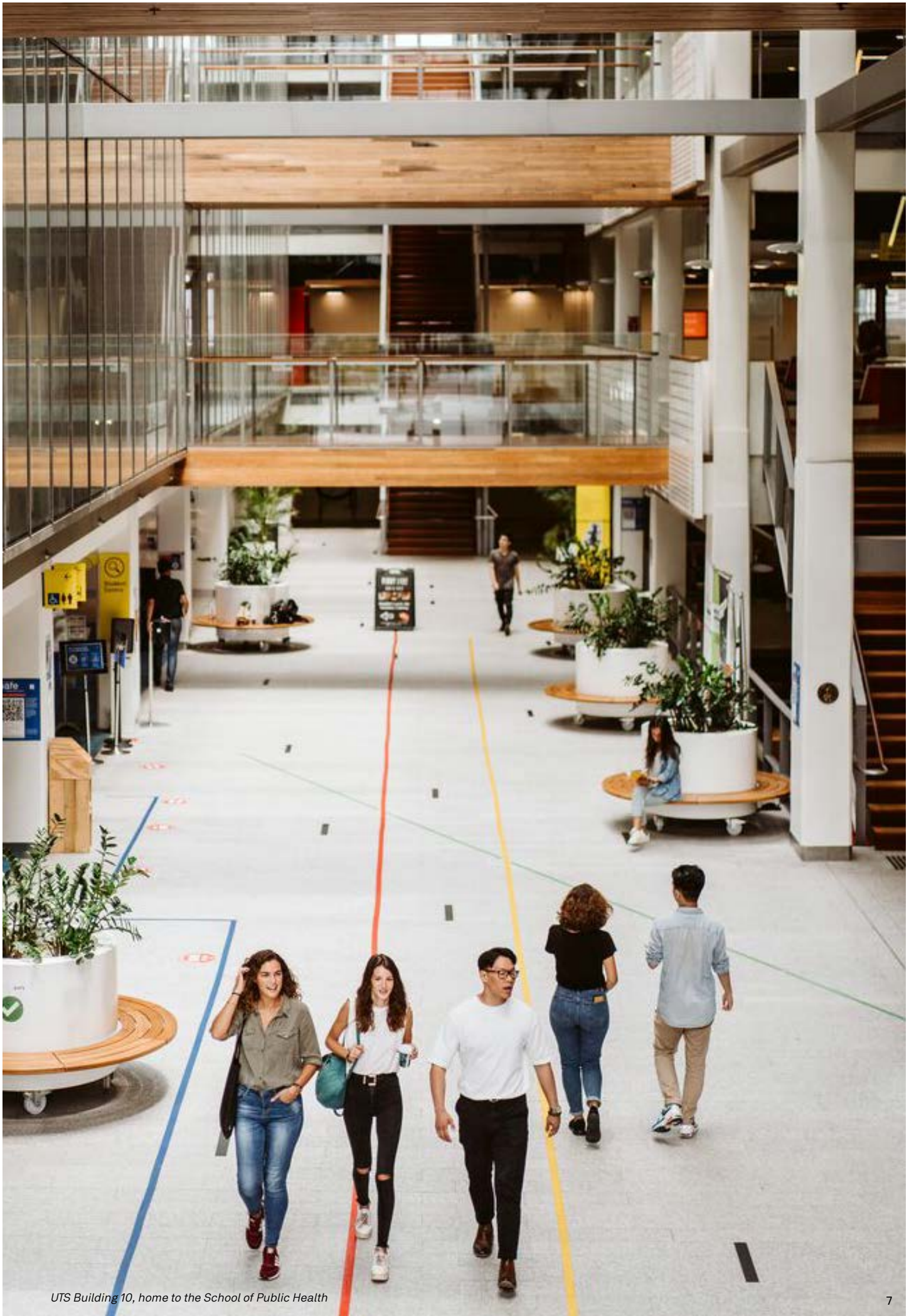
Mariana de Souza e Souza. We were also delighted that Dr Abela Mahimbo and Mr Bernard Saliba were successful in their application for promotion (to Senior Lecturer).

As we look ahead, I am filled with anticipation for another year marked by academic excellence, innovation, and success. I welcome and encourage innovative ideas and community collaborations that can help the School of Public Health make a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of people living in our local and global communities.

I encourage you to explore our Annual Report, where you will find a comprehensive overview of our remarkable achievements. From groundbreaking research and innovative public health initiatives to the exceptional accomplishments of our students and staff, the report captures the essence of our dedication and hard work. Join us in celebrating these achievements and get inspired by the transformative progress we have made together.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Sibbritt'.

Professor David Sibbritt
Head of School and Professor
of Epidemiology
School of Public Health



UTS Building 10, home to the School of Public Health

“I am passionate about public health and data analysis. Meaningful data can help make informed decisions, improve the lives of people and make the world a better place. Digitisation is the future of healthcare because the momentum for uptake is unstoppable. Therefore, I hope to be part of the future transformation.”

William Lam,
Bachelor of Public Health



The School of Public Health: Who We Are

Our Staff 2024

Leadership Group

Professor David Sibbritt	Professor of Epidemiology, Head of School UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Distinguished Professor Jon Adams	Distinguished Professor of Public Health, Deputy Head of School (Research) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Associate Professor Deborah Debono	Associate Professor, Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Professor Emily Callander	Professor of Health Economics, Head of Discipline (Health Services Management) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS	Professor of Indigenous Health, Head of Discipline (Indigenous Health) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Dr Daniel Demant	Senior Lecturer, Course Director (M Public Health) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Jo Dwyer	School Manager Connect via LinkedIn

Academic and Professional Staff (Continuing and Fixed Term)

Dr Karina Arias-Calluari Postdoctoral Research Fellow Connect via LinkedIn	Janelle Craig Lecturer, Course Director (Health Services Management) UTS Profile
Professor Scott Avery Professor of Indigenous Disability, Health, and Wellbeing UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn	Dr Leonie Cranney Research Fellow Connect via LinkedIn
Dr Kirsten Baker Postdoctoral Research Fellow Connect via LinkedIn	Professor Angela Dawson Professor UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Katie Burnett Senior Clinical Administration Officer	Dr Mariana de Souza e Souza Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow UTS Profile
Tristan Carter Postdoctoral Research Associate Connect via LinkedIn	Associate Professor Michelle DiGiacomo Associate Professor, Course Director (Palliative Care) UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn
Dr Sungwon Chang Senior Lecturer UTS Profile Connect via LinkedIn	Dr Hope Foley Postdoctoral Research Fellow Connect via LinkedIn

Associate Professor Jane Frawley

Associate Professor
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Klaus Gebel

Senior Lecturer
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Kim Graham

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Rachel Grove

Chancellor's Research Fellow
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Associate Professor Anne Grunseit

Associate Professor
[UTS Profile](#)

Dr Jane Havelka

Senior Lecturer
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Professor Andrew Hayen

Professor of Biostatistics
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Evie Heap

Project Coordinator
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Suyin Hor

Senior Lecturer, HDR Program Coordinator
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Yanan Hu

Research Associate
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Bo-Huei Huang

Research Fellow
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Hannah Jackson

Research Associate

Dr Shannon Lin

Senior Lecturer, Course Director (Diabetes)
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Associate Professor Tim Luckett

Associate Professor
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Abela Mahimbo

Senior Lecturer
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Jacintha Manton

Associate Lecturer, FoH Indigenous Student Liaison Officer
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Heidi Merrington

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
[UTS Profile](#)

Dr Wenbo Peng

Senior Research Fellow
[UTS Profile](#)

Associate Professor Nikki Percival

Associate Professor
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Bernard Saliba

Senior Lecturer, SoPH Academic Liaison Officer
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Albie Sharpe

Lecturer, Course Director (B Public Health)
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Michelle St Lambert

Senior Administrative Officer
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Associate Professor Amie Steel

Associate Professor
[UTS Profile](#)
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Josephine Tilgals

Centre Coordinator, ARCCIM
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Grace Ward

Lecturer
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Jasmine Williams

Aboriginal Research Assistant
[Connect via LinkedIn](#)

Dr Sarah Wise

Senior Lecturer
[UTS Profile](#)

The School of Public Health: Who We Are

Our Staff 2024

Academic and Professional Staff (Casual)

Dr Lynne Adamson
Casual Academic

Salma Ahmed
Research Assistant and Casual Academic

Fantu Mamo Aragaw
Casual Academic

Siobhan Barlow
Casual Academic

Dr Emily Booth
Casual Academic

Teagan Bortolotti
Research Assistant

Wendy Bryant
Casual Academic

Christopher Camacho
Casual Academic

Susan Carbone
Casual Academic

Simone Champion
Senior Project Manager

Hayley Clapham
Research Assistant

Helen Cooper
Casual Academic

Aduk Dau
Research Assistant

Peter Lual Deng
Research Assistant

Domenica Disalvo
Casual Academic

Layla Edwards
Casual Academic

Michelle Egan
Casual Academic

Bonnie Eklom
Casual Academic

Dr Nouhad El-Haddad
Casual Academic

Linda Elliott
Senior Project Manager

Dr Sally Fitzpatrick
Senior Project Manager and Casual Academic

Dr Erika Frey
Research Assistant and Casual Academic

Adnan Gauhar
Casual Academic

Neta Hagani
Casual Academic

Susan Hanson
Casual Academic

Honoree Hardwick
Casual Academic

Jess Harris
Research Assistant

Sarah Hatem
Casual Academic

Linn Hetland
Research Assistant

Leonie Hunt
Casual Academic

Dr Jane Hutchens
Casual Academic

Madeleine Juhrmann
Casual Academic

Kiddus Yitbarek Kehali
Casual Academic

Nicole Knox
Casual Academic

Qi Xuan Koh
Research Assistant

Courtney Krahe
Project Manager

Sarah Lam
Casual Academic

Christine Lassen
Casual Academic

Wai Ling Wendy Law
Research Assistant

Jayne Lehmann
Casual Academic

Jennifer Lin
Research Assistant

Jane Ludington
Casual Academic

Dr Kabo Matlho
Casual Academic

Moirá McInerney
Casual Academic

Drew Meehan
Casual Academic

Dr Mina Motamedi
Casual Academic

Tess Moodie
Research Assistant

Kim Offner
Casual Academic

Jose Orlando Guzman
Casual Academic

Dr Debra Palesy
Casual Academic

Dr Marlene Payk
Casual Academic

Ethan Peterson
Casual Academic

Taizya Phiri
Casual Academic

Dr Jennifer Plumb
Research Officer and Casual Academic

Sancheeta Pugalia
Research Assistant

Lisa Raad
Casual Academic

Sazedur Rahman
Senior Research Officer

Samantha Rennie
Casual Academic

Dr Claire Rogers
Senior Research Officer and Casual Academic

Chris Rossiter
Project Officer

Shiffa Samad
Research Assistant

Faris Saman
Research Assistant

Meg Sands
Casual Academic

Alexandria Siegers
Research Assistant

Ashley Shepherd
Casual Academic

Fiona Siamtanis
Casual Academic

Dr Shanelle Sorbello
Research Assistant

Lauren Stonnill
Casual Academic

Peta Tauchmann
Casual Academic

Rita Tawil
Casual Academic

Zoe Trobe-Templeton
Research Assistant

Sarah Elenoa Tuithai
Research Assistant

Kha Vo
Casual Academic

Ethan Watters
Casual Academic

Brenda Winter
Research Assistant

Amy Zheng
Casual Academic

Dr Lin Zhu
Casual Academic

Our Honorary Staff 2024

Mohammad Basim Al-Ansari	Adjunct Fellow
Ana Paula Antunes Ferreira	Visiting Fellow
Professor Puneet Bansal	Visiting Fellow
Amanda Bartlett	Visiting Fellow
Shifa Basjarahil	Visiting Fellow
Associate Professor Steven Bernardi	Adjunct Associate Professor
Dr Goh Bey Hing	Visiting Fellow
Dr Jennifer Bichel-Findlay	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Kirsten Brown	Visiting Scholar
Dr Gwendoline Burton	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Michael Camit	Adjunct Fellow
Associate Professor Jane Carland	Adjunct Fellow
Associate Professor Dinesh Chellappan	Visiting Fellow
Dr Angela Chen	Visiting Scholar
Dr Yan Cheng	Adjunct Fellow
Gabriel Cheung	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Kieran Cooley	Visiting Fellow
Akanisi Dawainavesi	Visiting Fellow
Associate Professor Marcelo Demarzo	Visiting Fellow
Om Dhungel	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Renee Dixson	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Tina Dixon	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Robyn Drysdale	Adjunct Associate Professor
Professor Harish Dureja	Visiting Fellow
Dr Josephine Gwynne	Adjunct Fellow
Associate Professor Ben Harris-Roxas	Adjunct Associate Professor
Robyn Henao Urrego	Adjunct Fellow
Associate Professor Anita Heywood	Adjunct Associate Professor
Professor David Irving	Adjunct Professor
Professor Ponndara Ith	Adjunct Professor
Dennis Kaip	Industry Fellow
Associate Professor Melissa Kang	Adjunct Associate Professor
Dr Surendra Karki	Adjunct Fellow
Mark Kearin	Industry Fellow
Dr Abolhassan Khavarpour	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Kesava Kovanur Sampath	Visiting Fellow
Dr Linda Kurti	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Mary Lam	Adjunct Fellow

Dr Kelly Lambert	Adjunct Associate Professor
Alexander Lee	Industry Fellow
Professor Mingzi Li	Adjunct Professor
Dr Virginia MacDonald	Adjunct Fellow
Carrie Marr	Adjunct Professor
Dr Thomas McClean	Adjunct Associate Professor
Dr Cindy McIntyre	Visiting Fellow
Dr Gopi Anne McLeod	Visiting Fellow
Dr Dominic Morgan	Adjunct Professor
Professor Chantal Morin	Visiting Fellow
Lee Muddle	Visiting Fellow
Dr Ngatho Mugo	Adjunct Fellow
Donna Murray	Adjunct Associate Professor
Associate Professor Sally Nathan	Adjunct Associate Professor
Dr Ashley Ng	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Rachel Nicholls	Adjunct Fellow
Elenor Oyston	Visiting Fellow
Dr Kathleen Peters	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Mark Ragg	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Claire Rogers	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Tuly Rosenfeld	Adjunct Professor
Dr Carla Saunders	Adjunct Fellow
Dr Kathrin Schmieder	Visiting Fellow
Max Schnepf	Visiting Fellow
Niklas Sinderholm Sposato	Visiting Fellow
Professor Sachin Singh	Visiting Fellow
Dr Thakur Gurjeet Singh	Visiting Fellow
Dr Deborah Stockton	Visiting Fellow
Distinguished Professor Elizabeth Sullivan	Adjunct Professor
Denis Tamplin	Industry Fellow
Dr Oliver Thomson	Visiting Fellow
Dr Rebecca Tinning	Adjunct Associate Professor
Professor Nguyen Toan Tran	Adjunct Professor
Dr Loic Treffel	Visiting Fellow
Troy Trgetaric	Adjunct Professor
Dr Brett Vaughan	Visiting Fellow
Associate Professor Alex Wang	Adjunct Associate Professor
Professor Megan Williams	Adjunct Professor
Professor Mirkuzie Woldie Keire	Adjunct Professor
Dr Sarah Yeo	Visiting Fellow
Dr Theodros Zemedu	Adjunct Fellow



*SoPH staff at the 2024
Annual Retreat and
Strategic Planning Days*



The School of Public Health: Initiatives and Highlights 2024

Our vision

To improve population health by training health professionals and researchers through world-leading education in public health and health services management.

Our strategic priorities



People and Culture

School of Public Health Objective:

Enhancing leadership capabilities; Maintaining our excellent workplace culture; Working together; Planning for the future.

In 2024, we:

- Developed the leadership capabilities within the school through targeted formal and informal support and training of current and future leaders
- Provided a range of strategies to ensure all staff and students had access to good pastoral and cultural care and academic support. Key initiatives included the introduction of Course Director meetings to provide T&L academic support, enabling directors and coordinators to support staff within their courses. We also recognised the support provided across the year by the professional staff and teams who support the T&L work of the school
- Ensured that the workplace is supportive with a collaborative, ethical and safe culture and climate. School events such as retreats, celebrations, seminar series, social events, school meetings, and program planning days ensured school-wide and team collaboration and cohesion. We also offered staff the opportunity to attend Culturally Safe Indigenous Teaching and Learning Practices Professional Development and Indigenous Cultural Capability Professional Development workshops during the year
- Supported the School of Public Health Social Committee who coordinated a range of social events across the year
- Mapped all staff to identify key talent and build the leadership skills of this group. Mentoring and shadowing for new leaders was introduced and training needs were canvassed
- Continued strategic workforce planning and identification for future strategic recruitment decisions as they arise
- Implemented the new FoH Academic Workload Guidelines, and supported supervisors to enact requirements across the year.



World Class Research

School of Public Health Objective:

Enhancing Indigenous health research activities; Increasing the quality of the School's research; Nurturing early-career researchers and mid-career researchers to ensure the growth and sustainability of the School's research; Attracting high-quality higher-degree research students; Ensuring high retention and completion rates and publication output.

In 2024, we:

- Developed and improved relationships with key Indigenous leaders and communities to ensure two-way learning and exchange. This included collaborating with multiple reputable organisations with a long history of community engagement, funded projects, student placements and research needs. We also developed emerging relationships with other organisations also progressed across the year
- Allocated school strategic funding for strategic engagement with peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations
- Provided mentorship, leadership and capacity building for the development of the next generation of Indigenous researchers. Mentoring continued via Girra Maa through ongoing NHMRC and MRFF project work. Collaborations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community partners continued throughout the year
- Promoted the use of existing datasets and data linkage for research. Notably within Health Services Management we enrolled two new PhD students whose research uses existing linked datasets. We released 8 research publications using linked datasets
- Strategically promoted high quality journal publications. This included high quality journal articles promoted and produced via the SoPH research budget's Open Access scheme and the Higher Degree Research Training Program funding
- Promoted collaborative research with international institutions, including successes with over 20 overseas institutions during the year
- Provided mentorship and professional development opportunities to develop research skills, including an ECR and MCR writing retreat, an annual research retreat, and supporting staff with grant application submissions. This included MCR development through inclusion as investigators on multiple Tier 1 grants
- Provided opportunities to increase research networks and external collaborations including providing funds to continue the School's highly successful monthly PhD seminar series. Research funds were also allocated for network and relationship building with external partners during the year
- Enhanced the higher degree research pipeline by strengthening the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) Honours program through information sessions, workshops, monthly mentoring sessions, Open Access publication opportunities, industry embedded HDR opportunities, and dedicated research pages on the school website for both prospective and current HDR students. We also ran information and recruitment sessions with BPH students to explore HDR opportunities and interest
- Supported HDR student capacity building, including hosting events across the year to improve presentation, technique and methodology skills
- Provided opportunities to build HDR student social capital, including mentoring and academic support sessions throughout the year
- Explored opportunities for industry embedded HDR opportunities. Highlights were identifying PhD opportunities with the Clinical Excellence Commission, Ambulance NSW, Osteopathy Australia and 4 international associations.



Engagement and Partnerships

School of Public Health Objective:

Growing our engagement activities and partnerships; Developing a strategy to increase philanthropy.

In 2024, we:

- Explored ways to enhance existing partnerships, including embedding a staff member successfully within the Clinical Excellence Commission, a Palliative Care in NSW conference, and ongoing engagement with Diabetes Australia as key initiatives
- Offered new and renewed adjunct positions to prestigious public health and health services alumni and industry partners
- Hosted symposia, seminars and workshops on transdisciplinary public health issues, including a successful seminar series across the year and an Indigenous showcase event
- Developed a strategy to increase international partnerships, resulting in the Head of School visiting a number of international institutions
- Explored philanthropic opportunities for student scholarships and research, and worked with UTS Advancement to secure scholarships for Indigenous students



Excellence in Teaching and Learning

School of Public Health Objective:

Enhancing course quality and the student experience; Growing the School's portfolio of courses to meet emerging learning needs; Increasing international student enrolments; Advancing Indigenous education; Developing a teaching workforce for the future

In 2024, we:

- Organised and accompanied our undergraduate students to attend the Public Health Association of Australia Networking Seminar. We also worked on strengthening placement opportunities, and counselled students on career opportunities and direction. We attended a career expo at Bankstown Hospital to discuss postgraduate palliative care course options for nurses and their employers. We also promoted palliative care postgraduate programs with Palliative Care NSW including discussions on industry needs for future planning. We continued biannual external course advisory committee engagements for our diabetes program, with Australian Diabetes Educators Australia, Diabetes Australia, Primary Care Diabetes Society of Australia, diabetes centres, and diabetes pharmaceutical companies. The Health Services Management team worked closely with the Clinical Excellence Commission during the year with the development of a Graduate Certificate in Quality and Safety in Health & Social Care, and to streamline prior learning recognition arrangements of HSM students
- Conducted peer-reviewing of subjects and reviewed assessments in all SoPH courses for the resilience of subjects to artificial intelligence (AI) use. Peer review of remaining third-year BPH subjects was implemented, and an annual peer review for all subjects in the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes was completed
- Completed an internal and external review of subjects within the Palliative Care program as part of UTS reaccreditation
- Continued reciprocal external peer review of MHSM course and subjects with QUT
- Commenced an external benchmarking process across all core subjects within the MPH
- Implemented regular drop-in sessions for BPH students and held group sessions for first year and international students. We also organised a BPH Info Day to engage with students on curricula and extra-curricula activities
- Conducted surveys and interviews with our postgraduate palliative care and public health students regarding their perspectives of our courses, and to understand their experience with the respective programs for future improvement
- Planned future development of combined degrees in the BPH with FASS, Law, Medical Science, Psychology, Nursing, and IT
- Engaged with industry to incorporate specialist clinician teachers into the palliative care subjects. We also encouraged staff to incorporate IMPACCT honorary fellows to discuss their relevant research in palliative care subjects
- Developed initiatives to implement the UTS Student Experience Framework to enhance students' experience and sense of belonging
- Engaged with stakeholders regarding new inter-disciplinary and cross-faculty teaching and learning opportunities. New cross-faculty electives were offered for the Master of Health Services Management (MHSM) during the year
- Prepared business cases for the creation of new courses including a Graduate Certificate in Quality and Safety in Health and Social Care and for a new on-campus, postgraduate course (Master of Public Health). We also explored other opportunities for growth including potential Enterprise Learning courses in palliative care, public health and health services management
- Delivered 10 masterclasses to Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network nurses covering advanced communication in Advance Care Planning, Bereavement, and Complex Symptom Management as part of successful tender with Enterprise Learning. We also developed and delivered new free online courses 'Living well with palliative care', for participants to experience studying within the program
- Developed a marketing strategy to recruit international students into the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) and Master of Public Health (MPH) courses. Marketing videos were created in the BPH program that promoted student engagement
- Collaborated with Keypath to develop a marketing strategy for the redeveloped MHSM and the proposed Graduate Certificate in Quality and Safety in Health & Social Care. This included two publications released in the Australian Financial Review promoting the HSM program
- Reviewed the Indigenous Graduate Attribute (IGA) Implementation Plan across all programs and embedded into suites as needed. In the BPH course an Indigenous-led subject was offered to students in degrees outside BPH including in Science and FoH, allowing undergraduate students across faculties to enrol
- Embedded Indigenous knowledges throughout curricula, assessments and research after an extensive consultative process. Cultural capabilities of non-Indigenous staff were developed to meet the Indigenous Graduate Attributes, and staff were provided opportunities to undertake cultural competency training
- Employed Indigenous teaching staff, including Indigenous casual academics, to enhance the cultural appropriateness and safety of courses Engaged with Indigenous academics, communities and key stakeholders to increase Indigenous student recruitment, participation and retention rates. We worked with our Girra Maa colleagues and other Indigenous key stakeholders across our networks to increase the recruitment, participation and retention rate of Indigenous postgraduate course work and research students
- Provided teaching-specific professional development opportunities for staff, including exploration of artificial intelligence (AI) training opportunities



Excellence in Teaching and Learning (continued)

- Developed the cultural capabilities of non-Indigenous teaching staff through participation in the Ngalaya Indigenous Professional Development Foundation modules, Press Play, and the IGA Implementation workshops
- Encouraged and supported staff to engage in teaching-related research
- Identified and supported the implementation of efficient teaching practices, including the trial of reduced assessments and condensed online delivery sessions
- Acknowledged and rewarded excellence in teaching and learning, most notably at end-of-year awards and throughout the year at Staff Meetings.



Strengthening our Indigenous Profile

School of Public Health Objective:

Increasing awareness at UTS and beyond about Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline teaching, research and community engagement; Enhancing Indigenous cultural competency and responsiveness; Increasing engagement with key Indigenous stakeholders.

In 2024, we:

- Developed a Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline annual event calendar, and hosted a number of successful Indigenous health research events that were attended by professional organisations, community representatives and Indigenous stakeholders. The highlight event was the Indigenous Showcase, held in October
- Continued work on the redesign of the Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline website to further promote Indigenous research, teaching and learning successes
- Provided resources for School staff to communicate confidently about Indigenous health and Girra Maa at UTS
- Provided staff with opportunities to engage with Indigenous cultural competency and responsiveness training, including support to attend the Ngalaya Indigenous Professional Development Foundation course
- Provided staff with opportunities to engage with Indigenous communities and professional organisations, with a key initiative being ongoing engagement with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AHMRC).



SoPH PhD student Salma Ahmed, with co-supervisor Dr Abela Mahimbo, Senior Lecturer

The Year in Review

5 staff

were named in the prestigious Stanford University “**Top 2% Scientists**” **Worldwide 2024** list

Staff were recognised through various local, **national and international awards** for their research, teaching, professional excellence, and contributions to community

A **Master of Health Services Management student** was awarded the **2024 Guy Morrison Prize for Indigenous Excellence**

We **enhanced course quality and student experience** across the school via **market research, student surveys, interviews and engagement** with students, industry partners and collaborators to ensure the relevance and **sustainability of programs and the employability of our graduates**

\$21+ million

in external funding was attracted by **our researchers**, an increase from the previous highest amount of \$16 million in 2023

29

school events were held across the year including the Girra Maa Research showcase, writing retreats, research retreats, strategic planning day, annual school retreat, lunchtime seminar series, morning teas, and staff social events

2 staff

were awarded **academic promotions** during the year

Staff walked 28kms at the 7 Bridges Walk, which was organised by the **SoPH Social Committee** in their support of the school's **commitment to impactful health practices** both within and outside the academic environment

Offered ‘taster’ classes in palliative care, through the development and delivery of **free online courses** ‘**Living Well with Palliative Care**’

Staff gave keynote addresses

and were invited panellists locally, nationally and globally including the **Annual Disability Leadership Oration**, hosted by the Disability Leadership Institute in the lead up to International Day of People with Disability 2024

29

school events were held across the year including Girra Maa Research showcase, writing retreats, research retreats, strategic planning day, annual school retreat, lunchtime seminar series, morning-teas, and staff social events

We worked with **key stakeholders** to develop our priority **Future Public Health and Health Services research agenda** for **agreed populations experiencing health inequities**

A **PhD student** from the school was **chosen from over 1,000 skilled applicants**, to attend training to address the leadership and advocacy gap in mental health across Africa

Staff worked in collaboration with **NSW Health and the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)** as part of their **engagement** work, hosting a free event attended by 50+ students from various institutions across Sydney. The event, designed for LGBTIQ+ international students, friends, and allies, aimed to facilitate networking, discuss living and dating in Sydney, and to provide information about health services including free mpox vaccinations administered by NSW Health nurses onsite.

175+

Staff authored **170+ peer reviewed publications** during the year

The **BPH team** planned for **future development of combined degrees** with FASS, Law, Medical Science, Psychology, Nursing and IT

2

recent **Indigenous graduates** of the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education program were recognised for their culturally safe and inclusive practices in diabetes care and education as **Credentialed Diabetes Educators**.

Our teaching academics were supported to **develop cultural capabilities** through participation in the **Ngalaya Indigenous Professional Development Foundation** modules, Press Play, and Indigenous Graduate Attributes Implementation workshops

We celebrated the **conferral of 14 Doctor of Philosophy higher degree research students** in the school

“My passion is giving back to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. With everything I have learnt, I hope to give back and provide education and assistance to Mob around Australia. There is still a gap in health and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This drives me to want to find ways through resources, programs and primary health care models to do my best to be a part of the solution.”

Trent Lyon,
Graduate Certificate in Diabetes
Education and Management





Research Achievements in 2024

It is with pride and pleasure that we showcase the impressive research initiatives, activities and successes of the School of Public Health in 2024.

We are excited to report that the research metrics, outputs and achievements of SoPH academics in 2024 continue to impress and represent a remarkable achievement for our School.

The outputs and achievements detailed in this annual report are in large part testament to the hard work, dedication, skill and collegiality of all academic and non-academic staff across the School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each SoPH staff member for helping to maintain and in many cases grow our research program throughout 2024.

The last 12 months of activity and success position our School, Faculty and UTS well as leaders in evidence-informed health research that is rigorous, impactful and meaningful to many across and beyond the academy.

Our expert and dedicated multidisciplinary researchers and the foundation of our research efforts to date provide a solid platform on which to build an ambitious future in leading and helping advance health research of local, regional, national and global impact.

A highlight worth noting is the Stanford University published list of the top 2% most widely cited scientists in various disciplines, which is considered to be the most prestigious ranking in the world. We are proud to have five of our researchers named in the list: Distinguished Professor Jon Adams, Professor Emily Callander, Professor Andrew Hayen, Professor David Sibbritt, and Associate Professor Amie Steel.

Distinguished Professor Jon Adams, Deputy Head of School (Research)



SoPH Research Capacity

The School comprised 37 academic staff in 2024 who were research active as aligned and relative with their specific workload mix and level of appointment. The School is privileged and fortunate to also house the Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline which continues its significant and broad contributions across research, impact, community partnerships and governance.

A core focus for SoPH is to do everything possible to support and develop academic talent across public health and health services management.



SoPH staff participating in research strategy and retreat days throughout 2024

Publications Overview

In 2024, SoPH academics authored >175 peer-reviewed publications (>65% in Q1 journals) with SoPH academics co-authoring alongside numerous colleagues from across UTS - including colleagues across all other Schools in the Faculty of Health and other Faculties including FEIT, Science, ISF and DAB.

Moreover, many of the School's peer-reviewed publications also involved co-authorship and collaboration with a range of academics from across and beyond Australia (including co-authors from Canada, the US, Hong Kong, Germany, the UK, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand, Brazil, and Denmark amongst many others). Our extensive publication output also illustrates excellent co-authorship success across our HDR student-HDR supervisor teams – an achievement supported by our continuing 2024 HDR research funding initiative to encourage and support submission to open-access, Q1 publications.

Research Grants and External Research Income

In 2024, SoPH staff were Chief Investigators on over \$21 million of external research income across all research categories of funding (1-4) including major NHMRC, MRFF, DFAT and WHO funding – this is the best annual funding performance ever for our School, and exceeds our previous most successful year in 2023 by another \$5M growth in external funding. Our School researchers also continue to attract significant philanthropic and industry support with an annual intake of >\$150K in 2024 including gifts from Osteopathy Australia, Swedish Osteopathic Association, Osteopathy Foundation UK and Massage and Myotherapy Australia amongst others.

Please refer to the Selected Grant Highlights section of this report for some of our noteworthy achievements.

Distinguished Professor Jon Adams

Deputy Head of School (Research)
School of Public Health



Selected Grant Highlights 2024

Project Title	Project Team	Funder	≈\$
Optimising maternal and perinatal outcomes through a digital clinical decision tool in maternity care, 2024 – 2028	da Silva Costa F, Slavin V, Thilaganathan B, Shanley D, Rolnik D, Hyett J, Pasupathy D, Flenady V, Callander E , Bradfield Z.	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Grants	1.475M
Support to prevent and address the health impacts of female genital mutilation/cutting, 2024	Dawson A	Federal Government Public Health and Chronic Disease Program	0.923M
Does offering a combination of video health and face-to-face visits for antenatal care result in improved patient experience and is it is safe as standard (face-to-face) care? A co-designed non-inferiority randomised controlled trial, 2024 – 2028	Forster D, Shafiei T, Kane S, Callander E , McLachlan H, Nguyen C, Hyde R, Newton M, Cheong J, Whitburn L.	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Targeted Call for Research Ensuring the Quality and Safety of Telehealth	1M
The National Disability Footprints – Sapling's Extension Project, 2024	Avery S	National Indigenous Australians Agency	0.2M
Delivering best-practice community care for low back pain through an effective national help line, 2024 – 2028	Ferreira P, Ferreira M, Maher C, Bauman A, Hodges P, Ho E, Li Q, Mork P, Baysari M, Callander E	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Projects	1.5M
Global Research Priority Setting for TCIM, 2024-2025	Adams J, Steel A	World Health Organization (WHO) Tender	0.614M
The role of caregivers in recognition and response to serious childhood illness: a mixed-methods study, 2024 – 2028	Craig S, Asghari-Jafarabadi, Dalziel S, George S, Long E, McNab S, Windross D, Mawson K, Roseby R, Madugalla A, Mills E, Haskell L, Haskell H, Callander E	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health Grant Opportunity – Stream 2	1.468M
Suicide Prevention Grant, to Support CALD LGBTQ+ Youth in South West Sydney, 2024	Wong H, Saliba B, Demant D	South West Sydney Public Health Network	0.19M
Collaborative patient-centred approach for opioid deprescribing in older people with osteoarthritis and low back pain, 2024 – 2029	Mathieson S, Ferreira M, Hunter D, Hilmer S, Ferreira P, Glare P, Shaheed C, Gnjjidic D, Ashton-James C, Li Q, Dear B, Callander E , Votrubec M, Pallavicini D	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Primary Health Care Research – Stream 1	2.778M
Supporting Immunisation Programs in the Pacific: Collaborative Adaptation, Implementation, and Evaluation of Vaccine Education Resources, 2024	Frawley J	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading (DFAT)	0.3M
TAPERiNG Opioids in older adults with hip or knee osteoarthritis, and low back pain (TANGO study), 2024 – 2029	Ferreira M, Hilmer S, Mathieson S, Ferreira P, Shaheed C, Li Q, Dear B, Glare P, Gnjjidic D, Ashton-James C, Hunter H, Callander E , Shan S, Votrubec M, Pallavicini D	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Clinical Trials Activity Grant Opportunity – Stream 4	2.818M

Project Title	Project Team	Funder	≈\$
A randomised controlled trial of interventions to reduce the pain and distress of nasogastric tube insertion in young children, 2024 – 2029	Craig S, Babl F, Crellin D, Dalziel S, George S, Haskell L, Kochar A, Lee K, O'Brien S. Phillips N, Callander E	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Clinical Trials Activity Grant Opportunity - Stream 4	2.222M
Relighting the Firesticks: Accelerating diffusion and progressing to sustainability of innovative care to foster a healthy start to life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, 2024 – 2029	Chamberlain C, Bohren M, Bright T, Brinkman S, Bryant J, D'Aprano A, Gee G, Gnanamanickam E, Jones K, Karahalios A, Kennedy (nee Bovill) M, Krakouer J, Morgan A, O'Donnell M, Smith K, Callander E	Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Early to Mid-Career Researchers Grant	5M
Building Bridges: Understanding PrEP's Impact on Community Dynamics Among Gay and Bisexual Men, 2024	Demant D, Adams J	Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme	13.1K
Public Health Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in NSW – the experiences of Environmental Health Officers, 2024	Mahimbo A	Western Sydney Local Health District	29.46K
Partnering with residents, families and carers for person-centred infection prevention and control in residential aged care: developing strategies that are compassionate, appropriate and safe, 2024 - 2028	Hor S , Gilbert G, Wyer M, Schaper F, Seale H, DiGiacomo M, Debono D , Saravanakumar P, Callander E , Parker D	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHRMC) TCR Improving Infection Prevention and Control in Residential Aged Care Homes	0.991M



Professor Emily Callander, Head of Discipline Health Services Management, presenting at the SoPH Research Retreat. Professor Callander was named in research project teams that received in excess of \$18M in funding

Our Research Students

Higher Degree Research Completions 2024 Doctor of Philosophy

Name	UTS Supervisors	Thesis
Odai Al-Ma'Aitah	Linda Perry (Principal Supervisor) Daniel Demant (Co Supervisor) Samantha Jakimowicz (Co Supervisor)	The Effects of the 2019 Lockdown for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) on Glycaemic Control of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Implications for Nursing Education
Kirsten Baker	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	Experiences of Integrated Care in Meeting Health Complexity Amongst Marginalised Populations: Insights from a Community Health Service
Mohammed Banany	David Sibbritt (Principal Supervisor) Klaus Gebel (Co Supervisor)	An Evaluation of the Rashaka Initiative, a School-based Obesity Intervention in Makkah City, Saudi Arabia
Sarita Bista	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Sally Nathan (Co Supervisor)	Long-term Outcomes of a Residential Treatment Program for Adolescents with Problematic Drug and Alcohol Use: Evidence from Longitudinal Modelling Approach Using Linked Data
Layla Edwards	Elizabeth Sullivan (Principal Supervisor) Sacha Jamieson (Co Supervisor) Sungwon Chang (Co Supervisor)	Looking Beyond Recidivism: a Comprehensive Exploration of the Social Determinants of Reimprisonment of Women with Histories of Substance-use to Inform Gender-responsive Service Provision
Glenys Frank	Deborah Fox (Principal Supervisor) Nicky Leap (Co Supervisor)	NEST: Not Even a Safe Territory. The Maternity Experiences of Women Seeking Asylum, in Australia
Erika Frey	Jane Frawley (Principal Supervisor) Catriona Bonfiglioli (Co Supervisor)	Parents' Use of Social Media for Health Information: An Australian Mixed Methods Study
Cheru Tesema Leshargie	Jane Frawley (Principal Supervisor) Daniel Demant (Co Supervisor)	Treatment Outcomes among Adolescents Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy, in Amhara Region, Ethiopia: A Mixed Study Approach
Danielle Manton	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Megan Williams (Co Supervisor)	The Bunya Project: Indigenous Communities Leading Healthcare Curricula

Name	UTS Supervisors	Thesis
Reakeeta Morgan	Kim Usher (Principal Supervisor) Su-yin Hor (Co Supervisor)	Historical Trauma and Resilience: Stories from Aboriginal Young People in Australia
Karen Patterson	Benjamin Harris-Roxas (Principal Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor)	Ordinary and Extraordinary Acts of Integration: People's Perceptions of Integrated Health Care within their Everyday Lives
Md Sazedur Rahman	David Sibbritt (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor) Wenbo Peng (Co Supervisor)	Uses of Self-management for Stroke Rehabilitation
Rebecca Redmond	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor) Jonathan Wardle (Co Supervisor)	The Naturopathic Approach to Managing Endometriosis: Clinical Insights into Naturopathic Practice
Carrie Thomson-Casey	Jon Adams (Principal Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor)	An Exploration of Complementary Medicine In Psychology Practice



SoPH PhD student Danielle Manton, at the UTS Learning and Teaching Awards

Higher Degree Research Students 2024

Doctor of Philosophy

Name	Supervisors	Thesis
Adili Adilan	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Sarah Wise (Co Supervisor)	Value-based Healthcare in Low Back Pain: Treatment Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness of Low Back Pain
Salma Ahmed Eljailani Ahmed	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Abela Mahimbo (Co Supervisor)	The Quality of Midwifery Care in Khartoum State, Sudan
Joshua Akuu	Deborah Debono (Principal Supervisor) Su-yin Hor (Co Supervisor) Esther Adama (External Supervisor) Edith Botchway-Commey (External Supervisor) Uchechukwu Levi Osuagwu (External Supervisor)	Understanding the Implementation of Community-Based Programs to Address Childhood Malnutrition in Ghana
Adel Alabdaly	Su-yin Hor (Principal Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor) Reece Hinchcliff (Co Supervisor)	The Impact of TQM on Hospital Performance, including Nurses, Patient Satisfaction and Patient Outcomes. A Qualitative and Quantitative Study in Five Government-Run, Saudi Arabian Hospitals that have Transitioned to TQM
Sultan Sulaiman J Alsahli	Mary Lam (Principal Supervisor) Su-yin Hor (Co Supervisor) Kris Rogers (Co Supervisor)	The Adoption of Mobile Health Applications by Physicians in Saudi Arabia
Ali Ahmed A Alzahrani	Klaus Gebel (Principal Supervisor) Anne Grunseit (Co Supervisor)	Cultural, Social and Environmental Barriers to Physical Activity in the Southern Region of Saudi Arabia
Melise Ammit	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Mark Goodhew (Co Supervisor)	Women-focused Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorders
Fantu Mamo Aragaw	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Angela Dawson (Co Supervisor)	Hospital-based Healthcare, Medication Use, Morbidity and Mortality Outcomes among Cancer Patients in the Refugee Population in Australia
Kim Beadman	Faye McMillan (Principal Supervisor) Juanita Sherwood (Co Supervisor) Paul Gray (Co Supervisor)	The Journey of one Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to Decolonise Social Emotional Health and Wellbeing Wrap Around Support Services to Women and their Families during the Perinatal Period
Binyam Birhane	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Angela Dawson (Co Supervisor)	Effect of Prenatal Life, Early Life, and Adult Life Exposure on Lifelong Health: Creating Better Health and Wellbeing at All Ages
Ryan Bradley	Jon Adams (Principal Supervisor) David Sibbritt (Co Supervisor)	Evaluation of Gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT) as a Biomarker of Cardiometabolic Risk
Ian Breakspear	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor) Vicky Ward (External Supervisor)	Determining Clinical Success: the Perspectives and Practices of Naturopathic and Herbal Medicine Practitioners
Belinda Brucki	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Albie Sharpe (Co Supervisor)	The Ethicality of Australia's COVID19 Pandemic Policies Evaluated Using a Mental Health Lens

Name	Supervisors	Thesis
Jennifer Care	Jonathan Wardle (Principal Supervisor) Amie Steel (Co Supervisor) Anne-Louise Carlton (External Supervisor)	Policy, Politics, and Power in Health Practitioner Regulation: Perspectives and Experiences of Healthcare Stakeholders regarding the Occupational Regulation of Non-registered Health Professions
Tristan Carter	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor) Danielle Schoenaker (External Supervisor)	Paternal Preconception Health and Care in Australia: A Mixed Methods Study
David Casteleijn	Jonathan Wardle (Principal Supervisor) Amie Steel (Co Supervisor)	A Naturalistic Observational Study of Western Herbal Medicine Practice in Self-Reported Anxiety in Depression
Cherie Caut	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Erica McIntyre (Co Supervisor) Danielle Schoenaker (External Supervisor)	The Preconception Health Literacy, and Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Preconception Care, of Health Professionals in Australia: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Study
Timothy Croft	Deborah Debono (Principal Supervisor) Larissa Lavarch (Co Supervisor) Sally Nathan (External Supervisor)	Enduring, Strengths-based and Aboriginal led Approaches to Maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Connections to Community
Jillian Dunn	Jonathan Wardle (Principal Supervisor) Amie Steel (Co Supervisor)	Mapping the Naturopathic Landscape: An Examination of Regulatory Education and Policy Infrastructures and Policy Frameworks in a Global Emerging Profession
Bonnie Eklom	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Jennifer Fenwick (Co Supervisor)	Evaluating the Efficiency and Productivity of Public Maternity Services in Australia
Temesgen Muche Ewunie	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Andrew Hayen (Co Supervisor)	The Individual Health-promoting and Protective Factors of Refugees in Australia: Opportunities to Develop Resilient, Flourishing Communities
Sultana Farhana	Jane Frawley (Principal Supervisor) Elizabeth Sullivan (Co Supervisor) Nadom Safi (External Supervisor) Antoinette Anazodo (External Supervisor)	Gestational Cancer: An Exploration of Women's Experiences, and Perinatal and Neonatal Outcomes
Kiara Godfrey	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Thomas McAloon (Co Supervisor)	Safeguarding Against Female Genital Mutilation: Exploring Best Practice in Australia
Gabrielle Hall	Rachel Grove (Principal Supervisor) Angela Dawson (Co Supervisor) Elizabeth Pellicano (External Supervisor)	Understanding Neurodiversity-affirming Approaches: Perspectives of Autistic People and Health Professionals
Evelyn Heap	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Andrew Hayen (Co Supervisor) Abela Mahimbo (Co Supervisor) Sally Nathan (External Supervisor)	Self-harm among Refugee Youths in Australia: a Systematic Review, Cross-sectional Survey, and Participatory Action Research
Jocelyn Hickson	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Patricia Bradd (Co Supervisor) Albie Sharpe (Co Supervisor)	Health System Redesign for Isolated Populations
Yoey Gwan Venise Hon	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Daniel Demant (Co Supervisor)	Quantifying the Size of Wellbeing and Financial Consequences in Elective Surgery in Australian Hospitals: A Patient's Perspective
Hannah Ireland	Angela Dawson (Principal Supervisor) Nguyen Toan Tran (Co Supervisor) Robyn Drysdale (Co Supervisor)	The Role of Social Capital in Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings

Higher Degree Research Students 2024

Doctor of Philosophy

Name	Supervisors	Thesis
Hannah Jackson	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Sarah Wise (Co Supervisor) Luke Grzeskowiak (External Supervisor) Joanne Enticott (External Supervisor)	The Pharmacoeconomics of Medication Use in Pregnancy: An Exploration of Costs and Equity
Linda Justin	Deborah Debono (Principal Supervisor) Phillippa Carnemolla (Co Supervisor) Su-yin Hor (Co Supervisor)	Who Do You Say I Am? Language, Culture and Their Intersection with Quality and Safety in Aged Care
Shae Karger	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Jane Frawley (Co Supervisor)	Improving Poor Birth Outcomes for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women in Australia
Kiddus Yitbarek Kehali	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Abela Mahimbo (Co Supervisor) Jane Frawley (Co Supervisor) Mirkuzie Woldie (External Supervisor) Meru Sheel (External Supervisor)	Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness of Measles Vaccination Strategies for Children in Low Income Setting
Suzy Ladanyi	David Sibbritt (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	Massage Therapy in Australia: The Prevalence and Characteristics of Australian Women Who Consult With a Massage Therapist for Musculoskeletal Conditions and the Practice Characteristics and Experience of Australian Massage Therapists
Carolyn Ledowsky	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Vanessa Scarf (Co Supervisor)	Comparative Effectiveness of 5-methyltetrahydrofolate and Folic Acid Intake in Women with MTHFR Polymorphisms and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss
Tewachew Liyeh	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Abela Mahimbo (Co Supervisor) Angela Dawson (Co Supervisor)	Quality of Family Planning Service in Ethiopia
Chanelle Mastronardo	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	Complementary Medicine Practitioner-shared Public Health Information and Consumer Engagement
Kylie McWhirter	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	The Association Between Primitive Reflexes, Motor Skills and Executive Function in Preschool Children
Edwina Mead	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Vanessa Scarf (Co Supervisor)	Long Term Costs of an Excess Caesarean Section Rate in Australia
Alan Morrison	Deborah Debono (Principal Supervisor) Daniel Demant (Co Supervisor)	Mapping the Paramedicine Regulatory Community to Understand the Movement of a New Profession into National Health Practitioner Regulation
Josephina Newton	Andrew Hayen (Principal Supervisor) Megan Williams (Co Supervisor) Rachel Grove (Co Supervisor) Julia Bowman (External Supervisor)	Palliative Care and End-of-life Care Needs for Aboriginal Peoples Sentenced in NSW Prisons: What Aboriginal Elders, Leaders and Family Members Say
Maria Niedzielska	Emily Callander (Principal Supervisor) Weiyang Kong (Co Supervisor)	Evaluation of Maternity Models of Care in Australia: A Multifaceted Cost-effectiveness Analysis
Tracey Oorschot	David Sibbritt (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	Diabetes Self-management Behaviours in Australian Women with Co-morbid Anxiety or Depression
Jose Orlando Guzman	Nicole Percival (Principal Supervisor) Andrew Hayen (Co Supervisor) Albie Sharpe (Co Supervisor)	Developing Indicators to Measure Community-centred Health Promotion Impact in Aboriginal and Vulnerable Communities: a Mixed Methods Study

Name	Supervisors	Thesis
Elizabeth Paton	Deborah Debono (Principal Supervisor) Gerald Fogarty (Co Supervisor) Tim Luckett (Co Supervisor)	From Good Idea to Improving Outcomes. Refining the Function of Clinical Research Networks to Optimise Skin Cancer Research Outcomes
Branko Radojkovic	Faye McMillan (Principal Supervisor) Larissa Lavarch (Co Supervisor)	Factors that Influence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students' Engagement with Australian Accredited Pharmacy Degree Programs
Kathleen Ryan	Su-yin Hor (Principal Supervisor) Patricia Bradd (Co Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor)	Exploring the Black Box of Applying Incident Review Methodologies in NSW Public Health Services
Ashley Shepherd	Daniel Demant (Principal Supervisor) Amy Thunig (Co Supervisor) Archie Thomas (Co Supervisor)	Improving Mental Health Outcomes and Experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIASB+ Young People when Accessing Mental Health Care
Jemal Ebrahim Shifa	Daniel Demant (Principal Supervisor) Jon Adams (Co Supervisor)	Describing and Evaluating the Determinants of Alcohol Abuse and Common Mental Disorders among Youths in Ethiopia
Nathaniel Tamwoy	Rachel Grove (Principal Supervisor) Josephine Gwynne (Co Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor) John Gilroy (External Supervisor)	Finding the Heartbeat: First Nations Led Solutions to Redefining Allied Health Practices
Tina Taylor	Amie Steel (Principal Supervisor) Hope Foley (Co Supervisor) Deborah Debono (Co Supervisor) Felicity Bishop (External Supervisor)	Patient-focused Public Health Information Shared by Complementary Medicine Practitioners in Clinical Encounters and Patient Engagement
Elna Tulus	Su-yin Hor (Principal Supervisor) Hamish Robertson (Co Supervisor)	Political Economy of Global Public Health, Using the Case Study on Australian Wheat and Indonesian Instant Noodles
Birhanu Gutu Turi	Daniel Demant (Principal Supervisor) Abela Mahimbo (Co Supervisor) Nicole Percival (Co Supervisor)	Parent-adolescent Co-enrollment in Sexuality Education and its Effect on Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes: Empowering Adolescents in SRH
Ashleigh Wright	Faye McMillan (Principal Supervisor) Paul Gray (Co Supervisor)	Conceptualising Attachment from an Australian Aboriginal Perspective: An Aboriginal Participatory Action Research Study

Master of Health Services (Research)

Name	Supervisors	Thesis
Lakshy Ganesh	Su-yin Hor (Principal Supervisor) Albie Sharpe (Co Supervisor) Beata Bajorek (External Supervisor)	Development of Single Gateway Monitoring Health Channel for Excellent Services on Community Pharmacy Practice

“I am passionate about palliative care and eager to expand my knowledge, deepen my understanding, and continuously improve my skills. At times, I feel that the patient’s needs are not fully understood or supported, which is why I want to study further to better understand those needs, effectively manage symptoms and become a stronger advocate for my patient and their families during the most challenging times.”

Rabina Sharma Thapa Magar,
Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care





Teaching and Learning Achievements in 2024

I am delighted to present the annual report highlighting just some of the 2024 achievements and advancements in teaching and learning within the UTS School of Public Health. Throughout the year, the School's dedication to providing high quality education persisted, underscoring our mission to nurture graduates capable of contributing to the enhancement of public health and the delivery of health and social services.

In 2024, the School of Public Health continued to evolve, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges within the higher education sector. Our commitment to high-quality teaching was evident through ongoing subject development, peer review, and the introduction of innovative teaching methods. The School offered a diverse

range of courses, including the Bachelor of Public Health, and a suite of postgraduate courses in Public Health, Health Services Management, Palliative Care, and Diabetes Education and Management. Across the subjects in these courses, we continue to engage with the benefits and challenges of advances in generative artificial intelligence, to ensure that our students are supported in understanding appropriate and ethical use of this rapidly emerging technology.

Our commitment to embedding the Indigenous Graduate Attribute across our courses continues. We aim to develop the professional competencies of our graduates in working with Indigenous people and communities, fostering an inclusive and culturally sensitive learning environment.

I am so grateful to colleagues in the School of Public Health for their support and high-quality teaching. We work in collaboration with an amazing team of staff across the Faculty and UTS who support us to deliver high quality, innovative education and to improve the student experience. Below is a selection of SoPH teaching and learning related highlights in 2024.

Associate Professor Deborah Debono, Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning), at the UTS Learning and Teaching Awards



Selected Key Achievements

Enrolment and Graduation

The School welcomed a significant number of new enrolments across various programs, reflecting recognition of the importance and relevance of the degrees we offer. We celebrated numerous graduates who completed their degrees, contributing to the public health, health and social services, diabetes education and management and palliative care workforces.

Innovative Teaching and Learning

The School maintained a strong commitment to high-quality teaching through an ongoing cycle of subject development and peer review. This ensured that our subjects remained engaging, evidence-based, and reflective of best practices. We also introduced new teaching methods to enhance the learning experience, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Student Experience and Support

Efforts to improve the student experience continued, with regular drop-in sessions for undergraduate students and a focus on supporting new international students. The Bachelor of Public Health Info Day in November was a key innovation, providing

students with valuable information about their courses and opportunities for professional development.

Industry and Community Engagement

The School strengthened its engagement with industry and community partners, enhancing the practical relevance of our courses. This included collaborations with health districts, industry stakeholders, and Indigenous communities, which enriched the learning experience and provided students with examples of real-world applications of their learning.

Recognition and Awards

The School received several recognitions and awards for excellence in teaching and learning. Notably, Tiana Thomas, a student in the Master of Health Services Management, was awarded the Guy Morrison Prize for Excellence, recognising outstanding achievement by an Indigenous Bachelor (Honours) or Masters student in their coursework/project work. Additionally, the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education was recognised at both state and national levels for its innovative approach to diabetes education and management.

Reaccreditation and Course Enhancements

Several programs, including the Palliative Care and Health Services Management courses, successfully achieved reaccreditation, ensuring that they continue to meet high standards of quality and relevance. Key enhancements included the refinement of graduate attributes, the introduction of new elective options, and the restructuring of course offerings to provide greater choice and flexibility for students.

As I reflect on the achievements of the past year, I want to express my gratitude to the entire School community—students, staff, and industry partners—for their dedication and contributions to the success of the UTS School of Public Health. As a School, we look forward to a year of growth, innovation, and continued excellence in education.

Associate Professor Deborah Debono

Deputy Head of School
(Teaching and Learning)
School of Public Health



Teaching and Learning Course Reports

Palliative Care

This was a year of critical reflection and development for the Palliative Care course team. We welcomed 42 new enrolments into the Palliative Care courses in 2024, including five nurses who were successful in receiving scholarships from the South West Sydney Local Health District Palliative Care Scholarship program. We congratulated 18 graduates who completed their Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, and Master of Palliative Care courses with us.

For the first time, we were pleased to be able to offer Commonwealth Supported Places in the Master of Palliative Care which helped increase clinicians' access to this priority area of study and service, particularly those who serve regional populations. We welcomed expert clinician teachers who shared their interdisciplinary insights including Dr Meg Sands (Palliative Care Physician), Kim Offner (Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Consultant), and Dr Madeleine Juhmann (Research Fellow and trained paramedic).

A key focus of the Palliative Care program in 2024 was reaccreditation of our suite of courses. Following this process, we were successfully reaccredited by the University for another five years.

Key enhancements include:

- Refinement and consolidation of graduate attributes and Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO)
- Refinement of the Indigenous Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ICILO) across our three courses
- Additional elective options to offer greater choice, flexibility, and a well-rounded educational experience.

In addition to our award courses, we delivered ten of our Palliative Care masterclasses for general practice, home/community care, and aged care nurses in Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network as part of Enterprise Learning throughout 2024. These were mainly delivered online and centred on improving communication skills around advance care planning, grief and bereavement, and symptom management.

We also developed a free short course available on UTS Open called 'Living Well with Palliative Care.' It is geared towards generalist health professionals who could benefit from an introduction to palliative care as well as a taste of what our online learning looks and feels like.

We have promoted our various course offerings at the Palliative Care NSW conference in Tamworth from 31 October - 2 November. At our UTS Palliative Care booth, we had many conversations with prospective students with a desire to grow their capabilities in this space from both regional and metropolitan areas. It was also a great opportunity to meet in-person with several of our current

Associate Professor Michelle DiGiacomo
Course Director
Palliative Care
School of Public Health

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program continues to experience strong enrolment and high levels of student satisfaction, with notable improvements in student retention. An increasing number of students are choosing to enrol directly into the Master's degree. As part of its ongoing commitment to excellence, the program is planning to expand its specialisations to better align with industry needs, including new pathways in Health Leadership and Reproductive Health.

Student feedback for 2024 has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's strong sense of community, engaging learning environment, and the relevance of the curriculum to professional practice. Students value the opportunity to apply their learning in real-world settings and have praised the program's interactive discussions, supportive teaching team, and diverse learning resources. Recent enhancements, such as clearer assessment rubrics and improved guidance on academic integrity and artificial intelligence, underscore the program's dedication to providing an exceptional learning experience.

Looking ahead, the MPH program is preparing for reaccreditation. It will continue to refine its structure, streamline course offerings, and introduce innovative learning opportunities to address emerging public health challenges. With a focus on industry relevance and student success, the MPH at UTS is well positioned to strengthen its reputation as a leader in public health education, producing graduates who are equipped to drive meaningful change in health systems across Australia and beyond.

Dr Daniel Demant

Course Director
Master of Public Health
School of Public Health

Health Services Management

The Health Services Management (HSM) program experienced another year of development and growth in 2024, marked by robust enrolment figures, student retention and course completions.

A key focus of our energy throughout the year was the reaccreditation of the HSM suite of courses. As part of this process, we led the review of our courses to ensure they are strategically aligned with UTS 2027, industry demands and students' needs. We were successfully reaccredited by the University for another five years with outstanding feedback from relevant committees who recognised and applauded the innovative and contemporary changes brought about through the Enhancing Courses program.

Key educational enhancements in the new format (effective from 2025) are:

- Consolidation of graduate attributes and Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO)
- Incorporation of the Indigenous Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ICILO) into three core subjects that span the offerings that comprise our suite of courses
- Restructuring of the Health Services Management suite of courses by reworking core and elective subjects
- Additional electives to provide students with greater choice and flexibility in undertaking and completing their study program
- Redesigned and expanded Majors in the Masters course to enable better articulation from the Graduate Certificate into the Masters course,

as well as broadening appeal and increasing market differentiation. This included:

- changing the structure and name of three existing majors (Quality and Safety; Digital Health and Analytics; Flexible Major)
- creating three new majors (Leadership; Decision-making for Health Leaders; Business Administration)
- discontinuing sub-majors

In response to industry demand the team also led the development of a new Graduate Certificate in Quality and Safety in Health and Social Care. This is expected to be offered to students in the near future.

Janelle Craig

Course Director
Health Services Management
School of Public Health

Teaching and Learning

Course Reports

Bachelor of Public Health

In 2024, the Bachelor of Public Health has continued to grow and evolve, despite the challenging headwinds facing the higher education sector. This resilience reflects the strength of our program, our dedicated teaching staff, and the increasing recognition of the critical role of public health. One major highlight this year was the outstanding video developed to promote the Bachelor of Public Health, produced with contributions from five of our students. They enthusiastically shared their experiences of studying for the Bachelor of Public Health, while demonstrating the appeal and future opportunities of the course to prospective students.

We have continued our strong commitment to high-quality teaching through an ongoing cycle of subject development and peer review, ensuring our subjects remain engaging, evidence-based, and reflective of best practices. One of the year's standout successes has been the growing number of students from other faculties enrolling in our subjects as electives. This expansion has enhanced the interdisciplinary reach of public health education at UTS, with subjects such as *Indigenous Health and Wellbeing* attracting almost 250 students across both Autumn and Spring semesters. This trend highlights the increasing relevance of public health across multiple disciplines and the value that students perceive in their own professional development. Another change was our switch to allowing Spring enrolments for the first time, further boosting our numbers.

Our efforts to improve the student experience have also continued, organising regular drop-in sessions for undergraduate students, with a particular focus on supporting new international students. A key innovation in 2024 was the development of our first Bachelor of Public Health Info Day in November, which was well-supported by our teaching team, with special thanks to Bernard Saliba for his instrumental role. Info Day provided an opportunity for our continuing students to explore options and ask questions about adding an honours component to their degree, as well as professional placements and overseas study opportunities. We were also able to share new developments, such as changes to the curriculum, opportunities for student representation, mentoring, and the SOUL Awards. We recorded the session, providing a useful resource that students can then refer to throughout the year.

International engagement has remained a key focus, with our overseas study tours to Malaysia and Fiji—delivered in partnership with the School of Nursing and Midwifery—proving to be an outstanding success. Thirty undergraduate students participated in the study tour to Fiji under the New Colombo Plan, and Australian Commonwealth Government initiative. Students visited community maternal and paediatric health clinics, villages and peri-urban settlements and the Australian High Commission. Students also learnt about innovative initiatives such as the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) and Watershed

Interventions for Systems Health in Fiji (WISH Fiji) programs. Throughout the visit to Malaysia, our students applied Photovoice as a learning activity to explore Malaysian culture in partnership with local buddies. This delivered intercultural, collaborative, and professional learning outcomes. Looking forward, we successfully secured New Colombo Plan funding for a study abroad placement program in Thailand, with students set to depart in November 2025. Developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Science, this program will offer students an invaluable opportunity to apply their learning in an international public health context.

As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen our teaching and our focus on enhancing opportunities for our students, ensuring that they gain the practical skills and critical perspectives needed to tackle real-world public health challenges.

Dr Albie Sharpe
Course Director
Bachelor of Public Health
School of Public Health



SoPH Course Directors 2024

1. Janelle Craig (pictured left) - Health Services Management
2. Dr Shannon Lin - Diabetes
3. Associate Professor Michelle DiGiacomo (pictured middle) - Palliative Care
4. Dr Albie Sharpe - B Public Health
5. Dr Daniel Demant (pictured right) - M Public Health

Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education

In 2024, the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education continued to demonstrate excellence and innovation in diabetes education, achieving remarkable recognition at both state and national levels.

The course maintained its flexible delivery model, combining online teaching with face-to-face clinical placements across Australia and supplementary workshops. With over 200 students enrolled across four core subjects, the program experienced continued growth and success in delivering evidence-based knowledge and skills.

Awards and Recognition:

- The course was selected as a finalist for the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Award in Teaching and Learning Excellence for the project *'Transforming Lives, Transforming Diabetes Care: University of Technology Sydney's pioneering approach in Indigenous Education'*
- Dr Shannon Lin, Course Director, was nominated by key diabetes stakeholders for the NSW Premier's Women of Excellence Award for exceptional leadership in diabetes education and teaching
- Dr Lin delivered an inspiring keynote address at the Faculty of Health UTS Autumn graduation ceremony, motivating new graduates across nursing, allied health, public health and health services management.

Indigenous Teaching Success:

A particular highlight was the strong participation and achievements of Indigenous students:

- Maintained 10 Indigenous students throughout 2024, including 7 new enrolments;
- Celebrated 4 successful Indigenous student graduations in 2024
- Achieved a historic milestone with graduate, Louise Gilbey, becoming the first Aboriginal Health Practitioner Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE)
- Our 2022 Indigenous graduate, Trent Lyons, received the prestigious New CDE of the Year 2024 award by Australian Diabetes Educators Association, as nominated by the Course.

Industry-Collaborated Outreach Teaching Success:

The Faculty of Health-funded diabetes workshops in western NSW demonstrated remarkable outcomes:

- 72.4% increase in participants' confidence using insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring devices;
- 66.5% improvement in knowledge of the latest diabetes technologies;
- 96.3% reported enhanced professional networking opportunities;
- 87.0% indicated likelihood of maintaining peer connections.

Teaching-related Evaluation:

- Launched a comprehensive 3-year cohort study to evaluate the course's effectiveness in teaching clinical skills and cultural awareness of the course
- Continued research into Indigenous student experience to identify study enablers and barriers to engagement.

Industry Engagement:

- Maintained strong industry involvement with over 45 industry representatives
- Expanded the Course Advisory Committee to include additional clinician representatives, making it the largest committee across all universities
- Secured stakeholder interest from ACI NSW Health, Rural Doctors Network, AH&MRC, and Western NSW and Far Western NSW LHDs for future collaboration in teaching, especially in diabetes workforce training.

The program continues to make significant contributions to Australia's diabetes workforce capacity, especially in rural and remote areas, while maintaining its commitment to Indigenous health outcomes and professional development.

Dr Shannon Lin

Course Director
Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education
School of Public Health

“I want to make an impact in our society and contribute to creating equity among vulnerable groups. I have a desire to use translational research for intervention development among at-risk youth and adolescents, who are subject to substance abuse and complex mental health issues.”

Alexandra Bartholomew,
Master of Public Health





Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline

The Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline continues to make significant strides in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In 2024, our team has been actively engaged in various research projects, educational initiatives, and community partnerships. It is my honour to present the Girra Maa Discipline Report, which highlights the key contributions and achievements of the team and the relationships that enable us to work in this space.

Collaborative Mission

A key mission of the Girra Maa team is to ensure that we are working collaboratively across the faculty to create an environment of cultural safety and responsiveness for staff, students, and partners who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. We stood together as colleagues to present at a Faculty Town Hall. During the Town Hall, we reflected on our connections and relationships with our communities and how this contributes to the strategy and vision of the school and faculty. We called on all colleagues to understand their responsibilities and relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities, including addressing the impact of racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, students, and community members.

Girra Maa Research Showcase

The Girra Maa Research Showcase, themed “Keep the fire burning,” was a highlight of 2024. The passion and commitment were palpable for everyone who joined the gathering, either in person or virtually. The event featured presentations from various researchers, including:

- **Tim Croft:** Presented on “Enduring, strengths-based and Aboriginal-led approaches to maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s connections to community.”
- **Jasmine Williams:** Discussed “Community Based Research – ‘Our Wisdom Our Ways.’”
- **Sally Fitzpatrick and Danielle Manton:** Presented on “Indigenous leadership in authentic assessments,” with contributions from Jacintha Manton.
- **Josie Newton:** Displayed a poster on “WIRIMBIRRAi (TO CARE) First Nations Views on Palliative and End-of-Life Care – A Review of the Literature.”

The showcase also included an awards ceremony, with Dr. Sandra Symons introducing the Guy Morrison Prize winners, Paige Winder and Tiana Thomas, who shared pre-recorded messages of their journey and what drives them to succeed in their chosen careers. It was a wonderful opportunity to pause for a moment to recognise and celebrate students.

Culture is Inclusion Day

Professor Scott Avery delivered a wonderful “Culture is Inclusion Day” presentation, a celebration of Indigenous culture and disability inclusion. Scott effectively shone a light on inclusive culture, and his sparkly jacket certainly added a touch of pizzazz. This event enhanced the relationships between colleagues and communities.

Contributions and Engagement

The Girra Maa team continues to contribute in numerous places and spaces across government and policy, education and training, as well as research at local, state, national, and international levels. We presented and represented the school at several key Indigenous conferences, including The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations conference and the Indigenous Allied Health Australia conference.

The Girra Maa team and the school were happy to host Dr Allison Barlow and colleagues from the Center for Indigenous Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and we are excited to commence collaborative talks between both the Center and the School to further highlight and enhance the work of both organisations with and for Indigenous communities (watch this space for an update in the 2025 report).

Gratitude for Relationships

We are humbled by the relationships that exist across the faculty, university, and other institutions with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander colleagues that support us and strengthen our resolve to continue to be involved in so many areas. This is also true of the allies who stand alongside us in the work we do.

Acknowledgment of Professional Staff

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the professional staff whose knowledge, commitment, and passion have been instrumental in supporting the work of the School of Public Health and the Girra Maa team. Their dedication ensures the smooth operation of our programs and the successful implementation of our research initiatives. Their contributions are invaluable to our mission of improving Indigenous health outcomes.

Conclusion

The achievements of Girra Maa in 2024 reflect the dedication and expertise of our faculty and the strength of our community partnerships. We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We look forward to continuing our work in 2025 and beyond, building on the foundations laid this year.

Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS

Head of Discipline
Girra Maa Indigenous Health
School of Public Health



Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS, Head of Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline of the SoPH. Throughout 2024, Professor McMillan collaborated with UTS and the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Indigenous Health at Johns Hopkins University, USA.

Our Partners and Collaborators

Our Advisory Board

Professor David Sibbritt (Chair)

Head of School
UTS School of Public Health

Distinguished Professor Jon Adams

Deputy Head of School (Research)
UTS School of Public Health

Dr Trish Bradd

Director Patient Safety
Clinical Excellence Commission

Professor Andrew Hayen

(Immediate Past) Deputy Head of School
(Teaching and Learning)
UTS School of Public Health

Professor David Irving

Director, Research and Development
Australian Red Cross Lifeblood

Associate Professor Jo Mitchell

Senior Adviser
Sax Institute

Associate Professor Sarah Thackway

Executive Director, Centre for Epidemiology
and Evidence
NSW Ministry of Health

Mr Ken Zulumovski

Managing Director
Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources
(GUIR) Pty Ltd



Recipient of the 2024 UTS Alumni Award was Dr. Trish Bradd, Director of Patient Safety at the Clinical Excellence Commission. A PhD alumna of the school, Dr. Bradd continues to collaborate as an Honorary Adjunct Associate Professor and as a member of the SoPH Advisory Board. Dr Bradd is pictured at the Alumni Awards Ceremony in October 2024 with SoPH's Professor Andrew Hayen

Our Partnerships with Industry, the Professions and Community

- Abbott Nutrition, Australia and New Zealand
- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council
- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation Network (ADARRN)
- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
- AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)
- Africa Health
- Al al-Bayt University, Jordan
- Anglicare
- Apunipma Cape York Health Council, Queensland
- ASHM Health
- Aston University, United Kingdom
- Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
- Australasian College of Health Service Management
- Australasian Epidemiological Association
- Australasian Society for Autism Research
- Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM)
- Australian Asian Cultural Association (AACA)
- Australian Centre for Engagement, Evidence and Values, University of Wollongong
- Australian Clinical Psychology Association
- Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA)
- Australian Diabetes Society
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative
- Australian Women's Health Alliance
- Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Australian Red Cross Lifeblood
- Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists
- Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
- Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health, University of Melbourne
- Bangamalanha Centre Dubbo
- Bastyr University Research Institute, USA
- Bicycle NSW
- Bimbadeen College
- Blacktown & Mount Druitt Hospitals
- Bobby Goldsmith Foundation
- Brazilian Ministry of Health, Brazil
- British Columbia Ministry of Health, Canada
- Burnet Institute
- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, Canada
- Cancer Australia
- Canterbury Hospital
- Carers NSW
- Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network
- Centre for Alcohol and Other Drug Training and Workforce Development, Queensland Health
- Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- China National Research Institute of Food and Fermentation Industries, China
- Chinese Nursing Association
- Chiropractic Knowledge Hub, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Denmark
- Clinical Excellence Commission
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Gay Men's Action Group (NSW Health & ACON)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Sexual Health Action Group
- Curtin University, Western Australia
- Deadly Connections
- Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Department of Health, Victoria
- Department of Urban Planning of the City of Cologne, Germany
- Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Masiphumelele Research Site, South Africa
- Diabetes Australia
- Diabetes Australia Medical Education and Scientific Advisory Council (MESAC)
- Diabetes Friend, the largest consumer magazine in diabetes, China
- Edith Cowen University, Western Australia
- Emerson Health
- Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil (UNIFESP)
- Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- Fiji National University
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN)
- Flinders University
- Free University of Berlin, Germany
- Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources
- GenesisCare
- Global Chinese Diabetes Association, China
- Gold Coast Health
- Griffith University
- Hammondcare Health
- Health Education and Training Institute (NSW)
- Health Literacy Hub, The University of Sydney
- HealthDirect
- Helgott Research Institute, National University of Natural Medicine, USA

Our Partners and Collaborators

Our Partnerships with Industry, the Professions and Community

- Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service
- Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Indiana University, USA
- Indigenous Futures
- Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program (IMHIP) Youth
- Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
- International Association of Video-Reflexive Ethnographers (VREIA)
- International Society for Autism Research
- Invictus
- iSAIL Clinic, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Indigenous Health, USA
- King Edward Memorial Hospital, Western Australia
- King's College London, United Kingdom
- Kliniken Essen-Mitte, Germany
- Kraken Coding
- La Trobe University
- Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom
- LGBTIQA+ Health
- LiveBetter Community Services
- Liverpool Hospital
- Lowitja Institute
- LUISS Guido Carli University, Italy
- Maastricht University, Netherlands
- Mahidol University, Thailand
- Massage & Myotherapy Australia
- Maternity Consumer Network
- Meals on Wheels New South Wales
- Menzies School of Health Research, Northern Territory
- Mibbinbah Limited
- Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory
- Monash Health
- Monash University
- Movember Foundation
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS)
- National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS)
- National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) Health Research Institute
- National Taiwan University, Taiwan
- Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies
- Northern Sydney Local Health District
- Northwestern University, USA
- NSW Ambulance
- NSW Biocontainment Centre, Westmead Hospital
- NSW Bureau of Health Information
- NSW Health Play Safe Programs Consortium for International Students
- NSW Health STI Programs Unit
- NSW Ministry of Health
- NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service
- NSW Refugee Health Service
- Nurse Diabetes, Nursing Association of China
- Nurse Friend, online professional education platform
- Office of the Chief Executive eHealth, NSW
- Older Persons Advocacy Network
- Older Women's Network
- Oncology Massage Global
- Onemda Inc
- Opal HealthCare
- Oregon Health and Science School of Public Health, University of Portland, USA
- Osteopaths New Zealand
- Osteopathy Australia
- Our Lady of China Aged Care Group, NSW
- Oxford Policy Management, Nepal
- Pan American Health Organization
- parkrun
- Peking University, China
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Services
- Queensland Health, Queensland Government
- Queensland Health, Birth Strategy 2024-2030, Queensland Government
- Queensland University of Technology
- Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service
- Regis Aged Care
- Research Centre for Healthcare and Communities, Coventry University, United Kingdom
- Roche
- Royal Women's Hospital, Sydney
- Ruijing Diabetes Hospital Alliance, China
- Rural Doctors Network
- S-VYASA University, India
- Safer Care Victoria
- Sax Institute
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
- South West Aboriginal Medical Services, Western Australia
- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
- St Vincent's Health Australia
- St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
- State Health Department of Espirito

- Santo, Brazil
- Statewide Initiative for Diabetes Management Working Group, NSW Health and the NSW Primary Health Networks
- Stroke Foundation
- Stroke Recovery Association NSW
- Stryker
- Swedish Osteopathic Association, Sweden
- Swinburne University, Victoria
- Sydney Health Ethics Network, The University of Sydney
- Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute, The University of Sydney
- Tasmanian Department of Health
- The Albion Centre
- The Glen and The Glen for Women
- The Integrative Care Science Centre Research Foundation, Sweden
- The Osteopathic Foundation, Institute of Osteopathy, United Kingdom
- The Pacific Community (SPC)
- The Royal Women's Hospital
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Queensland
- The University of Sydney
- Tonga Ministry of Health
- Tresillian Regional Family Care Centres
- UNICEF
- Unité Pour l'Ostéopathie, France
- Uniting
- UnityHealth
- Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
- Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
- University of Alberta, Canada
- University of Arizona, USA
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- University of Health Sciences, Cambodia
- University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom
- University of Indonesia, Indonesia
- University of Kent, United Kingdom
- University of Lethbridge, Canada
- University of New South Wales
- University of Newcastle
- University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
- University of Southampton, United Kingdom
- University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- University of St Andrews, United Kingdom
- University of Tasmania
- University of Utah, USA
- University of Warwick, United Kingdom
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
- Vital.ly
- Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
- Western Australia Country Health Service
- Western NSW Primary Health Network
- Western Sydney Diabetes
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Western Sydney Local Health District - HIV and Related Programs Unit
- Western Sydney Local Health District - Public Health Unit
- Western Sydney University
- Women's Healthcare Australasia
- World Federation of Public Health Associations - Women, Children and Youth Working Group
- World Health Organization Evidence in Policy Unit, Science Division
- World Health Organization Global Clinical Practice Network
- World Health Organization Global Traditional Medicine Centre
- World Health Organization Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health
- World Naturopathic Federation
- World Naturopathic Federation, Western Pacific Regional Group
- Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)
- Yale School of Medicine, USA
- Yerin Aboriginal Medical Service

“I wanted a course to help me be a strong leader, because I want to be able to shape the health services of tomorrow. That wasn’t going to be achieved by a course that focuses on the past or current way of doing things. UTS’s Master of Health Services Management was the only course I looked at that made me think it would generate future-ready leaders.”

Serena Ayers,
Master of Health Services
Management





Key Achievements 2024



UTS Learning and Teaching Awards Ceremony



Michelle St Lambert

Staff Awards and Key Achievements

Vice-Chancellor's Professional Staff Excellence Awards

Bronze recipient under the strategic initiative category: Working Together

Michelle St Lambert

Appointment as FoH Indigenous Student Liaison Officer

Jacintha Manton

Promotion to Senior Lecturer

Dr Abela Mahimbo
Bernard Saliba

Stanford University's "Top 2% Scientists Worldwide" 2024

This prestigious list identifies the world's leading researchers, representing approximately 2% of all scientists worldwide, among which five SoPH Staff were listed:

Distinguished Professor Jon Adams (H-Index = 87)
Professor Emily Callander (H-Index = 32)
Professor Andrew Hayen (H-Index = 56)
Professor David Sibbritt (H-Index = 63)
Associate Professor Amie Steel (H-Index = 42)

2024 Australian Financial Review Award for Teaching & Learning Excellence - finalist

The diabetes teaching team were recognised for their innovative project titled 'Transforming Lives, Transforming Diabetes Care: University of Technology Sydney's Pioneering Approach in Indigenous Education.'

Dr Shannon Lin, Associate Professor Lynn Sinclair, Aunty Grace Ward, Danielle Manton, Professor David Sibbritt, Amy Zheng, Dr Marlene Payk and Dr Wenbo Peng

Sheikh Zayed International Award for Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine

For recognition for her global contribution to naturopathic research.

Associate Professor Amie Steel

Inaugural WUN Global Mental Health Symposium - Leeds, United Kingdom

Presentation on the unique challenges faced by gay ArabAustralian men. This engagement has contributed to collaborative research, particularly with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It has also strengthened our international connections, contributing to our Faculty's leadership in addressing global health challenges.

Bernard Saliba

Reappointment as the Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner (Allied Health and First Nations Health) until June 2025

Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS

2024 Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHA) Teaching Excellence Award, Early Career Academic category

Dr Abela Mahimbo

Head of School Staff Awards 2024

The Jo Travaglia Award - Associate Professor Deborah Debono

Staff Team Player Award - Dr Albie Sharpe

Staff Teaching and Learning Award - Dr Sarah Wise

Casual Staff Award - Dr Kabo Matlho & Jose Orlando Guzman



Jacintha Manton



Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS



UTS Learning and Teaching Awards Ceremony



Dr Suyin Hor



Dr Abela Mahimbo



Professor Scott Avery

UTS Faculty of Health Dean's Excellence Awards, Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher) - Highly commended

Dr Suyin Hor

2024 Australasian College of Road Safety Excellence in Road Safety Award winner

For the project, "User-driven solutions to reduce incorrect use of child restraint systems." The award citation read: "This innovative project addressed a critical road safety issue by developing a user-centric approach to improving the communication and understanding of child restraint use. The project's impact on reducing the risk of injury to young road users is expected to influence safety standards across Australia, ensuring children are protected effectively in vehicles".

Professor Andrew Hayen, member of the research team led by Professor Julie Brown of the George Institute of Global Health

Translation of Evidence to Policy in Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) - Prince Mahidol Conference, Bangkok

This event included 40 participants from around the world and featured speakers from the WHO's Evidence to Policy Network (EVIPNET), the new Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Gujarat, India, and the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

Associate Professor Amie Steel

2024 Disability Leadership Oration

This Annual Oration, hosted by the Disability Leadership Institute in the lead up to International Day of People with Disability each year, aims to uplift voices from the disability community on issues that matter to them. This talk was entitled 'deaf defying': Tales of disability resistance through the ages, and a trackline to disability excellence, drawing from learnings of Indigenous leadership in disability and inclusion.

Professor Scott Avery

Queensland Credentialed Diabetes Educator of the Year 2024 Award

Sue Carbone, SoPH Casual Academic

Preventive Health Conference 2024, Darwin

The conference theme for 2024 was 'Building prevention success stories', making it the ideal platform to present the latest findings from research on parkrun, an exemplar social and physical activity initiative achieving unparalleled dissemination and sustainability.

Associate Professor Anne Grunseit and Dr Leonie Cranney

Joining up the Care Pathway: Building a Bundle of Care. Australian Healthcare and Hospital Association Value-based Health Care webinar

Panel member at AHHA webinar, the organisation's most attended event of the year with 302 registrants and 113 online attendees. The panel featured a multidisciplinary team, including surgeons, radiation oncologists, a patient navigator, and the project lead from GenesisCare. The panel explored the Early-Stage Breast Cancer Care Bundle, a program designed to ensure patients with early-stage, non-metastatic breast cancer receive evidence-based care. Dr Wise is leading the evaluation of this initiative, with the interim report submitted in October 2024.

Dr Sarah Wise

2024 Champion Award - All-round Performance in Academic Excellence, Social Justice & Women's Health Advocacy, by the Celebration of African Australians Inc.

Dr Abela Mahimbo

Key Achievements 2024

Presentation at the Public Health Diplomacy Summit - University of Memphis, USA

Selected by the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia (CAPHIA as one of two Australasian representatives to present unique cultural health perspectives to gathered experts from 15 countries

Bernard Saliba

Abbott Case Study Award presented at the Diabetes Educator of the Year Awards

Amy Zheng, SoPH Casual Academic

7 Bridges Walk by SoPH Staff

This Cancer Council fundraiser included staff completing the scenic 28-kilometre circuit through Sydney, crossing its seven iconic bridges. The fundraiser provides an excellent opportunity for community engagement and fundraising for cancer research, prevention, and support services. This initiative not only promoted physical and mental health among the staff but also supported a crucial cause, reinforcing the School's commitment to impactful health practices both within and outside the academic environment

SoPH Social Committee and attendees

"When World's Collide"

This free event, designed for LGBTQ+ international students, friends, and allies, aimed to facilitate networking, discuss living and dating in Sydney, and to provide information about health services. Attended by approximately 50 students from various

institutions across Sydney, the event featured interactive activities like a Kahoot quiz and offered free mpox vaccinations administered by NSW Health nurses onsite.

Dr Daniel Demant and Bernard Saliba, as members of the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Sexual Health and HIV Action Group (CALDSHAG), and in collaboration with NSW Health and the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)

Government of India, Ministry of AYUSH, National Institute of Unani Medicine

Presentation on 'Navigating Emerging Technologies for Traditional Medicine: A Framework to Bring Together Different Ways of Knowing in a Modern World' as part of an international webinar on Emerging Technologies in Healthcare.

Associate Professor Amie Steel

Member of the International Organisation for Migration's Research Partners Panel

Dr Abela Mahimbo



Associate Professor Amie Steel



Dr Daniel Demant and Bernard Saliba



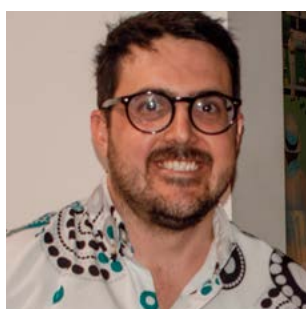
SoPH Social Committee
7 Bridges Walk



Louise Gilbey



Hannah Jackson



Trent Lyon

Student and Alumni Awards and Key Achievements

2024 Guy Morrison Prize for Indigenous Excellence

Tiana Thomas, a proud Kuku-Yalanji, Yithawarra and Baaruugguuumuu woman, addressed the “persistent health disparities faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia”. She outlined how the “social determinants of health and systemic biases within the healthcare system” contribute to Indigenous disadvantage and highlighted “the urgent need for systemic change and Indigenous empowerment within the healthcare sector.”

Recipient: Tiana Thomas, Master of Health Services Management student

First Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) to qualify as a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE)

This groundbreaking achievement represents a significant milestone in Indigenous healthcare education and practice. It reflects on the school’s culturally appropriate teaching and continuous efforts in supporting Indigenous students through supportive and culturally safe learning environments and tailored courses.

Recipient: Louise Gilbey, an Indigenous graduate of the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education program

UTS 3 Minute Thesis – Runner-Up Winner

For the presentation, Pregnant Women Get Sick Too, that focuses on pharmacoconomics and its intersection with maternal healthcare. Research in this area is advancing our understanding of the economic factors that drive resource allocation decisions for pregnant women, with an aim of providing access to safe, effective and affordable medications for all pregnant women.

Recipient: Hannah Jackson, SoPH PhD candidate, supervised by Professor Emily Callander and Dr Sarah Wise

Mental Health Leadership Programme by the Africa CDC in Ibadan, Nigeria

Jemal Ebrahim Shifa was selected as one of 25 participants chosen from over 1,000 skilled applicants, to attend training to address the leadership and advocacy gap in mental health across Africa. Health professionals and advocates from across the continent were in attendance, equipping them with the essential skills to drive change in the mental health sector.

Recipient: Jemal Ebrahim Shifa, SoPH PhD candidate supervised by Dr Daniel Demant and Distinguished Professor Jon Adams

Early Career Credentialed Diabetes Educator of the Year Award

Trent Lyon, a proud Yugambah man from the Wanggeriburra clan in Southeast Queensland was recognised for his dedication to culturally safe and inclusive practices in diabetes care and education. Trent draws his inspiration from his family, culture, and a deep desire to improve diabetes outcomes and wellbeing within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Recipient: Trent Lyon, an Indigenous graduate of the Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education program

SoPH HDR Completions 2024

Congratulations to the following HDR students for their completions in 2024. Please refer to Our HDR Students for further information.

Dr Odai Al-Ma’Aitah
Dr Kirsten Baker
Dr Mohammed Banany
Dr Sarita Bista
Dr Layla Edwards
Dr Glenys Frank
Dr Erika Frey
Dr Cheru Tesema Leshargie
Dr Danielle Manton
Dr Reakeeta Morgan
Dr Karen Patterson
Dr Md Sazedur Rahman
Dr Rebecca Redmond
Dr Carrie Thomson-Casey

In the Media 2024



Dr Daniel Demant



Dr Abela Mahimbo



Dr Shannon Lin



Associate Professor Anne Grunseit

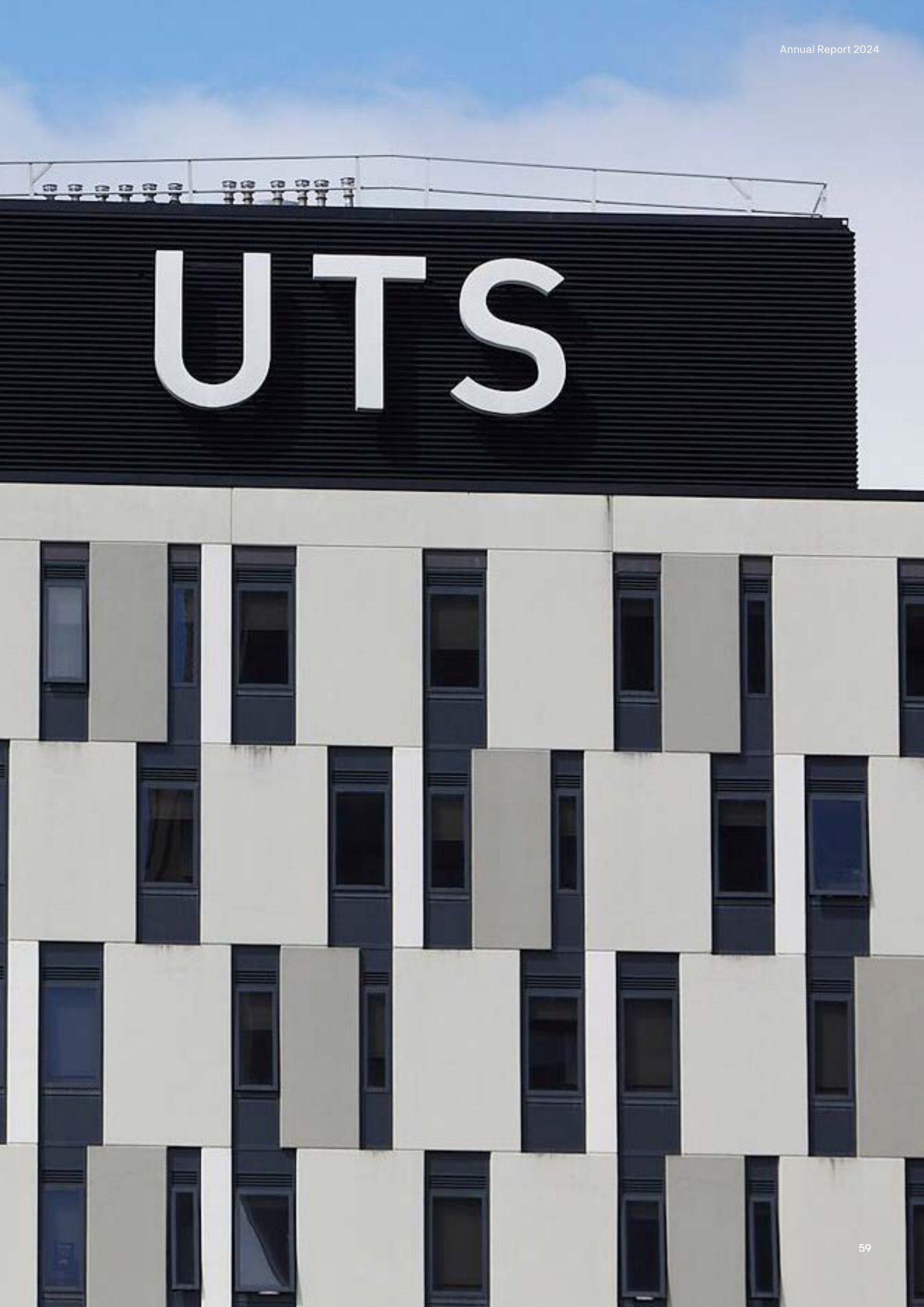


SoPH PhD candidate
Danielle Manton

March	Danielle Manton, SoPH PhD candidate, supervised by Professor Andrew Hayen and Professor Megan Williams	27.03.24 Croakey Health Media Following our Process, making Progress and finding Power at the Third World Indigenous Cancer Conference
	Dr Daniel Demant	29.03.24 Gold Coast Bulletin 30.03.24 Courier Mail Pill Testing - Reducing Risk and Increasing Education
April	Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS	11.04.24 Australian Journal of Pharmacy Women are the Backbone of Pharmacy
	Dr Shannon Lin	9.04.24 Over60 21.04.24 Good Word News 21.04.24 Science Alert 22.04.24 Your Life Choices 25.04.24 Today Headline (GBR) 25.04.24 Ivoox (ESP) 25.04.24 Inverse (USA) 25.04.24 Lifehacker Australia Could not getting enough sleep increase your risk of Type 2 diabetes?
July	Professor Faye McMillan AM FPS	27.07.24 Hamilton Spectator Unlocking full potential for Australian farmers
August	Associate Professor Jane Frawley	05.08.24 AAPNews No, COVID vaccines do not contain methylmercury
	Professor Scott Avery	09.08.24 Koori Radio 19.08.24 Koori Radio Making Tracks - Munk
	Dr Suyin Hor	13.08.24 Healthcare Channel 14.08.24 Australian Ageing Agenda 20.08.24 Third Sector Magazine \$3.7M boost for infection control research in aged care homes
	Dr Abela Mahimbo	13.08.24 The Conversation 16.08.24 Australian Daily Bulletin Refugees in Australia are miles behind in health and wellbeing outcomes
October	Associate Professor Anne Grunseit	26.10.24 ABC NewsRadio 26.10.24 ABC Radio National 26.10.24 PlayerFM 28.10.24 ABC Radio National 01.11.24 ABC Radio National Why some people stick with running groups and others don't
November	Professor Scott Avery	21.11.24 Australian Capital Territory Government - Our CBR Ways to Celebrate I-Day 2024
December	Professor Scott Avery	04.12.24 ABC Radio National 07.12.24 ABC Radio National Deaf defying: disability leadership as an act of resistance

I have enjoyed every step of my PhD journey in the School of Public Health at UTS. I have found the School to be an environment that not only values academic excellence but also creates space for personal and professional growth. Being part of such a warm research culture has been foundational to my development as a researcher. ”

Hannah Ireland,
PhD candidate SoPH



Our Staff Publications

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An aerial photograph of a lush green lawn on a university campus. A wide, light-colored concrete path runs diagonally across the upper half of the image. In the lower right, a group of about ten people are lying on their backs on the grass, some with their arms raised, suggesting a relaxed or celebratory gathering. Various items like bags, water bottles, and a backpack are scattered around them. The scene is bathed in bright sunlight, creating sharp shadows.

“The annual highlight [was]
being offered the invaluable
opportunity to attend city
campus and collaborate with my
peers in person and to utilise the
comfortable and well-equipped
learning spaces specifically for
HDR students on campus.”

Tristan Carter,
PhD candidate SoPH

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