

Study News

December, 2022

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2022 from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. With the festive season nearly upon us, we would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday.

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.

Research Translation

Informing the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children

For over 25 years, ALSWH has collected data on the prevalence and impact of interpersonal violence on Australian women. ALSWH was the first study to show the significant long-term physical and mental health impacts of domestic violence using longitudinal data. We have advocated strongly for policies to include women's recovery and welcome the new National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

Professor Deb Loxton, ALSWH Director at the University of Newcastle, applauded the ambitious Plan saying,

"We're especially pleased to see that the Plan acknowledges the long-term health impacts of violence. It also includes action items to support women's long-term recovery and to further invest in research on the long-term impacts of gender-based violence."

[Learn more](#)

Reports

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

The project, funded by [Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety \(ANROWS\)](#), assessed the economic, social, emotional and physical wellbeing of Australian women who have experienced sexual violence.

Links between the experience of sexual violence and health service use were investigated using datasets from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) which were paired with ALSWH participant data.



The Hon. Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services, launched the report. She congratulated ALSWH Director, Professor



Deborah Loxton, and her team for their work on

'...the path towards real and effective change in the way we talk about, and take action, to improve women's safety.'

Download the report



Follow us on



Books

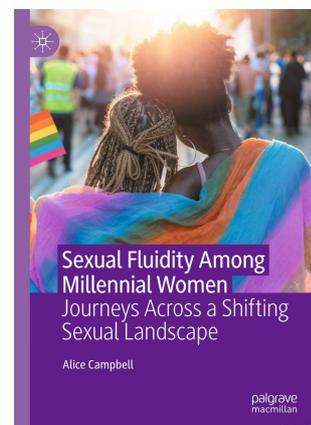
Sexual Fluidity Among Millennial Women: Journeys Across a Shifting Sexual Landscape

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

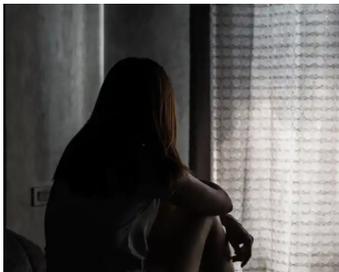
In the Media



New research finds that the psychological toll of fertility issues can last years

A reminder that it's so important to look after your mental health during IVF.

>> bodyandsoul.com



Most women in their 20s have experienced sexual violence

Minister says domestic and sexual violence against women and children are at 'epidemic' proportions.'

>> theguardian.com



Women are at greater risk of stroke, the more miscarriages or stillbirths they've had

The InterLACE study, which includes ALSWH data, is the first to conclusively show the link between pregnancy loss and stroke.

>> theconversation.com

ALSWH is recruiting

Many women have migrated to Australia from South, Southeast, and Northeast Asian countries since we first started the Study in 1996. We are especially looking for women from these areas to join the ALSWH 1973-78 Cohort. We need your voices to make sure our Study represents all Australian women.

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

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

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