

Parenting and Family Support Centre

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Our work focuses on the development and evaluation of evidence-based parenting and family interventions.

Project spotlight

Raising children in a world affected by climate change

Dr Carolina Gonzalez is leading the research project *Understanding parenting in times of climate change*, in collaboration with Professor Alina Morawska (UQ) and Dr Carla Jeffries (University of Southern Queensland, UniSQ). This project was funded by a 2023 UniSQ Capacity Building Grant. As parents play a key role in shaping their children's care for the environment, this project aims to understand parents' pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours when raising their children in an environmentally friendly way in Australia.

The first study of this project is a scoping review that has identified an inconsistency of terms and definitions used in the literature when exploring how parents promote their children's pro-environmental behaviours. There is also limited use of theories and appropriate adaptation and development in the context of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours of families.

Almost 400 parents across Australia have completed a survey about what parents think and do towards the environment and associated psychosocial factors. In addition, more than 20 parents across Australia have participated in semi-structured interviews, and provided their insights about parenting, climate change, pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours and their hopes for the future.



Graduations

The 2025 July UQ graduation ceremony was well attended by PFSC staff and graduands. Kathryn Esparza was awarded her PhD and students Stuart Gates and Hui Min Lee received

their Masters awards. Professor Alina Morawska and Associate Professor Divna Haslam were proud to be attending as supervisors.



Kathryn Esparza, Divna Haslam, Stuart Gates, Alina Morawska and Hui Min Lee

Keep a list on the fridge of 20 free go to activities

Emeritus Professor Sanders was interviewed by 9 News to provide some good advice to parents for the school holidays. He suggested keeping a list on the fridge of 20 free go to activities that children

can look at when they feel they have nothing to do. The list could include activities like backyard camping and making pizzas from scratch.



New PFSC Staff

Congratulations to Dr Carolina Gonzalez and Tianyi Ma who have both commenced as Post Doctoral Research Fellows at the PFSC.



Dr Alimila Hayixibayi (Mila) has also commenced at the PFSC as a Research Assistant. Mila has a background in public health and psychology, and is motivated to find innovative and sustainable solutions to promote child and family wellbeing on a population level. Outside of work, she likes travelling to new places, Saturday markets, jacarandas, and cold noodles.





Bullying in schools

Dr Karyn Healy authored a commentary in *The Conversation* on bullying in schools that shows bullying, “can lead to reduced academic performance, depression, anxiety and even suicidal behaviour.” Karyn describes what bullying means and offered strategies for parents and schools. The article highlights the need for government, families and schools to prevent and reduce bullying as an urgent priority.

How to talk to kids about safety at childcare and spot possible signs of abuse

Associate Professor Divna Haslam alongside Alison Geale from Bravehearts spoke to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) about how parents can help reduce the risk of harm when choosing daycare. Divna says parents shouldn’t hesitate to speak up if they believe their child has been mistreated.

[Read the story here.](#)

Associate Professor Divna Haslam was also interviewed by the Guardian with Hetty Johnson, the founder of Bravehearts to discuss, “Now that I know, what do I do? The terrible question of how and when to tell a small child about abuse.”

[Read the story here.](#)



International Life Course (LCC) Conference in Brisbane

PFSC staff and students attended the LCC 2-day conference titled *A roadmap for the future* in July. The conference focused on new ideas and partnerships to advance the future of the life course approach for addressing social disadvantage in Australia.



Ari Pratiwi and Tianyi Ma

International visitors



Liying Yang from the School of Psychology, East China Normal University is the PFSC visiting scholar from June 2025 to June 2026. Her research focus is “A mixed-study of a cultural adaption exploration of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program for Chinese families.”



PFSC alumnus, Dr Agnes Maria Sumargi, visited the PFSC in July. Agnes is currently a lecturer in Developmental Psychology at Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya, Indonesia, where she also serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology.



Professor Dian Ratna Sawitri visited the PFSC in June from the Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia.

Award news

Congratulations to **Tianyi Ma**, who was awarded the HMBS Consumer and Community Involvement Kickstart Grant.

Tianyi Ma also received the Life Course Centre Knowledge Transfer Portfolio's Community Involvement Fund for the project: *Tailored Futures: A Systems-Contextual Approach to Supporting Every Child*.



I-CEPS award winners

Two PFSC presentations received Best Symposium Awards at the 2nd International Congress on Evidence-Based Parenting Support:

Exploring father involvement: Insights from Indonesia, China, and Australia

Ms Ari Pratiwi, Professor Alina Morawska, Associate Professor Divna Haslam, Dr Yang Liu, and Dr Yoo Mi Byun

Supporting parenting and family wellbeing in culturally diverse communities across the globe

Associate Professor Karen Turner, Mr Arvind Ponnappalli, Assistant Professor Cari McIllduff, Ms Maureen Ouma, Ms Tarita Fisher, **Professor Matthew Sanders**, Ms Maria Taheri, Dr John Acharibasam, Professor Anke Hoeffler, **Associate Professor Divna Haslam** and Ms Amy Bland.

PFSC seminar series



The June seminar, *Screen time in young people*, was presented by Verena Fuss. Verena is currently visiting the PFSC and is a Master's student in the School of Psychology at the University of Tübingen, Germany.



Emeritus Professor Matthew Sanders also presented at the June Seminar with a presentation titled, *Reflection on I-CEPS 2025 and its capacity to produce meaningful social and policy impact*.



PFSC PhD student, **Ari Pratiwi** presented the August seminar, *Father involvement and its determinants among Indonesian fathers*.

Recent publications

Asmara, O., Morawska, A., Hoang, A., & Riany, Y. E. (2025). Development and initial validation of the Indonesian Child Self-Regulation Scale. *Infant and Child Development* (Accepted 23/6/25).

Asmara, O., Morawska, A., Hoang, A., & Riany, Y. E. (2025). How far does the apple fall from the tree? A cross-sectional study of the relationship between child and parent self-regulation in Indonesia mediated by parenting practices. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*. doi.org/10.1177/01650254251327364

Hepburn, S., Trompf, M., Hodges, J., Macleod, L.M., Ma, T., Teng, J., Johnson, A., Boyle, C., & Sanders, M. (2025). Creating a positive home-school partnership through professional learning for teachers – A scoping review of the international literature. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 165, 105127. doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2025.105127

Hoang, A., Hepburn, S.-J., Morawska, A., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). The effect of self-reflection on the outcomes of online clinical skills training: A comparative study. *Advances in Health Sciences Education Theory Practice*. doi: 10.1007/s10459-025-10425-8

Johnson, A., Ma, T., Hodges, J., Boyle, C., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). Partners in Education Survey: Validation of a brief, parent-report home-school partnership measure in Australia. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 177, 108455. doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108455

Khalid, A., Morawska, A., & Turner, K. M. T. (2025). Effectiveness of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program in an orphanage context in Lahore, Pakistan. *Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*, 16(1), 1-24. doi.org/10.18357/ijcyfs161202522340

Mitchell, A. E., Adina, J., Morawska, A., & Casey, E. (2025). Psychosocial Interventions for Children with Dermatological Conditions: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* (Accepted 18/7/25).

Pratiwi, A., Morawska, A., & Haslam, D. (2025). Father Involvement in Asian Families: A Systematic Literature Review. *Journal of Family Issues* (Accepted 7/8/25).

Farewell to Olifa Asmara

PFSC staff and students gathered together to farewell **Olifa Asmara** who completed her PhD. Olifa and family returned to Indonesia in June, 2025.



Tianyi Ma, Matt Sanders, Alina Morawska, Olifa Asmara, Roxanne Jemison, Verena Fuss, Jess Dawkins

Alumni Updates

PFSC Alumnus Dr Cari Dawn McIllduff was back in Australia for five weeks this term. She is a newly appointed tenure track Assistant Professor and a co-lead of the Global Health Certificate at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. In her role, she teaches and mentors future Physicians and Master of Physiotherapy students to understand and engage with the social, political and economic determinants of health, and to understand their role as advocates and activists in these spaces. She was visiting with two medical students from Canada to facilitate their learning from First Nations communities in Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands. This work builds on her previously established relationships during her doctoral and postdoctoral work with the PFSC. Their last week was learning from healthcare providers in Cherbourg, including one of the PFSC's current doctoral candidates, **Arvind Ponnappalli**.



Dr Cari Dawn McIllduff (top row, second from right)

We always take a keen interest in our alumni and would love to share your news in the newsletter. Let us know by emailing pfsc@psy.uq.edu.au and we will post the news.

Recent publications cont.

Pyne, B., Morawska, A. & Asmara, O. (2025). The impact of modifiable parenting factors on the screen use of children five years or younger: A systematic review. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*. doi.org/10.1007/s10567-025-00523-9

Sanders, M.R., Clague, D., Zajac, T., Baxter, J., Western M., Chainey, C., Morawska, A., Tomaszewski, W., Prinz, R.J., & Burke, K. (2025). Parenting, child maltreatment, and social disadvantage: A population-based implementation and evaluation of the Triple P system of evidence-based parenting support. *Child Maltreatment*, 30(1):177-191. doi.org/10.1177/107755952412599

Singh, S., Turner, K. M. T., Ashworth, P. (2025). Exploring parental agency: Lessons learned from Northern India. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 34, 1378-1389. doi.org/10.1007/s10826-025-03063-6

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., Morawska, A., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). *Helping children develop healthy screentime habits* [Triple P Seminar tip sheet]. Triple P International Pty Ltd.

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., Morawska, A., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). *PowerPoint presentation for Helping children develop healthy screentime habits Triple P Seminar* [PowerPoint slides]. Triple P International Pty Ltd.

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., & Sanders, M. R. (Producers/Directors). (2025). *Positive parenting: A guide for First Nations families* [Video]. Triple P International Pty Ltd.

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). *Positive parenting for First Nations families*. Triple P International Pty Ltd.

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). *PowerPoint presentation for Triple P for First Nations Families* [PowerPoint slides]. Triple P International Pty Ltd.

Turner, K. M. T., Markie-Dadds, C., & Sanders, M. R. (2025). *Triple P workbook for First Nations families*. Triple P International Pty Ltd.