

The world is a whirlpool of information, theories, opinions and facts. We take the spin out, concentrate on research that uses evidence and lived-experience, and create innovative solutions in and around social work.

Our game plan is to progress social work, policy and research. We're doing things differently.

NTRODUCTION

VICE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DEAN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK



and many other social problems.

Across Australia, we have an expectation that our society will be fair, supportive, and inclusive. Sadly, this is often not the case. The social challenges facing individuals, groups and communities are complex and wide ranging. Nationally, we struggle with issues of child protection, domestic and family violence, housing and homelessness, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians,

Flinders University is determined to make a difference. Consequently the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work has established the Social Work Innovation Research Living Space (SWIRLS), bringing together a group of social work academics to create a leading national social work research centre.

SWIRLS joins the Orama Institute, which focuses on multi-disciplinary research and discovery in mental health, wellbeing and neuroscience.

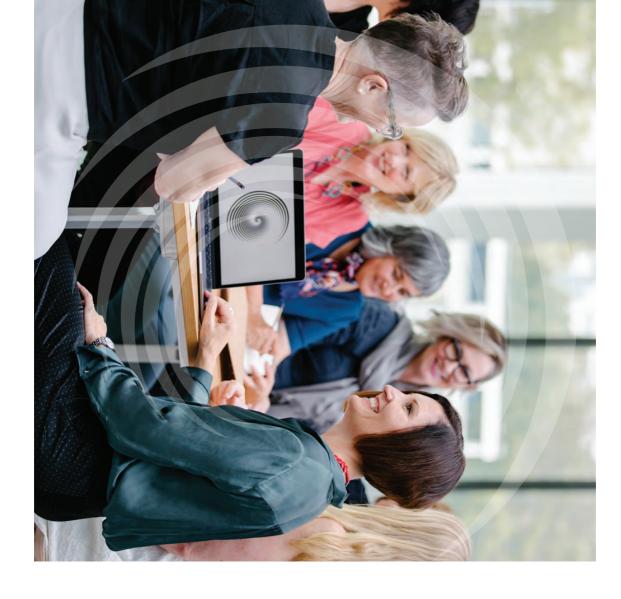
SWIRLS aims to generate new evidence and research to support the development of policy and practice across the fields of social work and, where research and evidence already exist, to translate this work into policy and practice.

SWIRLS' 'living lab' approach is co-designed with key stakeholders and led by academics with a deep field-based understanding of social issues. Reflecting our mission of *changing lives and changing the world*, our partnerships with government and community organisations are helping to develop innovative solutions for some of our most difficult social challenges - improving lives and creating safer, stronger, more stable societies.

Professor Michael Kyrios

Vice-President and Executive Dean College of Education, Psychology and Social Work Flinders University

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KEY FEATURES

WE'RE DEVELOPING A FORMIDABLE REPUTATION FOR PRODUCING THEORETICALLY DRIVEN RESEARCH TO EXAMINE SOCIAL ISSUES AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN OUR EVER-EVOLVING WORLD.

Our research tackles many of the challenges that social workers face, including:

- Child protection
- Closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- Disability
- Domestic and family violence
- Imprisonment
- Health and human services
- Housing and homelessness
- Quality of life

Social workers seek out knowledge by understanding their clients' personal meanings and problems, as well as the social and institutional issues that cause and contribute to inequality and oppression.

We deal with complex problems that need nuanced, evidence-based responses. In doing so, we embrace innovation, creativity, risk-taking, collaboration, and fresh perspectives. The evidence we produce—when put into action—will help social workers to work more effectively with our communities.



SARAH WENDT

..is a champion of listening.

Whether she's interviewing a survivor of domestic violence or leading her team of SWIRLS researchers, Sarah believes in the importance of listening to diverse voices. She values the experiences of people around her

....is comfortable with being uncomfortable.

She's both a collaborator and a leader. She was rural-born and the first in her family to go to university. Domestic violence, child abuse and racism are just a few of the difficult social problems she tackles every day. It is her job and her passion.

...is an expert in design.

She's savvy and skillful when it comes to designing research. That means she's the first person to ask if you're developing qualitative and mixed-methods evaluation and research, development of interview schedules, ethics requirements, recruitment protocols and data analysis.

...is a driver of change.

She is a doer, a go-getter, a trailblazer. She is leading SWIRLS in a push for social change, development and cohesion.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LORNA HALLAHAN

...is an advocate.

She has been a social worker for over 35 years and an advocate for people with disability issues for over 25 years.

...is a complex thinker.

She is a social worker, researcher and person with lived experience of disability. Loma's personal and professional experiences have been critically important in shaping her understanding of effective social work practice and social policy.

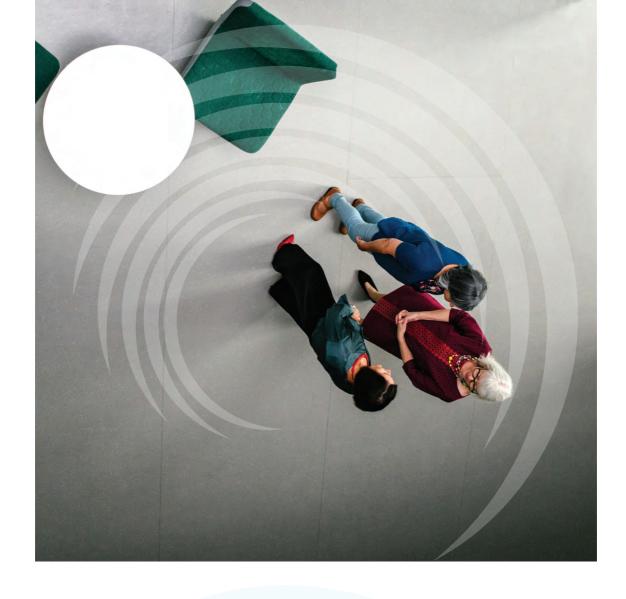
...is a master of policy.

She is strategically pushing for change across disability policy, adoption law, and workers' rights across human and health services. She's the first person we turn to when new legislation hits.

...is the person who shows up.

She is a council member, a chair, a co-chair, a deputy chair, a chief investigator. She's speaking up and out about social justice.

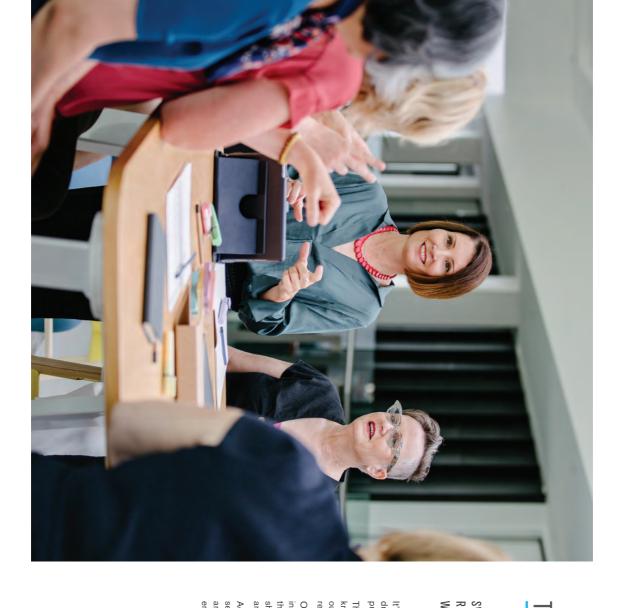




KEY FEATURES

- SWIRLS IS NOT A BUILDING. IT IS AN EVER-CHANGING SPACE DEFINED BY THE PEOPLE WHO CREATE IT.
- WE TACKLE THE BIG ISSUES, AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID TO QUESTION THE STATUS QUO.
- COLLABORATION AND OPEN INNOVATION ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO.





THE LIVING LAB

WITH SOCIAL WORK AND RELATED PROFESSIONS TO CO-DESIGN PROJECTS. RESEARCHERS, PRACTITIONERS, POLICY PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE SWIRLS USES THE 'LIVING LAB' APPROACH. THIS MEANS WE BRING TOGETHER

problems and the solutions they need. drawn between us to bring a fresh perspective to complex It's not your usual academia. We're transgressing the lines

our governments might enact. We are adaptable and This way, we know what's happening 'on the ground'. We know what social workers think will work, and what policies responsive. Our work is inter-disciplinary.

that has the power to promote social justice values and inquiry and participatory action research. We offer evidence Across it all, we design better prevention, intervention and and professional development. shape our future workforce through knowledge, education, Our research environment is informed by appreciative

empower and uplift individuals, families and communities. and mentor the future of social workers. And we help to services. We change policy and practice. We educate





COLLABORATION/CO-DESIGN

WORLD A BETTER PLACE. WORLD. AT ITS HEART, IT IS THE SHARED GOAL OF MAKING THE CODESIGN IS A WAY OF LIVING, WORKING AND BEING IN THE

social problems. partnerships, and open innovation to tackle complex SWIRLS is formed around the goals of collaboration,

of individuals, families, groups and communities. government bring together applied research excellence, social workers, and the lived experiences and knowledge the practice wisdom and field-based knowledge of Our partnerships with industry, community groups and

OUR PARTNERS

Department for Child Protection

Emerging Minds Early Intervention Research Directorate

Housing SA Guardian for Children and Young People

Uniting Communities

Women's Safety Services SA

COLLABORATE WITH US

a powerful research partnership with your organisation. Contact Flinders University today to see how we can build

flinders.edu.au/swirls



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

and waters of the following peoples: Kauma, Arrente, We recognise that Flinders operates on Indigenous peoples' traditional lands and waters and acknowledge Boandik, Bungarla, Gunditjmara, Jawoyn, Larrakia, Nauo, Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk, Wurundjeri, Yolgnu. University's various teaching locations, including the lands their continued responsibility to care for country at the

THE TEAM



MEET Ħ TEAM



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KRIS NATALIER

research and evaluation. of mixed method and qualitative in the design and implementation is a sociologist with expertise



DR JENNY VAN DER AREND

DR CARMELA BASTIAN

is an early career researcher committed to child and family practice excellence. wellbeing and social work



and parenting and known for her scholarship on social work identity is an expert in identity, relationships



government and non-government

positions across social policy experience in a range of has over 15 years of work

DR PRISCILLA DUNK-WEST



and practice.



sectors.

DR MICHELLE JONES

working in evaluation and

research roles in government. has spent the past 15 years

in social work and social and is an early career researcher MIA MANDARA family policy.



DR HELEN MCLAREN

is motivated by the idea of

mental health, and the education of social workers. experience in child protection, practice in the field, including brings in excess of 30 years of DR ANNIE JARVIS



DR KATE SEYMOUR

on masculinities, building her expertise in gender and violence. is known for her scholarship



and communities.

STAY UPDATED

world-class facilities, services and engagement opportunities, visit our website at: flinders.edu/swirls

