Capability Summary: Regarding the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental health System Expertise in mental health and related fields at the University of Melbourne.



Professor Lena Sanci is the Head of Department, Director of Teaching and Learning, and co-lead of the Children and Young People's Research Stream, Department of General Practice (DGP), University of Melbourne. She is a GP with a commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and young people through primary care, and its integration with other parts of the health, education, and welfare sectors. Lena is the expert advisor to the Victorian Government on the GPs in secondary schools program and lead provider of clinical training in youth-friendly care for GPs and nurses involved in the program. She was also a Research Program Leader in the Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre (2011-2016) which researched the potential of technology to improve the mental health and clinical service system for youth.



Professor Jane Gunn is a distinguished academic general practitioner and inaugural Chair of Primary Care Research at The University of Melbourne, whose leadership has raised the profile and rigour of primary care research in Australia. She established a successful mental health research program which has documented the patient experience, developed new models of care and influenced policy and practice as well as forged many successful international research collaborations and built research capacity. Her current work focusses on developing clinical prediction tools and utilising digital technologies to improve mental health care. She has contributed via advisory roles to the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme, the Australian Government's Science Priorities and Mental Health Expert Reference Groups.



Professor Kelsey Hegarty is an academic general practitioner who holds the joint Chair in Family Violence Prevention at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Women's Hospital. She co-chairs the Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence against Women (MAEVe). Her research includes the evidence base for interventions to prevent violence against women; educational and complex interventions around identification of domestic and family violence in primary care settings and early intervention with men, women and children exposed to abuse. Interventions are delivered through health care and through the use of new technologies. She is one of the Co-Directors of the Centre for Research Excellence to Promote Safer Families. The Centre is a national and international collaboration comprising researchers, families and communities, policy-makers, practitioners, community organisations, and health, family and women's services.

Kelsey also leads the WEAVERs a group of women with lived experience of family violence and mental health conditions. The group are co-producers of research and advisers to MAEVe and Safer Families .



A/Professor Victoria Palmer leads the Integrated Mental Health Research Program and the Co-Design Living Lab within the program and is internationally recognised for her expertise in participatory design methods for health systems and quality improvement. Her research aims to improve outcomes for people with severe mental illness and includes a world-first trial of experience-based codesign and a trial of assertive care to reduce cardiovascular risk. A/Prof Palmer was a member of the lived experience engagement framework leadership group for the implementation of the Victorian Ten Year Mental Health Plan.



Dr Susie Fletcher is the Deputy Lead of the Integrated Mental Health Research Program within the Department of General Practice. Her research seeks to develop and test of novel approaches to delivering stepped mental health care within the primary care setting. She has recently overseen two large-scale trials of systematic approaches to triaging and the delivery of care navigation to support appropriate care for people with severe and complex needs.



Dr Matthew Lewis is a Research Fellow in the Integrated Mental Health Research Program within the Department of General Practice with a background in the intersection between mental health, physical health and cognitive health. He is currently managing the Assertive Cardiac Care Trial to reduce cardiovascular risk in people with severe mental illness through primary care.



Dr Bianca Forrester is an Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) specialising GP, with over a decade of experience working in youth primary mental healthcare services and workforce development initiatives in the Greater Geelong region. Bianca lectures at the University of Melbourne and Deakin university and is an academic and policy advisor to the Department of Education and Training (DET) for the state-wide Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) government initiative. Bianca is currently the DiSS GP at North Geelong Secondary School.



Dr Caroline Johnson is a general practitioner and educator, with experience in mental health research and advocacy. Caroline has represented her profession in numerous mental health-related advocacy settings, at State and National levels, for more than 20 years. She has served as Clinical Lead - Mental Health on the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Expert Committee for Quality Care, and as a Board Member of Mental Health Australia. She is a founding member of Mental Health Professionals Australia. She is a passionate advocate for improving the delivery of primary mental health care, both in her own clinical practice, but also via her roles in academic, vocational training and NGO settings. Caroline completed her PhD on the role of monitoring for depression in the primary care setting based on interviews with general practitioners, patients and their carers. She has published on recovery from depression, mental health treatment plans and the important role of general practice in providing care for common mental disorders



Christine Hallinan is a Post Doctoral Research Fellow from the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne. She is an econometrist who has a clinical background in nursing. Christine has expertise in the analysis of time series data and experience in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Her statistical skills include the development of forecasting and prediction models using ARIMA, and the use of segmented regression analysis to evaluate policy change.