



Projections

Issue No 7, February 2003

Projections is the quarterly newsletter of **Project i**.

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/projecti>

Project i is one of the first, long-term studies conducted in Australia with homeless young people. It will be tracking the path of 165 newly homeless young people, aged between 12 and 20, over three years. **We are interested in finding out how their pathways into and out of homelessness are affected by service delivery**, and will interview them up to eight times over three years. One-off interviews have also been conducted with 526 longer-term homeless young people. We hope that this research will inform policy and provide valuable information on the best way to deliver services to young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. It is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, and conducted by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University, in partnership with the Center for Community Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. **Project i** is also conducting surveys with service providers and workers within the homeless sector. It will review local, state and federal government policies that impact upon homeless young people. Ultimately, the Melbourne and Los Angeles studies will make comparisons between different models of service delivery within the two cities.

News Project i is moving

On the 3rd of March **Project i** will be moving to the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne. We will be located at the Key Centre for Women's Health where Doreen Rosenthal, the Principal Investigator on **Project i**, has recently been appointed Director. The move to the School of Population Health will not change the nature of the **Project i** research.

As you know, we have been based at ARCSHS for the past 3 years. We are sad to be leaving ARCSHS and would like to thank our colleagues at who have provided support, advice and a wonderful working environment!

Papers and reports

We have recently released our fourth 6 page report: **Broadsheet #4 - Supported accommodation: Entry and exit points for homeless young people**. This report, which can be down loaded free of charge from our website, is based on surveys conducted with 674 homeless young people in Melbourne between November 2000 and August 2002. It reports on the young people's past and present living arrangements, particularly the places from where they 'entered' and then 'exited' refuges or shelters; juvenile detention or jail; psychiatric hospitals; Child Protection placements; and medium-term accommodation.

We are very excited to announce that we will be launching a 50-page report on the first 403 surveys with homeless young people in Melbourne. ***Living Well? Homeless young people in Melbourne*** will be launched by the Rev. Tim Costello at 10am on the 19th February at La Trobe University, 215 Franklin St Melbourne. All welcome, RSVP projecti@latrobe.edu.au or 9285 5382.

A limited number of the reports have been printed, but the report can be downloaded free of charge from our website after the launch on the 19th.

Interviews with homeless young people

Our follow-up interviews with the 165 newly homeless young people we are tracking over three years are progressing well. We have completed all the 3-month and nearly all the 6-month follow-ups, and even completed 4 of the 24-month follow-ups! So far we have managed to interview 88% of young people for the 6-month interview.

In December 2002, we began our conversational style, open-ended interviews with 40 of the newly homeless young people. We have completed 14 and expect to complete the rest by May.

3rd National Homelessness Conference- Beyond the Divide- Brisbane 6-8 April

Project i submitted 4 paper abstracts (including one based on our *Living Well?* report) and a workshop proposal (in conjunction with some of Melbourne's youth refuges) to "Beyond the Divide". One abstract, by Shellet Mallett (Project i Manager), was accepted. Shelley will be presenting 'Homeless Young People, Mental Health and Substance Use: A comparative study of homeless young people in Melbourne and Los Angeles.

Further information:

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