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CENTRE FOR MIDWIFERY, CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CENTRE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report for the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health (CMCFH). The CMCFH is part of the Faculty of Health at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). We aim to improve the health of families through leadership in midwifery, child and family health research, education, practice development and consultancy, nationally and internationally. The focus is on childbearing women¹, families with children and young people or adolescents. Our scope also includes children in hospital and the nurses and other care providers in children’s hospitals.

The CMCFH is committed to meeting the Faculty’s Vision to be a globally engaged world-leading Faculty of Health. The CMCFH supports achieving our intent through the pursuit of excellence in:

- Globally relevant research-inspired teaching and learning that has impact
- Leading interdisciplinary approaches to health development and improvements
- Collaboration and engagement with industry partners
- Developing graduates who are leaders in their profession

The CMCFH conducts research to improve the quality of practice and services provided by practitioners, particularly midwives and nurses. We also undertake research to improve the systems responsible for the delivery of that care in maternity, child and family health and paediatrics. Our activities inform education, practice and policy development, service delivery, technical advice and consultancy.

The CMCFH brings together a wonderful team of energetic and enthusiastic academics and professional staff. Our higher degree research students are an important part of the Centre and as you can see in the report there are many important studies taking place as a result of their activity. All of the endeavours that you will read about are made possible by the able support of our professional staff.

I hope you enjoy our 2015 Annual Report.

Caroline Homer

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¹ Childbearing women also includes their unborn and newly born infant(s) and their partners and support people.
CENTRE NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Key Technology Partner Visiting Fellows

The CMCFH was pleased to welcome three Key Technology Partners (KTP) visiting fellows in 2015.

**Dr. Ling Ling Gao** is an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean in the School of Nursing, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. She has received competitive grants from Sun Yat-sen University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, China. Her research focused on childbirth education, pregnant women's mental health, postpartum depression and caesarean section. The visit allowed us to move beyond individual researcher-to-researcher collaboration and build institutional research linkages. We are currently completing a paper for publication on midwifery in Mainland China.

**Professor Mary Renfrew** from the University of Dundee spent 2 weeks with staff and students at UTS. Mary Renfrew is Director of the multidisciplinary Mother and Infant Research Unit (MIRU) and Dean for Research in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences in the University of Dundee, and Director of the multi-partner Scottish Improvement Science Collaborating Centre. Caroline Homer and Mary have worked together for some years – most recently on The Lancet’s Series on Midwifery. Mary met with staff and students, presented at an external seminar hosted by the CMCFH, advised on UK gender equity initiatives (Athena SWAN) and discussed and planned some collaborative research activities. We are currently working on developing a dual PhD program between UTS and the University of Dundee.

**Associate Professor Regina Lee** from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) visited UTS in August. Regina is the Deputy Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Community Health Services in the School of Nursing at PolyU. Her research focuses on Child and Adolescent Health and Development. While at UTS Regina and Dr. Angela Dawson discussed the development of a project that explores how mobile technology can help to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health. They are currently writing a systematic review to underpin this work with Prof Fiona Brooks. Regina ran a session on Phenomenology for the research students and was able to meet with staff about their research.
Celebrating International Day of the Midwife (5 May) and International Nurses Day (12 May)

This year, the Faculty of Health, UTS celebrated the International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day and the invaluable contribution that nurses and midwives makes to the health of society. The Dean of the Faculty, John Daly, and a panel of judges awarded the *UTS Midwife of the Year* to Christine Catling.

**UTS Alumni Award for Excellence 2015 - Faculty of Health**

Tanya Farrell, Adjunct Professor of La Trobe University and Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne, was awarded the UTS Alumni Award for Excellence 2015 - Faculty of Health. Tanya is a midwife, a long-time associate of the CMCFH and a strong supporter of midwifery in Australia. We were thrilled that Tanya won this important award.

**PINS International Research Meeting and Conference, Sydney June 2015**

As part of the Paediatric International Nursing Study (PINS) UTS welcomed a visit by Professor Tanya McCance In June. Tanya is the Head of the Person-centred Practice Research Centre, Institute of Nursing and Health Research, Faculty of Life and Health Sciences at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. As part of her visit Tanya met with the Chief Nurse Susan Pearce and gave a brief presentation to staff at the Ministry of Health about the ongoing PINS research. In addition a research meeting was held at UTS with twenty representatives from across Australia, UK and Denmark in attendance. The aim of the meeting was to critically review the PINS process and plan for future expansion of the work. A number of ideas for future work were developed.

A one day PINS Conference was held at The Children’s Hospital Westmead with over 100 people in attendance. Members from eleven of the twelve research sites had representatives in attendance to share their results, change initiatives, outcomes achieved and experiences in implementing PINS.

**New book from UTS midwifery team**

We were pleased to launch the new book from the UTS midwifery team – Christine Catling, Allison Cummins and Rosemarie Hogan called *Stories in Midwifery*. This was commissioned by Elsevier and is now being used in midwifery education across the country. Congratulations to the team who undertook the interviews and designed the learning activities to assist students to engage with the issues common to midwifery.
OUR CENTRE TEAM IN 2015

The CMCFH staff includes the professoriate, lecturers, research staff and professional support staff.

Caroline Homer is Professor and Director of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health. She has led research into the development and implementation of models of midwifery care and the development of midwifery practice and education. She is currently leading a number of studies funded by NHMRC and the ARC. In 2015, she was also the Director of the WHO Maternal and Child Health Initiative in PNG as part of the UTS World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development.

Cathrine Fowler is the Professor for the Tresillian Chair in Child and Family Health. Cathrine’s research and clinical practice interests focus on parental learning and developing interventions with families who experience complex and high risk lives. Cathrine is currently leading research into the parenting education and support needs of incarcerated mothers and fathers within the NSW Correctional System.

Maralyn Foureur is a Professor of Midwifery. Maralyn is leading research into place of birth and the next birth after a previous caesarean section (NHMRC funded) and she leads the Birth Unit Design research theme. She is also a member of the UTS-wide trans disciplinary teaching team for the Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII). The BCII has a focus on high-level conceptual thinking and problem solving practices that drive creative, innovative and entrepreneurial outcomes where seemingly unsolvable problems are examined from multiple perspectives, drawing on thinking from fields as diverse as midwifery, journalism, engineering, law and architecture.

Val Wilson is the Professor of Nursing Research and Practice Development at UTS and The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (at Westmead). Her focus is on working with clinicians to develop person-centred approaches to care, that are both evidenced based and take into account the needs of patients and families. Her research focus is in practice development, facilitation, evaluation, and knowledge translation using action orientated approaches.

Fiona Brooks is Professor of Child and Family Health she joined the Faculty of Health in 2015. She has international expertise and research leadership in the field of young people’s health and well-being. She has worked with WHO and researchers across Europe and North America to identify the determinants of youth health and well-being. A particular area of interest is the identification of positive health assets and improved health outcomes measures for young people.
Joanne Gray is the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty. Joanne has played a key role in the development and implementation of midwifery curricula over many years. Joanne is also the Chair of the UTS Academic Board.

Angela Dawson is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Health. She is a Social Scientist with over 20 years’ experience in the areas of health services research, Indigenous and international primary health care workforce development, health promotion and health communication.

Fenglian Xu is a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UTS. She has had seven years research experience in mothers’ mental health using linked New South Wales (NSW) health services data. In 2015, she commenced the study of a predictive model for postpartum depression. Linked population and health service data from NSW will be utilised to answer the research question ‘whether and how mothers’ physical problems affect depression after birth’. The findings from this study will help health care professionals or policy makers develop and implement evidence-based preventive interventions.

Rosemarie Hogan is a Midwifery Lecturer, the coordinator of the Bachelor of Midwifery course and the Director of Midwifery Studies. Rosemarie has worked in a broad range of clinical practice areas as a nurse and midwife in Ireland, London and Sydney. Rosemarie is currently leading teaching and learning grants in the Faculty and established a midwifery student mentoring program for undergraduate midwifery students.

Christine Catling is a Midwifery Lecturer. She has past roles in hospital policy development and antenatal education. She graduated from her PhD in 2013 and is the coordinator of the National Publicly-Funded Homebirth Consortium. In 2015 she was the first Post-Doctoral Research Fellow based with the UTS WHO Collaborating Centre and the CMCFH. Christine takes a lead in the higher degree research student support groups.

Allison Cummins is a Midwifery Lecturer and coordinator of the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery Degree. She has been a practising midwife with over 20 years’ experience and had the notation of eligible midwife. She is currently undertaking a PhD about new graduate midwives working in midwifery continuity of care.

Nicki Watts was the Research Midwife on the Breeching in the System Project. The aim of the study was to explore the experiences of women who chose a vaginal breech birth and the midwives and doctors who cared for them. Nicki also assisted with midwifery teaching through the year. Nicki is a midwife with 17 years’ experience in all aspects of midwifery care in both the public and private sectors.
Rachel Smith worked with the CMCFH on a number of projects and contributed to the midwifery teaching. She was the Project Manager Development for the Building Strong Foundations for Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities (BSF) Program Service Standards for NSW Kids and Families (NSW Ministry of Health) and was a member of the midwifery teaching team in 2015.

Ellen Aagaard Nohr is an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty. She is the Danish Professor of Midwifery from the Institute of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark and the Odense University Hospital and works closely with the CMCFH supporting ongoing projects in the areas of Obesity in Pregnancy and Birth unit design.

Pat Brodie AM is an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty. She has been involved in a wide range of midwifery practice, teaching, research and management roles at UTS and globally. In 2015, she was the Midwifery Advisor with the CMCFH and the UTS WHO Collaborating Centre, in particular, playing a significant role with the PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI).

Nicky Leap is an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty and works closely with the CMCFH supporting ongoing projects and research students. She is part of the Birth Unit Design team and has played a significant role in teaching and learning initiatives, especially around supporting students to promote normal birth.

Vanessa Scarf is the Project Manager for the Birthplace in Australia Study which is funded by the NHMRC. Vanessa has more than 20 years’ experience as a clinical midwife most recently at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

Sabera Turkmani is a Research Assistant. She is Project Coordinator for the Vaginal birth after caesarean section trial and has been working on the study on female genital mutilation, a study on the midwifery workforce in the South Pacific Islands nations.

Chris Rossiter is a Project Manager and Researcher. She has worked closely with the midwifery team in 2015 assisting with the preparation of the midwifery curricula for accreditation with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. She has also worked closely with Cathrine Fowler and Caroline Homer on other research projects within the CMCFH.

Seong Cheah is a statistician with significant experience in data analytics and using linked data. He graduated from his PhD in 2015 and is the Data Analyst for the NHMRC-funded birthplace in Australia study.

Karen Gomez is the Faculty of Health’s Research Manager providing high level project advice, coordination and management for the CMCFH. Karen works closely between the CMCFH and the Research Team in the Faculty to provide high-level support.

Reema Nair provides administrative support to the CMCFH.
OBJECTIVES

Each of our objectives relate to our discipline areas of midwifery, child and family health and paediatric nursing and the health care of young people. Our objectives are to:

1. Conduct high quality research to improve quality of practice, services and systems
2. Develop, evaluate and improve practice development initiatives that are based on evidence and best practice and provide technical, evidence-based, consultancy services
3. Contribute to, and participate in, the educational and professional development of midwives, nurses and other relevant health care workers
4. Support capacity building in higher degree research students and early career researchers and support leadership development
5. Foster collaborative relationships and interdisciplinary research in practice development and knowledge translation to enable system-level reform

The CMCFH has four main streams of work focusing on childbearing women, children, young people and families:

1. Strengthening and supporting women, children, young people and families
2. Changing policy and systems especially for those experiencing vulnerabilities
3. Developing workforce capacity and practice in nurses, midwives and other health professionals
4. Improving outcomes for Indigenous women, children and adolescents

ACTIVITIES

Activities of the CMCFH focus primarily on the following areas:

- Research and higher degree research (HDR) supervision
- Consulting and technical advice to health services nationally and internationally
- Professional leadership including evaluations and reviews
- Seminar series and workshops including topical seminars identifying current issues with national and international speakers.
OUR RESEARCH PROGRAM

We have a vibrant research program designed to address our objectives. Some of these projects are detailed in this section. Many of the projects are across more than one stream but for the ease of presentation that are placed in one stream in this report.

STREAM 1 – STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING

Birth Unit Design Project
The Birth Unit Design (BUD) Project is an ongoing program of work designed to examine the design of maternity units. Two PhD students are part of this project – one has completed (J. Davis Harte) and the other (Athena Hammond) will complete in 2016. The project is led by Professor Maralyn Foureur in collaboration with the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (UTS). Other research partners in the project are at Griffith University in Queensland, University of Canberra and Kwantlen Polytechnic in Vancouver, Canada.

Funding: Initially funded by a UTS Challenge Grant (2010) and from 2011-2015 funded through an ARC Discovery Grant.

CMCFH team: Maralyn Foureur, Caroline Homer, Nicky Leap, Athena Hammond, J. Davis Harte.

Australian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance Study (AMOSS) – the Vasa Previa Study
The Australasian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System (AMOSS) is led by Professor Elizabeth Sullivan (Faculty of Health). The project initially collected data on severe obstetric conditions and interventions, including eclampsia, embolisms, morbid obesity, severe haemorrhage and emergency hysterectomy. The most recent study that includes the CMCFH is a study of the experiences of midwives and obstetricians in relation to Vasa Previa. This aspect is being led by a PhD student Nasrin Javid.

Funding: International Vasa Previa Foundation

CMCFH and Faculty of Health team: Caroline Homer, Elizabeth Sullivan and Nasrin Javid

Birth Utilising Midwifery Practice (BUMP): A randomised controlled trial
This trial is designed to determine whether midwifery continuity of care for women with a previous caesarean section increases the proportion of women who attempt vaginal birth in their current pregnancy. The trial is being undertaken at Gosford Hospital (NSW).
The study is led by Caroline Homer at UTS with other chief investigators including Prof Maralyn Foureur (UTS); Prof Deborah Davis (UoC); Prof Jon Adams (UTS) and the team at Gosford Hospital.

**Funding**: NHMRC Project Grant (2012-2015)

**UTS staff and students involved**: Caroline Homer, Maralyn Foureur, Jon Adams, Sabera Turkmani, Danielle Clack and Lyndall Mollart.

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**Breeching in the system: Expectations and experiences surrounding a planned vaginal breech birth**

This is a qualitative study being undertaken in collaboration with the Royal Hospital for Women, NSW. Initially the study explored the experiences of women who have a breech presentation late in pregnancy and decide to have a vaginal breech birth. Then we looked at the experiences of clinicians who have counselled and attended women who plan a vaginal breech birth. Three papers have so far been published from this work.

Karol Petrovska, a PhD student with the CMCFH is now completing another two studies that includes an international survey of women and an examination of the media around breech birth.

**Funding**: Australian College of Midwives (NSW Branch) Research Scholarship.

**CMCFH team**: Caroline Homer, Christine Catling, Andrew Bisits, Nicole Watts, Karol Petrovska, Chauncey Sjostedt.

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**Breaking-the-Cycle for Incarcerated Parents: Towards Pro-Social Parenting**

This study aims to develop new knowledge about NSW incarcerated parents’ learning and support needs to enable a shift towards pro-social parenting practices. The expected BTC study outcomes include: 1) generation of new knowledge about incarcerated parents and their parenting including current knowledge, skills requirements, support needs and appropriate delivery points for parenting interventions; 2) an increased evidence base to inform CSNSW policies and inform the design and implementation of effective parenting support and education interventions for incarcerated parents; 3) enhanced understanding of the effectiveness of two parenting programs for parents in custody (and those run under CSNSW supervision in the community).

**Funding**: UTS Partnership Grant, and additional funding from Corrective Services NSW and Keep Them Safe funding (2013-2015)
**UTS staff involved:** Cathrine Fowler, Angela Dawson, Tamara Power, Michael Roche, Debra Jackson and Chris Rossiter

**The Tresillian Experience: Parent and Infant Journey**
This project is using data collected as part of a pre-existing quality activity designed by the NSW Ministry of Health - client experience project. A nurse has interviewed clients asking questions about their experience at Tresillian. This study is providing information to assist in Tresillian’s service development.

**Funding:** Tresillian Family Care Centres (2013-2015)

**UTS Staff Involved:** Cathrine Fowler

**STREAM 2 – CHANGING POLICY AND SYSTEMS**

**Birthplace in Australia**
This study aims to guide national maternity policy by providing evidence on place of birth. The aim is to examine the neonatal mortality and morbidity associated with births that at the onset of labour are planned to be at (1) home, in birth centres or in stand-alone midwifery units with (2) those planned to be in standard labour wards for women at ‘low risk’ of complications. We are collecting 10 years of linked data from around the country. The study is led by Caroline Homer at UTS with other chief investigators including Prof David Ellwood (ANU); Prof Jeremy Oats (University of Melbourne); Prof Maralyn Foureur (UTS); Prof David Sibbritt (UTS); A/Prof Helen McLachlan Prof Della Foster (La Trobe); (La Trobe); Prof Hannah Dalen (UWS). The study also includes two qualitative studies – one on the experiences of midwives working in publically-funded homebirth programs (Rebecca Coddington) and the other exploring the transfer experiences from a range of perspectives (Deborah Fox).

**Funding:** NHMRC Project Grant (2012-2015)

**UTS staff and students involved:** Caroline Homer, Maralyn Foureur, David Sibbritt, Christine Catling, Vanessa Scarf, Rebecca Coddington, and Deborah Fox

**Costing the place of birth in NSW: New knowledge to support maternity service reform**
This project aims to provide evidence on the costs of providing maternity care for low risk mothers in three different settings – hospital, birth centre, and home. This information will provide health
planners, policy makers and managers with the data they require to implement innovation in maternity service provision.

We will be focusing on the costs of care in NSW using 10 years of linked data. The project is collaboration between the CMCFH, the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at UTS (Prof Rosalie Viney) and Western Sydney University (Prof Hannah Dahlen, Dr Charlene Thornton).

**Funding:** NHMRC Project Grant (2016-2018)

**UTS staff and students involved:** Caroline Homer, Rosalie Viney, Maralyn Foureur, David Sibbritt, and Vanessa Scarf.

**STREAM 3 – DEVELOPING WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND PRACTICE**

**Midwifery Transitions, Retention, Experiences and Choices – the MidTREC Study**

This is a longitudinal study of midwifery students graduating from 2008-2012. The aim is to analyse and track workforce participation trends in Australian midwifery graduates over a 5 year period and identify personal and organisational factors that influence the workforce participation of these graduates.

**Funding:** Chancellor’s Doctoral Scholarship (2012-2015)

**UTS staff involved:** Caroline Homer, Joanne Gray, and Annabel Sheehy

**The experiences of new graduate midwives working in midwifery continuity of care models in Australia**

The aim of this study is to explore the experiences of new midwifery graduates working in midwifery continuity of care in different parts of Australia the study is led by CMCFH team member and PhD student Allison Cummins. Three papers have been published from this study.

**UTS staff involved:** Allison Cummins, Caroline Homer, and Elizabeth Denny-Wilson

**Reducing risk for vulnerable children by engaging families in the medication safety agenda**

The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (SCHN) in collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney is currently conducting a 3 year (2014-2017) research project to develop, implement and evaluate an intervention that actively engages families in the medication safety agenda to reduce the risk of error. Partnering with consumers is widely recognised as being integral to patient safety.
This project focuses on medication safety for preschool children with complex illnesses. It is anticipated that the findings themselves will be transferable across all patient care settings (neonates through to aged care) and post discharge. The specific aims are to:

1. Identify the barriers and facilitators to safe medication practice
2. Develop targeted interventions supporting family involvement in the medication safety.
3. Implement and evaluate targeted interventions to improve medication safety.
4. Develop and implement a translation to practice plan for selected interventions to inform local policy and guidelines, practice across paediatric healthcare settings and the patient safety agenda in Australian health policy and beyond.

**Funding:** SCHN and NSW Health

**UTS staff involved:** Val Wilson, Beata Bajorek, Nicole Pesa, Patricia Tinsley, Albara Alomari

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**Improving the Evidence to inform the Health System’s response to Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting**

This project is being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Nesrin Varol and Dr Kirsten Black at the University of Sydney and Dr Greg Jenkins and Susie Nanayakkara from Auburn Hospital. Dr Angela Dawson as part of the CMCFH is the UTS-lead. The project is working with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to develop an online educational resource for maternity care providers. The project is also studying the outcomes for women in NSW who have experienced FGM.

**Funding:** Department of Health and Aging (DoHA)

**UTS staff involved:** Angela Dawson, Sabera Turkmani, and Caroline Homer

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**Characteristics, trends, co-admissions and service needs of women admitted to residential parenting services**

A mixed methods study will examine clinical and demographic characteristics, trends, service needs and co-admissions to residential parenting services (RPS) of Tresillian and Karitane in NSW from 2000-2010, using NSW linked data, clinical notes audit and focus groups with staff. This study will provide original evidence about whether characteristics of parents admitted to the RPS differ from those who are not and if this mirrors what is known about ‘at risk’ groups in the community; and
whether complications and interventions during childbirth may impact on parenting. This will inform service delivery, future design and essential skills required by RPS staff.

**Funding:** Australian Research Council Grant

**UTS staff involved:** Cathrine Fowler

**STREAM 4 - IMPROVING ABORIGINAL MATERNAL, CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH**

**Re-Focussing Qualitative Research:** Improving the efficacy, rigour and relevance of focus group discussions in Aboriginal health service contexts (Re-Focus)

This project involves an in-depth investigation into the use of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in Aboriginal health services research. FGDs are a common way of gathering qualitative data in Aboriginal health services research, however there have been no studies on the question of whether they are appropriate research tools in such contexts. The aim of this project is to generate knowledge to inform the accountable, culturally appropriate, ethically sound and methodologically rigorous use of FGDs in qualitative Aboriginal health service research.

**Funding:** Australian Research Council Discovery Grant

**CMCFH staff involved:** Angela Dawson

**A study on outpatient alcohol withdrawal management**

The study explores the acceptability and feasibility of an Aboriginal community controlled pilot outpatient alcohol withdrawal management program (the A-Clinic). It examines the experiences of clients, service providers and community people.

**Funding:** Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Services, University of Sydney and UTS, FARE Grants Program

**CMCFH staff involved:** Angela Dawson

**Building Strong Foundations for Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities (BSF) program service standards**

This aim of this project was to develop BSF Service Standards that set out the specifications and procedures intended to ensure BSF systems are culturally safe, reliable and consistently perform the way they were intended to. The BSF Service Standards establish a common language that defines quality and safety criteria, they will be practical, outline achievable goals and be based on best practice evidence where available or by consensus of relevant clinical/content experts. These have
now been released by the NSW Ministry of Health and are available on the website: 

Funding/Commissioned by: NSW Kids and Families, NSW Ministry of Health

CMCFH/FoH staff involved: Caroline Homer, Rachel Smith, Angela Dawson, Cathrine Fowler, Maralyn Foureur, Juanita Sherwood, David Sibbritt
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The CMCFH works closely with the UTS WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Workforce (UTS WHO CC) on a number of projects. The largest of these is the Maternal and Child Health Initiative in Papua New Guinea.

Maternal and Child Health Initiative (PNG)

The Maternal Child Health Initiative (MCHI) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was funded by the Australian Government from 2012-2015. The long-term goal of the MCHI is to build midwifery capacity in PNG to ultimately reduce maternal and child deaths. The MCHI is led by the National Department of Health in PNG and the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS WHO CC through accessUTS) is sub-contracted to provide a range of services. UTS have employed 11 clinical midwifery facilitators (CMF) and two obstetricians. Three education and capacity building workshops per year were implemented for national midwifery educators, course coordinators and obstetricians, clinicians and CMFs. Fortnightly teleconferences with the CMs provided a mentoring role and ensure capacity building can occur effectively.


Research Team: Caroline Homer, Alison Moores, Christine Catling, Pat Brodie, Angela Dawson and Amanda Neill and Michele Rumsey (UTS WHO CC)

The State of the World’s Midwifery: Analysis of the midwifery workforce in selected Arab countries

Professor Homer’s was engaged to assist ICS Integrare/UNFPA in providing technical inputs for the development and writing of an analysis of midwifery services and workforce in 14 countries in the Arab region. The report was released at a meeting in Cairo, Egypt in November 2015 and provided a detailed analysis of the present progress and future challenges to deliver effective coverage of midwifery services in these countries.

Funding: UNFPA

CMCFH staff involved: Caroline Homer

Using Data and Evidence to Improve Maternal and Newborn Health in PNG

The overall objective of this program is to deliver new knowledge that will improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) in PNG and provide evidence that will have relevance
in similar countries. We undertook a number of studies that have been produced as policy briefs including estimating the potential maternal, fetal and neonatal deaths averted and the costs under different scenarios of coverage of midwifery in PNG from 2010-2025 and mapping the policy and other changes that have taken place in PNG over the last 20 years.

**Funding:** Australian Government as part of the MCHI program

**CMCFH staff involved:** Caroline Homer, Christine Catling

**Midwifery Graduates in Papua New Guinea**

As part of the MCHI, a study to explore the experience and outcomes of the graduate midwives who commenced their education program in 2012 and 2013 was undertaken during 2015. This study is significant as it is the first time the workforce experiences and outcomes of midwifery graduates have been examined in PNG. The main aims were to:

- To analyze and track workforce participation and experiences in PNG midwifery graduates who commenced training in 2012 and 2013
- Determine the adequacy of the preparation for practice
- Explore professional outcomes (knowledge, skills and behavior) and experiences
- Note employment trends and career progression since graduation.
- Discover continuing professional development opportunities provided or sought

**Funding:** Australian Government as part of the MCHI program

**Team involved:** Alison Moores, Caroline Homer, Christine Catling, Paula Puawe, Nancy Buasi, Florence West, Mary Killilo Samor, Nina Joseph, Michele Rumsey, and Angela Dawson

**Evaluation of the Reproductive Health Training Unit (PNG)**

Professor Caroline Homer is part of the team in the UTS WHO Collaborating Centre contracted to undertake the monitoring and evaluation of the PNG Reproductive Health Training Unit (RHTU). The PNG Reproductive Health Training Unit is a novel public-private health education partnership intended to assist interested provinces to improve reproductive health service delivery and indicators. It is being established in phases at the request of the National Department of Health to develop and deliver PNG-contextualized Reproductive Health in-service training for their health workers, as well as RH educators (pre-service, post-graduate and in-service educators).

**Funding:** Australian Government and Oil Search Health Foundation (2013-2016).
**Midwifery in the South Pacific – A snapshot gap analysis of education, regulation and professional association**

The aim of this gap analysis is to explore the current situation of the education, regulation and association of midwives in 12 Pacific countries and determine the gaps in these three pillars of midwifery. Education, regulation and association are known by the International Confederation of Midwives as the three pillars of midwifery. By identifying the current condition both at national and regional levels in these Pacific countries, attention will be drawn the gaps that need to be addressed at country level to address maternal and newborn health services.

**Team involved:** Caroline Homer, Sabera Turkmani, Michele Rumsey (UTS WHO CC)

**Paediatric International Nursing Study (PINS): Promoting person centred practice within children’s hospital services through the use of key performance indicators.**

The aim of PINS is to explore the utility of a set of 8 key performance indicators (KPIs) which were developed by nurses, midwives and patients and a related measurement framework in supporting the development of person-centred practice across a range of services provided to sick children. The study is being conducted in a range of children’s units and hospitals in Australia (six sites in three states) and Europe (seven sites in four countries) and is a collaboration between Ulster University (Professor Tanya McCance) and UTS (Professor Val Wilson)

**Funding:** Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, SCHN, NSW Health & Ulster University

**Team involved:** Val Wilson, Nicole Pesa and Tanya McCance (UU)

**Emergency Contraception Project**

The aim of this project was to generate new knowledge to address reproductive health through collaborative research with the University of Health Sciences (UHS) and National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) in Cambodia to assess the feasibility of expanded access to emergency contraception pills (ECP) in the public system.

**Team involved:** Angela Dawson
Conducting a Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Adolescent Health Workforce Assessment

This project was supported through ICS Integrare/UNFPA. The UTS team were asked to assist with the development of a Handbook that explains clearly and comprehensively the methodology which will enable countries to better understand and present their workforce data, fill in any gaps in those data, and conduct evidence-based policy and planning for their sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health (SRMNAH) workforce. The Handbook was launched in 2015 and is available here: http://everywomaneverychild.org/images/H4_SRMNAH_REPORT_LOW_RES.pdf

Team involved: Kristen Beek (UTS), Angela Dawson, Caroline Homer
COMPLETED STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. **Fiona Reid - Master of Midwifery (Research)**
   
   **Thesis Title:** From Alchemy To Epistemology: Intuition and Private Midwifery in Australia  
   **Supervisors:** Professor Caroline Homer and Dr Christine Catling

2. **Calida Bowden - Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours)**
   
   **Thesis Title:** Birth room images: What they tell us about childbirth  
   **Supervisors:** Associate Professor Athena Sheehan (WSU) and Professor Maralyn Foureur

3. **Wei Ling Leta Loh - Doctor of Midwifery**
   
   **Thesis Title:** Towards the Promotion of Normal Birth: Action Research in a Tertiary Maternity Unit in Singapore  
   **Supervisors:** Professor Caroline Homer, Adjunct Professor Nicky Leap and Associate Professor Deborah Davis (UoC).

4. **Annette Bennett - Master of Midwifery (Honours)**
   
   **Thesis Title:** A model for direct entry midwifery education and deployment in Ethiopia: Transforming rural communities and health care to save lives  
   **Supervisors:** Doctor Angela Dawson and Professor Caroline Homer

5. **Geraldine Gilroy - Master of Midwifery (Honours)**
   
   **Thesis Title:** A case study of “SWIMwithME”: Matching a model of student education to a continuity of care model in midwifery  
   **Supervisors:** Professor Maralyn Foureur and Associate Professor Joanne Gray

6. **Melanie White - Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)**
   
   **Thesis Title:** Early career nurses’ experiences of working with voice-hearing consumers  
   **Supervisors:** Professor Jane Stein-Parbury, Dr Angela Dawson and Fiona Orr
### HDR students - students enrolled in 2015

<table>
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<tr>
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## Bachelor Honours students – students enrolled in 2015

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<td>1</td>
<td>Corcoran</td>
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</table>
CONSULTING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

The CMCFH continues to provide consultancy and industry support to health services internationally as well here in NSW and throughout Australia. Some examples are presented in this section.

National Antenatal Guidelines

Professor Caroline Homer and Professor Jeremy Oats have been co-chairing the Expert Advisory Group for the National Antenatal Guidelines for the Department of Health and Ageing since 2008. Two modules have been released. We are now working on combining the modules and updating some of the more contentious topics.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

National Publicly-funded Homebirth Consortium

In 2010, the CMCFH established the first National Publicly-funded Homebirth Consortium in Australia. This group continues to meet. The aims of the Consortium are to:

- Be an effective network of the publicly-funded homebirth models of care in Australia
- Act as a resource for new models being developed around the country

The consortium continues to meet by teleconference 3-4 times a year providing advice and support to publically-funded homebirth models.
SEMINAR AND MASTER CLASS EVENTS

The CMCFH is known for conducting interesting and innovative seminars each year. This year the Centre held two seminars for midwives, nurses, doctors and educators.

Is best practice common practice? Embedding evidence in clinical practice

This seminar addressed that factors involved in moving research evidence into everyday clinical practice. Introducing positive, sustainable change in practice requires leadership to model and reinforce the move forward, communication to keep all stakeholders informed and motivated and organizational support to maintain the continual improvement. We were very pleased to have Professor Mary Renfrew (University of Dundee, Scotland) as our keynote speaker. Mary was joined by a number of excellent speakers including Deb Matha (NSW Kids and Families), Trudy Allende, Shea Caplice and Andrew Bisits (Royal Hospital for Women), Hannah Dahlen (Western Sydney University) and Maralyn Foureur (CMCFH UTS).

Supporting women, protecting children: Multidisciplinary approaches to disclosure of domestic violence

This seminar brought together providers from health, justice, police and community services together with survivors of domestic violence to talk about the challenges in this area. It was a day filled with powerful personal and professional stories and very important as it brought together so many different disciplines and sectors. The day was opened by Jennifer Newman who gave a moving Acknowledgement of Country and the UTS Vice Chancellor Professor Attila Brungs who highlighted how important this issue was for UTS to address.

Speakers included Rachel Smith (CMCFH UTS), Jenna Price (UTS, journalist), Bev Lazarou (Legal Aid), Francine Clough (Crime Policy, Department of Justice), Adele Sheridan-Magro (Social Worker, Liverpool Hospital), Patricia Tierney (Child Protection Educator, Northern Sydney Child Protection Service), Mel Reilly (Senior Constable, Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officer), Christine Kerr (Counselor, Kirkton Road Sexual Health Clinic), Christine Robinson (Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre), Louise Everitt (Clinical Midwifery Consultant, St George Hospital), Skye Parsons (Clinical Midwife Consultant, Aboriginal Liaison Midwife, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital) and Donna Walsh (Child and Family Health Nurse, Nowra Early Childhood Centre)
PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Members of the Centre were involved in providing professional leadership during 2015. Some examples include:
  - President of the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) – Caroline Homer
  - Co-Chair, National Antenatal Guidelines Expert Advisory Committee – Caroline Homer
  - Chair, NSW Branch of the ACM and Chair of ACM Council – Joanne Gray
  - Deputy Chair, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMAC) Midwifery Accreditation Committee, Joanne Gray
  - NSW Kids and Families, NSW Ministry of Health, Maternal and Perinatal Health Advisory Group – Caroline Homer
  - International Practice Development Collaborative – Val Wilson
  - Essentials of Care, State Advisory Group – Val Wilson and Deborah Davis
  - Child Advocate Mothers and Children’s Program Corrective Services NSW – Cathrine Fowler
  - NSW Health Advisory Group Sustained Health Home Visiting – Cathrine Fowler
  - Advisory Panel International Association of Infant Massage Australia – Cathrine Fowler
  - Advisory Panel ARACY Sustained Nurse Home Visiting Project – Cathrine Fowler
  - Member Postgraduate & Health Studies Advisory Group Whitireia Polytechnic New Zealand – Cathrine Fowler

Other activities

- Editorial Boards
  - Midwifery – Associate Editor – Caroline Homer
  - Health and Social Care in the Community - Associate Editor – Fiona Brooks
  - Women and Birth - Editorial Board - Maralyn Foureur
  - International Practice Development Journal - Val Wilson

- Editorial Review Boards
  - New Zealand College of Midwives Journal – Maralyn Foureur
  - Journal of Advanced Nursing - Val Wilson
  - Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing - Val Wilson
  - Australian Journal of Child And Family Health Nursing – Cathrine Fowler
  - Health Education Journal – Angela Dawson
Accreditation as an Instructor

- Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics – Maralyn Foureur and Caroline Homer
- NCAST Parent Child Interaction Assessment Scale Instructor University of Washington Seattle - Cathrine Fowler
- Circle of Security Parenting facilitator - Cathrine Fowler
- Promoting First Relationships facilitator University of Washington Seattle USA - Cathrine Fowler
PUBLICATIONS FOR 2015

Journal articles


7. Catling, C.J. & Homer, C.S.E. 2015, 'Twenty-five years since the Shearman Report: How far have we come? Are we there yet?' *Women and Birth*.


11. Catling, C., Petrovska, K., Watts, N.P., Bisits, A. & Homer, C.S.E. 2015, 'Care during the decision-making phase for women who want a vaginal breech birth: Experiences from the field', *Midwifery*.


**Books**

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Members of the CMCFH and the higher degree research students who are part of the Centre have attended and presented at a number of state, national and international conferences in 2015. Some of these are highlighted below:

Brodie P. 2015. ‘Midwifing ourselves and each other’: Exploring the potential of clinical supervision. Australian College of Midwives 19th Biennial Conference, Gold Coast, October.


Cummins, A, 2015, ‘What are the experiences of new graduate midwives working in midwifery continuity of care models’ International Confederation of Midwives Asia Pacific region conference July

Cummins, A, 2015, ‘Reducing culture shock for first year midwifery students on their first clinical placement, International Confederation of Midwives Asia Pacific region conference, July


Dawson, A. 2015 Invited Speaker: Health Literacy Empowering Parents and improving Child Health Tresillian conference: Educating Today’s Parents, North Sydney, November


Fowler, C. 2015, Becoming a “better” father: supporting the needs of incarcerated fathers, *Sigma Theta Tau International’s 26th International Nursing Research Congress*, Puerto Rico, July.

Fowler, C. 2015 Invited speaker: Where we were, where we are now & where we need to go *NSW Kids and Families – Child and Family Health Centenary conference*, Sydney, May.

Fowler, C. 2015 Invited speaker: *Incarcerated fathers: are there family sensitive interventions for incarcerated fathers?* The MHS Summer Forum, Sydney, February.

Fowler, C. 2015, Invited speaker: Understanding Infant Cues National *University of Seoul Conference* for Home Visiting Nurses, South Korea, January.


Wilson V (2015) Invited Keynote Speaker: Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I will try again tomorrow. South Australian Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Symposium.


APPROVAL

Name: Professor Caroline Homer

Organisation: Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health, Faculty of Health

Title: Professor of Midwifery

Director, Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health

Associate Dean (International & Development)

Phone: +61 2 9514 4886

Email: caroline.homer@uts.edu.au

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

Thank you to the Dean and the Faculty and UTS for ongoing support of the Centre.

Signature: