

Centre for Resilient and
Inclusive Societies

Annual Report 2021



We pay our respects and gratitude to Elders – past, present, emerging and future – of the lands we live and work on. Indigenous Australians are the Traditional Custodians of this land, and sovereignty has never been ceded.



A message from the Director



2021 marks the third year of the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, and the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic. It is a year that has presented many challenges to our communities, particularly in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, in which many of us are based. I am therefore incredibly proud that despite living and working with these challenges themselves, my colleagues at CRIS have drawn on their expertise and skill to provide pandemic response support. Our research has adapted to respond to this urgent new area for analysis, whilst continuing to produce important work on existing issues of inequality, polarisation and extremism exacerbated by the pandemic.

The intersection of ongoing social harms with the accelerating force of COVID-19 was a key area of discussion at our international conference on 'Everyday Resilience' in October. The success of the conference has since been made clear by the depth of understanding of the pandemic's challenges for resilience and inclusion gained by community leaders, practitioners, and policymakers. 'Understanding Everyday Resilience' showed that by focussing on a systemic ecology of resilience, not only are individuals, communities and governments better prepared for crisis, but are better able to cope with day-to-day struggles and to come together against adversity.

2021 produced some excellent research outputs including four research reports, a number of conference paper presentations and three issues papers. CRIS members and projects also had a strong presence in the media, with national and international interest in our knowledge and analysis of topics such as extremism, radicalisation, racism, discrimination, and polarisation. Beyond our public-facing presence, our working groups and roundtables for practitioners, community groups, law enforcement, and NGOs have facilitated collaboration and capacity building for those on the ground. We made two submissions to government that have been used to shape policy, and on the basis of our submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, were called as expert witnesses at the public hearing inquiry.

CRIS has emerged as a leader in the field of strengthening resilient and inclusive communities not only because of the academic strengths of our researchers, but because of our innovative and inclusive approach to research and engagement. The coherence and synergism of our research streams is a particular strength that sets us apart as a centre of excellence. Our investment in young people, as researchers, as participants and as stakeholders of our work through youth-led initiatives like Explore ensures that we are producing relevant outcomes. They are the generation that will benefit from and build on the safer and stronger communities to which CRIS contributes.

Although COVID-19 has inevitably dominated much of the discussion of 2021, at CRIS, we are not only working on how to rebuild and recover from the pandemic but also tackling underlying issues already present in our communities that were further exposed or exacerbated during the pandemic, such as targeted hate crimes and speech, racism, violent radicalisation and both strengths and vulnerabilities in young people's wellbeing in a digital age. What we can learn from the pandemic about the best ways to strengthen our resilience and inclusion to safeguard against these challenges and harms will be a key focus as we continue to translate our research into program and policy action in 2022 and beyond.

With this in mind, I want to acknowledge the tremendous work of all our researchers, support staff, partners and stakeholders during 2021, and to wish everyone a very safe and rewarding break over the festive season (and the summer break in Australia) as we look forward to 2022. I hope you enjoy reading through this Annual Report and look forward to seeing you either online, in person or both next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Grossman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Michele Grossman
CRIS Director
Research Chair in Diversity and Community
Resilience, Alfred Deakin Institute

Building strong, safe, and well communities

Who we are

The Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies is an independent research consortium based in Melbourne, Australia. We produce robust, evidence-based research that shapes policies for social inclusion and resilience and gives support to people and communities working in these fields.

The CRIS consortium has eight international academic, community and industry partners: Deakin University, Western Sydney University, Victoria University, Resilience Research Centre -Dalhousie University, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Centre for Multicultural Youth, RAND Australia, and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

We are funded by a program grant from the Victorian Government and by our program partners.

Our Approach

We are a 'think and do' tank. Our research tackles some of the trickiest challenges that our society is facing - societal division, systemic bias and disadvantage, economic inequities, and discrimination.

Our researchers provide evidence and rigorous analysis on the best ways to address these issues, driven by their passion to create meaningful social change. This is not research for research's sake.

At the heart of our approach is a genuinely inclusive and collaborative practice. We partner with organisations working on the ground and listen to communities at all stages of the research process, from design to dissemination.

Challenging Racisms
and Enhancing Social
Belonging

Building Resilience to
Social Harms
including Violent
Extremism

Youth, Diversity and
Wellbeing in a Digital
Age

Dynamics of Violent
Extremism



Stream One

Challenging Racisms

and Enhancing Social Belonging

1 | Filling Data Gaps on Racism in Victoria

What data exist about the settings and forms of racism in Victoria? About the cohorts perpetrating it and the people who are most affected? What gaps remain, including areas of life and places where racism data are not collected or are insufficiently collected? This project focuses on enhancing our understanding of racism by reviewing existing data, and identifying gaps to data collection and reporting. We would like to use this knowledge to update existing datasets, create additional ones, and measure changes to community relations over time. Our learning from racism data will be used to shape public action and anti-racism across spheres of life and to generate policy developments.

[CRIS Issues Paper | Racism In Australia: Filling Data Gaps](#)

2 | Mapping Ordinary Anti-Racism

This project looks at the 'everyday' prosocial interactions that undermine racism and promote intercultural relations. We are researching the ways this happens and how often this happens, so that we can work out what makes for an effective anti-racism policy, campaign, or program.

3 | Dissecting the Relations Between Online and Offline Racism

This project aims to analyse the past five years of online racism in Victoria, and to map this against offline events. It will look at ways that online racism has been successfully disrupted or contained, and how we can build campaigns to prevent the spread of online racism into real world incidents. The data gathered will help to build predictive tools for offline racist events, so that law enforcement and community organisations for victims can be better prepared.

4 | Hate Speakers: Following the Money

This project seeks to uncover the funding sources and strategies of the speaking tours of right-wing hate speakers in Australia from the period 2015-2019. We are looking at who the speakers are, who hosts the tours, and who funds them. We are identifying what the differences are between far-right hate speech and mainstream right-wing speech, and the differences in the political effects on the audience.

5 | Enhancing resilience and social belonging during the COVID-19 pandemic

The aim of this project is to examine how Australians are affected by the isolation and social distancing of the pandemic. We want to know how they have responded to extended lockdowns and the extent of the impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. We are particularly interested in the factors that promote and hinder psychological resilience and social belonging such as 'doomscrolling'.

6 | Asian Australians' experiences of racism during the COVID-19 pandemic

In April 2020, the Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner, Chin Tan, advocated for a national response to racism, which included a call for research on Asian Australians' experiences of racism during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our research report provides reliable empirics on Asian Australians' experiences of racism including the nature, type, and frequency and how COVID-19 has changed those experiences. The project also documents the impacts of racist experiences on health, wellbeing and belonging.

[Read more on page 15.](#)

7 | The Role of Truth-telling in Australian Reconciliation: Addressing a colonial legacy

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and many Australians in the general community, have long called for a comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia's history. Our project will look at how truth-telling processes contribute to reconciling Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and can help address the legacy of Australia's colonial history.

8 | Prevalence, form, and impact of racism in Uber

Uber is the largest ride-sharing service in Australia and globally. But international studies have found evidence of racial discrimination; both towards 'riders' and drivers. Our study will look at the form and prevalence of this racism in Victoria, which is still under studied. This will create an evidence base for authorities such as government agencies and labour unions to enable better regulation of this 'gig economy' service, benefitting those who use Uber and those who make a living from it.

9 | Dissecting Islamophobia

The focus of this research was to determine the prevalence and types of Islamophobia in the Victorian population. In November 2019 we undertook a survey of over 4000 Victorians. We asked questions on their attitudes towards cultural diversity, racial equality and privilege; trust and fairness; Muslims and Islam; and other ethno-cultural groups in Australian society; their experiences of racism and discrimination; their contact with Muslims and knowledge of Islam; and their political affiliation. To our knowledge, this was the largest survey in Victoria with sole purpose of measuring Victorians' perceptions of Muslims and Islam.

We categorised the responses into five different groups and looked at the demographic attributes and attitudes of these groups. We tested this five group segmentation with community organisations in Victoria working in the broad areas of diversity and multiculturalism, with a particular emphasis on Muslim and non-Muslim relations. The groupings made sense on-the-ground, and they provided a strong pathway forward for program and policy design.

CRIS Issues Paper |
Countering Islamophobia in the Victorian Population



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Stream Two

Building Resilience to Social Harms including Violent Extremism

1 | Tackling Hate

Our Tackling Hate project aims to establish a comprehensive and robust evidence-base to assist in developing strategies and policies for the mitigation of hate crimes and hateful extremism. A key part of this effort is to build the capacities of community organisations, government agencies, law enforcement and researchers to improve data collected and standardise data collection methods.

[Tackling Hate Website | www.tacklinghate.org](#)

[2020 Research Report | Tackling Hate in Australia: Stocktake Report 2019 - 2020](#)

[2020 Research Report | Barriers to Reporting Hate Crime and Hate Incidents in Victoria: A Mixed Methods Study](#)

[Watch the Tackling Hate Conference Paper presented at the 2021 AVERT Conference](#)

2 | Contact Zones: Understanding recruitment processes to violent extremism in comparative domains

A consistent feature in radicalisation processes is recruitment to a violent extremist cause, an organisation, or course of violent action. The focus of this project is on an identified gap in the research field; the tactics, techniques, resiliency, resources and skills of those who are active recruiters in violent extremist contexts. The project explores these issues comparatively across different violent extremist ideologies, networks and communication platforms in Australia and the UK.

[Watch the Contact Zones Conference Paper presented at the 2021 AVERT Conference](#)

3 | Trust Flows: Understanding trust flows to build resilient PVE partnerships between communities and government

Trust is the glue that holds societies together. Trust can be both vertical, such as between government and communities, and horizontal, such as between community members. The bonds of trust create connectedness, and we know that connected communities are more likely to be resilient communities.

While a contemporary deficit of trust in government and institutions by communities has been well documented, the issue of the level of trust by government and institutions in communities still needs research. The flow of trust has implications for where power resides in, for instance, political decision-making, economic frameworks, urban planning, the provision of services.

4 | Crisis Points: Extremism under a state of emergency

A correlation between emergencies and increased civil conflict and violent extremism has been established in developing countries. However, we know a lot less about how disasters affect violent extremism in Australia and other high GDP countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that extremist groups can use disinformation in times of crisis to incite violence.

This project looks in more detail about how extremist groups can take advantage of emergency situations to recruit, commit terrorist attacks and encourage social conflict. This will help governments to develop their disaster and emergency management plans.

[Watch the Crisis Points Conference Paper given at the 2021 AVERT Conference](#)

5 | Mapping Intervention Capacity in Preventing and Countering Right Wing Extremism in Victoria

In recent years, right-wing extremism has grown in Australia. This project looks at what intervention capabilities Victoria has, or can access, to prevent radicalisation.

Intervention programmes have primarily focussed on Islamist-based violent extremist groups in the last decade. A key issue is whether these programmes are effective for radicalised groups with different ideologies. Our report will include recommendations for government, including what we can learn from other countries and jurisdictions.

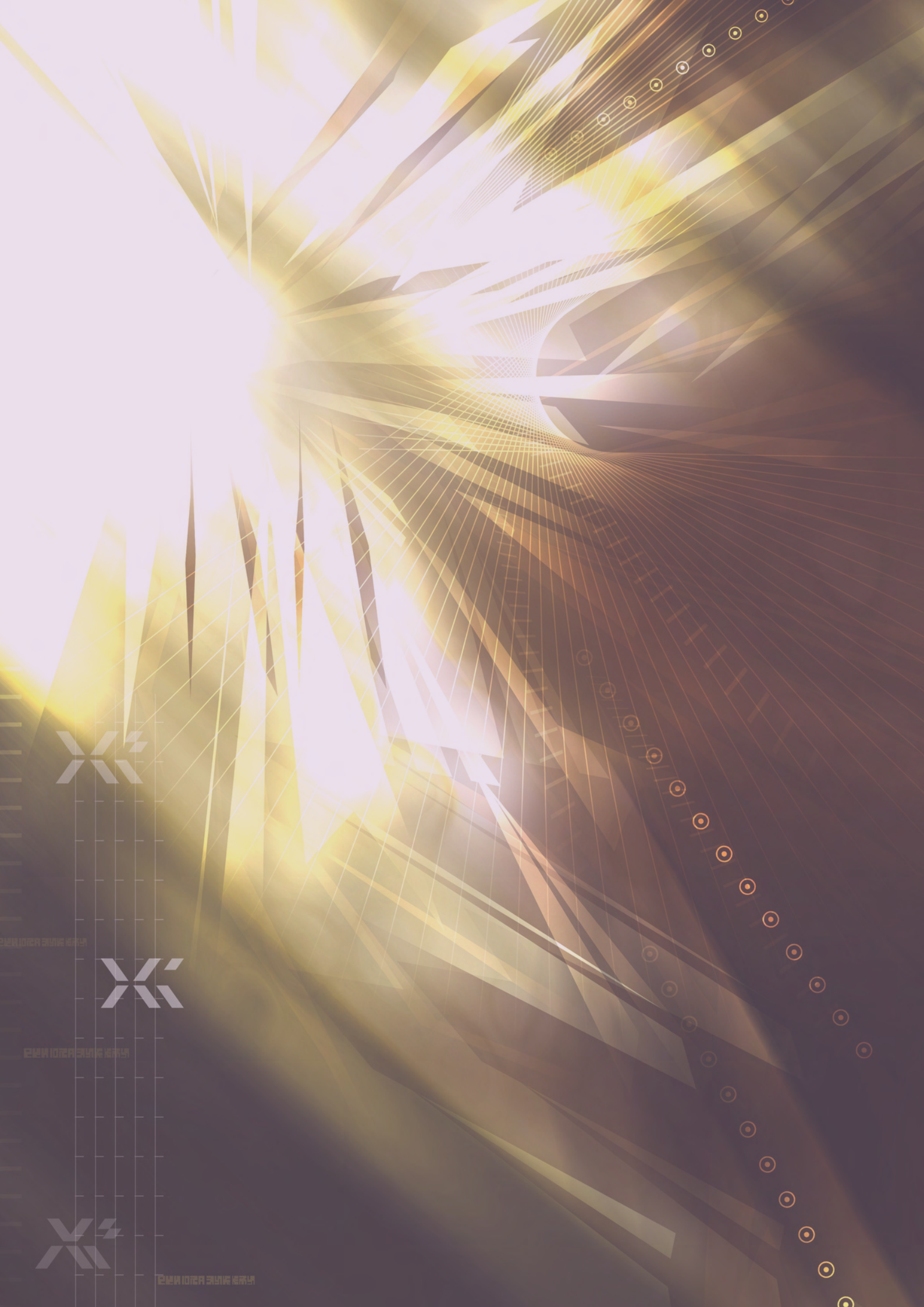
This is a joint project with the Dynamics of Violent Extremism Stream.

6 | Objects for Everyday Resilience

Marginalised and vulnerable communities have long been confronted with the task of developing coping strategies or acts of resilience. However, COVID-19 lockdowns intensified the conditions under which resilience was, and is, negotiated. This is not only true for those marginalised communities but for people from all walks of life.

Objects for Everyday Resilience' seeks to explore the intersection of material objects and everyday resilience. In particular, we are focussing on the things that have supported the mental and physical health of different sections of the community during the pandemic.

This is a joint project with the Youth, Diversity and Wellbeing in a Digital Age Stream.



NEW YORK CITY 10001

Stream Three

Youth, Diversity and Wellbeing in a Digital Age

1 | Foundation Project

This project underpins the entire approach of 'Youth, Diversity and Wellbeing in a Digital Age'. We have worked closely with young people and our program partners to design inclusive engagement and participation strategies. This makes sure that our research is relevant, responsive and youth-centred.

A key phase of this project has been our 'Living Lab' workshops. A Living Lab brings together a broad group of stakeholders in a series of collaborative discussions about all stages of the research process. It brings communities and researchers together over complex social issues in a way that inspires real-life innovations and outcomes.

Our foundation project has also implemented the Explore programme in conjunction with the Centre for Multicultural Youth, and Explore researchers are now employed across all CRIS streams, and beyond.

Read more about Explore on page 14.

2 | Building Activist Capacities for Young People through Issue-Based Campaigns

Empowering young people helps them take an active role in shaping their future. Young activists work more closely with local communities, stakeholders and their peers to build a socially cohesive society.

In this project, we have mapped young people's experience of social justice, voice, and social action using surveys, art-based workshops, and focus group interviews. We have implemented a programme building the activist capacities of four young social-justice groups and supported them to each launch a campaign.

Read more on page 18.

3 | Game On: A study to investigate how online competitive gaming in a supported learning environment can foster young people's holistic development, mental health, and wellbeing

Since the 1980's, gaming, gamers and gaming platforms have been criticised for promoting violence, addiction, social isolation and 'toxic geek masculinity'. However, we suggest that in a supportive environment, competitive gaming can foster a young person's holistic development, mental health, and wellbeing. We will look at how online gaming can develop critical thinking skills, capacity for empathy, self esteem and social cohesion.

Literature Review | Benefits of Recreational Gaming and Esports for Young People

4 | Masculinities and Social Cohesion

Given the gravity of gendered violence, we're interested in exploring programmes designed for young men that aim to support them to take up more inclusive and respectful behaviours. We have completed a broad review of these programmes in Victoria and studied a few in depth. Our report will include recommendations for teachers, community groups and youth workers on how to engage with young men and encourage them to adopt pro-social behaviour.

Stream Four

Dynamics of Violent Extremism

1 | Symbiotic Radicalisation: The interplay between the radical political activism on the left and right fringes in Australia

This project looks at how radical political individuals and groups interact with each other in Australia, both online and in real life. We are interested in how their messages and tactics change both in response to external events, and also in response to each other's actions.

[Read more on page 16.](#)

2 | The Role of Mainstream Media in the Mobilisation of Radical Political Movements

Although mainstream media is usually heavily criticised by radical political groups and networks, the online messaging of these radical political movements also frequently use reports from a range of news media sources to convey their ideological message. This study will provide quantitative and qualitative evidence into what, and especially how, mainstream media reporting is incorporated in the online messaging of political fringe groups.



Research Highlights

Here are just a few of the CRIS projects that achieved significant outputs during 2021.

Explore



We are proud to be supporting development of the next generation of youth researchers and leaders through our 'Explore' collaboration with the Centre for Multicultural Youth. Explore provides an opportunity for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to have direct input into the research that impacts their lives.

The Explore project facilitates partnerships between young people and researchers in order to enhance the relevance and responsiveness of research (and post-research responses) to young people from culturally diverse backgrounds and experiences.

We have recruited the second wave of Explore participants for the 2021-2023 cohort and have started the first phase of training. Our sincere thanks to all of the first wave of Explore participants (2019-2021 cohort) who have contributed widely to CRIS research and outputs.

2019-2021 Explore Cohort

Alex Lee
Hiruni Walimunige
David Cao
Zahra Sitou
Chris Phung

Ezatullah Eiwaz Ali
Komal Grewal
Jane Chen
Phuong Nguyen



Asian Australians' Experiences of Racism in COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic gave rise to reports of xenophobia and racism towards Asians and people of Asian descent fuelled by the pandemic. Surprisingly, our survey of over 2000 Asian Australians found fewer incidences of racism during the pandemic than with the 12 months prior, possibly due to the effects of extended lockdowns. However, a large and concerning number of Asian Australians still experienced racism, despite this decrease.

Our research clearly shows the negative impacts of racism on health, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging. We are working on a set of resources, co-designed with community, to educate people on racism, which will be launched in 2022.

Read the full report at www.crisconsortium.org/publications

In response to the item 'I can't seem to experience any positive feeling at all', only 22% of those who experienced racism reported 'never' feeling this way, as compared to 40% of those who have not experienced racism.



40% of Asian Australians reported experiencing racism from January 2020



70% who experienced racism said they believed it was linked to COVID

Symbiotic radicalisation

In 2020 we published a literature review and the first of our reports on the interplay between the radical political activism on the left and right fringes in Australia. Our first research report looked at online messaging on Facebook. It found that offline global activity, in particular the worldwide anti-racist protests and Black Lives Matter movement, led to a sharp increase in the far-right's discussion of the far-left and vice versa.

7%

of far-right Facebook posts mentioned the far-left

17%

of far-left Facebook posts mentioned the far-right

In 2021 we published two further reports, one looking at the platform Gab, and the other analysing the platform Twitter. We found similar topics of discussion on Twitter as we had found on Facebook. Far-left posts focussed on workers' rights in the context of the pandemic, condemning police brutality and systemic racism, and discussion of the far-right. Far-right posts included anti-Chinese sentiments in relation to COVID, pro-Trump statements and discussion of the far-left. These topics were also prevalent in far-right activity on Gab, along with calls for violence against minority groups and the far-left.

4%

of far-right activity of Gab talked about the far-left

33%

of far-right activity of Gab came from a single account (14,996 posts)

Read the full reports at
www.crisconsortium.org/publications

**AMPLIFY
YOUR
VOICE**



Building the Activist Capacities of Young People through Issue-Based Campaigns

The first part of this project is our research report 'Mapping young people's social justice concerns: An exploration of voice and action'. The report findings are made up of four broad sections:

- Mapping social justice issues.
- Cultivating voice, social action and change strategies.
- Institutional conditions for developing and supporting youth voice.
- One unbroken note: Young people reimagining solidarities and futures.

We found that mental health is the most significant concern for young people. This has been exacerbated by the social isolation of the pandemic, but concern for mental health issues goes further than COVID-19. Young people feel that productivity is valued over their wellbeing and relationships. In particular, those involved in social change work are at risk of burnout and exhaustion. Young people told us about their experiences of 'fluffy' co-design, where young people are not properly heard, paid, or invested in.

This study shaped our approach to the second part of the project: YouthCAN. YouthCAN, an ISD project, trained four groups of young people to launch their own digital social justice campaigns. Explore member, Chris Phung, acted as Local Coordinator for this part of the project and has given exceptional support and skills development for the groups. Two of the groups were established before their involvement with this project, and two came together specifically for the project. The groups have supported each other throughout their involvement in the programme,

and have even collaborated on some of their content.

The research report will be published in early 2022, and the digital campaigns will be continuing into 2022.

From the communities I'm involved in, I see a real want for community. We want to connect and support each other through what we share and through what we have in common.

Taylor, 24

Young people are currently caught between a number of challenges and crises, supporting young people to build a sense of community is essential to social change work.

Dr Alison Baker

The four digital campaign groups:

GENZINE

A Zine exploring gender equity through art and conversation.

MIGRANT JUSTICE

Providing workshops to educate young migrant and refugee women about wage theft.

ONE WOMAN PROJECT

#ChangeTheChannel, a social media campaign addressing gendered stereotypes and toxic behaviour in media and pop culture.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Tackling accessibility and inclusivity issues in employment and the workplace for young people with disabilities in Victoria.

Find out more about the campaigns at www.crisconsortium.org/building-activist-capacities-of-young-people

GenZine



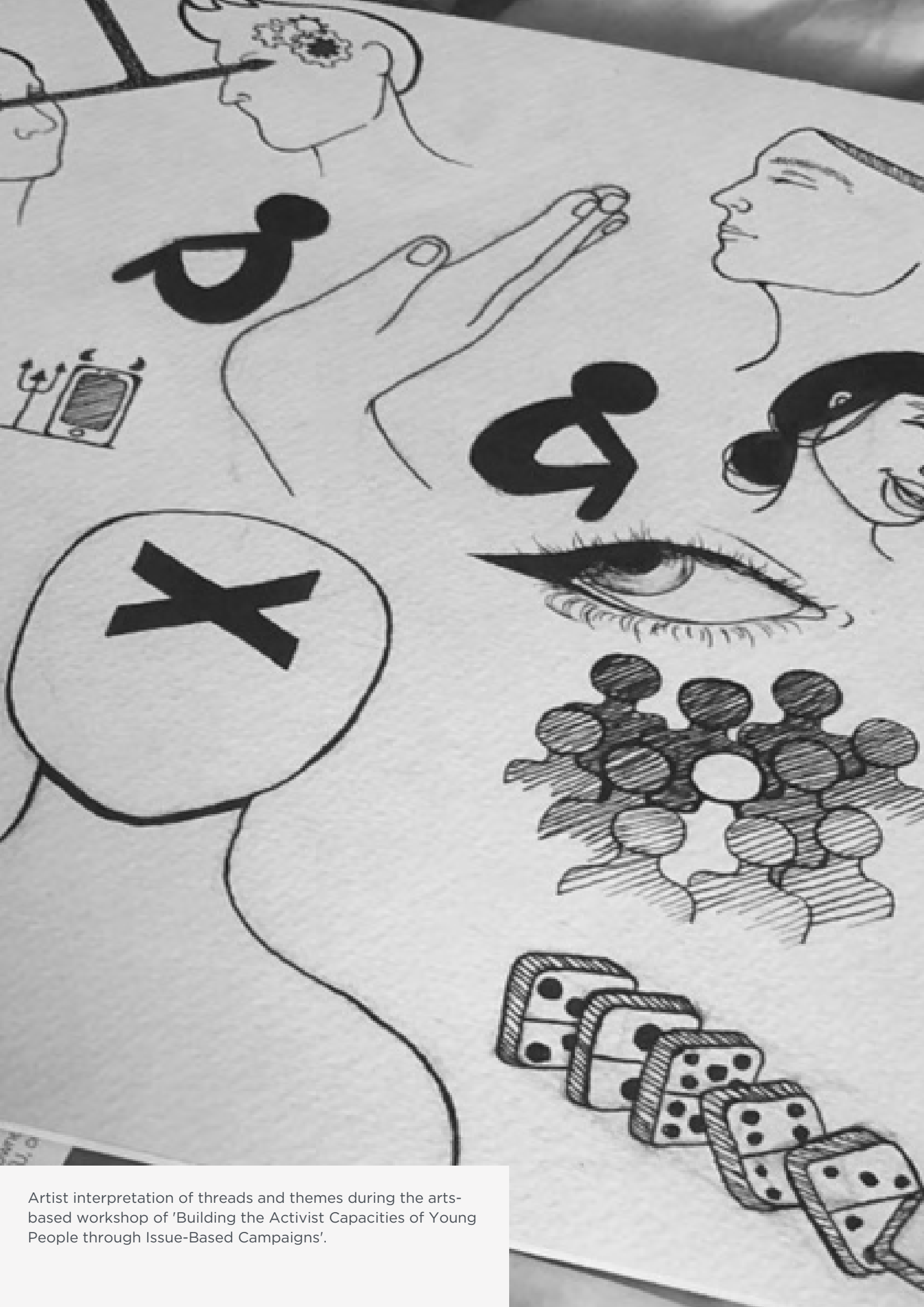
YOUTH
CAN

Gender equity discussions & art

#changethechannel Consent on screen

WHAT IS WAGE THEFT?

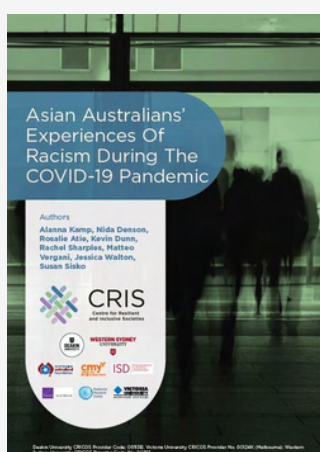




Artist interpretation of threads and themes during the arts-based workshop of 'Building the Activist Capacities of Young People through Issue-Based Campaigns'.

2021 CRIS Publications

Research Reports



Asian Australians' Experiences of Racism during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alanna Kamp, Nida Denson, Rosalie Atie, Kevin Dunn, Rachel Sharples, Matteo Vergani, Jessica Walton, Susan Sisko



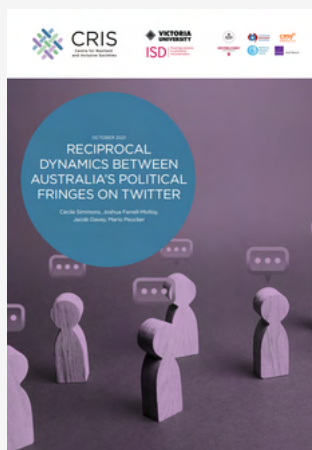
Benefits of Recreational Gaming and E-Sports for Young People

Chris Zomer, Liam Magee, Amanda Third



A Snapshot of Far-Right Activity on Gab in Australia

Cécile Guerin, Jacob Davey, Dr Mario Peucker and Thomas J. Fisher



Reciprocal Dynamics Between Australia's Political Fringes on Twitter

Cécile Simmons, Joshua Farrell-Molloy, Jacob Davey, Mario Peucker

Issues Papers

RACISM IN AUSTRALIA: FILLING DATA GAPS

Jehonathan Ben, Amanuel Elias, Mandy Truong, Fethi Mansouri, Nida Denson, Yin Paradies

ENHANCING DIGITAL CAPACITY AMONG DIVERSE YOUTH

Kim Lam, Anita Harris

COUNTERING ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE VICTORIAN POPULATION

Kevin Dunn, Rachel Sharples, Fethi Mansouri, Yin Paradies, Matteo Vergani, Craig McGarty and Amanuel Elias

Submissions to Government

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

In May 2021, CRIS and AVERT members Michele Grossman, Mark Duckworth, Lydia Khalil, Joshua Roose and Mario Peucker appeared as expert witnesses at the public hearings held in Canberra for the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security's Inquiry into Extremist Movements and Radicalism in Australia.

Michele Grossman, Mark Duckworth, Greg Barton, Vivian Gerrand, Matteo Vergani, Mario Peucker, Hass Dellal and Jacob Davey

[Read the submission on the CRIS website.](#)

RESPONSE TO STAGE 2, REVIEW OF THE TERRORISM (COMMUNITY PROTECTION) ACT 2003, VICTORIA

The CRIS submission to the Department of Justice and Community Safety is referenced at many points in the Review of the Terrorism (Community Protection) Act.

Mark Duckworth, Michele Grossman

[Read the submission on the CRIS website.](#)



Mark Duckworth, Josh Roose, Michele Grossman, Lydia Khalil and Julian Droogan at the PJCIS hearings in Canberra.

CRIS Conference

Understanding Everyday Resilience and Tackling Hate Workshop

From the 5th to the 7th of October, we welcomed people from around the world to CRIS via Zoom. The conference's theme was 'understanding everyday resilience' and took a close look at the multiple levels and scales of resilience, and the ways that collaboration and cooperation can systemically build resilience.

The conference was laid out thematically over the three days. Day one focussed on enhancing resilience, and the second day discussed the challenges involved in enhancing resilience, and the opportunities these challenges provide. Day three comprised the Tackling Hate workshop which considered the practical and ethical implications of collecting a national 'database of hate'.

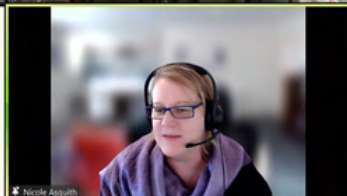
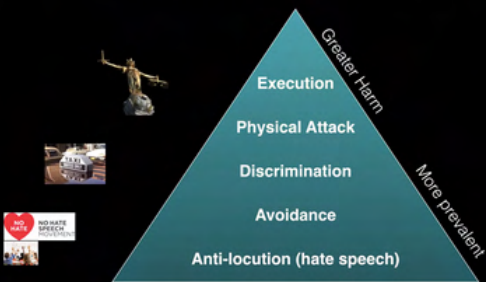
'Understanding Everyday Resilience' contrasted shocking headline events, the pandemic, the bushfires of 2020, the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests, with the chronic, quiet challenges that many in our communities face every day. It drew out the ways that our use of technology and the online space can risk isolation and polarisation. However, a strong theme was the web's capacity to increase our cohesion and promote community, and that intentional and evidence-backed programmes can intervene and counter such risks.

Access selected conference recordings at www.crisconsortium.org/cris-conference-2021.





Allport's Scale of Discrimination



91% agreed the conference deepened their understanding of the issues



I appreciate the way the conference brought together academics, government, and other community members to explore important current issues, as well as the "open access" nature of the event. Thank you to all involved in organising and presenting.

Conference guest

Connecting with CRIS



30,000 website visits

⬆️ 98%

www.crisconsortium.org



522 Newsletter subscribers

⬆️ 22%

Sign up at www.crisconsortium.org/sign-up



565 Followers

⬆️ 52%

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We hosted 7 webinars. Check them out at www.crisconsortium.org/webinar-recordings



The Team

CRIS Central



Professor Michele Grossman
Director
Deakin University



Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh
Deputy Director
Deakin University



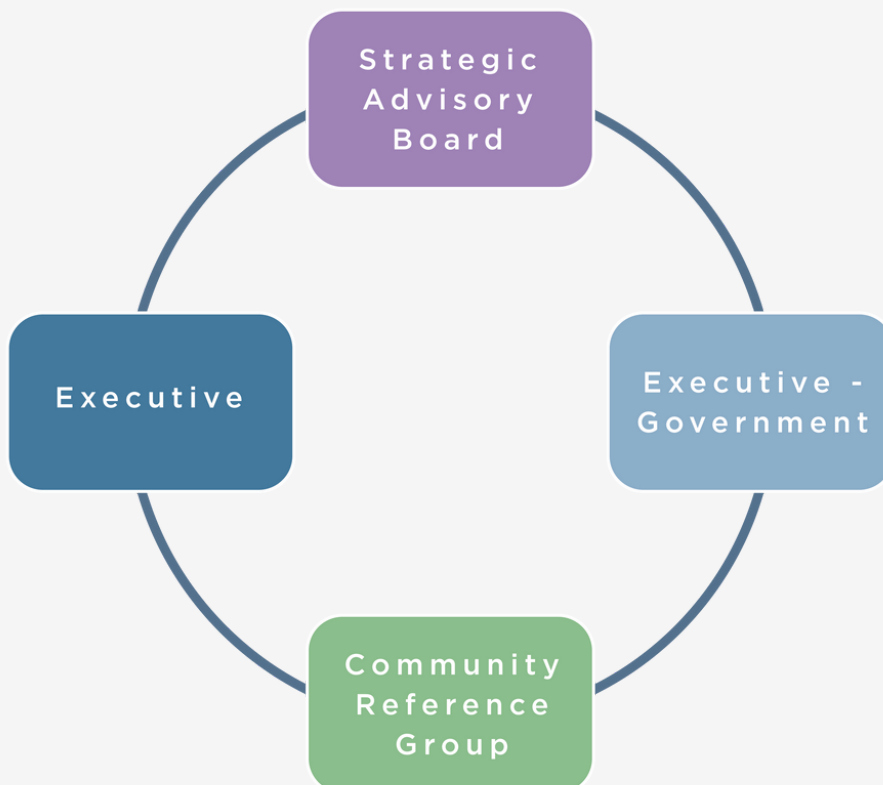
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Communications and Public
Engagement Officer
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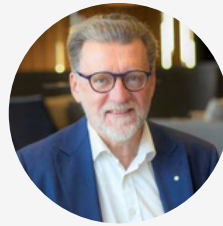
Executive



Dr Alison Baker
Victoria University



Dr Hass Dellal
Australian Multicultural Foundation



Mark Duckworth
Deakin University



Professor Kevin Dunn
Western Sydney University



Professor Anita Harris
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Professor Yin Paradies
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Dr Mario Peucker
Victoria University



Soo-Lin Quek
Centre for Multicultural Youth



Professor Amanda Third
Western Sydney University

Community Reference Group



Dr Hass Dellal
Australian Multicultural Foundation



Sisay Dinku
Multicultural Consulting Services
and VMC Commissioner



Kieran Hough
Victorian Arabic Social Services



Rashmi Kumar
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria



Cameron McLeod
North Melbourne Football Club



Soo-Lin Quek
Centre for Multicultural Youth

Strategic Advisory Board

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Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion, Department of
Premier and Cabinet, Victorian Government

Professor Kevin Dunn
University of Western Sydney

Conor Flanagan
CVE Unit, Department of Justice and Community Safety,
Victorian Government

Dr Christina Ho
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Professor Fethi Mansouri
Deakin University

Professor Julie Owens
Deakin University

Dr Debra Smith
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Professor Paul Thomas
University of Huddersfield

Professor Samina Yasmeen
University of Western Australia

Stream Members

Stream 1: Challenging Racisms and Enhancing Social Belonging

Stream Leads

Professor Kevin Dunn, Western Sydney University
Professor Yin Paradies, Deakin University

Stream Coordinator

Dr Jehonathan Ben, Deakin University

Dr Vanessa Barolsky, Deakin University
Dr Ana-Maria Bliuc, Western Sydney University
Sara Cheikh-Husain, Deakin University
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Dr Amanuel Elias, Deakin University
Ayuba Issaka, Deakin University
Dr Alanna Kamp, Western Sydney University
Alex Lee, Deakin University
Professor Don MacKenzie, University of Washington
Professor Fethi Mansouri, Deakin University
Professor Craig McGarty, Western Sydney University
Phuong Nguyen, University of Melbourne
Awais Piracha, Western Sydney University
Daniel Pitman, Western Sydney University
Noorie Safa, Western Sydney University
Dr Rachel Sharples, Western Sydney University
Dr Susan Sisko, Western Sydney University
Dr Mandy Truong, Monash University
Dr Jessica Walton, Deakin University

Stream 2: Building Resilience to Social Harms including Violent Extremism

Stream Leads

Dr Hass Dellal, Australian Multicultural Foundation
Professor Michele Grossman, Deakin University

Stream Coordinator

Dr Vivian Gerrand, Deakin University

Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, Deakin University
Dr Vanessa Barolsky, Deakin University

Professor Greg Barton, Deakin University
Dr Kris Christmann, University of Huddersfield
Bec Devitt, Deakin University
Mark Duckworth, Deakin University
Tom Fischer, Deakin University
Ben Freeman, Deakin University
Christine Horn, Deakin University
Lydia Khalil, Deakin University
Dr Josh Roose, Deakin University
Professor Paul Thomas, University of Huddersfield
Professor Mike Ungar, Dalhousie University
Dr Matteo Vergani, Deakin University
Associate Professor Chad Whelan, Deakin University

Stream 3: Youth, Diversity and Wellbeing in a Digital Age

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Stream 4: Dynamics of Violent Extremism

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