

Data Update

December 2022

Welcome to the December ALSWH Data Update.

2022 has been a year of transition. The Australian Government Department of Health (which funds ALSWH) became the Department of Health and Aged Care. Please check the ALSWH website for the latest acknowledgement statements.

Three of ALSWH's long-time staff members have also moved on to new projects this year. ALSWH Newcastle Director, Professor Julie Byles, and Operations Manager Anna Graves have retired. ALSWH Data Manager, David Fitzgerald, is making a career change. We wish them all the best in their next chapters.

The ALSWH team has been busy with a recruitment drive for the 1973-78 Cohort as well as data collection and preparations for our 2023 data releases.

As we draw to the end of 2022, we want to wish you and all of the ALSWH data user network a happy and safe holiday period. We look forward to working with you in 2023.

Yours in health,

The ALSWH team



Office closures

ALSWH Brisbane – Closed Friday 23/12/2022 to Monday 02/01/2023.

ALSWH Director, Professor Julie Byles AO retires



Emeritus Professor Julie Byles AO retired from her position as ALSWH Director at the University of Newcastle in July. Professor Byles was instrumental in establishing ALSWH and has helped shape the Study's success for over 25 years.

In 1995, the then Dr Byles (B Med, PhD) was part of the team which won the tender to establish a longitudinal survey on women's health. Her captivation with ALSWH's 1921-26 Cohort led to a research focus on gerontology and ageing well. Professor Byles' enthusiasm for her research and advocacy for older Australians was recognised in January this year in the Australia Day Honours List. She was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to medical research, gerontology, and professional scientific organisations.

Professor Deborah Loxton, who also has a long association with the Study, has taken on the role of ALSWH Director at the University of Newcastle. She completed her PhD with ALSWH in 2003 and has been the ALSWH Deputy Director at the University of Newcastle since 2009. Professor Loxton's research focuses on the impacts of domestic violence on women's health and wellbeing. Professor Gita Mishra continues as the ALSWH Director at the University of Queensland. She is supported by Associate Professor Leigh Tooth in the role of Deputy Director.

We wish Professor Byles all the best with her next chapter. The good news is that Professor Byles will continue with ALSWH as a Project Liaison and Special Envoy for the 1921-26 and 1946-51 Cohorts.

Farewell from David Fitzgerald



I will be finishing as ALSWH Data Manager on 21st December 2022. Paul McElwee (alswhdata@uq.edu.au) will be acting Data Manager after this date. The data will be in very good hands.

It has been a pleasure, as well as a big responsibility, to prepare and deliver the ALSWH data for more than a decade. I have been delighted to see the data analysed by the many wonderful users and to read about your important research that has contributed to our understanding of women's health. I have enjoyed the contact with you all as we discussed ALSWH data issues.

I am leaving the role to return to my earlier career as a high school Mathematics and Science teacher. This has always been my intention and now is the right time for me to make this change. It will be a different experience, but I will bring the knowledge I gained at ALSWH and hopefully impart it to the next generation.

Thanks, and all the best to you all.

David Fitzgerald

Happy retirement Anna Graves

ALSWH Operations Manager Anna Graves retired in early 2022. For 18 years, Anna led the team that deploys surveys, answers the phone and responds to participant emails, as well as managing the data collection process.



Coming soon in 2023 - New survey data

The 1973-78 cohort, Survey 9 is currently being finalised with the following data from the survey planned for release in 2023:

- The full survey dataset
- A Short Food Survey, also known as the CSIRO Healthy Diet Score
- The corresponding CORE dataset (available through the Australian Data Archive)

The 9th survey included items on birth events data, and these will be used to update the 1973-78 Birth Events dataset. The participants in this cohort are in their 40s so there were some births, but considerably fewer than in earlier waves.

Dataset name change: 'Child datasets' to 'Birth events'

The Birth events datasets include details of all births reported in ALSWH surveys by mothers in each of the 1989-95 and 1973-78 cohorts. The new name more correctly describes the content (birth date, gestation, birth weight, complications etc.)

The name change also helps distinguish from our intergenerational substudies such as MatCH ([Mothers and their Children's Health](#)), which includes data on the subsequent health of the children.

Birth events and/or MatCH data can be requested on your Eol.

► [See information on the name change under 'Other survey datasets'](#)

New linked data

- National Aged Care Data Collection (includes the new National Screening and Assessment Form data) – there are multiple datasets and dates of coverage vary but some data are available to 2021.
- Cause of Death to December 2021.
- ACT Health Hospital Admissions and Emergency Department presentations to March 2021, and Perinatal Data to December 2017.

- We are expecting our annual MBS and PBS update soon, as well as WA collections and the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection.

Current coverage by collection can be found here:

- ▶ [National collections](#)
- ▶ [State collections](#)

Linked data approvals - AIHW and DVA

Please be aware that it may take several months for us to obtain approvals for new researchers and new projects from external HRECs and Data Custodians. While we make every effort to expedite them, these processes are largely outside our control. If your project has a tight timeline, use of linked data may not be suitable.

Changes to procedures at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (applies to MBS, PBS, Aged Care, Cancer, Cause of Death) mean approval times of at least a couple of months (rather than a couple of weeks).

The Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs HREC (applies to DVA MBS and Aged Care) now require review of every project, so you will be asked for additional information. With this in mind, please note that:

- Only the oldest ALSWH cohort (1921-26) have significant numbers of DVA clients (around 25%). We also link the 1946-51 cohort, but only about 1% are DVA clients.
- If you are interested in Aged Care, the National Aged Care Collection which we receive from AIHW covers all residential aged care; you will only need the DVA dataset for DVA-delivered home and care and community nursing.
- There are additional requirements if you intend to specifically report on DVA services or DVA clients in your analysis (rather than aggregating them with non-DVA services or clients). You will be asked to flag this on your EoI and your project will require a DVA sponsor at the outset.
 - Read more here: [Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines](#) (Section 1.67 to 1.73).

Please think carefully about whether you really need DVA datasets and how you are going to use them, before submitting your EoI.

Follow us on



Need quick access to data? Check out the ALSWH Core Dataset

With no closing dates for applications and a streamlined, two-week time frame for processing requests, the ALSWH core dataset is perfect for:

- student projects

- testing the feasibility of research questions
- familiarising yourself with the ALSWH survey datasets.

Survey data available in the Core dataset are de-identified and sensitive variables have been omitted. The simplified dataset features total scale scores, collapsed response categories, and a reduced number of single survey items.

► [Read more](#)

Refreshing the 1973-78 Cohort

While the ALSWH Cohorts were representative of the general population of women in 1996, changes in immigration to Australia have altered the population's cultural landscape.

Many women have migrated to Australia from South, Southeast, and Northeast Asian countries since we started the Study in 1996. We are especially looking for women from these areas to join the ALSWH 1973-78 Cohort.

Please visit our study recruitment page to read the participant information statement and find out if you or someone you know may be eligible.

► [Read the media release](#)

► [Visit the recruitment page](#)



Are you female, living in Australia and aged 44 to 49?

Are you from a South, Southeast or Northeast Asian country?

Join our national study on women's health!

Join Women's Health Australia: alswh.org.au/recruit7378

The poster features a map of Australia with a dashed line and a location pin pointing to Southeast Asia. To the right, there is an illustration of three women of diverse ethnicities. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, with the main headline in bold purple.

Publishing & promoting research

The Conditions of use and publishing section on the ALSWH website provides:

- acknowledgement statements for ALSWH survey data
- acknowledgement statements for linked data
- information about the approvals processes

- a lay summary template to help you start disseminating your research.

Please note this applies to **ALL outputs including presentations**.

► [Read more](#)

Have you...

- Acknowledged ALSWH and any linked data custodians
- Checked data custodian's pre-publication requirements
- Paper reviewed by ALSWH liaison
- Press release reviewed by:
 - ALSWH Liaison
 - ALSWH Comms Officer



EOI Deadlines

Interested in using our data for your project?

Expression of interest deadlines for 2023 are:

- January 31
- March 31
- May 31
- July 31
- September 30
- November 30

► [Read more](#)

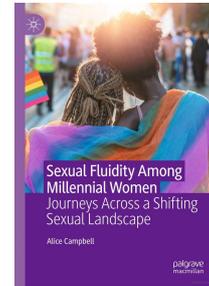
Holiday reading

A selection of books, reports, and publications on ALSWH data and methodology.

Sexual Fluidity Among Millennial Women: Journeys Across a Shifting Sexual Landscape

Alice Campbell (2022)

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-13650-4



Dr Alice Campbell proposes a new theory of women's sexual identity, which allows for a more nuanced, social approach to analysing and understanding women's changing sexualities through the life course. Her theory draws on data collected from over 8000 millennial women in the 1989-95 Cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health.

The book details Dr Campbell's model for understanding changes in sexual identity among women, with chapters focusing on:

- the contemporary context in which women navigate their sexual identity;
- the degree of heteronormativity that characterises sexual landscapes and how this shapes women's identities;
- the associations between experiences of sexual violence and the sexual trajectories of women; and
- the health and wellbeing implications of changing sexual identity.

► [ebook via SpringerLink](#) (Institutional access required)

► [Preview via GoogleBooks](#)

A life course approach to determining the prevalence and impact of sexual violence in Australia: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

Townsend, N., Loxton, D., Egan, N., Barnes, I., Byrnes, E., & Forder, P. (Research report 14/2022). ANROWS.



The project, funded by [Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety \(ANROWS\)](#), takes a life course approach to determine the prevalence and impact of sexual violence among Australian women. This includes sexual violence experienced in both childhood and adulthood, both within and outside of intimate relationships. This report provides a comprehensive evidence base for government and other Australian decision-making bodies to develop recommendations for policy and service delivery

► [Read the report](#)

Chan H, Dharmage S, Dobson A, et al. Cohort profile: a prospective Australian cohort study of women's reproductive characteristics and risk of chronic disease from menarche to premenopause (M-PreM). *BMJ Open* 2022;12:e064333.

The Menarche-to-PreMenopause (M-PreM) Study aims to examine the relationship between reproductive factors across the reproductive lifespan and risk indicators for chronic disease among women in their early-to-mid-40s. The study measures included functional, cognitive and cardiometabolic tests, anthropometry, spirometry, respiratory health questionnaires, physical activity, sleep patterns, sex hormones, and cardiovascular and metabolic markers; whereas blood and saliva samples were used for the analysis of genetic variants of genes associated with reproductive characteristics and chronic disease.

DOI: [10.1136/bmjopen-2022-064333](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-064333)

Darssan D, Mishra GD, Greenwood DC, et al. **Meta-analysis for individual participant**

data with a continuous exposure: A case study, *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 2021; 140, 79-92.

Methods for meta-analysis of studies with individual participant data and continuous exposure variables are well described in the statistical literature but are not widely used in clinical and epidemiological research. The purpose of this case study is to make the methods more accessible.

 DOI: [10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.08.033](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.08.033)

Xu Z, Hockey R, McElwee P, Waller M & Dobson A. **Accuracy of death certifications of diabetes, dementia, and cancer in Australia: a population-based cohort study** *BMC Public Health*, 2022; 22(1): 902

National mortality statistics are only based on the underlying cause of death, which may considerably underestimate the effects of some chronic conditions.

 DOI: [10.1186/s12889-022-13304-8](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13304-8)



You received this email because you are listed as a project collaborator with the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, or you have registered via our website. To unsubscribe or change your newsletter preferences please use the links below.

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