

Mental health Research for Justice and Belonging: Family, community, and country.



Members (currently employed by UNSW): Professor Susan Rees, Dr Lyndon Reilly, Professor Mick Adams (Visiting), Nawal Nadar, Batool Moussa, Fatima Hassoun, Mariam Yousif, Anggy Durant, Farah Khalif, Yalini Krishna, Batoul Khalil.

Our research group focus is on the social and cultural determinants of mental health and functioning, with an emphasis on remote and marginalised trauma-impacted populations.

Issues related to race and ethnicity, culture, gender, poverty, and violence are determining factors.

Our group is characterised by lived experience researchers who are representatives of our target research populations including those with a refugee and/or conflict-affected background, women who are parenting children, First Nations men who are parents, First Nations young adults, remote and regional communities, and women impacted by or living with violent male partners.

We are interdisciplinary researchers with expertise in mixed methods, cohort studies and interventions. We prioritise a genuine and robust inclusion of community based and government stakeholders. We endeavour to promote and advance research in our country and the region, as well as First Nations health and mental health, gender equity, human rights, and social justice.

- Top three projects for FY 2022-23:
 - Enabling dads and promoting First Nations adolescent mental health (MRFF \$1,684,250 – finishes June 2024)
 - WATCH cohort study with women and their children from refugee background and a comparison group of Australian born (NHMRC Cohort \$964,892 – finishes December 2023)
 - DILI cohort study with women and children in trauma-impacted Timor-Leste (NHMRC \$829,242 study finished 2023, still sharing and publishing data and applying for further funding)
- Number of publications for FY 2022-23 (thus far approx 17, some in press)
- Expected outcomes: These are detailed in our published study profiles (below).

Rees, S., Mohsin, M., Moussa, B., Fisher, J., Steel, Z., Nadar, N., ... & Krishna, Y. (2022). Cohort profile: intimate partner violence and mental health among women from refugee background and a comparison group of Australian-born—the WATCH cohort study. **BMJ open**

Tol, W. A., Rees, S. J., Tay, A. K., Tam, N., da Costa Saldanha Segurado, A., da Costa, Z. M., ... & Silove, D. M. (2018). Cohort profile: maternal mental health and child development in situations of past violent conflict and ongoing adversity: the DILI birth cohort study. **International Journal of Epidemiology**

Reilly, L., Adams, M., Rees, S (2023) Enabling Dads and Improving First Nations Adolescent Mental Health: A Pragmatic Randomised, Controlled Study. **BMJ open**