Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS)

Department of Social Work
Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability

GLASS Research Unit

The Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) Research Unit is located within the Department of Social Work in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University.

The GLASS Research Unit works under the direction of Professor Margaret Alston and an advisory board comprised of prominent Australians.

The GLASS Research Unit undertakes high-quality, interdisciplinary research focusing on gender, leadership and social sustainability. GLASS builds on its research record to engage constructively in policy debates.

GLASS members have significant expertise in research, evaluation and policy development across a range of disciplines. They have extensive expertise in gender analysis, social research and pursue a broad research agenda including: gender and climate change, violence against women, leadership and social sustainability.

GLASS provides non-traditional pathways to postgraduate research degrees for talented students from a variety of sectors, in particular women and those from non-government organisations, who have a wealth of experience to contribute to research in the key areas targeted by GLASS. Six new PhD students began studying with GLASS in 2010.

Professor Margaret Alston
Head, Department of Social Work
Director, GLASS Research Unit
PhD (UNSW 1993); M.Litt (UNE 1990);

Margaret Alston is Professor of Social Work and Head of Department at Monash University, and also Director of the Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) Research Unit. She is Chair of the Australian Heads of Schools of Social Work (ACHSSW).

In 2008, she was appointed to the Australian delegation for the UN’s Commission for the Status of Women in New York. She is a past President of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women and a past member of the NSW Farmers’ Mental Health Working group.

Margaret has worked as a UN expert for the Gender Division of the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) studying gender and climate change. The first stage of the project was completed in India in 2009. She has been a resident gender expert at the FAO’s offices in Rome in 2009, 2007 and 2003. In 2009, she was also appointed as a UN gender expert by UN-Habitat to advise on the impact of climate change on global cities.

She has published widely in the field of gender and rural social issues and in social work. She completed a study of Rural Women and Leadership, Breaking through the Grass Ceiling, funded by the Australian Research Council and published by Harwood Publishers, UK, in 2000. Her most recent book is Innovative Human Services Practice: Changing Landscapes published by Pan Macmillan in 2009.

Contact

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