



## Our people

### Richard Madden

Richard, Professor of Health Statistics, was the Director/Co-Director of the National Centre for Classification in Health, an international centre of excellence in health classifications, from 2006 to 2019. The Centre has had responsibility for the Australian modification of the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and the Australian Classification of Health Interventions, and the Australian casemix grouper, the AR-DRG classification until 30 June 2019. Since January 2020 Richard is the Head of Classifications at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems. Richard is a Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Witwatersand Johannesburg, South Africa.

See [here](#) for further information.



## Vera Dimitropoulos

With a background in Health Information Management, Vera was the Executive Manager, Classification Development at the National Centre for Classification in Health at the University of Sydney until 2017 and until 2019 led the Centre as Co-Director, together with Richard Madden. Since the beginning of 2020 Vera is a Research Affiliate at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems She is also a member of the Education and Implementation Committee within the World Health Organization's Family of International Classifications Network and is working on ICD-11 as part of the International Joint Task Force.

Until 2019, Vera was on the Board of the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) and is a Visiting Fellow at Western Sydney University working on the development of the Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology (Health Information Management). Until 2019 Vera was also Director for the Western Pacific Region, International Federation of Health Information Management Associations.

As well as her teaching roles within the University of Sydney and Western Sydney University, Vera has in the past managed major classification projects for the University of Sydney, most recently, the development of the AR-DRG Classification System which incorporates ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS and the AR-DRG classifications..



## Julie Gordon

Julie is the project leader of the ICPC-2 PLUS terminology at the WHO-CC, previously NCCH. Prior to this Julie spent 14 years at the Family Medicine Research Centre (University of Sydney) managing the ICPC-2 PLUS clinical terminology. Her role focuses on the development of classifications and clinical terminologies in general practice, particularly ICPC-2 PLUS and ICPC-2.

Julie holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Information Management (Hons 1) and a PhD, both from the University of Sydney. Her PhD investigated the suitability of SNOMED CT for use in Australian general practice. She is a member of the Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC), and an elected member of its governance committee.

For further information click [here](#).



## Nicola Fortune

Nicola Fortune (Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – Health Informatics) is a Research Fellow with the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Disability and Health and a member of the ICF Australia Interest Group at the University of Sydney. Nicola's expertise is in disability and health data development and analysis. She was involved in the development and early implementation of the ICF in Australia, and has contributed to the development of the WHO's International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI). Nicola is currently working on the development of a monitoring framework and indicators for tracking inequities in the social determinants of the health for Australians with disabilities.



## **Ros Madden**

Ros Madden, AM M.Sc. Ph.D., has worked on disability information, statistics and research since 1992, in leadership roles at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and then at the University of Sydney, where she is now an Honorary Senior Research Fellow. Ros is also a member of the ICF Australia Interest Group within the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems at the University of Sydney.

In the AIHW she led publications on the definition, prevalence and diversity of disability, and pioneering estimates of unmet need for disability support services. She led the development of national data standards for functioning and disability, and the development and management of national data collections. She has served on national and state advisory groups.

Ros worked nationally and internationally on developing and applying the WHO's International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF), was co-chair of the technical group advising the World Health Organization on the ICF (2006-2012) and was a member of the Editorial Committee for the World Report on Disability (2007-2011).



## Catherine Sykes

Catherine Sykes MSc (Rehabilitation Studies), MCSP, Grad Dip Phys, Cert Ed, DipTP. is an honorary Senior Research Fellow with the Sydney School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, where she works on classifications for health information systems. Catherine is also a member of the ICF Australia Interest Group within the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems at the University of Sydney.

Catherine worked on the development of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. She continues to have a role in the Network of the WHO Family of International Classifications as a member of Functioning and Disability Reference Group contributing to the implementation and enhancement of the ICF as well as the development of the International Classification of Health Interventions. She teaches about the ICF and its implementation through presentations, workshops, and online education.

Previously Catherine worked for World Physiotherapy (Formerly the World Confederation for Physical Therapy) as a professional advisor, on Australian national disability data and on disability policy. She has lectured in physiotherapy programmes in Australia, the USA and the UK. She has clinical experience as a physiotherapist. Catherine's international experience also includes volunteering and commissions for the United Nations, WHO, World Bank and AusAid.



## **Megan Cumerlato**

Megan holds a degree in Bachelor of Applied Science, Health Information Management, from Sydney University. As part of the National Centre for Classification in Health at The University of Sydney, where she worked for more than 12 years, she was responsible for managing and coordinating the highly successful Australian national education program for approximately 1500 coders annually.

Over the last few years, as a Consultant at NCCH and now WHO-CC, Megan has been involved in the development of an International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).

Megan has also previously been involved in lecturing at The University of Sydney within the School of Health Information Management and in the Health Sciences offshore nursing program in Singapore. Lecture topics included disease classification, medical terminology, management systems, casemix and financial management.



## Filippa Pretty

Filippa holds a degree in Bachelor of Applied Science, Health Information Management from the University of Sydney. She joined NCCH as a Classification Specialist in 2015 until 2019 after an ongoing involvement with NCCH since 1998. Filippa has many years of experience working in the public and private health care systems in a variety of Clinical Coding, HIM and Coding Auditor roles predominantly in a contractor / consultancy capacity in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Filippa is currently the EIC (WHO Education Implementation Committee) secretary and currently fulfils this role as part of the team at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health System.

Filippa has also participated in non-traditional tasks such as the Cross Border Care Type Change and Coding Audit, The NSW Ombudsman (Disability Death Review Team), The Commission for Children & Young People (Child Death Review Team), and code mapping phase of the ICU Clinical Information System (ICCIS) currently under development. Filippa has also previously been a representative on the board of the Clinical Coders Society of Australia (CCSA) and of the NSW Coding Advisory/Clinical Coding Leadership Group (CCLG).



## Nicole Rankin

Nicole joined the NCCH (National Centre for Classification in Health) in September 2013 as a Classification Specialist and was involved in the AR-DRG Classification Development until October 2017, developing, supporting and educating the ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth and Tenth Editions. Prior to joining the NCCH, Nicole worked for the National Casemix and Classification Centre (NCCC) developing content for the Eighth Edition of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS.

Over the last few years, Nicole has been involved in the development of an International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) and has continued to do so from October 2017.

Nicole also has a range of experience in different areas of the health system particularly in data analyses, casemix and costing/performance reporting. Other relevant experience includes implementation of costing systems and performance reporting, regular data auditing, establishing coder-clinician communication, training staff in the functionality of a new patient administration system and providing ongoing support. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Information Management from Sydney University.



## Julia Leahy

Julia graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Information Management in 2002. Since graduating, she has worked as a Deputy Manager and Manager of several Health Information Services, primarily in the public health sector. In 2010 she joined the Family Medicine Research Centre (FMRC) as a coder for the Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program, using the ICPC-2 PLUS clinical terminology. Julia moved to the NCCH (National Centre for Classification in Health) in 2016 due to the closure of the FMRC, where until recently she was maintaining the ICPC-2 PLUS clinical terminology, which is used primarily in general practice across Australia. From 2017 until the end of 2019 Julia has also joined the team of NCCH classification specialists in the support and development of technical content for the ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Classification System and was involved in the later stages of the AR-DRG V9.0 development.

Since 2020 Julia is involved in ICPC-2 PLUS initiatives and works across classifications in particular ICHI as part of the team at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems

Julia also holds a Master of Health Law from the University of Sydney.



## **Carmen Wong**

Carmen holds a Bachelor of Health Science and Master of Health Informatics from the University of Sydney. She joined the NCCH (National Centre for Classification in Health), and now the WHO-CC (World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Rehabilitation Capacity in Health Systems at the University of Sydney) in September 2018 and is involved in the maintenance of the ICPC-2 PLUS terminology as well as Classification Education initiatives.

Prior to joining the NCCH, Carmen worked as a research assistant at the Family Medicine Research Centre (University of Sydney). Her role focused on classifications and terminologies used in general practice.