

Australasian Occupational Science Centre AOSC

Director's Progress Report July 05-May 06

1.0 Publications

1.1 Books – author of chapters

Wicks A & Whiteford G (2005) *Gender, occupation and participation*. In Whiteford & Wright-St Clair (eds) Occupation and practice in context. Churchill Livingstone, Sydney. ISBN: 0-13-013303-5

Mitcham M, Burik J & **Wicks A** (2005) *An occupational therapy perspective*. In Haight & Gibson (eds) Working with older adults: Group processes and techniques. Jones & Bartlett. ISBN: 0-7637-4770-X (pbk)

1.2 Journal Articles

Wicks A (2005) *Understanding occupational potential*. Journal of Occupational Science, Vol 12 (3). 130-139

Wicks A (2005) *Older women's "ways of doing": Strategies for successful ageing*. 2005 National Conference Supplement. Australasian Journal of Gerontology. 142-153

1.3 Accepted for publication

Wicks A & Whiteford G Conceptual and practical issues in qualitative research: Reflections on a life history study. Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy

1.4 Conference presentations

Wicks A (2006) *Seniors' strategies for meaningful occupation*. Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists Conference: Occupation - the art and meaning of doing. 5-6 May, Vancouver

Wicks A (2005) *Older women's "ways of doing": Strategies for successful ageing* Australian Association of Gerontology Conference 9-11 November, Gold Coast

1.5 Invited Presentations

Wicks A (2005) *Do It Now*. Invited Keynote address. National Speakers Series. Building for the future. Australian Government Department for Health and Ageing. 18 November, Batemans Bay.

Wicks A (2006) *An occupational perspective of health*. Invited address. Blueprint Shoalhaven: Health/Ageing/Public Service. 3 April, Nowra

1.6 Accepted conference presentations

Wicks A (2006) *The Australasian Occupational Science Centre: An innovative local initiative with global influences on public health*. Expert panel. World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress, 23-28 July 06. Sydney, Australia.

Christiansen C, Hocking C, Jonnson H, Stanley, M, ,**Wicks A**. (2006) *Bringing occupational science into practice: perspectives on adaptation, balance, potential and division of occupations*. Workshop.

Wicks A, Bomba D (2006) *Health-e-living for seniors: A local project with global connections*. Poster. 23-28 July 06 World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress, Sydney, Australia

Wicks A, Bomba D (2006) *Health-e-ageing* OccupationUk Conference, September, Northampton, UK

2.0 Seed funding

Organisation	Date granted	Amount
Shoahaven City Council	Dec 04	\$25 000
AOOSC Pty Ltd	July 04 – June 05	\$20 000 \$10 000 in kind contribution

3.0 Grant Applications

Funding Body	Type of grant	Date submitted	C. I.	Term	Amount	Outcome
DOTARS	Regional Partnerships	Feb 06	A. Wicks	12 months	\$55 000	approved June 06
UOW	Community Engagement	17 Jun 06	D. Bomba A. Wicks		\$8 000	unsuccessful
NHMRC	Training Fellowship (Public Health)	1 Jul 06	A. Wicks	4 years	\$248 000	unsuccessful
ASSA	Workshop program	11 July 05	A. Wicks	3 day workshop in July 06	\$ 5 000	unsuccessful
NHMRC/ARC	Ageing Well, Ageing Productively Program EOI	19 Aug 06	K Eagar I. Ring P. Eklund F.Clark R. Joseph H. Jonsson A. Carswell D. Bomba A. Wicks A. Owen K. McInnes	5 years	\$1 701 205	unsuccessful
Productive Ageing Centre		14 Oct 06	D. Bomba A. Wicks	12 months	\$9 579	unsuccessful
UOW	Faculty of Commerce Research Grant	21 Oct 06	A.Wicks D. Bomba	12 months	\$7 289	\$6 500 approved 21 Nov 05
IMB	Community Foundation	20 Jan 06	A Wicks B Cambourne S de Haaan	12 months	\$20 000	unsuccessful 27 Jan 06
UOW	Educational Strategy Development Fund		A. Wicks B. Cambourne S. de Haan	8 months	\$9 750	Unsuccessful 1 May06

			R. Collins			
NHMRC	Capacity Building		B Oldenburg V Lin R McDermott K Eagar I Ring H Swerrisen D Wilson A Wicks (research fellow)	5 years	\$ 2 452 810	TBA Sept06
UOW	Community Engagement	5 May 06	A Wicks B Cambourne S de Haan R Collins	12 months	\$ 9 750	TBA

4.0 Current Research

4.1 Do It Now Project – refer to progress report July 05 - June 06

Do It Now is the first AOSC project. It is a community education program as well as a research project.

The aim of the program is to inform Shoalhaven residents about the need to participate in meaningful activities for health and wellbeing. The program is specifically designed for those planning to retire from work or who have retired.

The data being collected about what older Shoalhaven people are doing and want to do, and about what hinders and facilitates their participation in the community will be used to develop recommendations that will help shape public policy in the Shoalhaven.

4.2 Health-e-living for seniors: A pilot study

March 06 - February 07

The overall purpose of the project is to examine whether Internet access and use promotes health and well-being amongst rural seniors by enabling them to become and remain socially connected and productive.

The specific aims are: 1. to develop and evaluate an Internet training workshop with seniors 2. to develop and evaluate a student network to support senior Internet users 3. to develop and test instruments for collecting pre and post intervention data on seniors' Internet use and health related factors eg satisfaction, social connectedness, productivity.

4.3 Learning and teaching creatively: Engaging with community partners to facilitate learning and teaching

May 06 - December 06

Awaiting announcement re funding.

'Learning and teaching creatively' is an innovative and multidisciplinary Shoalhaven initiative. The project involves the creative use of community resources and partnerships to teach the GDE students at Shoalhaven Campus the NSW D.E.T's mandatory syllabus in Creative and Performing Arts. The partners in this project are the Shoalhaven Campus, the Bundanon Trust, the Faculty of Education and the Australasian Occupational Science Centre (AOSC).

A unique aspect of this project will be the use of the Shoalhaven GDE students as an integrative element to facilitate Shoalhaven Campus engagement with the Bundanon Trust, a highly valued, internationally renowned 'living arts centre' located in Shoalhaven. Bundanon Trust is a community resource dedicated to the promotion of the practice, enjoyment, education and research of creative arts. Additionally, the Shoalhaven GDE students will be a conduit between the Bundanon Trust and the broader community. Students will draw on the project experiences and apply their enhanced understanding of creativity gained through the project during their school-based practicums in Shoalhaven schools. Hence, Shoalhaven primary school students and their teachers are also significant stakeholders this project.

The project will involve master classes for the GDE students given by Shoalhaven artists at the Campus and master-classes given by Bundanon artists in residence at the Bundanon Education Centre.

5.0 Potential research partners

Organisation	Contact person
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS)	Annette Peart – Innovative Strategies Manager
Centre Link Shoalhaven	Robert Meikle - Manager
Centre for Popular Education, UTS	Rick Flowers – Director
Warilla Neighbourhood Centre	Petre Goode – Community Advocate
University of Western Ontario	Debbie Rudman
University of Western Sydney	Annie McCluskey
Karolinska Institute, Sweden	Hans Jonsson

6.0 Meetings

21 October 05	Rae Taylor	Director, Health Services Australia	Canberra
21 October 05	Fiona Lynch Sue Gordon Gerda Caunt	Ass. Secretary, Office for an Ageing Australia Director, Strategy & Analysis Section, O for AA Director (Acting), O for AA	Canberra
10 November 05	Pam Rutledge Gabrielle Leahy	Director, Office of Ageing, DADHC Principal Policy Officer, DADHC	Gold Coast
25 November 05	Debbie Rudman	Ass Prof of Occupational Therapy University of Western Ontario	Canada ¹

30 November 05	Craig Hamer	Regional Manager South, Illawarra Retirement Trust	St Georges Basin
5 December 05	Jenny Peat	Research Consultant, Tomerong	Shoalhaven Campus
20 December 05	Pat Macalpine Annette Peart AnneMarie Osborne	CRS National Manager, Professional Practice CRS Service Delivery Research and Evaluation Manager CRS Professional Support Officer	Melbourne ²
9 March 05	Prof John Glynn Prof Margaret Sheil Prof Kathy Eagar Prof Gail Whiteford Clare Wilding Mrs Glynn Dr Alison Wicks	Dean Grad. School of Business, UOW Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), UOW Director, CHSD, UOW Director, RIPPLE; Head of Albury Campus, CSU doctoral student, CSU Director, AOSC	Wollongong
6 April	Lachlan Harris	Media Manager, SCC	Nowra

1. audiovisual conference
2. teleconference

7.0 Public lectures

- 7.1 “The other issue in retirement: What are you going to do?
8 September, 2005
This was a Sunset Club function organised in collaboration with the Shoalhaven Industry and Business Association (SIBA) and the Nowra Chamber of Commerce.
Alison Wicks was the presenter.
60 people attended.
- This function was also the official opening of the AOSC.

- 7.2 How to be happy at work’
9 March, 2006
This was another Sunset Club function.

Prof Gail Whiteford, Head of Albury Campus, Charles Sturt University and Director of RIPPLE, Centre for Research into Professional Practice, Learning & Education was the guest speaker.
Approximately 50 people attended

8.0 Workshops

- 8.1 “Occupation-Evidence-Practice”
11 March, 2006
AOSC conducted this workshop at Shoalhaven Campus for the occupational therapists in the Illawarra.

Professor Gail Whiteford and Clare Wilding from Charles Sturt University, and Dr Alison Wicks were the presenters.

14 occupational therapists attended, from Shoalhaven, Kiama, Wollongong and Southern Highlands.

9.0 International visitors

- 9.1 21-22 March, 2006
Professor Tamako Miyamae from Serie Christopher University in Hamamatsu, Japan requested a visit to AOSC during her tour of Australia. She was accompanied by Associate Professor Setsuko Yamasaki and Assistant Professor Akiko Tamaru.

The Japanese visitors were given a Mayoral Reception by Mayor Greg Watson.

10.0 Invited international visits

- 10.1 26-30 April 06, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada

Prepared by Alison Wicks, AOSC Director, 19 May, 2006

Alison Wicks was guest speaker at a Seminar for faculty. She spoke about the Do It Now project and the AOSC.

10.2

1-4 May 06, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

Alison Wicks was a Visiting Scholar. She presented a paper to faculty on the AOSC and the Do It Now project. She also lectured to students re occupational therapy in Australia.

11.0

Inaugural International Occupational Science Think Tank

19-22 July 06

The sponsors of the Think Tank are:

UOW Graduate School of Business– Prof. John Glynn -	\$5000
Journal of Occupational Science	\$5000
UOW Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academia) – Prof. Rob Castle -	\$2000
Serei Christopher University – Prof. T Miyamae -	\$2000
University of Southern California – Prof. Florence Clark -	\$1000
Australasian Society of Occupational Scientists -	\$ 500
Auckland University of Technology Deputy Vice Chancellor – Prof. Phillip Sallis – TBA	
Shoalhaven City Council – John Wells	

There will be 20 participants from 10 countries.

The aims of the Think Tank are to:

1. develop an occupational science research agenda
2. establish international networks with individuals and institutions for future collaborative occupational science research
3. promote an international voice for occupational scientists through strengthening the structure and roles of the International Society of Occupational Scientists (ISOS)

A White Paper, a Green Paper and a book will be outcomes of the Think Tank.

12.0 Supervision of DBA student

Dr Alison Wicks is an associate supervisor for Peter Swan who is doing a Doctorate in Business Administration through the UOW Grad. School of Business.

His area of research is focusing on the employability of mature aged workers in local government.

13.0 Work experience for international occupational therapy student

Gabrielle Bidart, from the University of Southern California will be a work experience student at AOSC from 1 – 15 August, 2006, at the request of Prof. Florence Clarke.

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