

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

(HREC) MEMBERS

Dr Heather Wellington
HREC Chairperson



Heather is a strong supporter of high-quality health and medical research after training and working as a medical practitioner and medical administrator. This included a role as Director of Medical Services at The Geelong Hospital, before completing a law degree at Deakin University and working as a health sector lawyer with national law firms. She has directed a health consulting business with a focus on healthcare safety and quality and held various director and chair roles, including chairman of the board of directors at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre for eight years. She is also a past member of the Infertility Treatment Authority and the board of Bio21 Australia.

She has lived in the Geelong region for more than 30 years and currently lives in Barrabool with her partner Ian and is an elected councillor with the Surf Coast Shire.

Dr Olivia King
Deputy HREC Chair – Research Experience Category



Olivia King is an allied health researcher and educator. She is Manager of Research Capability Building for Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre. She holds an Adjunct Research Associate position with the Monash Centre for Scholarship in Health Education and an Affiliate Senior Lecturer role with Deakin Rural Health. She is passionate about developing research capability in the health sector and promoting the translation of research into practice, particularly in rural health settings. Her research interests include interprofessional role boundaries, allied health workforce, sociology of the professions, qualitative methods, and health professions education. Olivia enjoys running, camping with her family, and spending time at the beach..

Mr Lynsey Blakston
HREC Member – Pastoral Care Category



Mr Lynsey Blakston has ongoing pastoral responsibilities through church leadership he is involved in. This includes a particular project of outreach into the northern suburbs of Geelong through Vines Road Community Centre.

He is also part of the Board of Covenant College in Bell Post Hill where he has grandchildren attending.

Dr Tracey Caulfield***HREC Member – Layperson Category***

Dr Tracey Caulfield is a research librarian who has also served as a lay woman on the Alfred Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee and Sub-Committee. She has an interest in community issues and volunteers with the St Vincent de Paul Society at one of their charity shops which directly supports the welfare services provided to the Geelong community. She also has an interest in medical issues and research developments. Tracey also has a Masters of Archaeological Science to accompany her PhD in English literature.

Mr Paul Dodemaide***HREC Member – Professional Care Category***



Paul is a Geelong local, a Baxter House baby. A proud father of three boys, he went to school, TAFE, and University here in Geelong, and now completing his PhD through the University of Melbourne. Paul is a social worker with ten years work experience with Barwon Health, in the acute hospital and inpatient rehabilitation. Paul is driven to ensuring that patients and supportive family are guided through their health journey and able to make free and fully informed decisions about the care or treatment for themselves or their loved one. Prior to completing his Bachelor of Social Work (Hons), Paul worked as a Youth Worker for eight years across various local community based youth and family services settings, including Clockwork Young People's Health Service which later became the basis for the Headspace service model, also some of the residential care settings locally for drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation, programs with YSAS, Mental Illness Fellowship, and out of home care with MacKillop Family Services. Paul is passionate about practiced based research, and ensuring that consumer and lived experience perspectives are respected and valued in research which ultimately impacts on their lives.

Dr Damien Elsworth***HREC Member – Professional Care Category***



Dr Damien Elsworth provides anaesthesia for most general surgical specialties, with a particular interest in paediatric anaesthesia. Damien moved to Geelong at in 2009 to complete his anaesthetic training, also gaining experience at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Western Health. He completed a paediatric fellowship in anaesthesia at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Outside of work he enjoys spending time with family and watching sport, particularly his children's or North Melbourne FC.

Dr Renee Fiolet***HREC Member – Research Experience Category***



Dr Renee Fiolet is an early-career researcher working in a Dean's Strategic Post Doctoral Research Fellow role in Knowledge Translation at Deakin University. Renee's background is in nursing, with a focus on primary health care and paediatrics. However, her research focuses on her passion for trauma and violence, and improving equity and access in health care, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. She is strongly supportive of de-colonising research approaches and using methods that will lead to strong community engagement, with an emphasis on genuine co-design

Ms Janine Fisher***HREC Member –Lay Category***

Dr Denise Jones***HREC Member – Research Experience Category***



Denise Jones took up the post of Allied Health Research and Knowledge Translation Lead at Barwon and South West Healthcare in April 2022. She is an Adjunct Research Fellow at La Trobe University with research focusing on hip-related pain and physical activity, having completed her PhD at La Trobe in 2020. Denise is a physiotherapist with 30 years of clinical experience and more than 15 years involvement as an undergraduate and postgraduate educator in both clinical and university settings. Denise has experience in quantitative and qualitative research approaches and a keen interest in the practical application of research efforts to improve outcomes for our patients.

Denise hails from the UK, enjoys travel (pandemics permitting) and is a slow (but persistent) runner.

Ms Lauren Mahoney
HREC Member – Lay Category



Lauren has worked in the Water Industry for over 14 years undertaking a range of environmental planning, recycled water planning and project management roles. Lauren is currently working as a Senior Project Manager to deliver water, sewerage and recycled water related infrastructure in the Geelong and surrounding region.

Lauren enjoys travel, hiking and spending time with family and friends.

Qualifications – BE (Hons) Environmental Engineering, Graduate Certificate in Social Ecology.

Dr Ian McKenzie
HREC Member – Researcher Category



Ian McKenzie graduated in Medicine (1961 MBBS) from Melbourne University and trained in Internal Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital at the time when renal transplantation was being established. An MD & MRACP/FRACP followed and a PhD on “Antibodies in Transplantation”. Ian then worked at the Mass General Hospital in Boston, and at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine USA, where his interest in Lymphocyte Surface antigens developed when working with Dr George Snell (Nobel Prize 1980). On return to Australia in 1974, he worked at the Austin Hospital, established a “Centre of Excellence” in the Department of Pathology at the University of Melbourne and was then, in 1990, appointed as Founding Director of the Austin Research Institute (ARI). His research at the ARI resulted in the formation of Prima Biomed Limited where Ian was a founding Board Member. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Revivicor (USA) and is an honorary member of the Australian Society for Immunology, Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand, & International Xenotransplantation Association. Ian’s major contributions are described in many papers, covering allo- and xeno-transplantation, cell surface antigens and studies in the diagnosis and therapy of cancer. His laboratory pioneered the application of monoclonal antibody technology in Australia in the 1970’s, where hundreds of antibodies were made, especially those detecting more than 40 different cell surface molecules and 15 new genes described in the mouse and humans, including the cloning of many. Several antibodies were used in the clinic, either alone or as immunoconjugates, or were used to develop serum based ELISA tests for breast or ovarian cancer and were successfully licensed. More recently, Ian has been consulting for several biotech companies, particularly those involved in cancer.

Ms Alison Mitchell***HREC Member – Lawyer Category***



Alison is the Practice Manager and a Lawyer at Whyte Just & Moore, practising in the area of wills and estates. Alison studied at Deakin University in Geelong, graduating in 1998 with an honours degree in law and a bachelor degree in commerce.

Alison's areas of legal practice initially included litigation, wills and estates and criminal law, before practising exclusively in family law for several years. During that time, Alison was appointed by Victoria Legal Aid to act as an independent Children's Lawyer, representing children in contentious family law disputes. After spending some time at home with her young family, Alison returned to legal practice and now enjoys the challenges and the ability to assist people with their succession and estate planning.

For more than a decade Alison was a regular volunteer at the Barwon Legal Service, an active member of the Geelong Law Association and the Treasurer of the Association for a number of years.

Dr Cameron Osborne***HREC Member – Professional Care Category***



Dr Cameron Osborne's first association with University Hospital, Geelong was in the 'last century' as a medical student. He has now been a consultant anaesthetist at Barwon Health since 2008.

Cameron has been the Site Investigator for several large multi-centre anaesthetic trials (ENIGMA 2, POISE 2, and the current RELIEF trial). He has studied biostatistics to certificate level and is now studying echocardiography. Cameron is interested in research because it answers questions to which we simply do not know the answer, and this will hopefully lead to better care. His outside interests include being a Dad and learning piano.

Ms Louise Scerri***HREC Member – Layperson Category***



Louise has extensive experience in research management and administration, including grants management, research support and ethics administration (both human and animal). Having initially graduated from RMIT with a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science), Louise's early career took a different path within the health sector. She now has over 15 years' experience within a health and medical research environment, having held a variety of roles in both the not-for-profit and higher education sectors. Louise has seen first-hand the importance of medical research and the positive impact it can have on peoples' lives, including those close to her, and has developed a passion for supporting this important work. With an enthusiasm to contribute to the responsible conduct of research to advance human health and welfare, ensuring participants' are protected, respected and supported, Louise has recently joined Barwon Health HREC. She is also a lay member of Monash University's HREC, and in her spare time she likes to travel, if not relaxing at home with friends and family.

Mr Patrick Sheehan
HREC Member – Lawyer Category

Ms Jessica Snir
HREC Member – Research Experience Category



Jessica is a current medical student at Deakin University, Waurn Ponds. She holds a Bachelor of Biomedicine (Pharmacology), a Masters of Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts.

Jessica has held various research positions including Clinical Trial Project Officer at the School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine (Monash University), medical research intern at the Dead Sea and Arava Science Centre (Israel) and research assistant at both the Gynaecology Research Centre (Royal Women's hospital) and the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (University of Melbourne). She has also undertaken an internship position at The Children's Bioethics Centre (The Royal Children's Hospital).

Jessica is also actively involved in science education having worked as a science educator at PrimeSCI! (Swinburne University of Technology), the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC) and the Science Gallery Melbourne (The University of Melbourne). In addition, she has written for Cosmos Magazine and is the current host of the Melbourne Medical School's Alumni podcast Chiron.

Ms Katherine Snowden
HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Katherine is the Oncology Pharmacy Manager at Barwon Health. She graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology and then completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy at Charles Sturt University. Katherine also holds a Master of Health Service Management from the University of Tasmania. Before joining Barwon Health she worked at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in Sydney as the Director of Pharmacy.

Mr Christopher Thompson
HREC Member – Pastoral Care Category

Christopher joins the HREC with a diverse background, both spiritual and scientific. Having completed studies in engineering and theology Chris has held pastoral roles in parish and university student ministry and more recent roles as a clinical physiologist. Christopher's involvement with the HREC stems from units in social ethics, philosophy and Christian ethics completed as part of his BDiv. He also has interests in disability advocacy and bereavement care, medical devices and bioethics.

Chris grew up in regional NSW prior to tertiary studies which he completed in Sydney. He moved to Geelong in 2012, and enjoys life with his wife and kids, the community of his local church where he serves as a musician and fixing and sailing his 470 dinghy.

Mr Darryl Towers
HREC Member – Lay Category



Mr Darryl Towers has corporate business experience including over 26 years with Alcoa in Australia. He has broad based international & domestic knowledge developed within metals/materials sales & marketing, transport, supply chain, purchasing & manufacturing environments.

Darryl has been a member of the HREC since mid-2012. He is a Barwon Health Volunteer and Consumer Representative on current governance committees plus a number of other committees, focus groups and WISE.

His qualifications include a Bachelor of Applied Science in Secondary Metallurgy.

Dr Megan Tuner
HREC Member – Professional Care Category



Megan has been a clinical psychologist for 20 years, with a focus on family-inclusive practice and evidence-based treatment for mental health disorders. She is interested in clinician-led research and the translation of research outcomes into clinical practice. Megan works primarily in a clinical education role, supporting the development of postgraduate psychology trainees in their clinical placements and teaching.

Dr Greg Weeks***HREC Member – Professional Care Category***



Dr Greg Weeks is the Director of Pharmacy at Barwon Health and St John of God Hospital. He has current membership of various State and professional committees including the Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group, and Health Purchasing Victoria Pharmaceuticals Expert Reference Group.

Greg is a researcher with Monash University in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Centre for Medication Use and Safety, and holds a Master of Pharmacy in Clinical Pharmacy, Master of Health Administration, PhD and Fellowship of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

Greg has a special interest in advanced practice roles for hospital pharmacists and is pursuing this interest through research grants involving partnered pharmacist charting and advanced pharmacy practice in community palliative care. Greg has published widely within the pharmacy literature.

Dr Lauren Young***HREC Member – Research Experience Category***

Dr Lauren Young is an Clinical Research Associate at Monash Transfusion Research Unit. Lauren's expertise lies in nutritional science, where she studies the effects of diet and lifestyle on mood and cognitive function. She has previously coordinated studies at the Food and Mood Centre of IMPACT, Deakin University.