

Building the evidence base of Prevention and Recovery Care Services (PARCS) in Victoria

**Presenters: A/Prof Lisa Brophy,
Ms Justine Fletcher, Prof Carol Harvey**

**Thursday 15th February 12.30-1.30pm
Rooms 302/303, Level 3, 207 Bouverie Street**

This presentation will introduce the PARCS project, an NHMRC funded partnership project that aims to explore the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of Victoria's adult PARCS. PARCS are sub-acute residential services provided as a partnership between clinical and Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) across Victoria. All the MHCSS providers in Victoria are partners in this project, alongside a multidisciplinary team of researchers. The project has a number of different components and is using several different data sources and research methods. We will describe the complex demands of undertaking state-wide research in the real world and present findings from our work to undertake a comprehensive mapping of PARC services. The findings from this first stage of the project suggest that, although the service model is well-defined, the implementation of this model varies. It is influenced by factors including variations in practice, client mix and environment. Having a strong understanding about the similarities and differences between the 19 PARCS involved in our study will impact on our understanding of all the other data we are collecting and analysing, including outcomes measures and qualitative interviews.

A/Prof Lisa Brophy

Lisa Brophy is an Associate professor in the Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne and she is Mind Australia's Principal Research Fellow. Lisa's research focus is on people experiencing mental illness and psychosocial disability and their recovery, social inclusion and human rights.



Ms Justine Fletcher

Justine is a Psychologist, PhD candidate and Research Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health at The University of Melbourne's School of Population and Global Health. Justine has worked on a number of large-scale mental health program evaluations. She is currently working on the evaluation of the Statewide role-out of Safewards in Victoria and the Prevention and Recovery Care Services evaluation.



Prof Carol Harvey

Carol Harvey is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, Consultant Psychiatrist in North West Area Mental Health Service and Director, Psychosocial Research Centre in Melbourne. Carol conducts research in epidemiology, social psychiatry and mental health services. She has a special interest in psychosocial aspects of prevention, treatment and recovery from mental illness, including the involvement of families in treatment and care.

