

KARINNA SAXBY PHD (she/her)

McKenzie Fellow, Senior Research Fellow

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Melbourne

linktr.ee/ksaxby | [google scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ksaxby)

I am passionate about generating robust evidence to inform health policy in Australia, with a particular focus on priority populations including LGBTQ+ populations, Indigenous peoples, people with disability, and people who have experienced family and domestic violence. My recent research has looked at financial incentives in primary care (e.g., Rural Bulk Billing Incentive, Closing the Gap), how societal level conditions shape health outcomes and healthcare use (e.g., Marriage Equality, the Voice referendum), and geographic variation in access to healthcare, including supply shortages and out-of-pocket costs.



I am a proud cofounder of LEAP: LGBTQ+ Economists and Allies in the Asia-Pacific. Please [follow us](#) to hear about upcoming events, meet-ups, and mentoring opportunities.

leapecon.com

WORKING PAPERS

Saxby K, Petrie D & Nolan B. Healthcare costs following medical gender-affirmation: Evidence from whole-of-population Australian administrative data [Revise and resubmit Health Economics](#)

Saxby K All-cause and External-cause Mortality Disparities Among Australians in Same-Sex Relationships Before and After Marriage Equality: A Nationwide Cohort Study, 2011–2023 [Working Paper](#) [Revise and resubmit American Journal of Public Health](#)

Campbell T, Compton O, Nettuno, L, Saxby K. Transgender Economics [SSRN Working Paper](#)

Plunkett T, Saxby K & Zhang Y. Copayment Reductions and Prescription Medication Use in Australia

Chen J, Devine A, King T, Bishop G, Saxby K, Kavanagh A & Aitken Z. Mental Health Impacts of Voluntary and Involuntary Unemployment Among Australians in Later Working Life with and without Disability [Revise and resubmit Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology](#)

Saxby K, Campbell T, Kabatek J, Labour market effects of medical gender affirmation

WORKING PAPERS contd..

Ma B, **Saxby K**, Petrie D, Liang R, Aitken Z, & Zhang Y. Socioeconomic differences in uptake of personalised disability insurance

Fisher R, Mendez S, McPhee C, Lack H, Yang O, Zhang Y, Saxby K. Who Gets MyMedicare and When? Patient Characteristics and the Likelihood of Registration

Aitken Z, Bishop G, **Saxby K**, Bogumil R, & Kavanagh A. Disability and suicide in Australia: an analysis of disability-related suicide inequalities across quintiles of socioeconomic disadvantage

Sobeck K, Saxby K, & Shortridge T. Identifying family and domestic violence using administrative data: International approaches and possibilities with Australian administrative data

Elmes A, Joyce A, Barraket J, **Saxby K**. Health promoting features of WISE employment for people with psychosocial disability *Accepted Social Enterprise Journal*

Callander D, Holt M, Grulich A, Bourne A, Nigro S, Mooney-Somers J, **Saxby K**, Keen P, Hammoud M, Chan C, Heath-Paynter D, Bath N, Prankumar S, Wong H, Bavinton B, Wells K. Generating new estimates of population size and prevalence among gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults in Australia

PUBLICATIONS

Carrillo de Albornoz S, Haysom H, Mo A, Guglielmino J, Dunstan T, Rushford K, Ellison A, **Saxby K**, Andrew D, Jesurajah A, Petrie D, Wood EM, Higgins A M, McQuilten ZK. Cost of IVIg versus SCIg in haematological malignancies: a time-driven activity-based study 2026. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 34(382)

Saxby K, Liang R, Hall K, Stephens M, Zhang Y, Trivedi A. Medication Use by Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians after a Pharmaceutical Co-payment Subsidy 2026. *JAMA Health Forum*, 7(3):e260189 (A*/Q1)

Taylor J, **Saxby K**, Badji S, Baille J, Petrie D, Specialist affordability and access for people with disability, 2026 *Australian Economic Review*

Saxby K, Buchmueller T, Carpenter C, Coman C, & Nolan B. Mental health treatment among transgender and gender diverse people following gender affirming hormone therapy: Evidence from whole-of-population Australian administrative data 2026. *Lancet eClinicalMedicine* (A*/Q1)

*“Amidst papers being twisted and numerous bad faith studies being used against trans people, a new paper cuts through to shed some real light on the broad impacts of hormone replacement therapy -
Assigned Media”*

Saxby K, Bailey S, Petrie D & Nolan B. All-cause and cause-specific mortality among transgender and gender diverse populations: A nationwide cohort study in Australia 2026. *The Lancet Regional Health–Western Pacific* (A*/Q1)

Saxby K & Nolan B. Mental health treatment following gender-affirming surgeries: Evidence from longitudinal Australian administrative data *International Journal of Transgender Health* 2026. 1–9. (A*/Q1)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2026.2618133>

Saxby K & Nolan B. Temporal Trends in Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy Initiation: Evidence from whole-of-population Australian administrative data 2025. *Internal Medicine Journal* doi.org/10.1111/imj.70194

Saxby K., Buchmueller T, de New SC & Petrie D. [Regional variation in mental healthcare utilisation and suicides: Evidence from movers in Australia](#). 2025. *Journal of Health Economics*, 103029 (A*/Q1)

Saxby K & Zhang Y. [Do rurality-based financial incentives improve equity of primary healthcare access? Evidence from Australia](#) 2025 *Health Economics*. doi.org/10.1002/hec.70000 (A*/Q1)

Bull C, Spilsbury K, Lawrence D, **Saxby K** & Kisely S. [The Impact of COVID-19 on Participation in Australia's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program by People with Severe Mental Illness: A National Data Linkage Study](#). 2025. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 00048674251336034

Saxby K, Hutchinson-Tovar S, Bishop GM, Down I, Spencer R, Petrie D & Aitken Z. [Gender identity and mental health inequalities 2001-2022: Population-level evidence from an Australian cohort study](#). 2025. *BMJ Mental Health*. 28(1), p.e301277 (A*/Q1)

Saxby K & Hammoud M. [Setting the Standard: No LGBTI+ Health Equity without Data Equity](#) 2025 *Medical Journal of Australia*. 222 (1), 52-52 (A*/Q1)

Saxby K & Zhang Y. 2025 [Bulk-billing rates and out-of-pocket costs for general practitioner services in Australia, 2022, by SA3 region: analysis of Medicare claims data](#) *Medical Journal of Australia* (A*/Q1)

Saxby K, Aitken Z, Burchill L & Zhang Y. 2024. [Community attitudes and Indigenous health disparities: Evidence from Australia's Voice Referendum](#) *The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific*, 101154 (A*/Q1)

Saxby K, Aitken Z & Zhang Y. 2024. [Structural Stigma and Disparities in Long-Term Health Conditions Among Australians in Same-Sex Relationships: 2021 Australian Census](#) *The American Journal of Public Health*, 114 (10), 1110-1122 (A*)

Saxby K & Stephens M. 2024. [Medicare and Priority Populations: Structural and Place-based Considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and LGBTIQ+ Australians](#), *Australian Economic Review*, 52(2), 149-159

Mann GB, Skandarajah AR,... , **Saxby K**, Grimmond SM, et al. 2024 [Primary results of ANZ 1002 : Post-operative Radiotherapy Omission in Selected Patients with Early breast Cancer Trial \(PROSPECT\) following pre-operative breast MRI](#) *The Lancet*, 403(10423), 261-270. (A*/Q1)

Saxby K, Dickinson H, Petrie D, Kavanagh A. & Aitken Z. 2023 [The impact of employment on mental healthcare use among people with disability: distinguishing between part-time and full-time employment](#) *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health*, 49(8):598-609

Saxby K., Byrnes J, de New SC, Nghiem S & Petrie D. 2023. [Does affirmative action reduce Indigenous disparities in healthcare use? Evidence from Australia's Indigenous Practice Incentives Program](#). *Health Economics*. 32(4):853-872 (A*/Q1)

Saxby K, 2022. [Australia's LGBTIQ+ Research Data Landscape](#). *Australian Economic Review*. 55(2), 290-308.

Saxby K, Chan C & Bavinton BR. 2021. [Structural stigma and sexual health disparities among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Australia](#). *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*. 89(3), 241-250. (A*/Q1)

*Cited in **NSW HIV Strategy 2026-2030***

Saxby K, de New S & Petrie D. 2020 [Structural stigma and sexual orientation disparities in healthcare use: evidence from longitudinal Australian administrative data](#). *Social Science and Medicine*. 255, 113027 (A*/Q1)

Baker A, McCarter K, Turner A, Segan C, Castle D, Brophy L, ..., Ireland I, **Saxby K**, Ghijben P, Petrie D & Sweeney R. 2023 [‘Quitlink’: Outcomes of a randomized controlled trial of peer researcher facilitated referral to a tailored quitline tobacco treatment for people receiving mental health services.](#) *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, doi/full/10.1177

Saxby K, Ireland A, Ghijben P, Sweeney R, Sia KL, Chen E, Farrell M, McRobbie H, Courtney R & Petrie D. 2022. [Household composition and smoking behaviour in a prospective longitudinal Australian cohort.](#) *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntac270.

Saxby K, Nickson C, Mann GB, Bromley H, Velentzis L, Procopio P, Canfell K & Petrie D. 2020. [The financial impact of a breast cancer diagnosis in Australia: Lessons from the Lifepool cohort.](#) *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 44(3), 219-226.

GRANTS

2025 – Australian Research Council Discovery Projects 2026 “Quantifying the Economic Causes and Costs of Family and Domestic Violence” (Johnston, Knott, **Saxby**) – \$639,514

2025 – Faculty of Business and Economics Research Summit Fund for the LGBTQ Economists and Allies in the Asia-Pacific (LEAP) Summit (Saxby, Clarke, Soho, Kabátek) – \$58,431

2025 – University of Melbourne “Industry Engagement Seed Fund” with Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (**Saxby**, Yang) – \$50,000

2025 – University of Melbourne “Faculty Research Grant” (**Saxby**) – \$12,017

2025 – University of Melbourne “Diversity and Inclusion Grant for establishing LGBTQ Economists and Allies in the Asia-Pacific (LEAP)” – \$5,000

2025 – Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network “Evaluation of Right Care Better Health” (**Saxby**, Fisher, Yang, Yong, Zhang, Mendez) – \$207,000

2025-2028 – University of Melbourne McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowship “Community Attitudes and Mental Health Inequalities in Priority Populations” (**Saxby**) – \$515,297

2024 – Faculty of Business and Economics [Gender Lab](#) “Advancing equity in workplaces, markets, and society” (Baranov, Cameron, Contreras Suarez, Erkal, Escobar Carias, Gertsberg, Kabatek, Recalde, **Saxby**) – \$500,000

2024 – Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal “Out-of-home care review: Cost of caring” (Yang, **Saxby**, Yong, Zhang) – \$144,859. Report available [here](#).

2024 – Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network “Evaluation Plan for Right Care Better Health” (**Saxby**, Yang, Yong, Zhang) – \$159,000

2024 – University of Melbourne “Industry Engagement Seed Fund” on Closing the Gap [**Saxby**, Stephens (NACCHO)] – \$15,000

2024 – University of Melbourne “Faculty Research Grant” (**Saxby**) – \$15,000

2024 – Asian Development Bank, Data Preparedness for Continuous Policy Evaluation in Health Emergencies (Saxby, **Kunz**) – \$30,000

- 2022, 2020** – Department of Health “COVID-19 Mental Health Response and data sheets” (Petrie, Butterworth, Schilling, de New, Harris, **Saxby**) – \$2,200,000
- 2021** – World Health Organisation “Monitoring catastrophic and impoverishing health spending in Australia” (**Saxby**, Badji, Petrie) – \$17,700
- 2020** – Breast Cancer Trials “Economic Evaluation Proposal for PROSPECT” (Mann, Petrie, **Saxby**) – \$70,600
- 2019** – Medical Services Advisory Committee, Department of Health. (Petrie, McQuilten, Wood, **Saxby**, Woode, Carrillo de Albornoz) – \$188,000.
- 2016** – University of Melbourne Equity Innovation Grant (**Saxby**, Huntington) - \$36,000

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2026** – Invited Presentation, *Data on the mental health benefits of gender-affirming hormone therapy and approaches to prescribing*. Presented by coauthor by Dr Brendan Nolan at the Asia Oceania Congress of Endocrinology in Taiwan
- 2026** – Invited Speaker, Endocrine Society “Mental Health Outcomes in Trans and Gender-Diverse Adults: Disparities, Determinants, and Care SIG Webinar”
- 2026** – Invited Speaker, Grattan Institute Fireside Chat on “Regional variation in mental healthcare utilisation”
- 2026** – Invited Speaker CoPQTI (UNSW Community of Practice for Inclusive Research with Queer and Trans people, and people with innate variations of sex characteristics) Members
- 2026** – University of Melbourne Queer Symposium
- 2026** – LGBTIQ+ Health Australia Webinar Series [‘Why funding gender-affirming care makes economic sense’](#)
- 2025** – Macquarie University Centre for the Health Economy Seminar Series
- 2025** – CSQIEP Virtual Seminar Series on LGBTQ Economics
- 2025** – American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, Nashville
- 2025** – International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE), Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2025** – Department of Health and Aged Care Primary Care Webinar Series (invited speaker)
- 2025, 2024** – Kirby Institute Seminar Series [Mental healthcare use after hormone therapy in TGD Australians](#)
- 2026, 2025, 2024, 2022** – Economics of Health and Wellbeing Workshop
- 2025, 2023, 2021** – International Health Economics Association (iHEA) World Congress
- 2024** – Invited speaker Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference, Sydney
- 2024** – Invited speaker The Future of Medicare: Research-informed policy for better access and health, Canberra

- 2024** – Spotlight on stigma conference, UNSW
- 2024** – LGBTIQ+ Health Australia 12th Health in Difference Conference, Canberra
- 2024** – Society of Economics of the Household, Singapore
- 2024, 2021, 2020** – Australian Gender Economics Workshop (AGEW)
- 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018** – Australian Health Economics Society (AHES) Conference
- 2023** – Keynote IDAHOBIT presentation at Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- 2021** – Linked Data for Better Health: Policy and Practice Forum, Canberra (invited speaker, PLIDA)
- 2020** – Invited speaker Monash University Diversity and Inclusion Panel

AWARDS

- 2026** – University of Michigan Award for Opportunity and Equity for “Mental health treatment utilisation among gender minorities following gender affirming hormone therapy: Evidence from whole-of-population Australian administrative data”
- 2026** – Best Presentation 17th Workshop on Economics of Health and Wellbeing
- 2025** – University of Melbourne Visiting Research Scholar Scheme
- 2025** – University of Melbourne Dean’s Research Engagement and Partnership Award for work with Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network
- 2025** – Endocrine Society of Australia Best Clinical Abstract Award for “Mental health treatment utilisation among gender minorities following gender affirming hormone therapy: Evidence from whole-of-population Australian administrative data”
- 2025** – Winner Diversity and Inclusion Small Grants Program for “Establishing LEAP: LGBT Economists and Allies in Australasia and the Asia Pacific,” University of Melbourne Faculty of Business and Economics
- 2025** – Runner Up Best Presentation 16th Workshop on Economics of Health and Wellbeing
- 2025** – Health Economics [top 10 most-cited papers](#) published by the journal in 2023 for study “Does affirmative action reduce disparities in healthcare use by Indigenous peoples? Evidence from Australia's Indigenous Practice Incentives Program”
- 2025** – Health Economics [top 10 most-viewed papers](#) published by the journal in 2023 for study “Does affirmative action reduce disparities in healthcare use by Indigenous peoples? Evidence from Australia's Indigenous Practice Incentives Program”
- 2023** – University of Melbourne Dean’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion Thought Leadership and Intellectual Contribution Award
- 2022** – American Economic Association award for Outstanding Research Contribution in LGBTQ Economics
- 2022** – Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research Engagement and Impact for COVID-19 Mental Health Modelling

2020 – Dean’s Award for Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion: (1) Research Excellence Team; (2) Student Award

2020 – Runner-up, Best Student Paper Award 2020 Australian Gender Economics Workshop

2019 – Winner, Best Presentation at 41st Australian Health Economics Society Conference

Nominations (not awarded)

- 2025 Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science Staff Excellence Awards for ‘Partnership and Collaboration for Public Benefit’
- 2025 Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research
- 2025 Economic Society of Australia Young Economist Award

ENGAGEMENT

2026:

- LGBTQ+ Economists and Allies in the Asia-Pacific (LEAP) Summit
 - [MI news](#)
 - [MI LinkedIn](#)
 - [FBE LinkedIn](#)
 - [Mirage News](#)
 - [Treasury News](#)
 - [Europe Says](#)
 - [National Tribune](#)
 - [Joy FM](#)
 - [MI Youtube](#)
 - [Q Magazine](#)
- The Conversation: [Funding surgery and hormones for trans people can save Medicare millions: new research](#); subsequent interviews ABC Alice Springs, JoyFM, 2SER

2025:

- [Grattan Institute 2025 Wonks' List](#) featured my paper on Regional Variation in Mental Healthcare Utilization
- Lancet Commission for Disability and Health Roundtable '*Creating disability-inclusive health systems that leave no one behind*'
- LGBTIQ Health Australia 2026 Health in Difference Conference Community Advisory Group
- Coordinated seminar on "[The Family Domestic and Sexual Violence Integrated Data System](#)" with the AIHW together with Kristen Sobeck (88 attendees)
- The Conversation: [Just \\$7 extra per person could prevent 300 suicides a year. Here's exactly where to spend it](#)
 - Associated radio interviews on ABC news ([Queensland](#), Gippsland)
- The Conversation: [The government has pledged \\$10 million for inclusive LGBTQIA+ health care. Here's what that means](#)
- Inclusive Medicare for LGBTIQ Australians on [ABC News](#), [JoyFM](#)
- [Channel 31: Health Matters](#) with Ricki Spencer
- The Wire, 2SER FM, Radio 4EB, Curtin FM, and Alive 90.5 FM: [Mental health of trans, non-binary and gender diverse Australians declining](#)
- JoyFM: [Dr Karinna Saxby: Mental Health of trans and gender-diverse Australians](#)
- The Guardian: [Trans, non-binary and gender diverse people are experiencing poorer mental health, new research shows](#)
- The Conversation: [We tracked the mental health of Trans and Gender diverse Australians over two decades. And we're worried.](#)
- MichaelWest Media: [New glasses? The unsightly world of optometry retailing](#)

- The Conversation: [The major parties want 9 in 10 GP visits bulk billed by 2030. Here's why we shouldn't aim for 100%](#)
- The Medical Republic: [Tripled BBI unlikely to reduce out-of-pockets, say researchers](#)
- Insight+: [Is it time to retire the term bulk billing?](#)

2024:

- ABC News: [Mpox cases in Australia have risen by 570 per cent since July, but vaccination rates remain low](#)
- The Guardian: [Feeling like an 'odddity', forced to come out: how Australian healthcare still fails to meet queer needs](#)
- The Conversation: [Almost 1 million Australians are LGBTQIA+ – and for the first time, there's a new national health plan for them](#)
- RRR Future Perfect: [Census U-Turn: LGBTQIA+ Questions Back On](#)
- The Conversation: [We found opposition to the Voice is linked to poorer Indigenous health. And in some regions, the link is striking](#)
- The Conversation: [Stigma around same-sex marriage affected Australians' health. Here's what happened in your electorate](#)
- The Conversation: [Indigenous people can get cheap or free medicines. But we show access depends on your postcode](#)
- The Conversation: [Our research shows a strong link between unemployment and domestic violence: what does this mean for income support?](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Fellow – Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic and Social Research | August 2025 - present

Research Fellow – Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic and Social Research | May 2023 - July 2025

PhD Candidate & Research Fellow Monash University Centre for Health Economics | Aug 2017 – May 2023

PhD - Awarded July 2023

Thesis: [Healthcare Use in Disadvantaged Groups](#) | *Supervisors:* Dennis Petrie & Sonja de New

Consultant at Evohealth | Feb 2019 – May 2023

Founder and Executive Director of Horizon Mentors (Charity) | Oct 2016 – Dec 2017

Ran a peer-support mentoring for students from low-SES backgrounds across two different schools

SERVICE

2025-26 – Advisory Group 2026 LGBTIQ+ Health Australia Health in Difference Conference

2025 – Awards Committee 2025 FBE/MBSL Deans' Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards

2025 – Founder [LGBTQ+ Economists and Allies in the Asia-Pacific \(LEAP\)](#)

2025 – Member Melbourne Trans Research Collective

2025 – Committee Member Faculty of Business and Economics Diversity and Inclusion

2024 – Reviewer American Economic Association Pink Papers: Economics Research on LGBTQ+ Communities

2023 – Reviewer 2023 CSQUIEP Awards for Outstanding Contribution in LGBTQ+ Economics

Reviewer journals

- Health Economics, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, the Medical Journal of Australia, Labour Economics, PharmacoEconomics, Social Science and Medicine, Lancet eClinicalMedicine, PLOSONe, The Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific, Public Health, Social Science Research, Stigma and Health, The Economic Record, Australian Economic Review, Mental Health & Prevention, PharmacoEconomics Open, Applied Economics Letters, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Australian Journal of Social Issues.