

## Update on the LOFA study

Since the Forgotten Australians study was launched early in 2015 by Justice Peter McClellan (Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse) the research has been progressing well. The research comprises a *survey*, in-depth *interviews* and *focus groups*.

As the research fieldwork is about midway through, it is an opportune time for providing an update to research partners, the Critical Reference Group and other interested organisations and individuals.

### Update on data collection - surveys

To date: nationally, 528 surveys have been returned. 378 surveys were completed online, 150 on paper.

Some basic statistics on the participants:

- Female 58%, male 42%
- Mean age is 61.5 (ranging from 27 – 100 years old)
- About 7% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- The majority of participants are from NSW, QLD, and VIC. We need more participants from the NT, TAS, ACT, WA and SA.

### Summary of participation in interviews and focus groups so far

56 mainly face to face (some telephone) interviews have taken place - 6 in Queensland, 26 in NSW and 24 in

Victoria. Ten focus groups involving 37 people have taken place - three in Queensland involving 9 people, 6 in NSW involving 24 people and 1 in Victoria involving 4 people. These occurred in a variety of metropolitan and regional locations including included: Sydney, the Hunter, Central Coast, mid and north coast NSW, the Blue Mountains, Brisbane, the Tweed and Gold Coast, Melbourne and Dandenong. To date, a total of 82 people have participated in either focus groups or interviews. Of these, 43 per cent were male and 57 per cent were female.



L to R: Stephen Mondy (formerly of Catholic Care), Caroline Carroll (Alliance for Forgotten Australians), Professor Elizabeth Fernandez (UNSW), Lisa Johns (Relationships Australia NSW), Dr Jung-Sook Lee (UNSW), Stella Conroy (Alliance for Forgotten Australians), Karyn Walsh (Lotus Place), Andrew McCallum (ACWA), Dr Wendy Foote (ACWA).

### Remaining Fieldwork – focus groups and interviews

Fieldwork has taken place in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. The remaining

fieldwork will take place in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory from now until November. Fieldwork will be carried out in following weeks:

- Victoria: Most of the fieldwork completed. Further regional focus groups planned.
- South Australia (Adelaide): 8 September – 10 September
- Western Australia (Perth, Fremantle): 22 September – 25 September
- Northern Territory (Alice Springs) 13 October – 15 October
- Northern Territory (Darwin) 10 November – 13 November

- Tasmania – dates currently being decided.
- ACT – later in year, depending on numbers of participants.

## How can your organisation help?

### Promote the survey.

Persons can participate in the survey at any time by completing the survey online at:

[www.forgottenaustralians.unsw.edu.au](http://www.forgottenaustralians.unsw.edu.au)

They can also be sent a paper survey in the post or complete the survey over the telephone, assisted by a researcher. You or your client can contact the LOFA office on 02 9385 1516 for these options. You may also be able to assist a client to fill out a survey. You may request paper surveys and prepaid return envelopes if required.

### Promote the focus groups and interviews in SA, WA, TAS and NT.

Fieldwork will be occurring in these States and Territories from now until November 2015. The researchers will be working closely with Find and Connect services in these areas however you can also assist by promoting these events to Forgotten Australians, members of the Stolen Generations and child migrants.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation

The research team are seeking practical assistance and partnerships with local organisations to make sure that members of the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who experienced care in

a variety of institutions and foster care are adequately represented in this study. Additional fieldwork can be scheduled where there are potential participants who wish to be involved. This is subject to the guidance of the Critical Reference Group, appropriate local contacts being available and protocols being followed. Your organisation may be able to assist with the research and ensure this is carried out in a culturally appropriate manner.

### The next stages

It is envisaged that fieldwork will be completed by the end of 2015. The online survey will close at the end of 2015. Transcripts of interviews and focus groups will be produced and analysed in 2015-2016. We hope to provide information about the research progress to participants via a variety of methods – via our website, and via invitation to

forums where the research is presented. The research partners and Critical Reference Group will be involved in the reporting process. Interim reports will be provided to these advisory groups and feedback sought.

The research team can be contacted on:

Ph: 02 9385 1516 Email: [lofa@unsw.edu.au](mailto:lofa@unsw.edu.au)



Dr. Wendy Foote (ACWA), Uncle Steve Williams (National Stolen Generation Alliance and Origins NSW), Lily Arthur (Origins NSW) and Dr. Jung-Sook Lee (UNSW Researcher) at the launch of the LOFA study.

Thank you for your continuing support to this important project and for facilitating the fieldwork in your respective agencies and networks.

- Hazel Blunden, Szilvia Kovacs, Paul-Auguste Comefert, Jung-Sook Lee and Elizabeth Fernandez