



# Social Policy Research Centre Annual Report 2015

Never Stand Still

Arts & Social Sciences

Social Policy Research Centre

**SPRC**  
Social Policy Research Centre

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# About the Centre

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) is a specialist research centre based within UNSW Arts & Social Sciences.

Founded in 1980 as Australia's first national research centre dedicated to shaping awareness of social welfare issues, it is recognised as one of the leading centres for research in social policy in Australia, generating real change for individuals and communities.

We are dedicated to making a positive impact through independent and leading research that explores the key social issues of poverty, inequality, wellbeing and justice. We also have unique expertise in evaluating government and industry programs to guide better practice and improved outcomes for individuals and communities.

Our research is organised into six research areas:

- [Care](#)
- [Disability](#)
- [Families & Communities](#)
- [Measures of Social Inequality & Wellbeing](#)
- [Policy Design, Impact & Evaluation](#)
- [Chinese Social Policy](#)

[Our researchers](#) are leaders in their fields, with a strong reputation in the academic community, lending authority to our work and influence to public debate. We work as multidisciplinary teams that draw on each individual's area of expertise to inform our research.

The Centre also fosters the talents of the next generation of social policy researchers through support for early career researchers and our robust [postgraduate research program](#).

We receive funding from a [range of sources](#), including Australian and state government departments, international funding agencies, research councils such as the Australian Research Council, and a number of non-government and other organisations in Australia and abroad.

Our vision is to improve social wellbeing and equity through influential social research in Australia and abroad.

# Director's Report

As the new Director of the Social Policy Research Centre, I could not have been more pleased to take up my role in 2015 in what proved to be another successful year for the Centre. While all our achievements are outlined in this report, there are some in particular that highlight our performance against the key objectives set in 2014.

We continued to **develop and respond to opportunities for research in our areas of expertise** and were successful in over 30 new tenders for which we had submitted proposals. A number of grants were also awarded to staff at the Centre, including prestigious grants awarded by the Australian Research Council. The Centre was also successful in securing a generous donation from a Hong Kong charitable foundation to allow us to continue to **develop our new research area** on Chinese Social Policy, specifically work focused on the child protection system in China. The broad scope of work undertaken by the Centre in 2015 is reflected in the 85 research projects that were worked on by staff, including the publication of more than 75 books, journal articles and research reports.

We **maintained a skilled team of researchers**, a number of whom were rewarded with scholarly achievements, including prominent appointments, fellowships, academic promotions, and other awards. With their expertise, the Centre was able to **respond to new social policy issues** including [grandparent childcare](#) (from Myra Hamilton), the [proposed redesign of the childcare sector](#) (from Deb Brennan and Liz Adamson), the [impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on housing](#) (from Karen Fisher and Rosemary Kayess), and my own work in response to [proposed changes to penalty rates](#).

We **attracted and supported research scholars** through both our continuing postgraduate research program and our new postgraduate course '[Changing Social Policy](#)', offered for the first time to students completing the Masters of Public Policy and Governance.

Finally, we continued to **build and maintain our profile** through a range of activities that included hosting the bi-annual [Australian Social Policy Conference](#) in September (attended by over 250 delegates), hosting 20 seminars (attended by over 530 stakeholders), hosting a new concept 'social policy debate' on supported decision making (attended by over 200 stakeholders) and launching our [Twitter account](#).

My sincere thanks go to all at SPRC, our collaborators, and our funders for making 2015 such a successful year. I would also like to acknowledge the service and leadership Kelley Johnson provided through her tenure to September 2015 as Director of the Centre.

**Professor Lyn Craig**

# Our Objectives

Our work in 2016 will continue to be guided by the following key objectives:

- Develop and respond to opportunities for research in our areas of interest and expertise
- Respond to new social policy issues by initiating and developing new streams of research
- Maintain a skilled workforce recognised for their expertise, commitment and professionalism
- Attract and support research scholars
- Build and maintain our profile so that we continue to be regarded as a pre-eminent social policy research centre
- Ensure our work serves the UNSW 2025 strategy to achieve further academic excellence, global impact and social engagement

# Our Research

## Projects

Information on all 85 research projects active in 2015 is [available online](#) and is organised into our six research areas:

- Care
- Disability
- Families & Communities
- Measures of Social Inequality & Wellbeing
- Policy Design, Impact & Evaluation
- Chinese Social Policy

## Publications

Information on research publications produced by staff at the Centre in 2015 is [available online](#) and is organised into the following categories:

- Book chapters and Books
- Conference papers and Conference presentations
- Journal articles
- Reports

## Grants

The following grants were awarded to staff at the Centre in 2015:

### **Policy frameworks and market/non-market activity of young and older adults**

Awarded to Lyn Craig by the Australian Research Council/Future Fellowship  
Total funding amount: \$903,625

### **Taking time: Work-family time pressure, time quality and healthy activities**

Awarded to Lyn Craig by the Australian Research Council/Discovery Project  
Total funding amount: \$389,800

### **Young people and adversity: Stories of resourcing and resourcefulness**

Awarded to Jen Skattebol by the Australian Research Council/Linkage Project

Total funding amount: \$216,000

### **Young people with cognitive disability: Relationships and paid support**

Awarded to Karen Fisher by Southern Cross University/ARC Linkage Project Shared Grant

Total funding amount: \$48,024

### **The funding and delivery of homelessness services: A case study evidence**

Awarded to kylie valentine by Swinburne University/AHURI National Housing Research Program – Research Projects Shared Grant

Total funding amount: \$31,155

### **Meeting the needs of chronically homeless women**

Awarded to Jane Bullen by Mercy Foundation Ltd/Grants to End Homelessness

Total funding amount: \$30,000

### **The PATRICIA Project: Pathways and research in collaborative inter-agency working**

Awarded to Ilan Katz by University of Melbourne/ANROWS Research Priorities Open Applications Grants Round – Shared Grant

Total funding amount: \$25,000

### **The funding and delivery of programs to reduce homelessness**

Awarded to kylie valentine by University of Western Australia/AHURI National Housing Research Program – Research Projects Shared Grant

Total funding amount: \$4,404

## Scholarly achievements

### **SPRC team joint winners of Research Society Impact Award**

Karen Fisher, Rosemary Kayess, Sandra Gendera, Anna Jones, Ariella Meltzer and PhD student Deborah Lutz were part of a team of researchers recognised for their excellent research performance in the 2015 UNSW Arts & Social Sciences Dean's Research Awards.

[Related newsroom article](#)

### **Peter Saunders appointed to the World Bank Commission on Global Poverty**

Professor Saunders is one of 24 leading economists on the Commission, established to provide answers to key questions about the World Bank's new poverty targets and measures.

[Related newsroom article](#)

### **Lyn Craig receives ARC Future Fellowship**

Professor Craig was one of 50 Australian researchers awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for 2015 and will use the grant to examine productivity across the age spectrum.

[Related newsroom article](#)

### **Senior Leadership Award for SPRC Deputy Director**

kylie valentine was recognised at the 2015 UNSW Staff Excellence Awards with a Highly Commended in Senior Leadership Award.

[Related newsroom article](#)

### **Lyn Craig elected as Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia**

Professor Craig was among 30 new Fellows elected to the academy in 2015.

[Related newsroom article](#)

### **SPRC project receives AES Award for Excellence in Evaluation**

A research consortium led by SPRC was awarded the Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) Award for Excellence in Evaluation, in recognition of work on the Keep Them Safe project.

[Related newsroom article](#)



## **SPRC hosts successful Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC)**

The biennial event brought together over 300 leading national and international researchers and policy makers with a view to influencing debate and practice.

[Lyn Craig's reflection on ASPC 2015](#)

## **SPRC well represented at Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Symposium**

Bettina Cass co-convened the event, with Deb Brennan, Karen Fisher and Peter Saunders presenting on panels during the day.

[Related newsroom article](#)

## **Inaugural Peter Saunders prize awarded at Australian Social Policy Conference**

To commemorate the 50th anniversary volume of the Australian Journal of Social Issues, ASPA created the Peter Saunders prize for the best paper published in the journal in a calendar year.

## **Academic staff promotions in 2015**

Karen Fisher was promoted to Professor, Jen Skattebol was promoted to Senior Research Fellow and both Elizabeth Adamson and Ciara Smyth were promoted to Research Fellow.

## **Academic staff awarded PhD in 2015**

Research Associates Elizabeth Adamson, Ariella Meltzer and Kenia Parsons were all awarded their PhD.

# Teaching and Supervision

## Postgraduate research supervision

The following students were enrolled as postgraduate students with the Centre in 2015 and had their supervision carried out by staff at the Centre. Further information on all current students is [available online](#).

Student	Supervisors	Topic
Elizabeth Adamson	Deb Brennan Fiona Williams	Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in liberal countries: Situating in-home child care within policy and cultural discourses
Timothy Broady	Ilan Katz Marilyn McHugh	Parental bonding and empowerment in foster care
Sherman Chan	Peter Saunders Bruce Bradbury	A quantitative study of financial exclusion in Australia
Darryl Cronin*	Paul Patton Kylie Cripps	Capabilities theory and indigenous policy
Bob Davidson	Peter Saunders Deb Brennan	Contestability and human services: A case study of community aged care
Peter Davidson	Peter Saunders Peter Whiteford	Why some countries are more unemployed than others: A comparison of employment participation policies in four countries
Qian Fang	Xioyuan Shang Peter Saunders	China's NGO accountability analysis: Child welfare NGOs
Jan Idle	Jen Skattebol kylie valentine	Talking and listening: Experiences of primary school
Kabirul Islam	Peter Whiteford Jen Skattebol Kelley Johnson	Food security and social safety net programs: A study of Bangladeshi rural poor households
Quanchai Kerddaen	Karen Fisher Ilan Katz	Disability, rural-urban mobility and income security: The lived experience of migrant visually impaired street musicians in Bangkok metropolis
Deborah Lutz	Kelley Johnson Karen Fisher	Examining professional relationships with people with intellectual disabilities utilising individualised funding
Ariella Meltzer	Kristy Muir Leanne Dowse	Siblings, young people and relational experiences of disability
Sallie Anne Moad	Kelley Johnson Iva Strnadova	Exploring adult learning for people with intellectual disability under the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Student	Supervisors	Topic
Yuvisthi Naidoo	Peter Saunders Bruce Bradbury	The living standards and wellbeing of older Australians
Belinda Jane Newton	Ilan Katz Fiona Hilferty	Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: Understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities
David Scott	Bruce Bradbury Peter Saunders	Income inequality in Australia
Alexander Sewell	Leanne Dowse Tony Eardley	A qualitative study of integration in human services to meet complex needs
Zimin Tan	Ilan Katz Xiaoyuan Shang	Establishing a suitable child protection system for China
Cathy Thomson	Peter Saunders Trish Hill	Carers and the costs of care in an ageing society
Christine Townley	kylie valentine Megan Blaxland	What makes a good community playgroup?
Inara Walden	Jennifer Skattebol Eileen Baldry	Community engagement in Indigenous policy making
Jie Wang	Deb Brennan Ilan Katz	Does Chinese education for all round development boost social reproduction more than examination-oriented education?

\*Research supervision carried out external to SPRC.

## Teaching

The Centre introduced a new course in 2015 'Changing Social Policy' (SRAP5019), offered as an elective for postgraduate students completing a Masters of Public Policy and Governance. The course was administered by staff from SPRC, with each seminar led by staff with specific expertise in the topic area, using case-study material drawn from recent projects conducted within the Centre:

Topic	Presenters
Introduction to social policy	Fiona Hilfery Kelly Johnson
Social policy methods and approaches	kylie valentine Ciara Smyth
Poverty and income distribution	Peter Saunders Yuvisthi Naidoo Melissa Wong
Work and employment	Bruce Bradbury Yuvisthi Naidoo Melissa Wong
Gender and social policy	Trish Hill Megan Blaxland
Indigenous and CALD communities and social policy	Ilan Katz Margaret Raven
Children and young people and social policy	Jen Skattebol Andrew Griffiths
Comparative social policy	Deb Brennan Elizabeth Adamson
The organisation of social policy: people with disability	Kelley Johnson Anna Jones
The organisation of social policy: child welfare services	kylie valentine Shona Bates
Emerging social policy issues	Shona Bates
Exploring the impact of social policy research and bringing it all together session	Fiona Hilferty Kelley Johnson

In addition to the SPRC course, the following staff were also involved in teaching on behalf of other academic units:

Shona Bates: Guest lecture for 'Social Research and Policy Project' (SRAP3002 – School of Social Sciences)

Natasha Cortis: Guest lecture for 'Health in Schools and Other Educational Settings' (EDST2093 – School of Education)

Gianfranco Giuntoli: Co-convener of 'Qualitative Social Research' (SRAP2001 – School of Social Sciences)

# Financial Performance

## Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2015

		<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
	Research Revenue	2,485
	Donations and Bequest	127
	UNSW Contributions	654
	Faculty Contribution	1,843
	Other Restricted Revenue	33
	Sundry Other Revenue	127
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>5,270</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Salaries, Oncosts and Other Staff Costs	4,218
	Scholarship Stipends	15
	Contract and Consulting Services	136
	Consumables	31
	Travel	214
	Equipment Non-Capitalised	21
	Entertainment	6
	Marketing	3
	Miscellaneous Expenses	315
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>4,958</b>
<b>Total Contribution</b>		<b>311</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Total Contribution (after depreciation)</b>		<b>310</b>

## Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015

	<b>\$'000</b>
UNSW Australia Internal Cash	3,242
Accounts Receivable	171
Sundry Assets	26
Property Plant and Equipment	0
Creditors and Other Liabilities	471
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,968</b>

# Centre Management

The Senior Executive Team oversees the daily operations of SPRC and decisions that impact the Centre's resources, policies, procedures and business processes.

The Senior Executive Team members are drawn from within SPRC and include:

- Lyn Craig, Director
- kylie valentine, Deputy Director
- Peter Saunders, Professor
- David Cami, Centre Manager

The Centre Steering Committee oversees the work of SPRC and is the major decision making body for the Centre. Steering Committee members provide leadership across the Centre, input to the Centre's strategic plan, and advice on the Centre's operations, financial position, new partnerships and funding opportunities.

In 2015, the Centre Steering Committee members were:

- Eileen Baldry, Interim Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences (Chair)
- Duncan McDuie-Ra, Associate Dean Research
- Lyn Craig, Director, SPRC
- kylie valentine, Deputy Director, SPRC
- David Cami, Centre Manager, SPRC
- Melissa Roughley, Faculty General Manager, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences
- Warwick Dawson, Director, Research Strategy and Partnerships Office
- Jaimin Bhatt, Faculty Finance Manager, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences

The Steering Committee met on the following dates:

## **17 March 2015**

Attended by: James Donald (former Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), Duncan McDuie-Ra (Associate Dean Research), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Centre Manager, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), Jaimin Bhatt (Faculty Finance Manager)

#### **4 August 2015**

Attended by: Eileen Baldry (Interim Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), Duncan McDuie-Ra (Associate Dean Research), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Centre Manager, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), An Thuy (Faculty Management Accountant), Meena Popal (Faculty Management Accountant, Research)

#### **30 November 2015**

Attended by: Eileen Baldry (Interim Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), Duncan McDuie-Ra (Associate Dean Research), Lyn Craig (Director, SPRC), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Centre Manager, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), Warwick Dawson (External), Jaimin Bhatt (Faculty Finance Manager), An Thuy (Faculty Management Accountant), Meena Popal (Faculty Management Accountant, Research)

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