

CRH Researcher Completes Visiting Fellowship at La Trobe Rural Health School

Dr. Sarah-Anne Muñoz recently completed a visiting research fellowship at the La Trobe University Rural Health School in Bendigo, Australia. Sarah-Anne worked with Prof. Jane Farmer (Head of the La Trobe Rural Health School) on a pilot project from August to October 2011. The pilot work provided a fantastic opportunity for Sarah-Anne to pursue her research interests in social enterprise and community organisations as service providers and the health and wellbeing benefits they generate for rural communities.

The project tested a methodology for collecting, analysing and representing the experience of wellbeing as generated through individuals' interactions with the physical and social spaces of social enterprise organisations.

Sarah-Anne worked with a case study social enterprise near Bendigo – Our Shed – to test the methodology that involved ethnography, focus groups and walking interviews. The pilot demonstrated the value of using mobile data collection methods and a geographical analysis framework when considering wellbeing. Sarah-Anne hopes to secure further funding to extend this work both in Australia and the UK. She is currently working with Prof. Farmer and other Australian academics to develop a proposal for funding.