## women's <br>  <br> australia

# The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health 

Report 12

The University of Newcastle 31 May 1999

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## UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

## INTERIM REPORT 31 MAY 1999 REPORT

## ONGOING FUNDING

In August 1998 we were informed by the (then) Minister for Health and Family Services that the study would be funded for a further five years (July 1998 - June 2003) at the level of $\$ 900,000$ per year. At that time, the Minister asked the National Health and Medical Research Council to undertake the overall management of the study "given the need to maintain the quality of the study in the long term".

At the time of writing this report, we still do not have a contract for the work to be conducted during this five year period. Although work on the main cohorts has continued in the interim, the delay has caused severe disruption to the special cohort studies, because the University of Newcastle has been unable to develop a contract with the University of Queensland. Considerable progress has been made during the last week on the development of the new contract, and we anticipate finalisation of this early in June 1999.

## 2

 PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEEA new project advisory committee has been appointed by the Minister:

- Professor Janet Greeley - Faculty of Social Sciences, James Cook University;
- Dr Adele Green - Epidemiology Unit, Queensland Institute of Medical Research;
- Professor Christine Ewan - Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Wollongong;
- Dame Margaret Guilfoyle - Former Minister of Health Services (currently based in Victoria);
- Ms Margaret Curran - Assistant Director, OATSIS, Department of Health and Aged Care;
- Dr David Roder - Director of Epidemiology - South Australian Health Commission;
- Dr Helene Britt - Director, Family Medicine Research Unit.

This committee met for the first time for a face to face meeting on 22 April 1999. Since then, there have been two teleconferences with the Office of the National Health and Medical Research Council and some members of the advisory committee, to progress work on the development of the new contract.

It has been proposed that in future, this project advisory committee will meet (face to face) with the researchers at least once per year, immediately following their annual strategic planning meeting. The schedule for additional meetings and teleconferences is still to be confirmed.

## 3 PhD COMPLETIONS

The three foundation PhD students (Kylie Ball, Amanda Patterson and Anne Young) who began their research in March 1996, will each submit their thesis this week. The summary pages of each thesis are included in this report (see below).

### 3.1 DISORDERED EATING, PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS AND COPING IN YOUNG WOMEN

## PhD candidate: Kylie Ball

Supervisor: A/Professor Christina Lee

While disordered eating among young women is generally believed to be multifactorially determined, two factors frequently implicated for their hypothesized etiological importance are psychological stress, and a reliance on maladaptive coping strategies. A review of empirical evidence indicated strong support for the concept that stress and inadequate coping strategies were major precursors of disordered eating, but also identified a number of conceptual and methodological limitations. Most significantly, prior research was characterized by a reliance on cross-sectional methodologies, from which no conclusions regarding causal relationships can be made. A series of interconnected research studies was therefore designed to address these issues and investigate in detail the relationships between stress, coping and disordered eating in young Australian women. Firstly, the relationships between these variables were assessed cross-sectionally in two community surveys. Results of these quantitative surveys were supplemented with those of several qualitative studies, assessing young women's perceptions of relationships among stress, coping and disordered eating. Finally, a longitudinal study, targeting women with reported eating pathology, was conducted, with multiple regression and structural equation modelling used to investigate causal relationships between the study variables. Overall, the cross-sectional data indicated strong relationships between stress, coping and disordered eating; this was supported by qualitative findings suggesting a strong perception among young women that stress triggered subsequent eating pathology. However, results of longitudinal analyses, demonstrating only
tenuous relationships between the study variables, did not support the hypothesis that stress and coping strategies predict disordered eating over time. These findings, while contrary to general opinion in the eating disorders literature, are consistent with those of the few previous longitudinal studies reported, and suggest that stress, coping and disordered eating may be closely intertwined, occurring concurrently among young women. Future studies replicating and extending these results could help to further clarify our knowledge of the mechanisms underlying these relationships, and, ultimately, to increase our understanding of the complex etiology of disordered eating.

### 3.2 IRON DEFICIENCY IN WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE

PhD candidate: Amanda Patterson
Supervisors: Dr Wendy Brown (principal supervisor);
Professor David Roberts (associate supervisor)

The current prevalence of iron deficiency for Australian women of childbearing age is unknown, but baseline data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health (ALSWH) suggest that one in three women have had diagnosed iron deficiency by the age of 45-50 years. Despite this, dietary and lifestyle factors which are important in the development of iron deficiency have not yet been clearly defined for Australian women, and the public health impact of this condition remains unclear. In addition, while the Australian Iron Status Advisory Panel (AISAP) currently recommends dietary intervention as the first line of treatment for iron deficiency in adults, the efficacy of dietary treatment has not been evaluated. This thesis describes a series of studies which examine the development, implications and treatment of iron deficiency for Australian women of childbearing age.

Chapter 1 provides a review of the literature and defines the research questions. Background information on the physiology of iron, the biochemical and haematological variables used to assess iron status, and the current definitions used for the diagnosis of iron deficiency is presented. Iron deficiency has been shown to adversely affect work performance, immunity, thermoregulation and cognitive functioning, and the research describing these relationships is reviewed. Dietary and lifestyle factors thought to be important determinants of iron status, and the current strategies used in the prevention and treatment of iron deficiency are also discussed.

In Chapters 2 and 3, two preliminary studies are described. The first was a general practitioner (GP) survey and pathology audit which examined the knowledge, attitude and behaviour of GPs in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of iron deficiency. While diagnosis practices were generally in accordance with AISAP recommendations, treatment practices were not. Supplementation was the preferred treatment option in even mild cases of iron deficiency, and this preference may reflect the poor dietary knowledge of GPs in relation to enhancers and inhibitors of iron absorption. The second preliminary study was an epidemiological analysis of baseline and follow-up data from the ALSWH to determine the impact of iron deficiency (self-report) on general health and well-being (measured using the Short Form-36 General Health and Well-being questionnaire; SF-36) for two large cohorts of Australian women. Baseline and longitudinal analysis of this data showed reduced vitality and physical and mental health for women who reported iron deficiency.

The major component of this research was a randomised control trial which compared dietary and supplement treatment for iron deficiency (Chapters 4-7). In Chapters 4 and 5, the
background and rationale for the study, and the methods used, are described. Baseline dietary, lifestyle and morbidity data were examined for iron deficient and iron replete women (Chapter 6). Multivariate analyses were used to investigate the relative importance of dietary and lifestyle factors in the development of iron deficiency for women of childbearing age. Iron status was positively associated with oral contraceptive pill use and alcohol consumption and negatively associated with phytate intake. The effects of iron deficiency on general health and well-being, fatigue and cognitive functioning were examined using the SF-36 general health questionnaire, the Piper Fatigue Scale and four subscales of Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised (WAIS-R), respectively. Iron deficiency was associated with decreased mental health, vitality and cognitive functioning, and increased fatigue in the baseline data (Chapter 6).

In Chapter 7, the longitudinal results of the intervention trial are described and discussed. Dietary and supplement treatment for iron deficiency and the relative effects of each on general health and well-being, fatigue and cognitive functioning are compared. Both dietary and supplement treatment resulted in significant improvements in haemoglobin and serum ferritin, but changes in serum ferritin were seen more quickly for the supplement group. Women in both the diet and the supplement intervention groups showed significant improvements in general health and well-being, fatigue and cognitive functioning during the trial. Improvements in mental health were more marked among women in the diet intervention group, while vitality and fatigue improved similarly for women in both groups. Women in both groups also improved similarly on two subscales of the WAIS-R which assess reasoning and perceptual organisation.

Chapter 8 provides an overview of the research and offers some answers to the research questions posed in Chapter 1. The relevance of the findings, their public health implications and possible future directions are also discussed.

### 3.3 DETERMINANTS OF GENERAL PRACTITIONER UTILISATION AMONG WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA

PhD candidate: Anne Young
Supervisors: Professor Annette Dobson; Dr Julie Byles

The purpose of this thesis is to explore the determinants of the use of general medical practitioners among women in Australia. General practice is the first point of contact for the provision of health care services in Australia and is the gateway to more intensive and specialised services. Despite the existence of a national health insurance scheme (Medicare) there is growing debate about the equity of access to health services and the out of pocket costs associated with the use of health services.

This study examines the use of general practitioner (GP) services during 1995 and 1996. The framework for the study is the behavioural model of health service utilisation developed by Andersen, Newman, Aday and others which includes measures of medical need and other individual and societal factors that may predispose, enable or impede use of services. Survey data for 20,000 participants in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health were linked with data from the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) which administers Medicare. The survey data include a range of questions designed to explore social and environmental aspects of women's lives as well as the psychological and biological determinants of health
and health care utilisation. The HIC data provide measures of GP utilisation for each woman and the out of pocket cost associated with each consultation.

Using the linked database, the demographic characteristics, medical history and health service utilisation of very frequent attenders and non-attenders to general practice are described. These data provide insights into the use of GP services that cannot be determined from either source alone. Although some findings are consistent across age groups, the profile of frequent attenders differs according to life stages such as pregnancy and menopause. A few case studies highlight the difficult personal and social circumstances of some women and demonstrate the importance of considering the context in which use of health services takes place.

A third source of data for the thesis was a substudy to provide additional measures of individual and environmental determinants of health service use and satisfaction with GPs among a sample of almost 5,000 women participating in the longitudinal study. This substudy provides strong quantitative evidence to support the qualitative reports of the problems faced by women living in country areas. The availability, accessibility and affordability of services were rated lower by women living in rural and remote areas than by women living in urban areas. These substudy results complemented the administrative data from the HIC which revealed inequities in the out of pocket cost of services and in the availability of female GPs.

Many studies have adapted the behavioural model to examine the utilisation of a variety of types of health services, but the model requires more complex analysis than the traditional statistical techniques employed by most researchers. The insights gained by using structural
equation modelling, in addition to multiple linear regression and Poisson regression modelling, and the inclusion of out of pocket costs in the model, are discussed in this thesis.

In this study, the use of GP services was shown to be determined primarily by medical need. Also out of pocket cost per visit was lower for women with lower socioeconomic status. These findings suggest that the system is equitable in these dimensions. However the out of pocket cost for GP services increased with distance from urban centres, which shows that the charges imposed by GPs are not equitable across place of residence. Higher cost was associated with lower use of services, even among women considered to have high levels of need for care.

The findings from these cross-sectional data suggest a need to regulate the costs of GP services to patients, particularly in rural areas. The study also highlights the need to improve the delivery of GP services especially in rural and remote areas. The long term impact of the geographical inequity in services on health outcomes for women remains to be determined. Policy implications are discussed and recommendations for future research and monitoring, using cohorts in the longitudinal study, are proposed.

## 4 MID-AGE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

The ongoing problems with the data from last year's first follow-up of the mid-age cohort are close to resolution. The Educational Testing Centre at the University of New South Wales, who were the successful tenderers for data entry, has agreed to re-scan all surveys, and an error-free data set is expected to be available by 30 June 1999. (The problems arose because
of "slippage" in the data set, whereby one woman's follow-up data had been recorded against another woman's ID at random stages of the data entry process. This error was not detectable until longitudinal analysis was commenced, because prevalence estimates, ranges etc were not affected by the errors.) Before returning the survey forms to ETC, every survey was individually checked to ensure that all data fields would be correctly read. The cost of this exercise was about $\$ 6,000$ in casual labour. (All surveys from the older follow-up (1999, see Section 4 below) are being similarly checked, to ensure that the number of 'missing' data reflects actual missing data, rather than data which cannot be read by the scanner.)

## 5 OLDER COHORT FOLLOW-UP SURVEY 1999

### 5.1 REVISED PROTOCOL FOR RETURN OF SURVEYS

For the first time during the ALSWH project, the protocol used for this survey involved return of surveys to University of Newcastle for logging in, checking of addresses against the consent file data base, checking responses and noting responses on the back page for additional information. The cost of doing this is estimated to be about $\$ 10,000$. The advantages of this protocol are that it:

- Ensures that all surveys are promptly logged in, so that reminders are not sent to women who have already completed their survey, or who have withdrawn or are deceased;
- Enables an up-to-date log-in file to be kept next to the 1800 phone to ensure that accurate information on whether the survey has arrived, can be given to callers;
- Enables identification of surveys with 'skipped' pages so that participants can be telephoned to provide additional data;
- Allows timely responses to letters and phone calls which request information or help;
- Ensures that 'return to senders' (RTS) are processed more rapidly, resulting in a faster repeat mailing of the surveys;
- Allows editing of surveys by Women's Health Australia (WHA) staff to ensure more accurate data;
- Allows changes of address and other address details (eg overseas next week etc) to be kept up-to date and accurate;
- Provides immediate feedback to WHA staff when systematic errors occur in the printing or mailout processes.


### 5.2 SUMMARY OF MAILOUT AND REMINDER PROTOCOL

| Item | Date | Number sent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Initial mailout of survey etc | 26-31 March 1999 | 11,677 |
| Reminder/thank you | 16 April 1999 | 11,473 |
| 2nd reminder | 14 May 1999 | 2,858 |
| Telephone follow-up | To commence on |  |
|  | 1 June 1999 |  |

### 5.3 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO DATE

- Linkage with the National Death Index (NDI) identified 164 'matches' with WHA participants. 58 additional deaths notified by family and friends and one identified by the NDI is now confirmed as deceased. Total deceased $=233$.
- 212 returned to sender -172 traced and resent.
- 163 letters or calls to advise of withdrawal (main reasons - too sick eg Alzheimer's disease, stroke, blindness or deafness (17\%), too old, too tired, can't be bothered).
- 8,588 surveys returned completed, of which 1,046 had a complete page of missing data and need telephone calls to clarify. 26\% of these have been contacted.
- 46 short surveys completed by phone (17 were originally telephone interviews, and others were too ill to do the long survey; or were thinking of withdrawing).
- 41 full length surveys have been completed by phone, of which two were done by interpreters.
- 240 surveys completed by 'proxy' have been returned (mostly completed by husband or daughter).
- 38 women wrote comments on the back page which required a response. Letters have been written to these women with appropriate condolences, advice on where to get help and thanks for sending additional information (including a book, poetry etc) (see Section 6.2 below).

Response rate (adjusted for deaths) is currently $74 \%$. All remaining women will be telephoned and offered a short survey early in June.

It is anticipated that data collection will be completed by 31 July 1999, and all checked surveys sent to Harbour Data for scanning.

## 6 MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH PARTICIPANTS

### 6.1 TRACKING

Following the mail out of the 1998 newsletter in November 1998, we received 1349 RTS envelopes. In addition, the whereabouts of 180 women who had been sent follow-up surveys during the 1998 mid cohort survey was still unknown. Strenuous efforts have been made during the first five months of this year to track these "missing" participants. A table showing the progress with this task is provided below:

|  | Young | Mid-age | Older |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 'Lost' at time of follow-up (1998) |  | 180 |  |
| RTS from 1998 newsletter | 966 | 198 | 185 |
| Additional RTS | 27 |  | 40 |
| TOTAL RTS (Jan 1999) | $\mathbf{9 9 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 7 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 2 5}$ |
| Found through electronic white pages and | -392 | -38 | $\mathbf{- 1 0 7}$ |
| tracking via relatives etc. | $\mathbf{- 1 2 4}$ |  |  |
| Found through electoral roll | $\mathbf{4 7 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{8 3}$ |
| Outstanding (31 May 1999) |  |  | $\mathbf{- 3 5}$ |

Every effort to track the 'missing' young women will be made prior to the mail out of the first follow-up survey of this group in 2000. Tracking the mid-age and older women is ongoing.

### 6.2 CORRESPONDENCE WITH OLDER PARTICIPANTS RESULTING FROM THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

In response to comments made by participants in the older follow-up survey (1999), we have written 34 personal letters to WHA participants. Several women requested additional information about health services and information relating directly to their own health conditions. These women have been referred to appropriate services in their area. Two letters have been written to the relatives of women who forwarded surveys completed by participants prior to their recent deaths, thanking them for doing this. Letters have also been sent to thank the relatives of participants who completed surveys on behalf of women who may be suffering a disability that prevents them completing a paper survey themselves. Women who were unable to complete their survey promptly because of the death of a spouse or close relative (or as in one case, a beloved dog), have also been sent a letter to thank them for doing the survey in such difficult situations.

Hundreds of women have provided extensive additional information about their current health and lifestyles, and offered very positive comments to the researchers about the value of the project. It will be impossible to individually acknowledge all of these contributions. However, where the WHA researchers have received books, poetry and other literary works from the participants, a 'thank you' letter has been sent.

The current budgetary issues being faced by the researchers were summarised in a paper provided for the new project advisory group in May 1999. This is produced in full below.

### 7.1 SUMMARY OF CURRENT BUDGETARY ISSUES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

1. The project was initially funded for the period May 1995 to June 1998 with a grant of $\$ 3.5 \mathrm{~m}$. The distribution of the budget between the main and special cohort studies was:

| Date/period | University <br> of Newcastle | University <br> of Queensland | Total |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| May 95 - June 95 | $\$ 725,000$ | $\$ 75,000$ | $\$ 800,000$ |
| July 95 - June 96 | $\$ 710,000$ | $\$ 190,000$ | $\$ 900,000$ |
| July 96 - June 97 | $\$ 713,000$ | $\$ 187,000$ | $\$ 900,000$ |
| July 97 - June 98 | $\$ 790,000$ | $\$ 110,000$ | $\$ 900,000$ |
| TOTAL | $\$ 2,938,000$ | $\$ 562,000$ | $\$ 3.5 \mathrm{~m}$ |

2. During 1996, supplementary funding of $\$ 28,000$ was provided to meet the costs of data storage and data entry for the qualitative comments in the main cohorts baseline surveys. Supplementary funding of $\$ 20,000$ was also provided to support the work of a PhD student at the University of Queensland (UQ) who had secured a PHRDC scholarship (Ms Milica Markovic). These funds were committed to establishing a small cohort of recent immigrants from the Former Yugoslav Republics (FYR).
3. Following the external review of the project in March 1998, the reviewers (Professor Christine Ewan and Professor Adèle Green) recommended the following funding for the next five year period (July 1998 - June 2003:

| $1998-1999$ | $\$ 1,105,307$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $1999-2000$ | $\$ 1,156,516$ |
| $2000-2001$ | $\$ 1,270,249$ |
| $2001-2002$ | $\$ 1,254,599$ |
| $2002-2003$ | $\$ 1,318,173$ |

The increased funding was required to cover: increases in University salaries and oncosts, (all University employees received a pay increase of $11 \%$ during the first three years of the project), the work required to deposit the data in the National Social Science Data Archive at ANU, an International Conference to disseminate the study findings in 2002, and expansion of the Indigenous and FYR cohorts, as well as increases in costs due to inflation.
4. In August 1998, the Minister for Health, Dr Michael Wooldridge, recommended funding for the period July 1998 to June 2003 of $\$ 900,000$ per annum. This represents $70-80 \%$ of amount recommended by the reviewers. The Minister also recommended that management of the project, and it's funding, be transferred from the Public Health Division of the Department to the Office of the NHMRC (ONHMRC).

Following the Minister's recommendation, there has been a series of extensions to the original contract (to September 1998, December 1998, March 1999 and May 1999), to allow time for the ONHMRC to draw up a new contract for the second funding period. (July 1998-June 2003).
5. In response to the reduced funding for the current period, it is proposed that priority be given to maintaining the three main cohorts and the existing indigenous cohorts (at Woorabinda and Cherbourg). It may also be possible to allocate 'one-off' funding for a survey of the Filipina cohort in 2001, though this will be at the expense of activities (eg data linkage with the National Death Index etc) for the main cohorts. The proposed distribution of funds for the current period is as follows:

| Date/Period | Main <br> Cohorts <br> (UN) | Indigenous <br> Cohorts <br> (UQ) | Migrant <br> Cohorts <br> (UQ) | Total |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1998 / 1999$ | $\$ 783,000$ | $\$ 90,000$ | $\$ 27,000$ | $\$ 900,000$ |
| $1999 / 2000$ | $\$ 810,000$ | $\$ 90,000$ | - | $\$ 900,000$ |
| $2000 / 2001$ | $\$ 760,000$ | $\$ 90,000$ | $\$ 50,000^{*}$ | $\$ 900,000$ |
| $2001 / 2002$ | $\$ 810,000$ | $\$ 90,000$ | - | $\$ 900,000$ |
| $2002 / 2003$ | $\$ 810,000$ | $\$ 90,000$ | - | $\$ 900,000$ |

*In order to devote $\$ 50,000$ to the Filipina study in 2000/01, strenuous efforts will be made to make up the shortfall in funding for the main cohort studies. As a worst case scenario, the shortfall would have to be found over the three years from 2000/01 to 2002/03.

6 In view of the reduced level of funding, the research teams will be forced to seek funds from additional sources (even though there is no money to support the work of a person to do this). The researchers will seek guidance from the Project Advisory Committee on this issue.

7 Some of the consequences of the reduced funding will be as follows

For the main cohort studies (University of Newcastle):

- The grant will no longer fund nested sub-studies. During the first funding period, the grant supported 12 sub-studies (some of these attracted additional funding from other sources) which involved in-depth exploration of issues arising from the results of base-line surveys. These included studies of young women's access to contraception, women's experiences of coping with widowhood, and seeking help for domestic violence and depression. Funding for nested studies will now have to come from other sources such as NHMRC project grants or State Governments.
- The grant will no longer support post-graduate students. It may be possible to obtain funding for PhD students from the two Universities' Research Management Committees and other competitive funding sources. Two new students have commenced at the University of Newcastle on this basis in 1999.
- The University will make a $\$ 50,000$ contribution to Dr Wendy Brown's salary for the next five years.
- Participants will receive only one newsletter per year. (The cost of designing, printing and posting the newsletter to 40,000 women is about $\$ 40,000$ ). It may be possible to obtain corporate sponsorship for additional newsletters. The newsletters are an important vehicle for maintaining contact with participants, keeping them informed about the findings, and enabling the research team to keep track of their whereabouts.
- The conference planned for 2001-2002 will not take place unless an alternative source of funding can be found.
- A second request for consent to link survey data with HIC/Medicare data will be postponed until funds are available to do this.


## For the special cohort studies (at the University of Queensland):

- It is proposed that there will be no expansion of the FYR cohort, and the existing cohort will be subsumed into the main cohort studies.
- Funding for the Filipina cohort will be reduced to a 'one-off' expenditure of $\$ 50,000$ in 2001. It is likely that this will result in considerable attrition as there will be no funds to enable continuing tracking of participants.
- There will be no expansion of the indigenous cohorts to include urban Aboriginal women.

8 Estimates of additional funds required to meet the cost of some of these activities over the next five years is estimated to be:

| Item | Cost (1999) | 5 year cost |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Expansion of indigenous cohorts | $\$ 20,000$ | $\$ 80,000$ |
| Data linkage request (1999 \& 2002) | $\$ 40,000$ | $\$ 80,000$ |
| PhD scholarships (per student) |  |  |
| $\quad$ Stipend | $\$ 21,000$ | $\$ 73,500$ |
| $\quad$ Project expenses | $\$ 6,000$ | $\$ 18,000$ |
| Maintenance of Filipina cohorts |  | $\$ 50,000$ |
| Maintenance and expansion of FYR cohorts |  |  |
| $\quad$ Post doctoral fellowship | $\$ 50,000$ | $\$ 250,000$ |
| Project expenses | $\$ 20,000$ | $\$ 100,000$ |

The costs of nested studies for the main cohorts (except in association with the work of the PhD students) have not been included. We will continue to seek additional funding for these. While this may mean that the scope of the project may be reduced, our priority for the main cohort studies at this stage is to maintain communication with the participants, ensure that the data are deposited safely in a national archive, and ensure that our role in the training of future researchers is maintained.

For the special cohorts the priorities are to expand the indigenous cohorts so that women from urban areas are included, and to maintain the larger of the two NESB cohorts.

This paper was discussed in a teleconference between the researchers (Annette Dobson, Wendy Brown, Lenore Manderson, Gail Williams) and the chair (Janet Greeley) and two
members of the project advisory committee (Helene Britt and Christine Ewan) on 25 May 1999. Marilyn Hatton and Jeanette Pedlow from ONHMRC and Jean Douglass from the DHAC were in attendance. The outcome of the discussion was agreement that the distribution of the budget between the two Universities for the period July 1998-June 2003, would be as shown in item 5 (above), but with deletion of the $\$ 50,000$ (marked with an asterisk) for the Filipina cohort in 2000-2001. Of this $\$ 50,000$, $\$ 25,000$ will be committed during 1999-2000 to the integration of the Filipina cohort into the main cohort studies.

During the teleconference it was confirmed that the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) would provide an additional \$20,000 for the indigenous cohort studies in 1999-2000. If further funds become available, they will be assigned to the data linkage aspects of the main cohort studies.

### 7.2 PROJECTED BUDGET FOR AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON WOMEN'S HEALTH (1998-2003)

A summary of the proposed distribution of the budget, with salary and project costs for the main cohort studies, for the period July 1998 - June 2003 is shown below.

| Funds requested |  |  | 1,105,307 | 1,156,516 | 1,270,249 | 1,254,599 | 1,318,173 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Actual income |  |  | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 |  |
| income/requested |  |  | 81\% | 78\% | 71\% | 72\% | 68\% |  |
| A UN (90\%) |  |  | 810,000 | 785,000 | 785,000 | 810,000 | 810,000 |  |
| B UQ Indigenous cohorts |  |  | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 |  |
| Integration of immigrant cohorts |  |  | 27,000 | 25,000 | ??25,000 |  |  |  |
| Expenditure (UN) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | Project Manager | C4+ | 25198 | 25198 | 23525 | 31185 | 33847 | (a) |
|  | Data manager | 7,4 | 46674 | 48008 | 48008 | 48008 | 48008 |  |
|  | RA1 | 6,1 | 38674 | 40006 | 41340 | 42674 | 42674 |  |
|  | RA2 | 5,5 | 35491 | 36567 | 37643 | 38674 | 38674 |  |
|  | RA3 | 5,1 | 33338 | 34415 | 35491 | 35491 | 35491 |  |
|  | Secretary | 3,1 | 26671 | 27478 | 28286 | 29029 | 29900 |  |
|  | Statistician 1 | B3 | 47961 | 49761 | 51557 | 53358 | 55155 |  |
|  | Statistician 2 | 7.1 | 41340 | 42674 | 42674 | 44007 | 45342 |  |
|  | Total salari |  | 295,347 | 304,107 | 308,524 | 322,426 | 329,091 |  |
|  | on-costs 30\% |  | 103,604 | 106,232 | 109,057 | 111,728 | 113,727 |  |
| C Salar | es + on-costs |  | 398,951 | 410,339 | 417,581 | 434,154 | 442,818 |  |
|  | Surveys |  | 125,000 | 131,250 | 137,813 | 144,703 | 151,938 |  |
|  | Office costs |  | 40,000 | 42,000 | 44,100 | 46,305 | 48,620 |  |
|  | Travel |  | 15,000 | 16,750 | 18,588 | 20,517 | 22,543 |  |
|  | NAC |  | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |  |
|  | Newsletters (1) |  | 42,750 | 44,888 | 47,132 | 49,488 | 51,963 |  |
|  | HIC/ NDI data |  | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |  |  |
|  | Sub-studies |  | 22,500 |  |  |  |  | (b) |
|  | Collaboration |  | 9,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |  |
| D total p | roject costs |  | 279,250 | 271,888 | 284,632 | 298,014 | 307,064 |  |
| E salari | + project (C+D) |  | 678,201 | 682,227 | 702,213 | 732,168 | 749,882 |  |
| F UN ov | rheads (15\%) |  | 121,500 | 117,750 | 117,750 | 121,500 | 121,500 |  |
| G TOT | $L(E+F)$ |  | 799,701 | 799,977 | 819,963 | 853,668 | 871,382 |  |
| H Avail | ble funds |  | 810,000 | 785,000 | 785,000 | 810,000 | 810,000 |  |
| K Balan | (H-G) |  | 10,299 | -14,977 | -34,963 | -43,668 | -61,382 | -144,691 |

Notes:
(a) Dr Brown's salary is largely met by the University of Newcastle
(b) Sub-studies are not funded from the grant after 1999 - (the one planned for 1999 is a commitment already made to follow up victims of violence). Additional funding has been sought for sub-studies in 1999 and will be sought for future sub-studies

### 7.3 INCOME EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 28 MAY 1999

|  | Actual | Commitments | Act + Cmtmts |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME |  |  |  |
| RESEARCH GRANT | 430,000 |  | 430,000 |
| EXPENDITURE - NON SALARY |  |  |  |
| COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND UPGRADES | 842 |  | 842 |
| POSTAGE | 17,191 |  | 17,191 |
| OFFICE CONSUMABLES, PRINTING ETC | 4,053 | 2,219 | 6,272 |
| TRAVEL | 1,318 | 6,586 | 7,904 |
| LINKAGE WITH NDI | 2,410 |  | 2,410 |
| TELEPHONE | 2,422 |  | 2,422 |
| THESIS EXPENSES |  | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| DATA ENTRY |  | 61,000 | 61,000 |
| SHARED RESEARCH - PAYMENT TO UQ | 36,000 | 81,000 | 117,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE - NON SALARY | 64,236 | 153,205 | 217,441 |
| EXPENDITURE - SALARY |  |  |  |
| ACADEMIC STAFF | 35,528 |  | 35,528 |
| ACADEMIC STAFF on costs | 7,042 |  | 7,042 |
| GENERAL STAFF | 98,194 |  | 98,194 |
| GENERAL STAFF on-costs | 19,882 |  | 19,882 |
| SCHOLARSHIPS | 25,118 |  | 25,118 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE - SALARIES | 185,764 |  | 185,764 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 250,000 | 153,205 | 403,205 |
| SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE |  |  | 26,795 |

