

Interpersonal Practice in Melbourne, Australia

Rebecca Wassell

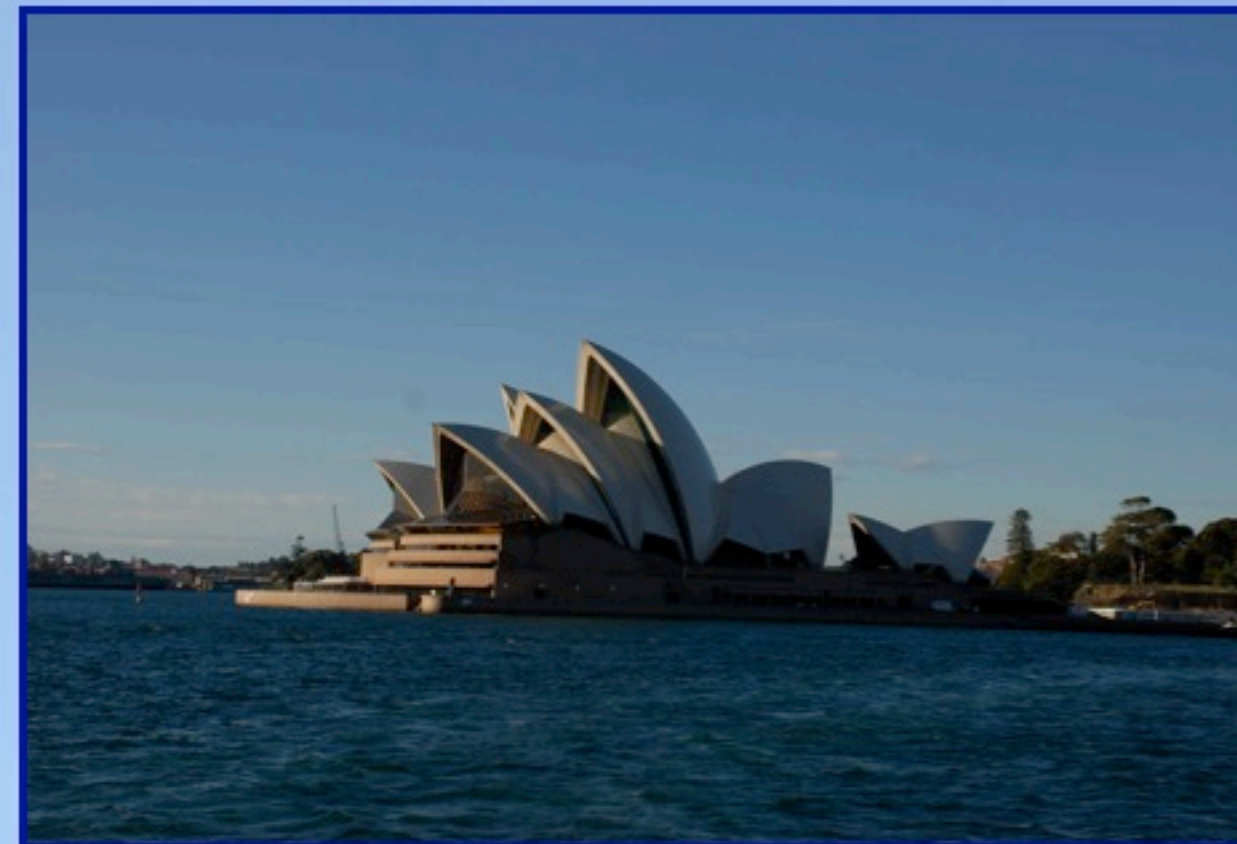
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Location: Melbourne, Australia

- Capital of the State of Victoria
- World's 7th most expensive city
- 2011 World's Most Livable City
- Cultural capital of Australia

Agency: Inner South Community Health Service

- Delivers primary health care services across four sites.
- Pioneering health services and delivery models
- Health across the life span with a strong focus on prevention, early intervention and addressing social and health inequity
- Systems advocacy (social research, policy analysis/debate, etc)



Career Connections:

I am seriously considering moving back to Australia for a few years

Skills Utilized/Developed:

- DIVERSITY!
- Values and Ethics
- Professional Identity



Classroom Connections:

SW 633 - Children and Youth Services and Social Policy

- Gave an understanding of how policies and service construction affect service delivery, which is true and important in any country

SW 625 - IP with Children and Youth

- Gave a good background for working with children and adolescents, especially in terms of the diversity experienced in practice

Lessons Learned/Advice:

- Leave your expectations at the door
- Never has it been more important to be humble and willing to know what you do not know
- Listen, listen, listen: others are the experts here
- Be CURIOUS!

Projects & Outcomes:

African mom's playgroup

- Adapted a supportive playgroup model and ran the program with young African refugee moms and their children
- Ran a 5-week pilot program and conducted evaluation

Sexual health lesson

- Wrote and delivered a sexual health lesson to high school students
- Was asked for permission for my agency to continue to use my lesson

Diversity group

- Worked with a group of same-sex attracted young people to plan a 3-session diversity curriculum for middle years students



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