



Australian
National
University

Research School of
Population Health

MAE Newsletter

November 2021



MAE has a new Director

Professor Tony Stewart will join our team in 2022.

[Read more](#)

Photo: Broad Street Pump, the pilgrimage place for epidemiologists.



Investigating Salmonella

MAE student Troy Laidlow applies a One Health approach to a Salmonella Typhimurium linked to poultry.

[Read more](#)



Canberra to host 2023 SafetyNet Conference

We are pleased to have the opportunity to host the Conference in Canberra. In conjunction with TEPHINET, will provide updates on venue and dates as they become available.



Congrats to our 2020 Scholars

Six of our MAE Scholars submitted in October and will have their oral vivas in December. Huge achievement and congratulations to you all!

Ha Linh Quach (Applied Epidemiology during COVID-19 in Vietnam)

Stephanie Curtis (An MAE in the time of COVID-19)

Stephanie Main (A Master of Apartment Epidemiology: Field Epidemiology during the COVID-19 Pandemic)

Troy Laidlow (Applied Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases)

Chris Bailie (Applied Epidemiology of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases, Victoria 2020-2021)

Noni Winkler (Investigating vaccine-preventable diseases and the COVID-19 pandemic)

MAE scholars assist in the ACT Health Response



Pictured after many hours of response work with squish mello plush toys left to right, Leonie, Yasmin, Aruna and Keeley.

After three hundred and ninety-eight days, Canberra recorded its first case of community transmission of COVID-19 since 2020.

Since that fateful day on 12 August 2021, all of the Canberra based MAE scholars, Keeley Allen and Al Gomez from ACT Health, Leonie Williamson from ANU, Aruna Phabmixay, Anna Rafferty and Yasmin Lisson from the Commonwealth Health Department were deployed to assist with the COVID-19 response.

Our main responsibilities within the Epidemiology and Case Investigation Team included interviewing cases, managing clusters, developing epidemiological reports, cluster visualisation, and contributing to briefs and acute response teams to inform public health responses.

We made important contributions to interrupt the chains of transmission of the virus and developed recommendations for schools, childcare, the construction industry, within culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and the aged-care and disability sectors.

One of Aruna's key highlights and one which we can all relate to, "was seeing exposure sites be publicly announced particularly ones that you worked hard to identify. Seeing the immediate effect of your work play out in the community was rewarding and motivating".



Pictured day 1, left to right, Yasmin, Aruna, Leonie, Algreg. Aruna working on a cluster diagram.

What did we learn?

Essentials in outbreak response:

1. Coffee
2. Community engagement
3. Excellent communication and teamwork (a good handover will get you everywhere)
4. Strong leadership particularly the sharing of knowledge and expertise

We worked hard, we bonded, we questioned life, we are proud and feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to work together on an acute public health

response...Now, let's never do it again!

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