

# SOUTHGATE INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH, SOCIETY AND EQUITY

A national centre for research into the social determinants of health & wellbeing



## Families@Flinders Discussion Forum on

### GENDER & POWER AS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & WELLBEING:

*Ways that service systems reflect and reproduce gender and power inequities*

11<sup>th</sup> August 2009, 11.45am for a 12pm start – 2pm

Breakout Rooms 1.23, 1.27 & 1.28, Health Sciences Building, Flinders University

**Chair: Associate Professor Eileen Willis, Head, Social Health Sciences**

The World Health Organisation Commission on the Social Determinants of Health identified gender and power inequities, pervasive in all societies, as fundamental determinants of health and wellbeing. Gender and other unequal social relations of power are expressed through norms and values, and internalised through socialisation, and these inequalities tend to be reproduced in the operations of service systems and programs.

Families @ Flinders researchers and women's health & safety service managers/practitioners will outline their research interests and critical perspectives to encourage in-depth discussion at this forum.

**12pm The social determinants of health – where do gender & power fit?**  
*Associate Professor Colin MacDougall, Discipline of Public Health and Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity*

**12.10pm Gender and Power as Determinants of Child and Family Wellbeing**  
*Dr Miranda Roe & Dr Anne Morris, Families@Flinders Research Network*

An analysis of the ways in which family services typically replicate the coercive and controlling dynamics of violence and abuse, while attempting to address them.

**12.25pm Overviews of research by other F@F members highlighting gender and power issues in services**

1. Ageing Sexualities: policy and practice possibilities - *Dr Judith Peppard, School of Education*

This presentation will briefly explore the international literature on sexualities and ageing. Attention will be given to the way gender and power interact to support or hinder the development and maintenance of healthy sexualities as people grow older.

2. Miscarriage- *Dr Catherine Kevin, Department of History*

In the last 50 years the pregnant body has been transformed by a process of medicalisation that powerfully informs women's understandings of their own bodies and invests increasing significance in early pregnancy. Have medical

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service providers adapted their handling of miscarriage in ways sensitive to the newly configured pregnant body, and how do historically shaped gender and power differentials influence how services respond to or sideline the experiences and needs of women facing early miscarriage?

3. Domestic violence related deaths -*Catherine Mackenzie, PhD Candidate, Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity*

In Australia domestic violence related homicide is the primary context of women victims of homicide. Public attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence influence the way victims and perpetrators are viewed by service professionals and the public. This paper provides a brief overview of some distinct contrasts between the evidence, and how domestic violence related deaths are reported in the media, questioning to what extent public attitudes and media reporting intersect to reproduce unequal gender-power relations.

4. Maternity care: *Dr Lareen Newman, Australian Health Inequities Program*

This presentation will briefly report on two recent publications that have highlighted how gender and control issues in the organisation of Australian maternity services play out to adversely affect the physical, emotional and social health of mothers and babies.

**12.50pm Responses from the perspective of women's health & safety service provision**

*Ms Jen McKenzie, Manager, Women's Health and Safety, Central Northern Adelaide Health Service, Ambulatory and Primary Health Care Services*

*Ms Celia Karpfen, Manager, Southern Primary Health - Southern Women's, Southern Adelaide Health Services*

**1.10pm Forum discussion**

**2.00pm Close**

**A Light lunch will be served**

**PLACES LIMITED**

**Please RSVP by the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 through email:  
simeon.sharo@flinders.edu.au  
or phone (08) 7221 8411**