ANNUAL REPORT
2019

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK
SCHOOL OF COUNSELLING, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORK

December 2019
GOVERNANCE

A revised governance model for the Centre was considered at a board meeting in March 2019. The proposal to collapse the Management Board and the Partnership Committee and to amend the terms of reference accordingly was unanimously supported.

Director
Professor Christa Fouché

Management Board
Wendy Bremner (Chair): General Manager, Coeliac NZ
Julie Moore: Research and Evaluation Manager, Graeme Dingle Foundation
Tatiana Hohepa: Operations Manager, Te Ira
Associate Professor Kerry Gibson: School of Psychology, University of Auckland
Dr John Fenaughty, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland
Robyn Rummins: Quality Advisor Research/Evaluation, Family Success Matters
Eve Hay: Business Development Manager, Manukau Urban Māori Authority
Dr Kelsey Deane: Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland
Associate Professor Jay Marlowe: Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland

Staffing
The Director of the Centre, Christa Fouché, has an 0.5FTE academic appointment in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. This role includes a fractional research workload allocation to oversee the Centre’s activities.

A/Professor Robyn Dixon has an academic appointment as Honorary Academic, School of Nursing. She is also co-director of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse and immediate past Director of the Centre for Child and Family Policy Research. She acts as Consultant to CCRE through UniServices seed funding.

Dr Laura Chubb has a fixed-term academic employment as lecturer in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work and was funded through projects as Research Fellow to CCRE.

Research assistants were employed on a casual basis and staff appointed on consultancy contracts, all funded through CCRE partnership projects.
CENTRE OVERVIEW

Working in collaboration with the social services sector, the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation (CCRE) strives to increase research and evaluation capacity through targeted support and networking. Its vision is a social services community which has the research and evaluation skills (including implementation, dissemination and utilisation) to enhance practice. We work with not-for-profit and community-based organisations to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector, through training in research and evaluation, in order to contribute evidence of what works.

Pūtahi Rangahau Ngātahi represents everything that the Centre stands for. The Centre’s core mission is to bring together practitioners, researchers, students, and other stakeholders, to advance evidence for the social sector. Pūtahi implies a coming together from different places, an intersection; it broadly translates to ‘research collaboration’. The merging of two rivers in the Centre’s image, depicted in the iconic New Zealand image of the Kawarau River valley near Queenstown, represents the notion of partnership, the flow of ideas and the weaving together of collaborations.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The centre is committed to building evidence of promising practices in communities through affirming partnerships.

The goals of the Centre are two-fold:

1. Develop collaborations by:
   1. Promoting connection with stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector and key partners both nationally and internationally.
   2. Facilitating opportunities within and across sectors to enhance collective learning and engagement.

2. Increase research and evaluation capacity by:
   - Coaching and mentoring organisational leaders and human services professionals to develop their own research capabilities so that they can evaluate, refine and improve their own social programmes.
   - Supervising or facilitating research on the many exemplary or innovative programmes and interventions relevant to local communities in New Zealand.
   - Developing and promoting collaborations with stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector and key partners both nationally and internationally.
   - Partnering with our large stable of community partners to develop sector-wide research priorities.
   - Developing specialised leadership capabilities to support organisational readiness for research in the non-profit sector.
   - Ensuring the development of a robust evaluation approach to interventions.

PARTNERSHIPS
Building on successful initiatives, the Centre has grown partnerships in 2019 with the following practice organisations and University Units with whom collaborative projects have been completed, are being planned, and/or are being conducted:

Graeme Dingle Foundation  
The Patience Project Charitable Trust  
Starship Foundation  
The Family Life Education Pasefika Trust (operating as The Village Collective)  
Auckland Council  
Sticks and Stones  
Anglican Trust for Women and Children

The following research and consultancy projects to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector have been completed in 2019 or are in progress:

**Immersive Reality Experiences (IRE) Technology for Improving the Wellbeing of Young People in Hospital: Proof of concept study**

The Patience Project Charitable Trust aims to promote a new form of social connectedness for young people suffering a long-term illness through the use of immersive 360-degree live streaming technology. With the expertise of Andrew Thompson, A/Prof Margaret Agee, Prof Christa Fouche and Dr Laura Chubb, a formative assessment of a pilot programme was undertaken in 2018 to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the project in order to inform future implementation. Building on this research, a proof of concept project was funded through the Starship Foundation in partnership with The Patience Project Charitable Trust and ADHB/Starship Hospital.

**Funding:** $88,644  
**Status:** In progress. Funding allows for 40 patients to participate in this study. So far, we have recruited 8 young people. Data collection and analysis will continue through 2020.

**Building research capability for the Village Collective Rainbow Fale**

Dr Analosa Veukiso-Ulugia and Prof Christa Fouché partnered with staff from the Village Collective in 2018 to develop an evaluation plan for the Rainbow Fale programme and to determine what skills staff involved in the programme need in order to ensure ongoing evaluation capability and capacity. Building on this partnership, staff from the Village Collective were supported in 2019 under a new consultancy agreement, with data collection and analysis of aspects of the evaluation data. A joint report enable findings to be co-presented at the local 2019 sexual health conference. A joint article is under development.

**Funding:** $10,000 consultancy contract  
**Status:** Completed. Funding applications for future collaborations are being investigated.

**Building Capability and Partnerships in Northland**

This cross-university initiative developed during 2017-18 alongside local council, iwi, and social service decision-makers in Northland to support their goals of delivering quality interventions in partnership with local communities. The project received additional funding for 2019-21 with the aim to develop increased understanding of localized social service challenges in Northland and significantly enhance relationships with core stakeholder,
including iwi and a range of social service, district health board and local government leaders. Community engagement in 2019 resulted in a joint full-day capacity-building workshop in Whangarei by CCRE in partnership with the Public Policy Institute and the Business School, to representatives from several social, health and community sector organisations, Ministry of Social Development and the Whangarei Council.

We additionally engaged in a series of activities to understand one paradigm-breaking initiative in Northland and produced on invitation, a research report based on key informant interviews about the process that has resulted in the formation of the Te Kaupapa Mahitahi Hauora-Papa o Te Raki Trust. The report is available at this link: https://auckland.figshare.com/articles/Northland_Primary_Health_Care_Collaboration_Kaupapa_Initiative/9249137.

A programme of work for 2020 got underway with a hui in Waitangi in December 2019. Significant engagement with these projects is proposed for 2020.

**Funding:** $66,000 additional Vice-Chancellor strategic development funding

**Status:** Phase 1 (2017-2019) completed. Phase 2 underway.

We have been invited to deliver the material from the very successful Whangarei workshop to representatives in the Hokianga, Kaitaia and Kaikohe and anticipate refining the content for delivery in other geographical areas in New Zealand, including Auckland, Napier and Gisborne. CCRE alongside the other University partners will further engage with several successful initiatives to help inform the co-design of a model on shifting the capability for effective social intervention from government to community.

**Other funded activities to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector**

**Auckland Council**

CCRE partnered on a bid to Auckland Council for building research capacity with community youth arts programmes. The bid has been successful and planning to deliver activities in 2020 are underway. This collaboration will enable good opportunities to pilot a new model for professional development in this sector.

**Funding:** $15 000

**Status:** In progress

**Evaluation of programme practices for the Graeme Dingle Foundation**

The Graeme Dingle Foundation has a longstanding relationship with University of Auckland researchers and provides opportunities to conduct meaningful projects which have a direct impact on current programme practices. Several PhD projects were completed in 2019. Another successful annual research symposium for the youth development sector was co-hosted by CCRE, the Graeme Dingle Foundation and Ara Taiohi on 22 November, 2018.

**Funding:** Doctoral scholarships and consultancy for projects

**Status:** Ongoing partnership since the Graeme Dingle Foundation’s Research and Evaluation Manager, Julie Moore, and Dr Kelsey Deane are both CCRE Management Board Members, oversee programme evaluation projects, and co-facilitate evaluation design workshops for youth development organisations and for CCRE.

**Partnerships being developed**
Anglican Trust for Women and Children: Two staff members from this organization attended all the CCRE workshops offered in 2019 and are keen to develop ‘next steps’ in consultation with their board and funders.

Sticks and Stones: Dr Kelsey Deane, Hilary Dutton and Prof Christa Fouché have been in discussion with staff members from this organization. They require support in evaluating an advocacy programme on youth-led bullying prevention, supported by Facebook. A proposal for rapid review of their existing evaluation data in planning for a theory of change development is under consideration.

Student engagement: Several practice partners expressed an interest in involving students in their research initiatives. We developed a CCRE 'Student Engagement Model' to showcase some of our unique options to support research initiatives with students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
In 2019 CCRE hosted two visiting scholars and facilitated engagement with CCRE practice partners and Faculty members. These visiting scholars also presented CCRE professional development opportunities as follows:


Prof Holly Becker-Nelson: 30 July 2019, Interactive seminar on “Spiritual identity and mindfulness in practice”

CCRE co-hosted with the School of Population Health, the sixth annual Interscholastic Student HIV Research Symposium. This symposium showcased student projects and brought together HIV researchers and stakeholders within the Auckland region.

CCRE facilitated a programme of six sector-specific and cross-disciplinary practice research professional development opportunities in March, May, July, September, November and December 2019. The aim of these workshops were to foster practice excellence and build capacity in the social services sector, attended by practitioners and managers in the not-for-profit sector:

Clarifying goals for research and evaluation (15 March)
Co-presented by Prof Christa Fouché, Robyn Rummins and Wendy Bremner
The workshop empowered participants to consider different ways of making the most of their data. Participants were guided to align organisational research goals with core strategic objectives and different models for generating evidence towards advancing participant priorities.

Ethics in Practice Research (12 April)
Co-presented by Prof Christa Fouché and Associate Professor Jay Marlowe
The workshop guided participants through a process to critically reflect on the elements of ethical research conduct and how their programmes or services capture data for research purposes. These ideas were then used to construct a framework for ethical considerations in collecting data.

Evaluation basics (14 June)
Co-presented by Prof Carol Mutch and Dr John Fenaughty
This workshop was designed for those new to evaluation or wanting a quick refresher. It was valuable for those needing an evaluation, providing funding for an evaluation, or conducting an evaluation.

Theory of change in developing practice-relevant evaluations (16 August)
Co-presented by Dr Kelsey Deane and Julie Moore
The workshop guided participants through a process to critically reflect on their assumptions of how their programmes or services produce change. These ideas were then used to construct the beginnings of a theory of change that could be used to guide future evaluation decisions.

Using practice data strategically (8 November)
Co-presented by Prof Christa Fouché, Davinia Abbott and Dr Laura Chubb
This workshop explored innovative ways to collect new data and consider the implications of data analysis for existing and new practice data. Examples from practice were shared with participants.

FUTURE INITIATIVES
In addition to furthering core partnerships and collaborative research endeavours, strategic initiatives for CCRE will include proposals for core external research funding to engage more deliberately with the sector. Conversations in this regard are underway.

At their December meeting, the Board supported a proposal for exploring innovative ways for CCRE to deliver professional development in future. A programme of work to design blended learning options will be developed in collaboration with staff in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work responsible for teaching research courses.

As mentioned above, we developed a CCRE 'Student Engagement Model' to showcase how practice organisations can support research initiatives with students. In discussion with strategic initiatives at School level, the Board supported exploration of closer connection between CCRE student engagement activities and initiatives underway as part of the Social and Community Leadership programmes in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work.

FINANCIAL STATUS
All projects were administered by either UniServices, with oversight by the local Research Services Manager Usha Bhatia, or as School projects through University Financial Services, with oversight by the Head of School Dr Allen Bartley. Scholarship were administered via the University of Auckland Foundation. The Centre does not have a cost code and the Director has no financial reporting responsibility.

Professor Christa Fouché
Director
16 December 2019

Ms Wendy Bremner
Chair of the Management Board
16 December 2019