

CURRICULUM VITAE

Laura Emily Vidal



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EDUCATION

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| 2023 | PhD in Criminology (Francine V. McNiff Scholar)
Monash University, Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre |
| 2013 | Master of Human Rights Law and Policy
University of New South Wales |
| 2011 | Bachelor of Social Work (Hons. Class 1)
University of New South Wales |



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current **PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT: LAURA EMILY CONSULTING**
Self-Employed

Selected engagements:

- Project consultant for the Australian Red Cross leading a scoping project exploring family inclusive responses to forced marriage.
- Project consultant for the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network leading a scoping project exploring health care responses to identify and respond to modern slavery; and, mapping the operational service delivery framework for DOMUS 8.7
- Project consultant for The Salvation Army on the development of a Lived Experience Leadership Model (LEEP)—including the authoring of a literature review to guide in best practice program development, authoring of the LEEP model, mentoring, and coaching of the LEEP Coordinator as a survivor leader (a project funded by the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Grant Program).
- [Pro-bono] strategy consultant for the Survivor Hub, a peer-led organisation offering support to victim-survivors of sexual assault. In a volunteer capacity: supporting the Survivor Hub to develop a strategic and operational plan to embed existing activities and scale for future demands.
- Individual social work supervision with multiple supervisees across not-for-profit and government organisations.
- Consultant to BaptistCare NSW/ACT developing the Housing and Community Care Division clinical governance and practice framework.
- Project consultant for Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand leading the development of a family mediation and dialogue model for individuals with an experience of forced marriage (a project funded by the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Grant Program).
- Subject matter expert for DV-Alert 'Complex Forms of Violence' national training development package for front line family and domestic violence workers delivered via Lifeline.
- Coaching and training for The Lighthouse Foundation on the development of their forced marriage service delivery model.
- Training Australian Federal Police in becoming trauma informed when working with vulnerable victim witnesses.

- Current** **LECTURER, SOCIAL WORK**
Faculty of Health, University of Canberra
 Part of team establishing the Discipline of Social Work at the University of Canberra. Developing and convening units of study in the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) Program, an online accelerated offering.
- 2021-2023** **SESSIONAL TUTOR**
Faculty of Arts and Social Science, School of Social and Political Sciences, Discipline of Sociology and Criminology
 Sessional tutor teaching in the undergraduate criminology program.
- 2023** **SESSIONAL TUTOR**
Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, School of Health and Society
 Sessional tutor teaching in the Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work (Qualifying) and Master of Public Health programs.
- 2022** **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**
Monash University, Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre
 This research project inquired into the impact of legislative change in Victoria, Australia which recognised forced marriage as a statutory example of family violence within the Family Violence Protection Act (Vic) (2008). The project focused on understanding the impact, including, opportunities and challenges which have emerged. My role included stakeholder engagement and management including research participant recruitment; data cleaning and analysis (in the qualitative discipline) and co-authoring both a research brief and research report.
- 2021-2022** **POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER**
Canteen Australia
 Inaugural position responsible for the establishment of Canteen Australia's policy and advocacy strategy. This included:
- Supervision of staff and briefing executive leaders including the CEO
 - Identifying priority focus areas through internal and external stakeholder consultations
 - Engaging with young people with lived experience of cancer in a process of co-design
 - Establishing organisational processes and mechanisms for monitoring the health policy environment
 - Representing the organisation with stakeholders; and managing complex and political stakeholder relationships
 - Policy analysis for inclusion in academic publications
 - Developing written submissions and policy statements.

2020-
2021

HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

This position was responsible for leading the development, implementation and review of policy and advocacy priorities for the organisation. Key focus areas where policy acumen was developed included: Gendered violence; Women's economic security: including economic abuse and financial security as it relates to gendered violence; Complex forms of violence: including human trafficking, forced marriage and dowry abuse; Gendered analysis of social policy at state and national levels.

This role involved the supervision of a team of Policy and Advocacy Advisors; departmental budget decision making and management, key relationship management for government and civil society relationships; and advising executive leaders including the CEO with respect to organisational policy positions for public release or discussion at the ministerial level.

Achievements in this role include:

- Multiple citations and adoption of recommendations by government committee inquiries following written and verbal evidence
- Establishing research, policy and practice loops to embed evidence-based and practice-led systemic transformations
- Securing a quarter of a million dollar grant to pilot an innovative family support model for young women impacted by forced marriage
- Release of flagship research and policy analysis adopting family violence frameworks to respond to forced marriage.

2019-
2020

STRATEGIC PROJECTS MANAGER (Secondment) Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

During a time of organisational transition, this position was created to lead key strategic projects and supporting the executive leadership in the embedding of a new strategic plan for the organisation. Each of these projects were cross-organisational and required the engagement of both internal and external stakeholders. Key projects included:

- Development and implementation of the first organisational impact measurement framework
- Development and implementation of the organisational practice framework

2018

SESSIONAL FIELD EDUCATION SUPERVISOR AND LIAISON VISITOR Australian Catholic University

Worked with the School of Social Work to provide supervision and examination for students during their social work placement. Role included assessment of learning against university capability framework; written reports to the university recommending students for successful completion of their degrees and supporting organisations to engage with students whilst on field placement.

2018

SENIOR POLICY AND ADVOCACY ADVISER Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Lead research, policy and advocacy in the field of women's safety—including developing the organisations footprint on complex forms of violence, specifically dowry abuse and forced marriage. Other responsibilities included: Supporting the development of the research and policy teams strategy and priority focus areas; responding to emerging issues including those profiled in the media; support the Communications and Partnership Division in the development of communications plans, media releases and digital content around the release of significant research or policy announcements; authoring submissions and research papers, briefing the CEO and appearing before parliamentary committees.

2014-
2017

NATIONAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The Salvation Army, Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery

The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery was a specialist national program of the Salvation Army emerging out of foundational work undertaken to support victim-survivors via the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House. This role included:

- Developing and delivering training and capacity building for front line service to identify and respond to modern slavery, with specific modules on forced marriage
- Development and implementation of the 'Freedom Advocates' program: a specialised program which built the leadership capacity of modern slavery victim-survivors. This included a specific stream for peer-support, working alongside survivors in their mentoring of others, particularly in situations of forced marriage
- Policy analysis, authoring of submissions and appearing before parliamentary committees—including developing a national policy and advocacy strategy on responding to forced marriage as a result of being awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship
- Administrative systems development and management for the Australian Freedom Fund: an independent brokerage fund offering financial support to victim-survivors
- Event coordination and management: including the launch of the Australian Freedom Network in partnership with the Walk Free Foundation
- Ad-hoc project management, including the exploration of establishing a national helpline for victim-survivors of modern slavery
- Briefing senior organisational representatives, media interviews and strategic planning.

2016

ACTING COORDINATOR

The Salvation Army, Trafficking and Slavery Safe House

The Trafficking and Slavery Safe House is a dedicated accommodation, outreach and case management program supporting women, young people and families who have experienced human trafficking and slavery. This role included managing day to day operations of the residential accommodation and outreach program; management of service transition; recruitment and staff supervision and policy and program development and management.

2014

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

International Labor Office, Jordan

This project was part of the 'Decent Work Program' aimed at improving living and working conditions for domestic workers who come from abroad to Jordan. The project was independently managed with program oversight and funding provided by the ILO Jordan Office. The deliverables included environment and risk assessment of working conditions for domestic workers in Jordan; development and implementation of training and capacity building for foreign embassy staff, government and non-government shelter providers; written report to the ILO with recommendations for future policy and programmatic interventions.

- 2012-2014** **CASE MANAGEMENT & QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER**
The Salvation Army, Humanitarian Mission Services (Nauru and Manus Island)
- Established in response to the Australian Government creating offshore processing centres in Nauru and Manus Islands, The Salvation Army offered a humanitarian response to work toward asylum seeker wellbeing. This role was a fly-in, fly-out role reporting to the executive leadership team. The role included development of the welfare and wellbeing case management program; staff training, supervision and quality assurance of the program and key performance indicator management reporting against a Commonwealth government funding contract.
- 2012** **COORDINATOR, WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**
SENIOR CASE MANGER, TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY SAFE HOUSE
The Salvation Army (Dual Positions)
- As the Coordinator of Women's Homelessness Services, and Senior Case Management of the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House this role involved program management and coordination, supervision of case management staff, clinical leadership and intervention in complex cases, government and civil society stakeholder engagement and clinical leadership with respect to complex cases.
- 2011** **COMMUNITY EDUCATOR**
Art in Tanzania, Madale Village, Tanzania
- Development and delivery of rights-based secondary school education program on HIV. Delivered multiple workshops to students focusing on sexual health and sexual and reproductive rights including challenging common misconceptions about HIV prevention and treatment.
- 2009-2012** **CASE MANAGER**
The Salvation Army, Trafficking and Slavery Safe House
- As a case manager at the Trafficking and Slavery Safe House, this role was responsible for direct support of victim-survivors of human trafficking and slavery. In this role I was awarded The Salvation Army Fellowship, which, involved 6 weeks of travel in the United States of America to examine best-practice approaches to responding to human trafficking. This also involved being part of an Australian delegation in attendance at the United Nations CSW, New York.



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2024	Vice-Chancellors Commendation for Thesis Excellence	2016	Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow
2019	HESTA Community Sector Awards: Social Impact Finalist	2011	The Salvation Army Fellowship
2018	Francine V. McNiff Scholarship: PhD in Criminology	2006	Order of Australia Association Medallion of Commendation for Community Service



WORK SAMPLES

Reports and Policy Submissions	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura-Vidal-7
Media Commentary	https://flipboard.com/@lauravidal75rv/forced-marriage-cited-v2vebs2fz

