The National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research

Annual Report 2024

The University Of Queensland
AUSTRALIA
CREATE CHANGE

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We reflect on continuity and change at NCYSUR in its 17th year, as we renew our commitment to the health and wellbeing of young people by increasing Australia's capacity to respond effectively to harms from alcohol and other drug use. It is heartening that the Centre is continuing to attract and retain bright young researchers passionate about tackling the challenges of the future. NCYSUR continues to benefit from the experience of highly influential figures appointed to the Centre since its inception, including internationally recognised leaders in substance use policy (Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall), measurement and diagnosis (Honorary Professor John Saunders), and prevention and novel clinical approaches (Honorary Professor Gerald Feeney). Both junior and senior NCYSUR researchers are keen recipients of their ongoing mentorship.

Looking back over the Centre's history, we are proud that Gary Chung Kai Chan, from NCYSUR's first cohort of PhD student graduates, turned postdoctoral fellow, now Associate Professor, has been awarded his second consecutive National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Fellowship which shall provide Australia with much needed vaping prevention programs. In 2024, Associate Professor Chan was further recognised by The University of Queensland as an outstanding graduate research supervisor whose own students have won prestigious fellowships, grants, and prizes.

We were delighted that the 2024 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Alcohol and other Drugs in Australia made extensive use of NCYSUR's invited expert feedback and published research data to inform their deliberations.

We reflect on continuity and change at NCYSUR in its 17th year.

We are more determined than ever to make the world a better place for our youth.

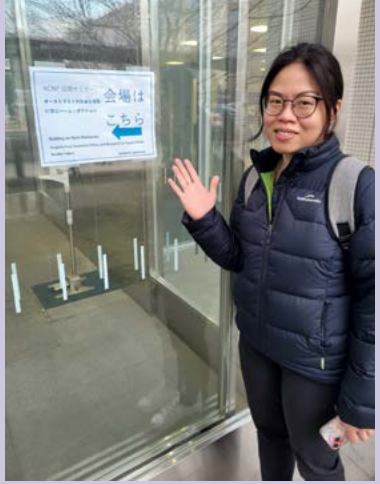
The Inquiry for example made particular mention of Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides' QuikFix intervention, that provides practical, scalable interventions focusing on outcomes that matter to young people exposed to harm from alcohol and other drugs.

Today, NCYSUR is one of the five major research centres that receives critical funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to support this high impact research. This core funding is enhanced by additional competitive funding. For example, in 2024 approximately one-third of NCYSUR academic staff held highly competitive, Category 1, Australian Research Fellowships supporting their work. NCYSUR also currently leads an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence, two Medical Research Future Fund grants, an NHMRC Partnership project, and an NHMRC Ideas Grant. This is an extraordinary achievement for a Centre of relatively modest size.

Australian youth continue to be impacted by positive portrayals of alcohol and other drug use on social media, including vaping, dangerous new psychoactive substances detectable via wastewater monitoring, changes in the legal status of cannabis, and much more. On a global scale, there is increasing political and governance unpredictability which amplifies these challenges. At NCYSUR, we are more determined than ever to make the world a better place for our youth, led by our researchers, who inspire with their work ethic, mutual support, high ideals, and passion for excellence.



PROFESSOR JASON CONNOR
DIRECTOR



Dr Carmen Lin

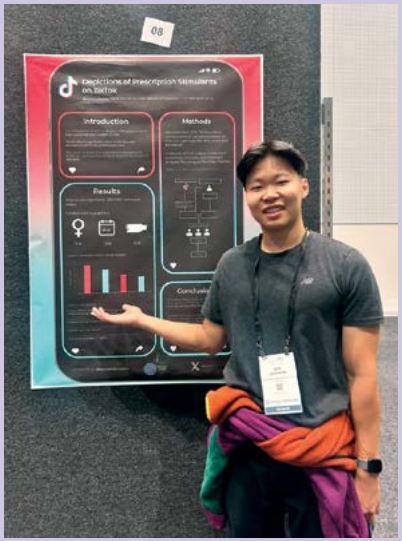


Ms Elise Cardamone, Ms Sophia Glasgow, Dr Nina Pocuca and Ms Amra Catakovic



Professor Jason Connor, Director and Professor Leanne Hides, Deputy Director

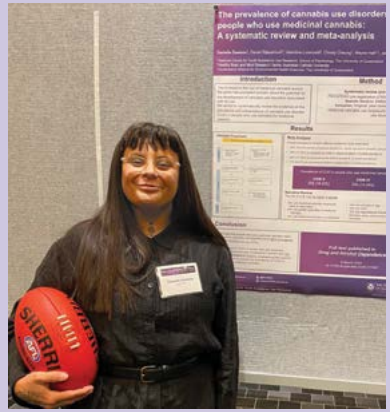
The strength of our Centre is in our people and their work.



Mr Ben Johnson presents at the World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions

NCYSUR and summer scholars





Ms Danielle Dawson represents NCYSUR in Montreal

ABOUT US

NCYSUR is one of the five Commonwealth-funded alcohol and other drug research centres in Australia and the only one of these centres dedicated to youth.

We seek to reduce the prevalence and severity of problem alcohol and drug use in Australian communities; enhance research capacity informing national efforts to address youth substance use; and increase our knowledge on treatment approaches for emerging drugs of concern and innovative treatment models.

OUR GOALS

- Understand the pathways by which young people engage in substance use
- Be at the cutting edge of research into new and innovative ways of preventing and treating problem substance use among young people
- Make significant and tangible improvements to youth service provision
- Positively influence state and national approaches to youth problem substance use prevention and treatment through information dissemination, policy refinement and public advocacy
- Ensure youth have a voice and input into the research directions of the Centre

OUR MISSION

Promote the health and wellbeing of young people by increasing Australia's capacity to respond effectively to any harm arising from substance use.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Guided by research, collaboration and commitment.

Objective 1: As a distinctive and purposeful research centre focused on young people NCYSUR will:

- Generate new evidence to prevent or treat substance use in young people
- Synthesise existing evidence into policy

Objective 2: To engage with young people, families, schools and the public NCYSUR will:

- Raise awareness of the Centre's work beyond the academic community
- Communicate our research outcomes in a targeted and user-friendly manner

Objective 3: To make sustained improvements in the lives of young people NCYSUR will:

- Provide regular policy submissions and comments on policy
- Work with a variety of media organisations to give visibility to the substance use issues faced by young people and evidence-based advice on how to respond to these issues effectively
- Increase access to evidence-based treatment and reduce the interval between the onset of substance use problems and the receipt of care

Objective 4: To work efficiently, effectively and supportively NCYSUR will:

- Nurture and sustain strong connections across our team
- Support the continuum of research from primary prevention to treatment to ensure a diversity of skills within and opportunities for the Centre

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

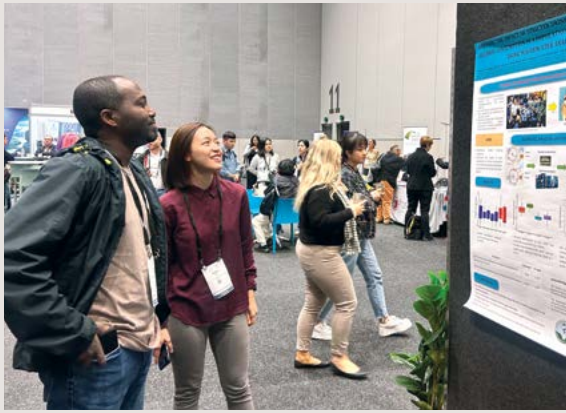
- **Associate Professor Gary Chung Kai Chan** was awarded a follow-up NHMRC Investigator Fellowship (Emerging Leadership II) for "Unleashing the power of AI: supercharging social media campaigns against youth vaping".
- **Associate Professor Gary Chung Kai Chan** was recognised as an Outstanding Graduate Research Supervisor and Mentor, University of Queensland Research and Innovation Awards for Excellence.
- **PhD student Ms Giang Vu** received funding support from the US National Institute on Drug Abuse 2024 NIDA International Forum, US College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Montréal.
- **PhD graduate Dr Brienna Rutherford's** doctoral thesis was selected for a 2024 Dean's Award, UQ Graduate School, for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Thesis, nominated by her examiners.
- **Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Tesfa Yimer** and **PhD student Ms Giang Vu** were each awarded the Society for the Study of Addiction travel scholarship to attend the Annual Conference in Newcastle, UK and visit research groups at the University of Bath and King's College London.
- **Honorary Professor John Saunders** was President of the 2024 World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions co-sponsored by the World Health Organization, welcoming world leaders including the Director of the US National Institutes of Health to Melbourne.
- **Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides** won the best late breaker abstract presentation award at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) annual conference in Canberra (mental health, substance use and internet gaming disorder in 3000 young gamers).
- **Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall** was recognised as a Clarivate Highly Cited Award Recipient for the fifth year in a row, recognising his continuing global impact and influence in debates on the best policy options for responding to potential harms from cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, opioids, and stimulants. Highly Cited Authors are ranked in the top 1% of researchers globally, as measured by citations in the world's leading journals over the past decade.



Honorary Professor John Saunders at NCYSUR's Sydney office



Associate Professor Gary Chan leads the team to greater heights



Dr Tesfa Mekonen Yimer and Ms Giang Vu, recipients of Society for the Study of Addiction travel scholarships

Our researchers inspire with their work ethic, high ideals and passion for excellence.



Dr Gabrielle Campbell and Ms Caitlyn Knight at the World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions

Professor Leanne Hides, leader of NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Meaningful Outcomes in Substance Use Treatments





Ms Brienna Rutherford, on her way to PhD and Dean's award for outstanding thesis

KEY CENTRE FUNDING AND RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Australia's National Drug Strategy identifies young people as a priority population. NCYSUR's research and engagement activities are guided by the three pillars of the NDS, demand reduction, supply reduction, and harm reduction. These core research foundations are translated into youth impactful public messages, contributions to policy, prevention and clinical practice.

NCYSUR's core research funding is provided from the Commonwealth Department of Health Drug and Alcohol Program grant for research programs in youth epidemiology and policy, harm reduction, and demand and supply reduction. In 2024 NCYSUR's research program continued to deliver high quality research, translation and support across these domains.

The Centre is fully funded by external grants. Competitive fellowships have facilitated growth via new appointments. Project grants (NHMRC, ARC, Industry-based, Hospital-based) have provided additional research funding support to enhance NCYSUR's core Commonwealth funding.

NCYSUR has also been the recipient of tenders for projects consistent with core research objectives. Institutional start-up funding and philanthropic support were critical in establishing the Centre and leveraging additional research funding.

NDS PILLARS

We're guided by three pillars: demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction.

Our strength lies in securing competitive funding to deliver meaningful outcomes for young people.

NCYSUR's high-achieving students are supported by a range of scholarships and conduct research on key topics of public interest. During their PhD studies, our students demonstrate their research achievements by publishing their work in high impact research journals and receiving invitations to present their research at national and international scientific conferences. They attract worldwide attention to the Centre's research program and associated activities, highlighting the relevance of NCYSUR's work while providing opportunities to engage with communities and the policy process.

National Health and Medical Research Council Research Funding

Several NCYSUR staff and students were recipients of NHMRC fellowships, scholarships, and grants awarded or commencing in 2024. NHMRC is the Australian Government's primary health and medical research funding agency and success in their highly competitive research grants rounds is a strong reflection of the academic and intellectual depth of NCYSUR.

AWARDED BY NHMRC IN 2024

Associate Professor Gary Chan

Associate Professor Gary Chung Kai Chan was awarded a second consecutive NHMRC Investigator Fellowship for “Unleashing the power of AI: supercharging social media campaigns against youth vaping”. This study will harness generative artificial intelligence for vaping prevention, revolutionising the development and implementation of large-scale tailored public health campaigns effectively aimed at the multicultural Australian youth population.

Associate Professor Chan was one of only two recipients of this highly competitive award to be mentioned by name in the NHMRC press release. Associate Professor Chan invites all young people in Australia between 6-25 years of age to contribute to this ongoing research.

Professor Leanne Hides, Dr Gabrielle Campbell, Associate Professor Gary Chan, Dr Nina Pocuca

NCYSUR Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides, Dr Gabrielle Campbell, Associate Professor Gary Chan, and Dr Nina Pocuca and colleagues at UQ, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), the University of Wollongong, and Griffith University were awarded funding for an NHMRC Partnership project “Implementation, effectiveness and sustainability of a co-designed value-based brief intervention model of healthcare in alcohol and other drug services”. This project will determine whether implementing a brief intervention model of care at the front end of alcohol and other drug treatment improves client, staff and service outcomes. It is being conducted in partnership with Lived Lives Well, the NSW Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies, and the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies.



Associate Professor Gary Chan promotes his NHMRC Investigator II project on live radio



Professor Leanne Hides presents on her NHMRC Partnership at the Winter School, an event hosted by project partner QNADA



Professor Hides and Dr Gabrielle Campbell meet with delegates at the Winter School

FUNDED BY NHMRC AND COMMENCING IN 2024

Dr Carmen Lim

Before the award of her PhD, NCYSUR graduate and postdoctoral fellow Dr Carmen Lim was awarded a NHMRC Investigator Fellowship for "Breaking the cycle: leveraging social media to address the public health threat of youth vaping". Dr Lim was one of the two researchers mentioned by name in the announcement of NHMRC Investigator awards commencing in January 2024. Dr Lim leads a research program to understand how pro-vaping content influences young people's attitudes, develop a social media intervention, and propose regulatory solutions to reduce youth vaping.

PhD student Mr Ben Johnson

First year PhD student Mr Ben Johnson was awarded an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship for "Learning from the opioid crisis – preventing the proliferation of prescription stimulants for non-medical use." His research examines both the medical and non-medical use of prescription stimulants, with a particular focus on age groups and challenges arising from the ongoing stimulant shortage. Additionally, Ben is engaged and interested in interdisciplinary projects exploring the intersections of AI, gaming, and cryptocurrency trading, contributing to a broader understanding of emerging trends affecting young people at the nexus of digital innovation and public health.

Dr Daniel Stjepanović and Dr Tianze Sun

Senior Research Fellow Dr Daniel Stjepanović, Research Fellow Dr Tianze Sun (PhD awarded July 2024) and colleagues at the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences at UQ and the University of Waterloo, Canada were awarded an NHMRC Ideas Grant for "Monitoring nicotine: triangulating social media, global survey and wastewater data to inform future vaping and smoking policies". The project will establish a surveillance system for smoking and vaping using cutting edge technologies and global partnerships, providing health experts and government with the tools to respond to the rapidly changing vaping and tobacco smoking landscape, disproportionately affecting young people.



Dr Daniel Stjepanović

MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND

COMMENCING IN 2024

Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides, Dr Nina Pocuca, Dr Gabrielle Campbell and colleagues were awarded a Medical Research Future Fund grant under the Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyle scheme to evaluate the “QuikFix Good Night Out Program: a new social network targeted approach to reducing alcohol and other drug use and related harm in young university students”. Leanne is leading the interdisciplinary team of UQ investigators including UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning Professor Doune Macdonald and colleagues from the School of Psychology and the Centre for the Business and Economics of Health. This novel program will increase access to evidence based and cost-effective reduction of substance use and related harm for university students nationally.

Associate Professor Gary Chung Kai Chan and Director Professor Jason Connor, with research fellows Dr Tianze Sun, Associate Professor Janni Leung, Dr Daniel Stjepanović, and Dr Carmen Lim were awarded a Medical Research Future Fund grant under the Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyle scheme. They will be collaborating with colleagues at the University of Waterloo, Griffith University and The Matilda Centre, The University of Sydney and The Matilda Centre, The University of Sydney on their project “Unclouding the future: igniting change with an AI-powered media campaign against youth vaping”. This research will leverage generative AI to co-design a personalised social media campaign with young people to combat the rise of vaping and test its effectiveness in a randomised controlled trial. *Ongoing grants are listed in the Appendices.*



NCYSUR team funded for AI-powered media campaign co-designed with young people against youth vaping



Professor Leanne Hides presents the MRFF-funded QuikFix GNO at the World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions

NCYSUR ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

NCYSUR held its annual Research Symposium on 1 March 2024 in Brisbane. More than 650 people registered for this hybrid event; more than 70 attended in person and an early career researcher networking event was held after the symposium.

NCYSUR speakers from PhD students to senior academics showcased and discussed their research in youth alcohol and other drug treatment, harm reduction, policy and prevention funded under the Australian Government's Drug and Alcohol Program, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Medical Research Future Fund, and other sources.

The program featured international keynotes from NCYSUR's collaborators Professor Keith Humphreys, Chairman of the Stanford University-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis (in person) on synthetic opioids, and Professor David Hammond, University of Waterloo, Canada on the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project on youth smoking, vaping and cannabis use (online). The symposium attracted a wide range of participants including policy makers, health and alcohol and other drug treatment services, and local government representatives. The Program and links to presentation recordings are appended to this Report.





UQ Brisbane City Queen street



Full house at the Symposium

Bringing ideas to life with our people, research and shared passion for change.



NCYSUR Annual Research Symposium

Mr Brandon Cheng presenting





Ms Amra Catakovic presents data from the OurFutures vaping trial

TOBACCO ENDGAME CRE

The World Health Organization-sponsored World No Tobacco Day was observed on 31 May with the theme “protecting children from tobacco industry influence”. The Tobacco Endgame CRE at the UQ School of Public Health plus affiliated NCYSUR research fellows and PhD students hosted the 2024 SRNT-Oceania Conference with the CRE Annual Symposium over 30-31 May.



CRE Annual Symposium/SRNT-Oceania Conference

THE GOOD NIGHT OUT PROGRAM

NCYSUR is dedicated to improving access to prevention and early intervention programs for young people through evidence-based research. Led by Professor Leanne Hides and coordinated by Research Fellow Dr Lauren Fothergill, the Good Night Out (GNO) Program is designed to reduce the risk of alcohol and other drug (AOD)-related harm in university residential colleges. This research is primarily funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).



Professor Hides and Dr Gabrielle Campell lead the Symposium on the NHMRC

Giving young people the tools to make safer choices.

HARNESSING STUDENT AND LEADER INSIGHTS: A CO-DESIGN PROCESS

The AOD trivia workshop was co-designed with 77 student leaders in 2020. In 2024 a further seven co-design workshops were conducted with first-year students and student leaders from four UQ colleges to update the program content and ensure its continued relevance for young people.

Key areas of focus included:

- Understanding AOD Culture in Colleges: Identified emerging trends and student perspectives to improve harm reduction strategies.
- Enhancing Knowledge & Leadership Training: Updated the first-year trivia workshop to enhance AOD knowledge. Provided student leader training with interactive elements and practical applications.
- Optimising Content Delivery: Explored trusted information sources, visual design, and peer-led approaches to improve engagement.
- Inclusivity and Accessibility: Ensured workshops reflect diverse student experiences, making content relevant for all participants.

From Co-Design to National Implementation

Findings from the co-design process have been used to inform the design of a national Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT), which will evaluate the scalability, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of the QuikFix GNO program. This RCT will be tested in universities across three Australian states.

The program includes:

- AOD Trivia Workshop – Delivered by student leaders during orientation week in the form of an engaging trivia-style gameshow to improve harm reduction knowledge.
- Student Leader Training – Trained student leaders in the delivery of the AOD trivia workshop to increase their AOD knowledge and skills in supporting harm reduction efforts among their peers.
- QuikFix Brief Telehealth Intervention – Engaging key social influencers in a single session harm reduction intervention to promote positive behaviour change within peer networks.
- Pilot trials have demonstrated the program's feasibility in reducing AOD use.

Enhancing Access to Early Intervention

NCYSUR remains committed to developing and evaluating effective, research-driven AOD harm reduction programs for young people. The upcoming national RCT will provide valuable insights into whether the Good Night Out Program can be implemented at scale across other universities, as well as its cost-effectiveness, and long-term impact on student AOD use, mental health and wellbeing.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE POLICY PROCESS

NCYSUR embraces opportunities to participate in the policy process, a key part of its mission. This includes preparing submissions and providing expert testimony to Parliamentary Inquiries. Supervisors encourage PhD students to promote their research findings to decision makers and the general public.

In late March, the Australian Senate referred its Vaping Reforms Bill 2024 (Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment) to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 8 May. PhD student Ms Giang Vu led an invited submission on the need for reforms to regulation of online markets on social media platforms, a key focus of NCYSUR. The submission cited new research led by NCYSUR early career researchers and PhD students published in leading national and international scientific journals including Addictive Behaviors and Tobacco Control. NCYSUR gave invited expert testimony to the Committee on May 1. Public proceedings of the Parliament are broadcast live, recorded in Hansard and can be found via the Inquiry website.

In May, the Australian Senate and House of Representatives appointed a Joint Select Committee to conduct an Inquiry on the influence and impacts of social media on Australian society and report to the Parliament by November. NCYSUR PhD graduate and Research Fellow Dr Tesfa Yimer led NCYSUR's submission which showcased findings from peer reviewed papers led by NCYSUR PhD students published in leading international scientific journals including Addiction.



Senior Research Fellow Dr Daniel Stjepanovic, Dr Tianze Sun and Dr Tesfa Yimer

This submission led to NCYSUR's young researchers being interviewed for a feature story in the October 14 edition of the Courier Mail, "Concerns social media leading more youth to use drugs, alcohol".

In August, following a referral from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, the House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport commenced an Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia.

The ongoing Inquiry includes four terms of reference:

1. Whether current services deliver equity for all Australians, value for money, and best outcomes for all concerned;
2. Whether current programs are effective across all jurisdictions for prevention, reduction of harms, priority populations, equity in treatment and prevention;
3. How other sectors beyond health could contribute; and
4. What is the policy experience and best practice in Australia and overseas.

195 submissions from individuals and organisations including NCYSUR have been published on the Committee website and six public hearings have been held. NCYSUR Deputy Director Leanne Hides and Senior Research Fellow Dr Daniel Stjepanovic were invited as expert witness to the Inquiry. Their testimony highlighted NCYSUR's work and how this research can inform evidence-based policy. NCYSUR Honorary Professor Paul Clark, Director of the Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital, a frontline alcohol and drug services and support organisation, was also called as an expert witness and facilitated a clinic site visit for Committee members. The Inquiry will resume in 2025.

Finding solutions that shape better futures for young people.



The NCYSUR team conduct workshop with the Logan Youth Action group



Ms Giang Vu



Ms Janni Leung presenting

Evidence-based research shaping health policy worldwide.



Dr Carmen Lim

Professor Leanne Hides' award winning APSAD presentation





Dr Tianze Sun invited presentation at NDARC

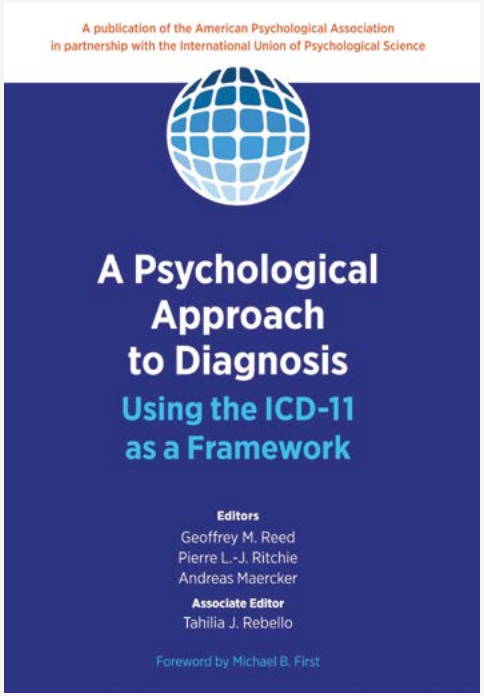
CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

Research Fellows Ms Tianze Sun, Dr Carmen Lim and Dr Daniel Stjepanović conducted a workshop with the Logan Youth Action Group to co-design AI-generated materials for vaping prevention. NCYSUR PhD students Ms Giang Vu and Ms Caitlin McClure-Thomas assisted in moderating the sessions. Facilitated by Associate Professor Gary Chan, NCYSUR is building a collaborative relationship with this group of around 30 young people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds that will inform grant funded projects in future.

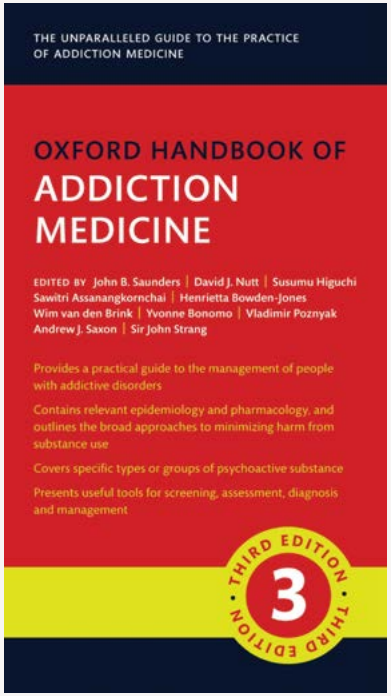
Oxford University Press published the third edition of the *Oxford Handbook of Addiction Medicine*. The Handbook offers guidance to clinicians incorporating pharmacology, neurobiology, psychology, epidemiology and public health. Honorary Professor John Saunders led the editorial team and contributed as an author to 19 chapters, including 4 out of 5 NCYSUR authored chapters on epidemiology, screening and brief interventions, opioids and psychostimulants. NCYSUR Director Jason Connor and Honorary Professor Gerald Feeney led a chapter on polysubstance use.

The American Psychological Association published *A Psychological Approach to Diagnosis Using the ICD-11 as a Framework*. This volume provides clinicians around the world with the basis for delivering high quality, evidence-informed care based on the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases. Honorary Professor John Saunders and Director Professor Jason Connor contributed the chapter on substance use disorders.

Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall was invited to be an expert peer reviewer on a draft report on the public health implications of legalising cannabis by the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, established by the US Congress to provide expert advice to the nation on complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The report was released in September 2024.



American Psychological Association and World Health Report clinical guidelines

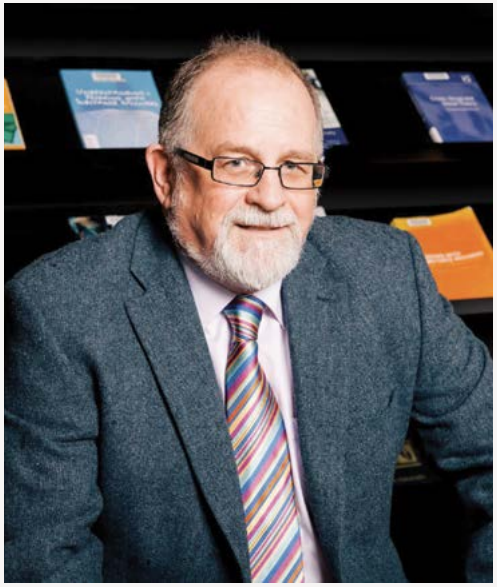


Contributions to Policy and Practice – Oxford Handbook 3rd edition

Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall was invited to advise RAND corporation in California, USA and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on developing ethical principles to govern the introduction of wastewater-based epidemiology into the USA to monitor the illicit opioid and methamphetamine use that has produced an unprecedented epidemic of drug overdose deaths in the USA over the past two decades. Director Jason Connor and Emeritus Professor are supported in an ARC Linkage funded collaboration with the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences on *Using multiple data sources to understand the opioid crisis in Australia*.

In 2024, the World Health Organization released their clinical treatment guideline for tobacco cessation in adults (18 and over). The "first of its kind" resource recommends interventions and treatments for all tobacco-related products, utilising interventions with varied delivery, including digital and in-person interventions, with treatment options expanding focus from behavioural to pharmacological options in order to remove barriers and limitations from impeding the cessation journey. The document acknowledges the contributions made by members of NCYSUR, using reviews of evidence conducted by NCYSUR NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellows Associate Professor Gary Chan and Associate Professor Janni Leung, Senior Research Fellow Dr Daniel Stjepanović, Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Tesfa Yimer, and PhD student Ms Caitlin McLure-Thomas. This global resource could benefit more than 750 million people in ceasing tobacco-use and reducing health and economic burdens from tobacco-use-related diseases. Colleagues at the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame, led by Director and Chief Investigator Professor Coral Gartner, facilitated this contribution.

Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall was invited by Health Canada to advise on suitable Health Warning Messages on cannabis product packaging, to sustain effectiveness on message credibility and acceptance among other issues. Canada legalised cannabis in 2018.



Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall



US National Academies Report

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

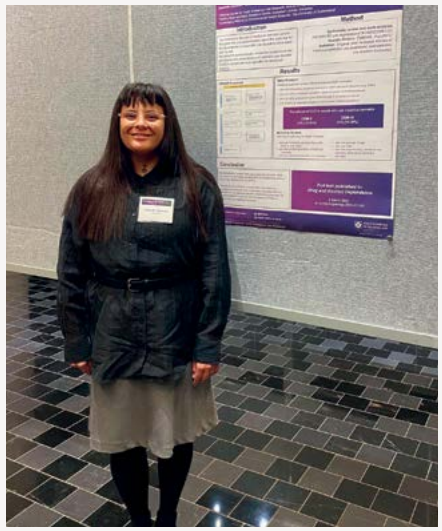
PhD students Ms Giang Vu and Ms Danielle Dawson presented at the 2024 NIDA International Forum, US National Institute on Drug Abuse, June 14-15, held in conjunction with CPDD 2024, the 86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19 in Montréal. The CPDD is one of the most significant conferences in substance abuse research, attended by leading researchers and policy makers from around the world. Ms Vu received NIDA support for CPDD registration; Ms Dawson's poster was published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Ms Vu, Ms Dawson and Dr Sun gave an oral presentation and two posters at the 17th annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy hosted by the Centre de recherche du CHUM (CRCHUM), affiliated with the University of Montréal. On 19 June, Ms Vu gave an oral presentation on social norms towards tobacco use in Japan and Ms Dawson presented her poster on the prevalence and self-reported reasons of cannabis use for medical purposes in Australia. On June 21, Dr Sun presented her poster on exposure to e-cigarette marketing and youth e-cigarette use in the United States. Dr Sun and Ms Vu presented to the research team at CRCHUM at the University of Montréal on NCYSUR's methodologically intensive work related to youth vaping.

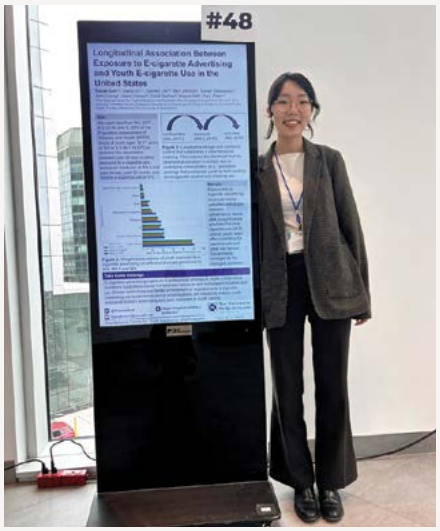
On June 25, Dr Sun and Ms Vu presented to the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project team at the Department of Psychology, University of Waterloo, Ontario on "Vaping in the Australian and global setting" and held discussions about further publications on Japan, Republic of Korea, and other countries who have joined the ITC Project. As a result of networking at the University of Montreal, Dr Sun gave an invited NDARC webinar in October which received high engagement on social media and over 200 individuals registered.



Ms Giang Vu at CPDD Montreal



Ms Danielle Dawson at CPDD Montreal



Dr Tianze Sun at ISSDP

WORLD CONGRESS ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTIONS

In September, NCYSUR led several symposia at the Third World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions in Melbourne, a joint congress of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism and the Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research.

Congress President John Saunders represented the World Health Organization and gave the introductory presentation on WHO policy and guidelines for disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviours. He has been Honorary Professor in NCYSUR since its establishment in 2008, has advised WHO since 1981 and is a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the ICD-11 Working Group on the Classification of Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders. Professor George Koob, Director of the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism was the opening keynote speaker.

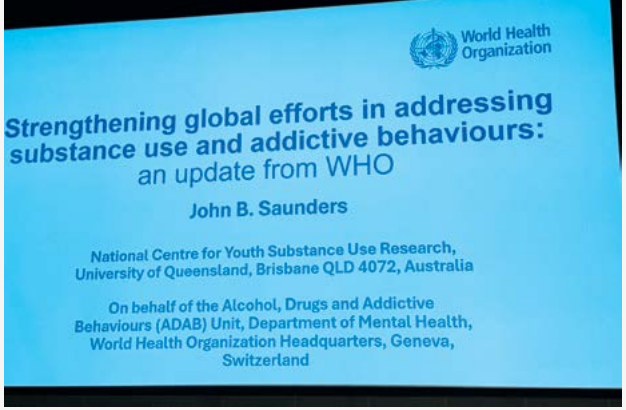
In the opening speech, Professor Saunders highlighted the changing nature of the field, stating “Historically these congresses, which originally date from 1982, have had a strong biomedical and pharmacological treatment focus.

However, periodically their scope is expanded to include the broad spectrum of alcohol and addictions research and practise, and this is the case with the 2024 Congress (hence its name, World Congress on Alcohol) one of the six streams encompasses the range of psychoactive substances including relevant prescription medications in addition to alcohol, and importantly it also embraces gambling and videogaming, and other problems related to addictive behaviours, and their prevention and treatment.”

Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides led the Symposium on innovative treatments targeting biopsychosocial risk and protective factors for substance use. She presented on The QuikFix Good Night (GNO) social network targeted digital health program for reducing alcohol and other drug use in first year university college students in the Symposium on digital innovation in alcohol and other drug use research and practice. Professor Hides and Dr Gabrielle Campbell led the Symposium on Meaningful Outcomes in Substance Use Research, Centre of Research Excellence (MO CRE) - Routine outcome monitoring and feedback in alcohol and other drug treatment: what is currently known? Associate Professor Gary Chan chaired the Symposium on The International Gaming Study – a 4-country study to understanding gaming disorder and unhealthy gaming.



NCYSUR Honorary Professor John Saunders opens World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions



Professor John-Saunders title slide



Dr Tesfa Yimer

A global platform where ideas converge and the future of addiction research is shaped.



Leanne presenting at ISBRA

Dr Gabrielle Campbell co-leads Symposium on the MO-CRE





Dr Sarangan Katheesan



Dr Stjepanović and Ms Dawson meet NCYSUR collaborators at Lisbon Addictions

LISBON ADDICTIONS

NCYSUR travelled overseas for several meetings including Lisbon Addictions, the fifth European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies held in Lisbon from 23-25 October, organised by the Portuguese Institute on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies, the European Union Drugs Agency, the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors and the Society for the Study of Addiction.

Lisbon Addictions is the biggest drug and alcohol conference in Europe and takes place every two years, hosting 2000 participants from over 100 countries worldwide in 2024. This multidisciplinary conference fosters large scale networking and showcases leading international research aimed at informing policy development and practice through a better understanding of contemporary issues in addiction science and addictive behaviours. An array of side events offers abundant opportunities especially to research higher degree students and early career researchers.

Associate Professors Janni Leung and Gary Chan, Research Fellows Dr Daniel Stjepanović, Dr Carmen Lim, Dr Tesfa Mekonen, PhD students Mr Habte Gobie, Ms Danielle Dawson, Mr Ben Johnson, Ms Giang Vu, and Ms Caitlin McClure Thomas presented on gaming disorder and physical harm from excessive gaming, second hand smoking mass media campaigns, the relationship between cannabis and tobacco use, cannabis use disorders among medicinal cannabis users, the portrayal of ADHD medications on TikTok, social norms on tobacco use, and internet gaming disorder.

APSAD

The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) held its annual conference in Canberra (Ngunnawal country), from 30 October to 1 November 2024. The event featured Australian and international researchers, health professionals, and people with lived and living experience in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector.

NCYSUR Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides chaired the symposium on Bringing Value Based Healthcare in AOD Services to Life. She also presented a late breaking abstract on mental health, substance use and internet gaming disorder in 3000 young gamers, which won the best late breaker abstract presentation award.

Dr Zoe Walter presented results from an implementation trial of trauma-informed residential treatment, reporting moderators of treatment completion, substance use and mental health outcomes. The trial was funded by NCYSUR's Australian Government Drug and Alcohol Program grant awarded to Professor Hides and NCYSUR Director Professor Jason Connor.

NCYSUR PhD candidate Gigi Vu presented her poster at the Opening Plenary on why young people are using disposable vapes, as well as results from her study on trends in social norms towards cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use in US youth between 2015 - 2021, using data from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, a national longitudinal study of tobacco use and health impacts. NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow Dr Carmen Lim presented on changes in route of cannabis administration over time in the USA and Canada, finding a shift from smoking to vaping and edibles.

NCYSUR Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Tianze Sun presented work led by Dr Carmen Lim on the influence of celebrities and influencers on youth susceptibility to tobacco and vaping. Master of Public Health Student Yin Mun Teo presented "From content to clouds", a study led by Dr Lim on the bidirectional relationship between exposure to tobacco related content and youth smoking.

PhD candidate Ms Danielle Dawson presented her work on the motives behind medical, recreational, and dual cannabis use in Australia. PhD candidate and medical student Mr Brandon Cheng presented his findings highlighting how exposure to alcohol-related content on social media can influence young people's drinking behaviours. PhD candidate Mr Jack Chung presented results from a study he led on the sociodemographic and mental health profile of persons who vape cannabis in the USA.



APSAD delegates mingle at the poster session

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Deputy Director Professor Leanne Hides and NCYSUR research fellows Dr Lim, Dr Tesfa Yimer and Dr Tianze Sun hosted an in-person and virtual seminar on cannabis policy on 30 August for NCYSUR collaborator Professor Eva Hoch, who is based in Munich. Professor Hoch presented on the recent legalisation of cannabis in Germany.

Professor Hall also presented research from his collaboration with Professor Hoch on the impacts of cannabis legalisation at the Turning Point Treatment, Research and Education Centre in Melbourne.



Professor Hoch welcomed by NCYSUR group



Eva Hoch visit poster

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS

NCYSUR's research program and opportunities attract high-achieving PhD students. Centre students are supported by the following scholarships: NHMRC; Australian Postgraduate Award; Australian Research Training Program; UQ International PhD; UQ Earmarked; UQ Graduate School.

In 2024, 18 student led papers were published in leading journals in the field, including *Addiction, Addictive Behaviors, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Drug and Alcohol Review*, the International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research, The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, and Tobacco Control.

NCYSUR students collectively were awarded grants as chief investigators including NHMRC grants, gave in person and virtual oral and poster presentations at national and international conferences, conducted workshops with youth groups, were subjects of live media interviews, led invited submissions to Parliament, provided invited expert witness testimony to Parliament, and participated in evidence reviews for the World Health Organization.

Four PhD degrees were awarded to NCYSUR students in 2024. Dr Brienna Rutherford's doctoral thesis was selected for a 2024 Dean's Award by the Dean of the UQ Graduate School for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Thesis, nominated by her examiners as an outstanding contribution to the field of research. Dr Tianze Sun was appointed to a research fellow position at NCYSUR after success as Chief Investigator B on an NHMRC Ideas grant before the award of her PhD. Dr Calvert Tisdale has taken up a postdoctoral research fellowship at NDARC.

Dr Lily Davidson has been a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Cincinnati, USA on a NIH funded project in collaboration with Brown University and Latrobe, followed by a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Sydney, strengthening NCYSUR's research links with these leading institutes.



Dean's Award recipient Dr Brienna Rutherford



Dr Tianze Sun



Dr Lily Davidson



Dr Calvert Tisdale

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Led by NCYSUR

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2025-2030	NHMRC	Investigator- Emerging Leadership Level 2	Chan	Unleashing the power of AI: supercharging social media campaigns against youth vaping	$1.6M
2024-2028	NHMRC	Partnership Project	Hides, Campbell, Miller, Chan, Connolly, Pocuca Associate Investigators: Leung, Lenzen	Implementation, effectiveness and sustainability of a co-designed value-based brief intervention model of healthcare in alcohol and other drug services	$1.47M

NCYSUR as collaborator

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2024-2029	NHMRC	Centre of Research Excellence	Slade, Newton, Chapman, Calear, Hudson, Hides, Olssson, Squeglia, Mihalopoulis, Teesson	PREMISE NEXT GENERATION PRevention of Mental Illness and Substance usE: New Targets, New Interventions	$3M
2024-2025	Queensland Health	Alcohol and Other Drugs Funding Program	Salom, Thomas, Robinson, Connor, Hides	Monitoring framework and evaluation of drug checking services	
2024-2026	Queensland Police Service		Salom, Thomas, Edmed, Campbell, Hall, Connor, Hides, Smith	Independent Research and Evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Program (PDDP)	

NCYSUR in association

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2024-2028	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care/ NHMRC	Medical Research Future Fund Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles	Bowden, Bogomolova, Bartram, Karnon, Brennan, Ullah, Jenkinson, Room, Monkhouse, Allsop, Chamberlain, Portolesi, Bonevski, Stafford Associate Investigators: Hides, Pocuca	The Power of Parents: Co-Designing Health Communications to Reduce Adolescent Drinking	$1.3M

ACTIVE (CONTINUING) IN 2024

Led by NCYSUR

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2023-2025	Drug and Alcohol Program, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care	Alcohol and Other Drug Research Centre of Excellence	Connor, Hides	Understanding, preventing and treating youth substance use	
2024-2028	NHMRC	Investigator Fellowship- Emerging Leadership Level 1	Lim	Breaking the cycle: leveraging social media to address the public health threat of youth vaping	$662,040
2022-2026	NHMRC	Investigator Fellowship- Emerging Leadership Level 1	Leung	Reducing the impact and burden of substance use on mental health	$650,740
2020-2024	NHMRC	Investigator Fellowship- Emerging Leadership Level 1	Chan	E-cigarettes and vaping: holy grail of tobacco control or gateway to a public health disaster?	$639,750

Led by NCYSUR (continuing)

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2022-2027	NHMRC	Centre of Research Excellence	Hides, Kelly, Farrell, Connelly, Marsden, Chan, Connor, Baker, Quinn, Larence Associate Investigators: Leung, Giles, Chenhall, Hudson Staff: Campbell, Pocuca, Beck, Fan, Mathew	Centre of Research Excellence on Meaningful Outcomes in Substance Use Treatments (MO CRE)	$2.5M
2024-2028	NHMRC	Ideas Grant	Stjepanović, Sun, Thai, Zheng	Monitoring nicotine: triangulating social media, global survey and wastewater data to inform future vaping and smoking policies	$1.54M
2024-2028	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care/ NHMRC	Medical Research Future Fund Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative - Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles	Chan, Sun, Leung, Stjepanović, Connor, Lim	Unclouding the future: igniting change with an AI-powered social media campaign against youth vaping	$1.8M
2024-2028	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care/ NHMRC	Medical Research Future Fund Public Health Research Initiative - Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles	Hides, Macdonald, Pocuca, Connelly, Campbell, Lenzen, Dingle, Cobham	QuikFix Good Night Out Program: a new social network targeted approach to reducing alcohol and other drug use and related harm in young university students	$1.8M
2024-2025	UQ Foundation	Research Excellence Award	Leung	Developing and evaluating an AI-assisted health promotion campaign on social media to tackle the public health concern of youth vaping	
2023-2024	Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group	International Project	Chan, Leung, Stjepanović	Establishing an international consortium on video gaming addiction	

NCYSUR in collaboration

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2024-2027	ARC	Linkage Project	Thai, Connor, Tscharke, Hall	Using multiple data sources to understand the opioid crisis in Australia	$259,608
2023-2028	NHMRC	Synergy Grant	Gartner, Fong, Hoek, Chan, Morphett, Erku, Hefler, Borland, Byrnes	The Interdisciplinary Tobacco Endgame Research Network (INTER-Net)	$5M
2021-2025	NHMRC	Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies	Morley, Haber, Lubman, Berk, Chatterton, Baillie, Slade, Connor, Arunogiri, Clark	A randomised controlled trial of N-acetylcysteine for the treatment of alcohol use disorder	$1.3M
2021-2024	NHMRC	Partnership Project	McCarthy, Smith, Chan, Tuffaha, Dobbins	BALANCE: Promoting wellBeing in AdoLescent and young Adult cancer survivors	$1.3M
2023-2026	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care/ NHMRC	Medical Research Future Fund Public Health Research Initiative - Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles	Bonevski, Ullah, Jongenelis, Pettigrew, Guillaumier, Dono, Hoek, Hides, Woolfenden, Smith, Edwards, Trigg	“Escape the vape”: designing health communications for prevention of e-cigarette use in young people	$834,636
2023-2026	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care/ NHMRC	Medical Research Future Fund Public Health Research Initiative - Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles	Newton, Freeman, Mihalopoulos, Stapinski, Birrell, McRobbie, Lee, Sunderland, Allsop, Hides, Leung, Thornton, Gardner, Stockings, McBride, Champion	A new scalable e-health approach to prevent e-cigarette use among adolescents: The OurFutures Vaping Program	$1.87M
2023-2028	CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) - Federal funding agency	Project Grant	Hammond, Driezen, Freeman, Greaves, Hall, Kilmer, Pacula, Wadsworth, Wilkins	Cannabis legalization in Canada: International Cannabis Policy Study	$2.1M (CAD)

NCYSUR in association

Years	Funder	Award	Chief Investigators	Title	Amount
2022-2026	NHMRC	Ideas Grant	Johnson, White, Mandryk, Drachen, Turkay, Lovell, Perrin, Ploderer, Kelly Associate Investigators: Hides, Saunders, Leung, Chan	Understanding and treating vid-eogame addiction in young people	$1.04M
2020-2025	NHMRC	Centre of Research Excellence	Gartner, Bonevski, Blakely, Ed-wards, Lovett, Rimmer, Borland, Fong, Farrell, Walker Associate Investigator: Chan Affiliates: Leung, Stjepanović PhD students: Lim, Sun, Vu	Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame	$3M

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Full Peer Reviewed Manuscripts

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3 Andrews C, Hall W, Humphreys K, Marsden J. Crafting effective regulatory policies for psychedelics: what can be learned from the case of cannabis? *Addiction* 2024; December 15. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16575.

4 Bade R, Hall W. The use of wastewater-based epidemiology to detect synthetic opioids in the community. *BMJ* 2024; 384: q5. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.q5.

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Preprints

1 Johnson B, Thomas N, Salom C. Exploring harm reduction advice for prescription stimulants on Reddit. *Research Square* 2024; October 18. https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-5265160/v1.

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Contributions to International Scientific and Professional Publishing

1 Connor JP, Saunders JB. Disorders due to substance use. In: Reed GM, Ritchie P, Maercker A, editors. A Psychological Approach to Diagnosis Using the ICD-11 as a Framework (pp269-88). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 2024.

2 Hall W, Stjepanovic D, Leung J. Cannabis (marijuana): is it a gateway drug? In: Balon R, Morreale M, editors. The Other Side of Cannabis: Impact on Mental and Physical Health (pp7-34). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association; 2024 in press.

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Oxford Handbook of Addiction Medicine - an Oxford Medical Handbook

1 Anderson P, Leung J, Degenhardt L, Assanangkornchai S, Saunders J, Brett J, Rumpf H-J. Chapter 2: Epidemiology. In: Saunders JB, Nutt D, Higuchi S, Assanangkornchai S, Bowden-Jones H, Van den Brink W, et al., editors. Oxford Handbook of Addiction Medicine (pp11-30). 3rd ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2024.

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5 Feeney GFX, Connor J. Chapter 18: Polysubstance use. In: Saunders JB, Nutt D, Higuchi S, Assanangkornchai S, Bowden-Jones H, Van den Brink W, et al., editors. Oxford Handbook of Addiction Medicine (pp515-32). 3rd ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2024.

MEETING PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

International Meetings

SRNT 2024- The 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

1 Bendotti H, Meciar I, Sun T, Lawler S, Lim C, Kang H, Morphett K, Marshall H, Gartner C. Smartphone applications to support tobacco cessation: a systematic review and meta-analyses (PPS3-1). Paper presented at SRNT 2024: The Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Conference, Edinburgh, Mar 20-23. https://srnt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SRNT24_Abstracts.pdf.

2 Gartner C, Morphett K, Meciar I, Kang H, Yimer T, McClure-Thomas C, Leung J, Bendotti H, Stjepanovic D, Sun T, Foo S, Chan G, Puljevic C. Internet-based programs to support tobacco cessation: a systematic review and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials (POS1-47). Poster presented at SRNT 2024: The Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Conference, Edinburgh, Mar 20-23.

3 Puljevic C, Meciar I, Holland A, Stjepanovic D, Snoswell CL, Thomas EE, Morphett K, Kang HW, Chan GRY, Grobler E, Gartner CE. Systematic review and meta-analysis of text messaging interventions to support tobacco cessation (POS2-16). Poster presented at SRNT 2024: The Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Conference, Edinburgh, Mar 20-23

4 Vu G, Stjepanovic D, Sun T, Leung J, Qiu YQ, Thai P, Connor J, Gartner C, Hall W, Chan G. A systematic review and meta-analysis of the relationship between smoking and intelligence measures (POS3-18). Poster presented at SRNT 2024: The Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Conference, Edinburgh, Mar 20-23.

2024 NIDA International Forum, US National Institute on Drug Abuse, June 14-15, held in conjunction with CPDD 2024 - the 86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, Fairmont the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

1 Vu G, Leung J, Cho A, Stjepanovic D, Sun T, Connor J, Thai P, Gartner C, Hall W, Fong GT, Gravely S, Quah ACK, Xu S, Chan G. Quantifying the longitudinal association between social norms and relative harm perception towards cigarettes and heated tobacco products and subsequent product use among people who use cigarettes and heated tobacco products in Japan. Poster presented at the US National Institute on Drug Addiction NIDA International Forum, June 14-15/86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, Montréal. https://nida.nih.gov/international/abstracts/quantifying-longitudinal-association-between-social-norms-relative-harm-perception-towards.

2 Dawson D, Stjepanovic D, Lorenzetti V, Cheung C, Hall W, Leung J. The prevalence of cannabis use disorders in people who use medicinal cannabis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Abstract from the 86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, Montréal. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2025; 267: 111464. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.111464.

3 Graham M, Hall WD, Pacula R, Hammond D. International drug policy study trends with psychedelic drugs: a spotlight on psilocybin, LSD, and MDMA. Abstract from the 86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, Montréal. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2025; 267: 112089. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.112089.

4 Price O, Ireland J, Peacock A, Webb P, Ottaviano S, Colledge-Frisby S, Wheeler A, Willing A, Kairouz A, Cunningham EB, Hajarizadeh B, Leung J, Tran LT, Vickerman P, Farrell M, Dore GJ, Hickman M, Grebely J, Degenhardt L. Sexually transmitted infection prevalence among people who inject drugs: a systematic review. Poster presented at NIDA International Forum, June 14-15/86th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, Montréal. https://nida.nih.gov/international/abstracts/sexually-transmitted-infection-prevalence-among-people-who-inject-drugs-systematic-review.

ISSDP - 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, June 19-21, University of Montréal Health Centre (CHUM)

1 Vu G. Longitudinal analysis of social norms towards cigarettes and HTPs among adult smokers and HTP users in Japan: findings from the 2018-2021 ITC Japan Surveys. Oral presentation #20 presented June 19 at ISSDP: 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, June 19-21, Centre de recherche du CHUM, University of Montréal. https://www.issdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ISSDP2024_Final_Program_10-06.pdf.

2 Dawson D. Prevalence and self-reported reasons of cannabis use for medical purposes in Australia: poster #18 presented June 19 at ISSDP: 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, June 19-21, Centre de recherche du CHUM, University of Montréal. https://www.issdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Book_of_Abstracts_Posters.pdf.

3 Sun T. Exposure to e-cigarette marketing and youth e-cigarette use in the United States: poster #48 presented June 21 at ISSDP: 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, June 19-21, Centre de recherche du CHUM, University of Montréal. https://www.issdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Book_of_Abstracts_Posters.pdf.

ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, the 3rd World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions, 23-26 September, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

1 Saunders JB. WHO policy and guidelines for disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviours: opening ceremony address by Professor John Saunders, Chair, on behalf of the World Health Organization. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, the joint Congress of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism & Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research, Melbourne, Monday, 23 September.

2 Vu G. Prevalence, trends and correlates of disposable e-cigarettes use among US youth. Free oral presentation. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Wednesday, 25 September.

3 Hides L. The QuikFix Good Night (GNO) social network targeted digital health program for reducing alcohol and other drug use in first year university college students. Symposium Paper. Symposium G4: Digital innovation in alcohol and other drug use research and practice; Kylie Lee and Kate Conigrave, Chairs. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Wednesday, 25 September.

4 Symposium H6: The International Gaming Study - a 4-country study to understanding gaming disorder and unhealthy gaming; Associate Professor Gary Chung Kai Chan, Chair.

5 Chan G. The Gaming Disorder Identification Test. Symposium H6 Paper. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Wednesday, 25 September.

6 Leung J. Gender differences in gaming patterns and experiences. Symposium H6 Paper. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Wednesday, 25 September.

7 Stjepanovic D. Resilience to impairment in older video gamers. Symposium H6 Paper. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Melbourne Wednesday, 25 September.

8 Symposium J5: Innovative treatments targeting biopsychosocial risk and protective factors for substance use; Professor Leanne Hides, Chair.

9 Hides L. J Social-network targeted brief interventions for risky drinking in college students. Symposium J5 Paper. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Thursday, 26 September.

10 Symposium K5: The Meaningful Outcomes in Substance Use Research, Centre for Research Excellence (MO CRE) - Routine outcome monitoring and feedback in alcohol and other drug treatment: what is currently known? Leanne Hides, Gabrielle Campbell, Chairs.

11 Stokes H. Symposium K5 Paper. Characteristics associated with baseline and follow-up completion of outcome measures in alcohol and other drug treatment services. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Thursday, 26 September.

12 Campbell G. Symposium K5 Paper. Preferences for routine outcome monitoring and feedback uptake: client and staff perspectives. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Thursday, 26 September.

13 Sun T. Longitudinal association between exposure to e-cigarette advertising and youth e-cigarette use in the United States. Free oral presentation. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, Thursday, 26 September.

14 Bui TX, Ngo HKT, Vu GT, Zheng Q, Nguyen DM, Hue TTT, Binh VN, Anh NTK, Thai PK. Assessing the impact of stricter drink driving policy on alcohol consumption in a population of Hanoi, Vietnam using wastewater analysis. Poster. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, September 23-26.

15 Johnson B, Sun T, Wu L, Seal S, Stjepanovic D, Chan G, Leung J. Depictions of prescription stimulants on TikTok. Poster. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, September 23-26.

16 Leung J, Husin HM, Yimer T, Dashti SG, Campbell G, Yuen WS, Degenhardt L, Hall WD, Olsson CA, Chan G, Patton GC, Kerr JA. The natural history of alcohol use disorder from early to middle adulthood: a longitudinal population-representative study of prevalence, incidence, and remission. Poster. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, September 23-26.

17 Yimer T. The health effects of dealcoholized red wine: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Poster. ISBRA-APSAAR 2024, September 23-26.

Lisbon Addictions 2024: the 5th European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, Lisbon Congress Centre, 23-25 October, Lisbon, Portugal

1 Chan G. The Gaming Disorder Identification Test (GADIT) - a screening tool for Gaming Disorder based on ICD-11. Assessment of Behavioural Addictions Session: Oral Presentation. Lisbon Addictions 2024: European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, Lisbon Congress Centre, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/gaming-disorder-identification-test-gadit-screening-tool-gaming-disorder-based-icd-11.

2 Yimer TM. The relationship between cannabis and tobacco use - a systematic review and meta-analysis. Methods and Measurement Session: Short Communication. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/relationship-between-cannabis-and-tobacco-use-systematic-review-and-meta-analysis.

3 Leung J. Extended hours of video game play and negative physical symptoms and pain. Problematic Gaming Session: Short Communication. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/extended-hours-video-game-play-and-negative-physical-symptoms-and-pain.

4 Stjepanovic D. Video gaming in older adults: resilience to impairment. Gaming and Health Session: Short Communication. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Friday, October 25. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/video-gaming-older-adults-resilience-impairment.

5 Vu G. Social norms and subsequent product use among people who use cigarettes and heated tobacco products in Japan. E-short Communication Session, Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/social-norms-and-subsequent-product-use-among-people-who-use-cigarettes-and-heated.

6 Johnson B. Viral prescriptions: a cross-sectional study of ADHD medication portrayals on TikTok. E-short Communication Session, Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/viral-prescriptions-cross-sectional-study-adhd-medication-portrayals-tiktok.

7 Gobie H. Alcohol use and alcohol use disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. E-short Communication Session, Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/alcohol-use-and-alcohol-use-disorders-sub-saharan-africa-systematic-review-and-meta.

8 Dawson D. The prevalence of cannabis use disorders in people who use medicinal cannabis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. E-Poster Session, Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/prevalence-cannabis-use-disorders-people-who-use-medicinal-cannabis-systematic-review.

9 Lim C. A systematic review of second-hand smoking mass media campaigns (2002-2022). E-short Communication Session, Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/systematic-review-second-hand-smoking-mass-media-campaigns-2002-2022.

10 McClure-Thomas C. Features and correlates of Internet Gaming Disorder in women and men who play video games: a cross-national study. E-short Communication, Session Day 1. Lisbon Addictions 2024, Wednesday, October 23. https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2024/presentations/features-and-correlates-internet-gaming-disorder-women-and-men-who-play-video-games.

CSCW '24: The 27th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. San Jose Costa Rica November 9 - 13, 2024

1 Freeman G, Frommel J, Mandryk RL, Gugenheimer J, Li L, Johnson D, ... Hides L, et al. Understanding and mitigating new harms in immersive and embodied virtual spaces: a speculative dystopian design fiction approach. In: Farzan R, Lopez C, editors. Companion of the 2024 Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. New York: ACM (Association for Computing Machinery); 2024. https://doi.org/10.1145/3678884.3681865.

National Meetings

1 Hall W. Ending non-prescription vape marketing and sales to youth. APSAD Midyear Symposium. Commercial Determinants of Health: Public health and the marketing and sales of alcohol, other drugs, and gambling. Melbourne Law School, Carlton, Victoria, Friday July 26https://www.apsad.org.au/images/stories/Annual_Symposia/APSAD-Melbourne-Symposium-Program.pdf.

2 Peek J, Vardon P, Passmore L, Peek H, Yang, Stone E, Manser R, Fogarty P, Brims F, McWilliams A, Gartner C, Hides L, Lawler S, Fong K, Marshall H. Screen2Quit: Engagement with a remote smoking cessation smartphone app randomized controlled trial in persons eligible for lung cancer screening. Paper presented at TSANZSRS 2024: The Australia & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science and The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (ANZSRS/TSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting for Leaders in Lung Health & Respiratory Science, 22–26 March, Gold Coast, Queensland. *Respirology* 2024; 29: 273.

APSAD 2024: Annual Conference of the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs, 30 October – 2 November, National Convention Centre, Canberra, ACT.

1 Hides L. Symposium on Progress: bringing Value Based Healthcare to life. Chair: Professor Leanne Hides. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s16. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

2 Cheng B, Lim C, Pariz Teixeira J, Gullo M, Chan G, Connor JP. The relationship between youth social media use and alcohol use: a prospective cohort study. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s42-s3. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

3 Chung J, Lim C, Hall W, Stjepanovic D, Chan GCK. Demographic, internalising and externalising severity differences among adults who vape cannabis versus use other cannabis route of administration: Wave 6 of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) study. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s44-s5. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

4 Graham M, Chiu CYV, Stjepanovic D, Hall W. A provisional evaluation of Australia's medical cannabis framework. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s60-s1. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

5 Graham M, Ge Y, Pacula R, Wilkins C, Hall W, Hammond D. International Drug Policy Study: trends in the use of psychedelic and dissociative substances with a focus on psilocybin, LSD, MDMA and ketamine. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s61-s2. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

6 Lim C, Sun T, Hall W, Gartner C, Connor J. Swipe to inhale: exploring the influence of social media on intention to use cigarettes and e-cigarettes among nicotine naïve youth. Presenter: Tianze Sun. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s90. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

7 Lim C, Vu G, Hall W, Su F-Y, Pocuca N, Chiu V, Stjepanovic D, Wu L, Leung J, Chan G, Connor J. Changes in route of administering cannabis over time: a systematic review and metaanalysis of US and Canadian studies. Presenter: Giang Vu. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s90-s1. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

8 Teo YM, Gartner C, Sun T, Cho A, Lim CCW. From content to clouds: the bidirectional associations between tobacco-related content on social media and youth tobacco use. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s134. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

9 Vu G, Sun T, Connor J, Thai P, Gartner C, Leung J, Chan G. Plenary Paper: Prevalence, trends and correlates of disposable e-cigarettes use among US youth. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: S145. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

10 Walter Z, Carlyle M, Mefodeva V, Glasgow S, Newland G, Nixon R, Cobham V, Hides L. Predictors of treatment and outcomes in trauma-informed residential substance use treatment setting. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 2024; 43: s146-s7. https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13943.

11 Dawson D, Stjepanovic, Lorenzetti V, Hall W, Leung J, Hammond D. Prevalence and self-reported reasons of cannabis use for medicinal purposes in Australia. Poster presented at APSAD 2024, Canberra, ACT, Late Breakers Session 2, Friday 1 November 2024. https://ashm.eventsair.com/apsad-conference-2024/.

12 Salom C, Thomas N, Olsen A, Bruno R, Peacock A, Juckel J, Barber T, Kocar S, Robinson M, Connor J, Hides L. Evaluating the Queensland drug checking services: framework and methodology. Poster presented at APSAD 2024, Canberra, ACT, Thursday 31 October 2024. https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:a678372.

13 Vu G, Sun T, Connor J, Thai P, Gartner C, Leung J, Chan G. Trends in social norms towards cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use among US youth between 2015 and 2021: Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study. Poster presented at APSAD 2024, Canberra, ACT, 30 October-2 November 2024.

Other National Meetings

1. Peek J, Vardon P, Passmore L, Peek H, Yang, Stone E, Manser R, Fogarty P, Brims F, McWilliams A, Gartner C, Hides L, Lawler S, Fong K, Marshall H. Screen2Quit: Engagement with a remote smoking cessation smartphone app randomized controlled trial in persons eligible for lung cancer screening. Paper presented at TSANZSRS 2024: The Australia & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science and The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (ANZSRS/TSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting for Leaders in Lung Health & Respiratory Science, 22–26 March, Gold Coast, Queensland. Respirology 2024; 29: 273.
2. Campbell G. Implementation, sustainability, client, and service outcomes of delivering the First Step brief intervention in outpatient alcohol and other drug treatment services. Paper presented at the Australian Winter School AOD Conference: Different ways of doing, Brisbane, 21-23 August 2024. https://www.winterschool.org.au/aws-program.
3. Hides L. Keynote: Outcome measurement in AOD treatment. Meaningful Outcomes in Substance Use Treatment: NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence at The University of Queensland. Paper presented at the Australian Winter School AOD Conference: Different ways of doing, Brisbane, 21-23 August 2024. https://www.winterschool.org.au/aws-program.
4. Campbell G. Clinical profiles of substance use treatment entrants in Australia: Do youth differ from young adults and adults? Paper presented at the Australian Winter School AOD Conference: Different ways of doing, Brisbane, 21-23 August 2024. https://www.winterschool.org.au/aws-program.
5. Hides L. Keynote: Time to test: The story of drug checking in Queensland. Cameron Francis, The Loop Australia. Facilitated by Leanne Hides. Paper presented at the Australian Winter School AOD Conference: Different ways of doing, Brisbane, 21-23 August 2024. https://www.winterschool.org.au/aws-program.
6. Byrne S, Chawla I, Hides L. A rapid review of mindfulness and ACT for alcohol use disorders. Paper presented at the Society for Mental Health Research, 6-8 November, Sydney, 2024.

Public submissions and consultations

1. Hall W. Submission - Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024 [Provisions]. Community Affairs Legislation Committee. Canberra: Parliament of Australia; 2024. Available from: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/VapingReformsBill/Submissions.
2. Vu G, Chan G, Sun T, Connor J, Leung J. Submission - Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024 [Provisions]. Community Affairs Legislation Committee. Canberra: Parliament of Australia; 2024. Available from: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/VapingReformsBill/Submissions.
3. Yimer T, Chan G, McClure-Thomas C, Sun T, Vu G, Connor J, Stjepanovic D, Leung J. Submission - Inquiry into social media impacts on Australian society. Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society. Canberra: Parliament of Australia; 2024. Available from: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Social_Media_and_Australian_Society/SocialMedia/Submissions.
4. Stjepanovic D, Campbell G, Barnett T, Sun T, Connor J, Yimer TM, Lim C, Hides L. Submission - Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia. House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport. Canberra: Parliament of Australia; 2024. Available from: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/Alcoholanddrugs/Submissions.

NCYSUR STAFF LISTING

Name	Position
Professor Jason Connor	Director
Professor Leanne Hides	Deputy Director
Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall	Emeritus Professor
Associate Professor Gary Chan	NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow (II)
Associate Professor Janni Leung	NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow
Dr Daniel Stjepanović	Senior Research Fellow
Dr Gabrielle Campbell	Senior Research Fellow
Dr Catherine Quinn	Honorary Research Fellow
Dr Carmen Lim	NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow
Dr Lauren Fothergill	Research Fellow
Dr Saira Mathew	Research Fellow
Dr Nina Pocuca	Research Fellow

Name	Position
Dr Tianze Sun	Research Fellow
Dr Tesfa Mekonen Yimer	Research Fellow
Dr Valeriya Mefodeva	Research Psychologist
Ms Rhiannon Ellem	Research Coordinator
Ms Chloe Alcorn	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Tara Alcorn	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Elise Cardamone	Acting Research Coordinator
Ms Amra Catakovic	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Sophia Glasgow	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Caitlyn Knight	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Grace Newland	Senior Research Assistant
Ms Sarah Yeates	Senior Research Assistant

Honorary, Affiliate, Adjunct

Name	Position	Description
Professor Paul Clark	Honorary Professor	Director, Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Honorary Professor Gerald F. X. Feeney	Honorary Professor	Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Professor Sharyn Rundle-Thiele	Honorary Professor	Social Marketing @ Griffith University
Professor John Saunders	Honorary Professor	Professor, Consultant Physician in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, Sydney
Professor Ross Young	Honorary Professor	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, University of the Sunshine Coast
Professor Bruce Lawford	Adjunct Professor	Senior Medical Officer, Alcohol and Drug Detoxification Service, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Professor Anthony Shakeshaft	Affiliate Professorial Research Fellow	UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
Professor Timo Dietrich	Adjunct Senior Fellow	Social Marketing @ Griffith University
Dr Sarangan Ketheesan	Adjunct Senior Fellow	Psychiatry Registrar, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Dr Hoiyan Karen Li	Adjunct Senior Fellow	Clinical Educator (Psychologist), Insight, Queensland Health
Dr Jason Coates	Honorary Research Fellow	Clinical Psychologist, ADAU, PAH and Psychology Consultants, Morningside
Dr Lisa Shelley	Adjunct Research Fellow	Addiction Medicine Advanced Trainee, Gold Coast University Hospital
Mr Cameron Francis	Adjunct Research Fellow	CEO, The Loop Australia
Dr Laura Anderson	Adjunct Research Fellow	Cancer Council Australia

OUR STUDENTS

Research Higher Degrees Awarded in 2024

Student Name	NCYSUR Supervisors	Topics	Degree
Dr Brienna Rutherford	Chan, Leung, Stjepanović, Connor	Social substances: the online landscape of substance use	PhD
Dr Tianze Sun	Chan, Leung, Hall, Connor	Evaluating the public health impacts of vaping product use	PhD
Dr Calvert Tisdale	Leung, Hides	Utilisation of data linkage to determine the long-term health and substance use outcomes of residential substance use treatment	PhD
Dr Lily Davidson	Hides, Chan	Advancements in understanding and intervention of problematic alcohol use by emerging adults in Australia	PhD

Research Higher Degrees Commenced in 2024

Student Name	NCYSUR Supervisors	Topics	Degree
Ms Holly Stokes	Hides, Campbell, Pocuca	Treatment completed: client characteristics and the conceptual framework of completion in alcohol and other drug treatment	PhD

Research Higher Degrees Ongoing

Student Name	NCYSUR Supervisors	Topics	Degree
Brandon Hsu-Cheng Chen	Connor, Lim, Chan	The influence of social media upon alcohol use: an investigation of effects and mechanisms	PhD
Jack Yiu Chak Chung	Chan, Leung, Stjepanović, Hall, Connor	Impacts of cannabis use and cannabis vaping: insight into Australian cannabis policies	PhD
Danielle Dawson	Leung, Hall, Stjepanović	Medicinal cannabis use in Australia	PhD
Sophia Glasgow	Campbell, Hides	Supporting d/deaf and hard of hearing Australians: accessibility of digital mental health services for mental disorders, substance use disorders, and suicide-related behaviours	PhD
Habte Belete Gobie	Leung, Chan, Hides	Prevention of risky behaviour and mental illness in adolescents	PhD
Ben Johnson	Chan, Hall, Stjepanović, Leung, Sun	Learning from the opioid crisis: preventing the proliferation of prescription stimulant for non-medical use	PhD
Caitlin McClure-Thomas	Leung, Chan, Connor, Yimer	Cannabis advertising and effectiveness of an AI integrated health promotion campaign	PhD
Giang Vu	Chan, Connor	Emerging tobacco-related products and their relationship to tobacco smoking	PhD
Angela Wanigasooriya	Gullo, Connor	Social cognitive predictors of treatment outcomes for amphetamine use and application of a bioSocial cognitive model	PhD

MAJOR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

IN AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (ACT)
Griffith University (Qld)
National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) (NSW)
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University
Deakin University (Vic)
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (Vic)
Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (Vic)
Orygen Youth Health Research Centre (Vic)

INTERNATIONAL

European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction
King's College London, National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
RAND Corporation Drug Policy Research Centre, Santa Monica, California
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Otago
University of Plymouth
University of Strathclyde
University of Vienna
University of Washington- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute
World Bank
World Health Organization (Expert Committee on Drug Dependence)

RESEARCH

We collaborate widely with leading national and international alcohol and drug researchers.

PARTNERS

We have well-established partnerships across the drug and alcohol, mental health, emergency, housing and social support sectors.

INDUSTRY AND CLINICAL

Representatives of many of these services are represented on the NCYSUR Advisory Board and have formal UQ affiliate joint appointments with the Centre. These include:

Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital

The Alcohol and Drug Assessment Unit is a multidisciplinary outpatient Liaison Clinical Service at a large Australian metropolitan university teaching hospital. The team of doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists offers assessment and management of substance misuse and problems related to addiction treatment programs for alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and stimulants. They follow best practice in alcohol and drug treatment, education, research and addictions medicine. This program accepts self-referrals and no formal referrals are required to access the service.

Brisbane Catholic Education

NCYSUR partners with Brisbane Catholic Education to deliver innovative social marketing programs in schools to combat alcohol-related problems. Key components of Australian Research Council Linkage Grant funded programs are now embedded in the curriculum of 183 schools in Queensland.

Logan Youth Action Group

The Logan Youth Action Group is an initiative of the Logan City Council and comprises a diverse group of over 30 members, aged 14 to 25 years old from more than 10 cultural backgrounds. The group members live, work or study in the City of Logan and are passionate about making a positive difference in the local community. The group plays an active role in ensuring the needs of young people are heard, while also turning ideas into exciting community projects.

ChaplainWatch Inc

ChaplainWatch is an independent Brisbane-based charity, focused on public safety in public spaces. It provides a unique, non-authoritarian service, which encompasses crisis intervention, conflict resolution, front-line first aid, counselling and guidance, secondary victim support, and welfare assistance. This rapid response service works in partnership with other official services. ChaplainWatch is a key partner in the QuikFix early intervention project.

Children's Health Queensland Children & Youth Mental Health Services

Children & Youth Mental Health Services at Children's Health Queensland specialises in helping infants, children and young people up to the age of 18 years who have complex mental health and drug and alcohol needs. CYMHS is a key partner on the QuikFix early intervention research program.

Dovetail/Insight

Dovetail is the auspicing body that provides clinical advice and professional support to workers, services and communities across Queensland who engage with young people affected by alcohol and other drug use. Insight is the leading provider of alcohol and other drug training, education, clinical advice and practice support for workers and services in Queensland.

Drug & Alcohol Brief Intervention Team (DABIT; Queensland Health)

Based at key Queensland hospitals, the DABIT service model is based on successful services overseas, and targets people with alcohol and drug problems not currently in treatment. Young people attending emergency departments often have substance use problems. For example, road trauma, assaults and injuries are often associated with high risk drinking and other drug usage. By providing targeted brief interventions, DABIT can reduce the likelihood of patients progressing from substance use to substance dependence. Professor Hides will implement and evaluate the evidence-based QuikFix early intervention model in these services.

Lives Lived Well

Lives Lived Well is the body that auspices the non-government drug and alcohol treatment sector in Queensland. It has a strong focus on young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and families.

Mater Health Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Withdrawal Service (ADAWS)

ADAWS supports young people through individualised and group support, brief interventions, relapse prevention planning and alternative drug-free activities. The service also aims to reduce drug-related harm by utilising harm reduction strategies that take personal goals and choices into account. ADAWS is a key implementation site of the QuikFix early intervention program and is involved in several other treatment studies.

Queensland Alcohol & Drug Information Service (ADIS; Queensland Health)

ADIS provides people with a range of interventions that influence and support the decision to reduce or cease harmful substance use. Referrals to alcohol and other drugs services come can come from the individual experiencing the problem, family and friends, community services, Hospital and Health Services, GPs, Police, Courts and Corrective Services.

Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit (QISU; Queensland Health/Mater Health)

Since 1988, Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit (QISU) continuously collects urban injury data from Brisbane's major hospitals, as well as periodically collecting rural data. It has strong collaborations with NCYSUR and Professor Hides in her work on preventable youth alcohol and drug injuries.

APPENDIX: RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Director's welcome: Prof. Jason Connor

Keynote 1: Prof. David Hammond [virtual] International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project - Youth smoking, vaping and cannabis use View

Rapid fire presentations 1: Vaping and Stimulants

Ms. Sophia Glasgow: Vaping among Australian university students View

Ms. Amra Catakovic: School-based eHealth intervention to prevent e-cigarette use

Mr. Ben Johnson: Depictions of prescription stimulants on TikTok View

Ms. Grechel Taucare: Impact of methamphetamine seizures on consumption trends

Research update: Joel Keygan and Bec Hyland - The Tina Trial - Mirtazapine as a pharmacotherapy for methamphetamine use disorder

Keynote 2: Dr. Jill Halladay - Co-occurring substance use and emotional problems amongst adolescents View

Keynote 3: A/Prof. Valentina Lorenzetti Cannabis and cognition in youth View

Keynote 4: E/Prof. Wayne Hall Social and public health impacts of cannabis legalisation View

Rapid fire presentations 2: Cannabis and Alcohol

Dr. Carmen Lim: Changes in route of administrating cannabis over time View

Dr. Tesfa Yimer: The longitudinal relationship between cannabis and tobacco use View

Ms. Danielle Dawson: Adverse health outcomes of medicinal cannabis View

Mr. Habte Gobie: Alcohol use and alcohol use disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa

Keynote 5: Prof. Keith Humphreys - Synthetic opioids View

Keynote 6: Ms. Tianze Sun and Ms. Giang Vu - Vaping in the Australian and global setting View

Rapid fire presentations 3: Alcohol and Behavioural addictions

Ms. Brienna Rutherford: Alcohol-related advertisements on social media platforms View

Mr. Brandon Cheng: Youth social media and alcohol use View

Dr. Nina Pocuca: Suicide ideation among young people enrolled in Alcohol and Other Drug treatment View

Dr. Gabrielle Campbell: Gambling behaviours in young people presenting to Alcohol and Other Drug treatment View

Ms. Tara Alcorn: Mental health, substance use, and DSM-5 symptoms of internet gaming disorder in young people

Keynote 7: Prof. John Saunders Translating research into policy: a case study of gambling View

Research update: A/Prof Gary Chan - International Gaming Study 2024 View

Closing: Prof. Leanne Hides, NCYSUR Deputy Director

NCYSUR ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Greg Monteith (Associate Dean Research, UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences)

Professor Jason Connor (Director, National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research, UQ)

Professor Leanne Hides (Deputy Director, National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research, UQ)

Professor Doune Macdonald (Pro-Vice-Chancellor [Teaching & Learning], UQ)

Associate Professor Nicholas Carah (Director of Digital Cultures and Societies Hub, School of Communication and Arts, UQ)

Mr Mitchell Giles (CEO, Lives Lived Well)

Ms Rebecca Lang (Chief Executive Officer, Qld Network of Alcohol & Other Drug Agencies)

Mr Cameron Francis (Team Leader, Dovetail, Queensland Health)



Staff and student retreats on Moreton Bay



End of year celebrations with Director and Deputy Director



NCYSUR people relax in the breaks at the World Congress

2024 was a year rich in connection and community.



Young researchers networking event at the NCYSUR Symposium

NCYSUR Symposium conference dinner



Picnic with the NCYSUR team





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