



UNIVERSITY OF  
TASMANIA

**WICKING**

Dementia Research  
and Education Centre

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# ABOUT THE WICKING DEMENTIA CENTRE

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre is a global leader in dementia research and education, with a mission to transform the understanding of dementia worldwide and to build a workforce to lead positive change in ageing and dementia care. Our mission would not be possible without the tremendous support of the J.O. and J.R. Wicking Trust (Equity Trustees), who have been instrumental in our success over the years by providing substantial funding to the Centre. Along with the many private donors, funding bodies and organisations who have supported us, we thank you most sincerely.

The Wicking Dementia Centre has created a collaborative environment of researchers and global specialists who are working together to advance progress across the cause, prevention and care of dementia.

Dementia has a profound impact on individuals, families and communities and the number of people with dementia across the world increases every year as our global population ages. Dementia is now one of the most significant health, social and economic issues of the 21st century with nearly half a million Australians currently living with dementia – and this will double by 2050.

The majority of people with dementia live in the community and nearly all health care workers will come into contact with families, carers, and individuals living with dementia at some stage during their careers. The goal of the Wicking Dementia Centre is to provide education about this condition for carers, families and health professionals to help improve the quality of care and safety for people living with dementia, and to help people reduce their risk of developing dementia.



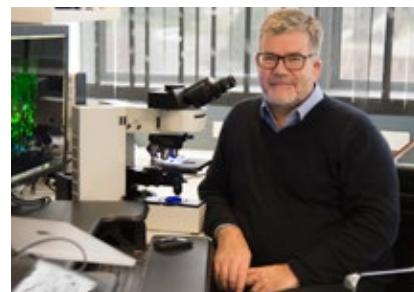
In September 2019 **the number of people living with dementia worldwide is estimated at 50 million;** this figure will almost triple by 2050 (WHO 2019)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre has had a very busy and successful 2019. I would like to note my gratitude to our committed staff who have been responsible for some terrific outcomes across education and research, as well as engagement with the wider community.

We hit some 'big numbers' this year for our educational programs – our 1000th Dementia Care program graduate and another 80,000 enrolments in the MOOCs.

The Bachelor of Dementia Care has also come up for significant revision, and we started some new courses – a postgraduate program, including the Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master of Dementia, and the Bachelor of Ageing and Dementia Studies. We also welcomed new staff who have already contributed strongly across our programs.

I would like to thank all of our program and project supporters, particularly Equity Trustees, who, through the J.O. and J.R. Wicking Trust, have enabled the dementia MOOCs to be available for free, and have also supported a substantial set of research projects that examine how these educational offerings have an impact on course participants. This has included an important paper published in 2019 in the prestigious Nature journal, Science of Learning, on how the Understanding Dementia MOOC builds the dementia knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of participants.

We were also delighted to partner with St. Lukes Health and the Tasmanian Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation to develop the Island Study Linking Ageing and Neurodegenerative Disease (ISLAND). This ambitious project seeks to use Tasmania as a 'test-bed' to determine if it is possible to change behaviours and health factors related to risk of dementia. We have over 10,000 Tasmanian signed up to participate in what we hope will be a 10-year project that will point the way to new approaches to reduce dementia risk.

In Australia, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was a dominant feature on the landscape of aged and dementia care throughout 2019. The Wicking Dementia Centre made several submissions to the Commission across a range of topics, and staff appeared as expert witnesses. The Commission will complete its work in 2020, and we are hoping that education and training will be recommended as a cornerstone for improving the quality and safety of aged and dementia care, and that the findings will also be a catalyst to reduce the fear and stigma of this condition, enabling an inclusive approach to people with dementia in our community.

My thanks also to the many people who have undertaken our formal and informal courses. You are very much at the vanguard of improving the world for people with dementia. Your own commitment to the power of education to transform the understanding of, and care for, dementia is a constant inspiration to staff at the Wicking Dementia Centre. I wish you all the best for 2020 and hope that there may be many areas that we can work together in advancing our common mission of improvements in care for dementia.

**Distinguished Professor James Vickers  
Director, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre**

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

<b>Grant Research Funding</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
New funding	\$6,397,834	\$5,152,685	\$7,911,929	\$5,469,068
Total funds managed	\$18,610,268	\$12,780,276	\$17,553,371	\$11,438,254
<b>Dementia Care Degree Program</b>	<b>Graduands to date</b>	<b>2019</b>		
Bachelor of Dementia Care	211	59		
Associate Degree in Dementia Care	175	34		
Diploma of Dementia Care	706	152		
<b>Total enrolments</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>245</b>		
<b>Dementia MOOCs</b>	<b>To date</b>	<b>Total 2019 enrolled</b>	<b>Australian in 2019</b>	<b>International in 2019</b>
Understanding Dementia	220,093	46,615	31,016	15,599
Preventing Dementia	101,397	38,620	26,664	11,956
<b>Total enrolments</b>	<b>321,490</b>	<b>85,235</b>	<b>57,680</b>	<b>27,555</b>



# EDUCATION

The Wicking Dementia Centre has created a collaborative environment of researchers and global specialists who are working together to advance progress across the cause, prevention and care of dementia, with up-to-date research evidence informing all our education programs.

The Wicking Dementia Centre has a mission to transform the understanding of dementia worldwide and to build a workforce to lead positive change in ageing and dementia care. The rising prevalence of dementia is creating new challenges and a pressing need for change in the way our systems and practices support people who live with dementia.

## UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA AND PREVENTING DEMENTIA MOOCs

Improving dementia literacy, through maximising the reach of our Understanding and Preventing Dementia MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and evaluating the impacts of this program is a major focus for the Centre. Our free MOOCs continued their success in 2019, being recognised in the top 10 global online health courses through Class Central, with UD MOOC at number 1 and PD MOOC reaching number 3 during 2019.

## DEMENTIA CARE DEGREE PROGRAM

The Wicking Dementia Centre's award-winning Dementia Care Degree Program, which is based on the latest research and delivered entirely online, continued to be popular in 2019. Australia's first degree specifically focused on dementia allows students to develop specialist knowledge to enable the delivery of best practice in dementia care. 2019 saw the Wicking Dementia Centre reach over 1000 graduates in this degree program with 1092 students having graduated from the program since 2013.

## DIPLOMA OF DEMENTIA CARE

A Diploma of Dementia Care, based on the Dementia Care Degree Program, was offered in 2019 exclusively to University of Tasmanian College of Health and Medicine partners due to the tremendous demand within the aged care industry for quality education.

This eight-unit, online program provides specialist knowledge in direct care to enable the delivery of best practice dementia care to make a difference to the care and safety of individuals living with dementia, and their families. Due to its success this course will be opened up to general applications from the broader community, outside the partner network.

## BACHELOR OF AGEING AND DEMENTIA STUDIES

2019 saw the introduction of the Bachelor of Ageing and Dementia Studies. This course complements the established Dementia Care Degree Program offering greater scope and focus to enable students to develop their knowledge and progress their careers. It is a specialised and contemporary evidence-based undergraduate degree focusing on issues relating to aged care and dementia in an ageing Australia. Students will develop management and leadership skills, to be at the forefront of creating a more inclusive society for older adults, as well as understanding infrastructure and services needed to best support our ageing population. The course provides a deep understanding of the aged care system in Australia and the impacts of conditions associated with ageing across diverse groups in the community.



## MASTER OF DEMENTIA PROGRAM

Postgraduate study pathways were also introduced in 2019, aimed at individuals and professionals requiring an in-depth understanding of dementia and its global impact on individuals, societies and governments. The postgraduate program is particularly relevant to health care professionals, particularly nurses and allied health practitioners. Graduates will have a mastery of the diseases that cause dementia, the best evidence for care models in the community and residential sector, leadership capacity in policy and systems, assessment of the needs of people with dementia, and the policy frameworks that influence this sector.



## STUDENT AND GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS

### **Emma Elaine Bachelor of Dementia Care student**

"My goal is to provide a tangible difference in quality care for dementia..... The best bit about the course has been changing my perspective; I really do believe that people can live well with dementia, and that's been inspiring and also it's exciting to keep learning about how we can actually achieve that."

### **Judith Hobart Bachelor of Dementia Care student**

"It's set out very well and very easy to follow – and the encouragement you get from all areas, student services and lecturers, is really good. They keep you on track. The knowledge I'm gaining, I use it in my everyday practice at work, but also in my private life."

### **Danielle Dyce Bachelor of Dementia Care Graduand**

"Through doing the BDC ...., they've actually made a new role for me since I've done the degree....as dementia care coordinator at our facility. I'm responsible for everything that's not clinical ... supporting them with independence and behaviour management strategies... making sure they have a fantastic day every day of their life."

### **Ian Sutherland Diploma of Dementia Care Graduand**

"I could see the merit of understanding the neuroscience and behavioural and caring aspects. It was a natural follow-on (from the MOOCs) to take on the BDC. I found the course itself was enormously stimulating in its own right."

### **Evthoxia Lynch Bachelor of Dementia Care Graduand**

"The Bachelor of Dementia Care opened my eyes to the many ways I can support the quality of life of people living with dementia by increasing my knowledge, compassion and ability to advocate for their specific needs."

### **Michael Preston Associate Degree in Dementia Care Graduand**

"The degree in dementia care has opened doors and given me the opportunity to become a champion in awareness and appreciation of the problems involved with the many forms of dementia."

# RESEARCH

The Wicking Dementia Centre has three major research themes focusing on dementia cause, prevention and care.

Research projects focusing on these themes have involved collaborations with community groups, the aged care industry, and other universities. This ensures that the most up-to-date information is available to inform our curriculum.

The following pages feature one example of the research being undertaken for each of these themes.

## CAUSE – UNDERSTANDING BRAIN CHANGES IN DEMENTIA

### Stress and dementia risk

Stressful experiences are an inescapable part of life and they can profoundly impact our brains as we age. There is emerging evidence that acutely traumatic experiences, as well as chronic stress, can increase our risk of dementia. Yet many unanswered questions remain in this under-researched area. Why and how does this occur? Can dementia be prevented or delayed by interventions which increase stress resilience?

Researchers at the Wicking Dementia Centre are taking a two-pronged approach to answer these questions. Firstly, through the wonderful participants from the Tasmanian Healthy Brain Project and ISLAND Project, research is underway to explore how stress in daily life relates to brain health, physical health and dementia risk. Part of this work involves measuring a hormone called cortisol, which is secreted during times of stress. Recently, 65 potential ISLAND participants were surveyed to see how important they perceived this research to be and which parameters they felt should be investigated, and responses were overwhelmingly supportive. This work will lead to new insights into how our stress hormone



### Aged Care is a growth industry.

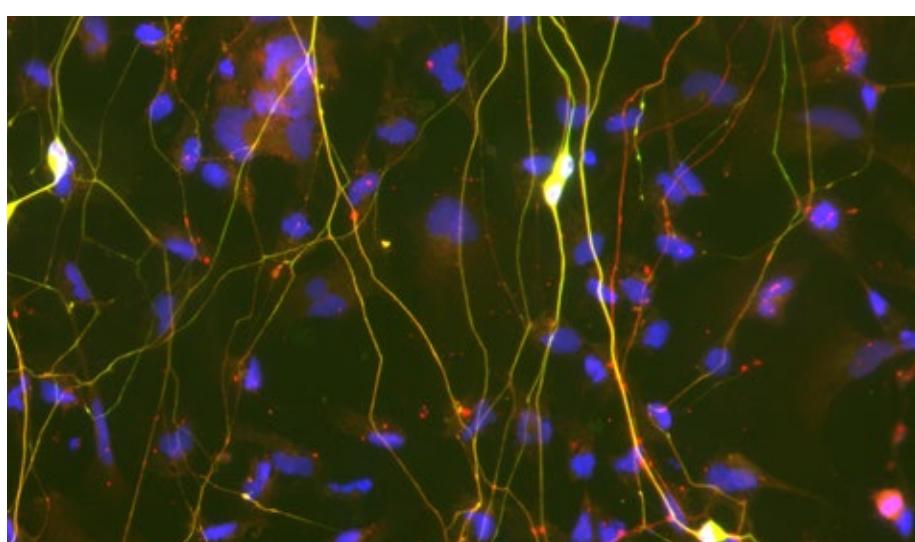
The Productivity Commission predicts that 3.5 million Australians will be accessing aged care services every year by 2050.

levels change with age, how they are impacted by stressful and traumatic events and how these relate to our brain health, physical health and cognition. It will enable more comprehensive, evidence-based dementia prevention efforts.

Secondly, nerve-like cells from adult human donors are being used to investigate what happens during stress in the cells and molecules of the brain. Lab-based researchers are exploring whether cellular changes which accompany ageing and dementia impair the brain's stress response, or whether stress amplifies damage associated with dementia. This work is shedding light on which molecules could be targeted therapeutically to protect the brain from stress and trauma in older age.

### Investigators:

- Dr Duncan Sinclair
- Dr Kimberley Stuart
- Distinguished Professor James Vickers
- Edward Hill
- Adoni Fiotakis
- James Brady



## PREVENTION – CAN WE PREVENT DEMENTIA?

### **Supporting our Community – The ISLAND Project**

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre has close connections with our Tasmanian community and value their contribution to our research. During 2019, we launched the ISLAND Project – the largest dementia prevention project in the world.

The ISLAND Project is a state-wide initiative focussed on tackling lifestyle and health factors that are not only linked to the risk of dementia but are important for many other common chronic conditions and illnesses in older adults. These risk factors include, for example, midlife hypertension, low physical activity, smoking and stress. Many of these risk factors are prevalent in our population and we want to help our community members to reduce their risk of dementia and improve their overall health and wellbeing.

A highlight of the ISLAND Project this year has been the fantastic support we have received, with over 10,900 Tasmanians registering their interest in the ISLAND Project to date. We are continuing our recruitment of

participants and a recent partnership with St Luke's Health will assist in this drive in southern Tasmania.

We aim to educate and empower our community to make changes that positively impact individual's health and dementia risk. Through the ISLAND Project, we will work with our communities and community focussed organisations across the state to reduce our populations' dementia risk through education and a range of community-based initiatives and activities.

#### Investigators:

- Distinguished Professor James Vickers
- Dr Jane Alty
- Dr Maree Farrow
- Dr Kathleen Doherty
- Larissa Bartlett
- Helen Douglas (Project Manager)

## CARE – IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

### **Investigating the potential of the Understanding Dementia MOOC**

Wicking Dementia Centre researchers have investigated the potential of the Understanding Dementia MOOC, a

flagship education program offered by the Centre, to improve dementia knowledge.

Published this year in Science of Learning, we found that undertaking the UD MOOC resulted in significant improvements in knowledge of dementia across all participant groups, whatever their experience of dementia through work, having family members with dementia or completion of dementia education.

Knowledge of dementia was assessed using the Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale, a validated survey tool developed by the Wicking Dementia Centre and now used globally. Having prior experience of dementia through education, work or family contributed to baseline knowledge, however fundamental gaps in key areas remained. The UD MOOC was able to build on this base knowledge to provide a more comprehensive awareness about dementia, including the most appropriate ways to provide effective care, how to appropriately communicate with people living with the condition, the causes of dementia and symptoms as it progresses, and the risk factors for developing dementia.

This research provides one of the first objective outcome measures of the effectiveness of open online courses since MOOCs first emerged. In a context of rising rates of dementia prevalence globally, and the growing need for education and training of informal carers and the paid dementia care and health workforce, this work demonstrates the potential of the UD MOOC to comprehensively improve dementia knowledge in a diverse, international learner group.

#### Investigators:

- Dr Claire Eccleston
- Dr Kathleen Doherty
- Aidan Bindoff
- Professor Andrew Robinson
- Distinguished Professor James Vickers
- Professor Fran McInerney



## SELECT PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR THEMES

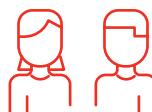
Below is a selection of papers published during 2019 following the three themes:

### Cause:

Collins, J and King, A and Woodhouse, A and Kirkcaldie, M and Vickers, J, "Age moderates the effects of traumatic brain injury on beta-amyloid plaque load in APP/PS1 mice", *Journal of Neurotrauma* 36(11): 1876-1889 (2019)

Dyer, M and Phipps, A and Mitew, S and Taberlay, P and Woodhouse, A, "Age, but not amyloidosis, induced changes in global levels of histone modifications in susceptible and disease-resistant neurons in Alzheimer's disease model mice", *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*. Issue 11, page 68 (2019)

Tian, N and Hanson, K and Canty, A and Vickers, J and King, A, "Microtubule-dependent processes precede pathological calcium influx in excitotoxin-induced axon degeneration", *Journal of Neurochemistry*, 152; 542-555 (2019)



**Dementia** is the leading underlying cause of death for women, and the third leading cause for men in Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018) *Causes of Death*, Australia, 2017)

### Prevention:

Pietzuch, M and King, A and Ward, D and Vickers, J, "The influence of genetic factors and cognitive reserve on structural and functional resting-state brain networks in aging and Alzheimer's disease", *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* 11: 30 (2019)

Stuart, K and King, A and King, N and Collins, J and Vickers, J and Ziebell, J, "Late-life environmental enrichment preserves short-term memory and may attenuate microglia in male APP/PS1 mice", *Neuroscience*, 1; 408, pp. 282-292. (2019)

### Care:

Westbury J, Gee P, Ling T, Kitsos A & Peterson, G, "More Action needed: Psychotropic prescribing in Australian Residential Aged Care". *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*. 53(2):136-47 (2019)

Eccleston, C and Doherty, K and Bindoff, A and Robinson, A and Vickers, J and McInerney, F, "Building dementia knowledge globally through the Understanding Dementia Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)", *npj Science of Learning*, 4(1), 1-6 (2019)

Tierney, L and Mason, R and Doherty, K and Winbolt, M and Long, M and Robinson, A, "Workshops on diagnosis and management of dementia for general practitioners: a pre-post intervention study of dementia knowledge", *BMJ Open*, 9(4), e027804 (2019)

Cox, T and Hoang, H and Goldberg, L and Baldock D, "Aboriginal community understandings of dementia and responses to dementia care", *Public Health*, 172, 15-21 (2019)

# OUR PEOPLE

The Wicking Dementia Centre staff profile has continued to grow throughout 2019, with 106 staff and students working across many projects. The Centre's Executive oversees the strategic and operational direction of the Centre.

## WICKING DEMENTIA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

### **Distinguished Professor James Vickers, Director**

Distinguished Professor James Vickers is the Director of the Wicking Dementia Centre. James is a world-renowned researcher with interests including neurodegenerative disease (particularly Alzheimer's disease), traumatic brain injury, structural brain plasticity, ageing-related changes in cognition and health services for dementia.

### **Caroline Gray, Business Manager**

Caroline Gray leads the professional staff across the Centre, and oversees the administrative, financial and resourcing activities across all major projects. Caroline joined the University of Tasmania in 2003 and has worked across several roles while completing a Master in Business Administration.

### **Professor Anna King, Associate Director (Research)**

Professor Anna King is a member of the NHMRC National Institute of Dementia Research and was recently awarded a Boosting Dementia Research Leadership Fellowship from the NHMRC (2018 – 2021). Anna also plays a key role in the Wicking Dementia Centre's educational offerings including the Bachelor of Dementia Care, and the Understanding Dementia MOOC.

### **Associate Professor Alison Canty, Associate Director (Learning & Teaching)**

Associate Professor Alison Canty was centrally involved in leading the development and rapid growth of the Dementia Care Degree Program and has held an education governance role within the Centre for several years. Alison's research focuses on mechanisms of neuroplasticity, degeneration, and trauma – all of which are central to understanding the pathology of dementia.

### **Dr Kathleen Doherty, Research Lead Massive Open Online Courses**

Dr Kathleen Doherty convenes the Wicking Health Services Research group which focuses on Care. She is responsible for delivering the program of research which centres on our massive open online courses and growing knowledge, changing attitudes and behaviours through education. She is interested in the intersection between communities, health providers, knowledge translation and dementia literacy.



Caroline Gray



Professor Anna King



Associate Professor Alison Canty



Distinguished Professor James Vickers



Dr Kathleen Doherty

## WICKING DEMENTIA CENTRE ADVISORY BOARD

The Wicking Dementia Centre is supported by an Advisory Board, comprised of a small group of successful individuals each bringing a unique and valuable skill set to advance the Centre's purpose.

### **The Hon. David Bartlett, Chair**

The Hon. David Bartlett was the 43rd Premier of the Australian state of Tasmania. During his parliamentary career he also served as Minister for Education and Skills and Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology. Prior to entering politics David had a successful career in the technology sector as CIO and innovation specialist. Since standing down as Premier in 2011, David has built a portfolio of work in the technology and not-for-profit sectors.

David stepped down as Chair in late 2019 after 5 years at the helm. We owe a great debt of gratitude to David for his strategic input and advocacy on behalf of the Centre as he helped guide us to national and global prominence.

### **Professor Andrew Robinson**

Professor Robinson is co-founder of the Wicking Dementia Centre and is recognised as a national and international leader and innovator in aged care. He led translational research and innovation projects involving a broad range of community and residential aged care services across Australia. Andrew is an international leader in dementia education through the Wicking Teaching Aged Care Facility program.

### **Alastair Lynch**

Alastair is a former professional AFL footballer with the triple premiership winning Brisbane Lions and is currently a commentator for Foxsports AFL channel, Foxfooty, a Director of Health and Wellbeing Company, HBP Group and a Director of Gravitas Leadership Group. Alastair has recently been appointed an Ambassador for St Luke's Health. His business career has followed his passion for assisting others with maintaining or achieving a high level of health, leadership and AFL Football.

### **Robyn Charlwood**

Robyn is an experienced not for profit leader and CEO, philanthropy strategy designer and relationship expert. Robyn is currently the co-founder and director of Filantropia Re-thinking Philanthropy, a strategic advisory business. Robyn uses her business acumen, diverse career experience and strong interpersonal aptitude to skilfully connect people and communities of interest for mutual benefit.



The Hon. David Bartlett



Professor Andrew Robinson



Alastair Lynch



Robyn Charlwood



Patricia Chew



Dr Bastian Seidel

# WICKING DEMENTIA CENTRE STAFF AND STUDENTS – 2019

## EXECUTIVE

Distinguished Professor James Vickers  
Caroline Gray  
Professor Anna King  
Associate Professor Alison Canty  
Dr Kathleen Doherty  
Director  
Business Manager  
Director Research  
Associate Director Learning and Teaching  
Senior Research Lead - Dementia MOOCs

## STAFF

Dr Melissa Abela  
Dr Jane Alty  
Dr Rachel Atkinson  
Lily Bartkevicius  
Larissa Bartlett  
Dr Susanne Becker  
Monique Beifer  
Dr Bill Bennett  
Aidan Bindoff  
Jay Borchard  
Dr Juanita Breen  
Dr Vlasti Broucek  
Louise Carnell  
Helen Ceperkovic  
Dr Jessica Collins  
Associate Professor Tony Cook  
Dr Peta Cook  
Dr Helen Courtney-Pratt  
Helen Douglas  
Joshua Eastgate  
Karin Easton  
Dr Claire Eccleston  
Dr Kate-Ellen Elliott  
Dr Maree Farrow  
Oliver Freeman  
Rachael Gates  
David Gell  
Tim Gibbons  
Associate Professor Lyn Goldberg  
Kelsey Hanson  
Joanna Healy  
Edward Hill  
Dr Sunny Jang  
James Jestrimski  
Justine Keay  
Kim Kennedy  
Dr Sarang Kim  
Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie  
Alex Kitsos  
Dr Shannon Klekociuk  
Dr Maneesh Kuruvilla  
Dr Katherine Lawler  
Dr Emma Lea  
Karina (Ilek) Lei  
Dr Jacqueline Leung  
Kerri Magnussen  
Graeme McCormack  
Dr Scott McDonald  
Lecturer  
Senior Lecturer  
Research Fellow  
Student and Learning Skills Advisor  
Research Fellow  
Lecturer  
Project Officer - Online Education  
Senior Technical Officer  
Statistician and Data Scientist  
Research Assistant  
Senior Lecturer  
Senior Technical Developer  
Marketing and Events Officer  
Associate Lecturer  
Research Fellow  
Senior Lecturer and Course Coordinator  
Senior Lecturer and Course Coordinator  
Senior Lecturer  
Project Manager - ISLAND Project  
Senior Technical Developer  
Administration Officer - Business Support  
Lecturer  
Senior Lecturer  
Senior Academic Lead - Dementia MOOCs  
Senior Technical Developer  
Project Manager - Online Education  
Research Fellow  
Research Assistant  
Senior Lecturer  
Research Assistant  
Lecturer  
Research Fellow  
Lecturer  
Administration Officer  
Project Officer – ISLAND Project  
Administration Officer  
Research Fellow  
Senior Lecturer and Course Coordinator  
Data Analyst  
Lecturer  
Lecturer  
Lecturer  
Senior Research Fellow and Course Coordinator  
Senior Technical Developer  
Lecturer  
Research Assistant  
Senior Technical Officer  
Research Fellow – Neuropsychology

Professor Fran McInerney	Professor of Dementia Studies and Education
Associate Professor Deirdre McLaughlin	Senior Research Fellow – ISLAND Project
Helga Merl	Lecturer
Dr Hoang Nguyen	Lecturer
Chris Parker	Manager Online Learning Systems and Support
Dr Sharn Perry	Lecturer
Andrew Phipps	Media Resources Officer
Andrea Price	Lecturer
Anthony Ray	Senior Administration Officer, Education Programs
Catherine Robertson	Administrative Officer – Executive Assistant to Director
Dr Alice Rota-Bartelink	Lecturer
Dr Katharine Salmon	Coordinator, Dementia and Cognition Clinic
Tim Saunder	Data Analyst
Jo-Ann Savage	Research Assistant
Dr Duncan Sinclair	Lecturer
Tara Sinclair	Research Assistant
Dr Kimberley Stuart	Research Fellow
Joanna Sun	Social Media Coordinator
Dr Jana Talbot	Research Assistant
Cherie Tan	Project Officer MOOCs
Dr Nan Tian	Technical Officer
Laura Tierney	Research Fellow
Tanya Wadwell	Student Support Team Leader
Dr Adele Woodhouse	Lecturer
Dr Jenna Ziebell	Lecturer
<b>STUDENTS</b>	
Azam Bazooband	PhD Candidate
James Bender	PhD Candidate
James Brady	PhD Candidate
Ellie Buche	PhD Candidate
Sueanne Chear	PhD Candidate
Anisuzzaman (Novel) Chowdhury	PhD Candidate
Yasmine Doust	PhD Candidate
Sam Dwyer	PhD Candidate
Hannah Fair	PhD Candidate
Barbora Fulopova	PhD Candidate
Helen Gulliver	PhD Candidate
Olivia Holloway	PhD Candidate
Ross Langley	PhD Candidate
Kerri Magnussen	PhD Candidate
Ron Mason	PhD Candidate
John McManus	PhD Candidate
Nkoli Mmako	PhD Candidate
Aidan O'Mara	PhD Candidate
Gongbu Pan	PhD Candidate
Thalia Perez-Suarez	PhD Candidate
Manuela Pietzuch	PhD Candidate
Tara Sinclair	PhD Candidate
David Stellon	PhD Candidate
Sharon Stoddart	PhD Candidate
Nina Daniels	Honours student
Radhika Mani	Honours student
Isabella Murray	Honours student
Sladana Pavkovic	Honours student

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## STAFF



### **Dr Kate Lawler** **Exploring health systems and experiences**

Dr Kate Lawler is a lecturer and physiotherapist. She is passionate about the right that all people – including people living with dementia – have access to excellent, evidence-informed health care. In 2019 Kate has been working on two projects exploring the experiences of people with dementia, and health professionals, in health care.

Understanding interactions between paramedics and community-dwelling people with dementia (PARADigm) is a project Kate is leading in partnership with Dr Claire Eccleston, Dr Helen Courtney-Pratt and colleagues from Paramedicine and Nursing. Originally faring from 'the mainland' Kate has enjoyed interviewing paramedics in Hobart as well as Tasmania's North and North West to understand their experiences and education needs. As seems to be the case for many health professions, training in paramedicine does not appear to prepare paramedics for the complexity of care often required by people living with dementia. Paramedics have generously shared their thoughts, to help shape future interventions and ultimately improve health outcomes for people living with dementia.

In 2020 Kate looks forward to leading the Policies and Systems stream for the Centre's Master of Dementia and working on a second health systems project. People with dementia often have poor outcomes in hospital and rehabilitation environments. This project seeks to understand this phenomenon from the view point of people with dementia and their families. Hearing the Experiences of Adults in Rehabilitation with Dementia or cognitive impairment (HEARD) will commence early in 2020, supported by a grant from the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation.



### **Dr Peta Cook** **Creating a better society for older adults and ageing populations**

Dr Peta Cook joined the Wicking Dementia Centre in July 2019 as the Course Coordinator of our new degree, the Bachelor of Ageing and Dementia Studies.

Peta uses innovative research methods such as photography to empower the people participating in her research. Such techniques have allowed her to translate her research to the public, including interactive photography exhibitions where the public can also contribute. As a result, selected participant generated photographs from Peta's project, Reclaiming the Self, have been shown at twenty-four locations. Her most recent project has examined what younger and older people want in an age-friendly city, which focused on the City of Clarence (Tasmania). The outcomes from this project, which was funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund, Clarence City Council, and a Liveable Communities Grant (Tasmanian State Government), are currently being used to inform the Strategic Planning of the Clarence City Council. During this time, Peta has also been providing expertise to the Council of the Ageing (COTA) Tasmania in grant writing and policy development, as well as co-designing and co-leading their recent Ageing my Way project.

Currently, Peta is part of a multi-university team investigating public housing and older adults across three Australian states (NSW, SA and TAS), which has been funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI).

In 2018, Peta received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Community Engagement. In 2019, she was a finalist in the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards. Peta is also on the Board of Directors of Council of the Ageing (Tasmania), and the Treasurer of the Australian Sociological Association (TASA).



**Dr Sunny Jang**  
**Embedding a culturally sensitive, appropriate approach in dementia care education**

Dr Sunny Jang is a lecturer at the Wicking Dementia Centre with a background in technology and education. Sunny coordinates units with a focus on enhancing academic and technology skills for commencing students in online dementia education programs. Having a strong education background, she recognises an importance of reflecting cultural and linguistic diversity in dementia education as dementia care settings are diverse linguistically, ethnically and culturally with an increasing proportion of migrants living with dementia and migrant care givers in Australia.

In 2019, Sunny and her colleagues (Dr Hoang Nguyen, Dr Helen Courtney-Pratt and Dr Kathleen Doherty) with support from the Migrant Resource Centre proposed a project developing educational resources of stories and experiences of people living with dementia from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and their care givers. The project was funded by the University of Tasmania and its aim was to promote the provision of culturally appropriate care for people living with dementia through a novel approach in engaging multicultural communities in the curriculum and educational resource development.

To date the project has developed multimedia educational resources with a group of people from six different ethnic backgrounds for dementia education programs, and Sunny has been awarded the Best Collaboration Award for community engagement at the Multicultural Council of Tasmania.



**Chris Parker**  
**Developing the online learning systems**

Chris Parker manages online learning and system support for the Wicking Dementia Centre's Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). With a lengthy career involving information technology and education systems spanning many years and industries he has become highly motivated to break new ground and help challenge the status quo in education delivery.

Chris' team at the Wicking Dementia Centre have developed a bespoke Learning Management System focusing on the user experience and allowing the Centre to up-scale its reach to all corners of the globe. The LMS Platform has been designed with the needs of the participant in mind and incorporates a range of tools to encourage participation and completion; and to promote positive interactions between MOOC participants. The LMS provides efficient processes for consent, storage and management of large and complex data sets arising from a comprehensive research program. In addition to quantitative data, these large data sets include tens of thousands of posts in discussion fora from many thousands of participants for which our staff have developed unique approaches to analyse. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to engage with our community in understanding concepts such as dementia literacy and a means to engage thousands of participants directly in new research projects.

The work Chris and his team have done to ensure the MOOCs successes was recently acknowledged by the College of Health & Medicine when they received an innovation award for outstanding contributions.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## STUDENTS



### **Hannah Fair, PhD Candidate Dementia risk education beyond those educated**

Hannah Fair has been involved with the Wicking Dementia Centre since 2016 and is now almost one year into her PhD, examining the movement of dementia risk information through the social networks of Preventing Dementia MOOC participants.

Hannah found that people completing the Preventing Dementia MOOC share information from this course with others, including their family, friends and colleagues. Some of the people with whom this information is shared occupy a different position in society than the people undertaking the course. Hannah hopes her work will reveal the current reach of our dementia risk education, and that this will be used to increase our future reach. Hannah strongly believes that all people should be equipped with the information they need to reduce their dementia risk.

Hannah's 2019 highlights include presenting her work in the "3 Minute Thesis" competition, where she was awarded a position in the University of Tasmania semi-finals, and taking part in the Young Tassie Scientist program, where she shared information about neural connectivity and cognitive reserve with school students across Southern Tasmania.



### **Nkolika Mmako, PhD Candidate Community Greening for Dementia: A case study of green space engagement by community dwelling people living with dementia**

Nkolika Mmako has an astounding love for the natural environment. The way we engage with our natural environment influences the dynamics of our psychosociology - emotion, perception, cognition, attitudes and relationships, and then, how we carry out our active citizen roles.

In November 2018, Nkolika commenced her PhD studies with a focus on how engagement with green spaces impacts on various aspects of wellbeing and quality of life of people living with dementia in the community. Green spaces have been associated with positive "symptomatic" outcomes mainly in people living with dementia in residential care facilities but their relationships in the broader socio-political context of living with dementia is poorly acknowledged. Understanding this perspective could be one way of providing accessible, enabling, inclusive, dementia friendly communities to promote living well with dementia.

Nkolika has conducted a mixed study review, revealing that using psychosocial and socio-political frameworks to understand experiences of people living with dementia enables more nuanced understanding of life with dementia, beyond just biomedical, symptomatic approaches. Therefore, her PhD hopes to contribute to the shift in dementia discourses - stretching out from neuropathological approaches to encompass the broader socio-political issues of identity, citizenship and rights and dignity of risk. Perhaps, the coming years hold more exciting news!



Around the world, there will be  
**one new case of dementia  
every 3 seconds.**

Alzheimer's Disease International 2018



**Barbora Fulopova, PhD Candidate**  
**Understanding changes in neuroplasticity in dementia**

Barbora Fulopova is combining her undergraduate training in psychology and neuroscience, and her current research aims, to extend our understanding of changes in neuroplasticity in dementia.

Neuroplasticity is an intrinsic ability of the nervous system to reorganise itself to adapt to changing environment, and it underpins some of the most fundamental functions such as memory formation, new skill acquisition and learning. Often in dementia, we see decline in the brain's plasticity. Barbora's research aims to extend our understanding of neurological mechanisms underpinning this decline, and if it can be altered through non-pharmacological approaches such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

TMS is an emerging therapeutic approach that has been so far successfully applied in treatment of various conditions such as depression, migraines and alleviating some symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Its popularity mainly stems from non-invasive delivery and little to no side effects. So far Barbora has found that TMS can increase neuroplasticity of some cortical brain cells even if these cells were affected by dementia-like amyloid plaque pathology. This is an encouraging finding that she had a chance to present this year at the national meeting of the Australian Society of Medical Research as well as at the international conference of the Australasian Neuroscience Society.



**Andrew Phipps**  
**Dysregulation of the neuronal epigenome in Alzheimer's disease**

Andrew Phipps has been studying with the Wicking Dementia Centre since 2014 and completed his PhD in 2019, investigating the role of epigenetics in neurons from the ageing and Alzheimer's disease brain.

The epigenome exquisitely regulates gene expression and is integral to the appropriate function of all cells in our body. The epigenome is cell-type specific and is a key interface between our cells and the environment, which may be disrupted during the onset and through the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Andrew identified widespread epigenetic dysregulation to be occurring in neurons prior to pathology-onset in a model of Alzheimer's disease, that changed as the disease progressed. The epigenome was perturbed at critical regulatory regions of the DNA, including gene promoters and enhancers, and at known risk genes for the disease. His work provided insight into the epigenetic dysregulation occurring in neurons throughout the progression of Alzheimer's and may lead to future therapeutic targets for the disease.

Andrew received a highly competitive Dementia Australia PhD stipend and his candidature was supported by the Yulgilbar Foundation. He was the Tasmanian representative for the national bioinformatics society, COMBINE from 2017-2019. Since completing his PhD, Andrew has taken his passion for photography and cinematography into a new role at the Wicking Dementia Centre as a Media Resource Officer, working on the MOOCs and award courses.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

Wicking Dementia Centre staff and students have been recognised in several areas during 2019, including:

## TASMANIAN EXPORT AWARD

The Wicking Dementia Centre has again been recognised for its global excellence in providing dementia education by winning the International Education and Training category in the 2019 Tasmanian Export Awards.

## TASMANIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Caroline Gray, Wicking Dementia Centre Business Manager was awarded the University of Tasmania Scholarship to undertake the Tasmanian Leaders Program in 2019. Tasmanian Leaders is a not-for-profit organisation committed to helping create a successful future for our State by accelerating the leadership and connectivity of Tasmanians. The Tasmanian Leaders Program, the flagship leadership program of Tasmanian Leaders, is sharply focussed on delivering lasting benefits to participants, their organisations and the wider community. The design of the program borrows from emergent thinking from imminent leadership theorists and practitioners and responds to the increasing complexity, ambiguity and connectivity we are all working within.

## MEDICAL JOURNAL OF AUSTRALIA AWARD

Dr Juanita Breen and co-authors including Katherine Franks, Donnamay Brown and Aidan Bindoff have been awarded the 2018-19 Stawell Prize for their article RedUSe: reducing antipsychotic and benzodiazepine prescribing in residential aged care facilities which was published in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) in May 2018.

The original Stawell Bequest was made in 1933 by Sir A E Rowden White to commemorate the work of Sir Richard Stawell, predominantly in clinical teaching. Stawell was a consulting physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and chairman of the house committee for many years. His work

is said to have significantly improved the delivery and reputation of clinical teaching at the hospital.

The prize is awarded to the author(s) of a research essay published in the Research Sections of MJA which; reports research on a medical subject of clinical significance; is original and evidence-based; and is likely to advance knowledge, influence clinical practice and improve the health of Australians.



## UTAS RESEARCH AWARD

Professor Anna King was recently awarded the UTAS Research Award for her outstanding contribution to research of the highest quality. Anna has been instrumental to the success and diversity of research being undertaken within the Wicking Dementia Centre. She established the Wicking Dementia Centre Research Committee – developing processes for enabling new projects, supporting researchers and PhD students, and providing opportunities for mentorship and guidance throughout all stages of the research process.

Anna's own research aims to find treatment strategies to prevent neurodegeneration in the brain. She completed her PhD in 2008 and has a total of 60 publications, with almost 1500 citations, demonstrating the significant impact made in this field. She has attracted in excess of \$6million in funding which has enabled her to

develop and support a research team. Her funding has led to a discovery of a class of drugs which may protect nerve cells from degenerating and is now leading an international team to develop a translation pathway for this drug target.

### UTAS INNOVATION AWARD

The Wicking Dementia Centre MOOC development team were recently awarded a UTAS Innovation Award for providing quality, accessible dementia education with minimal technology barriers. This innovation is providing opportunities for people who are unable to access traditional education courses, and people who are within geographically and socially isolated environments. The Wicking Dementia Centre Learning Management System was designed with the needs of the participant in mind and incorporates a range of tools to encourage participation and completion; and to promote positive interactions between MOOC participants. The dementia MOOCs also offer unparalleled opportunities for research with the large number of engaged participants and tens of thousands of discussion posts. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to engage with our community in understanding concepts such as dementia literacy and a means to engage thousands of participants directly in new research projects through the MOOC interface.

### EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD

Dr Sharn Perry was awarded best Early Career Researcher at the Australian Dementia Forum in June for her research into motor function decline in neurodegenerative disease. It is common to experience age-related motor declines as we get older, but for some people these motor declines are accelerated due to pathological processes that occur in diseases such as dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Motor function declines because cells

in the brain and spinal cord that control our muscles are vulnerable to disease mechanisms. Dr Perry's research explores how the integrity of the axon, the part of the cell that transmits messages throughout the body, is important for motor function. Using experimental models, we have discovered that changes to the axon of neurons, particularly motor neurons, the cells controlling the muscles, lead to motor function deficits in balance, coordination and gait.

### L'ORÉAL – UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAM

Wicking Dementia Centre PhD candidate Olivia Holloway is one of four Australians selected for this year's L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Mentoring Program. A tremendous opportunity for one of our PhD students.



### YULGILBAR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH PROGRAM PHD TOP-UP AWARD

Ellie Bucher was awarded a grant from the Trustees of the Yulgilbar Foundation for her research project titled "Excitatory-Inhibitory relationships in cerebral cortex affected by the pathology of Alzheimer's disease".

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE STUDY GRANT

PhD candidate, Helen Gulliver, received a substantial grant to support her doctoral research into the impacts of undertaking the Understanding Dementia MOOC for new graduate registered nurses.



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Honours scholarships were awarded to the following students:

- Radhika Mani – Neuroscience Honours Scholarship in Dementia Research  
*Investigating the effect of mild and moderate gestational iodine deficiency on neurodevelopment*
- Isabella Murray – Neuroscience Honours Scholarship in Dementia Research  
*Investigating Sarm1 as a therapeutic target in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*
- Nina Daniels – Rhonda Ewart Honours Scholarship in Dementia Care  
*Examining Circuitry Changes in Frontotemporal Dementia*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## AUSTRALIAN DEMENTIA FORUM

The fourth Australian Dementia Forum was held in Hobart in June and attracted a record numbers of 410 attendees. Wicking Dementia Centre staff played a key role in running and organising the

program for this conference, hosted by the NHMRC National Institute of Dementia Research (NIDR), which brings together dementia researchers from across Australia working in the fields of treatment, diagnosis, prevention, care and living with dementia as well as clinicians, health care professionals, people with dementia and their carers. The conference was opened by Senator the honourable Richard Colbeck, Minister for aged care and senior Tasmanians, and dementia advocate Ita Buttrose, AO, AC OBE, and for the first time included a public information session addressing risk factors for dementia.

The conference marked five years since the beginning of the NHMRC NIDR and was an opportunity to highlight the impact of dementia research through the impressive number of oral and poster presentations including over 30 from

Wicking Dementia Centre researchers. There was also opportunity to reflect on where we need to head in the future, discussed by a panel of experts including Mr Glenn Rees, Chair of Alzheimer's Disease International and John Quinn, who lives with dementia. Overall the conference provided the dementia community with new opportunities to refocus research efforts and to develop new collaborations as well as to highlight some of the fantastic work being performed in Tasmania.



In 2015, the total global societal cost of dementia was estimated to be **US\$818 billion**, equivalent to 1.1% of global gross domestic product (GDP). (WHO 2019)



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Extensive presence at community events in 2019 was coordinated through the ISLAND Project with events including the Tulip Festival in Wynyard, Living Well in Clarence; and attendance at the Ageing Wonderfully Well Expo at Kingston and the Volunteering Tasmania Conference in Hobart.

The Wicking Dementia Centre had a prominent presence at AGFEST this year with the inflatable brain again providing much amusement and interest amongst the younger visitors. Located within the UTAS marquee, staff were able to show visitors, through balance and taste activities, the importance of the integration of our senses.

UTAS Open Day presented the first opportunity to promote the new

Bachelor of Ageing and Dementia Studies and the Master of Dementia to the general Tasmanian population. We received tremendous interest from all three events in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

## TEEPA SNOW VISIT

A hands-on workshop with Teepa Snow, renowned dementia education and training specialist from the USA, was held at the Wicking Dementia Centre in August. Teepa is a leading trainer and consultant providing support and care that places the person living with dementia in a pivotal role when determining what is needed. She is an Occupational Therapist with 40 years of clinical practice and has a Masters from the University of North Carolina, and

has since founded her own company to provide support to people affected by dementia – families, carers and clinicians. The workshop was followed by a widely supported free lecture with over 160 people attending.

A graphic of a blue profile of a human head containing several interlocking puzzle pieces, symbolizing dementia research and education.

**Help Dementia Research and Education**

Please consider a donation to support the Wicking Dementia Centre's education and research programs.

**Call 1800 982 600 or visit [utas.edu.au/wicking/donate](http://utas.edu.au/wicking/donate)**

**Donations of \$2 and above are tax-deductible.**

# GRANT FUNDING

## NEW PROJECTS IN 2019

PERIOD	FUNDING BODY	CIs	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING AMOUNT
2019 - 2021	Medical Research Future Fund	<b>Vickers J</b> , Hill A, <b>Goldberg L</b> , Byrne N, <b>Farrow M</b> , Hughes R, <b>Klekociuk S</b> , Ahuja K, <b>Courtney-Pratt H</b> , Patterson K	Preventative Health Research in Rural and Regional Communities (Tasmania)	\$2,400,000
2019 - 2022	FightMND	<b>King A</b> , <b>Cook A</b> , Guven N, Van Den Bosch L, Dickson T, Blizzard C, <b>Vickers J</b> , Smith Jason	HDAC6 inhibition to rescue axon degeneration in ALS	\$997,046
2019 - 2022	St Lukes Health	<b>Vickers J</b>	ISLAND Project (St Lukes)	\$268,549
2019 - 2020	Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia Inc	<b>Cook A</b> , <b>King A</b> , <b>Atkinson R</b> , <b>Perry S</b> , Hewitt A	Proteomic analysis of exosomes from iPSC cell-derived neurons with mislocalised TDP-43	\$99,665
2019 - 2021	The Yulgilbar Foundation	<b>King A</b> , <b>Kirkcaldie M</b> , <b>Bucher E</b>	PhD top-up - Ellie Bucher	\$30,000
2019 - 2021	The Yulgilbar Foundation	<b>Woodhouse A</b> , <b>Perez Saurez T</b>	Identifying critical neuronal signatures of epigenetic modifier complexes alteration in human Alzheimer's disease	\$30,000
2019 - 2020	The Merridew Foundation	<b>Vickers J</b>	Donation - Research in the field of human neuron models for understanding and treating Alzheimer's disease and traumatic brain injury	\$25,000
2019	University of Tasmania	<b>Sinclair D</b> , <b>Cook A</b>	Developing isogenic iPSC lines to understand the role of stress hormones in Alzheimer's disease	\$20,000
2019	University of Tasmania	<b>Perry S</b> , <b>Atkinson R</b> , <b>King A</b>	Do Renshaw cells have a role in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis disease progression	\$15,814
2019 - 2020	Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation	<b>Lea E</b> , <b>Goldberg L</b> , Ramsden C, Symes J, <b>McInerney F</b> , Nicklason F	NutriCog Tasmania: Effective identification of older inpatients at-risk for poor nutrition	\$10,000
2019	University of Tasmania	<b>Cook A</b> , Sutherland B	Differentiation of inducible pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) into pericytes to investigate neuron-pericyte interactions	\$9,980
2019	University of Tasmania	<b>Lawler K</b> , <b>Courtney-Pratt H</b> , Lucas P, <b>Eccleston C</b> , Campbell B, Harris W	Understanding interactions between paramedics and community-dwelling people with dementia (PARADigm)	\$9,830
2019	University of Tasmania	<b>King A</b> , Shigdar S, Breadmore M	Determining brain health by analysing the blood: development of an aptamer based point of care device	\$9,350

**\$3,925,234**

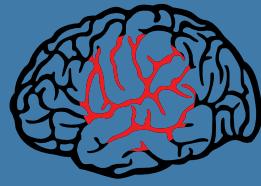
## FUNDING ANNOUNCED IN 2019 FOR 2020 PROJECT START

PERIOD	FUNDING BODY	CIs	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING AMOUNT
2020 - 2023	La Caixa Foundation	<b>King A, Vickers J, Atkinson R</b>	A potential metabolic-targeted therapeutic for Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS): Leptin	\$805,000 Approx. due to EU exchange rate
2020 - 2023	National Health & Medical Research Council	<b>King A</b>	Why do we have SARM1 protein if knocking it out prevents axons from degenerating?	\$597,651
2020 - 2023	Australian Research Council	<b>Cook A, King A, Dickson T (CIA is Tracey Dickson)</b>	Microfluidic models of the CNS: Understanding cells, circuits & synapses	\$545,563
2020 - 2023	Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation	<b>Collins J, King A, Vickers J</b>	Blood-based biomarkers for neurodegeneration and dementia.	\$449,386
2019 - 2021	Dementia Australia Research Foundation	<b>Sinclair D, King A</b>	Investigating stress-related therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's disease in human neuronal cells	\$75,000
				<b>\$2,472,600</b>
				<b>NEW FUNDING IN 2019</b> \$6,397,834

## CURRENT FUNDING

PERIOD	FUNDING BODY	CIs	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING AMOUNT
2018 - 2022	J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust	<b>Vickers J, Robinson A</b>	Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre (Stage 3)	\$3,721,000
2017 - 2019	Department of Health, Australian Commonwealth Government	Fleming R, Burton R, Winbolt M, Beattie E, <b>Robinson A</b> , Stafford A	Dementia Training Australia	\$1,700,000
2016 - 2020	National Health & Medical Research Council	<b>Vickers J, Summers M, Valenzuela M, Summers J, King A, Robinson A, Srikanth V</b>	The Tasmanian Healthy Brain Project: a longitudinal intervention study to reduce the risk of ageing-related cognitive decline and dementia	\$878,790
2017 - 2019	Department of Health (Cth)	<b>Cox T, Goldberg L, Baldock D, Price A, Hoang H, Cross D</b>	Improving the health and well-being of Tasmanian Aboriginal people - one community's focus on individualised support, specialised training, and leadership in dementia care	\$834,757
2019 - 2021	National Health & Medical Research Council	Taberlay P, <b>Woodhouse A</b> , Robinson M, Mercer T	Delineating the epigenetic evolution of neurons in human sporadic Alzheimer's disease	\$826,102
2018 - 2021	National Health & Medical Research Council	<b>King A</b>	Detecting biomarkers of brain health in dementia	\$720,144
2016 - 2019	National Health & Medical Research Council	<b>Elliott K</b>	Work4Dementia: Development of an evidence-based intervention to build capacity and resilience for the Australian dementia care workforce	\$595,220
2018 - 2021	Australian Research Council	Taberlay P, <b>Woodhouse A, Vickers J</b>	Turning back the clock on brain cell aging	\$458,068

2017 - 2019	Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation	Landowski L, Howells D, Castely H, Sutherland B, <b>Kirkcaldie M</b>	Paving the way for future stroke drug development: creating a reproducible, humanised model of stroke	\$442,570
2015 - 2020	Australian Research Council	Breadmore M, Guijt R, Dickson T, <b>King A</b>	Microfluidic technology to help understand physical damage to brain cells	\$415,500
2017 - 2019	Department of Health (Cth)	<b>McInerney F, Doherty K, Eccleston C, Vickers J, Robinson A</b>	To develop a model to measure consumer dementia knowledge and literacy utilising a large Australian community sample enrolled in the University of Tasmania Wicking Understanding Dementia MOOC	\$349,200
2018 - 2023	National Health & Medical Research Council	Rowe C, Sachdev P, Naismith S, Breakspear M, Martins R, <b>Vickers J</b> , Brodaty H, Ansley K, Ward S, Masters C	The Australian Dementia Network (ADNet); Bringing together Australia's dementia stakeholders	\$331,646
2017 - 2019	Masonic Care Tasmania, Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation, and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre	<b>Lea E, Doherty K, Robinson A</b>	Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation improving dementia care program	\$250,000 in kind
2017 - 2020	National Health & Medical Research Council	Felmingham K, <b>Vickers J</b>	BDNF Genotype and Emotional Memory in PTSD	\$108,402
2018 - 2019	Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Australia	<b>King A, Leong J, Perry S</b>	Towards axon protection in ALS	\$98,471
2017 - 2019	The Masonic Foundation: Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams	<b>Kirkcaldie M, King A, Vickers J</b>	Does plasticity drive Alzheimer's disease and can sleep help	\$94,140
2018 - 2019	Tasmanian Community Fund	<b>Lea E, Goldberg L, Price A, McInerney F, Doherty K, Beattie E, Isenring L</b>	Meaningful engagement in nutritional understanding: best choices for aged care	\$90,000
2018 - 2019	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet - Indigenous Affairs	<b>Goldberg L</b> , Dillon T, Baldock D	Establishing an Aboriginal Primary Health Care Worker program in Tasmania	\$78,000
2018 - 2019	Equity Trustees Limited	<b>Goldberg L</b> , Baldock D	Building Aboriginal community capacity to address dementia	\$76,798
2016 - 2019	Tasmanian Community Fund	<b>Scott J, de Salas K, Robinson A, Schuez B, Lewis I, Sanderson K, Elliott K, Quinn M</b>	Carers CARE (Mobile App) to assist dementia carers coping resilience	\$58,626
2018 - 2019	Dementia Australia Research Foundation	<b>Sinclair D, King A, Vickers J</b>	How does stress impact pathological processes in Alzheimer's disease?	\$50,000
2015 - 2019	Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation	<b>Woodhouse A, Vickers J</b>	Selectively vulnerable neurons in Alzheimer's disease: functional and morphological changes in healthy ageing and early Alzheimer's disease	\$20,000
2018 - 2019	Dementia Australia Research Foundation	<b>Doherty K, Courtney-Pratt H</b>	Conversation Cards	\$15,000
<b>\$12,212,434</b>				
<b>TOTAL FUNDING MANAGED</b>				<b>\$18,610,268</b>



Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease,  
is the

**second lead cause of death  
of Australians,**

contributing to 5.4% of all deaths in males  
and 10.6% of all deaths in females each year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017





## CONTACTS

Email: [wicking.enquiries@utas.edu.au](mailto:wicking.enquiries@utas.edu.au)

Web: [utas.edu.au/wicking](http://utas.edu.au/wicking)

Phone: **1800 982 600 or +61 3 6226 6979**

Postal address:

Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre  
University of Tasmania  
Private Bag 143  
Hobart  
Tasmania 7001  
Australia

Street address:

Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre  
University of Tasmania  
17 Liverpool Street  
Hobart  
Tasmania 7000  
Australia

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