Aim of the Research Agenda - 2007

The Vocational and Community Rehabilitation research agenda aims to:

- Undertake applied research that improves the capacity of individuals with injuries to negotiate their environments effectively following the onset of a disability;
- Encourage the development of responsive human service systems, communities and workplaces that can accommodate and support people with disabilities;
- Develop and evaluate innovative human service models and rehabilitation interventions;
- Contribute to human service needs and issues that are not adequately addressed at present.

The research conducted in this stream clusters into four major themes:

Healthy Places: Putting Health & Wellbeing in Context

- Understanding how place influences health and well-being.
- Increasing the capacity of communities to understand and respond to local issues.
- Protecting and supporting the social structures that can contribute to health and well-being.
- Encouraging healthy places across a range of settings such as schools, workplaces.

Partnerships and Pathways: Transitions to Better Health & Wellbeing

- Understanding the transitions people make between various states of health throughout life.
- Improving the pathways between services and the coordination of care.
- Developing integrated service networks for managing injury, disability and long-term conditions.
- Promoting the engagement of communities in service delivery, planning and development.

Capable Consumers: Managing our own Health & Wellbeing in the Community

- Understanding the experience of people who use services.
- Improving the processes by which people adjust to and manage their health and disability
- Enabling people to mobilise supports and resources that increase their ability to live with disability and illness.
- Identifying ways in which consumer voices can be heard and engaged in service processes.

Collective & Creative Methods for Health & Wellbeing

- Negotiated research relationships with traditional owners of the land.
- Indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge.
- The role of creative processes in building health and wellbeing.
- Localised and participatory community-based responses that respect diversity.
- Appropriate Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaboration.
- Growth and development of Indigenous researchers.

Action Plan for 2008

- Establishment of an industry reference group for Vocational and Community Rehabilitation;
- Identification of other national/international researchers with related interests;
• Development of collaborative networks with relevant industry and government departments;
• Design of seminars and training for community, industry, and service providers;
• Identification of methods of disseminating advice to all levels of Government, industry and community sectors;
• Design of templates and guidelines for a range of information dissemination strategies to be applied to each project;
• Methods for contributing to the training of future service providers;
• Guidelines for participating in consultancy and advisory services;
• Publications and authorship plans
• Contribute to newsletters, website and flyers
• Templates for project fact-sheets, identifying methods for producing video, manuals and other resources from project findings

**General Key Performance Indicators**

*To collaborate with MAIC to (1) address additional research needs (2) review, evaluate and advise regarding processes, activities and projects and (3) educate and disseminate information to scheme stakeholders*

A number of significant outcomes have been achieved in this second half of 2007 in response to the MAIC general performance indicators;

- Attendance at quarterly meetings with MAIC to discuss MAIC agenda
- Provided summary data on all CONROD/MAIC research projects at MAIC meetings
- Developed project reporting template (fact-sheets) for distribution to stakeholders based on advice from MAIC marketing officer
- Responded to requests to present MAIC-related research findings at Shared Visions forums and the Ministerial forum of the Regional Disability Council (Southside)
- Engaged in partnership with GP Queensland around translation of knowledge into practice and started initial discussion about project with MAIC.
- Engaged with CARRS-Q regarding an ARC submission following on from the collaborative BRAKE project.

**Program Key Performance Indicators**

*Key Performance Indicators for the Community and Vocational Rehabilitation research stream are as follows:*

**Research Projects** – at least 1 project that is highly relevant to (a) individuals who have suffered an injury or disability as a result of road traffic crashes (RTCs) and/or (b) the CTP insurance industry, industry regulators or (c) other stakeholders.

**Research Grants** – at least 1 application per annum for research funding from sources other than MAIC. Details provided on the grants won including the additional funds obtained.

**Research Output** – at least 1 paper submitted that is highly relevant to (a) individuals who have suffered an injury or disability as a result of road traffic crashes (RTCs) and/or (b) the CTP insurance industry, industry regulators or (c) other stakeholders.
Education and dissemination – at least 2 presentations that are highly relevant to (a) individuals who have suffered an injury or disability as a result of road traffic crashes (RTCs) and/or (b) the CTP insurance industry, industry regulators or (c) other stakeholders.

Policy participation – membership of, or communications with, at least 1 such group.

As at December 2007, the stream consisted of:

- 1 full-time Associate Professor
- 2 full-time Research Fellows
- 6 part-time Research support staff (2FTE)

In relation to the KPIs, the following outcomes can be reported:

- Publications: 6 (published); 13 (Submitted); 10 (under review)
- Industry Reports: 9
- Research Grants & Consultancies: 19 (successful), 10 (Awaiting outcome), 4 (unsuccessful).
- Supervision of students: 2 Masters students, 2 undergraduate Students, 7 PhD students.
- Post-Doctoral Scholars: 3
- Visiting Professional Fellows: 3
Project 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Rehabilitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>The Riding High Program: Beating the Blues through therapeutic horse-riding for people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Associate Professor Elizabeth Kendall; Ms Janelle Cooper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS – name and organization:

Funded by the Office of Community Partnerships, Griffith University. Crowson Park Riding for the Disabled

*BACKGROUND (brief overview):
The Riding High Program was developed in consultation with Crowson Park Riding for the Disabled (Queensland) and the Centre for Work, Leisure and Community Research, Griffith University. The program endeavours to investigate the effectiveness of therapeutic horse riding on the psychological well-being of adults and children with disabilities (inclusive of severe acquired injury to congenital developmental disabilities). The study aims to provide base line data to measure the psychological well-being of program participants and provide indicators of program effectiveness for the use of alternative therapies, such as therapeutic horse riding as part of rehabilitation therapies for people with disabilities. Australian published research in this area is virtually non-existent. The target group has been drawn from the population who voluntarily access the services of the organization, with an age range 5 to 60 years. Participants will be selected for the project based on their lack of social participation in sporting and other social activities due to their acquired injury and/or disability.

*PROGRESS / OUTCOMES - 1 MAY TO 31 OCTOBER:

Data was collected over a 12 week period (June – August) using a number of modes eg. video recording, observation and interviews. The data is currently in the process of being analysed.

Ongoing contact with Casuarina Lodge, a provider of slow stream rehabilitation for high dependency clients - they are evaluating the program with the intent to incorporate therapeutic horse riding in their recreational program.

*please complete for each project within the programme
**Program**  
Vocational and Community Rehabilitation

**Project Title**  
Self-Management for Indigenous people with chronic conditions: Developing a culturally-appropriate content and method of delivery

**Chief Investigator**  
Elizabeth Kendall & Ms Leda Barnett

*COLLABORATORS – name and organization:

Beth Hunter – Arthritis Foundation of Queensland (Arthritis Queensland)
Russell Renhard – Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Quality Improvement Program

*BACKGROUND (brief overview):

The Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management course has been adopted as an adjunct to existing healthcare for people with chronic conditions in Australia. The course has been successfully delivered by AQ, but has been found to have less utility in Queensland’s Indigenous communities. Various projects have demonstrated that Indigenous people are unlikely to participate. The course involves group education delivered by two trained leaders who follow a standardized format designed in the United States of America and is now delivered worldwide.

Despite extensive marketing, Indigenous people represented less than 1% of those who enquired about a course. Interviews with Indigenous leaders indicated that, although the course content was valuable, there was a reluctance to deliver the course because it conflicted with Indigenous ways of understanding, predominantly the way knowledge was imparted.

*PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:

The project was completed and the report submitted on 13 May 2006.

*please complete for each project within the programme
Project 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Evaluation of the ABIOS STEPS intervention: A statewide intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>A/Prof Elizabeth Kendall, Dr Heidi Muenchberger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS :
ABIOS – (Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service, Brisbane) Ray Quinn, Areti Kennedy, Sue Wright

*BACKGROUND (Ongoing Project)
This is a two year statewide prospective intervention trial that aims to increase an individuals capacity to co-manage their brain injury and enhance their psychosocial support networks. Specifically, the STEPS program is a capacity building 6 week intervention, which aims to facilitate the self-management behaviours of individuals with acquired brain injury and enhance support structures in order for the individual and their family to cope better. During the course, participants will learn about their health and well being, how to manage difficulties with their health and well being, while working towards a common group goal. Although the self-management approach seems to have considerable promise for individuals with brain injury, there is no evaluation research in this area available to confirm its utility and promote it as a viable rehabilitation intervention. This project represents the first formal evaluation of the self-management initiative for the brain injury population in Queensland. The current pilot study aims to:

- Evaluate individual change in health and well-being over time following participation in the STEPS intervention. Specifically, the evaluation will identify the indicators of success for the intervention and the factors that facilitate positive outcomes.

*PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:
There are three parts to the evaluation of the STEPS program. 1. Participant and carer experiences. 2. Leader experiences. 3. Community engagement.
1. Participant and carer data collection is nearing completion for 12 sites 2. Health practitioner leader pilot interviews have been completed and peer leader interviews are scheduled for January/February 2008. 3. The community engagement component has commenced and results incorporated into the October ABIOS progress report. Further community engagement analysis will be undertaken by way of focus groups with key stakeholder groups (community health service managers and ABIOS personnel).

*ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAICs objectives?
This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals who sustain personal injury in motor vehicle accidents.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) or (c) X (please tick)
**Project 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Traumatic Injury: Management of Recovery and the prediction of well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>A/Prof Elizabeth Kendall, Prof Wendy Chaboyer, Dr Leanne Aitkin, Prof Nicholas Bellamy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BACKGROUND (Ongoing Project)**

This study involved a prospective cohort design, using both quantitative and qualitative methods with data collection at hospital discharge, three and six months post-discharge. Ethical clearance was granted through Griffith University, University of Queensland, Princess Alexandra, Gold Coast and Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospitals Human Research Ethics Committees. Data collection commenced in May 2006 at the Gold Coast and Princess Alexandra Hospitals. Quantitative surveys measuring demographics, injury and treatment data, general health, self efficacy, illness perceptions, autonomy, self advocacy, knowledge and support, decision making styles and continuity of care were administered.

**PROGRESS/OUTCOMES**

To date, across both Gold Coast and Princess Alexandra Hospitals, 67 discharge surveys have been completed by participants. A further 15 three month post-discharge surveys have been completed and returned, with further surveys being sent by mail to participants at appropriate time intervals. No participants have reached the six month post-discharge follow up date. Preliminary data analysis will commence in November 2006. Data collection at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital has been postponed due to staffing issues outside of the research team’s control. Data collection at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital will commence in November 2006. A purposively chosen sub-sample of 20 participants will partake in an interview at three and six month intervals. This will examine participant treatment experiences in more detail. The quantitative study will identify the factors that should form the focus of any future interventions while the qualitative study will inform the nature and process of those interventions. At this stage no interviews have been completed.

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAICs objectives?**

This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals who sustain traumatic injury and are experiencing the transition between hospital and home.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) X or (c) X (please tick)
### Project 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title</strong></td>
<td>An Exploratory Pilot Study to Understand the Support Needs of Volunteer Leaders of the Self-Management Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Investigator</strong></td>
<td>A/Prof. Elizabeth Kendall &amp; Ms Tara Catalano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS – name and organization:
Queensland Self-management Alliance - Ms Beth Hunter

**BACKGROUND (Ongoing Project)**
Self-management has become a key component of systems that respond to the needs of people with chronic conditions and disabilities. The self-management course maintains that participants gain skills and knowledge to manage life with a chronic condition more effectively. This course involves a small group education process (10-15 participants), conducted for two hours each week for six weeks. Programs are delivered in community settings and facilitated by two trained leaders, one of whom is often a layperson. Although the CDSM course has been widely evaluated, relatively little research has examined the experiences of leaders. The relative dearth of research focused on the recruitment, training, maintenance and support of a network of quality leaders is surprising given that the success and sustainability of courses within the Australian system hinges on the availability and quality of leaders. This project is the first of its kind to focus research efforts directly on understanding the experiences and support needs of leaders of the course. The project aims to:

- To explore the experiences, motivators, support and ongoing training needs of Queensland leaders (both health professionals and laypersons) trained to deliver Self-Management courses;
- To elucidate gaps or limitations in leaders’ skills, knowledge, and confidence to deliver courses;
- To develop recommendations for improving the support and training offered to in order to target and strengthen these areas.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**
- Data analysis completed
- Final report completed

A publication and output plan is being implemented:
- Undergraduate Honours Thesis has been submitted and a qualitative paper based on these findings has been submitted;
- A qualitative paper based on the interview data has been submitted;
- A series of brochures are being developed, based on the key findings and recommendations.

*ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAICs objectives?*
This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals with permanent injury.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) or (c) X (please tick)
Project 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Collective approaches to well-being: Culturally respectful research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Associate Professor Elizabeth Kendall; Ms Leda Barnett, Dr. Glenda Nalder, Ms. Vanessa Lee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS – name and organization:

A partnership of Indigenous communities will be established in 2008 – preliminary partnership meetings have been held.

*BACKGROUND (New Project)

This project is underpinned by the Indigenous self-management project. The research in this area has developed into a team approach that focuses on collective approaches to wellbeing and culturally respectful research. We are operationalising a number of important principles in this research agenda and establishing ways in which respectful research can occur in future. The proposed principles are:

- a) Formal negotiated research relationships with traditional owners
- b) Respect for Indigenous ways of knowing and Indigenous knowledge
- c) Promotion of participatory community-based methods and localised responses to the needs of Indigenous people
- d) Appropriate collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers
- e) Commitment to growth and development of Indigenous researchers

*PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:

We have developed a plan for implementing a network of researchers (indigenous and non-indigenous) who can contribute to this project. The project will be running by 2008.

*ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAIC’s objectives?

This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals who sustain permanent injury or illness.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) or (c) X (please tick)
**Project 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Intersections Symposium on therapeutic and creative motivations for art making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Dr Naomi Sunderland, Dr. Heidi Muenchberger, Ms. Tara Catalano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS:
*Emma Bennison, Access Arts Queensland*

**BACKGROUND (New Project)**

Art-making is used in disability and rehabilitation contexts for both therapeutic and research purposes. Therapeutic art programs aid with physical rehabilitation as well as socio-emotional expression, communication, identity and self esteem. In addition to the therapeutic benefits of art making, researchers have found that art works of various kinds can function as a high quality qualitative data that describes the lived realities and experiences of people with disability. In some cases, art forms such as photography, painting, or computer graphics actually replace other forms of communication for people with disabilities who have communication difficulties. The forthcoming Intersections Symposium will bring community arts practitioners together with health and community workers and people with disability to enhance links between creative and therapeutic motivations for art making in community contexts. The Symposium will be held at Griffith University South Bank 17-18 March 2008. The Symposium is being co-hosted by the Griffith Abilities Research Program and CONROD-Griffith in association with Access Arts Queensland.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**

1. A partnership between Access Arts Queensland and Griffith University has been established to co-host the Symposium;
2. A reference group comprised of academic researchers and arts practitioners has been assembled to advise on the content of the Symposium and promoting the event;
3. A working group has been assembled to manage the event. The working group is currently preparing a sponsorship proposal and a proposal to publish an edited volume with an international publisher arising from the event.
4. 

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAICs objectives?**

This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals who sustain personal injury in motor vehicle accidents and analogous events. The project will focus on educating the significant number of professional arts and health workers involved in disability and rehabilitation on the potential of art-making as a therapeutic intervention. It will also inform researchers and practitioners of the ethical issues associated with using art as data. The Griffith University partnership with Access Arts also includes a plan to submit a major ARC Linkage Projects grants on pathways for employment for artists with disabilities in 2008.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) or (c) X *(please tick)*
**Project 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title</strong></td>
<td>The development of Bi-lingual Natural Helpers to address the lack of access to services by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Investigator</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Elizabeth Kendall &amp; Dr Saras Henderson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLABORATORS:**

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (Ms Nera Komarik), SQIT TAFE (Ms Andrea Harris), Multilink Access., the Multicultural Chronic Disease Partnership (Mr Fazil Rostam, QLD Health Convenor, Southside District), Queensland Self-Management Alliance (Ms Beth Hunter)

**BACKGROUND (New Project)**

CALD communities experience significant lack of access to services, resulting in the need for the development of a culturally safe model of service delivery for CALD people in the community. This project focuses on the use of natural helpers to work with CALD communities to promote health and well being. Researchers have shown how current models of service delivery are inappropriate. This new model incorporates the use of formally trained Bi-Lingual natural helpers drawn from the local community. By virtue of their background and position in the community, these natural helpers will draw on their existing community linkages in a culturally appropriate way to act as a bridge between the communities and the service system. They will advocate for improved access, ensure that local communities are consulted appropriately and support them in their interpretation and use of services. It is also important to ensure that local input is equitable and that sustainability issues are examined.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**

- The commencement of a systematic review of the literature on service delivery models currently being used with CALD and mainstream communities
- Regular meetings of partners between Griffith University, ECCQ, SQIT TAFE, and Queensland Health to articulate the scope of the project and write the research proposal
- Initial consultation with CALD community leaders has commenced for engagement
- Reviewing funding sources to progress the project
- A framework to progress the project has been developed

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1)**

This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people in the community.

This project meet Research KPI 1 for (a)  X   (b)  or (c)  X  ?  (please tick)
**Project 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Rehabilitation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>A review of the Spinal Cord Injuries Response (SCIR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Dr Pat Dorsett, A/Prof Elizabeth Kendall, Dr Heidi Muenchberger, Prof Lesley Chenoweth, Dr Jayne Clapton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS –:

Disability Services Queensland, Queensland Health, Princess Alexandra Hospital

**BACKGROUND: (Ongoing Project)**
The project will examine and report on the outcomes of the Spinal Cord Injuries Response, benefits to key stakeholders and the cost effectiveness of the program. The findings of the research will be used to inform the strategic planning and policy formation of spinal cord injury service delivery, and improve the service planning for people with spinal cord injury.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**
- Finalisation of the research methodology;
- Ethical clearance from Griffith University and The Princess Alexandra Hospital Human Research Ethics Committees;
- **Phase 1:** A literature review has been completed and reported on;
- **Phase 2:** Organisational Impact Evaluation has commenced, involving consultation with key stakeholder organisations. Interviews with key stakeholders (n=4) have been conducted and data analysis is underway. Three focus groups with have been conducted including participants representing each of the SCIR partner organisations and data analysis is underway;
- **Phase 3:** Client Impact Evaluation has commenced. Recruitment of SCIR and non-SCIR clients has commenced -- to date, eight interviews have been conducted.

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) –**
The findings of this study will directly impact on the individuals, families, communities, service providers and systems of relevance to the MAIC agenda. Additionally the findings may be transferable to similar injury populations and assist in the development of related service initiatives.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X(b) ✗ or (c) X (please tick)
**Project 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Evaluation of Youngcare: An accommodation option for people with high health and high support needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Dr Heidi Muenchberger, A/Prof Elizabeth Kendall, A/Prof Judy Wollin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*COLLABORATORS :*
Wesley Mission Brisbane, Youngcare, School of Nursing Griffith University.

*BACKGROUND (Ongoing Project)*
This study is an empirical evaluation of an independent living option for younger people with continual care needs. Within a Logic model framework, the evaluation will consider the contextual elements required to deliver such a model of care, resources available, activities that have/will occur, intermediate outcomes and overall impact and sustainability of the initiative.

The methodology will be informed by a participatory action framework and a theoretical model of person-centred practice. A longitudinal cohort study will be undertaken using a mixed-methods design. Key outcome indicators include individual quality of life and community partnership experiences. Youngcare residents, their family and staff working in the Youngcare apartments will be invited to participate in the evaluation. In addition, the perceptions of key stakeholders involved in the implementation of Youngcare will be sought.

*PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:*
To date, the evaluation plan has been approved by Wesley Mission following full ethical clearance. Initial interviews have commenced with carers, residents and partnership members. Second round interviews are anticipated for January 2008, once the residents have made the transition from current care arrangements to Youngcare.

*ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1) – how does this project align with MAICs objectives?*
This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate research, education, and dissemination in the field of injury, rehabilitation and disability for individuals with continual support needs following injury or illness. The research will contribute to a qualitative documentation of the experience of people living and working within the Youngcare accommodation units. It will identify the factors that contribute to the adjustment process for people with complex care needs. It will also identify the nature and impact of the implementation partnership surrounding the Youngcare implementation.

Does this project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) X or (c) X ? *(please tick)*
Project 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>1000 Voices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Professor Lesley Chenoweth &amp; Dr Naomi Sunderland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLABORATORS:**

**BACKGROUND** (New Project)
The purpose of this project is to collect and display 1000 life narratives from people with disability from around the world. With this collection of narratives we hope to build awareness of the lived experiences of people with disability; to provide opportunities for people with disability to have their own voice in determining how their lives are seen and heard; and to make sure that these voices become part of ongoing research, service, and policy development activity in Australia and beyond. The project will centre on a public interactive website that will display and catalogue a minimum of 1000 life narratives from participants in Australia and participating countries. These life narratives will be presented in a number of multimedia and textual formats to accommodate our participating narrators' communication strengths and weaknesses.

Detailed objectives:
1. To establish an international human network of researchers, advocates, and service providers in disability circles;
2. To establish an online infrastructure where people with disabilities and their families from around the world can upload life stories in multiple media (text, image, sound);
3. To create an extensive qualitative database of original life story data that is easily accessible for research, policy, and service provision purposes;
4. To conduct advanced large scale qualitative and quantitative research on a range of topics dealing with the lived experience of impairment around the world;
5. To make life stories and associated media available to people with disabilities, their families, and the community at large in multiple languages and formats online;
6. To foster knowledge-building networks across individuals, communities, policy-makers, and service systems based on research findings from life stories of people with disabilities.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**
1. $20000 from the AUDA foundation to establish an interactive public website to display 1000 Life Narratives of people with disabilities across the world
2. We are currently gathering quotes for the website and we hope to launch in July 2008;
3. Submitted a Q150 Grant to gather 5 life narratives of prominent successful Queenslanders with disabilities to display as the inaugural content for the website
4. Confirmed participation for universities in other countries

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES** (See General KPI 1.1) –
This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to facilitate education, public awareness and potential service delivery outcomes for people with acquired disability who are featured in the project. There are a subcategory of all narratives collected that will focus on acquired disability.

This project meet Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) X (c) X ? (please tick)
**Project 12**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Vocational and Community Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Moral Distress in Community-based Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
<td>Dr Naomi Sunderland, Ms Tara Catalano &amp; Professor Elizabeth Kendall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLABORATORS:**

**BACKGROUND (New Project)** This national multi-phase project will examine the prevalence and effects of moral distress among community based researchers in Australia who work with vulnerable populations such as Indigenous and migrant communities and people with chronic illness and disability. The research will also investigate the training and support needs for Community Based Researchers (CBR) who work with vulnerable populations. The research emerges from three key developments in research and policy, namely: evidence-based practice, community-based research, and national research ethics codes. First, reliance on research-based evidence is now manifest in all national and state government policies dealing with vulnerable populations of interest (e.g., Indigenous Affairs Whole-of-Government Research and Evaluation Plan 2007-10, the Indigenous Budget 2007-08, the National Framework for Sexual Assault Prevention, and the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy). Second, there are growing demands to conduct effective research that has relevance to its end-users (i.e., the community) and translates into significant benefits. Third, the recently released National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) states that Universities have an obligation to train staff, provide policy for the conduct of research and ensure a safe research environment. A pilot study of CBR researchers in three Queensland universities conducted by the CIs indicated that physical, emotional, and other negative personal effects are frequently experienced as a result of their work. Most significantly, the research indicated a severe lack of training and support to prepare CBR researchers for their work. Researchers interviewed in this pilot study indicated that they relied on ad hoc responses or trial and error to manage their work and any feelings of distress. The study indicated an urgent need to conduct fundamental research on the national prevalence and effects of researcher distress on researchers, participants, and communities. It also indicated a need to conduct urgent research on training and support requirements for the CBR workforce.

**PROGRESS / OUTCOMES:**
1. We received an RCCCPI grant of $5000 for a pilot study in greater Brisbane region
2. Data analysis complete
3. We have submitted an ARC Discovery to conduct a national study on the same topic

**ALIGNMENT WITH MAIC’S OBJECTIVES (See General KPI 1.1)** – This project aligns with MAIC’s objectives to improve the quality of evidence in CBR and research workforce development. This is important for when researchers work in potentially vulnerable communities.

This project meets Research KPI 1 for (a) X (b) or (c) X  ? (please tick)
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. REPRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH THE MAIC

   Representation by Associate Professor Elizabeth Kendall at quarterly meetings with MAIC

2. COLLABORATIONS WITH MAIC

   Additional research needs: We have not been approached by MAIC in the past 12 months to address additional research needs, but have initiated two project areas which we will take forward in 2008 around partnerships with GPs about disability/injury in the community and coordinated care for serious injuries.

   Review, Evaluate & Advise: We have not been approached by MAIC in the past 12 months to review, evaluate or advise in any areas.

   Education and Dissemination of information to MAIC’s Stakeholders:

   Discussions with MAIC about our dissemination methods (Vicky Vanderant) was followed by the development of new templates for marketing research findings. We are currently putting our project outcomes into this template.

We have maintained active collaborations with the following industry partners and developed new collaborations in 2007:

- Queensland Police Service
- Arthritis Queensland
- Queensland Health
- Logan-Beaudesert Health Coalition
- Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- National Stroke Foundation
- Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service
- Job Futures
- MS Society
- Disability Services Queensland
- Wesley Mission
- Youngcare
- Department of Communities
- Jacana Brain Injury services
- Logan Area Division of General Practice
- General Practice Queensland
- Multicultural Health Network
- Queensland Self-Management Alliance
**Educational Activities:**

Development of the Graduate Certificate in Community Rehabilitation, Griffith University. This course was a result of the findings from the Audit into Community Rehabilitation (Kendall, Muenchberger, Catalano, 2006).

Visits from International scholars in July and September, 2007 (Prof Rogers, Prof Smeltzer, Prof Pilgrim, Dr. Landstad, Dr. Alricsson, Dr. Hedlund)

Our self-management findings have been incorporated into the Flinders University self-management curriculum.

**Information Dissemination:**

All current research projects have been incorporated in the CONROD website.

The self-management leader project results (Kendall, Catalano et al., 2007) have been disseminated to industry bodies, and the report has been requested for inclusion in the Flinders University self-management program.

The audit into community rehabilitation competencies has been uploaded to the Queensland Health website.

Brain injury STEPS results have been presented at the Disability Services Queensland Shared Visions forum (16 August, 22 September and 11 October) and the Minister for Disability Services Regional Council (Southside division) on 13th November, 2007.

3. **CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DECISION-MAKING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Website: Completed review and updating of the CONROD website with all current projects from the vocational and community stream.

Active representation on key advisory panels (Queensland Health, Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service, Queensland Self-Management Alliance, Flinders University Self-Management).

Research expertise and advice for health services and rehabilitation providers in the community on brain injury rehabilitation, younger people with complex care needs following traumatic injury/illness, and self-management following traumatic injury/illness.

Use of our research findings in courses at Flinders University and all Queensland universities around self-management and community rehabilitation.

Development of active research partnerships with key stakeholder organisations and health services to enable research to contribute to planning and policy decisions, inclusion of MAIC in these partnerships.

Research education in methods of community participation in research for the benefit of key stakeholder organisations.

Use of our research findings in the training delivered by the Accident Compensation Corporation in New Zealand.
Research Students

In relation to this area of performance, the 3 FTE researchers supervised the following RHD students in relevant areas of research:

- 2 Honours students
- 2 Masters student
- 7 PhD students
- 3 Post-Doctoral Scholars
- 3 Visiting Professorial Fellows

International Collaborations

The following international collaborations are ongoing in 2007.

(1) Indigenous Disability: The lead international collaborator in this network is Professor Catherine Marshall, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University. Other collaborators include University of Hawaii, Alaska Native Science Commission, Mel & Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health, Washington State University, USA. Funding sources have included the Centre for International Rehabilitation Research Exchange based at University of Buffalo NY, the American Psychological Association (Rehabilitation Division) and the Women’s International Leadership Institute, Arizona. The network has lead to ten publications (published, currently under review or prepared), and an edited book. The network will meet again in 2008.

(2) Self-management: The lead international collaborator in this network is Professor Anne Rogers at University of Manchester. We accepted an invitation as visiting scholars with Professor Rogers in 2005. This network has resulted in a significant conceptual publication in Disability and Society (a tier 1 UK journal). We have also prepared a paper about international collaboration, which we are yet to publish. We have prepared collaborative funding submissions for ARC collaboration schemes and the Smart State Partnership Alliance programme. Professor Rogers and her team were visiting scholars in 2007 and the network will meet again in 2008.

(3) Vocational Rehabilitation: The lead international researcher in this collaboration is Dr. Bodil Landstad, Karolinska Instituet and Mid-Sweden University. This collaboration began in 2000 when members of the Mid-Sweden University requested the opportunity to visit us. We hosted these researchers in 2000 and have since hosted several visitors from Sweden, Norway and Finland. We visited Sweden in 2005 to design collaborative research projects and are currently negotiating exchange research fellowships to Sweden. Drs. Landstad and Alricsson were visiting fellows in 2007, in order to complete a collaborative project (which has been funded by the Swedish government) on vocational rehabilitation strategies. The network will meet again in 2008.

(4) Disability Management: This collaboration is part of the International Forum on Disability Management, a larger European/US/Canada/Australian collaboration to which we have contributed since 2002. This collaboration contains several partners, including industry, government and research institutions from each country. In October 2006, the IFDM met in Australia, but we convened and designed a separate researchers’ forum. The purpose of the researchers’ forum was to bring together lead researchers in the area of Disability Management to develop collaborative projects and international networks. This group has
met every two years since 2002. As a result of this research collaboration, we also share post-graduate students. The network will meet again in 2008 at the IFDM conference in Berlin.