

2006 AHIP Retreat...

In early November the research team from the Australian Health Inequities Program (AHIP) came together for a four day retreat at Deakin University in Geelong. The purpose of this annual event is to reflect on the year's research and plan new collaborative activities with input from national and international researchers. The team of 15 from Flinders University and the University of Melbourne were joined by world-renowned expert on health inequities Professor Sally McIntyre, from the University of Glasgow's Social & Public Health Sciences Unit, and internationally acclaimed gender and health researcher Dr Dorothy Broom from the Australian National University's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

Seminar Program – approximately 45 invited members of the Australian policy and research community were involved in seminar presentations and discussions on “Work & Health” and “Neighbourhoods & Health”. These were chaired by Professor John Wiseman from the University of Melbourne and Dr Robert Hall from the Victorian Department of Human Services. Presentations included Professor McIntyre talking about her team's recent work in the UK on “Neighbourhoods and health in urban settings”, and Dr Broom on “The lesser evil: bad jobs or unemployment?”. Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne from the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne also talked about “A systems approach to workplace stress in Victoria”. The AHIP Chief Investigators made presentations on:

- The health consequences of how we are employed (Prof Sue Richardson);
- The health, housing and labour market impact of redundancy in the Australian automotive industry (Prof Andrew Beer);
- Place-based research and its implications for policy and practice (Ass Prof Anne Kavanagh); and
- Contrasting socio-economic areas and their impact on health (Prof Fran Baum).

The dinner speakers were Mr Gavan O'Connor, Federal Member for Origo, and Associate Professor Kathy Alexander, former Executive Officer of Women's & Children's Health in Melbourne.

The next annual retreat will be held in Adelaide in October 2007. Details about coming events, the team's research projects, associated publications, and free newsletter and email list subscription can be found at <http://som.flinders.edu.au/AHIP>