

# AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



2024



Australian Fatherhood  
Research Consortium

16TH & 17TH MAY | MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

**DEAKIN DOWNTOWN & ONLINE**

TOWER 2, LEVEL 12 / 727 COLLINS ST MELBOURNE 3008



@ausfatherhood



australian-fatherhood-research-consortium

#AFRS2024

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY ONE – THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

09:15 **WELCOME TO SYMPOSIUM AND INTRODUCTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH CONSORTIUM & SYMPOSIUM**

**Karen Wynter & Rebecca Giallo**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**Video property of Deakin University**

09:30 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - PROF. MILTON KOTELCHUCK, Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School**

**Chaired by Karen Wynter**

**Engaged Fatherhood for Men, Families and Gender Equality**

10:30 **INTRODUCE SPONSORS**

**Karen Wynter**

10:45 **BREAK**

11:00 **PRESENTATION SESSION 1 - ENGAGEMENT OF FATHERS IN HEALTH & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**

**Chaired by Rob Mills**

1. K. Wynter: **Barriers and enablers to health service use among fathers: A review of empirical evidence**
2. M. Seymour: **Exploring fathers' perceived facilitators and barriers in a health intervention during early parenthood**
3. T. Docking: **"Transformative health strategies: How Dads Group initiatives shape health system engagement"**
4. S. Andary & R. Jacobs: **Men working with men in intensive family services: Reflections on violence, trauma lifeworlds and organic interventions**
5. J. So: **'Superdads- The new age of nourishing kids': Co-design workshops with fathers**
6. K. Richards: **Learning from COVID-19: Informing the development of appropriate resources for fathers as they navigate becoming a father in a changing world \***
7. R. Carters: **Dadfit - an innovative community program for dads with outstanding early results \***

\* one slide short presentation



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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY ONE – THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

12:10 LUNCH

13:00 PRESENTATION SESSION 2 - FATHERS & PAID WORK  
Chaired by Elisabeth Duursma

1. A. Ewald: Fathers' experiences with and views on parental leave
2. A. Borgkvist: Analysing public perspectives of Australian fathers' use of government paid parental Leave through social media posts
3. L. Lewington: Exploring men's experiences with paid parental leave policies in Australia
4. E. Mercier: 'I am different': a qualitative analysis of part-time working fathers' constructions of their experiences
5. R. Regan-Coe: The experiences of fathers in same-sex couples requesting and using flexible working arrangements \*
6. L. Lewington: A critical analysis of fatherhood discourses in the Australian Government paid parental leave policy scheme \*

14:10 PRESENTATION SESSION 3 - FATHERS' PARENTING ROLES  
Chaired by Vincent Mancini

1. N. Barrett: Father experiences of the transition to parenthood, the first year and beyond
2. K. Richards: Parenting during COVID-19: Experiences of parents in Victoria, Australia
3. S. P. Kruse: Fathers' involvement in the decision-making process to co-sleep
4. C. J. Ho: Fathers' shared book reading and early home literacy activities with young infants
5. L. Francis: Effects of father trait anger and exposure to prolonged infant cry on key indicators of father sensitive responding \*

15:20 BREAK

15:40 PANEL - REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY'S PRESENTATIONS  
Chaired by Jennifer StGeorge

\* one slide short presentation



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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY ONE - THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

- 16:40 OVERVIEW OF AFRC WORKING GROUPS**  
Chaired by Karen Wynter  
Discussion of the working groups under the Australian Fatherhood Research Consortium. Join a group and help to change the face of Australia's fatherhood research field
- 17:00 END OF DAY COMMENTS**  
Chaired by Rebecca Giallo
- 17:15 CLOSE & DRINKS**  
**Bar Nacional**  
Located downstairs from Deakin Downtown, directly outside Collins Square Tower 2
- 18:30 DINNER**  
**BangPop**  
Attendees will walk as a group to BangPop restaurant from Bar Nacional (please feel free to organise your own alternative transport, if required)  
35 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE  
AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH CONSORTIUM**



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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY TWO – FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

09:00 **WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

**Karen Wynter & Rebecca Giallo**

**SUMMARY OF DAY 1**

**Chris May**

09:30 **KEYNOTE PANEL - LIVED EXPERIENCE OF FATHERHOOD**

**Chaired by Rebecca Giallo, Shaun Tonkes & Le Ann Williams**

**Supporting men's health in early fatherhood: Lived experience journeys**

**Panel: Frank Alexopoulos, Simon Mason, Simon Moore, Nikhill Shah  
& Mitchell Stoop**

10:30 **BREAK**

10:45 **PRESENTATION SESSION 4 - FATHERS' MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**

**Chaired by Karen Wynter**

- 1. R. Giallo: The Working Out Dads Trial to promote mental health in early fatherhood: Who participated?**
- 2. S. Hodgson: The service development of a partner pathway for perinatal mental health services in the UK.**
- 3. A. Watkins: Paternal perinatal mental health support and care: Public and professional qualitative exploration**
- 4. E. O'Connor: Paternal perinatal depression and wellbeing: Examining cross-sectional predictors and longitudinal trajectories**
- 5. J. Chhabra: The indirect role of family-work conflict & sleep disturbance on paternal perinatal mental distress \***
- 6. D. Davies-Cotter: Road-testing the 'New Dads Project' \***

12:00 **PRESENTATION SESSION 5 - DIVERSITY OF FATHERS**

**Chaired by Jennifer Ericksen**

- 1. R. Fletcher: Supporting dads to help distressed mums**
- 2. R. Elmir: Usability and acceptability of videos to support culturally and linguistically diverse fathers**
- 3. N. J. Pierce: The lost boys: Mapping the educational trajectories of young fathers in the UK.**

\* one slide short presentation



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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY TWO – FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

### PRESENTATION SESSION 5 - DIVERSITY OF FATHERS (CONT...)

Chaired by Jennifer Ericksen

4. A. Owen: Parenting from prison: Innovative ways of maintaining connection with children, families and significant others \*

5. G. Branjerdporn: Fathers' perspective of when their partner is admitted to an inpatient, mental health mother-baby unit \*

13:00 LUNCH

13:45 PRESENTATION SESSION 6 - FATHERS & GENDER CONFORMITY

Chaired by Rakime Elmir

1. V. Mancini: The impact of fathers' conformity to masculine norms on children's mental health

2. R. Patulny: Who do father's perform emotion work for, and how does it make them feel?

3. J. StGeorge: Paternal affection, masculinity and fathers' parenting self-efficacy: Findings from an Australian cohort

4. J. Chhabra: Men's (re)construction of fatherhood: From masculine gender roles to egalitarian gender roles \*

14:40 BREAK

15:00 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chaired by Karen Wynter & Rebecca Giallo

16:00 AWARDS PRESENTATION

Chaired by Rakime Elmir, Elisabeth Duursma & Vincent Mancini

16:15 END OF DAY REFLECTION

Rebecca Giallo

16:30 CLOSE

\* one slide short presentation



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# ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

The **Australian Fatherhood Research Consortium (AFRC)** formed in 2017 with three key aims:

- (i) to advance the science of fatherhood;
- (ii) to inform practice and policy that supports men and their families; and
- (iii) to promote healthy inclusion of fathers in family life.

To guide the AFRC collaboration, four groups have been formed, specialising in different aspects of research and practice.

The **Data Analysis** group was created to enable better collaboration across studies with research data on fathers and is led by A/Prof. Jacqui Macdonald of Deakin University.

The **Intervention** group was created to bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers interested in contributing to the development and evaluation of intervention programs for fathers and is led by Dr. Levita D'Souza of Monash University.

The **Literature Review** group was formed to evaluate and synthesise the existing literature on fathers and is led by Dr. Karen Wynter of Monash University.

The **Science Communication** group was formed to translate the AFRC group's findings from the research domain into the public domain to raise the profile of fathers in policy and practice. It is led by Dr. Chris May, of the University of Newcastle.

**X (formerly Twitter):** @ausfatherhood | #AFRS2024

**Linked In:** [australian-fatherhood-research-consortium](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-fatherhood-research-consortium)



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE  
AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD  
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM**



# AUSTRALIAN FATHERHOOD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM STEERING COMMITTEE



## **Steering Committee 2024:**

Jacqui Macdonald, Deakin University (*Convener*)  
Karen Wynter, Monash University (*Convener*)  
Rebecca Giallo, Deakin University (*Convener*)  
Georgia Zouboulis, Deakin University  
Jennifer StGeorge, University of Newcastle  
Chris May, University of Newcastle  
Ashlee Borgkvist, University of South Australia  
Elisabeth Duursma, Western Sydney University  
Jennifer Ericksen, Austin Health  
Robert Mills, NSW Health  
Rakime Elmir, Western Sydney University  
Levita D'Souza, Monash University  
Vincent Mancini, Telethon Kids Institute  
David Hawkins, Dads Matter, City of Casey

## **Production team:**

Georgia Zouboulis  
Gessica Misuraca  
David Hawkins

## **Interns:**

Amelia Bereznicki  
Michelle James

# THIS SYMPOSIUM IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:

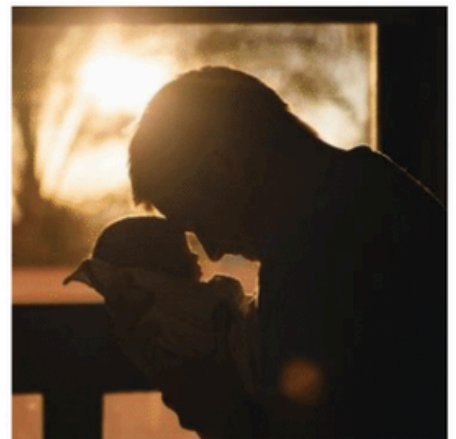
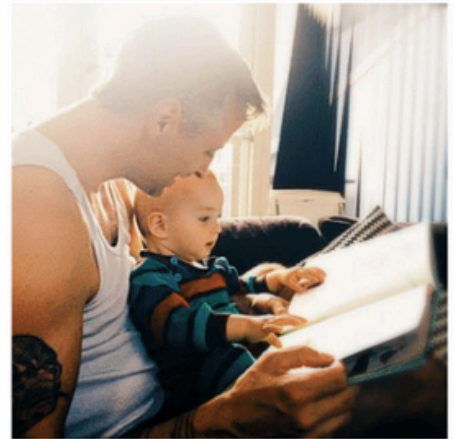


SEED Lifespan aims to promote emotional health from conception through to young adulthood, later life and into the next generation. SEED Lifespan recognises the seminal role that experiences in early emotional life have on social development, that every age and stage matters in building wellbeing, and that confidence in holding positive and painful emotion is essential to felt security across the lifecourse.

SEED Lifespan advises on the most effective approaches to promoting wellness and intervening at the earliest opportunities in troubled pathways. SEED Lifespan brings together life-course, clinical and public health research and practice to describe the major milestones in emotional life. We then engage systems for translating our research knowledge broadly to the community, organisations, and government.

SEED Lifespan's Lifecourse Sciences Theme aims to improve our understanding of the developmental origins of mental health and disorder. This area of work is guided by our population based longitudinal studies of social-emotional development, including the Men and Parenting Pathways (MAPP) Study. It supports research into the developmental origins of mental health and disorder, within and across generations.

Find out more about SEED-Lifespan at:  
<https://www.deakin.edu.au/seed>



# THIS SYMPOSIUM IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

The Family Action Centre (FAC) is a research and practice centre focused on families and their communities. The Centre produces innovative, dynamic, and enduring work that aims to strengthen family and community well-being. The FAC is committed to addressing factors that affect health and wellbeing, and the social and educational paths of families, particularly for those challenged by increasingly complex vulnerabilities.

The FAC is a national leader in fatherhood and family wellbeing research, with a focus on fathers of young children and babies and supporting these fathers in their relationship with their families. The Centre's research provides evidence for policy and service system innovations that better mobilise capabilities to improve individual, family, and community outcomes.

The Centre delivers family support and outreach services, such as parenting programs, family inclusive practice programs and health evaluation initiatives. The Centre hosts a range of students from various disciplines in an inter-professional placement unit, and also provides opportunities to student volunteers to participate in our family support programs, where they liaise with human service workers in education, health, and family and community services.

Contact FAC at: [family@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:family@newcastle.edu.au)





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