

Collaborative Evaluation Unit (CEU)

Newsletter, December 2020

Message from the CEU Director

2020 has brought with it a number of challenges for all, the most significant was the inability to meet face to face with evaluation partners. The CEU has worked hard to ensure we approach every evaluation as an opportunity to learn, work collaboratively and show case the wonderful work that is occurring right across Gippsland. There have been a number of significant evaluations this year, we would like to thank our industry partners on giving the CEU the opportunity to work with you and we are looking forward to future collaborations. As the new year dawns we are looking forward to once again providing Gippsland with webinars and workshops to build local evaluation and research capacity. From the CEU team we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.



In this newsletter:

- [Message from the CEU Director](#)
- [GAASS](#)
- [LLEN - 'I Am Ready' Program](#)
- [Emerging Practice](#)
- [Pitch to Quit](#)
- [Our Staff](#)
- [Our Activity in 2020](#)
- [Our 2020 Highlights](#)

[Sign up to our Mailing List](#)

Our Projects

GAASS

The CEU have been working with Gippsland Aboriginal Advocacy Support Services (GAASS) to evaluate the training provided to staff, in preparation for supporting local Aboriginal people who are seeking and applying for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services.

GAASS put people and community at the center of everything that they do and we've been so inspired listening to GAASS staff and hearing the incredible passion and dedication that they have for their work. Below are some images from our time working with GAASS.





LLEN - 'I Am Ready' Program

The 'I Am Ready' program, a project by the Baw Baw Latrobe (LLEN), East Gippsland LLEN, South Gippsland Bass Coast (LLEN) and National Disability Coordination Officer Program (NDCO), enabled young people with a disability to gain knowledge, skills and opportunities to help them secure meaningful employment, further education and training. 'I Am Ready' supported Gippsland secondary school students and acted as a transition program, to give them a variety of skills in areas such as work readiness, gaining confidence, self-direction and empowerment.

We worked with the LLEN to evaluate the 'I Am Ready' program, and broke down our key findings into the following categories; reach of the program, lessons learnt, breaking down barriers, building confidence and bright future for participants and the program.

This project highlighted transition programs as a resource to empower people with barriers in accessing meaningful work or further education. The support provided through these programs and the use of mentors and face to face delivery, can improve the skills of people with barriers and empower them to achieve their goals and aspirations.





Emerging Practice

COVID-19 has changed many of the ways that we deliver and receive essential services. For service organisations, this means that staff needed to adapt quickly and innovatively to a variety of rapid changes to the way that they deliver services. To investigate this a bit further, we partnered with the Latrobe Health Assembly (LHA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), to complete a first stage rapid evaluation and analyse how effective Gippsland service organisations were in adapting and implementing these changes to service delivery (in line with COVID-19 restrictions), and to see how staff were effected by and responded to these.

To complete this evaluation, we interviewed a group of participants who represented 42 different organisations across Gippsland. In speaking to participants, we found that many services were being rapidly moved to an online delivery model, which required essential training and skills development for staff so they felt comfortable delivering services effectively. A hybrid model was suggested for future service delivery, particularly in organisations that were able to prepare their staff, provide the relevant infrastructure, provide comprehensive training and who were able to work in partnership with their clients; to ensure their service needs were also being met.

COVID-19 has presented unique challenges and changes for all of us this year, with quite a few of those being in the workplace. Here are some of the

1. Adequately resource staff in order to implement virtual service delivery.
2. Provide essential training and skill acquisition for staff.
3. Organisational flexibility to accommodate a variety of work environments.
4. Further research to explore the impact of the changes to service delivery on the client experience, health outcomes and work productivity.

Pitch to Quit

Pitch to Quit is a Latrobe Valley based competition, asking community members to pitch an idea which will be turned into a media campaign to encourage people to quit smoking. An initiative of the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone and Gippsland Primary Health Network (GPHN), Pitch to Quit ran for the second time in 2020 with judging conducted by representatives from Gippsland PHN, Quit Victoria, the Latrobe Health Assembly, and media and graphic design experts from the local community.

Our evaluation focused on the experiences of the finalists and judges of the Pitch to Quit competition, with the second stage of the evaluation following the Pitch to Quit winner through the creation, completion and distribution of their campaign. In the first stage of the evaluation, we found that the Pitch to Quit campaign was a fantastic way for community to be involved in a community health campaign. The collaborative approach of the campaign design and theme was viewed as innovative and successful for those involved and although a few changes had been introduced since the 2019 campaign, most of these changes were seen to be positive ones. The competition even provided the opportunity for one community member to develop their advertising and film making skills!

Keep an eye on our upcoming newsletters for updates on the second stage of this amazing project.



Do you have a great idea
for a community
campaign to quit
smoking?

We want to hear from
you!

We are calling all creatives from across the Latrobe Valley to pitch innovative ideas for a Quit smoking campaign.

Subscribe to our newsletter for competition updates and news.

Our Staff



Elissa Dabkowski

How did you get started in the CEU?

I had just successfully completed my Honour's thesis titled, "*The efficacy of a community-based exercise program on the health and well-being of ageing adults: A qualitative study.*" This thesis formed part of an evaluation for the FRRR Health and Wellness program in Yinnar, which was completed by the CEU. I loved working with my two Honours supervisors Jo and Michael and when the opportunity to work with the CEU came up I jumped at the chance! I currently work one day a week with the CEU and I also work as a nurse in the emergency department of Latrobe Regional Hospital. There's a saying that goes "*Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.*" This is exactly how I feel about research! To me, it is fun and exciting and I feel very lucky to be part of the CEU.

What are you currently working on?

At the moment, I'm working with Jo in finalising the evaluation of the *Zero Suicide* project. This has been such a great project and I'm looking forward to seeing the finished results. I'm also working with a great evaluation team on the *Make Your Move Latrobe/Increasing Access to Sport* evaluation in collaboration with GippSport. We are on track to having this three-part evaluation completed by June 2021. I'm sure there'll be many other projects that I will be part of in 2021 but for now this is certainly keeping me busy!

What's your favourite thing about working for CEU?

100% the people I work with! We are such an eclectic group of people with different backgrounds and we all bring a different skillset to the CEU. I feel very honoured to be working alongside such esteemed colleagues and it is never a dull moment working in the CEU! We also have the pleasure of meeting wonderful people from both industry and out in the community who have

What are you looking forward to for 2021?

We have a lot happening, it's truly exciting times for all of us! I can't wait to see the new projects that come our way in 2021. I'll be looking forward to seeing the progress and outcome of the *Make Your Move* project, which will be finished by June 2021. I'm also looking forward to seeing our research in international and national publications. On a personal note, I'll be commencing a PhD in 2021, so I'm excited for the upcoming challenges ahead.



Paul Kemel

How did you get started in the CEU?

I got a lecturer position with the University setting up the physiotherapy program that's gonna be rolling out next year. My background's mainly in clinical and this was my first academic role. The CEU Streetgames evaluation fit really nicely as I'm quite passionate about youth sport participation. Moving into academia, there's an opportunity to have an input into projects that have a bigger scope and have a much bigger, grander impact, so I thought this was a nice project to get my teeth sunk into. Using my background as a clinical sports physiotherapist, I think it's blended my two areas quite nicely; what I wanted to achieve versus what I've done in the past. With what I've done in the past, there's been always a research component as physiotherapy is very evidence based practice. But I wanted to learn how to do better research, so getting the opportunity to be involved in a community sport program and evaluating that, it was an easy decision for me to say yes.

I'm also currently enrolled in the Master of Health Program and Jo's been a fantastic supervisor. The projects in the CEU are definitely having a look at that community impact and it feels good to know that the research that you're contributing to is hopefully having a bigger impact, more so than just at the individual level.

So we're in the midst of data collection and the report write-up phase for the Streetgames evaluation. I did phase one, which was looking at the covid transition where they had to deliver the program online. I looked at it from a qualitative point of view, so I did some interviews with some of the participants which was really, really engaging - you could see the passion that the guys had for the program was just absolutely incredible. And then looking at quantitative components, so we sent out a survey and are getting some interesting results from that as well. It's interesting because it's a unique snapshot in time. The Streetgames program itself is probably not going to be entirely delivered online into the future, but it's advising Gippsport about what lessons can be learned from it, while also taking a step back and looking at it from a wider community point of view. You had these participants, a young adult adolescent population, and you look at the impact of covid on them. It'll be interesting to see how this research and how what we've found, will tie into similar future studies and whether or not we can undo the effect of the covid lock-down and how long that is going to take.

What's your favourite thing about working for the CEU?

When I took on this academic role I was doing it knowing the limitations of what I could do from a physio side, from a clinician side. In that role, you're limited to the 30 or 40 individuals that you treat per week, and even across a year you might only see X number of patients. As much as I love doing that and helping people in the individual setting, I wanted to contribute to something bigger. I felt like these projects would have a bigger impact than what I can just do from a one on one setting. Streetgames was a perfect fit for me. It's an amazing program. The concept; that free sport participation and removing the barriers that some people have in terms of participating. It's trying to influence further upstream effects because we know how important physical activity is in terms of academic performance, in terms of mental health. That has the ability to change peoples lives long term. That's the type of impact you can't really have in a clinical setting.

What are you looking forward to for 2021?

We'll be delivering the Physio program for the first time next year, so my head space will probably be a lot into that 'cause I'm coordinating the physio specific course. I'll also be finishing up this report for the CEU and finishing off the thesis component of my degree. And then we've got a couple of other projects that are looking at a transition to practice for allied health, so we'll see how that goes as well. That's my plans for 2021 (and move into my new house which will be nice). It's been a great experience working with the CEU and learning from Jo this year. She's definitely a good mentor to have, so whenever she needs my help, I'll be there!

2020 CEU Activity and Achievements:

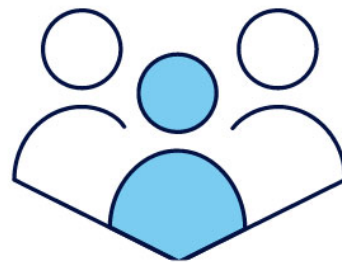
- 10 major industry evaluation reports
- Completion Bachelor of Nursing Honours student
- Completion Master of Health student
- Submission of 14 funding applications
- Awarded 10 grants
- Val Prokopiv – Dean's Award for contribution to the School of Health
- A/P Joanne Porter – Dean's Award for contribution to the School of Health

OUR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

A year of achievement and growth

EXPANSION OF STAFF PROFILE

Our staff profile has grown throughout 2020, with 26 staff across multiple university departments now involved in CEU projects

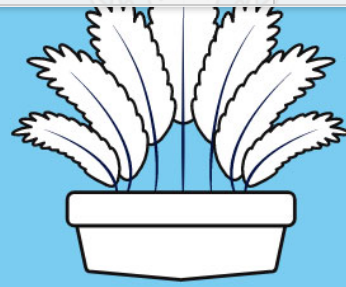


NEW PARTNERSHIPS

We've been busy establishing community connections. In 2020, we worked with 42 industry partners across Gippsland.

PROJECTS, PROJECTS

This year has been anything but dull! Our projects have increased, with CEU now leading 17 projects across various agencies, industries and departments (and we're still growing!)



What will 2021 bring?

Read more at
<https://federation.edu.au/connect/partnerships/business-partnerships/our-partnerships/collaborative-evaluation-unit>.

About us

The Collaborative Evaluation Unit (CEU) is an innovative initiative that aims to build evaluation capacity, research and expertise in Gippsland. As a local provider, the CEU understands the value of listening to the community and has the ability to deliver timely, rigorous and sustainable evaluations tailored to the needs of a wide variety of organisations. The CEU provides training, workshops and mentoring to build capacity to enable organisations to conduct meaningful evaluations.

[Visit our website](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

Email: ceu@federation.edu.au

Phone: 03 5327 6733

[Translate](#) ▼

[RSS](#) 

Our mailing address is:

Collaborative Evaluation Unit
Federation University, Gippsland Campus
PO Box 3191
Gippsland Mail Centre VIC 3841

CRICOS Provider No. 00103D | RTO Code 4909

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Federation University Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where its campuses are located, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and First Nations Peoples.

This message and its contents are confidential. If you received this message in error, do not use or rely upon it. Instead, please inform the sender and delete it.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

CEU · Federation Uni Gippsland · 33 Northways Rd · CHURCHILL, VIC 3842 · Australia

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**