



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Annual Report 2017

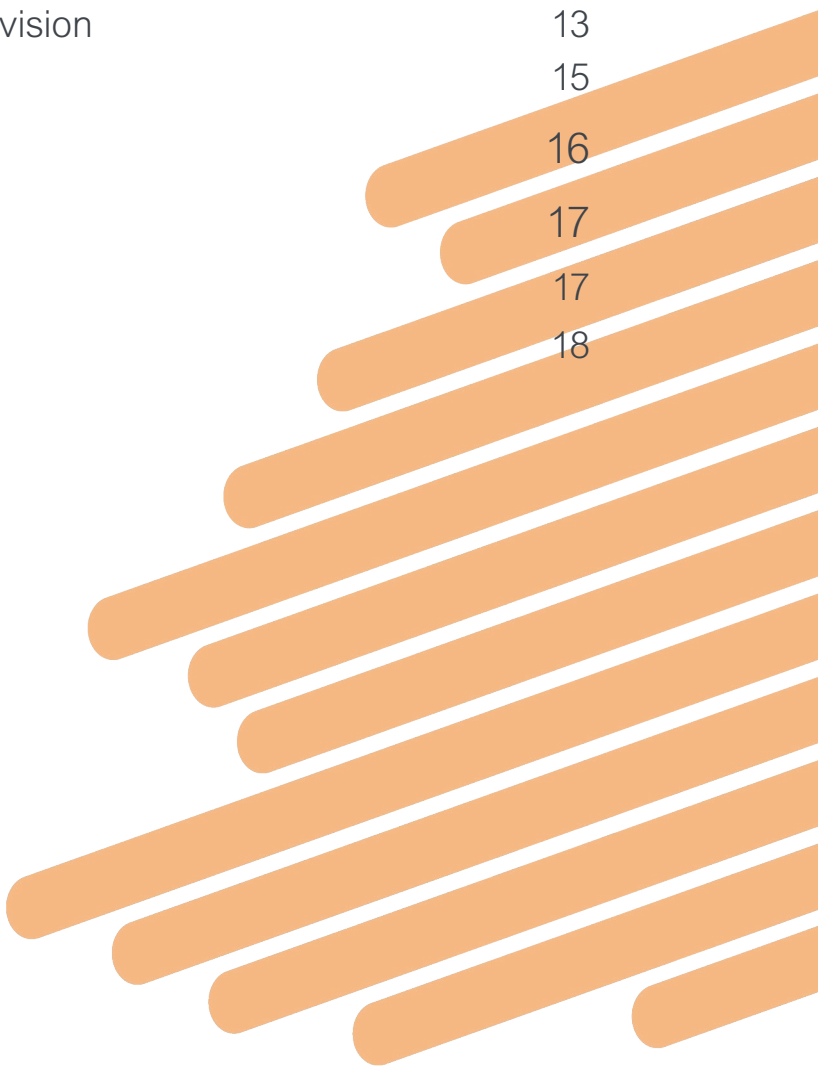
Social Policy Research Centre



SPRC
Social Policy Research Centre

CONTENTS

About the Centre	1
Director's Report	2
Our Objectives	4
Our Research	5
Projects	5
Publications	5
Grants	6
Scholarly achievements	12
Teaching and Supervision	13
Postgraduate research supervision	13
Teaching	15
Financial Performance	16
Centre Management	17
Centre Steering Committee	17
Senior Executive Team	18



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

This year I'm writing this report as the official Director of SPRC. After a number of consultations with centre team members and Faculty in 2017, I was appointed permanently to the role. I'm excited to continue working with some of Australia's leading social scientists as they seek to impact social policy and inform social change.

2017 was another big year for SPRC, starting in February with the social policy debate, Disability and Creativity. Moderated by Alastair McEwin, Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Rosemary Kayess, Jax Jackie Brown, Professor Susan Dodds and Dinesh Wadiwel debated the tension between claiming commonality and celebrating difference in the experiences of people with disability. The thought-provoking event was well attended.

July saw Ilan Katz, Bingqin Li, Yuvisthi Naidoo and I participate in the first Renmin University-UNSW Social Policy Summer School held in Beijing, China. Attended by more than 100 people, the three-day course was a good showcase of SPRC's social policy expertise and put us right on the centre of the map of the fast growing social policy arena.

Professor Peter Saunders's research on new budget standards made national headlines in August. Key findings from the report indicated that safety net provisions (Newstart Allowance) fall short of the budget standards estimates by \$96 a week for a single person, \$58 a week for a couple with one child and \$126 a week for a couple with two children.

The 16th Australian Social Policy Conference, held from 25-27 September at UNSW, was a space for deep and critical thinking about some of society's major challenges. The conference brought together over 300 leading national and international researchers, practitioners and policy makers with a view to influencing debate and practice.

Recognition of the calibre of SPRC staff was widespread in 2017. Rosemary Kayess was nominated by the Australian Government for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in recognition of her dedication to disability advocacy. Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill, Cathy Thomson, and Bettina Cass won the Social Engagement Research (Social) Impact award at the Dean's Research Awards for their work in building momentum behind policy changes that support parents and carers, having an impact on policy development processes, policy advocacy, and public debate.

Associate Professor Zhiming Cheng was appointed a UNSW Scientia Fellow, and will join us in 2018 from Macquarie University. We welcomed two new starters, Hazel Blunden and Theun van Tienoven. Myra Hamilton and Ariella Meltzer had their academic successes recognised through promotion; Myra to Senior Research Fellow and Ariella to Research Fellow.

We had an astounding four PhD students graduate in one session, Jan Idle, Yuvisthi Naidoo, BJ Newton and Alex Sewell, while Sherman Chan graduated in the second half of the year.

I look forward to a productive 2018 as we continue working towards positive social change.

Professor Carla Treloar



OUR OBJECTIVES

Our work in 2018 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 research projects active in 2017 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 2017 is [available online](#) and is organised into the following categories:

- [Book chapters](#) and [Books](#)
- [Conference presentations](#)
- [Journal articles](#)
- [Reports](#)

Grants

The following grants were awarded to staff at the Centre in 2017:

Achieving better mental health for maltreated children: translating population data into policy

Lead Chief Investigator: Melissa Green (School of Psychiatry)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz

Awarded \$930,023 by the National Health and Medical Research Council Partnership Project (including Partner Contributions)

Evaluation of community-based mental health programs: Community Living Supports and Housing & Accommodation Support Initiative

Lead Chief Investigator: Karen Fisher (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Gianfranco Giuntoli, Trish Hill, BJ Newton, Christiane Purcal, Fred Zmudzki

Awarded \$600,000 by the Health Administration Corporation – State Government Contract

Evaluation of South Australian home detention

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Sandra Gendera, Fiona Hilferty, Fred Zmudzki

Awarded \$572,681 by the Department of Correctional Services (South Australia) - State Government Contract

National survey of the domestic violence and sexual assault workforces

Lead Chief Investigator: Natasha Cortis (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: kylie valentine

Awarded \$500,000 by the Department of Social Services – Commonwealth Government Contract

IDMH Big Data, Easy Read and SCORM

Lead Chief Investigator: Julian Trollor (Department of Development Disability, Neuropsychiatry UNSW Medicine)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Karen Fisher

Awarded \$401,255 by the Health Administration Corporation

Mothers and children with disability using early intervention services: identifying and sharing promising practice

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: BJ Newton

Awarded \$254,076 by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) - Research Priorities Open Application Grant

Peer support review

Lead Chief Investigator: Karen Fisher (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Sandra Gendera, Rosemary Kayess, Christiane Purcal

Awarded \$236,836 by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Ltd (ANZSOG)/ National Disability Insurance Agency Joint Subcontract

Child protection information sharing

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Shona Bates

Awarded \$225,553 by NSW Family and Community Services – State Government Contract

Human rights protection for people being treated involuntarily for a mental illness

Lead Chief Investigator: Gianfranco Giuntoli (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Karen Fisher, Sandra Gendera, Rosemary Kayess

Awarded \$207,925 by the Queensland Mental Health Commission - State Government Contract

National audit and operational framework for safe at home programs

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: BJ Newton, Ciara Smyth

Awarded \$166,651 by the Department of Social Services – Commonwealth Government Contract

Evaluation of four community-based men’s behaviour change program pilots

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Gianfranco Giuntoli

Awarded \$212,203 by NSW Department of Family and Community Services - Community Services – State Government Contract

Determinants of risk and resilience in maltreated children using multi-agency administrative records: A population record-linkage study

Lead Chief Investigator: Melissa Green (School of Psychiatry)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz

Awarded \$135,854 by the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund – Contract Research

Integrated housing support for vulnerable families

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

Awarded \$123,667 by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute – Contract Research

Elder Abuse National Research Strengthening the Evidence Base – Stage one

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Trish Hill

Awarded \$100,000 by Australian Institute of Family Studies/Attorney-General’s Department Shared Contract

Mutuality in support relationships

Lead Chief Investigator: Karen Fisher (SPRC)

Awarded \$99,928 by National Disability Services Limited/NDIS Innovative Workforce Fund

Examining the complex and changing needs of the ageing population living with viral hepatitis/HIV in the ACT

Lead Chief Investigator: Limin Mao (Centre for Social Research in Health)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Catherine Thomson

Awarded \$89,995 by ACT Health – State Government Contract

Family Mental Health Support Services evaluation readiness

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Ciara Smyth

Awarded \$88,510 by the Department of Social Services – Commonwealth Government Contract

Team Up Evaluation

Lead Chief Investigator: Leanne Dowse (School of Social Sciences)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Ariella Meltzer

Awarded \$68,050 by the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability – State Government Contract

Synthesis report for ASELCC research: Practice and Policy Implications

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Sandra Gendera

Awarded \$65,000 by the Department of Social Services – Commonwealth Government Contract

Housing outcomes after domestic and family violence

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

Awarded \$59,515 by the University of Tasmania and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute National Housing Research Program – Joint Contract Research

Quality FDC Provider Incentive Strategy

Lead Chief Investigator: Megan Blaxland (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: Elizabeth Adamson

Awarded \$49,854 by the NSW Department of Education - State Government Contract

Literature Scan - Perspectives of people who have experienced sexual violence

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

Awarded \$49,480 by NSW Family and Community Services – State Government Contract

National Disability Insurance Scheme workforce research

Lead Chief Investigator: Natasha Cortis (SPRC)

Awarded \$41,150 by Health Services Union National Office – Contract Research

Evaluation of the Three Rivers Regional Assembly and Illawarra Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation Accord negotiation

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

Awarded \$40,609 by NSW Department of Education – State Government Contract

Case Study of Wesley’s team-based approach for Specialist Homelessness Services

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

Awarded \$40,128 Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute/Wesley Community Services – Joint Contract Research

Technological innovation and social policy

Lead Chief Investigator: Bingqin Li (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Peter Saunders, Xiaoyuan Shang

Awarded \$25,000 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Evaluation readiness work for Family Mental Health Support Services

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigators: Trish Hill, Ciara Smyth

Awarded \$19,570 by the Department of Social Services

Evaluation of CREATE: The Ability Project

Lead Chief Investigator: Karen Fisher (SPRC)

Awarded \$15,000 by Southern Cross University in conjunction with the NSW Family and Community Services – Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Evaluation of the Stability through Support project

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

Awarded \$11,818 by Save the Children Australia - Contract Research

Women's Safety Package conducted for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services - Queensland

Lead Chief Investigator: kylie valentine (SPRC)

Awarded \$9,000 by Ipsos Public Affairs Pty LTD/Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Subcontract

Aboriginal Affairs NSW research agenda

Lead Chief Investigator: Ilan Katz (SPRC)

SPRC Chief Investigator: BJ Newton

Awarded \$7,800 by Aboriginal Affairs NSW – State Government Contract



Scholarly achievements

SPRC hosted the 16th Australian Social Policy Conference

The Australian Social Policy Conference is a space for deep and critical thinking about the major challenges in society.

[Conference highlights](#)

SPRC hosted a social policy debate on disability and creativity

A panel of academics, activists and advocates debated the tension between claiming commonality and celebrating difference in the experiences of people with disability.

[Debate highlights](#)

Rosemary Kayess nominated for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability

Rosemary Kayess was nominated as a candidate to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2019-2022.

[Related newsroom article](#)

Four SPRC PhD students graduate in one session

Jan Idle, Yuvisthi Naidoo, BJ Newton and Alec Sewell graduated in the one ceremony on Friday 23 June; the most amount of students that SPRC has ever had graduate in the one ceremony.

[Related newsroom article](#)

Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill, Cathy Thomson, and Bettina Cass recognised with Dean's Research Award

Dr Myra Hamilton, Dr Trish Hill, Cathy Thomson and Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass received an award for Social Engagement Research (Social) Impact at the UNSW Arts & Social Sciences Dean's Research Awards.

[Related newsroom article](#)

Ariella Meltzer short-listed for the Australia Prize for a Future Leader

Dr Ariella Meltzer was short-listed for the Australia Prize of a Future Leader by the Council for the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences.

Promotions

[Ariella Meltzer promoted to Research Fellow](#)

[Dr Myra Hamilton promoted to Senior Research Fellow](#)

Visits and Fellowships

[Associate Professor Bingqin Li](#) completed a two-week HeRen Visiting Fellowship at Nanjing University, China.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Postgraduate research supervision

The following students were enrolled as postgraduate students with the Centre in 2017 and had their supervision carried out by staff at the Centre. Further information on all current students is [available online](#).

Student	Supervisors	Topic
Cliff Chen	Ilan Katz Haiqing Yu	The life experiences of Chinese queer migrants in Australia
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	Xiyouan Shang Peter Saunders	China's NGO accountability analysis: Child welfare NGOs
Valeriia Kasatkina	Natasha Cortis	Networks: From NGOs to Civil Society
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	Friend or worker? Understanding relationships between people with intellectual disabilities and their support workers through Institutional Ethnography
Eugenia Marembo	Natasha Cortis kylie valentine	Situating the Australian charities and not-for-profit peaks in the policy process
Sallie-Anne Moad	Kelley Johnson Iva Strnadova	Learning to Live: Exploring the lived experience of lifelong learning for adults with intellectual disability
Bronwyn Newman	Karen Fisher Julian Trollor	Information about mental health for people with intellectual disability: impact on equality
David Scott	Bruce Bradbury Peter Saunders	Income inequality in Australia
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	Community playgroups as a community of practice

Student	Supervisors	Topic
Georgia van Toorn	Natasha Cortis Karen Soldatic	Neoliberalism and the politics of disability policy: mobilisations and mutations of individualised funding
Jie Wang	Deb Brennan Ilan Katz	Does Chinese education for all round development boost social reproduction more than examination-oriented education?
Erin Whittle	Karen Fisher Julian Trollor	Access to mental health care: the double disadvantage of intellectual disability and gender



Teaching

Staff from SPRC administered the course 'Changing Social Policy' (SRAP5019), offered as an elective for postgraduate students completing a Masters of Public Policy and Governance. Each seminar was 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
Social policy methods and approaches	Fiona Hilferty
Comparative social policy	Deb Brennan Myra Hamilton
Gender and social policy	Megan Blaxland
Poverty and deprivation	Yuvisthi Naidoo
The economics of welfare policy	Bruce Bradbury
CALD communities, immigration and social policy	Ilan Katz
Children and young people and social policy	Jen Skattebol
People with disability and policy responses	Rosemary Kayess
Child welfare and social policy	kylie valentine
Emerging social policy issues	Fiona Hilferty

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

Hazel Blunden: Lecturer and Tutor in 'Social Research and Policy Project' (SRAP3002 – School of Social Sciences), Tutor in 'Research Methods' (SRAP5101 – School of Social Sciences) and Tutor in Theory, Ethics and Research Impact (SRAP 5102 – School of Social Sciences)

Ilan Katz, Bingqin Li, Yuvisthi Naidoo, Carla Treloar: Renmin University-UNSW Sydney Social Policy Summer School, Beijing

Financial Performance

Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2016

	\$'000
Revenue	
Research Revenue	3,582
Donations and Bequest	3
UNSW Contributions	728
Faculty Contribution	-
Other Restricted Revenue	169
Sundry Other Revenue	110
Total Revenue	4,539
Expenses	
Salaries, Oncosts and Other Staff Costs	4,517
Scholarship Stipends	-
Contract and Consulting Services	438
Consumables	54
Travel	207
Equipment Non-Capitalised	17
Entertainment	4
Marketing	2
Miscellaneous Expenses	398
Total Expenses	5,636
Total Contribution	(1,097)
Depreciation	-
Total Contribution (after depreciation)	(1,097)

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017

	\$'000
UNSW Australia Internal Cash	2,659
Accounts Receivable	369
Sundry Assets	17
Property Plant and Equipment	-
Creditors and Other Liabilities	667
Net Assets	2,378

Centre Management

Centre Steering Committee

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 2017, the Centre Steering Committee members were:

- Professor Susan Dodds, Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences (Chair)
- Professor Helen Groth, Associate Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences
- Professor Carla Treloar, Director, Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for Social Research in Health
- David Cami, Associate Director, Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for Social Research in Health
- Associate Professor kylie valentine, Research Director, Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for Social Research in Health
- Melissa Roughley, Faculty General Manager, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences
- Jaimin Bhatt, Faculty Finance Manager, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences
- Warwick Dawson, Director, Research Strategy & Partnerships Office

The Steering Committee met on the following dates:

23 March 2017

Attended by: Susan Dodds (Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), Helen Groth (Associate Dean Research), Carla Treloar (Director, SPRC), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Associate Director, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), Jaimin Bhatt (Faculty Finance Manager), An Thuy Nguyen (Management Accountant [Research]), Warwick Dawson (Director, Research Strategy & Partnerships Office)

17 July 2017

Attended by: Susan Dodds (Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), Helen Groth (Associate Dean Research), Carla Treloar (Director, SPRC), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Associate Director, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), Jaimin Bhatt (Faculty Finance Manager), Warwick Dawson (Director, Research Strategy & Partnerships Office), An Thuy Nguyen (Management Accountant [Research]), Anmol Bhaumik (Research Accountant)

17 October 2017

Attended by: Susan Dodds (Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences), David Blaazer (Deputy Dean), Helen Groth (Associate Dean Research), Carla Treloar (Director, SPRC), kylie valentine (Deputy Director, SPRC), David Cami (Associate Director, SPRC), Melissa Roughley (Faculty General Manager), Warwick Dawson (Director, Research Strategy & Partnerships Office), Eamon Keher (Business Partner, Finance), Ianina Morgernstern (Team Lead, Research Finance)

Senior Executive Team

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 in 2017 included:

- Carla Treloar, Director
- kylie valentine, Deputy Director
- David Cami, Associate Director

SPRC

Social Policy Research Centre

T: +61 (2) 9385 7800

F: +61 (2) 9385 7838

E: sprc@unsw.edu.au

W: www.sprc.unsw.edu.au

 [@SPRC_UNSW](https://twitter.com/SPRC_UNSW)

