



Happy ★ ★ ★
HOLIDAYS

To all our
Partners, Members
and Supporters we
wish you all Happy
Holidays and all the
best for the New Year.

Thank you all for your
contributions and
support this year!

We look forward to
bringing you another
year of programs and
opportunities in 2025.

**Anne, Claire, Carol and
Zohra**

OUR PARTNERS

PLATINUM



GOLD



**University of
South Australia**



**Flinders
University**

SILVER



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



**Government of
South Australia**

Women's and Children's Health Network



Women and Kids



BRONZE



HDA PAST EVENTS: 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RESEARCH AFTERNOON + ORATION

We held our 20th Anniversary Celebration on 16 October with wonderful and diverse topics presented during the Research Afternoon showcasing some of our finest early and mid career researchers in South Australia. The day was capped off by an inspiring, thoughtful and enjoyable Oration by the Hon. Kate Ellis, CEO of Raising Literacy Australia.

Thank you again to our event sponsors who contributed financially to the day and had some amazing materials on hand for our attendees – Commissioner for Children and Young People, The Hospital Research Foundation Group, Gowrie SA, Emerging Minds, The Kids Research Institute, and Kudos.



Congratulations to our winners! L to r: Alison Roennfeldt, Kate Walker, Rachel Lever, Meredith Smith, Sarah Wallwork, Verity Gobbett

Winner - best PhD Research Presentation: **Meredith Smith**, School of Allied Health Science and Practice, University of Adelaide - *Adaptation of two pain assessment tools for children and young people with cerebral palsy: a multi-stakeholder consensus study*

1st runner up – best PhD Research Presentation: **Alison Roennfeldt**, School of Biological Sciences / Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide - *dFLASH – a*

fluorescent, cell-based system to identify new FIH inhibitors for the treatment of metabolic disease and obesity

2nd runner up – best PhD Research Presentation: **Rachel Lever**, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia - *Australian Police responses and use of discretion when engaging with children displaying harmful sexual behaviours*

Winner - best EMCR Research Presentation: **Dr Emily Shepherd**, SAHMRI Women and Kids / Adelaide Medical School, University of Adelaide - *Magnesium Sulphate for women at risk of preterm birth for neuroprotection of the fetus*

Runner up - best EMCR Research Presentation: **Dr Sarah Wallwork**, IIMPACT in Health, Allied Health and Human Performance, University of South Australia - *Let's talk about pain! Shared picture book reading as an opportunity for children to be socialised about pain and injury*

Winner - best Organisation Presentation: **Kate Walker and Dr Ben Singh**, Office for Early Childhood Development / Allied Health & Human Performance, University of South Australia - *Evaluation of the Early Years SA mobile application*

Runner up - best Organisation Presentation: **Verity Gobbett**, Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation - *The Lakinyeri beach house: memory making, family time, and the impossible made possible*

Our 20th Anniversary Oration was presented by the **Hon. Kate Ellis** on **Early Childhood in South Australia: Time for Doing The Doing.**



HDA ORATION CELEBRATION PHOTOS



HDA PARTNER NEWS CHANNEL 7 CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Eight UniSA research projects have been awarded almost \$740,000 in research funding from the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation (CRF) to help improve children's health and well-being.

The successful projects comprise:

MindScape: Co-creation of an evidence-based board game to address adolescent mental health. *Lead investigator:* Dr Jacinta Brinsley.

A Phase 1 trial of group improvisational theatre games that include Acceptance and Commitment Therapy treatment for children and teens who stutter. *Lead investigator:* Dr Michelle Swift.

Minimising treatment-induced disease in children with the nerve cell cancer neuroblastoma. *Lead investigator:* Professor Greg Goodall.

Turning off the danger signal: reducing ventilator-induced lung injury in preterm babies. *Lead investigator:* Dr Jack Darby.

Launching Early Childhood Numeracy: Fostering mathematical self-efficacy of preschool children and their parents for lifelong learning. *Lead investigator:* Dr Chelsea Cutting.

Developing lab-grown paediatric brain tumours that mimic the response to treatment of real tumours to learn how they adapt and resist radiotherapy. *Lead investigator:* Professor Benjamin Thierry.

Improving the understanding of fetal DNA found in maternal blood during pregnancy towards designing more comprehensive non-invasive prenatal genetic tests. *Lead investigator:* Dr Marnie Winter

Re-examining the scope of statutory child protection to improve responses to children. *Lead investigator:* Professor Leah Bromfield.

HDA PARTNER NEWS PREVENTIVE HEALTH SA

South Australia's 2023 health report card is in



New population health data has just been released, providing a snapshot of the health status of the South Australian community.

Over 7000 community members generously participated in interviews as part of the South Australian Population Health Survey (SAPHS) in 2023, answering questions about their health status, mental health conditions, chronic diseases, use of the local health system, risk behaviours, preventive factors and more.

These responses provide a big picture summary of health across the state. The findings will be used to monitor health trends over time, identify emerging issues, highlight groups of people who are experiencing poorer health outcomes, and inform planning and evaluation of health policy, services and programs.

Find out more here: <https://www.preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/about/news-announcements/south-australias-2023-health-report-card-is-in>

HDA PARTNER NEWS

WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

2024 Bloom Research Program grant recipients announced

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) is proud to announce the awarding of \$4 million in research funding to projects aiming to close the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, and to enhance healthcare in newborn infants.

Professor David Lynn of Flinders University and SAHMRI and his collaborators will trial probiotic treatment in infants who have received antibiotics, in the hope that it will restore the good bacteria in their gut, improving their vaccine response, and better protecting them against potentially deadly disease.

Dr Tom Goddard of WCHN and his team will develop a rapid diagnostic tool to allow clinicians to diagnose and treat lung infections in Aboriginal children living in rural and remote regions in a timely manner, preventing the need for hospitalisation in the city and reducing the risk of permanent lung damage.

Dr Jacqueline Gould of SAHMRI and her team have previously shown that Omega 3 DHA given to very preterm infants can improve their IQ. They will now undertake research to develop guidelines that will allow adoption of DHA supplementation in very preterm infants in SA and beyond.

Cathy Leane of WCHN and her team will integrate Aboriginal ways of knowing into the healthcare system, by co-designing and testing community-based yarning circles to improve sexual, reproductive and perinatal healthcare amongst Aboriginal women and families.

Professor Peter Anderson of WCHN and his team will investigate a targeted, non-surgical treatment for craniosynostosis based on stem cell technology, to prevent the bones of the infant skull fusing prematurely, reducing the need for invasive surgery.

HDA Scholar Research Publications

Mental health-related hospitalisations of adolescents and their contact with child protection services to age 11 years, South Australia: a whole-of-population descriptive study

Jessica Judd, Rhiannon M Pilkington, Catia Malvaso, Alexandra M Procter, Alicia Montgomerie, Jemma JA Anderson, Jon N Jureidini, Julie Petersen, John Lynch, Catherine R Chittleborough

About 45% of mental health-related hospitalisations of 12–17-year-old adolescents were of people who had had contact with child protection services by the age of 11 years, although only 15.5% of all adolescents had histories of child protection contact. The trauma associated with a history of child protection can have longer term sequelae, and this should be considered when adolescents are hospitalised with mental health conditions.

The full paper can be viewed here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.5694/mja2.52489>

Clustering of Lifestyle Habits and Association with Depressive Symptoms and Suicidal Behaviors in Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Meta Analysis

Yohannes Tekalegn Efa, Shalima Lathief, David Roder, Zumin Shi, Ming Li

Previous studies have often investigated the relationship between unhealthy lifestyle behaviors in isolation, overlooking how these behaviors cluster and collectively contribute to depressive symptoms and suicidal behaviors. The present review synthesizes evidence on the combined effects of multiple modifiable lifestyle factors, such as physical activity, sedentary behavior, dietary habits, and substance use, on adolescent depressive symptoms and suicidal behaviors. \

The full paper can be viewed here: <https://rdcu.be/dZHoN>

HDA MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to all our members!!!



Professor Leah Bromfield, Director and Chair of Child Protection, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia has been named SA Finalist for 2025 Australian of the Year.

Leah's nomination recognises her tireless dedication to establishing practical, evidence-based solutions to child abuse and neglect. For more than two decades, her passion and perseverance have driven profound changes in the way we prevent and respond to child harm across Australia.



Professor Jozef Gécz, is the recipient of the 2024 Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence, and the associated \$50,000 award.

Professor Jozef Gécz, University of Adelaide has discovered or co-discovered more than 350 disease genes across intellectual disabilities, autisms, epilepsies and more recently cerebral palsies.

His research has led to discoveries of novel disease mechanisms as well as significantly enhanced genetic diagnostic rates of neurodisabilities across the world. Professor Gécz has dedicated his career to facilitating and enhancing discovery-to-translation research.

A/Professor Zohra Lassi, HDA Co-Convenor, Robinson Research Institute, School of Public Health, University of Adelaide

2024 HiPPP EMR-Collective Award for International Collaboration.

A/Professor Kylie Dunning, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide

2024 SRB Robinson Research Institute Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology research.

HDA Scholar, Lisa Callahan, Flinders University

Konrad Jamrozik Student Scholarship for 2024 by the SA branch of Public Health Association Australia.

Dr Mary Brushe for winning the **PhD Research Excellence category in the SA Science Awards**. Dr Brushe's PhD, undertaken at The University of Adelaide, focused on understanding the impact of screen time on early childhood development. Her award and grant winning research demonstrated how screen time can interfere with children's early language experiences and development.

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded funding from The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) Group to advance health outcomes of mothers and their children at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Dr Prabha Andraweera, University of Adelaide – Analysing Group B Streptococcal disease in pregnant women and infants: Dr Andraweera's study aims to look at the genetic makeup of GBS from pregnant women and newborns, which will determine if vaccines in clinical trials will be effective for women and babies.

Meredith Smith, University of Adelaide – Assessing the impact of pain in children with cerebral palsy: Ms Smith aims to build on her previous research in developing innovative ways to assess chronic pain, by using these new methods to better understand the impact of chronic pain on young people with cerebral palsy, including those with different cognitive and communication abilities.

HDA MEMBER PROFILE - DR ANGELA GURR ADELAIDE DENTAL SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Angela's academic journey started later than most. She enrolled in a Bachelor of Archaeology at Flinders University at the age of 45 years. Her strong interest in human biology, anatomy and the health sciences saw her undertake multiple cross institutional courses at the University of Adelaide during this undergraduate period. She went on to complete an upper first-class Honours degree in Anatomical Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Angela's multidisciplinary approach allowed her to pursue her interest in historical archaeology and human biology, especially the mother-child nexus and childhood health during the 19th-century. Angela has studied the health of early migrant settlers to South Australia through the investigation of their skeletal remains for her PhD.

This research examined 50 infants and children who were buried in the unmarked section of St Mary's Anglican Church Cemetery, was also undertaken at the University of

Adelaide and received the Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Excellence in 2023. Angela's has published her research findings including evidence of nutritional deficiencies, pathologies and trauma in high quality international journals

As a postdoctoral researcher and member of staff with the Craniofacial Biology Research Group at the Adelaide Dental School, she applies advances in bioarcheological techniques to examine dentitions and skeletons, deriving a more in-depth understanding of their health challenges. She is especially interested in dental developmental defects caused by serious systemic health insults. These insults affect the developing teeth in utero through to adolescences, creating lesions in the enamel and dentine that provide a permanent record of earlier ill health.

Angela values the use of interdisciplinary methods and collaborations to provide broader methodological investigations which can yield fresh insight into infant and childhood health and the challenges faced by these individuals. She aims to enrich understanding of infant, childhood and maternal health during the early decades of the South Australian colony and compare these findings with present health conditions.

BECOME A HDA MEMBER TODAY ...

Join us in fostering South Australian multidisciplinary research, policy and practice at basic, clinical, social and population levels to enhance the healthy development and wellbeing of Australia's future generations.

HDA membership is open to researchers, PhD students and professionals working in areas relevant to HDA's research.

Membership benefits

- Access to travel grants (PhD students and early career researchers)
- Access to PhD scholarships
- Eligibility to apply for HDA awards
- HDA event attendance certificates towards your continuing professional development points
- Build relationships with people working in areas relevant to the health and development of young children and adolescents
- Contribute your knowledge and expertise to make a difference
- Support HDA into the future

If you are not involved in research or are part of the general community not to worry as we also welcome your membership and support. We would love to have you be a part of our network!

1 year for \$30 or 3 years for \$60 (excluding GST).

<https://health.adelaide.edu.au/healthy-development-adelaide/get-involved>

HTSA MRFF CATALYST GRANT SCHEME 2024

FUNDING OUTCOMES

The Health Translation SA (HTSA) Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Catalyst Grant Scheme provides vital funding to South Australian research teams, with the aim of preparing them for future MRFF opportunities. By aligning with MRFF's Principles and Priorities, the Scheme helps strengthen South Australia's competitiveness in the national health research landscape, funding projects that demonstrate a clear commitment to collaboration and research translation.

Four of the seven funded teams will be conducting work that focusses on child and maternal outcomes.

Funded by the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

Co-designing the VITAL Project (validation, understanding, and graded, valued activity prescription) for Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

Our overall aim is to co-design/develop a new intervention ('VITAL') for children/adolescents with JIA that equips them with the knowledge/skills/resources to manage their condition and increase engagement in valued life activities.

Team: Sarah Wallwork, Tasha Stanton, Aaron Davis, Grainne Murray, Melanie Noel, Chad Shenk, Lorimer Moseley, Ruth Colagiuri, Nicole Pates, Phil Calvert

Partner Organisations: University of South Australia, WCHN, University of Calgary, Pennsylvania State University, Children's Physio SA

Administering Institution: UniSA

Preventing neonatal sepsis treatment failure: Precision antibiotic therapy through pathogen genomic screening

Our research uses new technology to identify bacteria and their resistance to antibiotics from vaginal swabs. These tests will enable the best selection of antibiotic treatments to selectively kill harmful and resistant bacteria during this high-risk period.

Team: Lito Papanicolas, Amanda Poprzeczny, Elizabeth Beare, Stefan Lammerink, Jaclyn Davey, Lana Earle, Lex Leong, Steven Taylor, Geraint Rogers

Partner Organisations: SA Pathology (CALHN), WCHN, SALHN, SAHMRI, Flinders University

Administering Institution: SALHN

Funded by The Hospital Research Foundation Group

Optimising culturally safe and self-determined management of gestational diabetes mellitus among Aboriginal women in SA, assisting child health outcomes

The aim of this study is to investigate the feasibility and acceptability of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) and healthy food provision to promote self-management of gestational diabetes mellitus among Aboriginal women living in South Australia.

Team: Rachel Elovaris, Karen Glover, Angela Llewellyn, David Jesudason, Twania Amos, Julie Glass, Kristine Hampton, Heather Collins, Braden Rose, Chelsie Davies

Partner Organisations: SAHMRI, Pika Wiya Health Service, Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service, WCHN, University of Adelaide, CSIRO

Administering Institution: SAHMRI

The kidney as a window to pregnancy and future health

This project aims to understand how often kidney problems occur during pregnancy, who should be tested, and how kidney health affects pregnancy outcomes.

Team: Shilpanjali Jesudason, Carol Siu, Erandi Hewawasam, Martin Howell, Kelli Owen, Charu Malik, Breonny Robson, Khoa Lam, Gillian Harvey, Amanda Sluiter

Partner Organisations: CALHN, WCHN, SA Pathology, SAHMRI, University of Sydney, International Society of Nephrology, Kidney Health Australia, Flinders University, Westmead Children's Hospital

Administering Institution: CALHN

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!
**** ARE YOU A FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER ****



Interviews with Foster and Kinship Carers

To **better understand** the **food and mealtime** related experiences of **children aged 0 - 5 years old** living in out of home care, we're looking to talk to **foster and kinship carers** about their thoughts and experiences.

What we're asking you to do:

Participate in a **60 minute interview**, either online or in person, with our research team and **answer some questions about the food and mealtime experiences** of young children you have previously cared for. Participants will be compensated with a **\$35 voucher**.



Who can be involved?

Approved **foster and kinship carers** who have previously cared for a **child aged 0-5 years** in an **out of home care arrangement**.

This study has been approved by the Flinders University Human Research Ethics Committee (#7597)

Use the QR code to register to participate.

Or head to https://qualtrics.flinders.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_00NSTxLSCi1sHu6



Please contact the research team if
you would like more information
Email: tagg0006@flinders.edu.au



PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!
**** ARE YOU A CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR ****

Are you a Childhood Cancer Survivor or know someone that is?

We need you for a demographic questionnaire (5 minutes) and a one-on-one Zoom interview (45-90 minutes).

This research project is about 'chemobrain' and support experiences of young adult survivors of childhood cancer. 'Chemobrain' is a condition that can affect everyday functions, such as memory, learning, and decision making, in cancer survivors, particularly with a history of chemotherapy. We want to explore the experiences of young adult survivors with 'chemobrain', its impact, and support needs/experiences.



You may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- 18-25 years old
- Diagnosis of childhood cancer
- Completed chemotherapy treatment (minimum 6 months ago)
- In remission or cancer free

This study is being undertaken by the University of Adelaide with study team - Ines Semendric (PhD Candidate), A/Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino, A/Prof Alexandra Whittaker, Dr Danielle Pollock and Dr Kate Obst.

For further information, including eligibility requirements email: cc_survivors@adelaide.edu.au, or if you would like to participate, please visit <https://redcap.link/CCSurvivors>

Are you a Healthcare Professional?
We need you for an online research survey on Childhood Cancer Survivors.



Childhood cancer survivors may experience cognitive impact, such as effects on memory or decision making, after completing chemotherapy treatment. This survey aims to explore the knowledge and experiences of clinical or allied health professionals working directly with this population.

You May Qualify If You

- Have current employment working directly with childhood cancer survivors and survivorship care in a clinical or allied health capacity (e.g., paediatric oncologist, nurse, GPs, psychologist, occupational therapist, etc).
- Speak English fluently, reside in English-speaking country.

Potential Benefits Participating in this study may include:

- Contributing to furthering our understanding of cognitive impact in young survivors and how it impacts their lives
- Developing our understanding of what is regarded common practice in the planning and management of survivorship care
- Providing up-to-date information that may inform and improve future survivorship care.

Participation Involves

- Completion of an anonymous online survey about your experience and attitude towards cognitive impact in childhood cancer survivors as a clinical or allied health professional
- Internet access (for approximately 15-minutes of your time)

The survey is accessible via REDCap - <https://redcap.link/paedonc>

Further enquiries to lyndsey.collins-praino@adelaide.edu.au (primary supervisor) or ines.semendric@adelaide.edu.au (PhD Candidate)

Early Years SA App

Parent like you know it

The first 5 years of a child's life are critical to their health, development, learning and wellbeing. It is also a pretty major learning curve for parents and carers. That's why we've created the Early Years SA app: to provide families in South Australia with trusted resources and credible information to guide you on your parenting journey.

Information you can trust at your fingertips

The Early Years SA app allows you to:

- filter information to what you need based on your child's age
- record your child's growth
- get reminders for child health and development checks, immunisations, and dental checks are due
- find out about preschool and school enrolment
- connect with early years service providers such as Child and Family Health Service, ForWhen, and Kidsafe.

Further information here:

<https://www.earlychildhood.sa.gov.au/early-years-sa-app>

Words Grow Minds



While everyone wants the best for their little ones, sometimes it's hard to know what they need. The Words Grow Minds campaign gets straight to the heart of how parents and caregivers can help babies and young children thrive — it's as simple as talking, reading, playing, and singing together from birth.

Backed by the latest research showing how these simple interactions literally grow children's brains in the critical early years, Words Grow Minds has been developed with input from early childhood education and health practitioners, literacy specialists, and researchers.

Words Grow Minds is funded by the Government of South Australia.

Go here for more resources and information: <https://wordsgrowminds.org.au/>

CCYP Report - The Things That Matter to Gender Diverse Primary Students

Nov 20, 2024



Over the course of the Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards initiative, hundreds of students who describe their gender as something other than 'girl', 'boy', 'male', or 'female' have written to the Commissioner about the things that matter to them. These children have shared responses that are similar to many other children their age, but have also described experiences that are specific to their gender, including how people in their homes, schools and communities treat and understand them.

This short report highlights the responses of gender diverse students attending South Australian primary schools, and focuses on sharing their experiences in their own words. The report also highlights the important role school leaders and educators play in providing safe and affirming spaces that uphold the core rights of gender diverse children.

Read the report here:

<https://www.ccyp.com.au/publications/the-things-that-matter-to-gender-diverse-primary-students/>