

Healthy Development Adelaide

A Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia

Newsletter

Vol 14, Issue 5 – October 2018



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Upcoming Conferences / Scientific Meetings

16 - 18 October

Australian and New Zealand
Obesity Society - Melbourne,
Australia

27 - 29 November

The movement to move -
Adelaide, Australia

27 - 30 November

Nutrition Society of Australia -
Canberra, Australia

For further event info go to
www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

To unsubscribe from event and
news notifications contact
HDA.

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda

(08) 8313 8222 (Wed & Fri)

anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

.... HDA Partners



Government of South Australia Department for Education
Women's and Children's Health Network



LATEST NEWS

Professor Michael Sawyer stepping down as HDA Co-Convenor



After 12 years, Professor Michael Sawyer is stepping down as Co-Convenor of HDA. Michael has contributed immensely to our success.

In 2008, Michael was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the field of child and adolescent mental health as a researcher and educator. Michael's research has particularly focused on the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental disorders. He was chief investigator in the first Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing and a lead investigator in the recently completed second national survey. More recently he has led the team developing and evaluating 'eMums', an innovative online nurse-led group-based intervention designed to help the large number of mothers who experience depressive symptoms and associated difficulties caring for their infant during the postnatal period. Michael is the Honorary Medical Adviser to Australian Rotary Health which for the last 15 years has been a key non-government funder of mental health research in Australia and an important advocate for the needs of people with mental illness.

Michael's expertise in child and adolescent mental health, and his intimate knowledge of health services, particularly those at the Women's and Children's Hospital and the Child and Family Health Service has greatly benefitted HDA as an organisation and those who participated in HDA events.

We would like to thank Michael for his many years of commitment to HDA. We will be formally acknowledging Michael's commitment at the HDA Oration.

HDA 14th Annual Oration

Professor Helen Marshall

Professor in Vaccinology, Adelaide Medical School and Deputy Director, Clinical and Translational Research of the Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide / Senior Medical Practitioner & Director of VIRTU, Women's and Children's Hospital

Protecting our children against serious infectious diseases

Immunisation programs introduced around the world have resulted in millions of lives saved. There is an exciting opportunity to further enhance this impact through using vaccines to harness herd immunity and improve protection against life-threatening diseases. Immunisation strategies that are designed to protect the individual as well as others in the community provide additional benefits in reducing disability and deaths from serious infectious diseases in our most vulnerable babies, children and young people. Australia has one of the best immunisation programs in the world but there's still work to do to understand how we can best use vaccines to extend the benefits of immunisation beyond the individual to the whole community.



Professor Helen Marshall is a medical researcher with specialist training in child health, public health and vaccinology having completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, Doctorate of Medicine, Master in Public Health, Diploma in Child Health and the international Advanced Vaccinology Course, Pasteur Merieux Institute, France. She is Professor in Vaccinology in the Adelaide Medical School and Deputy Director, Clinical and Translational Research of the Robinson Research Institute at the University of Adelaide and Senior Medical Practitioner and Director of VIRTU at the Women's and Children's Hospital. She has been awarded three NHMRC Fellowships most recently a NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship. In

recognition of her research leadership she was awarded the South Australia Science Award for Excellence in Research for the Public Good and NHMRC's "10 of the best" for 2016.

Wednesday 31 October 2018, 5.45-7.30pm, doors open from 5.30pm
The Braggs Building, University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus

*Professor Marshall will be presented with the Healthy Development Adelaide Award for 2018
HDA will also be recognising HDA Co-Convenor Professor Michael Sawyer*

All welcome - FREE admission: food and drink following event
RSVPs essential for catering by Thursday 25 October to
anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

You are invited to a joint forum with HDA and the Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY)

Getting evidence off the shelf and into the lives of kids

Ms Penny Dakin

The Nest: young Australians at the centre from development to delivery
Acting CEO, Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY)

Ms Cheryl Malone

**Implementing a common framework for use in services who work with
vulnerable children and families**
Channel Manager, Early Years and Child Development, Department for Education

Dr Claire Ralfs

**It takes a community to build a nest: how service partnerships can
help fledgling families**

Chief Executive Officer, Relationships Australia (SA)

Mr Dan Cox

**Evidence based early intervention for SA children: how best to align
our collective actions!**

Executive Director, Early Intervention Research Directorate,
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

CHAIR

Professor Claire Roberts, HDA Co-Convenor

Lloyd Cox Professorial Research Fellow
Deputy Director, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

Wednesday 24 October 2018

5.30 - 8.00pm

{doors open from 5.00pm, networking with light
refreshments from 7.15pm}

**Rumours (6th floor), Union House
University of Adelaide (North Terrace campus)**

All Welcome - FREE admission

**RSVPs required for seating and catering
by Thursday 18 October to
anne.jurisevic@adelaide**



Mary Brushe has recently begun her PhD candidature through the School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Associate Professor Sally Brinkman, Professor John Lynch and Professor Edward Melhuish. Her project utilises data collected from a five-year longitudinal study called Language in Little Ones (LiLO) that investigates whether the amount of words a parent speaks to their child during the first five years of life could be a modifiable mechanism for mediating the large social inequalities in children's health and development. To do this, advanced speech recognition technology called Language Environment Analysis (LENA) is utilised which can automatically analyse audio to produce estimates of adult and child talk based on acoustic properties in the speech signal. The study follows a cohort of 300 infants from 6 months of age until 4 years and a second cohort of 300 toddlers from 3 years until their first year of school, with all families participating in a LENA recording day once every six months. Specifically, Mary's PhD will analyse trajectories of Parent Talk, Child Talk and Parent-Child Talk from 6-48 months to determine if they differ by maternal education, gender or parent language ability. Furthermore, it will investigate what influence parent-talk during the early years has on children's developmental outcomes.

Outside of her PhD, Mary works as the Study Manager for the LiLO Study at the Fraser Mustard Centre, a collaboration between Telethon Kids Institute and the South Australian Department for Education. The aims of the Centre are to improve the health and wellbeing of children through the multidisciplinary research and research translation. While her current role focuses on the management of the recruitment and data collection for the LiLO study, she has also worked on several other projects through the centre, including the piloting of an on-entry assessment within South Australian preschools, a mixed-methods evaluation of the South Australian Children's Centres and a study that assesses the development, wellbeing and community connections of children in the middle years. More information about the study at: www.telethonkids.org.au/lilo

Prior to joining Telethon Kids Institute and commencing her PhD, Mary completed her Honours in Psychology at the University of Adelaide. She also worked in a variety of roles that focused on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families at Emerging Minds, Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) national initiative and Orygen: The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

☎ **8207 2181** ✉ **mary.brushe@telethonkids.org.au**

NEW HDA MEMBERS

Dr Tamara Agnew, Research Associate
College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Flinders University
Focus - digital health & technology across the lifespan

Anneka Bowman, PhD Student
Healthy Mothers Babies & Children, SAHMRI
Focus - antenatal health care, stillbirth risk

Mary Brushe, PhD Student
School of Public Health, University of Adelaide
Focus - child health and development

Georgia Middleton, PhD Student
College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Flinders Uni
Focus - family nutrition

Would you like to be eligible for HDA Travel Grants and PhD top-up Scholarships?

All PhD students and early career researchers from the University of Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders University can be eligible

Senior Researchers are also encouraged to join and encourage their current and new students to join HDA to receive the benefits

No cost to join. Visit the HDA website for further info and our background document or contact anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

Become a HDA Member today!!

SA'S NEW CHIEF SCIENTIST FORMER HDA CONVENOR

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Clare Peddie, Science reporter, The Advertiser, 10 August

South Australia's new chief scientist, Professor Caroline McMillen, has been lured back to the state after seven years in NSW.

As vice chancellor and president of the University of Newcastle, she helped transform the industrial harbour city by driving collaboration between industry, researchers, start-ups and investors.

Now she is looking forward to starting her three-year term in Adelaide, where she will provide independent advice to the State Government and support the research sector in SA.

"I will be completely committed to being part of this next chapter of South Australia's impressive history — the time for South Australia is now, I believe that, I do," she said. "That's what really attracted me, that sense of momentum and energy and commitment, joining a winning team I think, in terms of the state as a whole."

Prof McMillen was deputy vice chancellor and vice president of research and innovation at UniSA from 2005-11. Before that, she was head of physiology at the University of Adelaide from 1992.

She was not ready to comment on the prospect of a merger of the two universities, except to say it was a "visionary step to take and to put on the table". "I absolutely congratulate the leaders for doing so, the board and the executive leaders," she said. "I'll be really interested to see how that progresses. These discussions always bring terrific opportunities to be considered ... and sometimes it's great to see orthodoxy challenged."

Industry and Skills Minister David Pisoni announced Prof McMillen's appointment at Friday night's SA Science Excellence Awards at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Mr Pisoni said Prof McMillen would provide advice on science and technology matters, including the proposal to turn the former Royal Adelaide Hospital site into a "world-class innovation hub".

"Professor McMillen's insights and experience at the interface of research and industry will be invaluable as the South Australian economy continues to transition," Mr Pisoni said.

He thanked outgoing chief scientist Dr Leanna Read for her dedication over the past four years. Dr Read had been a "tireless leader" who promoted the importance of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education across all sectors of the community, Mr Pisoni said.

"She has been a sound adviser to government across a broad range of issues, including cyber security, energy, health and education sectors and involved in countless initiatives to encourage industry-research collaborations." Mr Pisoni said Dr Read was instrumental in establishing the Research Consortia Program, which supports large-scale collaborations between industry and academia to address significant challenges.

Prof McMillen will start work as the state's chief scientist on October 15.

Seven News Young Achiever Awards SA

The purpose of the Seven News Young Achiever Awards is to acknowledge, encourage and most importantly promote the positive achievements of all young people throughout South Australia, up to and including 29 years of age as of 31st December each year.

Nominations have opened for the Seven News Young Achiever Awards SA in multiple categories.

For further information go to <https://awardsaustralia.com/young-achiever-awards/sa/>

Prof Jozef Gecz, University of Adelaide : 2019-2023, \$963,270, Research Fellowship

Genetics and Biology of Neurodevelopmental Disability - *I strive to understand the causes of and develop precise diagnoses and effective treatments for individuals with childhood onset neurological disabilities. These life-long disorders of brain development and function, which include epilepsies, intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsies, affect up to 5% of world-wide populations. To identify disease origins and to decipher the underlying disease mechanisms, I will use cutting edge genetic and biology techniques and stem cell models.*

Prof Lisa Jamieson, University of Adelaide : 2018-2022, \$898,097, Targeted Call for Research into Indigenous Social and Emotional Wellbeing

A motivational interviewing intervention to improve social and emotional well-being among Aboriginal children - *Aboriginal children have poorer social and emotional well-being (SEWB) than non-Aboriginal children. Poor SEWB in childhood is an under-appreciated source of long-term poor mental health which, in turn, influences the types of infectious and inflammatory stresses that lead to diabetes and other chronic conditions. For the first time in Australia, we plan to advance Aboriginal child health through a randomised controlled trial that will utilise motivational interviewing to improve SEWB.*

Prof Maria Makrides, University of Adelaide / SAHMRI : 2019-2023, \$860,385, Research Fellowship

Nutritional interventions to improve the health of mothers and babies - *I test whether different diets and nutritional supplements improve the health of pregnant women and their children. My new research will evaluate how changing the balance of the fats in the diet of pregnant women may reduce the risk of having a premature baby, consider new ways that we can improve the growth and development of premature babies and how eating extra eggs and peanuts in pregnancy and while breastfeeding might actually reduce allergies to these foods in babies.*

Prof Helen Marshall, University of Adelaide : 2019-2023, \$487,893, Practitioner Fellowship

Optimising immunisation in vulnerable groups to improve health outcomes for disadvantaged children - *Our research has shown the majority of children and pregnant women who are underimmunised remain so due to social deprivation or logistical barriers, not anti-vaccine views. There is a need for improved targeted immunisation programs in Australia specifically for vulnerable groups. We will identify interventions and strategies to improve immunisation uptake in underimmunised children and pregnant women and develop evidence based targeted immunisation programs to improve equity in child health.*

A/Prof Sally Brinkman, University of Western Australia : 2019-2022, \$437,036, Population Health Career Development Fellowship

Inequalities in Child Health and Development - *It is now well recognised that child health and development has consequences for health later in life. The desire to ensure that the maximum number of children reach their full potential as adults is of critical importance to our future societies. This globally relevant program of research will provide governments, parents and communities crucial guidance as to what can be done to support the healthy development of children, particularly those living in poor and marginalised circumstances.*

Dr Merryn Netting, University of Adelaide / SAHMRI : 2019-2022, \$261,754, Health Professional Research Early Career Fellowship

Generating an Evidence Base for Optimal Infant Feeding Advice and Practice in the Prevention of Food Allergy - *Australian infant feeding guidelines now suggest the best way to prevent food allergy is by giving babies allergens like peanut, egg and wheat in their first year. Unfortunately, parents of many infants avoid these allergens for fear of an allergic reaction. My research aims to identify barriers and enablers to adopting this advice by parents and health care practitioners, and thereby improve the uptake of these guidelines to reduce the incidence of allergies in Australian children.*

Ms Dorothea Dumuid, University of South Australia : 2019-2022, \$327,192, Public Health (Australia) Early Career Fellowship

Optimisation of compositional data to inform lifestyle behaviour interventions - *How people spend their time affects their mental and physical health. Yet, we don't know what the ideal daily mix, or composition, of activities is for optimal health. My research will develop novel statistical methods to identify that ideal mix for a range of health outcomes. I will use large, population-based datasets for both adults and children. My findings will enable public health experts and clinicians to help people "build their best day."*

Tara Shem, PhD Candidate
Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology
College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Flinders University



The European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) conference provides a platform for researchers, professionals and practitioners to come together, share and develop ideas and to encourage networking and cross-national collaborations in order to support children during early childhood. My doctoral research, centred on educators' involvement in supporting children's communication development and working with other professionals (i.e. speech pathologists) to support this developmental area was accepted for presentation. Therefore, in August 2018, supported by Healthy Development Adelaide, I travelled to Budapest, Hungary to attend the EECERA annual conference and present my doctoral research.

Early childhood education is a significant component of children's lives and contributes greatly to their growth and development. A vast array of topics were on offer at this conference, ranging from programs and pedagogy, early childhood policy, health and interventions to training and development. The conference topics and presentations demonstrated the breadth within the field and the contributions that multiple

areas of practice and consideration have for child development and education.

The opening day of the conference commenced with a key note presentation and an address from a Hungarian politician. The role of research and evidence to inform practice within early childhood was discussed and an insight into European early childhood systems, history, quality frameworks and developments were discussed. These presentations were thought provoking and insightful.

On the second day I had the opportunity to present my research. My presentation generated healthy discussion on collaboration across professions, the importance and need for working together and discussion highlighting that other contexts require support to foster this type of working (i.e. collaboration). I was given the opportunity to chair the session which I presented within. Whilst daunting to begin with I embraced this opportunity and it provided opportunities to speak to and engage with many of the delegates attending the session.

I also attend several seminar sessions and poster sessions over the course of the conference which were relevant to my work. I engaged in discussion with these researchers and practitioners and through these opportunities I gained insight and knowledge about early childhood education, policy, development and intervention. Most interesting was learning about different contexts experiences, research and current practices. Networking with professionals from the broader early childhood field was highly beneficial.

Attending the EECERA conference was extremely rewarding and I am very thankful for the support Healthy Development Adelaide provided to assist me in attending this conference. I was challenged and inspired by the content and learnings at the EECERA conference, and this opportunity has provided me with continuing motivation in the final stages of my PhD.

The EECERA conference provided a perfect platform for me to connect with professionals in the education and the broader early childhood field and share my research with. Having the opportunity to share my research findings, to network with national and international colleagues and acquire knowledge from experts in educational and the broader early childhood field was highly beneficial and an experience which will contribute to my current and future work and carer development.

Dr Abi Thirumanickam
College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University

I had recently had the privilege of attending and presenting at the 18th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), in Goldcoast, Queensland, Australia, from July 21 to 26, 2018. This is the first time this conference is held in the Asia-Pacific region.

ISAAC is a non-governmental organisation with a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ISAAC's main objective is to create awareness about augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for individuals with complex communication needs, who cannot use speech for communication.

The theme of this conference was AACcess All Areas. There were about 1000 delegates from all over the globe, including but not limited to Australia, New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Singapore, South Africa, Mexico, Italy, Poland, Sweden, India, Sri Lanka, Russia.

My abstract entitled: **Video-based modelling interventions for individuals with autism who use AAC: From research to practice** was accepted for a 20 minute oral presentation on Tuesday, 24 July. Here, I presented the implications of my PhD research findings on the use of video-modelling techniques to facilitate conversation skill development in adolescents on the autism spectrum, who use AAC. Due to the growing prevalence and awareness of autism spectrum disorder, there were lots of interest in this presentation and field in general. Because this presentation involved clinical and research implications for individuals on the autism spectrum, I received a few emails after my presentation about using this technique for facilitating different skills for students on the autism spectrum.

In addition to presenting at the conference, I also had the privilege of chairing at least one session a day throughout the conference. This also provided me with some amazing opportunities to network with collaborators all over the globe. I met some key people in the field and had proper talks about future research ideas and plans.

The highlight for me was two key lectures. One was the Outstanding Consumer Lecture, presented by Mackenzie Ninance, a 22-year old, who loves sailing. She presented her whole lecture via her AAC device. The second talk was a feature presentation by Dr. Jordan Nguyen, who presented on the Future of Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Following the conference, a group of AAC researchers from Australia and New Zealand met and discussed about future collaboration and support.

Overall, this was an amazing platform for sharing my research interests, and also meeting different researchers, professionals working in the field, families and people who use AAC. I am very grateful to HDA for the financial support they've provided me to attend and present at this prestigious conference. As an early career researcher, this opportunity has opened doors to enhance my career development.

Dr Cele Richardson
College of Education, Psychology & Social Work, Flinders University

The Healthy Development Adelaide Travel Grant supported my attendance at the 24th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society, held in Basel, Switzerland. The European Sleep Research Society is an international non-profit organisation whose purpose is to promote research on sleep and related areas, to improve the care for patients with sleep disorders and to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding sleep research and sleep medicine.

My attendance at this conference allowed me to disseminate findings from my PhD research to the wider sleep community. Namely, I presented results from a randomised controlled trial of bright light therapy and physical activity for the treatment of Delayed-Sleep Wake Phase Disorder in adolescents. I hope that my participation helped to shine a light on clinical paediatric sleep research, which is often underrepresented in the field.

The congress also provided me with the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of sleep research and sleep medicine, with many of the studies presented not yet published. I am currently working on a longitudinal study investigating risk and protective factors for the development of emotional distress in adolescence and I am particularly interested in the relationship between sleep and mood. To this end I was interested to learn that sleep interventions indirectly improve depression symptoms through changes in sleep phenomenology. MRI data presented supported the hypothesis that individuals with sleep disturbance are hampered in their ability to process emotional memories, which has flow on effects for levels of emotional distress.

Many of the world's leading experts in insomnia and its treatment reside in Europe and it was fantastic to have the opportunity to be updated on their work. I was pleased (although not surprised) to learn that behavioural therapy is a better first line approach to insomnia, when compared to medication. This finding extends to individuals with insomnia and psychological comorbidities. Therefore, I would encourage medical practitioners to refer sleepy patients to psychologists who specialise in the assessment and treatment of sleep problems. I am currently undertaking the registrar program to gain endorsement as a clinical psychologist. Therefore the clinical relevance of this congress was invaluable for my personal development as a clinician.

Finally, my attendance at the congress afforded me the opportunity to network with other sleep researchers, which is extremely important for me in my early career. In particular, I was able to meet with collaborators from Finland and Switzerland, to discuss joint research projects investigating the relationship between sleep, circadian rhythms and physical activity in young people. These meetings help to accelerate research progress and in this regard.

I would like to thank Healthy Development Adelaide for their financial contribution towards my conference travel. My attendance at the 24th Congress of the ESRS was invaluable for my development as an early career researcher and clinician.

RECENT HDA EVENTS

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On 22 August, HDA held its third thematic evening for the year on 'The NDIS: choice and control for children, young people and families'. The event was chaired by HDA Executive Committee member A/Professor Pammi Raghavendra, Flinders University to an audience of ~110 people.



The presenters and their topics included A/Professor Lorna Hallahan (Flinders University) on *Autonomy and self-determination: a valued or vulnerable vision for the NDIS?*; Mr Jeremy Brown (Novita) on *The NDIS journey, a provider perspective*; Ms Rosalyn McAuley (Department of Human Services) on *The Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) partner role within the community and role in supporting children 0-6 years* and Ms Sam Paior (The Growing Space) on *How Innovation can make an NDIS plan worth more than it appears: the participant experience*.



On 29 August, HDA held a Grand Round with the Women's and Children's Hospital, Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN).

The grand round was presented by A/Professor Jane Warland, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UniSA on *Everybody sleeps: the effect of maternal sleep on the fetus*.

The event was chaired by Acting CEO of WCHN, Lisa Lynch.

On 5 September, HDA co-hosted along with NAPCAN, Australian Centre for Child Protection (UniSA), and the Department for Child Protection on the SA forum 'Don't wait until it's too late' during National Child Protection Week at Elder Hall to over 500 registrants. The event was chaired by Teresa Scott, NAPCAN Board President. Professor Tim Moore, Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection, UniSA presented the keynote address. The other speakers/panellists included Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection; Helen Connolly, SA Children's Commissioner; Cathy Taylor, Chief Executive Department for Child Protection; Detective Chief Inspector Denise Gray, SA Police; Joseph Akot, Consumer representative for young people, SA Health; and Anne Sim, Principal of Northern Adelaide Senior College.



The talks and audio of the presentations can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/news.

RECENT HDA EVENTS

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On 7 September, HDA co-hosted with SciPub for 'Life in the womb: how life in the womb impacts our development and health' held at the Rob Roy Hotel to ~150 people.

Presenters included HDA Co-Convenor Prof Claire Roberts, Prof Jeremy Thompson and Dr John Schjenken all from the Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide.



On 26 September, HDA and the Robinson Research Institute (University of Adelaide) co-hosted a Q&A forum on Endometriosis.

Presenters included Dr Ryan Rose, Fertility SA; Dr Susan Evans, Director, Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia; Libby Parker, Journalist; Ms Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby; and A/Prof Louise Hull, O&G, Women's and Children's Hospital (pictured below).



Media Release - 10 September, Flinders University



The gender divide is already appearing in the first stories written by children as young as five years old, according to a comprehensive new study, the Stage 3 Oxford Wordlist.

The research, led by Flinders University education expert Mrs Anne Bayetto, investigated the word choices of 1000 students between the ages of five and seven years old in South Australia and Victoria.

The research study finds girls between the ages of five and seven choosing words like 'princess', 'girl', 'castle', 'rainbow', 'unicorn' and 'grandma', while boys were more interested in writing about sport and adventure, with 'ninja', 'soccer' and 'football' among their top words.

Animals are a part of the 500 most commonly used words, with girls choosing to write about domesticated animals such as 'cats', 'bunny' and 'dogs' compared to boys who more often wrote about wild animals such as 'shark', 'snake' and 'monkey'.

Word choices were collected through teachers photocopying students' independent writing samples on different days of the week so they could gather a wider range of word usage beyond the common Monday exercise of students writing a story about what happened on the weekend.

The list clearly showed that students are particularly keen to write about their own experiences, spaces and places, says Mrs Bayetto, from the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work at Flinders University.

"From the choice of proper nouns, it appears that many of the gender words likely evolve from out-of-school lifestyle – from their toys, television and movies watched," she says.

Compared to the 2007 Oxford Wordlist, there is a slight rise in both the number of gender-specific words and less formal language, in favour of 'awesome', 'crazy' and other words in the latest list.

While it is anticipated that all of the words in the Stage 3 list should be able to be spelled by the end of Year 2, it is likely that some students will need instruction in Year 3 and beyond before all of them can be effortlessly spelled.

As teachers pre-assess the Stage 3 words to establish what students can already spell, Mrs Bayetto pointed out the logic of then grouping like words when teaching those that students need to learn.

"Teaching words with the same phonic blend such as –ook (look, book, took) is an effective way to show connections between words and to take demand off working memory," she says.

"Solid understanding of these, and the other, high-frequency words builds a foundation for future writing, reading and learning, freeing up students to quickly build confidence."

When looking for trends in the 143,000 words written, the study found that there were many simple, although abstract, 'glue' words such as 'are, there, have, because and could' being written.

Unlike other words that can be photographed or drawn, such as nouns (house or dog) or verbs (eat or sleep), these more abstract words are more challenging as they are not image-able but "are pivotal to know how to spell as they are so frequently used".

All children should be encouraged to explore the world of make-believe through writing, which should not be discouraged by too close scrutiny on major corrections.

Anne Bayetto is the reading expert for the Australian Primary Principals' Association's 'Principals as Literacy Leaders' program, a founding member of the Learning Difficulties Support Team (SA) and also provides consultancy and professional learning sessions for educators across Australia.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Engagement Survey 2018

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The Telethon Kids Institute has been contracted by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to undertake research into how the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is currently being used in Australian schools, communities, government and non-government organisations, and by other relevant stakeholders.

The AEDC is a population measure of how children have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school across five areas of early childhood development: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, and communication skills and general knowledge.

A brief survey has been designed which asks a range of questions, including how you have or have not used the AEDC, your past and current involvement in the AEDC, and how you think engagement with the AEDC can be improved. The survey is confidential, and should only take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Information collected will be used to provide the department with recommendations for improving engagement with, and access to the AEDC.

It is important to collect this type of information from a wide range of stakeholders, including both those using the AEDC and those who have not, to ensure we are able to consider a wide range of views, including some of the reasons why individuals and organisations have not been able to engage with the AEDC. This email has been sent to you as you have been identified as a stakeholder who may have previously used, collected or otherwise been involved with the AEDC, or you may have been identified as a stakeholder who may wish to engage with the AEDC in future.

To access the survey, please go to

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEDCEngagement2018_SA

The survey will be live until COB Friday 12th October. Please feel free to circulate this invitation to participate to other relevant stakeholders in your network.

For further information about the AEDC, please visit www.aedc.gov.au or to subscribe to the AEDC Newsletter, please email either this address or AEDC@education.gov.au with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line.

If you would like further information about this survey or how the results will be used, please contact Dr Yasmin Harman-Smith at yasmin.harman-smith@telethonkids.org.au.

Communities for Children Symposium

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Collaboration in context: from silos to symphonies

by Communities for Children State Collective

Delegates from the Community Services sector and Government agencies will gather for a day of learning, reflection and planning for future collaboration.

International speakers Dr Brian Bumbarger and Prof John Lynch will lead the keynote sessions. A highlight of the day will be children presenting projects they have lead, from planning to implementation.

Thursday 1 November, 8:30am – 4:30pm
Adelaide Oval, War Memorial Drive
North Adelaide, SA 5006

Cost: \$157.01 – \$191.66

For further information and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/collaboration-in-context-from-silos-to-symphonies-tickets-48469414323>

Research Tuesdays University of Adelaide

An Apple a Day

Tuesday 9 October, 5:30-7:00pm
The Braggs lecture theatre, University of Adelaide, North Terrace campus

In health, as in so many aspects of life, seemingly little things can have big consequences. Every day, we make a raft of minor choices—about our diet, product use and lifestyle—that over time have a major impact on our wellbeing.

In this fascinating presentation, leading University of Adelaide researchers will explain how to ensure that impact is positive. You'll learn:

- how our microbiome (gut bacteria) is influenced by diet, and how you can manage it to prevent increasing your risk of diabetes, cancer and obesity *by Dr Laura Weyrich*
- why it's dangerous to assume all sugars were created equal, and how to spot their frequent misrepresentation and concealment in common foods *by Dr Nichola Thompson*
- how chemicals we expose ourselves to everyday may affect our health—including for expectant parents' offspring—and the simple steps we can take to avoid them *by Dr John Schjenken*

Don't miss this opportunity to hear the latest evidence-based advice on this most fundamental of human concerns.

For further info and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/research-tuesdays-an-apple-a-day-tickets-47758276290>

8th Biological Psychiatry Australia conference 6-8 November, SAHMRI, Adelaide

The 8th Biological Psychiatry Australia conference is designed to promote collaboration among researchers and clinicians working within neuroscience-related fields, to understand causes of psychiatric disorders and the development of more effective clinical treatment options.

Further info and registration at
<http://www.biopsychoaustralia.com.au/annual-conferences/information-registration/>

2019 Autism Conference Series

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2019 Autism Conference Series: Using Social Thinking Methodology to support Social Learning

Presentation overview

Michelle Garcia Winner, the Founder of Socially Thinking®, will teach individuals and those that support people with social emotional learning challenges to develop skills in how they interpret and respond to social information to better connect with others. Michelle will present practical strategies to improve social competencies that can be used immediately in the classroom, clinic, home and community.

The conference is set to be an engaging, interactive day where the participants will be guided through a range of innovative socially based problem solving strategies that can be used with individuals with solid expressive and receptive language skills, in a range of settings.

Who should attend?

Educators, clinicians, professionals, parents, family members, individuals and anyone who supports a person on the spectrum will benefit from attending this conference. All participants will develop an appreciation that social capabilities are integral to a person's success in life - socially, academically, and professionally.

Friday 15 February 2019
South Australian Jockey Club, Morphettville

Super early bird special ends 30 October.

Further info and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2019-autism-conference-series-using-the-social-thinking-methodology-to-support-social-learning-tickets-48773856919>

Animal Functional Genomics symposium

The Davies Research Centre is organising the 7th International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics. The Symposium has a host of top class international speakers addressing a range of topics from reproduction and disease to environmental interactions.

12–14 November, National Wine Centre.

Further information at <http://www.isafg2018.com/>

HDA event Attendance Certificates – AVAILABLE

HDA provides Attendance Certificates upon request to individuals that attend our events. The certificates may be used towards your professional development program within your organisation. *It is your responsibility to check whether these certificates will be eligible within your professional development program.*

To request a HDA Attendance Certificate you will be required to complete the proof of attendance form at the event with your name, organisation and email.

HDA Attendance Certificates are FREE and will be emailed to you within 1-2 weeks.