SPRC
Social Policy Research Centre

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY CONFERENCE 2003
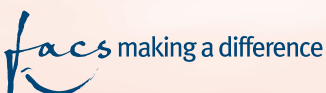
SOCIAL INCLUSION

Program & Abstracts

University of New South Wales 9-11 July 2003

UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Welcome to the Australian Social Policy Conference 2003

Welcome to the 8th Social Policy Conference sponsored by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

The conference has become a key event on the social policy calendar, providing a regular forum for academia, government and non-governmental social policy agencies to discuss research findings relevant to policy makers and practitioners. Its interdisciplinary character and the broad range of topics discussed have encouraged informed, critical dialogue about the strengths, weaknesses and directions of social policy in Australia. Reflecting its growing importance, the conference has been re-named the Australian Social Policy Conference and we hope that this year's conference will serve as an important forum for discussing key issues and ideas.

The conference forms an important part of the SPRC work program that is designed to promote the development of social policy debate through an open process of dissemination and critical appraisal. In line with more general developments within the community sector, this year's conference has benefited from the assistance provided by other organisations. A special note of thanks is due to those organisations that have provided us with financial support for this year's conference: the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, the New South Wales Department of Community Services, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Mission Australia and The Smith Family. The SPRC is delighted to be associated with each of these agencies and we look forward to future collaborations with them.

We have also been helped by a number of other individuals and organisations with aspects of this year's conference program. Several of the Forum sessions have been developed externally, including those on the media (organised by Julian Disney), the new social settlement (Linda Hancock), poverty (ACOSS), and consumer-governed care (Carmel Laragy). For the first time, we are pleased to include a series of special research sessions that have also benefited from external input. They include sessions on the Household Incomes and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey (organised by Mark Wooden), on research supported by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (Ian Winter), on two new social surveys (ABS), and on the community services workforce (Karen Healy). Two of the contributed paper strands were also convened externally: that on disability (by the Disability Studies and Research Institute) and on childhood (by Jan Mason).

The theme of this year's conference, Social Inclusion, reflects the increasingly importance that inclusion – both as a process and as an ideal - is now seen to play in the attainment of equity and social justice, as well as personal fulfilment and autonomy. In different ways, all four of the Invited Addresses discuss the role that social inclusion plays in social development, drawing on a range of national and international ideas and experiences. Our two Australian invitees, Professors Hugh Stretton and 2003 Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Stanley, bring a wealth of experience and wisdom from two adjacent disciplines (political economy and public health, respectively) from which social policies that promote inclusion can learn and build. We are fortunate to have an opportunity to hear from our two Plenary Speakers, Professors Kathryn Edin and Jonathan Bradshaw, on how social inclusion has been discussed and implemented elsewhere, and how it relates to other important goals such as employment promotion and poverty relief.

Putting the overall program together has, as always, proved to be a challenging task, particularly since we received more than 250 abstracts for consideration – another record. Many of my SPRC colleagues helped us to make the final selection and I am pleased to acknowledge their contribution. Tony Eardley has taken on the role of overall internal conference organiser and once again has done a magnificent job, for which we are all very grateful. The practical business of organising the conference has again been left in the capable hands of the Hotel Network and their work has been crucial to the smooth running of the event itself. All those involved deserve our thanks for the time and effort that they have put in to ensure that we can all get the best out of the next three days.

One of the most important parts of any conference is the opportunity to meet and catch up with colleagues and friends, old and new. As usual, we have made a special effort to make the social side of the conference – morning and afternoon teas, lunches, the Wednesday evening reception and the conference dinner – comfortable and congenial.

We hope that you will find the 2003 Australian Social Policy Conference stimulating and enjoyable.

PROFESSOR PETER SAUNDERS
Director

Conference Theme

The overarching theme for the 2003 Conference is Social Inclusion. This is a term that has only entered the Australian social policy vocabulary fairly recently, but about which there is already considerable debate. Ideas of how social structures and policies work to exclude certain residents or groups from full social and economic participation are becoming an increasingly important part of the currency of social policy debate in many countries. Likewise there is growing debate about the most effective ways of including those people who for various reasons, such as poverty, poor health or disability, childhood, youth or old age, lack access to social citizenship in the broadest sense.

In Australia this debate is germane to current notions of inclusion through participation in employment or through alternative approaches such as asset building. It is a concept underlying discussions in many areas of social policy, including the politics of disability and the new politics of urban space and locality. It is also relevant in terms of both the continuing gulf dividing many Indigenous Australians from their non-Indigenous fellow citizens in social outcomes and the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the context of border protection. These themes will be developed both by invited Keynote and Plenary speakers, two of whom will offer insights from US and European experience, in some of the Forum discussions and in many of the specific thematic strands of contributed papers. In the true spirit of academic debate and inquiry there are also a number of papers which challenge the validity and useage of the term 'social inclusion' itself.

INFORMATION DESK

For general enquiries about the conference and any special needs, please contact the Hotel Network and SPRC staff at the Registration Desk in the foyer of the Clancy Auditorium. Centre staff can be recognised by their blue name tags.

LOCATION OF THEATRES AND ROOMS

The Keynote and Plenary Addresses will be held in the Clancy Auditorium. Concurrent sessions will be held in the Mathews Theatres A, B, C, D, various rooms in the Mathews Building, the Council Chambers in the Chancellery and in the Library 3rd floor meeting room. At different times the Mathews Building rooms include 102, 104, 107, 123, 125 and 130, entered from the underground shopping Plaza behind the Clancy Auditorium, room 310 on the 3rd floor and room 929 on the 9th floor. Forums will be in the Clancy, Mathews Theatres A and B, and the Council Chambers. The locations are shown on the map opposite.

DISABILITY ACCESS

All the rooms in use are wheelchair accessible except for Mathews Theatres C and D. A map of the University showing wheelchair routes, lifts and the location of accessible toilets is available from the Registration Desk. The Clancy Auditorium has an audio loop for people with a hearing impairment.

POSTER PAPER SESSIONS

A number of poster papers will be on display throughout the conference in the Pavilions. Please check on the conference noticeboard for notices of when the authors will be present to discuss their work.

SPECIAL EVENTS/MESSAGES

A board is located in the Clancy foyer for messages and information about special events.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Journalists may wish to contact paper contributors during the conference. Liaison with journalists will be handled by members of the University's Media Office, with help from designated SPRC staff. Please make regular checks of the Press Contacts section of the message board in the Clancy foyer. A press room, for media interviews, is located down the corridor to the right of the Clancy foyer.

RECEPTION

A reception will be held in the foyer of the Clancy Auditorium from 6.15 to 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9 July, after the Special Address by Professor Fiona Stanley.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS/LUNCHES

Coffee/tea will be available during registration on Wednesday morning in the Clancy foyer.
Other morning and afternoon teas/coffees and lunches will be served in the Pavillions.

CONFERENCE DINNER

The Conference Dinner will be held on Thursday 10 July at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Arden Street, Coogee. Pre-dinner drinks will begin at 7.30pm, with dinner served at 8.00pm. Complimentary buses will leave the University and various hotel locations from 7.00pm (see dinner ticket for details). Buses will return to the campus and hotels at 11.00pm. There is also parking available under the Crown Plaza or in nearby streets. The dinner will cost $80.00 per head and includes three courses, coffee and drinks. After dinner entertainment will be provided by Ecopella, Sydney's environmental a cappella ensemble. Please book with the Hotel Network staff at registration as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

AIRPORT BUS

Two 42-seater complimentary buses will transport people to the airport at the conclusion of the conference.
The buses will leave from Gate 9, High Street at 3.30pm and 4.00pm, arriving at the Domestic Terminals at approximately 4.00pm and 4.30pm. Please reserve your seat at the Registration Desk on registration. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

PARKING

Parking will be available at the University via Gate 11, located on Botany Street. The cost of parking is $8.00 per day and is available on Levels 5 and 6 of the parking station, where a Pay 'n' Display system operates. Check with the gate attendant for directions. Please note that parking infringements may result in a fine by the NSW Police. If disabled/aged parking is required and has not already been arranged, please contact the Hotel Network staff at the Registration Desk.

TELEPHONES

Public phones are available in the foyer of the Clancy Auditorium, the AGSM building behind the Samuels building, the Arcade beneath the Pavillions, Level 1 of the Library, outside the Mathews Theatres, and in the Mathews Building cafeteria.

MOBILE PHONES

If you have a mobile phone, please ensure that it is switched off while you are attending conference sessions. However, if you are a paper presenter and have given the organisers your mobile phone number for possible media contacts, please check it between sessions.

PHOTOCOPYING

There are no facilities available for copying papers within the conference itself. Photocopying facilities are available in the Library nearby.
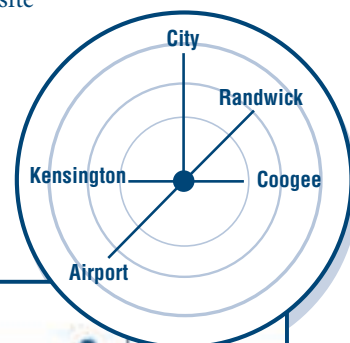
CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Please help us to make the next Social Policy Conference even better by completing the Conference evaluation sheet provided in your conference satchel.
Please drop the completed sheet in the box at the Registration desk before you leave.
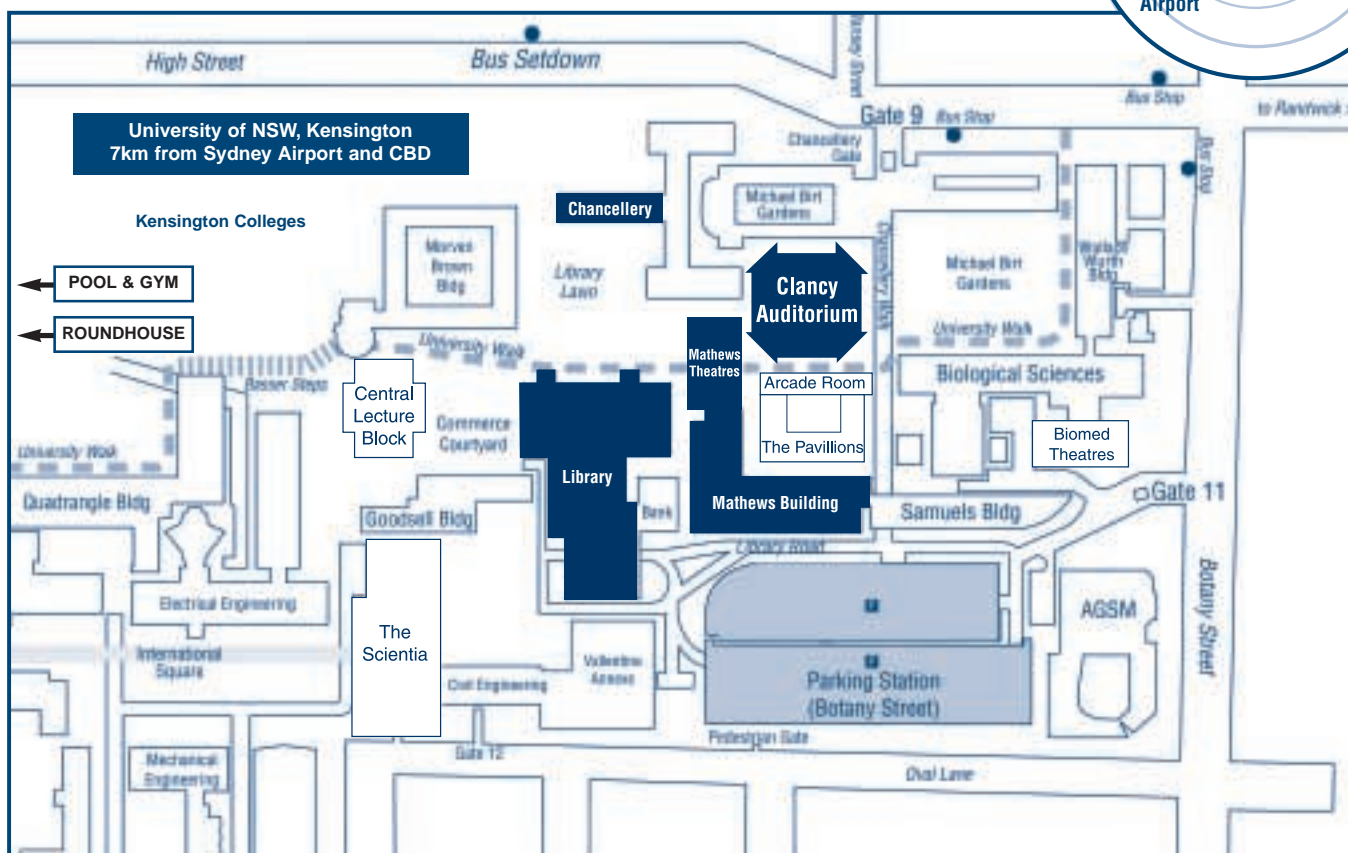
CONFERENCE PAPERS

All conference papers provided in electronic form to the organisers will be placed on the Conference website for downloading as soon as they are available. Otherwise it is the responsibility of individual presenters to provide copies for those interested.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The practical management of the conference has again been contracted out to the Hotel Network Ltd. Within the SPRC, it has been organised by Tony Eardley, with administrative assistance from Duncan Aldridge, and technical and website support by Bruce Bradbury.

CONFERENCE VENUES

Program at a Glance

9:00 am	Registration	Clancy Auditorium
10:30 am	Morning Tea	Clancy Auditorium
11:00 am	**OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION**	Clancy Auditorium
	Welcome to Country: Uncle Norm Newell *Elder of the Eora community*	
	Opening: Professor Wyatt R. Hume *Vice-Chancellor, UNSW*	
	Keynote Address: Professor Hugh Stretton	
12:30 pm	Lunch	The Pavilions
1:00 pm	Launch of The Gift: a Report on Women's Volunteering in Human Services in NSW	The Pavilions
1:30 pm	**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**	Mathews A, B, C, D, 123, 125, 130, 929 and Library level 3 Meeting Room
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	The Pavilions
3:30 pm	**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**	Mathews A, B, C, D, 123, 125, 130, 929 and Library level 3 Meeting Room
5:15 pm	**SPECIAL ADDRESS**	Clancy Auditorium
	Professor Fiona Stanley, AC	
6:15 pm	Conference Reception	Clancy Foyer

9:30 am	**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**	Mathews A, B, C, D, 102, 104, 107, 123, 125
11:00 am	Morning Tea	The Pavilions
11:30 am	**PLENARY SESSION**	Clancy Auditorium
	Associate Professor Kathryn Edin	
12:30 pm	Lunch	The Pavilions
1:00 pm	Launch and demonstration of On-line Social Security Handbook	The Pavilions
1:30 pm	**FORUMS**	
	Relaxed and Comfortable? Middle Australia at the Millenium	Clancy Auditorium
	Going Public: Getting the Media Interested in Social Issues	Council Chambers
	Consumer-governed Care in Aged and Disability Services	Mathews A
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	The Pavilions
3:30 pm	**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**	Mathews A, B, C, D, 102, 104, 107, 123 and Council Chambers
7.00 – 7.15 pm	Buses leave for Conference Dinner	Hotels and UNSW Gate 6
7:30 pm	Conference Dinner	Crowne Plaza, Coogee
10.45 pm	Buses return to hotels and UNSW	

9:30 am	**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**	Mathews A, B, C, D, 102, 104, 107, 310 and Council Chambers
11:00 am	Morning Tea	The Pavilions
11:30 am	**PLENARY SESSION**	Clancy Auditorium
	Professor Jonathan Bradshaw	
12:30 pm	Lunch	The Pavilions
1:30 pm	**FORUMS**	
	What Does Poverty Mean in Rich Countries Today?	Clancy Auditorium
	A New Social Settlement and Transitional Labour Markets	Mathews A
	Combating Indigenous Social Exclusion	Mathews B
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	The Pavilions
3:30 pm	Conference Close	
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Buses depart for airport	Gate 9, outside Calncy

	POSTER PAPERS	The Pavilions

Keynote and Plenary Speakers

HUGH STRETTON

Emeritus Professor, School of Economics, University of Adelaide

New And Old Conditions For Inclusion

WEDNESDAY 11.00AM – 12.30PM

People compress their inequalities, and share necessities and hardships more willingly, when war endangers their lives and liberties. Ours are endangered now by environmental degradation. The measures needed for an effective green reconstruction of our economy have much in common with a classical social-democratic mixed economy. Their marriage offers much more inclusion, by national and by local action, than a continuing neo-liberal economic strategy (green or not) can hope for.

FIONA STANLEY AC

Professor, CEO Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

Special Address: *Bringing Australia Together for Children and Youth*

WEDNESDAY 5.15PM - 6.15PM

KATHRYN EDIN

Associate Professor, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, USA

Work Is Not Enough

THURSDAY 11.30AM - 12.30PM

Over the last decade, the United States has embarked on one of the boldest social experiments in its history. Under its reformed welfare law, poor families with dependent children are no longer automatically entitled to public financial assistance. Instead, the federal government mandates States to impose stringent work requirements and to limit welfare receipt to 60 months over the lifetime. In the aftermath of the reform, unprecedented numbers of welfare recipients have left the assistance rolls and gone to work. Though many laud the reform and consider it an unqualified success, others point to problems. These include: the large number of former recipients who remain poor or near poor and have no health benefits; the inexplicably low take-up of childcare subsidies and transitional Medicaid and Food Stamp benefits among those workers who should remain eligible; and the large numbers who must work evening or night shifts, or in temporary or seasonal jobs. Most worrying of all is the small yet significant minority who have left welfare but have no visible source of economic support.

JONATHAN BRADSHAW

Professor of Social Policy, York University, UK

How Has The Notion of Social Exclusion Developed In The European Discourse?

FRIDAY 11.30AM – 12.30PM

When the notion of social exclusion began to emerge in European discussion many poverty researchers were skeptical that it added value. However as time has passed more and more academics and policy makers are using the words and even trying to operationalise them in empirical research and tackle it in policy. Indeed new notions have been added - social inclusion, social quality. Yet in the US discourse it remains ignored. This paper is a review (by an early skeptic) of the theory and empirical practice of social exclusion and it will attempt to settle the question - is social exclusion merely a euphemism for poverty?

Forum Sessions

Relaxed and Comfortable?
Middle Australia at the Millenium

Chair: Professor Peter Saunders *(SPRC)*

PROFESSOR MICHAEL PUSEY
School of Sociology, University of New South Wales

JIM COX
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

RICHARD DENNISS
The Australia Institute

Consumer-governed Care
in Aged and Disability Services

Organiser and Chair: Dr Carmel Laragy
(University of Melbourne)

DR ELIZABETH OZANNE
School of Social Work, University of Melbourne

DR MAREE DYSON
Transport Accident Commission, Victoria

SUE JAMIESON
Department of Human Services, Victoria

ANNE CROSS
Community Resource Unit, Queensland

Going Public: Getting the Media Interested in Social Issues

Organiser and Chairs: Professor Julian Disney
(University of NSW)

Dr Clive Hamilton
(The Australia Institute)

MICHELLE GUNN
Chief of Staff, The Australian

JOHN HIGHFIELD
Manager, Training and Promotion,
ABC News and Current Affairs

BRUCE HAWKER
Managing Director,
Hawker Britton Public Relations

What Does Poverty Mean in
Rich Countries Today?

Chair: Professor Peter Saunders *(SPRC)*

JANE WOODRUFFE
Chief Executive Officer, Burnside

KAREN MIDDLETON
Canberra Bureau Chief, West Australian

PROFESSOR JONATHAN BRADSHAW
University of York, UK

A New Social Settlement and
Transitional Labour Markets

Organiser and Chair: Associate Professor Linda Hancock
(Public Policy Program,
Deakin University)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARYANN WULFF
School of Geography and Environmental Science,
Monash University

JULIA PERRY
Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales

PROFESSOR MARK CONSIDINE
Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne

DR STEPHEN ZIGURAS
Social Action and Research, The Brotherhood of St Laurence

Combating Indigenous Exclusion

Chair: Dr Will Sanders
(Centre for Aboriginal Economic
Policy Research, ANU)

SUZI LODDER
Indigenous Policy and North Australia Office,
Department of Family and Community Services

WINSOME MATTHEWS
Chair, NSW Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council

TERRY MASON
School of Education and Early Childhood Studies,
University of Western Sydney

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

9.00 – 10.30AM (CLANCY FOYER)

Registration and Morning Tea

11.00AM – 12.30PM
(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

Plenary Session

OPENING AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chair: Professor Peter Saunders *(Social Policy Research Centre)*

Welcome to Country
Uncle Norm Newell
Elder of the local Eora community

Conference Opening
Professor Wyatt R. Hume
Vice-Chancellor, University of New South Wales

NEW AND OLD CONDITIONS FOR INCLUSION
Professor Hugh Stretton
University of Adelaide

12.30PM LUNCH (THE PAVILIONS)

1.00PM LAUNCH (THE PAVILIONS)

*The Gift: a Report on Women's Volunteering in
Human Services in NSW
(UWS/UTS/NCOSS/NSW Departments for Women and Premier's)*
Pam Batkin
Vice-President of NCOSS

1.30 – 3.00PM
(MATHEWS A)

Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform

WELFARE REFORM

Chair: Tony Eardley *(SPRC)*

Welfare reform in Australia: an evidence-based approach
Kim Vella, Pamela Kinnear and Ken Oliver
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A42)

*Building a simpler system to help jobless families and individuals:
what are the consultations telling us?*
David Thompson and David de Carvalho
*Jobs Australia and National Catholic Education Commission
(Abstract page A41)*

Why reform welfare?
Peter Saunders
*Director of Social Policy Research, Centre for Independent Studies
(Abstract page A36)*

(MATHEWS B)

Spatial Dimensions of Social Policy

SPECIAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP: NEW RESEARCH FROM THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AHURI)

Chair: Ian Winter *(AHURI)*

*Housing costs, housing assistance and work disincentives:
attitudes to work and employment among unemployed tenants*
Kath Hulse and Bill Randolph
*Institute of Social Research (Swinbourne University) and Urban
Frontiers Program (University of Western Sydney) (Abstract page A18)*

Low income renting and social well-being
Terry Burke, Kath Hulse, Liss Ralston
AHURI Swinburne-Monash Research Centres (Abstract page A7)

Housing, location and employment
Bruce Bradbury and Jenny Chalmers
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A4)

(MATHEWS C)

Income Distribution and Social Inequalities

ISSUES IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Chair: Peter Kriesler *(School of Economics, UNSW)*

Measuring income distribution - getting the numbers right
Leon Pietsch and Bob McColl
Australian Bureau of Statistics (Abstract page A31)

The spatial distribution of income change 1986-2001
Rob Bray
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A5)

Australian inequality since world war II
Andrew Leigh
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (Abstract page A22)

(MATHEWS D)

The Work/Family Balance

PARENTING AND WORK

Chair: Kimberly Fisher *(SPRC)*

*Balancing work and family:
the experiences of low income parents*
Anne Gregory, Matuna Mostafa and Ruth Ganley
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A15)

*The impact of long working hours on employed fathers
and their families*
Lixia Qu, Ruth Weston, Matthew Gray and David Stanton
Australian Institute of Family Studies (Abstract page A32)

*How do they find the time? A time-diary analysis of how working
parents preserve their time with children.*
Lyn Craig
*SPRC and School of Social Science and Policy, UNSW
(Abstract page A9)*

(MATHEWS 123)

Childhood and Social Inclusion

PARADIGMS OF INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

Chair: Jacqueline Tudball *(SPRC)*

The status of childhood and children's social exclusion
Jan Mason
University of Western Sydney (Abstract page A24)

*Conceptions of children's well-being: dominant themes and their
implications for the 'social inclusion' of children*
Toby Fattore
NSW Commission for Children and Young People (Abstract page A12)

(MATHEWS 125)

Retirement and Ageing

VETERANS SERVICES, OLDER WORKING WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS

Chair: Saba Waseem *(SPRC)*

They won't push you out the back and forget you
Natasha Posner, Sharon Burke, Elisabeth Emrys, Justin McNab,
Gawaine Powell-Davies and Saba Waseem
*Social Policy Research Centre and Centre for General Practice
Integration Studies, UNSW (Abstract page A31)*

*A longer working life for Australian women of the baby boom
generation? Women's voices and the policy implications of an
ageing female workforce*
Monika Merkes
La Trobe University (Abstract page A25)

Full Program

Older homeless people: pathways into and out of homelessness
Alan Morris, Bruce Judd, Kay Kavanagh and Yuvisthi Naidoo
School of Social Science and Policy, UNSW (Abstract page A27)

(MATHEWS 130)
Health and Inclusion
MENTAL HEALTH
Chair: Natasha Posner *(SPRC)*

Changing mental health policy and services: lessons learnt 1993-98
Valerie Gerrand
Department of Politics, University of Melbourne (Abstract page A14)

Towards a social action/social model of disability methodology for studying mental health services
David Abelló
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A1)

Parent engagement, social disadvantage and school-based mental health interventions
Jan Nicholson
Centre for Health Research, Queensland University of Technology (Abstract page A28)

(MATHEWS 929)
Citizenship and Inclusion
YOUTH, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION
Chair: Christie Robertson *(SPRC)*

Youth and citizenship: looking at perceptions of citizenship among young people
Roberta Ryan
Elton Consulting (Abstract page A35)

The other side: young people, refugees and asylum seekers
Liz Skelton
StreetWize (Abstract page A38)

Inclusion of immigrants in the political process: a critical analysis of immigrants' representation in the Swedish democratically elected assemblies
Paula Rodrigo Blomqvist
Gothenburg University, Sweden (Abstract page A34)

(LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM)
Inclusion and Exclusion of Indigenous Australians
INDIGENOUS SESSION 1
Chair: Karen Fisher *(SPRC)*

Evaluation of Indigenous employment policy: learning to balance contrasting realities
Kim Grey
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Abstract page A15)

Indigenous research methodology
Sue Green
Aboriginal Research and Resource Centre, UNSW (Abstract page A15)

Overcoming the financial exclusion of Indigenous Australians
Siobhan McDonnell
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (Abstract page A25)

3.00PM   AFTERNOON TEA (THE PAVILIONS)

3.30 – 5.00PM
(MATHEWS A)
Spatial Dimensions of Social Policy
LOCALITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Chair: Bill Randolph *(University of Western Sydney)*

Building social inclusion: what can partnerships for urban renewal achieve?
Karen Gardner and Cris Fitzpatrick
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and Bridgewater Gagebrook Urban Renewal Program (Abstract page A13)

Facilitating rural community sustainability? Local organisational networks and the governance of space
Jo Baraket
University of Melbourne (Abstract page A2)

Beyond the local: using social networks as policy resource for building resilient communities
K. Healy, A. Hampshire, and L. Ayres
Department of Social Work, Social Policy and Sociology (University of Sydney) (Abstract page A17)

Sustainability and local policy and planning responses
Cath Smith and Carolyn Atkins
Victorian Council of Social Service (Abstract page A17)

(MATHEWS B)
The Work/Family Balance
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, STRESS AND RISK IN WORKING FAMILIES
Chair: Bruce Bradbury *(SPRC)*

Is it worth working now? Income incentives and disincentives for working mothers under Australia's new tax system
Matthew Toohey and Rachel Lloyd
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra (Abstract page A42)

Understanding the factors associated with financial stress in Australian households
Robert Breunig and Deborah Cobb-Clark
Australian National University (Abstract page A6)

Work and family: issues and risks across the life course
David Hazelhurst
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A16)

(MATHEWS C)
Retirement and Ageing
MATURE AGE EMPLOYMENT AND PARTICIPATION
Chair: Sol Encel *(SPRC)*

Retirement intentions of mature age workers
Gary Knox
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A21)

Grandparents supporting work/family options: Is their role unrecognised and undervalued?
Joy Goodfellow and Judy Laverty
University of Western Sydney (Abstract page A14)

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

(MATHEWS D)
Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform
CASE MANAGEMENT AND BREACHING
Chair: Janet Taylor *(Brotherhood of St Laurence)*

Case management in the workfare state
Catherine McDonald and Greg Marston
University of Queensland (Abstract page A24)

Breaching and social exclusion:
the lived experience of disadvantaged young people
Lorraine Kerr and Harry Savelsberg
Deakin University and University of South Australia (Abstract page A20)

Uneasy relations: Centrelink breaching patterns and
Job Network participation reports
Susan Lackner
Centre for Applied Social Research (Abstract page A21)

(MATHEWS 123)
Income Distribution and Social Inequalities
AUSTRALIAN TRANSFERS AND INEQUALITY IN COMPARATIVE CONTEXT
Chair: Maureen Baker *(University of Auckland)*

How does the Australian child benefit package
compare internationally?
Jonathan Bradshaw, Naomi Finch, and Tony Eardley
Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York,
and SPRC (Abstract page A5)

The distributional impact of housing ownership
and costs in Australia
Peter Siminski and Peter Saunders
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A38)

Social inclusion and exclusion in Denmark 1976 to 2000
Joergen Elm Larsen
University of Copenhagen (Abstract page A38)

(MATHEWS 125)
Health and Inclusion
THE HEALTH OF CARERS AND YOUNG ADULTS
Chair: Jacqueline Tudball *(SPRC)*

Why we should care about the daily activity schedules of adult carers
Kimberly Fisher, Michael Bittman, Cathy Thomson and Patricia Hill
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A12)

On tenterhooks with little sleep: the issues faced by carers of
children with AD(H)D
Tim Marchant and Toni Payne
Carers' NSW (Abstract page A24)

Health status of Australian young people
Fadwa Al-Yaman, Meredith Bryant & Hilary Sargeant
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Abstract page A1)

(MATHEWS 130)
Inclusion and Exclusion of Indigenous Australians
INDIGENOUS SESSION 2
Chair: Sue Green *(Aboriginal Research and Resource Centre, UNSW)*

They keep changing the goalposts:
inclusion, tokenism and intention in Aboriginal policy approaches
Gaynor Macdonald
Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney (Abstract page A22)

A new model of inclusion? Centrelink's development of income
support service delivery for remote Indigenous communities
Will Sanders
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (Abstract page A36)

A collision course for the 21st century:
social inclusion and the politics of Maori self determination
Louise Humpage
RMIT University (Abstract page A18)

(MATHEWS 929)
Organisation and Delivery of Community Services
MODELS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION
Chair: Natasha Posner *(SPRC)*

FAST tracking social inclusion by bringing together families,
schools and support agencies: a case study
Sabina Leitmann and Fran Crawford
Curtin University of Technology (Abstract page A22)

Refit: a social justice and environmental pilot project
Trish Benson
Public Interest Advocacy Centre (Abstract page A2)

A healthier approach to crime prevention in Australia
Carol O'Donnell
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney (Abstract page A28)

(LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM)
Childhood and Social Inclusion
RIGHTS AND DEPRIVATION
Chair: Jan Mason *(University of Western Sydney)*

The findings from an inquiry into children and young people
who have no one to turn to
Stephen Robertson
NSW Commission for Children and Young People (Abstract page A33)

Some children have rights: exclusion, detention and
the paradox of children's rights in Australia
Jonathan Cartledge
University of Sydney (Abstract page A8)

Social Deprivation and Psychological Distress in East London
Adolescents: The RELACHS study (Research with East London
Adolescents: Community Health Survey)
M. Haines, S. Stansfield, K. Bhui, R, Booy,
J. Head, S. Taylor and S. Hillier
Institute of Community Heath Sciences, Barts, London; Queen Mary's
School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London; University
College, London; and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Sydney
(Abstract page A16)

5.15 – 6.15PM
(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)
Plenary Session
SPECIAL ADDRESS
Chair: Emeritus Professor The Honourable Peter Baume AO
(University of New South Wales)

BRINGING AUSTRALIA TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Professor Fiona Stanley AC
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

6.15 – 7.30PM   CONFERENCE RECEPTION
(CLANCY FOYER)

Full Program

9.30 – 11.00AM

(MATHEWS A)

Retirement and Ageing

PUBLIC POLICY ON WORKFORCE AGEING

Chair: Jane Mears *(UWS)*

Workforce ageing and public policy
Sol Encel
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A11)

The ageing workforce? Separating fact from hype
James Doughney
*Work and Economic Policy Research Unit, Victoria University
(Abstract page A10)*

Public policies for mid life transitions
Veronica Sheen
Council on the Ageing/National Seniors (Abstract page A37)

(MATHEWS B)

Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform

GENDER AND SOLE PARENTHOOD

Chair: Michael Bittman *(SPRC)*

Welfare states and women's autonomy: a thought experiment
Sheila Shaver and Sharon Burke
*University of Western Sydney and Social Policy Research Centre
(Abstract page A37)*

Encouraging employment: the UK's 'new deal for lone parents'
Jane Millar
*Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, University of Bath
(Abstract page A26)*

*Understanding of the income support system:
a study of lone and couple mothers*
Matthew Gray and Jennifer Renda
Australian Institute of Family Studies (Abstract page A14)

(MATHEWS C)

Citizenship and Inclusion

THE UNDERSIDE OF CITIZENSHIP

Chair: Ruth Philips *(University of Sydney)*

Social inclusion
Sue Phillips
*Community Development Officer - Neighbourhoods,
City of Onkaparinga (Abstract page A29)*

*Ignoring the dark side:
social inclusion and social capital in Australia*
Lou Wilson
*Centre for Labour Research / Centre for Social Science Research,
University of Adelaide (Abstract page A45)*

Down and out? Citizenship, exclusion and homeless persons
Tamara Walsh
Queensland University of Technology (Abstract page A42)

(MATHEWS D)

Open

**CRITICAL VIEWS OF INCLUSION/EXCLUSION AND
SOCIAL CAPITAL**

Chair: Margot Rawsthorne *(SPRC)*

What's up doc? On social exclusion and what's wrong with it
Rob Watts
RMIT University (Abstract page A43)

*Social inclusion, social movements, and the
characteristics of late modernity*
Shaun Cannon
Deakin University (Abstract page A7)

*From family to fellowship: defining multiple forms of bonding social
capital and pathways through values and time use analysis*
Roger Patulny
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A28)

(MATHEWS 102)

Income Distribution and Social Inequalities

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND TAX TRANSFERS

Chair: Laura Adelman *(Centre for Research in Social Policy,
Loughborough University, UK, and SPRC)*

Gender, poverty and sharing within households
Trish Hill
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A17)

Taxing women: the politics of gender in the tax/transfer system
Deborah Brennan and Bettina Cass
University of Sydney (Abstract page A6)

*The costs of children and living standards in
Australian households: some new evidence*
Rebecca Valenzuela
Department of Economics, Monash University (Abstract page A42)

(MATHEWS 104)

Inclusion and Exclusion of Indigenous Australians

INDIGENOUS SESSION 3

Chair: Mary Haines *(PriceWaterhouse Coopers)*

*The role of discrimination and the exclusion of Indigenous people
from the labour market*
Boyd Hunter
Australian National University (ANU) (Abstract page A19)

*The Swan Nyungar Sports Education Program:
a school based approach to social inclusion for Aboriginal
Students and their families*
Rob Simons
The Smith Family (Abstract page A38)

*Social exclusion and remote Indigenous communities:
is the 'third way' the right way?*
Jane Robbins
*School of Political & International Studies, Flinders University
(Abstract page A33)*

(MATHEWS 107)

Childhood and Social Inclusion

**POLICIES FOR ADDRESSING CHILD AND FAMILY
DISADVANTAGE**

Chair: Susan Kelly *(Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)*

Intervening in early childhood to ameliorate social disadvantage
Lynn Kemp, Elizabeth Harris, Teresa Anderson
*Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation
(Abstract page A20)*

*Understanding the domain of child sexual assault,
policies and practice*
Rayleigh Joy
University of Queensland (Abstract page A19)

Families on the margins: strategies for building resilience
Megan Fahey and Anita Joinking
Mission Australia (Abstract page A11)

THURSDAY 10 JULY

(MATHEWS 123)

Organisation and Delivery of Community Services

SPECIAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP: COMMUNITY SERVICES FUTURES - LINKING THE LABOUR FORCE WITH SERVICE QUALITY

Chair: Karen Healy *(University of Sydney)*

Service users perspectives on the changing community services industry: what do services users want?
Robert Fitzgerald
Deputy NSW Ombudsman and Community Services Commission

The community services labour force as a policy issue: the changing demographics of the sector
Karen Healy and Gabrielle Meagher
University of Sydney

An employer perspective on the changing community services labour force
Jane Schwager
The Benevolent Society (Abstract page A36)

A union perspective on the changing community services labour force
Jim Piotrovski
Australian Services Union (Abstract page A31)

Professionals in a restructured human services industry
Carmel Laragy
University of Melbourne (Abstract page A21)

(MATHEWS 125)

Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform

EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS: SERVICES AND ATTITUDES

Chair: David Thompson *(Jobs Australia)*

How the mental health services system can act as a barrier to people with a psychiatric disability accessing employment
Vanessa Rose and Elizabeth Harris
Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation, and Division of Population Health, South West Sydney Area Health Service (Abstract page A35)

How do Job Network employment services work to be socially inclusive?
Kerren Thorsen
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Abstract page A41)

Attitudes and job search: what we know now
Joan ten Brummelaar, Mirella Wilson and Angela Southwell
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Abstract page A41)

11.30AM   MORNING TEA *(THE PAVILIONS)*

11.30AM – 12.30PM
(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

Plenary Session

Chair: Professor Sheila Shaver *(University of Western Sydney)*

WORK IS NOT ENOUGH
Associate Professor Kathryn Edin
Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, USA

12.30PM   LUNCH *(THE PAVILIONS)*

1.00PM   **(THE PAVILIONS)**
LAUNCH AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE ON-LINE SOCIAL SECURITY HANDBOOK BY MICHAEL RAPER, DIRECTOR, WELFARE RIGHTS CENTRE

1.30 – 3.00PM

FORUM SESSIONS
(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

Relaxed and Comfortable?
Middle Australia at the Millenium

Chair: Professor Peter Saunders *(SPRC)*

Jim Cox
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Professor Michael Pusey
School of Sociology, University of New South Wales

Richard Denniss
The Australia Institute

(MATHEWS A)

Consumer-governed Care in Aged and Disability Services

Chair: Dr Carmel Laragy *(University of Melbourne)*

Anne Cross
Community Resource Unit, Queensland

Sue Jamieson
Department of Human Services

Dr Maree Dyson
Transport Accident Commission, Victoria

Dr Elizabeth Ozanne
School of Social Work, University of Melbourne

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Going Public: Getting the Media Interested in Social Issues

Chair: Professor Julian Disney *(Social Justice Project, UNSW)*
     Dr Clive Hamilton *(Australia Institute)*

Michelle Gunn
Chief of Staff, The Australian

John Highfield
Manager, Training and Promotion, ABC News and Current Affairs

Bruce Hawker
Managing Director, Hawker Britton Public Relations

3.00PM   AFTERNOON TEA *(THE PAVILIONS)*

3.30 – 5.00PM
(MATHEWS A)

Special Research Workshop

EMERGING RESULTS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND LABOUR DYNAMICS OF AUSTRALIA (HILDA) SURVEY

Chair: David Johnson
     (Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research)

Overview of HILDA and its potential for social policy research
David Johnson
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

How does parenting affect the transition from income support into the paid labour market for couples?
Jenny Chalmers
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page XX)

Full Program

Two to tango? The importance of partnerships and partners' views in shaping fertility aspirations and expectations
Ruth Weston, Lixia Qu, Matthew Gray and Robyn Parker
Australian Institute of Family Studies (Abstract page A45)

Who are the new two earner households?
Mark Western and Janeen Baxter
School of Social Science, The University of Queensland (Abstract page A44)

(MATHEWS B)
Organisation and Delivery of Community Services
THE THIRD SECTOR IN TRANSITION

Chair: Karen Fisher *(SPRC)*

Contracting: the impact on non-government organisations
Margot Rawsthorne
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A33)

**Threat to core values or positive force for reform?
The application of commercial and business models among small to medium third sector organisations in western Australia**
Colin Penter and Paul Rajan
Matrix Consulting Group (Abstract page A29)

Sustainable enterprises: changing organisational forms in the community services sector
Pamela Spall
School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland (Abstract page A39)

Social inclusion: a service delivery dilemma
Gordon McCormick
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A24)

(MATHEWS C)
Spatial Dimensions of Social Policy
HOUSING, SPATIAL AND EMPLOYMENT INEQUALITIES

Chair: Rob Bray *(Department of Family and Community Services)*

Housing, social exclusion and the emergence of place focused policy in New South Wales.
Bill Randolph
University of Western Sydney (Urban Frontiers Programs) (Abstract page A32)

Social inclusion and spatial inequality in the City - the Danish case
John Andersen
Roskilde University, Denmark (Abstract page A1)

Regional employment growth and the persistence of regional unemployment disparities
William Mitchell and Ellen Carlson
Centre of Full Employment and Equity, University of Newcastle (Abstract page A26)

(MATHEWS D)
Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform
MUTUAL OBLIGATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Chair: David Thompson *(Jobs Australia)*

Much obliged: disadvantaged job seekers' experiences of active labour market policy
Stephen Ziguras, Gavin Dufty and Mark Considine
Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Vincent de Paul Society and Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne (Abstract page A46)

Centrelink, mutual obligation and individualised service delivery
Cosmo Howard
Australian National University (Abstract page A18)

Preparing for what? The administration of Youth Allowance activity agreements
Sally Jope
Brotherhood of St Laurence (Abstract page A19)

(MATHEWS 102)
Citizenship and Inclusion
MODELS OF ENGAGEMENT IN CITIZENSHIP

Chair: Christie Robertson *(SPRC)*

Stakeholders on the periphery of citizenship in NGO/corporate engagement
Ruth Phillips
Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney (Abstract page A30)

Forming an inclusive community through pragmatic solidarity and social policy
Adam Mitchell
Catholic Welfare Australia (Abstract page A26)

Volunteering and active citizenship
Jeni Warburton
School of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Queensland (Abstract page A43)

(MATHEWS 104)
Income Distribution and Social Inequalities
YOUTH AND STUDENTS

Chair: TBA

Models for poverty research: understanding the university student experience
Judith Bessant
Social Policy and Advocacy Research Centre, Australian Catholic University (Abstract page A3)

Raising a teenager on $85 a week - the case for a renewed policy focus on the costs of older children and young people
Peter Davidson
Australian Council of Social Services (Abstract page A10)

The implications for citizenship and inclusion in the new HSC
David Saltmarsh and Camilla Couch
Australian Centre for Educational Studies (Abstract page A35)

(MATHEWS 107)
Childhood and Social Inclusion
DIMENSIONS OF CHILDHOOD EXCLUSION

Chair: Marilyn McHugh *(SPRC)*

Social exclusion in childhood: why and how it should be measured? Some thoughts from Britain
Laura Adelman
Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University, UK (Abstract page A1)

Significant absence: considerations of child labour in contemporary Australia
Maree Murray
The Smith Family (Abstract page A27)

Reproducing exclusion or inclusion? The socioeconomic status of Indigenous Australian children
Anne Daly and Diane Smith
University of Canberra and Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (Abstract page A9)

THURSDAY 10 JULY

(MATHEWS 123)

Open

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Chair: Sara Graham *(SPRC)*

Clients of alcohol and other drug treatment services
Gail Weaving
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Abstract page A44)

Evidence based policy and programs for perpetrators of relationship violence: exploring the research issues for Australian social policy
Michael Wearing
School of Social Work, UNSW (Abstract page A44)

Citizenship and inclusion: drug users, democracy and voices from the summit
Kirsty Hammet
HIV, HCV & Related Programs, Communicable Disease Control Branch, Population Health, Strategic Planning & Population Health, Department of Human Services (Abstract page A16)

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Disability and Inclusion

SESSIONS CONVENED BY THE DISABILITY STUDIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (1)

Chair: David Abello *(SPRC)*

Employment, unemployment and welfare reform
Glenn Redmayne
Disability Council of NSW (Abstract page A33)

Cultures of disability and deafness: rethinking links between the disability movement and the deaf community
Sally Robinson and Robert Adam
Disability Studies and Research Institute and the Deaf Society of NSW (Abstract page A34)

Counting the costs of blindness: lessons for a cost of disability allowance
Maryanne Diamond
Blind Citizens Australia (Abstract page A10)

7.30PM **CONFERENCE DINNER**
(CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, COOGEE)

Full Program

9.30 – 11.00AM

(MATHEWS A)

Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform
JOBLESSNESS, RIGHTS AND LIFE CHANCES

Chair: Jane Millar *(University of Bath, UK)*

Jobless households in Australia: evidence from HILDA?
Rosanna Scutella and Mark Wooden
*Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
(Abstract page A36)*

The right to work versus the right to income
Sally Cowling, Bill Mitchell and Martin Watts
Centre of Full Employment and Equity (Abstract page A9)

Life chances and parents' employment
Janet Taylor
Brotherhood of St Laurence (Abstract page A40)

(MATHEWS B)

Employment, Unemployment and Welfare Reform
PATHWAYS TO PARTICIPATION

Chair: Roger Patulny *(SPRC)*

*Jigsaw - where the pieces fit? Building participation
through civic partnerships*
Rick Moloney and Elayne Strahan
Centrelink (Abstract page A27)

Positive pathways
Kay Fisher, Monika Kruesmann, Justine Gibbings, Edmond Hsu,
Tom Morrison and Heather Evert
Department of Family and Community Services (Abstract page A12)

*Social capital at work: how family, friends and civic ties relate to
labour market outcomes*
Wendy Stone, Matthew Gray and Jody Hughes
Australian Institute of Family Studies (Abstract page A40)

(MATHEWS C)

Open
OPEN SESSION 3

Chair: Natasha Posner *(SPRC)*

Infertility, social exclusion and social policy
Maureen Baker
University of Auckland (Abstract page A2)

*Lack of familiarity breeds contempt?
How difference limits bridging social capital*
Jennifer Wilkinson and Michael Bittman
*Department of Sociology and Social Policy,
University of Sydney and SPRC (Abstract page A45)*

*Some whens, hows and whys of shared care:
What separated parents who spend equal time with their children
say about shared parenting*
Bruce Smyth, Catherine Caruana and Anna Ferro
Australian Institute of Family Studies (Abstract page A39)

(MATHEWS D)

Spatial Dimensions of Social Policy
GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES IN INCOME SUPPORT POLICY

Chair: TBA

Commonwealth Rent Assistance: modelling of current effectiveness
Hazel Blunden
National Shelter, ACOSS (Abstract page A4)

The regional impact of Commonwealth Rent Assistance
Anthony King, Tony Melhuish and Elizabeth Taylor
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (Abstract page A21)

*How adequate are Australian social security benefits?
A geographical assessment*
Paul Henman
University of Macquarie (Abstract page A17)

(MATHEWS 102)

Special Research Workshop
INTRODUCTION TO TWO NEW ABS SOCIAL SURVEYS

Chair: Tony Eardley *(SPRC)*

Analysing the General Social Survey
Nicholas Biddle
Australian Bureau of Statistics (Abstract page A3)

Approaches to analysing the Indigenous Social Survey
Lujuan Chen
Australian Bureau of Statistics (Abstract page A8)

(MATHEWS 104)

Organisation and Delivery of Community Services
CASE STUDIES IN SOCIAL SERVICES POLICY AND DELIVERY

Chair: Karen Fisher *(SPRC)*

Informing social policy: community asset mapping
Johanna Watson
Department of Community Services, NSW (Abstract page A43)

*From social exclusion to social inclusion: de-institutionalisation
of alternative care in three Chinese cities*
Xiaoyuan Shang, Xiaoming Wu and Haiyan Li
*Social Policy Research Centre, University of Canterbury and Beijing
Normal University (Abstract page A37)*

*A case study of South Korea: consequences of more funding
from the government*
Kyungja Jung
*Visiting Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW
(Abstract page A20)*

Families First Area Reviews
Julie Young*, Anne Marie Dwyer*, Karen Fisher#, Cathy Thomson#
and Sonia Hoffman#
**NSW Cabinet Office, #SPRC (Abstract page A46)*

(MATHEWS 107)

Health and Inclusion
HEALTH POLICIES TOWARDS VIOLENCE, OLDER PEOPLE AND VETERANS

Chair: Helen Lapsley *(Health Services Management, UNSW)*

NSW health policy and family violence
Susan Evans
Wentworth Area Health Service (Abstract page A11)

The hospital treatment choices of older people
Sara Graham
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A14)

*Living in a citadel: the participation of mentally ill war veterans
in Australian society*
Kristy Muir
The Smith Family (Abstract page A27)

FRIDAY 11 JULY

(MATHEWS 310)

Open

OPEN SESSION 4

Chair: TBA

The 'new multilateralism', global social policy, and management: The role of international NGOs
Gaby Ramia
Department of Management, Monash University (Abstract page A32)

The economic impact of gambling in NSW
Ian Manning and Craig Shepherd
National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (Abstract page A23)

Hot-wiring community
Denise Meredyth
Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University (Abstract page A25)

(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Disability and Inclusion

SESSIONS CONVENED BY THE DISABILITY STUDIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (2)

Chair: Sally Robinson *(DSaRI)*

Equipped for life - a very private public issue - policy and equipment in the lives of children and families
Lynne Dowling
University of Newcastle (Abstract page A11)

Civil rights or specialist services: recommendations for sector reform in NSW
Michael Bleasdale
(Abstract page A4)

The new international classification of disability: its relevance to people's lives
Ros Madden
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Abstract page A23)

11.00AM   MORNING TEA (THE PAVILIONS)

11.30AM – 12.30PM
(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

PLENARY SESSION

Chair: David Stanton

HOW HAS THE NOTION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION DEVELOPED IN THE EUROPEAN DISCOURSE?
Professor Jonathan Bradshaw
University of York, UK

12.30PM   LUNCH (THE PAVILIONS)

1.30 – 3.00PM

FORUM SESSIONS

(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

What Does Poverty Mean in Rich Countries Today?
Chair: Professor Peter Saunders *(SPRC)*

Jane Woodruffe
Chief Executive Officer, Burnside

Karen Middleton
Bureau Chief, The West Australian

Professor Jonathan Bradshaw
University of York, UK

(MATHEWS A)

New Social Settlement and Transitional Labour Markets
Chair: Associate Professor Linda Hancock
       (Public Policy Program, Deakin University)

Associate Professor Maryann Wulff
School of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University

Julia Perry
Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales

Professor Mark Considine
Department of Politics, University of Melbourne

Dr Stephen Ziguras
Social Action and Research, Brotherhood of St Laurence

(MATHEWS B)

Combating Indigenous Exclusion
Chair: Dr Will Sanders
       (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU)

Suzi Lodder
Indigenous Policy and North Australia Office, Department of Family and Community Services

Winsome Matthews
Chair, NSW Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council

Terry Mason
Senior Lecturer, School of Education and Early Childhood Studies, University of Western Sydney

3.00PM   AFTERNOON TEA (THE PAVILIONS)

3.30PM   CONFERENCE CLOSES

ALL DAYS

POSTERS

Chair: John Stevens

A theory of assent: a working paper from the project Enhancing Interaction in Group Homes
David Butt & Alison Moore
Centre for Language in Social Life (Abstract page A7)

Creativity + community = vitality: the mental and physical health benefits of participation in artistic programs and inclusive processes for people with disabilities
Susan Maley
Artistic Program Director, Arts in Action (Abstract page A23)

Fatherlessness in single parent families and the solutions
John Flanagan
Fairness in Child Support (Abstract page A13)

Factors associated with a healthy life past the age of 80
John Stevens and Peter Baume
School of Public Health and Community Medicine (Abstract page A39)

Employment officers' views on the operation of Job Network in Wagga Wagga
Manohar Pawar
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Sturt University (Abstract page A29)

The impact of changes to the within-household distribution of income support on household consumption patterns
Bruce Bradbury
Social Policy Research Centre (Abstract page A5)

DAVID ABELLÓ

Social Policy Research Centre
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Towards a social action/social model of disability methodology for studying mental health services

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

The traditional bio-medical model of mental health and associated approaches to Mental Health Service (MHS) delivery have largely ignored the social environments of patients/consumers. Recent MHS policies in NSW have incorporated a more social-centred model into their strategic direction setting. Central to this are effective integration within the MHS and partnerships with the range of other individuals, organisations and services that seek to enhance the social, political and economic participation of people experiencing mental ill health. Concurrent with this shift is a greater emphasis on the role of mental health service consumers and carers in influencing the design and implementation of these new approaches to rehabilitation. This paper draws on evidence from an evaluation of Commonwealth-funded Mental Health Integration Projects, and coinciding structural reforms, within the Illawarra Health MHS, to illustrate the significance of these emerging paradigms for designing and implementing research about mental health and mental illness.

LAURA ADELMAN

Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University, UK
l.p.a.adelman@lboro.ac.uk
Social exclusion in childhood: why and how it should be measured? Some thoughts from Britain

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 107

When the Labour Government came to power in Britain in 1997, a major consequence was that poverty and social exclusion were back on the policy agenda for the first time in almost two decades. Indeed, one of Prime Minister Tony Blair's first actions was to establish the Social Exclusion Unit within the Cabinet Office, at the heart of Government.

Child poverty is a key policy area for the British Government, with the commitment to eradicate child poverty by the year 2020. But how and where does social exclusion fit in to the Government's agenda?
And how do children fit into a concept that, in European Union terms at least, is highly equated with exclusion from the labour market?

This paper has three main aims.

• To explain how childhood social exclusion is being defined and tackled by the British Government;

• To describe some of the developments in recent research to try and operationalise and measure social exclusion in childhood in Britain; and

• To establish the degree of overlap between measures of poverty and social exclusion in childhood. Is it the same children that experience both these phenomena?

The evidence presented will reveal the 'added value' of using measures of social exclusion in childhood, in conjunction with poverty measures, in order to develop a better understanding of how children's lives are affected by poverty and social exclusion.

FADWA AL-YAMAN, MEREDITH BRYANT & HILARY SARGEANT

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
meredith.bryant@aihw.gov.au
Health status of Australian young people

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

In order to improve the monitoring of the health and wellbeing of Australian children, the National Child Health Information Framework was developed for the organisation of national information. In constructing the Framework, it is recognised that the attainment of a healthy life is a complex process influenced by biological, social, cultural and environmental factors, knowledge and attitudes to health, as well as access to and availability of medical and social services and interventions. It is also recognised that health in adulthood is influenced by attitudes and behaviours learnt during childhood.

Using a set of indicators mapped to the framework, health status and risk and protective factors influencing health were examined in children aged 0-14 years by age, sex and Indigenous status. On most health measures examined, the health status of Indigenous young people was worse than other Australian young people. The overview of child health covered in this presentation will include information on risk and protective factors, health status and health differentials. Information on health status is derived mainly from hospital and mortality data that represent more serious diseases and conditions.

JOHN ANDERSEN

Roskilde University, Denmark
johna@ruc.dk
Social inclusion and spatial inequality in the City - the Danish case

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS C

The paper – based on a Copenhagen case study - is about politics of inclusion at the meso level: urban policy and politics of inclusion in Copenhagen with reference to the

American and European discourse on underclass and social exclusion in the City.

The argument in the chapter is that contemporary urban and social policy in Denmark can be characterised by a duality between

1. Participatory empowering welfare oriented inclusion strategies, which targets deprived districts and neighbourhoods (politics of positive selectivism recognising increasing spatial inequality as a political issue) - based on notions of the multicultural and solidaristic City.

2. Neoelitist/corporative market driven strategic growth strategies, which are based on notions of the Entrepreneurial City.

The tension between the two orientations represents the most important challenge for urban democracy and inclusive governance concerned with problems of overcoming social polarisation in the urban space.

The first part of the paper reviews contemporary social sciences and outlines a broader framework for the understanding of present forms of social exclusion and integration in the City.

The second part interprets the urban policy changes in a historical context with emphasis on how the transition towards a new post-industrial economy and urban form was mediated via political and institutional struggles over the form and content of urban policy in Copenhagen.

In the concluding part I discuss dilemmas for overcoming the dualism of present urban governance between neo-corporate growth regimes and participatory politics of social inclusion.

MAUREEN BAKER
University of Auckland
ma.baker@auckland.ac.nz
Infertility, social exclusion and social policy
FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

For married or cohabiting couples, the inability to conceive can lead to guilt, marital tensions and feelings of social exclusion. When their siblings and friends are raising children, many low-fertility couples feel left out of 'normal' adult life in which maturity is often associated with parenthood. In addition to these personal and relationship struggles, medically assisted conception and the use of reproductive technologies raises broader social policy questions about who is given access to treatment, which medical interventions are necessary, who pays, and how the courts will deal with the inevitable disputes.

This paper uses the discourse of 48 qualitative interviews with couples undergoing fertility treatment in Auckland,

New Zealand to introduce several policy concerns. I examine how these men and women talk about infertility and social exclusion, and their experiences and views about medically assisted conception. Their comments are compared with findings from international research on infertility as well as social policy discussions about who has the right to reproduce, how much assistance the medical profession should provide, and how the state regulates these treatments.

JO BARAKET
University of Melbourne
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Facilitating rural community sustainability? Local organisational networks and the governance of space
WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

Over the past thirty years, the impacts of economic, political, and social restructuring on Australia's rural communities have drawn the attention of policy makers, practitioners and the academic community alike. While government has historically taken a top down regional approach to rural development, there is now an increasing emphasis on the role of local actors in responding to so-called local issues. At state government level, the discourse of community sustainability – which emphasizes the interdependence of social, economic and environmental issues within specific locales– has become increasingly popular. This renewed focus on place based approaches which emphasise community self-reliance may be viewed as part of a broader shift in the policy environment, away from centralized bureaucracy and towards 'networked', 'joined-up' and 'integrated' governance.

This paper outlines the findings of exploratory case study research in two rural communities in NSW. The objectives of this work were to explore the nature and role of networks between community-based organizations in facilitating community sustainability, and their implications for current policy approaches. The findings illuminate some of the possibilities and problems of place oriented policies to rural renewal, and suggest the need for a reconceptualisation of the sustainable community development model.

TRISH BENSON
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Refit: a social justice and environmental pilot project
WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

The aim of this paper is to explore lessons from the conduct of a social justice and environmental pilot project carried out in 2002.

A consortium of government and non-government organisations (Community Home Energy Efficiency Partnership) formulated and conducted a pilot project to provide free energy efficient appliances to low income households living in the private rental market or who have a mortgage across NSW. In 2000, the consortium received funding from EnergyAustralia for a pilot project to be conducted in the Lower Hunter. The pilot project was called REFIT and it provided over 1,200 low income households with energy efficient appliances.

The conference paper will examine:

• economic, environmental and social theoretical underpinnings for providing such services,

• business case, that is the costs and benefits of such projects;

• overview of the Lower Hunter pilot project, including eligibility criteria, administrative arrangements and the methods employed to access clients;

• findings from research that provides information about the households that received REFIT including type of family, housing status and source of income.

• reflection on the success/shortcomings of the pilot project.

JUDITH BESSANT

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Models for poverty research: understanding the university student experience

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 104

In this paper successive theories of poverty are applied to the findings of research carried out in 2002 to establish how the student experience of studying at university or TAFE was influenced by the level of their economic resources. The data indicates that many found it difficult financially and were working significant hours to 'pay their way'. That research highlights, in conjunction with similar findings in other studies (Long and Hayden, 2001; LaTrobe University, 2000; Turale, 2001) that poverty has consequences for a student's capacity to study effectively and to participate in a range of campus based socio-cultural and political activities.

I begin the paper by considering the heuristic value of 'a Rowntree-Henderson approach' to understanding student poverty. The question is asked whether the construction of a 'poverty line' and establishing objective measures of poverty helps to grasp the experience of many university students in the early 2000s. I then turn to Townsend's (1979) model where he makes a distinction between absolute and relative poverty to see what useful insights his approach provides for contemporary research into student poverty. Thirdly, I consider the relevance of more recent thinking that uses the language of participation and social exclusion (Jones and Smith, 1999). Finally I consider the value of the constructivist approach with its emphasis on language, (particularly the function of metaphors) and the generative role of researchers, and ask what heuristic value this last model has for appreciating the experiences of contemporary university students. I argue that more attention should be paid to the role of constructive schemes in policy research generally and in poverty research more specifically.

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Analysing the General Social Survey

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 102

In 2002, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) ran the first cycle of a new four yearly General Social Survey (GSS). This new household survey contains information across a range of areas of social concern, including health and disability, housing, education, labour force, transport, crime, and family and community. A number of economic items (income and selected assets, liabilities and financial stress indicators), as well as demographic details, were also included. Additional flexible topics in the 2002 GSS covered information on the extent of computer and Internet access, attendance at cultural and sporting events, and participation in sport or other physical activity. The survey provides analysts with the opportunity to examine the linkages within and across many dimensions as well as providing information on the extent to which an individual's relative standing in one area of social concern may be mirrored in others.

This conference session is structured around three areas:

Initial ABS analysis: The ABS has conducted preliminary analysis of the GSS which will be included in the initial results publication. This section outlines the methodology used and highlights some of the key results.

Other ABS analysis: This section highlights some of the further analysis being undertaken by the ABS. It discusses work on looking at jobless households with children and approaches to deriving measures of statistically difficult concepts like social capital.

Analysing the GSS, some tips for researchers: The ABS expects to release at least one Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) of GSS data on CD-ROM for the research community to analyse. A more detailed file may also be produced for access through the ABS remote acess data laboratory. This session draws on our initial experiences of

analysing the data, and will discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the data for research, together with ideas for projects that might be pursued by analysts outside the ABS.

MICHAEL BLEASDALE

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Civil rights or specialist services: recommendations for sector reform in NSW

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The disability rights movement has achieved significant recognition of the rights of people with disabilities across the world, resulting in disability service and disability discrimination legislation and increased pressure upon governments to meet their obligations in relation to the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. An important strategy of the movement has been to reframe the debate about the experience of disability from one of individual pathology and inevitable service reception, to one of societal disadvantage and oppression and the need to ensure that society meets its obligation to disabled citizens. However, the notion of services providing the "solution" to many social and other barriers remains strong within government and bureaucratic circles, and the recognition of inadequate resourcing of the service sector has meant that disability advocacy groups are locked into debates about increasing resources for services. This paper argues that particular strategies for reforming the disability service sector can and do bridge the divide between the discourse of rights and that of service provision, in particular those which highlight self-determination as a means and an end.
Significant sector reform is recommended, building on initiatives in Australia, the UK, the USA and Canada, as an alternative to the resourcing of pilot "models" and "capacity building", which are the current strategies of service development in NSW.

HAZEL BLUNDEN

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Commonwealth Rent Assistance: modelling of current effectiveness

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

The purpose of this paper is to explore the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the current Rent Assistance program in providing housing affordability to people in receipt of pensions and allowances. Also, we question claims that Rent Assistance is a superior form of housing

assistance to spatially fixed public housing because it allows people to "move to where the jobs are".

Rising housing costs are making Rent Assistance less effective in a range of areas, especially in the capital cities. Rent Assistance is only effective in rural and some urban fringe areas, where housing costs are low but the unemployment rate is high.

We use a number of measures to examine whether or not Rent Assistance provides affordability ('affordability' being defined in various ways). We also model the cost of changing the upper rent cap.

The paper examines what proportion of income would have to be spent on rent and how much disposable income is left over, using current median rent data and current Centrelink payment rates. We use a variety of affordability measures - the FaCS 25% measurement, the FaCS 30% measurement, and the 30% of total income housing stress benchmark measurement. These measurements are applied to different types of households living in different areas.

We provide some costing indicating the magnitude of the shortfall (the amount that would have to be spent on paying more Rent Assistance if the upper rent cap was pegged to the equivalent of Sydney Statistical Division median rents).

The major findings of the paper are that:

• Rent Assistance is of little use in providing affordability, especially in the capital cities

• An increase in spending of more than $450m per annum is necessary to protect recipients of Rent Assistance from further declines in affordability.

BRUCE BRADBURY AND JENNY CHALMERS

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Housing, location and employment

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS B

What determines the choice of residential location for workforce-age income support recipients? Does location matter for employment outcomes? This presentation describes the results of a project undertaken for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. This project examined these

two questions using the Department of Family and Community Services Longitudinal Data Set.

The first part of the project examined the determinants of locational choice. The main issues investigated were the role of housing costs and labour market conditions. Though most moves occur for other reasons, we find that there is a small net movement of unemployment payment recipients to areas of better labour market opportunities. For unemployment payment recipients, an increase in the

"travel region unemployment rate" of a region by one percentage point is associated with an increase in the net outflow per annum of around one per cent of the recipients in the region (holding housing costs constant). A similar relationship exists for both short and long duration unemployment payment recipients. The short duration unemployed also tend to move towards larger labour markets.

For non-unemployment payment recipients, there is no significant relationship between labour market conditions and net flows.

The second part of the project investigated the impact of movement between different regions on labour market outcomes for unemployment payment recipients. Using a spell-duration model we find that a one-percentage point increase in the travel region unemployment rate is associated with a 5 per cent drop in the probability of exit from benefit. Part of this association could be due to unobserved but correlated variables. In particular, people with lower skill levels might tend to live in areas with higher unemployment rates. To control for this, we also estimate a model examining the change in benefit experience before and after moves. Here we find that moving to an area with a one percentage point higher travel region unemployment rate leads to an increase in income support receipt of about 2 per cent. Though this estimation does suffer from some potential selection bias, the balance of evidence does suggest that location does matter for employment outcomes.

BRUCE BRADBURY

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The impact of changes to the within-household distribution of income support on household consumption patterns

POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

Research in several other countries suggests that the distribution of income within the household influences household consumption patterns. In particular, income received by mothers is more likely to be directed towards child consumption than is income received by fathers. Rigorous testing of this hypothesis is difficult, however, because it is rare to observe variations in income distribution patterns that are not correlated with other unobserved influences on consumption patterns.

This paper will examine this issue drawing upon the 'natural experiment' of the changes to Australian income support payments made during the 1990s. In January 1993 child-related payments for income support beneficiaries began to be paid to the primary carer (usually the mother) rather than the primary benefit recipient (usually the father

in couples). This was followed in September 1994 with the introduction of Partner Allowance which provided the spouses of beneficiaries with their own income support payment. This paper will examine the impact of these income support changes on the patterns of consumption expenditure in beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, using data from the ABS Household Expenditure Surveys of 1988-89, 1993-94 and 1998-99.

JONATHAN BRADSHAW, NAOMI FINCH, AND TONY EARDLEY

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How does the Australian child benefit package compare internationally?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

We have recently completed a comparative study of child benefit packages (as at July 2001) in 22 countries. This paper will review how the structure and level of the Australian package compares with the other countries. It will consider how it varies with earnings, family type and number of children compared with other countries. It will compare replacement rates and marginal tax rates. It will conclude with a review of its strengths and weaknesses in comparative perspective.

ROB BRAY

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The spatial distribution of income change 1986-2001

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS C

Economic and social change has varied in its impact on different locations in Australia. This has given rise to concern about the patterns of inequality and the possibility of significant divergence in the economic and social outcomes for Australians living in different locations as structural change may have delivered benefits to some – at the cost of others.

Income and other data from the censuses of 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 will be used to estimate average levels of incomes for people living in each Statistical Local Government Area and compare patterns of change over time and the relative experiences of locations. Amongst the characteristics to be considered are the initial relative levels of income, industrial structure, urban form and remoteness.

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Taxing women: the politics of gender in the tax/transfer system

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 102

The Australian literature on the politics of taxation is almost totally silent on the gender of taxpayers. This silence reflects a broader division in social science analysis between economic and social policy. While gender equity debates are central to the discussion of social policy (particularly the income transfer and welfare systems), taxation is often represented as operating within a distinct realm of economic policy in which gender considerations are extraneous. This paper explores the changes to family-based tax and transfer policies in the post-war period, with a particular emphasis on policy shifts introduced by the Coalition government since 1996. We argue that the shift to policies based on contrasting family types - families with a stay-at-home parent and families in which the sole or both parents participate in paid work – represents a substantial and regressive move away from the principles of equity which underpinned policy from the mid 1970s to the mid 1990s. We argue current arrangements are inimical to the fundamental principles of horizontal, vertical and gender equity.

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Understanding the factors associated with financial stress in Australian households

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

The objective of this project is to address the following question: How do household characteristics, for example, household size, the age structure of children, disability status and labour market activity, affect a household's propensity to report experiencing financial stress? How do these relationships change as one moves up the income-scale (say from low to middle to high income)? Answers to these questions are important in identifying vulnerable groups within Australian Society and will be informative about any potential changes in payments within the social security system.

To address these objectives, we will use the recently released Living in Australia (Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia, HILDA) survey. HILDA contains information about the extent to which a household reports being in financial stress. HILDA respondents answered detailed questions about a range of issues associated with financial stress including, the ability to raise funds in emergencies, foregone consumption, difficulties with cash flow, etc. This data set also contains detailed demographic information on respondents and the family and household structures in which they live. HILDA, a panel data set, will allow us to follow respondents over time. As subsequent waves of data are released, we will thus be able to address additional questions relating to the duration and persistence of financial stress in Australian households.

In order to answer these questions, the first wave of HILDA data will be used to estimate a series of equivalence scales based on financial stress and relative deprivation. This approach will allow us to make explicit comparisons using income as the metric in the propensities of different households to be in financial stress. For example, equivalence scales allow us to estimate how much additional income a household with two children would require in order to avoid missing out on meals as compared to an otherwise similar household with no children. This has the advantage of allowing us to measure deprivation directly in preference to focusing on income (or expenditure) in isolation.

The primary purpose of adopting this method is not to specifically derive a set of equivalence scales for FaCS use, but rather to shed light on how household composition affects the propensity for a household to be in financial stress.

The first step of the project will be to develop an index from the HILDA data items on financial stress. The index could operate as a single index of financial stress, or could be subdivided into the sub-indices of missing out, hardship, and cash-flow problems. It is also anticipated that specific data items which are particularly relevant to the dimensions of financial stress may be analysed separately.

The second step of the project will be to use both parametric and non-parametric methods to estimate the equivalence scale implied by the data. The resulting equivalence scales can then be compared to existing equivalence scales (for example, Henderson, square-root, OECD, etc.). These equivalence scales can then be used to assess the relative importance of specific household characteristics in producing financial stress.

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Low income renting and social well-being

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS B

Do low-income households in receipt of a public housing rent rebate or of private sector rent assistance have enough for an adequate standard of living after paying rents? How have housing and related expenditure for low-income households changed since the mid seventies? This paper summarises a study which uses unit record data from the ABS Household Expenditures Survey (HES) to answer these questions as well as to provide other housing expenditure analysis such as long term trends in home ownership, the debt levels of low income renters, and their perception of their general well being.

The major part of the paper is however concerned with evaluating the effects of rent subsidies on tenant well-being. In public housing over the last three or so decades there has been a progressive move from a residual rent model in public housing (which assumes rents should set at what is left after a household's other costs are paid for) to a rent-first model (i.e. rent is taken out before other expenditures). What does the move from one rent setting model in social housing to another mean for public tenants and how has rent assistance helped private renters? To answer these questions the study used the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) indicative budget standard for Australia to determine whether, and to what degree, households fell below the budget standard even after receiving rent subsidy. The findings challenge the notion that income-related measures of affordability are an appropriate benchmark for designing affordability policies.

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A Theory of Assent: a working paper from the project Enhancing Interaction in group homes.

POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

This paper sets the concept of assent amidst a number of better defined, well established concepts in community service: e.g. "duty of care", and "dignity of risk". Assent is, in fact, conceptualized as a "space" between three dimensions or variables – duty of care, dignity of risk and "communicative aperture" (the latter being itself a composite rating of interactional "meaning potential").

We argue that the "zone of probable assent" can be regarded as a context sensitive (i.e. changing) domain of discretionary power. It differs from consent in its relativity, its reliance on a number of points of view or judgements, and the relevance it is likely to have to extending quality of life choices as distinct from legal and medical processes.

The paper aims at contributing to, and stimulating, discussion. Beyond this discussion phase, other developments appear close to realization. For example, by formalizing the spatial metaphor – viz. zone, dimensions, aperture – it seems likely that a series of scales could be combined to arrive at a "rating" (a quantity) as a working 'tool' for representing the extent of the "zone of probable assent" in relation to given individuals and circumstances.

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Social inclusion, social movements, and the characteristics of late modernity

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

In discussing the ideology of social inclusion, this paper demonstrates that the composition of community groups in a period of late modernity is worthy of consideration. Although it would appear, on the surface at least, that previously stable community institutions, such as family, organised religion, trade unions, occupation and residential stability, and so on, are being challenged by a broad rejection of the once powerful tool of tradition, society's attachment to a belief in the symbolic value of community remains strong. In an environment however, in which the interaction and interdependence of human activity is subject to continual re-evaluation as the current processes of industrialisation and globalisation unfold, the template of what constitutes 'community' may need to be re-defined. It is to this end that the present paper is concerned, in that it seeks to identify new community formations. Of particular interest, is the rise and reach of modern day 'social movements', and why, when analysing the subject from a macro-sociological perspective, they have come to assume such a pivotal role in occupying community spaces left vacant by the demise of traditional social institutions. The paper is exploratory in its focus, using relevant literature to posit some broad theoretical themes, with the aim of presenting such themes to encourage a shift in community debates away from traditional concerns about 'who' and 'how many', towards questions of why new community forms are emerging.

JONATHAN CARTLEDGE

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Some children have rights: exclusion, detention and the paradox of children's rights in Australia

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM,
LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

There is currently a paradox in the Australian government's position on children's rights. On the one hand the government upholds its commitment to the rights of the child through its ratification of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC). On the other hand the government simultaneously violates the rights of the child through the detention of child asylum seekers. This paper argues that the paradoxical approach to children's rights by the Australian government can be understood (though not justified) through the government's approach to instruments such as the CROC and through the comprehensive exclusion of child asylum seekers from the wider community.

An essential pre-condition for an individual to exercise their rights is the inclusion of that individual within the community in which those rights are to be claimed. The Australian government's selective application and manipulation of instruments such as the CROC to exclude child asylum seekers from the community, sees the original purpose of these instruments subverted. Originally a document ensuring the empowerment of children, the simultaneous proclamation and violation of the CROC by the Australian government sees it instead used as a ruse for exclusion and oppression. The detention of child asylum seekers within Australia—an exercise supposedly informed by Australia's international human rights obligations—undermines the responsibilities of the State and the community to ensure that the rights of the child are being fulfilled in accordance with instruments such as the CROC.

JENNY CHALMERS

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How does parenting affect the transition from income support into the paid labour market for couples?

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

Based on empirical analysis of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA) and the Department of Family and Community Services' Longitudinal Administrative Data Set (LDS), this paper shows how couple parents share parenting, job-search and paid employment responsibilities when in receipt of income support. The LDS is used to investigate whether sustained exits from income support are more likely to be associated with certain patterns of sharing parenting and employment responsibilities. The HILDA is used to show how factors such as education and attitudes to traditional gender roles in parenting and paid work impact on these patterns.

LUJUAN CHEN

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Approaches to analysing the Indigenous Social Survey

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 102

In 2002, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted its first Indigenous Social Survey (ISS). The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia on a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation.

The ISS dataset is expected to provide a rich foundation for analyses of matters relating to the Indigenous population. The ABS is currently undertaking its first multivariate analyses of the data, with a view to:

• highlighting some key areas of socioeconomic concern in the Indigenous population;

• exploring linkages between and within the key areas of concern;

• providing insight into variations in the patterns of socioeconomic outcomes among Indigenous people living in urban, regional and remote areas;

• undertaking some comparisons with the non-Indigenous population (using data gathered in the ABS General Social Survey);

• suggesting refinements to the way the ABS conducts the ISS.

In this paper, we will discuss:

• our broad strategy for undertaking multivariate analyses of the ISS data;

• the variables to be analysed:

- selecting key socioeconomic areas of concern;

- selecting variables which best capture the key phenomena of interest within each area of concern;

- selecting groups within the Indigenous population; data modelling techniques; and limitations of the analysis.

The aim of the paper is to invite suggestions regarding the analytical strategy and the questions that will be investigated.

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The right to work versus the right to income

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

Welfare reform in the USA and Australia has been focused on improving employability by supporting transitions from welfare to work in order to promote self-sufficiency and reduce poverty and social exclusion. Workfare has been introduced in the USA and the coverage of mutual obligation continues to be extended in Australia.

Two other means of achieving these goals are by guaranteeing an unconditional basic income (BI) and guaranteeing employment for those able to work through a Job Guarantee (JG). This paper contrasts the capacity of the approaches to achieve the goals of welfare reform by exploring their impact on welfare dependency, labour market participation and employment, social inclusion and the intergenerational transmission of inequality.

The paper concludes that only the JG addresses the underlying cause of poverty and dependency - the lack of paid employment opportunities due to the spending gap and the abandonment of a government commitment to full employment. Welfare recipients have limited opportunities in an economy that tolerates 6 per cent unemployment.

The paper also specifies how a JG could satisfy the right to decent work. Unlike existing Workfare models, JG jobs promote social inclusion rather than providing a contingent labour force to undertake contingent work.

LYN CRAIG

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How do they find the time? A time-diary analysis of how working parents preserve their time with children.

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS D

Working parents are obliged to use non-parent childcare. However, non-parental childcare does not simply replace the care of parents. An analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics Time Use Survey 1997 shows that parents who make use of non-parental childcare do not reduce their parental childcare time on an hour for hour basis. Since there are 24 hours in the day and non-parental childcare is not a perfect substitute for parental care, where do parents find the extra time to work in paid employment and spend long hours with their children? By comparing the time-use of employed fathers, employed mothers and mothers who are not in the labour force this paper shows the ways parents manage the dual burdens of work and family. The strategies available are (1) reducing the time devoted to other activities (principally leisure, bathing, dressing, grooming, eating) (2) rescheduling activities (from weekends to weekday or changing the time of day at which particular activities are undertaken). This paper seeks to provide an answer to how parents continue to be engaged in direct care of their own children while also committing significant time to the labour market activities, by analysing the Australian Bureau of Statistics Time Use Survey 1997 (over 4000 randomly selected households).

ANNE DALY AND DIANE SMITH

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Reproducing exclusion or inclusion? The socioeconomic status of Indigenous Australian children

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 107

This paper presents an ethnographically-informed census analysis of the current dimensions and key trends of the socioeconomic status of Indigenous children and their families and households. It analyses several indicators from the 2001 Census, and provides interpretive depth from the authors' own community case-studies and ethnographic field research with Indigenous families. The paper demonstrates that Indigenous children continue to be amongst the most economically disadvantaged children in Australia. There is every indication that the transmission of reliance on welfare and high levels of unemployment is both inter-generational and, for some Indigenous children, puts them at risk of future economic marginalisation and poverty.

But terms such as social 'exclusion' and 'inclusion' are also culturally constructed. What might constitute social and economic exclusion from one perspective, may constitute inclusion from another. While these culturally-based differences are critical factors for policy consideration and service delivery, the paper argues that it is also critical to break the circle of inter-generational welfare dependency and unemployment being transmitted to Indigenous children. Whatever cultural options Indigenous children and their families might want to choose in the future, their capacity to make and implement those choices will continue to be severely curtailed if the circle of their economic disadvantage is not broken.

PETER DAVIDSON

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Raising a teenager on $85 a week - the case for a renewed policy focus on the costs of older children and young people

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 104

Contemporary public debate over reform of family payments is focussed on the financial and time stresses facing low and middle income families with preschool age children.

For most families, this is the time when financial pressures are greatest, as one parent withdraws from the labour force and the family struggles with high mortgage payments. Indeed, "doing it tough" is a rite of passage for young Australian families.

Accordingly, over the past two decades family assistance payments have been boosted for young families, both to reduce poverty and to court swinging voters in outer suburbs.

There is some justification for this policy bias in favour of young families: the indirect costs of children - essentially the cost of caring for them at home - fall with age. Yet it ignores the well-documented fact that the direct costs of children rise with age.

The result is a large gap between the actual costs of raising older children and the family and youth payments that are supposed to meet them. Although families with older children are no more likely to be living in poverty than young families, their poverty is likely to be much deeper. For example, a jobless sole parent family with one dependent child aged 16 years receives $64 per week less in social security payments than an equivalent family with a 3 year old. Yet the research tells us that the direct costs of raising the child have risen by 50%, at the very least.

Policies to reduce child poverty should give priority to improving income support for low-income families with teenage children.

MARYANNE DIAMOND

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Counting the costs of blindness: lessons for a cost of disability allowance

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Blind Citizens Australia is the national organisation of blind people. For many years the provision of a cost of disability allowance has been a key issue for our members and Blind Citizens Australia has lately undertaken research in this area.

The Government's recently released consultation paper on simplifying the income support system includes a proposal for a cost of disability allowance, but provides little detail on how this might be paid.

People who are blind have received a non means tested pension since 1954. This has effectively meant that blind people who work or have a significant additional source of income are receiving a cost of disability allowance. This provides an opportunity to explore the impact a cost of disability allowance has on the social inclusion of people who are blind and to identify limits to its effectiveness in overcoming barriers to participation.

The presentation will explore conceptual issues related to a cost of disability allowance including the purpose of such a payment, the effect of participation on costs and the effectiveness and equity of various allowance models.

Utilising Blind Citizens Australia's and other research, alternative models for a cost of disability allowance will be explored including a capped allowance and a tiered allowance system.

JAMES DOUGHNEY

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The ageing workforce? Separating fact from hype

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

The central argument of this paper is that much of the recent hype about workforce ageing is either exaggerated or plainly wrong. Australia's population is ageing, and the average age of the workforce has increased. However, closer analysis of labour force data reveals that the real causes of this higher average age are shifts in workforce composition and not population ageing per se. Increased labour force participation by women across all age cohorts is shown to be the major compositional change. The data also reveal that, in aggregate, early retirement is less influential than is commonly supposed. The received wisdom that Australia will experience a severe labour shortage in the future as an increasingly older workforce cascades towards early retirement is shown to be flawed. Once the evidence is considered objectively, blunt policy proposals such as raising the statutory pension and superannuation preservation ages lose their apparent urgency. Lurking behind such blunt prescriptions, however, is neo-liberal budgetary angst over welfare commitments to a larger proportion of the population who will be older than 65.

LYNNE DOWLING

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Equipped for life - a very private public issue - policy and equipment in the lives of children and families

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This paper examines the stories of a small group of families whose social inclusion depends on accessing appropriate and enabling equipment. As well as being a vital link to accessing the world, equipment can support the body, prevent degeneration, and provide comfort, pain relief and safety for children.
The developmental, maturation, and sudden and rapid growth patterns of children combine with changing, often critical, medical conditions to create a particular urgency about children's need for equipment.

Yet some children and their families may spend long periods doing without prescribed equipment and find themselves caught up in a complex tangle of government and charitable support. These families' voices are rarely heard. Yet their stories reveal the immense personal impact of current equipment policy in their lives. Their stories make a compelling argument for why current equipment policy should be improved, and they offer valuable insights into how this can be done.

This paper is based on data gathered as part of a doctoral research project at the University of Newcastle.

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Workforce ageing and public policy

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

In recent years, against a background of population ageing, concerns about rising pension costs, and declining participation rates, governments and private corporations have begun to explore options for extending the working lives of older people.   The Prime Minister, John Howard, voiced his concern in a speech in November 2002 in which he deplored the 'cult' of early retirement that leads to an exodus of people aged 55-64 from the labour force.

In reality, early exit from the labour force is due at least as much to retrenchments, redundancies and downsizing as it is to 'retirement' in any conventional sense. Nevertheless, community attitudes and government policies, especially in relation to superannuation, encourage early exit. Governments throughout the OECD are considering the removal of incentives for early retirement, increasing the age of pension eligibility, and schemes such as phased retirement. Finland, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands have been leading players, and the UK

program New Deal-50 Plus is following suit. In Australia, there are small programs at State level but little action, despite much talk, from the Commonwealth.

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NSW health policy and family violence

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

This paper will explore the discursive assumptions informing the NSW Health 2002 Domestic Violence Policy, including the routine screening for domestic violence initiative. Using the findings from a study involving a series of focus groups held in late 2002 in Wentworth Area Health Service, it will be argued that the routine screening initiative functions to reproduce a certain conceptualisation of violence in the home – where women are always victims and men are always perpetrators - and render invisible the complexity of family violence. This complexity was exposed in the study during conversations with health workers. These workers told stories involving male and female clients being both perpetrators and victims of intimate violence, and other stories about the interlocking dynamics of family violence, mental illness, drug & alcohol misuse and poverty. Attention will be brought to the invisibility of some of these dynamics in the 2002 NSW Health Domestic Violence policy, particularly with regard to those marginalised due to poverty / poor levels of education not named in the policy to be among those 'vulnerable' to domestic violence . Suggestions will be given as to why these exclusions in the Domestic Violence Policy exist and it will be recommended that Health initiatives in the area of family violence reflect other Public Health initiatives that place emphasis on a broad range of social disadvantage determining peoples' health.

MEGAN FAHEY AND ANITA JOINKING

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Families on the margins: strategies for building resilience

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

The health and welfare of children is embedded in the health and welfare of their families and their communities. Thus the fact that isolation is an increasing phenomenon for families in Australian society is of concern in the context of childhood and social inclusion.

Isolation means exclusion from mainstream society or minimal interaction with others in the community. Isolation exacerbates social disadvantage and creates particular difficulties for Australian families raising

children in circumstances where they have little access to the necessary social supports that help maintain broader connections with the community. The mobility of Australian families is also increasing, with approximately 370,000 people moving interstate each year (ABS 2000a). When hard times hit, many families are left vulnerable and without connections to support. Children are particularly susceptible to the impacts of isolation and exclusion.

This paper is based on two research projects conducted by Mission Australia over the past 18 months, resulting in the Snapshot reports: 'Families on the Margins' and 'Building Resilient Families'. Both federal and state governments have shown commitment to strengthening families through a number of projects, and federal government also identified the need to build strength in families as a critical element in the context of broader welfare reform. At a macro level, these strategies are absolutely correct in their focus but the real question is whether at a micro level they are reaching those in need. Mission Australia's research identifies a number of family types which are more likely to be socially, economically and geographically isolated. The research focuses mainly on strategies for building resilience in families; and identifies types of support services (including innovative early intervention services and community capacity building services) needed to make a meaningful difference to ensure social inclusion for children.

TOBY FATTORE

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Conceptions of children's well-being: dominant themes and their implications for the 'social inclusion' of children

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

The paper argues that current work on children's well-being remains problematic in terms of its stated aims because it defines well-being negatively or institutionally. Three dominant perspectives will be examined, those that define well-being as children successfully attaining developmental milestones; those that define well-being as children lacking developmental health problems; and those that define well-being as children being successful in child institutions.

Some of the tangible policy implications of these approaches will be examined. On the one hand it will be argued that some of the strengths of these approaches are that child outcomes can be standardised and that outcomes can draw upon 'taken for granted' assumptions of the good life, or minimal conditions necessary for basic existence. On the other hand it will be argued that very few indicators relate to the social life of children outside of formal institutions and that policy agendas are dominated by the

expertise of professionals rather than the understandings of children themselves.

Criteria for a tentative but complementary framework for children's well-being research will be proposed. This includes mediating between quality of life of children now, and children as future adults; examining a continuum of well-being; including both institutional and non-institutional activities of children; and one that is driven by children and young people's understandings of well-being.

KIMBERLY FISHER, MICHAEL BITTMAN, CATHY THOMSON AND PATRICIA HILL

Social Policy Research Centre
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Why we should care about the daily activity schedules of adult carers

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

The Australian government relies on the unpaid work of informal carers to ensure that frail elderly people and people with severe disabilities are able to perform the tasks of daily living. Informal care work can impose considerable constraints on the lifestyles of the people who assume this role. This paper first investigates the degree to which self- identified carers may be said to achieve or fail to achieve a work-life balance, with particular concern for the level of out of home and social activity carers undertake compared to the rest of the Australian population.
Not all people who engage in informal adult care self-identify as carers. Indeed, nearly twice as many people who record adult

care activities in their time diaries do not identify themselves as carers on items on the individual questionnaire. This paper profiles people who perform care but do not self-identify as carers, and considers the work-life balance of this care-providing group. Finally, the authors use the daily activities of self-identified carers and non-identified carers to model the average daily regimes of carers, producing a time signature, which we then use to estimate the potential size of the informal care-providing population which does not self-identify as carers.

KAY FISHER, MONIKA KRUESMANN, JUSTINE GIBBINGS, EDMOND HSU, TOM MORRISON AND HEATHER EVERT

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Positive pathways

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

The McClure Report (2000) highlighted the steady upward trend in the past thirty years in the proportion of workforce-age population receiving income support and

the increasing concentration of social and economic exclusion among particular segments in the Australian population, such as jobless families. In tackling these, and other, issues, the bulk of the research has focused on identifying the barriers, economic disincentives and risk factors for workforce exclusion and disadvantage. Studies have generated valuable insights into the pathways and factors associated with disadvantage and exclusion. However, policy and program interventions based on this knowledge are sometimes not as successful as has often been hoped and occasionally outcomes are contrary to expectations. Putting aside implementation issues, it suggests other important factors and perhaps other conceptual models of behaviour in social context may add to our understanding and capacity to effectively address these issues. In this paper we draw on a range of literature to explore the conceptual and practical potential of one alternative approach focusing on positive pathways out of disadvantage or setbacks. In addition, we investigate what is known to date about the impact of non-financial factors on human motivations, aspirations and success in achieving sustainable social and economic inclusion. We explore and illustrate the potential for further research using current FaCS datasets.

JOHN FLANAGAN

Fairness in Child Support
Fatherlessness in single parent families and the solutions
POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

1. The Problem:

In our society, the perceptions is that fatherhood is irelevant. As our society abandons the idea of fatherhood, we do not become aware of children growing up in single parent families without the involvement of fathers.

The number of non-resident fathers is difficult to estimate. This is because non resident fathers as a group do not depend on social security payments and other Government services.

Based on UK research into the number of non-resident fathers in that country, there are certainly over 650 000 and there could be as many as 1.65 million non-resident fathers in Australia.

2. The Solutions

There are four solutions to the problem of fatherlessness in single parent families

Solution 1 is joint residency

Solution 2 is to repeal the Child Support legislation and to abolish the Child support agency.

Solution 3 is to abolish the Family Court and replace it with a Family Tribunal.

Solution 4 is to remove the association of possession of Children with property settlements and superannuation splitting

This paper discussed these solutions and concludes that:

Joint residency legislation needs to be passed by parliament.

Current child support legislation should be repealed and the Child Support Agency abolished.

The Family court needs to be abolished and replaced by a family tribunal.

Possession of children should not be a determining factor in property settlements and superannuation splitting.

Children of separated families need both parents otherwise the problem of fatherlessness will continue to thrive.

KAREN GARDNER AND CRIS FITZPATRICK

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and Bridgewater Gagebrook Urban Renewal Program
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Building social inclusion: what can partnerships for urban renewal achieve?
WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

In Australia there is evidence of an increase in geographic concentrations of poverty with the emergence of new sites of disadvantage in small rural towns, manufacturing centres, coastal welfare regions and outer suburbs of capital cities. Such regions tend to be characterised by a lack of public infrastructure and service delivery, and new patterns of in-migration as people on low incomes become clustered and trapped. Concern about these communities is coinciding with increased government interest in addressing inequality and social exclusion through place based initiatives that involve "joining up" local and state governments with community and business in programs that advocate cross-government coordination and utilise various forms of partnership arrangement.

This paper examines a sophisticated urban renewal project based on an "empowered partnership" between a local community and government in an area once identified as having Australia's lowest level of well-being. The paper discusses the social and geographical context of the area before reflecting on the role that partnership plays in assisting this community to respond to a series of complex and interrelated social and economic problems. It argues that the partnership arrangements support a practical approach to reducing the effects of disadvantage and social exclusion by building a sense of individual and community pride as a central feature of social change. A shift in governance to the local level where decisions about the use

of resources are made has been an important part of these arrangements. Challenges remain however in effectively bringing business and community interests together to tackle underlying economic problems that give rise to unemployment.

VALERIE GERRAND

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Changing mental health policy and services: lessons learnt 1993-98

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

Conventional wisdom tells us that there are no votes in mental health. If mental health is not a vote-catcher, how is it possible to get policy change in this area?

The years 1993 to 1998 offer some answers to this question. This period saw unprecedented changes to mental health policy nationally and in one particular state - Victoria.

In 1992, the Commonwealth set national mental health objectives for the first time. Through the First National Mental Health Plan 1993-98, it earmarked extra dollars to help states and territories reach those objectives.

Of all jurisdictions, Victoria went further and faster in meeting the national targets. For instance, by 1998, Victoria was the only state or territory to have closed or be in the process of closing all its stand alone psychiatric institutions. Furthermore, money used to run these institutions was re-invested in new community-based and inpatient services across the state.

Based on doctoral research-in-progress, the paper explores how and why Victoria transformed its public mental health services over this period, taking into account earlier initiatives as well as the national policy context.

JOY GOODFELLOW AND JUDY LAVERTY

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Grandparents supporting work/family options: Is their role unrecognized and undervalued?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS C

Changing demographics and patterns of employment over recent years has resulted in an increased demand for child care. This paper will present findings of a research project that investigated the lived experiences of grandparents. While national and international studies of grandparenting have addressed issues surrounding the provision of custodial care, few have sought to investigate the impact on grandparents of having the responsibility for providing child care on a regular basis for families with very young children. Grandparents in this study highlighted the need

for family policies that take into account a broader concept of family; recognize the role of grandparents; and, take into consideration the extent to which they, like their daughters, may be balancing work and family responsibilities. Since grandparents are a significant community resource the paper concludes by considering the paradoxes and contradictions within family ties as well as the extent to which greater recognition should be given to grandparents' contribution to child care provision.

SARA GRAHAM

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The hospital treatment choices of older people

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

This paper reports on a small qualitative study undertaken for the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2001. Hospital utilisation data indicates that with increasing age beyond 70 years, annual rates of hospital admission increase. The outcomes of these admissions appear to deteriorate with age, especially when major interventions like surgery are involved. The purpose of the study was to investigate whether older Australians would choose invasive or palliative treatment were they to have a life threatening illness and knew the likely outcome of a range of possible treatments. The study also investigated the reasons for their choice. 109 older veterans and war widows were included in the study which was undertaken by means of focus groups. The study indicated that there was considerable diversity in choice and in reasons for choice. Most of the participants of the study clearly wanted to exercise choice in their treatment. But they also wanted this to be an informed choice.

MATTHEW GRAY AND JENNIFER RENDA

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Understanding of the income support system: a study of lone and couple mothers

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

A current policy debate is how the income support system can be modified to encourage employment amongst mothers in receipt of an income support payment. In particular there are concerns that the system does not generate sufficient financial incentives to take-up paid employment. Economic modelling of the disincentive effects of the social security system nearly always assumes that people understand the rules of the income support system and the way in which it operates. However, there is little evidence on whether this assumption is justified.

This paper, using survey data on 2,400 Australian mothers collected by AIFS in 2002 (the Family and Work Decisions

Survey), explores lone and couple mothers' understanding of the income support system and the impact of paid employment upon government payments. Information is also presented on the minimum wage and work hours non-working mothers would need to be offered in order accept a job. Information on understanding of the income support system is important for a range of reasons, including refining models of the incentive effects generated by the system and improving the design of the income support system.

SUE GREEN

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Indigenous research methodology
WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM,
LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

Since the earliest stages of colonisation Indigenous people and their knowledges have been the subjects of research. The control over research and the ownership of knowledge has been removed from and denied to Indigenous people. Much of that research has been culturally unsafe and damaging to Indigenous people and communities with very little if any positive results being seen. This has resulted in Indigenous people having a distrust of researchers and a reluctance to participate in research.

Out of the concerns regarding research, Indigenous people are demanding that researchers are accountable and that the research be controlled and directed by Indigenous people and communities. One of the results is that there is a growing body of Indigenous researchers and the development of research methodologies that are appropriate and culturally safe both nationally and internationally. Indigenous researchers such as Rigney, Brady, West, Battiste & Tuhiwai Smith amongst numerous others are talking about an Indigenous Research Methodology. This paper will continue the discussion regarding an Indigenous Research Methodology, what it looks like and whether only Indigenous people are able to conduct research within an Indigenous Research methodological framework.

ANNE GREGORY, MATUNA MOSTAFA AND RUTH GANLEY

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Balancing work and family: the experiences of low income parents
WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS D

The Department of Family and Community Services provides income support to parents, both single and partnered, with low incomes who have main care of dependent children. Changes to provide more help and support to parents to plan for a return to work and to combine paid work with parenting have recently been introduced as part of welfare reform. A survey of new claimants and a comparison group of longer term customers was undertaken before these changes to obtain baseline data, and to increase understanding of the characteristics and needs of people coming onto Parenting Payment and their experiences in the first few months on payment.

The survey provides a wealth of in-depth information for this key customer group. A previous paper prepared for the Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference earlier this year reported on customers' characteristics and circumstances, work history and income support history, reasons for coming on to payment, and difficulties experienced. This paper discusses low income parents' experiences combining parenting with paid work, the issues they face, their plans, aspirations and fears, and how these are related to experiences of paid work and self perception of their role in the family.

KIM GREY

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Evaluation of Indigenous employment policy: learning to balance contrasting realities
WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM,
LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

This paper will cover what has been achieved in seeking to balance the requirements of evaluation with the realities of Indigenous job seekers, based on more than 10 years experience evaluating specialised and mainstream programmes and services for Indigenous people. The paper describes ongoing attempts to bring together a credible body of evidence which has validity in representing both the Indigenous experience and the world of mainstream employers and service providers.

Findings from the progress report of the Indigenous Employment Policy evaluation, published earlier this year, will be used to examine the role of evaluation in clarifying what actually happened and what has been achieved. Evaluating assistance which matches Indigenous job seekers

with private sector jobs demands a mixed methodology to understand contrasting perspectives, such as the motivations of private sector employers and the preferences of Indigenous people. Research design must also balance the need to tailor approaches to specific Indigenous cultural circumstances with the requirement to make comparisons with labour market programme performance for all Australians.

Underlying this search for balance is a process of communication and learning – for evaluators, programme managers and policy makers. The paper will share some lessons about design, methods, implementation and utilisation of evaluation which can help improve programmes and services for Indigenous peoples.

M. HAINES, S. STANSFIELD, K. BHUI, R, BOOY, J. HEAD, S. TAYLOR AND S. HILLIER

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Social Deprivation and Psychological Distress in East London Adolescents: The RELACHS study (Research with East London Adolescents: Community Health Survey)

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM,
LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

International surveys have not provided enough data on the health of ethnic minority and socially deprived adolescents. The aim of the RELACHS study is to conduct an adolescent health survey in one of the most deprived and ethnically varied areas in the UK. RELACHS was commissioned as an evaluation of the East London Health Action Zone. RELACHS is a longitudinal prospective school-based epidemiological study of a representative sample of 2790 adolescents (11-14 years) from 28 schools in East London. Questionnaires were group administered and completed individually by the pupils in classrooms. Outcomes measured were: mental and physical health, health behaviours, social capital and socio-demographic factors using questions that were age-appropriate, reliable and valid. Mental health was measured using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). At baseline, the response rate was 84%, and 74% of the sample was non-white. Adolescents in East London had much higher rates of psychological problems compared with national level rates; specifically 25% higher in boys and twice as high in girls compared to national UK samples. Part of the explanation could relate to high rates of social deprivation and part to ethnic differences. The social policy implications of these results for Australia will be discussed.

KIRSTY HAMMET

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Citizenship and inclusion: drug users, democracy and voices from the summit

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

Government regulation of activism varies according to the welfare regime type and can be understood as a strategy of social risk management during high modernity. The discursive location of drug policy concerns in narratives of social inclusion resonates with "third way" social capital and is perhaps a welcome shift from the muscular rhetoric of "Tough on Drugs". However, the forms of participation in society envisioned for drug users under social capital policy frameworks warrant further exploration, as public policy can work to either support the building of social capital or to actively undermine it.

The activities and relationships of the drug policy community driving Australian drug policy development have been understudied. Considered as an open policy forum on drug related issues, the 2002 South Australian Drug Summit provides a snapshot of this community and its emergent membership in action. This paper examines the discursive roles of public and expert voices in constructing "drug use", "drug users" and strategies for their reintegration into community life during this policy building process. Implications for forms of social capital building among drug-users and for their participation in civic life are discussed.

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Work and family: issues and risks across the life course

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

Family and work issues affect individuals, families, communities and business, all in different ways. This presentation will outline key issues faced by families in reconciling their family and their work commitments across the life-course.

Issues about balancing family and work responsibilities traverse the life-course. From the point at which decisions are made whether or not to have children, through to caring for elderly parents or grandchildren, many Australians face the daily challenge of achieving a balance in these two important spheres of their life. The differing demands and challenges faced at the various stages and how these are affected by social, economic and demographic change will be explored.

It will also discuss the strong link between family and work issues and the debates around early childhood, structural ageing, retirement incomes and workforce participation. The impacts of a life-course approach and the linkages with other key policy areas will be drawn together to highlight policy implications for the future.

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Beyond the local: using social networks as policy resource for building resilient communities

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

Many recent social policy initiatives by State and Commonwealth governments have focused on strengthening community capacities. In the main, initiatives such as the Strengthening Families and Communities Strategy and Place Management approaches focus on community as a local entity. In practice, these policies have directed resources to the analysis of local community needs and the development of localized and flexible responses to these needs. In this paper we will argue that locally focused approaches to community capacity building are insufficient to build resilience in communities affected by rapid social and economic change. Drawing on results from focus groups and a survey of more than 400 residents in urban, regional and rural communities threatened by rapid change, we will demonstrate: the diversity of identified community need; the range of social networks on which these communities draw; and that residents can potentially utilize to build their capacities to respond to rapid change. We will use these finding and drawing on the research of Woolcock and Narayan (2000), we argue for a policy model that recognizes local community networks and which also incorporates analysis of inter-community and institutional network analysis at regional, state, and national levels. We contend that this multi-dimensional model of social linkages provides a more useful framework, than localized notions of community, for policy analysis, and building the capacities of communities affected by rapid social and economic change.

PAUL HENMAN

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How adequate are Australian social security benefits? A geographical assessment

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

An assessment of the adequacy of social security benefits is essential for policy development and for analysing the effectiveness of Australia's welfare regime. However, the widely-used Henderson Poverty Line has been subject to much criticism and its relation to contemporary living standards is opaque. The half-median income measure is an alternative. But, it too says more about relative living standards than what people can achieve. In recent years there has been a re-emergence throughout the world of budget standard based approaches to measuring living standards. Australia's major contribution has been the Social Policy Research Centre's development of indicative budget standards for over 40 household types. Although initially constrained to Sydney, their extension to other capital cities provides an important new tool for measuring living standards in Australia. This paper uses these extended and updated budget standards to assess the extent to which social security benefits enable a range of low-income households to achieve a low cost standard of living. It will give attention to variations in outcomes between different capital cities and between household types. The implications for income support policy, including making it geographically sensitive, are then explored.

TRISH HILL

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Gender, poverty and sharing within households

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 102

It has been argued that the extent of women's poverty, and the categories of women who experience poverty, have been obscured by mainstream poverty analyses that measure poverty at the household or income unit level and assume the equal sharing of resources within households. Research suggests that the equal sharing assumption may not hold in many households. An alternative concept of poverty might measure resources at the level of the individual and assess the adequacy of resources that are independently controlled by each household member.

This approach would identify the resources that each adult individual brings to the household and model various sharing possibilities within the household. This paper outlines the findings from an analysis of the Household Expenditure Survey that employs a number of alternative income sharing models to determine individual income poverty rates and the factors that are most strongly

associated with income poverty for men and women. The analysis reveals that changing the assumption of equal sharing has a minimal impact on the individual income poverty rates of men, but significantly increases the individual income poverty rates of women.

COSMO HOWARD

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Centrelink, mutual obligation and individualised service delivery

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

Recent Australian welfare reforms have been dominated by rhetoric about individualised service delivery. While unemployed income support recipients in Australia are increasingly compelled to undertake activities as a condition of receiving benefits, there is also a growing emphasis on the importance of treating recipients as individuals and incorporating their 'choice and voice'. The Commonwealth Government claims that participants in its Mutual Obligation Initiative get to exercise choice and to negotiate 'activity agreements' that are tailored to their individual needs. They are also supposed to be able to maintain 'one to one' relationships with individual staff members from Centrelink, the Australian benefits agency. To date there has been no academic or publicly available research on Centrelink's implementation of these individualised service delivery agendas. In this paper I report on the findings of a doctoral study into the administration of the Mutual Obligation activity requirements in Centrelink. The qualitative study relies on interviews with customers and frontline staff and observations of the meetings at which activity agreements are formulated and signed. I argue that individualised service is not consistently provided in Centrelink. Customers do not maintain one to one relationships with staff, while staff cannot tailor requirements to individual needs. Customers cannot meaningfully exercise choice or undertake negotiation.

KATH HULSE AND BILL RANDOLPH

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Housing costs, housing assistance and work disincentives: attitudes to work and employment among unemployed tenants

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS B

The paper will focus on one of the core issues of social inclusion 'economic participation' and its interrelationship with the housing assistance system. There has been little explicit research on the links between housing costs, housing assistance and work disincentives in Australia. While there is a growing literature in social policy and labour market studies looking at work disincentives, none has explicitly taken a housing focus. The Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform in 2000 failed to address this issue in any depth, while recognizing its potential importance, a reflection of the low priority government places on housing assistance in the overall structure of welfare and tax reform.

The proposed paper will present the interim findings of AHURI funded research on the financial and behavioural impacts of private and public rental housing assistance programs, including the locational outcomes of these different forms of assistance, on the capacity and willingness of unemployed tenants to take work or increase working hours. These findings will be based on a sample survey of 400 unemployed people in Sydney and Melbourne. The paper will therefore directly address key issues relevant to current debates on both the future of the national housing assistance framework and welfare reform.

LOUISE HUMPAGE

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A collision course for the 21st century: social inclusion and the politics of Maori self determination

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

As a Third Way politics concerned with combating 'social exclusion' has gathered interest around the world, the concept of 'social inclusion' has been applied to indigenous peoples living within 'settler' societies. Using indigenous Maori in New Zealand as an example, this paper argues that the framing of internally-colonised peoples by a social inclusion discourse is highly problematic. Claims that social inclusion for Maori can be achieved through 'community empowerment', 'capacity building' 'partnership' and 'active citizenship' have assumed that Maori 'needs' can be met within the universal citizenship rights of the 'nation-state'. Yet, some calls for Maori self-determination incorporate a power-sharing or parallel development dimension that proposes strategic 'exclusion' from mainstream institutions and state-framed notions of citizenship that regard 'nation' and 'state' as irrevocably tied. Indeed, such proposals assert that two or more nations can exist within one political state. Hidden by overlaps in the language used to promote government's commitment to Maori and a new 'social development' approach to social policy, this tension between social inclusion and Maori self-determination has not been clear in the New Zealand case.
As a result, the rights that Maori hold as both indigenous peoples and partners in the Treaty of Waitangi have continued to be marginalised.

BOYD HUNTER

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The role of discrimination and the exclusion of Indigenous people from the labour market

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

There is a gulf between the wide-spread perception of discrimination against Indigenous Australians and the scholarly writings. Empirical studies of Indigenous wages tend to emphasise the importance of education and other measurable factors in determining disadvantage. The problem with this position is that focusing on measurable factors involves an implicit bias against factors that are difficult to measure, such as discrimination and culture. This paper mounts a case that much empirical work on Indigenous Australians has unwittingly perpetrated the myth that education and other socioeconomic outcomes are more important than discrimination and history. In the rush to quantify Indigenous disadvantage, existing empirical studies are implicitly biased against finding racial discrimination. By overemphasising the role of education and other endowments, empirical studies have created a public debate where practical reconciliation is given priority over a rights based agenda. In addition to providing an overview of cases of labour market discrimination pursued under the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, this paper uses a recently developed statistical technique to explore the extent of potential discrimination against Indigenous workers looking for jobs.
The findings confirm that discrimination appears to manifest itself in an inability to find jobs, rather than depressing the wages received.

SALLY JOPE

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Preparing for what? The administration of Youth Allowance activity agreements

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

Youth Allowance policy recognises that job search is not always the most appropriate activity for unemployed young people and further education, training and skill building can assist them into employment. Therefore, more flexible activity testing has been introduced to enable combinations of and movement between study and work. Preparing for Work Agreements (PFWA) are prepared in negotiation with the unemployed young person prior to payment of Youth Allowance. They are to include activities the job seeker is required to undertake to remain eligible for income support and what Centrelink will offer the job seeker to improve their chances of employment.

This study investigated the administration of YA PFWAs by

Centrelink and the extent to which they had been tailored to meet the individual needs of young job seekers (18-20 years). In-depth interviews were conducted with YA job seekers, with youth workers and with Centrelink officers.

We found young people generally did not understand the purpose of PFWAs and did not know they could negotiate the activities included within them. Their agreements mainly contained job search activities few 'capacity-building' activities. We concluded that PFWAs might motivate young people to look for work but do not contribute to increased capacity to get work or develop work-related skills.

This study was conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and funded jointly with Centrelink Youth and Student Community Segment.

RAYLEIGH JOY

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Understanding the domain of child sexual assault, policies and practice

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

The focus point for this paper is to examine the particular sets of truth games articulated and enacted through two significant policy documents produced within the Queensland context in relation to child sexual abuse and the governance of it. The first is commonly known as the Sturgess Report of 1985, and the second is the Evidence of Children of 2000. Both documents were produced in response to growing concerns about the nature and treatment of children who had or were experiencing sexual contact.

The paper will demonstrate how sexuality, especially that of children, is central to the overall rationale of both the Sturgess Report and Evidence of Children. Using the Foucaldian framework of governmentality, my work demonstrates how oppositions (for example sexual/asexual, theory/practice, personal/political) and hierarchies of truth function within the two policy documents These function both as explanatory devices and sets of practices to establish the 'truth' about sex, and also offer a remedy for what is then considered 'sick sex' (Sturgess.1985).

Although this paper is theoretical, it is also highly pragmatic and empirical. It demonstrates how, in the policy process, particular discourses compete for the status of truth and how truth is actually established and maintained. I also map out how, in the process of concretizing particular truths, sets of practices become institutionalized and often attract alongside them, a foray of disciplinary experts and mechanisms that invite and reward the maintenance of particular subject positions.

In summary then, this paper traces the dominant discourses operating within two governmental policy documents, maps the rules of production, identifies the rules that delimit the sayable, locates the practices of erasure and identifies opportunities and acts of resistance.

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A case study of South Korea: consequences of more funding from the government

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

This paper examines the impact of more funding from the government on women's services in South Korea. Most women's services such as rape crisis centres and women's hot lines were run by women's movement organisations, with little financial support from the government. . However, the women's movement has struggled to request the government to deal with these issues and support the services. After relevant legislation, more funding and support have been given to women's services and more services were set up. Firstly, more funding from the government has brought out more service-oriented activities. Secondly, women's services have played a critical role in advancing women's status and changing social structure for gender equality. More government funding has resulted in weakening social change oriented activities. Thirdly, women's services have become more hierarchical and bureaucratic. Workers in the organisations, mostly feminist activists, are not content with the consequences. Women's organisations and some social movement organisations set the rule that funding from government should not exceed 30%. The Korean case implies that funding type and criteria need to be reconsidered, and further, the relevance of government funding for radical organisations aiming at social change will be re-examined. The Korean case provides an opportunity to explore how the state and civil society such as women's movement circle cooperate to solve women's issues.

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Intervening in early childhood to ameliorate social disadvantage

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

"Societies and governments have an obligation to the future to devise systems that ensure effective parenting, [and] support good early childhood development." There is bipartisan political agreement that all children have equal opportunity for optimal development in the early years. Despite this, health is not equally distributed in our community. Children born to families living in areas of disadvantage do not have the same opportunity for good health as those living in more advantaged areas.

Home visiting programs comprising intensive and sustained visits over the entire first two years of life ('sustained home visiting' or SHV) show promise as interventions to promote child health, family functioning and social inclusion, and ameliorate disadvantage.

To date, however, no trials of SHV have been conducted that quantified the outcomes for 'at risk' families who have the additional contextual risk of living in an area of known disadvantage. Collective social functioning and shared norms, values and interests in local areas can modify the outcomes of interventions aimed at changing individual behaviour. This paper will discuss the issues faced in undertaking a randomised controlled trial of SHV for children, mothers and families living in an area of known disadvantage.

LORRAINE KERR AND HARRY SAVELSBERG

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Breaching and social exclusion: the lived experience of disadvantaged young people

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

The anomalies inherent in contemporary 'active society' approaches to employment policy and initiatives designed to act as 'disincentives' to 'welfare dependency' are brought into sharp focus in the lived experience of young people who are breached for non-compliance with an Activity Test requirement. This paper draws on the findings of three consecutive studies, conducted over a five year period, which explored the impact of policy changes (Youth Allowance and Mutual Obligations) on the lives of disadvantaged young people. Our findings, based on interviews with disadvantaged young people and service providers, indicate that - contrary to stated intentions - the current policy regime fosters social exclusion, does nothing to ameliorate youth unemployment and indeed challenges the core foundations of citizenship for young people already suffering significant marginalisation and deprivation. We argue that such policies lead to outcomes that violate basic human rights in what is commonly understood to be a 'developed' and democratic society.

ANTHONY KING, TONY MELHUISH AND ELIZABETH TAYLOR

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The regional impact of Commonwealth Rent Assistance

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is a major income support supplement for private renters. Despite the well-known wide variations in rent levels across the country, the CRA entitlement rules – rent thresholds and maximum levels of assistance – are uniform. So, what happens when uniform program rules are applied to an issue that exhibits considerable regional variation? How well is CRA being targeted? Are people in some areas better served than others? Does available assistance meet needs well in some areas, but fall short in others? What would the picture look like with alternative CRA settings that do take some account of regional differences?

GARY KNOX

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Retirement intentions of mature age workers

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS C

Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA), the paper will examine the retirement plans of people aged 45-54 years.

The paper will explore the age group's intended retirement age and how various factors such as gender, occupation, income, health, homeownership and level of community participation affect the planned timing of their retirement.

Using results from the Workforce Circumstances and Retirement Attitudes Survey, the paper will consider the push and pull factors affecting their retirement decision and assess people's level of superannuation and savings and how this might affect their retirement decision.

SUSAN LACKNER

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Uneasy relations: Centrelink breaching patterns and Job Network participation reports

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

The Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) has commissioned a study examining the impact of breaching by job network providers. This study examines data obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), with specific emphasis on the differences in 'recommended breaches' by for-profit and non-for-profit job network providers. Included in this study is qualitative data that explores what these statistics 'mean' for social security recipients who find themselves incurring a 'recommended breach' by job network providers. Analysis of 2001/2002 FOI data suggests that job network providers (JNW), community work coordinators (CWC) and work for the dole providers (WFD), which are all third party privatised agencies, recommend a significant amount of breaches that are found to be unjust. Third party agencies have 19 criteria in which they can breach clients, yet these agencies manage to recommend 52% of all breaches, whereas Centrelink have 49 criteria uner which they can breach recipients, but only constitute 48% of all recommended breaches. FOI data also reveals that these third party agencies have only 28% of their recommended breaches imposed and a staggering 72% are found to be either inappropriately recommended or overturned through appeal. Compared to data from 2000/2001 this figure has risen by 25%. More concerning is that in the six months from January to June 2002, of all recommended third party breaches 81% were found to be inappropriately recommended and Centrelink instantly rejected these alleged breaches before clients were made aware of them. Clearly, third party providers' recommending significant amounts of unjust breaches is problematic.

CARMEL LARAGY

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Professionals in a restructured human services industry

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 123

Community services professionals are facing major challenges with insecure employment in workplaces that demand specified outcomes and clients who know their rights and demand to make decisions. Do social workers, who are trained for three, four or more years to assess a multitude of factors from structural inequality to personal emotions, have anything to offer the range of competing interests who want quick solutions on a shoe string budget? With professional preciousness a thing of the past, social workers and other professionals will only survive if they are judged to deliver value for money in a strained environment. Have they got what it takes, and can they run fast enough to meet these expectations?

JOERGEN ELM LARSEN

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Social inclusion and exclusion in Denmark 1976 to 2000

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

The paper presents data on social inclusion and exclusion based on three waves of the Danish Level of Living Survey. The first part of the paper exclusively analyses data from the 2000 survey. Four main arenas are in focus: 1) economy, 2) social relations, 3) political participation and 4) leisure time activities. The second part of the paper is based on longitudinal data. The movement in and out of social inclusion and exclusion is followed from 1976 to 2000. Data on the relationship between inclusion and exclusion and the mortality rate within different subgroups in the population are also analysed. The main findings of the paper are that in the year 2000 it is only a minor part of the Danish population that is socially excluded and that social exclusion has been reduced in the period from 1976 to 2000. The findings based on the data from 2000 are in general consistent with the findings based on ECHP data.

ANDREW LEIGH

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Australian inequality since world war II

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

This paper is based on the following two papers:

Prior to the last three decades, regular surveys on household income were rare or non-existent in many developed countries, making it difficult for economists to develop long-run series on income distribution. Using taxation statistics, which tend to be available over a longer time span, I propose a method for imputing the incomes of non-taxpayers, and deriving the underlying distribution of income. Applying this method to Australia, I develop a new annual series for male inequality since 1941. Inequality among adult males fell during the 1950s and 1970s, and increased throughout the 1980s and 1990s - a pattern similar to the United Kingdom. On average, income taxation reduced the gini coefficient by 4 points, becoming substantially more progressive in the early-1970s.

Using an annual data series on inequality in Australia since 1941, six possible determinants of inequality are tested: unionisation, the minimum wage, immigration, trade, growth, and unemployment. To properly assess the impact of immigration and trade on the income distribution, new measures of the human capital of the average immigrant, and human capital embodied in imports, are developed. Granger causality tests suggest that in the short term (1-year lag), an increase in the minimum wages cause inequality to fall, while in the medium term (5-year lag), more unemployment causes inequality to rise. No evidence is found that higher rates of trade and immigration have a negative impact on inequality. There is some suggestive evidence that rising unionisation causes lower inequality.

SABINA LEITMANN AND FRAN CRAWFORD

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FAST tracking social inclusion by bringing together families, schools and support agencies: a case study

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

In this presentation the institutions and practices involved in the implementation of a FAST project at an Eastern suburbs high school in Perth, Western Australia are explored. Issues identified as emerging from our on-site participatory evaluation of this project are used to map and explicate social policy challenges in effectively addressing social exclusion-inclusion on the ground. FAST (Family and Schools Together) is a family support program developed in Wisconsin in the early nineties to address issues of school-related disempowerment and exclusion among children and their families. Since then this research based and relationship focused program has been packaged and exported to other countries, including Australia. The Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services fund this program as part of their Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. Emerging discourses on social exclusion offer conceptual tools and a language to reframe existing dominant materialist understandings of structural disadvantage. How does such reframing look when performed at a specific site by embodied practitioners enacting an international design with extra-local funding? This presentation on a recent evaluation of a FAST program uses a multi-dimensional layering of the concept of social inclusion to allow for an examination of the dynamic ways in which rights, resources and relationships intersect within one particular family support program.

GAYNOR MACDONALD

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They keep changing the goalposts: inclusion, tokenism and intention in Aboriginal policy approaches

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

The past three decades have seen an unprecedented attempt to incorporate Indigenous Australians into a fuller and

fairer participation in Australian society, but with very mixed results. This paper examines how members of Aboriginal land councils in New South Wales found themselves caught between their initial aspirations and the reality of different State Governments' expectations. Many came to believe that it was not intended that they 'succeed'. I examine the often unanticipated disjunctures that arise in the processes whereby people and groups – as individuals and organisations – are included in certain forms of rights and practices. The outcome of beneficial policy is often simultaneous inclusion and exclusion as people grapple with the contestation over what it means to be the good citizen, bewilderment at unacknowledged successes, and the reproduction of marginalisation through its apparent redress. The paper draws on long-term ethnographic research and seeks to develop a framework through which to think about the 'problem of inclusion'.

ROS MADDEN

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The new international classification of disability: its relevance to people's lives

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The new International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) conceptualises disability as multi-dimensional - relating to the body functions and structures of people, the activities they do, the life areas in which they participate, and factors in their environment which affect these experiences. The ICF conceptualisation reflects and has the potential to shape discussion, policy and information about disability.

This presentation will explore this potential of the classification and its relevance to a number of the conference themes: health, disability and inclusion; citizenship and inclusion; social inequality; retirement and ageing; organisation and delivery of community services.

Some challenges in improving the quality and consistency of disability data will also be discussed.

SUSAN MALEY

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Creativity + community = Vitality: the mental and physical health benefits of participation in artistic programs and inclusive processes for people with disabilities

POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

This paper will describe work in process that examines the health effects for people who experience disabilities gained by participation in performance arts and visual arts groups.

Responses will be drawn from participants in Australian inclusive arts groups ranging from on-going community based organizations to professional performing groups. While there has been ample evidence of the beneficial effects of supportive social contact on physical and mental health, there has been little inquiry into the unique contributions of creative expression. Art has been called the 'language of disability culture' and movement, dance, song and visual arts provide means of expression beyond words. Self-expression is the core component of self-determination and sharing the resulting artistic work can be a catalyst for personal and political change.

Also explored will be the social policy and resulting programs in Australia that support the development of this innovative work, such as the Health Promotions through the Arts sponsored by the South Australia government.

IAN MANNING AND CRAIG SHEPHERD

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The economic impact of gambling in NSW

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 310

In this paper the authors will present findings from the pending report by NIEIR (National Institute of Economic and Industry Research) for the NSW Casino Community Benefit Fund entitled "The Economic Impact of Gambling". The report assesses the economic impact of gambling at the regional level in NSW. In doing so the report identifies important characteristics of the economic flows that are associated with gambling.

The nature of gambling and the types of household expenditures that it displaces are highly dependent on the economic circumstances of the households in question. Whereas households that are wealthier will tend to displace savings in pursuit of gambling, the poorer households and poorer regions are more likely to fund gambling through retail expenditure foregone or debt raised. Regionally complexity is increased by research that suggests that regions with higher levels of exposure to gaming machines face higher rates of problem gambling. Conversely, the gambling industries are significant providers of taxation, employment and profits.

The combination of all economic and social impacts measured at the regional level is a fascinating analysis of the way our economy provides disproportionate outcomes which reinforce social and regional inequality.

TIM MARCHANT AND TONI PAYNE

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On tenterhooks with little sleep: the issues faced by carers of children with AD(H)D
WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

Family carers are among the most vulnerable groups in our society. They are demonstrably poorer, sicker, less likely to have jobs, and face higher costs than other citizens. In this paper we will present recent research, the first of its kind, carried out into one particular group of carers, carers of children with AD(H)D. This paper will examine the experiences of this group of carers, with specific consideration given to the impact of caring and the service and support structures which exist to assist them in their role.

Our findings indicate that the experiences of these carers are substantially similar to other carers, in particular to carers of a person with mental illness, but that they remain unsupported and unserviced. We contend that this group of carers exists in a policy nowhereland, between the boundaries of departments, somewhere between mental health services and disability services and yet with ties to other services of varying relevance. We further contend that allowing this situation to continue is a socially perverse outcome.

The recommendations emerging from the findings are geared towards ensuring that these carers, in common with other carers, are able to move towards greater social inclusion and social participation.

JAN MASON

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The status of childhood and children's social exclusion
WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

Children as a social group are particularly vulnerable to oppression. This vulnerability is a consequence of their status as children, which serves to exclude them from participation in civil society. Children, constructed as non-adults, as 'becomings' rather than 'beings', are invisible in many social forums. In this paper I will explore how children are excluded from participating in society, through adult policies and practices, based on assumptions connected with the concepts of adultism, familisation and scholarisation. I will discuss the ways in which the mechanisms of protectionism and problematisation reinforce children's exclusion and limit any challenges by them to their marginalised position. Finally the implications of the application of structural analysis to adult child relations are considered in terms of strategies to promote changes in the status of children.

GORDON MCCORMICK

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Social inclusion: a service delivery dilemma
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

Following two decades of public sector and welfare sector reform, the service delivery environment has become more complex. Traditional public provision of social welfare at the federal, state and territory levels has shifted to engage others such as NGO's, the private sector and more commercially orientated government owned enterprises in its delivery. It can be hard to distinguish the lines of responsibility between public sector welfare delivery and that which is passed into the hands of the private and NGO sectors.

In this devolved environment the dilemma for the Commonwealth is to have in place a system of service delivery that assures it that its providers are delivering the intended (and funded) outcomes for the community, and at the same time, have a system model that supports inclusion and does not further marginalise disadvantaged groups.

The paper will explore options for the way forward and will consider issues such as identifying service delivery gaps, aligning service delivery capacity to needs, engaging individuals, families and communities, integrating service delivery, and exploring mechanisms for service delivery accountability.

CATHERINE MCDONALD AND GREG MARSTON

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Case management in the workfare state
WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

Case management has become a key technology of government of unemployed people in workfare states such as the United States and Australia. In this paper we argue that case management represents a radical localisation of governance, wherein the relationship between unemployed people and the state is articulated primarily through the relationship between the case manager and her client. The Job Network and its various processes represent a primary example of 'government at a distance'. Employing a governmental analytical framework, this paper reports on a study undertaken in Australia's Job Network in 2002. Specifically, we report on how the case management relationship is represented and experienced in interviews with case managers and long term unemployed people receiving intensive assistance in a small sample of non-profit and for-profit Job Network agencies in Melbourne and Brisbane. The research reveals the micro processes

wherein case managers offer particular identities to IA recipients, and how these people respond. We argue that engaging in policy research at this level of analysis acts as a necessary micro-corrective to macro welfare state comparisons illuminating how policies lead to particular transformations in social relations and welfare identities.

SIOBHAN MCDONNELL

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Overcoming the financial exclusion of Indigenous Australians

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

A lack of access to banking and financial services, otherwise termed financial exclusion, is one of the key aspects of the social exclusion of low income groups in Australian society. Individuals without access to banking services are at an economic disadvantage. Without the ability to save, individuals are denied a range of economic opportunities and, in particular, the opportunity to break out of the 'poverty trap'.

As a large and increasing proportion of the population in rural and remote Australia, Indigenous people have been seriously impacted by the removal of banking and financial services from these areas. In addition to problems of accessing banking and financial services, many Indigenous people have low levels of financial literacy. The problems of financial exclusion that many Indigenous people face will only be solved by initiatives which focus on providing Indigenous people with 'informed' access to banking and financial services. Moreover, such solutions require an understanding of some of the cultural norms built into financial service delivery in Australia.

This paper explores aspects of financial exclusion, drawing on fieldwork conducted with Aboriginal communities in central Australia. It concludes by discussing a number of policy initiatives that may be useful in addressing these problems, both in central Australia, and nationally.

DENISE MEREDYTH

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Hot-wiring community

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 310

In response to the 'digital divide', national and local governments in the UK, the US and Australia have embarked on various initiatives designed to promote the use of computer networks in low-income communities. These initiatives involve common models of self-help and mutual obligation; the pattern is one where government provides seed funding to encourage public-private partnerships between disadvantaged communities, businesses, philanthropists and universities. Together they rig up a solution to information poverty, giving people access to information technologies in their homes. The idea is that people will be better able to share resources, find work, acquire qualifications, help themselves and trust one another. Already, however, the reality has fallen short of expectations. It has taken a long time for technical experimentation to find success; often, meanwhile, the public-private partnership model has broken down. More importantly for broader social policy discussion, there is a prevailing confusion about whether the focus should be on employment, education and training outcomes, or on more diffuse ideas about social cohesion. This paper reviews international examples of success and failure in building wired communities, putting the case for a stronger focus on self-education, informal learning and employment outcomes rather than on community-building and social cohesion.

MONIKA MERKES

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A longer working life for Australian women of the baby boom generation?
Women's voices and the policy implications of an ageing female workforce

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

With an increasing proportion of older people in the Australian population and increasing health and longevity, paid work after the age of 65 years may become an option or a necessity in the future. The focus of this paper is on Australian women of the baby boom generation, their working futures, and the work-retirement transition.

This was explored from the viewpoint of women and from a social policy perspective, comprising three studies: focus group research, computer-mediated communication involving an Internet website and four scenarios for the year 2020, and the analysis of quantitative data from a large survey.

The themes of a work – life balance and the availability of choices emerged throughout the research. Women in high-status occupations were found to be more likely to be open to the option of continuing paid work beyond age 65 than women in low-status jobs. However, the women were equally likely to embrace future volunteering.

Policies for an ageing female workforce should be based on the values of inclusiveness, fairness, self-determination, and social justice, and address issues of workplace flexibility, equality in the workplace, recognition for unpaid community and caring work, opportunities for life-long learning, complexity and inequities of the superannuation system, and planning for retirement.

JANE MILLAR

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Encouraging employment: the UK's 'new deal for lone parents'

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

Since 1997, the UK government has pursued a vigorous programme of welfare reform, including many provisions both directly and indirectly aimed at lone parents. A number of policy targets have been set, including:

• A target that 70 per cent of lone parents should be employed within ten years;

• A pledge to eliminate child poverty within twenty years, and to halve it within ten years;

• An undertaking to increase the supply of childcare in general and to provide child care places for all employed lone parents living in the poorest areas;

• A commitment to reforming child support to make the system simpler and more effective.

Central to the first of these targets is the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP), which was introduced nationally in 1998. This is a voluntary programme that aims to help and support lone parents into paid employment. It offers information and advice to lone parents, with some access to training and other programmes. It is the first time that lone parents in Britain have been targeted for such a programme. About 335,000 lone parents have taken part in the programme since 1998, and overall employment rates for lone parents have risen from 47 per cent in 1998 to 53 per cent in 2002.

This paper will set the NDLP in wider policy context, discuss the evaluation strategy, and summarise the evidence relating to the impact of the programme. It will also consider future policy options, especially in light of the 70 per cent employment target.

WILLIAM MITCHELL AND ELLEN CARLSON

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Regional employment growth and the persistence of regional unemployment disparities

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS C

A contested issue in regional economic debate concerns the relative importance of regional-specific versus macroeconomic factors in determining regional employment outcomes. The theoretical impasse is evident in regional development policy. The current Australian Federal Government, consistent with its neo-liberal leanings, has eschewed both stimulatory macro policy and specific regional policy. Its broad macroeconomic policy settings (low inflation with fiscal restraint) aim to create a macro environment where market incentives to entrepreneurship drive economic growth. Supplementary microeconomic reforms (labour and welfare) then aim to stimulate individual effort. This strategy is not convincing. Tight macro policy has sustained high unemployment and mobility patterns and relative wage movements have not promoted regional convergence. Wide regional unemployment disparities persist.

Using data for Australia's 64 Statistical Regions, this paper examines the cyclical responsiveness of regional employment growth and unemployment to changes in national economic activity. It examines the persistence of regional unemployment differentials and whether the relative position of regions changes over the course of the business cycle.

The research findings have important implications for policy. The nature of employment growth and unemployment persistence across regions will indicate whether a focus on macroeconomic policy is justified or whether more regionally-specific policies are warranted.

ADAM MITCHELL

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Forming an inclusive community through pragmatic solidarity and social policy

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 102

The concept of solidarity is under-utilised in the social policy arena, particularly in reference to the ethics of social policy formulation. Concepts of justice and fairness appear to be more popular when discussing the ethical appropriateness of certain policies.
However, both justice and fairness are difficult ethical standards to establish and maintain when developing policies of inclusion for a plural society.

Using medical triage as an explanatory model, American philosopher, Richard Rorty, contends that providing assistance to those who are disadvantaged within our society often becomes an unviable option due to the personal and political pressures to maintain our middleclass hopes and aspirations.
However, to place such aspirations above the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged causes a fragmentation of our national unity.

Solidarity can be realised at both a local and global level, but nationhood requires that it be recognised at a national level. Our understanding of nationhood is based upon unity and cohesion, and for this to be a reality requires that our sense of 'we' is genuine and not either hypocritical or self-deceptive due to our exclusive policies.

This paper wishes to argue that the principle and application of solidarity can assist in establishing a unified Australia by encouraging a cohesive moral community through the widening of 'we-intentions'. Australian social policy must be imbided by such 'we-intentions' if they are to be genuine policies of inclusion.

RICK MOLONEY AND ELAYNE STRAHAN

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Jigsaw - where the pieces fit? Building participation through civic partnerships
FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

The purpose of this paper is to advance some practice principles around integration of a civic partnership program within Centrelink's organisational infrastructure to help prepare us for impending full implementation of participation proposals. Participation is a contested term in Australia. Inclusion has to be built from the local level to create opportunities for participation. Centrelink services will need to be developed to ensure maximum engagement of stakeholders. This paper proposes the development of a strong civic partnership framework to assist this. The paper also raises some relevant issues related to policy concerning participation as it is being applied, the social outcomes that can be derived from these participation strategies, as well other measures carried under the broad banner of Welfare Reform in Australia.

ALAN MORRIS, BRUCE JUDD, KAY KAVANAGH AND YUVISTHI NAIDOO

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Older homeless people: pathways into and out of homelessness
WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

This AHURI funded study explores the situation of older homeless people in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It investigates pathways into homelessness, the availability of housing and support options, and which of these are preferred and are most effective in assisting older homeless people towards sustainable solutions.

The research is based on 59 in-depth interviews with older people who are clients of the Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA), a national survey of 46 ACHA agencies and interviews with 15 ACHA managers.

Two pathways into homelessness are evident - one due to long term itinerant/transient lifestyle patterns, and the other due to disruptive life events such as family, health or housing crisis. Poverty and lack of networks are also important. The role of policy is also fundamental, with the scarcity of affordable and adequate accommodation and support services being central factors contributing to homelessness.

In terms of housing preferences, two primary themes emerge - independence and security (both in terms of safety and security of tenure). A familiar location, convenient to services is also important. Appropriate support is critical to successful outcomes. The most common support required was for somebody to help with shopping, cleaning and meals.

KRISTY MUIR

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Living in a citadel: the participation of mentally ill war veterans in Australian society
FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 107

Mental illness can have a profound affect on an individual's ability to fully participate in society. This is especially evident in the lives of Australian war veterans, who are more likely to suffer from mental illnesses than their civilian counterparts. As a result of their symptoms, mentally ill veterans often have difficulty functioning economically, domestically and socially. They cannot cope in the civilian workforce, they have great difficult maintaining relationships and they socially isolate themselves, both physically and geographically.

The social inclusion of mentally ill veterans can only be achieved if veterans' illnesses are identified and properly treated. Official recognition is an important part of this process. While government policy has significantly changed over the last two decades in regard to the mental health of service personnel and veterans, it is still dominated by a parsimonious and suspicious history. The majority of mentally ill Australian war veterans receive neither compensation nor adequate treatment and, as a result, their symptoms stay with them and these veterans remain socially excluded.

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Significant absence: considerations of child labour in contemporary Australia
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 107

Consideration of child labour in contemporary Australia is sparse. Although recent research has profiled labour market patterns of youth, less is known about labour market participation of children. Effects of children's employment on educational outcomes, and on social exclusion and

inclusion are not well explored. This paper considers the weight of evidence that suggests the need for research on the place of children in the labour market.

Construction of employment statistics, legislation, and regulation without due attention to child labour, has, in effect, 'removed' children as subjects of labour market analyses. Yet the significance of children in the labour market is relatively unknown. Highlighting the exceptional Child Employment Bill currently before the Victorian parliament, the paper concludes that there is worthwhile evidence suggesting that child labour requires further exploratory study. The paper also considers studies from nations similar to Australia regarding the effects of child labour on children, families, education and the labour market. Rather than excluding child labour from data collection and analyses, researchers and policy makers should incorporate the phenomenon and its ramifications in order to provide more accurate, informed and incisive understandings.

JAN NICHOLSON

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Parent engagement, social disadvantage and school-based mental health interventions

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

Fewer than 25% of Australian children with significant mental health problems receive any form of mental health intervention. Schools have been identified as a setting that offers potential for facilitating access to mental health interventions. This paper presents findings from three studies conducted in Queensland primary schools exploring opportunities for mental health interventions. The first study collected qualitative data from teachers regarding barriers to school-based mental health interventions. The second collected quantitative data from teachers about the extent to which school-based mental health interventions were provided to children with mental health problems. The third study examined the association between parents' level of engagement with their children's school, socio-economic circumstances and children's mental health. The results indicate that school-based mental health interventions are not provided equitably to all children who may benefit. Reach of interventions may be improved through the development of strategies to engage parents in their children's schooling prior to the emergence of significant mental health problems. The implications of these findings for the prevention and treatment of children's mental health problems in schools will be discussed.

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A healthier approach to crime prevention in Australia

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

The paper explains and describes an emerging, integrated policy approach to health and crime prevention in Australia. Similar groups have the highest risk of self-harm, victimisation, violence and accidental injury. Interpersonal violence is now addressed within an established national injury prevention program. Regional communities are currently seeking to identify and prioritise public health problems in order to reduce them. The legislative platform has been established for community management of crime prevention and rehabilitation initiatives, including family support, mentoring and dispute resolution programs which are also related to regional health, education, and employment promotion. Relevant international conventions should guide the implementation of community health, crime prevention and rehabilitation strategies. As yet there is no definitive, comparative study of the outcomes of this risk management approach to crime reduction.

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From family to fellowship: defining multiple forms of bonding social capital and pathways through values and time use analysis

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

Prominent social capital researchers such as Woolcock and Narayan insist upon the multiple dimensional nature of social capital, most particularly on its distinction into bonding forms (based on familiarity and interpersonal ties) and bridging forms (based on more impersonal symbolism). The bridging network is quite well defined, characterized by generalised trust and charitable volunteering action. The bonding networks, however, coalesce around numerous social domains. The most primal of these is the family unit, though other social domains represent potentially distinct bonding networks, whether formal (work/professional, religion/church, union member) or informal (family, friends, virtual group). Each network is characterised by its own distinctive forms of internal trust, driven in turn by values and voluntary efforts peculiar to/on behalf of the network; for example, family social capital is underpinned by the importance one places on the family (trust related value) and engagement in domestic labour (volunteering). In addition, each network has a potential confounding or reinforcing effect upon the others. Banfield's classic work suggests that

extreme bonding forms of social capital such as family can crowd out bridging social capital; recent evidence from Stone and Hughes refutes this, however. Noting then the family as the most prime unit of bonding, this paper sets out to identify appropriately distinct intermediate bonding networks (friends, work, religion, union, virtual), and to elucidate the effects of all such bonding networks upon the larger generalised bridging network (support or crowding out). Seeking to do so in terms of values and practices that support the network, this paper presents principal components and regression data from two surveys appropriate to capturing such data - the World Values Survey and ABS Time Use survey

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Employment officers' views on the operation of Job Network in Wagga Wagga

POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

Job Network - the development of a contestable market for publicly funded employment placement services - has been implemented in Australia for the last five years. Several studies have been conducted to examine its successes, failures and limitations, so that it may be further improved to deliver better outcomes for employment seekers.

This paper looks at some experiences and views of employment officers in regard to the operation of Job Network in Wagga Wagga. Drawing on interviews, focus group and secondary data, the paper analyses employment officers' perceptions of the impact of Job Network on and problems experienced by other employment agencies. It identifies several roles performed by employment officers and explores approaches followed by them to help job seekers under the intensive assistance program. The analysis suggests some gaps and barriers in assisting job seekers with difficult circumstances. Job Network may need to try alternative innovative and flexible approaches to address some of the gaps and barriers so that the most disadvantaged unemployed people can be enabled to participate in the job market. However, such trials may not be adequate unless we address the social, economic and political structural issues that are changing the nature of work and unemployment. Alternatively, we need to change perceptions about the unemployed.

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Threat to core values or positive force for reform? The application of commercial and business models among small to medium third sector organisations in western Australia

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

Third sector community agencies are being urged to be more "commercial and business like". Commercial and business ideas are increasingly central to the ways in which small to medium size third sector organisations are managed. The language of the marketplace, of business and commercial management is an increasing feature of third sector organizations.

But how widespread are business and commercial models in small to medium third sector organisations and what leads small to medium agencies to adopt such ideas and models? How appropriate are these ideas and models for third sector organizations who have a different operating logic where a sole focus on the financial bottom line is not appropriate and accountability and relationship with customers and stakeholders are far more complex? And what impact are these business ideas and models having on service delivery, management and operations and the broader community? How do agencies balance a "business focus" with their more traditional values and practices?

This paper will discuss early findings about these questions from an applied research project into the adoption of commercial and business ideas and models in small to medium size third sector organisations throughout Western Australia. Data will be presented from interviews, focus groups and forums involving leaders and managers in third sector organizations and key government agencies in metropolitan and rural WA. Data from agency case studies will be presented.

SUE PHILLIPS

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Social inclusion

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

This project is the result of the final topic for a Master of Social Work qualification. It stemmed from conversations with other community development workers in relation to the State Labour government's new Social Inclusion initiative.

We were interested to explore how this concept came to be picked up by this government, i.e. where did it originate from, what sort of practical implications it is expected to have for the community and how this will be achieved.

We were also interested in how the local community views the concept of Social Inclusion, or whether they have considered it at all. We were particularly interested in ideas around what, if anything, community members wanted to be included in and how this might be achieved.

We understood that 'conversations' on this level were difficult to pursue, given the level of work we are all currently involved in. This final requirement of my studies, therefore, seemed a good opportunity to produce some work of substance around this topic.

This has involved a literature search of overseas and Australian writing around this topic, including:

• Where did the concept of Social Inclusion come from?

• What are the experiences of those models and are they still in use?

State level

This has involved literature-based research and an interview with staff from within the Social Inclusion Unit. This has provided information on;

• What approach will be taken?

• What focus will the Unit have?

• What is the purpose and role of the Unit?

• What leadership approach will they use?

• Will the community be involved with the Unit, or will it operate in isolation from the community?

• What is the role of the Social Inclusion Board?

• How can partnerships with the Social Inclusion Unit be fostered?

Community level

Focus / conversation groups have been held with interested community groups or individuals. These have been carried out with two "marginalised" groups within the community. This has also involved a series of individual interviews with community members who have a high level of engagement with their local communities. Areas explored have included:

• What is their understanding of the concept of Social Inclusion?

• Are they currently feeling that they are not included and in what ways?

• What are the barriers to Social Inclusion?

• How do we help those currently excluded "get back in"?

• What are the important considerations around Social Inclusion?

• Are they aware of the Social Inclusion Unit?

• What would they like to be 'included' in and how?

Conclusion

The approach taken by the State government seems to be at odds with how communities would like to see this work.

There are a number of consistencies from within the different community groups about how they view this concept, what the barriers might be and how these could be addressed.

There are opportunities that exist that would allow partnerships with the Social Inclusion Unit and local communities to be fostered.

RUTH PHILLIPS

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Stakeholders on the periphery of citizenship in NGO/corporate engagement
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 102

Drawing on PhD research completed in 2001/02 this paper will examine how the joint strategies of corporate citizenship and NGO/corporate engagement can leave some key stakeholders on the periphery of citizenship and raise some wider questions about international NGO advocacy. Evidence from a case study on the corporate engagement activities of Oxfam (CAA) Australia in their mining campaign, reveals a 'natural' exclusion of the least powerful stakeholders – the people the campaign was aimed at benefiting. It is suggested that this exclusion results from the failure of active corporate citizens pursuing their 'social bottom line' and NGOs acting as advocates, to take on board a policy of citizenship-based inclusion in their agenda development and decision making processes.

Analysis of the positioning of Indigenous and local peoples affected by Australian based mining companies targeted by Oxfam Australia (CAA) in their campaign reveals a tyranny of economic, cultural and corporate power over the equal participation of those peoples. This raises larger questions about the role of 'Northern' NGOs as advocates for peoples or communities in 'Southern' states, and what role they can or fail to play in contributing to inclusionary citizenship development for the people whose interests they champion. If inclusive citizenship is to be understood as integral to democratisation then surely it must be a primary policy goal for NGO advocacy, international activism, and global corporate citizenship, thus contributing to a global social policy agenda.

LEON PIETSCH AND BOB McCOLL

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Measuring income distribution – getting the numbers right

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS C

The release of the 2000-01 results from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing Costs (SIHC), and revisions to earlier survey results, have been delayed due primarily to concerns about the significant decline in the coverage of current year welfare transfers measured in the 1999-00 and 2000-01 SIHC cycles. Understanding the nature of the decline in welfare transfer coverage, and any impacts this might have on the measurement of income distribution, both in the latest SIHC cycles and for comparisons over time, is important to ensure that the survey results are meaningful.

SIHC measures of annual income transfers for the years prior to each SIHC cycle in 1994-95 to 1997-98 also showed very significant undercoverage of those transfers.

SIHC methodology for the published results for the years up to and including 1999-00 also resulted in an overstated but variable number of children when compared with population estimates. The implications of the overstatement for both overall analysis of income distribution and for analysis of particular household types also needed to be investigated.

The ABS has undertaken extensive investigations into the survey data and methods to ensure that the published statistics will be sufficiently robust and clearly explained to support informed analysis of household income distribution. This session describes the results of the investigation and the subsequent changes to the survey estimation systems. The insights into the data gained through the recent ABS analysis will guide future improvements in survey practices and estimation methods as well as help analysts in their interpretation of survey results.

The session also briefly outlines some developments in the joint SPRC-ABS project to produce data sets of household income microdata that provide comparability beyond the time period covered by the Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

This session is largely based on the material included in a feature article. published in the June 2003 issue of the ABS's Australian Economic Indicators, cat. no. 1350.0. The article was titled "Revised Household Income Distribution Statistics". It is also available on www.abs.gov.au. Choose Feature Articles, Population/People, and Personal and Household Finances.

JIM PIOTROVSKI

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A union perspective on the changing community services labour force

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 123

Jim Piotrowski is an Organiser with the Australian Services Union. The ASU covers workers in the non-government social and community services sector. His talk will focus on the industrial problems experienced by workers in the community sector, including job security, occupational health and safety, poor management structures and problems arising from inadequate funding. He will also talk on attitudes to industrial rights amongst the workforce.

NATASHA POSNER, SHARON BURKE, ELISABETH EMRYS, JUSTIN MCNAB, GAWAINE POWELL-DAVIES AND SABA WASEEM

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They won't push you out the back and forget you

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 125

This paper will discuss the practical and symbolic importance of low levels of care for veterans living at home who are assessed as needing support. Drawing on interview, focus group and survey material, an analysis of the experiences and perceptions of recipients of Veterans' Home Care (VHC) will be presented. Their reasons for attributing considerable importance to the contribution of VHC services to their ability to remain living at home, included their physical limitations which made maintenance tasks around the home difficult, and reassurance that any future help they might need would be forthcoming from Veterans' Affairs. Content analysis of an open-ended survey question and statistical analysis of factors associated with the perceived importance of VHC, underlined the practical importance of the help provided. Interviews with a sample of VHC recipients over a period of time underlined the emotional importance of the provision of help in the contexts of their lives.

LIXIA QU, RUTH WESTON, MATTHEW GRAY AND DAVID STANTON

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The impact of long working hours on employed fathers and their families

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS D

In Australia and other western countries, two countervailing trends relating to workforce participation have affected family life. On the one hand, there has been a surge in the workforce participation of women and associated calls for fathers to play a more active role in the non-financial aspects of home making. On the other hand, the proportion of men working more than standard full-time hours has increased over the last 20 years, although there is some evidence to suggest that the proportions working more than 48 hours per week fell during the late 1990s.

Reasons for trends in working hours are highly controversial, as are the impact of these trends on workers and their families. This paper uses data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey to examine links between aspects of work hours (for example, usual and preferred work hours and satisfaction with work hours), other employment circumstances, family characteristics, perceptions of work-family balance, and wellbeing across various other domains of personal and family life.

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The 'new multilateralism', global social policy, and management: The role of international NGOs

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 310

The so-called 'new multilateralism' in international relations holds major implications for supranational social policy. It is said to signify a more pluralistic and less 'top-down' form of global governance, implying greater democracy in the formulation of international anti-poverty programs and the (re-) distribution of development resources. As part of these arrangements, international non-government organisations (INGOs) are said to be given more say in policy processes, principally through their greater consultative and contracting rights on the forums of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Though analysts in the emerging field of global social policy recognise the importance of the new multilateralism and of the INGO sector, they are less familiar with the role played by the management of INGOs in determining the effectiveness of global social programs.

The central objective of this paper is to analyse the implications of the new multilateralism for the management strategies and organisational structures of globally focused (or 'super') INGOs. The analysis draws on literature from the field of international business on the strategy-structure configurations of multinational corporations, and on early-stage data from in-depth interviews with senior strategic managers in key global INGOs engaged in anti-poverty programs.

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Housing, social exclusion and the emergence of place focused policy in New South Wales.

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS C

This paper will present the summary findings of an ARC funded study that has explored the concept of social exclusion in the Australian context, the relationship between the housing markets and exclusion and spatial policy responses to this issue.

The interrelationship between social exclusion/inclusion and place has attracted limited interest in Australian academic literature and has not been subject to empirical testing in the form of locally based case study research. This paper addresses this gap and stresses the relationship between social disadvantage, location and the housing market, too often a forgotten component of welfare policy debates in this area. Given the different roles played by the public and private housing markets in housing the lowest income groups in Australia, the importance of tenure-specific (and hence place-specific) differences among socially and economically marginalised groups forms a central focus of the paper. The paper will also review the spatial policy responses to social disadvantage currently being implemented with specific reference to Western Sydney. The development of "place focused policy" in NSW will be critically assessed and the implications of the findings for new place based responses to social disadvantage will be discussed, drawing on best practice both in Australia and overseas.

MARGOT RAWSTHORNE

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Contracting: the impact on non-government organisations

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

Much has been written about the impact of contracting on government/non-government relations. The move to contracting of services was seen by government as a crucial reform that would lead to improved public accountability, more efficiency, greater focus on client needs and better targeting. The non-government sector feared contracting would undermine independence and autonomy, divert visions and see a power shift to government grants administrators. This paper, drawing on questionnaire research with some 650 non-government organisations across Australia, will explore whether the reformist hopes or the non-government sectors fears have been realised. It will highlight the significant role played by program-specific requirements in shaping organisational experiences. It will show that whilst contracting is a settled reality for many non-government organisations, significant levels of organisational stress remain in the sector. The causes of these stresses are somewhat surprising, and indicate some of the challenges created by contractual arrangements for government/non-government relations.

GLENN REDMAYNE

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Employment, unemployment and welfare reform

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This paper begins by analysing the assumptions made in relation to welfare dependency of people with disability in the Commonwealth government's Welfare Reform agenda. It addresses issues that prevent economic and social participation of people with disability, which includes and extends beyond an appreciation of structural, attitudinal, support and broader systemic issues commonly experienced by this group in their attempts to achieve financial independence.

It locates the discussion on welfare reform in the context of people with disability's experience of "welfare dependency" and poverty entrapment, and stress the need for policies and programs that promote the rightful inclusion of people with a disability in all facets of economic and social life.

It challenges the concept of "mutual obligation", a concept that seeks to alter the relationship between Government and those individuals who are regarded as welfare dependent. It demonstrates that people with disability bear extra costs as a direct result of disability, and that it is the inadequacy of the current physical and social structure that prevent the individual from achieving economic independence. It argues that a reform of the welfare system must be a rights-based reform that broadens the income support system and addresses disadvantage experienced by people with disability.

JANE ROBBINS

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Social exclusion and remote Indigenous communities: is the 'third way' the right way?

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

Australian social policy has embraced what have loosely been termed "Third Way" initiatives over the last few years. The Howard government has announced a tripartate "Social Coalition" of government, business and community sectors as its chosen model for addressing social disadvantage and exclusion. "Mutual obligation", "social entrepreneurialsm" , "partnerships" and "capacity building" are concepts which have become familiar in the rhetoric of social reform . A broad political and popular consensus appears to have developed which is comfortable with the direction of change.

Indigenous programs have also been drawn into this trend. The highly publicised comments of Cape York leader Noel Pearson have lent support to the view that passive welfare and economic dependency have been a pernicious influence on Indigenous communities. The perceived solution is to set in place a framework of measures which will give communities the responsibility for their own salvation, largely through reform of institutions of governance and the facilitation of economic partnerships.

This paper will address this debate, giving particular consideration to the impact of these ideas on remote and isolated Indigenous communities.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON

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The findings from an inquiry into children and young people who have no one to turn to

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM,
LIBRARY LEVEL 3 MEETING ROOM

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People has completed a two year inquiry into the best means of assisting kids who have no-one to turn to. The Commission listened to 240 kids, aged 4 to 18 years, with varied backgrounds and life experiences. We asked them how they get help in tough times, and how our families, communities, schools and other institutions could work together better to protect kids from becoming vulnerable.

This presentation will detail the inquiry's findings about services for children and young people and identify good practice from a kid's perspective. This is essential information for policy makers. Also, the kids' message is that they experience their development through relationships. The session will inspire practical program development strategies about how relationships can be strengthened; how to make kids feel included in their communities and how to provide them with opportunities to participate more meaningfully.

SALLY ROBINSON AND ROBERT ADAM

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Cultures of disability and deafness: rethinking links between the disability movement and the deaf community

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The social model and social perspectives of disability are gaining increasing momentum within Australia. This identification of people as disabled by their environments rather than their impairment results in part in the identification of disabled people as a group marginalised and disenfranchised by the exclusions of societies and communities. Propelled by the social model, the disability movement has as one of its primary concerns the recognition of a disability culture, which is based in the shared experience of a disabled identity.

Although the general community's perception of Deaf people is associated with disability, the Deaf Community views itself as a language group. Nonetheless, the Deaf Community is politically aligned with the disability community because of such a perspective, as well as disability-based legislation which potentially assures Deaf people of their human rights.

It is argued in this paper that social perspectives of disability potentially bring the two groups into closer alliance, highlighted by the emergence of disability culture and its similarities and interactions with Deaf culture and its consequent focus on the development of a positive disabled identity.

There are also a number of trends in the way in which both disability and deafness are viewed which have a significant negative impact on the ways in which disabled people and Deaf people experience the world. These include historically medicalised views of both disability and deafness, and the current research and policy development on bioethics and prevention of disability.

PAULA RODRIGO BLOMQVIST

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Inclusion of immigrants in the political process: a critical analysis of immigrants' representation in the Swedish democratically elected assemblies

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

Immigrants, who comprise a growing group in many Western countries, are usually heavily under-represented as elected representatives in the political legislative assemblies. This systematic and insufficient ethnic representation, which should be understood as a process resulting from asymmetric power relations between the subordinated immigrants and the superior native Swedes, is a problem both for the immigrants and for the democracy itself. Sweden's immigrant policy, with its far-reaching social and political rights and liberal citizenship, is often seen as a role model of how to give immigrants equal membership in society. The right to vote and to be elected in local elections for foreign citizens was introduced by an electoral reform in 1975. Though there are no formal obstacles for foreign-born to participate as representatives in the local legislative assemblies, there are informal obstacles that to a large extent exclude them from the democratic process in practice. In 2003 foreign-born constitute approximately 11 per cent of the population in Sweden, but hold only 5.5 per cent of the elected offices in local government, i.e. they have one-fifth of the offices they would have based on their democratic weight. The level of seats held by foreign citizens has hardly increased at all since the electoral reform was introduced in the mid1970s. The aim of this study is twofold: Firstly, to increase the understanding of what prevents immigrants from being present at the legislative assemblies. Secondly, to find out whether it matters that immigrants or native Swedes serve as representatives in the political legislative assemblies.

The study consists of two comprehensive themes: (i) A theoretical part that deals with the question of immigrants' political interests, (ii) An empirical study of the recruitment process in the political parties regarding the candidates' ethnicity. The study sets out from the theoretical concept of representation where politics of ideas is discussed in relation to politics of presence. The theoretical idea is that the arguments (expressed in terms of justice, experience and interests) used by feminist theorists for women's increasing representation in the political process are equally valid for other underrepresented groups such as immigrants.

The study looks at local governments and empirically emphasises the urban municipalities: Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo. The analysis is based on data from two surveys carried out at the time of the local elections in 1998 and 2002. On top of this personal interviews are carried out with councillors nominated for

the two elections.

The findings of the study indicate that the political parties play a significant role when it comes to explaining what prevents immigrants from being represented in the legislative assemblies. The parties raise different sorts of barriers that inhibit ethnic groups other than native Swedes from becoming party candidates. The results also indicate that ethnicity has an effect, i.e. immigrants' presence in the legislative assemblies does matter for the agenda setting and for the decision-making.

VANESSA ROSE AND ELIZABETH HARRIS

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How the mental health services system can act as a barrier to people with a psychiatric disability accessing employment

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 125

Up to eight in ten people with a psychiatric disability are unemployed at any one time even though a significant proportion of this group want to work. Employment brings with it improvements in psychological health, a reduction in symptoms and the risk of relapse and hospitalisation, financial independence and access to important social roles. The aim of this study was to explore opportunities for vocational rehabilitation for people with a psychiatric disability within a mental health service in Sydney. A multi-methodology was employed including: critical literature review; analysis of service data; and interviews with case managers and clients. Major findings included: only a small proportion of clients accessed any rehabilitation; mental health services lacked a structure for vocational rehabilitation and assisting clients into employment; and existing vocational programs within the mental health service lacked a sound evidence-base. Proposed rehabilitation policy in NSW for people with a psychiatric disability is focussed upon promoting wellness rather than managing illness; and employment has been seen as a means of achieving this goal. This will present a challenge for mental health services in reorienting systems and in working with disability support organisations to assist people with a psychiatric disability into the workforce.

ROBERTA RYAN

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Youth and citizenship: looking at perceptions of citizenship among young people

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

The paper will present the results of a quantitative survey which will investigate different aspects of the perceptions of citizenship that young people hold. The project will be carried out using Marshall's typology of the three spheres of citizenship, civil, political and social citizenship, and will also incorporate questions that look at the impact of globalisation and 'economic rationalism'/neoliberalism on such perceptions, and seek to identify barriers to inclusion and participation. This long overdue research is a departure from the usual political science research into citizenship which concentrates on political and civic literacy. Rather, this study concentrates on asking young people how they perceive civil, political and social citizenship and seeks to identify any correlating factors. Similar research carried out in the UK recently has revealed that due to methodological problems much of the research in this area has been misunderstood, and, that the changing perceptions of citizenship that are held by generations X and Y pose a significant challenge to the current expectations about political and social organisation and philosophy.

DAVID SALTMARSH AND CAMILLA COUCH

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The implications for citizenship and inclusion in the new HSC

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 104

The process of change that led to the introduction of the new Higher School Certificate (HSC) was initiated in 1995, with the first students graduating in 2001. Among the many changes introduced with this new certificate was the inclusion of seven vocational subjects that could be used to count towards a university entrance score. This presentation draws on research into the implementation of the new HSC in schools that offered these vocational subjects, and considers the implications for citizenship and inclusion in NSW public schools.

The renovation of the HSC can be seen as an attempt by the NSW government to address a number of local concerns and as a part of a broader national agenda to expand vocational options. However, while these efforts can also be seen to foster social justice, certain school practices observed suggest that the vocational subjects are taken by more marginal students. The paper provides

examples of the ways that schools engage with students who were doing vocational subjects, and with their families. There is a strong link between family – school participation and the broader issues of citizenship and social inclusion. The paper recommends issues that should be considered by those involved in teacher education. It also suggests ways that schools might enhance inclusive participation practices for VET students and their families through repositioning themselves within a local community context.

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A new model of inclusion? Centrelink's development of income support service delivery for remote Indigenous communities

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 130

When Centrelink was established in 1997, it inherited from the Department of Social Security a model of service delivery for Indigenous communities in remote areas built around relatively large social security offices based in urban centres and agents based in Indigenous communities. Some dissatisfaction with this model has led Centrelink to experiment with additional ways of delivering income support services to remote Indigenous communities. In particular, it has piloted the development of some very small Centrelink offices, or Customer Service Centres (CSCs), with just one or two Centrelink employees, located in some of the larger Indigenous communities.

This paper will report on a consultancy undertaken in 2002 which provided a formative evaluation of the first two such small CSCs. It will also outline plans, originating in the 2001 budget, for the establishment over the next five years of another twelve such small CSCs servicing Indigenous people in remote areas. It will argue that these small CSCs are a significant development in the way in which Indigenous people in remote areas have been included in the social security system over the last forty years. While perhaps not an entirely new model of inclusion of Indigenous people in the social security system per se, they are a significant development in the service delivery model through which, in practice, this inclusion occurs.

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Why reform welfare?

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS A

The Australian debate surrounding welfare reform is highly charged, and it is unrealistic to expect consensus. Nevertheless, it is possible to go beyond ideological trench warfare by identifying some basic principles about the extent and operation of welfare which most Australians would regard as fair and appropriate.

Drawing on newly-commissioned public opinion survey data, this paper identifies some simple principles which might command widespread public support. It then applies these principles to evaluate the existing welfare system and various proposals for its reform or replacement.

Among the issues considered are the appropriateness of enforced work or 'participation' requirements for different categories of claimants; the case for time-limited benefits; the need for government to provide 'jobs of last resort' when entitlement is exhausted; the relevance of training and other 'active labour market' interventions; the controversy over breaching penalties; tax-based proposals for enhancing work incentives; the problem of policing the escalating number of disability claims; means-testing and the problem of 'middle class welfare'; and the potential for asset-based welfare and the extension of compulsory saving schemes to complement or even replace existing state provisions in areas such as unemployment, sickness and health insurance.

JANE SCHWAGER

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An employer perspective on the changing community services labour force

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 123

The community services industry is in a state of change. In the context of escalating demand for services, I will argue that community service workers must do things differently. The sector needs workers who can collaborate and innovate. Workers must engage with whole communities; they must forge partnerships with government and business stakeholders as well as engage the capacities of volunteers and service users. This approach demands different conceptual and practical approaches than those traditionally exercised in the community services sector. Can community service workers transform themselves for practice in the new community services environment?

ROSANNA SCUTELLA AND MARK WOODEN

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Jobless households in Australia: evidence from HILDA?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

An emerging trend in Australia, over the past twenty or so years, has been for any available employment to become increasingly polarised into households where either no

adult is working (jobless households), or all adults are working (all-work households). Indeed studies have shown that Australia has one of the highest jobless household rates in the OECD for families with children. This paper uses the first wave of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics Survey for Australia (HILDA) to examine the characteristics of jobless households in Australia that distinguish them from others and render them disadvantaged in the labour market. Particular issues examined include household structure, family background, marital history, family formation, education, employment history, current employment, job search, income, health and well-being, child care and housing.

XIAOYUAN SHANG, XIAOMING WU AND HAIYAN LI

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From social exclusion to social inclusion: de-institutionalisation of alternative care in three Chinese cities

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

This article examines a recent policy development, the de-institutionalisation of alternative care in three Chinese cities. During the process of de-institutionalisation, the goals of child protection, the role of the state and the relations between the state and other forces in civil society in child protection have been changed. A new child protection system is emerging in China in which the role of the government shifts from a service provider to a regulator and supervisor, and the non-government forces in civil society have become strong enough to shape different administrative models.

SHEILA SHAVER AND SHARON BURKE

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Welfare states and women's autonomy: a thought experiment

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

What types and combinations of social policy measure do most to promote women's economic autonomy, in the sense of economic independence of the state and welfare, labour market vulnerability, and unwilling reliance on spouse and family? The research takes the form of a thought experiment in which we ask what women's economic circumstances would be if they lived, together with any dependent children, independently of their partner. In this experiment, we compare the capacities of the policy arrangements prevailing in five countries with different frameworks of social and employment policy to

enable women to enjoy an adequate standard of living independently of their partners. We seek to answer questions such as what proportions of women enjoy economic autonomy in each of the countries included in the research, and how do the countries compare in this regard? Which groups of women, in respect of parental status and educational level, most commonly enjoy economic independence? What are the respective roles of employment and welfare state transfers in facilitating women's economic independence? The analysis is based on data from the Luxembourg Income study for five countries: the United States, Australia, Germany, France and Sweden.

VERONICA SHEEN

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Public policies for mid life transitions

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

The period of mid-life, around the ages of 50-64, is much more open to change, new opportunity and social risk than it was 30 or 40 years ago. This means that the work to later life (rather than retirement) transition is an increasingly fraught and ambiguous experience for many people. This paper draws from 3 diverse but related activities either recently completed or in progress:

- an interactive seminar program for older workers which delivers an education campaign about the changing nature of the labour market

- an Australian Churchill Fellowship to study ageing workforce issues and older workers programs in the USA and Europe (completed in 2002)

- a research study Negotiating Transitions to Retirement with Deakin University funded by the Australian Research Council (theoretical underpinnings established but no findings as yet available).

The findings or premises of each of these activities suggests the need for new forms of public policy interventions:

- labour market policies which are geared to an ageing workforce

- specialised programs for older workers

- more sophisticated forms of social assistance for people in mid-life

- changes to social security arrangements to accommodate greater flexibility in the work to later life transition.

Abstracts by Author

PETER SIMINSKI AND PETER SAUNDERS

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The distributional impact of housing ownership and costs in Australia

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS C

This paper reports on work in progress being conducted by the SPRC in partnership with the ABS, funded by an ARC SPIRT grant. The main focus of this paper is to examine how studies of regional income distribution can account for housing price differences. We examine the rates of people in low-income households before and after housing using data from the 2001 Census and the Household Expenditure Survey 1998-99. The gap in this rate between major cities and the rest of Australia is much smaller using an 'after housing' measure of income than a 'before housing' measure.

ROB SIMONS

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The Swan Nyungar Sports Education Program: a school based approach to social inclusion for Aboriginal Students and their families

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

Prior to the commencement of the Swan Nyungar Sports Education Program (SNSEP) in February 2002, a feasibility study was undertaken to develop a risk management strategy for piloting a community based intervention targeted at Indigenous high school students in WA. A five-year demonstration project was proposed to supplement the capacity of schools to meet the special learning needs of Indigenous students. The feasibility study affirmed two non-negotiable principles: an environment that is supportive of a specialist program in sport for Indigenous students; and, a model of project development that is inclusive of all stakeholders. Building on a previous SPRC Workshop Paper outlining the initial design of SNSEP, "Social Enterprise: Partnership for Sustainable Change", this paper highlights the focus of the program as the development of a working relation among students, teachers and parents, founded on shared knowledge and experience. The evaluation of the first year of the program has shown significant improvements in the retention and achievement rates of the students. However, it has also highlighted a number of challenges in the meeting and mixing of cultures within the context of the high school where the program is taking place. Cultural challenges have surfaced especially in five areas: pedagogy; curriculum design; engagement of families and elders; the relation between the program and non-program staff; and administrative flexibility. The paper presents SNSEP within Balga Senior High in WA as a case study of an exercise in facilitating culturally sensitive social inclusion of Aboriginal students and their families in an educational and social context that has not previously developed a capacity in meeting the learning needs of Indigenous students. The evaluation of the first full year of the program suggests that the continuing viability and success of the program, however, depend on a stronger incorporation of the students' families, carers, and culture. There is also a need for a corresponding adaptation socially and administratively within the school to ensure a more culturally inclusive context. The paper concludes by identifying the responses to the challenges cited in the evaluation of the first year of the program, which are presently being implemented during the second year of operation.

LIZ SKELTON

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The other side: young people, refugees and asylum seekers

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS 929

Streetwize Communications is a leading non profit national organisation specialising in researching and communicating social issues to young people and other hard to reach groups. For over 19 years, Streetwize has been developing comics and resources on a range of issues including health, education, employment, the law and Indigenous specific issues.

Our track record in reaching a diverse range of target groups can be attributed to The Streetwize Process, a process of consultation with the target group at each stage of research and development. This approach – along with the signature Streetwize comic style- has been independently reviewed and proven to be an extremely effective way of reaching diverse groups, particularly those who are often excluded by traditional media and communication channels.

The presentation will outline Streetwize's proven qualitative research process, demonstrating both the approach and its effectiveness by focusing on a case study, The Other Side, a resource Streetwize is currently researching and developing which addresses young people's attitudes and information needs around refugees and asylum seekers. The presentation will present the key issues from research with young people, young refugees and experts in the field.

CATH SMITH AND CAROLYN ATKINS

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Sustainability and local policy and planning responses

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

The importance of a sustainability framework for policy responses and local planning is being increasingly recognised internationally and in Australia. This paper reports on a Victorian research project which highlights that effective planning for the future means adopting alternative priorities which will also favour those who have been disadvantaged in the past, and in doing so, help to build communities which are not only more inclusive, but are also more likely to be sustainable in the future. The qualitative research was based on principles of social geography and community development, and focused on: understanding the physical barriers encountered by people from disadvantaged backgrounds in their lived environments; gaining an understanding of how these impacted on their quality of life, with a particular focus on exploring issues of liveability, equity, access and affordability; and identifying a broad framework aimed at assisting NGOs and local and state governments to identify areas of need and action.

The project was undertaken for the Victorian Department of Infrastructure as part of the development of Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth. The paper argues that while disadvantage is frequently discussed as being on the margins, it is important to remember that we are talking about the margins of power and wealth, not of number or place; and that the problems and solutions for many of those on the margins are important for the wellbeing of the community as a whole and should be located firmly at the centre within a sustainability framework which accords equal emphasis to social, environmental, cultural and economic development and outcomes.

BRUCE SMYTH, CATHERINE CARUANA AND ANNA FERRO

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Some whens, hows and whys of shared care: What separated parents who spend equal time with their children say about shared parenting

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

Despite the broad policy push towards encouraging co-parenting after separation – most notably the recently announced parliamentary inquiry into a rebuttable principle of joint residence – little is known about parents who opt for shared care arrangements, how these arrangements are structured, and how well the arrangements work.

In this paper, we examine the arrangements, motives, and reflections of separated parents who equally share the care of their children. Our data are qualitative and derive from a series of focus groups. Fifty-six separated parents (27 mothers, 29 fathers) were interviewed on a range of issues related to parent–child contact. Groups were structured around five different patterns of father–child contact: (a) 50:50 shared care, (b) medium-range contact, (c) day-only contact, (d) holiday-only contact; and (e) little or no contact. Participants were recruited through a range of non-probability sampling strategies.

While these data are being used to inform a larger study investigating contact and child-support issues, they nonetheless offer useful insights into shared parenting – particularly in relation to the work/family balance, co-parental conflict, and financial issues.

PAMELA SPALL

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Sustainable enterprises: changing organisational forms in the community services sector

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

This paper presents the findings of a survey of non-profit disability organisations in Queensland and Victoria. The paper assesses the impact of governance policy, particularly in relation to the development of entrepreneurial and managerial models in community services. Victorian organizations had more enterprise organisational forms that demonstrated a range of managerial and market reforms directly attributable to state policy and priorities. In contrast, Queensland organisations had fewer signs of 'reinvention'. Contrary to the literature however, the research found little evidence of substantial value change in either state. The findings have important implications for understanding how policy succeeds and fails in reform of welfare services. Also the paper will explore whether emerging organisational forms are necessarily more sustainable organisational forms.

JOHN STEVENS AND PETER BAUME

School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Factors associated with a healthy life past the age of 80

POSTER PAPER, PAVILIONS

Though the proportion of the Australian population which has entered retirement is steadily increasing, little research has separately investigated factors associated with quality of life among the oldest strata of the population. This poster paper details work in progress identifying factors associated with the health and life expectancy of people aged 80 and

above. This research mainly concentrates on findings drawn from six waves of the Australian Longitudinal Study of Aging and the first wave of HILDA, as well as making comparisons with British data, chiefly from the British Household Panel Survey. The factors we are investigating include the associations between

(1) English language proficiency;

(2) different sources of income in retirement;

(3) the relative quality and market value of housing;

(4) general levels of happiness;

(5) gender and age group;

(6) frequency of exercise;

(7) depth of social networks and frequency of attending clubs or other public gatherings; and

(8) education and related qualifications achieved over the previous 60 years

and service use as well as overall health. The research will highlight implications for health care and pensions policies, both for those who are advancing toward their later years and those who have long since past retirement age.

WENDY STONE, MATTHEW GRAY AND JODY HUGHES

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Social capital at work: how family, friends and civic ties relate to labour market outcomes
FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS B

In Australia as in many other nations there is an emphasis upon paid work as a primary means for achieving economic independence and avoiding welfare dependency. Much of this attention focuses upon an individual's skills and attributes or upon characteristics of the labour market. This paper extends these analyses, by investigating the extent to which an individual's 'stock' of social capital relates to labour market outcomes.

Using data from a national random survey of 1,500 Australians (the Families, Social Capital & Citizenship (FSAC) 2001 survey), this paper explores the links between an individual's social capital (defined in terms of quality informal, civic and institutional ties) and their labour market outcomes. The relationship between social capital and labour force status is estimated. The relationship between social capital and the job search method used to find employment is also explored.

The main contribution of this paper is to provide estimates of the impact of both the structure of social networks and the quality of social relationships on labour force status

and job search method. In contrast with many social capital studies the FSAC data enable analysis of various dimensions of social capital including trust, reciprocity, network size, density and diversity.

JANET TAYLOR

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Life chances and parents' employment
FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS A

Changing employment patterns in Australia and overseas have led to an increasing polarisation between families who are 'work rich' and 'work poor', those with high household incomes from work and those with little or no income from work (Burbidge & Sheehan 2001).

The Brotherhood of St Laurence's longitudinal study, the Life Chances Study, provides data to explore what has happened to the employment and incomes of a diverse group of Australian families with young children between 1990 and 2002. The study commenced in 1990 with families with a child born in that year. By 2002 when the children were turning 12, 60 per cent of the low-income families in the study had no parent in paid employment.

The paper draws on both the quantitative and qualitative data of the study to examine the patterns of employment and income over 12 years of the families who were on low-incomes at the commencement of the study and the characteristics and experiences of individual families. The paper identifies barriers to employment and explores to what extent employment has provided a path out of poverty. Implications for policy are outlined.

JOAN TEN BRUMMELAAR, MIRELLA WILSON AND ANGELA SOUTHWELL

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Attitudes and job search: what we know now

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 125

Following on from the paper on Attitudinal Segmentation of Job Seekers – An Australian Model released in May 2002 the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has continued its programme of research on the impact of attitudes on success in job search. The paper discusses a range of projects including the quantitative results from surveys conducted in 2001, an analysis of administrative data following from the surveys, and discusses some of the results from the first wave of a longitudinal survey of job seekers. The main focus of the paper will be the results from the first wave of the longitudinal survey which covers attitudes to job search, work, government assistance and support networks. It also collects a range of information on job search activity, work and living arrangements, and personal circumstances.

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Building a simpler system to help jobless families and individuals: what are the consultations telling us?

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS A

In December 2002, Ministers Amanda Vanstone and Tony Abbott, who jointly chair the Welfare Reform Consultative Forum, released the Commonwealth's discussion paper, "Building a simpler system to help jobless families and individuals". The release of the paper marks the second phase of the Government's so-called welfare reform process and addresses a major recommendation of the McClure Report, namely the need to simplify the income support system for working-age people.

The Government has embarked on a period of consultation that involves focus groups with income-support recipients, written submissions, and sixteen round-tables with representatives of the community and business sectors, academics and think-tanks. The round-tables are being hosted by members of the Welfare Reform Consultative Forum. The process aims to stimulate high level discussion around the objectives and principles that should underpin any changes to the income support system for working-age people, the scope of any reform (i.e. whether and to what extent to integrate the social security system with the tax and wages systems), the design features and overall structure of the system, eligibility, participation

requirements, support services and the trade-offs involved in pursuing any particular path of reform.

In this paper, two members of the Welfare Reform Consultative Forum who have been involved in hosting the roundtables give their impressions of the process and summarise the main messages coming through. At the time of writing this abstract, each of them had hosted two roundtables. While it is therefore too early to say what the final outcome will be, it is clear at this early stage not only that there is a substantial level of suspicion about the Government's motives, but at the same time there is a strong view that fundamental reform is necessary if the system is to promote social inclusion and greater financial independence by recognising and rewarding the efforts of people to increase their social and economic contribution through participation in the labour market.

The paper also explores the question of whether "welfare reform" is the most appropriate label for the major changes to social policy settings that are called for at the current time.

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How do Job Network employment services work to be socially inclusive?

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 125

Job Network, introduced in May 1998, is the Commonwealth Government's primary employment service for job seekers focusing on those most disadvantaged in the labour market. It is now just over five years since Job Network was introduced as a major reform to the way employment services are delivered. This presentation takes stock of what Job Network has achieved in those five years, the lessons learnt from evaluations and how these have been reflected in the Active

Participation Model improvements to Job Network taking place from 1 July 2003. It also includes a consideration of how the Active Participation Model aims to improve outcomes for particular disadvantaged groups and foster social inclusion through economic and social participation.

Abstracts by Author

MATTHEW TOOHEY AND RACHEL LLOYD

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Is it worth working now? Income incentives and disincentives for working mothers under Australia's new tax system

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS B

The introduction of A New Tax System in July 2000 was accompanied by substantial changes to social security payments, including family assistance and childcare subsidies. Most of these payments are income tested, so that as a family's income increases the amount of government assistance they receive is reduced. This paper analyses the impact of increasing income and childcare costs on the economic incentives for women with children to increase their paid work under the new tax and transfer arrangements. It compares the work incentives under the current and previous systems of family assistance using the Effective Tax Rates model in STINMOD, NATSEM's static microsimulation model of the tax and transfer system.

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The costs of children and living standards in Australian households: some new evidence

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 102

The measurement of the costs of children is an immensely significant and important exercise in a whole range of economic and social policy areas. In the economic literature, a conventional approach to estimating these costs is through the analysis of micro unit expenditure data within the context of a utility framework. This approach yields child cost estimates (otherwise known as equivalence scales) that allow one to make direct comparisons between households of different sizes and composition. Observed differences in the scale values across households and over time bear important implications for the welfare of children in alternative economic and social settings.

This study employs the equivalence scale approach to update previous estimates of costs of children in Australia. A new methodology is applied to the 1984, 1988-89, 1993-94 and 1998-99 Australian Household Expenditure Survey to calculate equivalence scales for various types of households for each survey year and to examine changes in the spending patterns of Australian families over time. From these results, the paper also draws out important policy implications for child welfare and living standards. Among other things, it is shown here that the advent of children results in a substantial reallocation of expenditures towards "non-adult" goods, and that families need to

increase their income by some 20 percent if the pre-children living standards are to be maintained. Further, the results show that the estimated scales are stable across a wide range of income levels; however, the ratios are shown to decline over time indicating a possible decline in children's general welfare levels over the years.

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Welfare reform in Australia: an evidence-based approach

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, MATHEWS A

Australia, in line with other developed countries, has increasingly adopted a 'participation' framework for Welfare Reform. This approach to welfare reform is based on the idea that moving people from 'welfare to work' is best facilitated by policies that balance three main policy levers – assistance, incentives and requirements.   Using research and evaluation findings from Europe, the USA, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia this paper analyses evidence regarding the effectiveness or otherwise of this approach. The paper also seeks to identify the relative contributions of each policy lever to improved outcomes, both in an overall sense, and for particular categories of income support recipients.

TAMARA WALSH

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Down and out? Citizenship, exclusion and homeless persons

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

It is widely recognised that homeless persons are amongst the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of Australian society. But further to this, those who are homeless are excluded from participation in a wide variety of socio-political activities that other citizens take for granted. Homeless persons are routinely denied civil, political and social citizenship rights: they are subjected to over-policing and excessive surveillance, they experience impediments to participating in our democratic society by virtue of their lack of fixed address and reduced access to political information, and their social rights are compromised through the social security breach penalty regime, the inadequacy of public housing and emergency accommodation, and the shortage of social services in areas such as mental health, community health, and advocacy. The denial of citizenship rights to homeless persons results in their systematic exclusion from social life.

This paper will discuss the many aspects of exclusion facing the homeless, highlighting the fact that Australian social policy has been almost devoid of cohesive, holistic strategies to promote the socio-political participation of homeless persons. Suggestions for reform will be made, drawing from international developments, including the establishment of the Social Exclusion Unit in the United Kingdom. The potential for capacity building and the possibility of creating forums for debate to obtain input from disenfranchised persons will also be mooted.

JENI WARBURTON

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Volunteering and active citizenship

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 102

Using governmentality as a theoretical framework, this paper examines the Australian policy context where the federal government is attempting to discipline those outside paid work into becoming active citizens. This is based on the classic liberal notion that a good citizen is one who contributes to the community through paid or unpaid work. Volunteers, like paid workers, are discursively positioned as good citizens through their active demonstration of personal responsibility. The logical extension of this belief is to compel the unemployed to pursue compulsory volunteer-type activities, such as mutual obligation and service learning programs. This paper draws on data from focus groups of young people to suggest why policies that compel individuals to contribute to society may instead actually weaken their citizenship identities and lead to further exclusion.

JOHANNA WATSON

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Informing social policy: community asset mapping

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

In line with documented trends in countries such as the US, Canada, Germany and Britain (Keating & Hertzman, 1999), an increasing proportion of Australian children and young people are at risk for negative outcomes. This is reflected in escalating rates of distress, delinquency, violence, depression and suicide (ABS, 2001). Janus and Offord's (2001) research indicates that high levels of formal community support may help offset some of the more negative outcomes experienced by children at school starting age. The main barrier to testing this model in NSW is that the current service provision is funded by separate agencies, fragmented, uncoordinated and geographically unevenly spread (Moore, 2000). As part of the NSW

Research and Parenting Centre brief to provide resources to inform policy and practice, a community mapping project was undertaken. Following the Canadian precedent (Hertzman, McClean, Kohen, Dunn & Evans, 2002) and with the cooperation of all major government agencies, non-government agencies, community and charitable organisations, formal community supports have been mapped at street level. This map is accessible via the Internet or CD. While initially providing a resource for parents and those working in the field, this map will operate as a research tool to examine associations between formal supports (or gaps in support) and child and community outcomes documented in Australian Bureau of Statistics community profiles. These findings can be used by policy makers to plan for the provision of a more efficient and effective distribution of services.

ROB WATTS

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What's up doc? On social exclusion and what's wrong with it

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS D

As Smyth and Jones (2000) have noted, if Australian policy researchers and policy makers have been tardy in picking up on the theme of social exclusion, they are beginning to make up for lost time. In a context of enthusiastic and widespread support for 'evidence-based' policy, social capital and 'rebuilding community', the idea of social exclusion can almost seem empirically robust, theoretically interesting and likely to inform decent policy. Yet it isn't and won't.

The problem as always lies in the constructive schemes (Boehme, 1975) the researchers and policy makers have been reliant on. The role and the power of constructivist schemes has been well put by Janet Malcom (1994: 69) when she insists that journalists when writing their stories have to obey a fundamental rule:

...which is to tell a story and stick to it. The narratives of journalism, significantly called 'stories' … derive their power from their firm undeviating sympathies and antipathies; Cinderalla must remain 'good' and the stepsisters 'bad'.

As with journalists so with social scientists and policy researchers.

By 'constructivist schemes' I refer simply to the way disciplines like sociology or policy studies establish over time a sense of the questions their disciplines take seriously. In these constructivist schemes will also be found important metaphors and constitutive abstractions that shape and form their theoretical models and their descriptions. These constitutive metaphors provide

disciplines with their conceptual vocabulary as well as their authoritative narratives that summarise that discipline's account of reality.

It is these 'constructivist schemes' which I argue here sets up many of the characteristic difficulties which these social sciences have when addressing issues like poverty, unemployment, powerlessness satisfactorily. In particular by pointing to some significant problems with exemplary theoretical and empirical work on the theme of social exclusion, I want to (i) identify those questions that need to be addressed, as well as (ii) specify an alternative approach that may shed more light on the problem which talk of social exclusion is trying to get at.

MICHAEL WEARING

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Evidence based policy and programs for perpetrators of relationship violence: exploring the research issues for Australian social policy
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

Elements of public debate on male perpetrators of domestic violence appear in popular, psychological and clinical literature around domestic violence and other areas of research on family and child violence. This paper is concerned specifically with an exploration of some of the research knowledge as evidence in clinical and academic conceptions and in the main policy leanings of the Anglo (eg. USA, UK and Australia) literature in the area. Specific conceptual and methodological issues are raised: What are some of the ways in which men as perpetrators are categorised and defined in clinical and, more broadly based, psychosocial research on domestic violence? How are (heterosexual) men who are violent and their relationships conceived and theorised in such research? One example in the area is the influential research of the US based psychologist John Gottman who portrays these men as two types: either 'pit bulls' (prone to rage and jealousy) or 'cobras' (sociopaths, cold and calculating). What are the social policy implications of using such research in program design and service culture? I will use a three-year survey study of the attitudes and self-identified abusive behaviours of male perpetrators of domestic violence involved in voluntary group programs in New South Wales (N= 123) to unpack and challenge some of the underpinnings of this style of research. This study suggests a more productive approach to understanding these men is to focus on the intensity of abusive behaviours rather than typing men and their partners. This critical assessment of research and theory illustrates a contested knowledge of evidenced based policy and practice.

GAIL WEAVING

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Clients of alcohol and other drug treatment services
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS 123

The harmful use of alcohol and other drugs is associated with negative impacts on the social, economic or physical well-being of an individual and also on the community in which they live. There is often an interaction between abuse of alcohol or other drugs and difficulties in employment, health, housing and family or other relationships. Problems in one area, such as employment or relationships, can lead to problems in alcohol or other drug use, and vice versa. In turn, this can lead to difficulties in participation or even exclusion from some areas of society. Current policies aim to minimise drug-related harm to individuals and communities and improve the health, social and economic outcomes for both groups.

The Institute has worked with Australian governments to establish a national collection of data on alcohol and other drug treatment services, to assemble information on these services and their clients. This presentation will provide an overview of the results from the first national collection of data, and their relationship to national drug policies.

MARK WESTERN AND JANEEN BAXTER

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Who are the new two earner households?
THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

This paper is an analysis of the characteristics of two earner households in which both partners are in full-time employment and there are young dependent children. ABS data show that this household type has increased substantially over the last two decades. The paper uses the HILDA data to investigate the demographic and social characteristics of this group and the differences between them and the more traditional breadwinner household forms. The aim is to understand what characteristics encourage couples with dependent children to pursue full-time employment compared to couples who opt for other strategies. The paper uses a combination of descriptive methods and statistical modeling to identify socioeconomic and attitudinal differences amongst couples. The findings are discussed in light of recent policy directions that encourage women with young children to remain at home or to work part-time.

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Two to tango? The importance of partnerships and partners' views in shaping fertility aspirations and expectations

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS A

The declining fertility rate worldwide has sparked much public debate about its possible causes, its implications, and the nature of policy responses that might be appropriate. A broad range of factors (psycho-social, economic, and political) have been implicated, but there are many gaps in our knowledge. For example, while there is some evidence to suggest that views about having children tend to change as individuals enter or leave partnerships, such effects have received little research attention. Furthermore, men's views about having children are rarely considered, and even less attention has been given to decision-making of couples.

Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, this paper focuses on (a) childless men and women who are still in common childbearing years – and assesses the importance of partnering status and history relative to other factors in shaping both fertility aspirations and expectations; and (b) couples – and assesses each partner's fertility aspirations and expectations as they relate to personal characteristics and aspects of the couple relationship, including financial well-being.

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Lack of familiarity breeds contempt? How difference limits bridging social capital

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

This paper looks at the emerging literature on the stranger and evaluates its usefulness to the problems of difference and social inclusion. Since its inception, the term social exclusion has been extended to refer to migrants, minorities and outsiders, showing how difference and a sense of the stranger becomes a boundary for denying certain groups access to their social citizenship rights.

The idea of stranger relations, first popularised by Simmel, provides a useful standpoint on social exclusion because it ties the problem of difference to our readiness to develop connections with others. Simmel argued that in cities where encounters with strangers from diverse backgrounds are frequent, the only rational response to difference was indifference.

The issue of stranger relations resurfaces in studies of the consumer revolution in developing countries where market relations have challenged traditional, kin-based forms of association, replacing them with new forms of sociability (Davis, 2000), based on remote individualism and studied indifference.

The idea of the stranger provides insight into the problem of bridging social capital proposed by Putnam. Bridging social capital refers to the capacity for forging links between individuals and groups who perceive themselves to be different and indeed, who are also perceived to be different.

Both the market model of stranger relations and the theory of bridging social capital offer some insight into the problems of managing difference in our public encounters. However, neither offers an adequate view of how we can bridge the differences between outsiders and ourselves in the public sphere.

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Ignoring the dark side: social inclusion and social capital in Australia

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS C

The concept of social capital has been deployed by Australian policy activists since the mid 1990s to buttress Commonwealth and State programs that seek to strengthen families and communities and increase social inclusion by building networks, together with shared norms, values and understandings. But the relationship between social capital and social exclusion, or the so-called "dark side" of social capital, is rarely discussed in the Australian context. Much of the scholarship on social capital seems influenced by an uncritical, backward looking, idealisation of the family and community coupled with naive appeals to solidarity, empowerment and inclusion. The flip side of social capital is its capacity to protect paternalism, sexism, racism, maintain power structures and exclude people outside of the mainstream from work and community. Mobilising social capital as a repair mechanism against the ravages of neoliberal economic policies risks exhausting community spirit in an asymmetrical, localised fight against global capitalism, and may create ghetto economies that do no more than recycle welfare income.

This paper seeks to re-open discussion of both the light and the dark side of social capital and its relationship with social inclusion and social exclusion.

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Families First Area Reviews

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, MATHEWS 104

Families First is a New South Wales government initiative introduced progressively across the State over a period of five years, from July 1999. The aim of Families First is to support families and communities to care for children. To achieve this, a prevention and early intervention approach is being used to identify and support those children and families requiring assistance. Drawing primarily on existing services and resources, the initiative is concerned with developing a coordinated network of services to link families to appropriate support.

The University of New South Wales Evaluation Consortium was commissioned by The Cabinet Office of NSW to conduct Area Reviews of Families First. The Area Reviews form part of the overall evaluation of Families First and focus on the statewide development and implementation of Families First. They are being carried out in three geographical Families First Areas, South West Sydney, Orana Far West and the Illawarra, from 2002 to 2004.

This paper will describe the policy background to the introduction of Families First and context in which Families First was implemented, outline the methodology used in the Area Reviews and present some preliminary findings.

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Much obliged: disadvantaged job seekers' experiences of active labour market policy

THURSDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:00 PM, MATHEWS D

The number and scope of requirements for people receiving unemployment payments have increased substantially over the last decade. This joint research project was conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Centre for Public Policy, at the University of Melbourne. We investigated the types of activities that people receiving Newstart currently undertake, the extent to which they see these as helping or hindering their chances of getting a job, and what changes they think would help them find employment.

In-depth interviews were conducted with forty-five people using a semi-structured interview schedule which covered experiences of and attitudes towards Centrelink activity test requirements and employment services. People were recruited through emergency relief and employment services in Melbourne.

While perceptions varied, those with the greatest barriers to employment (such as homelessness, poor mental health and drug problems) felt the system was least helpful. People with substantial barriers to employment, at the same time as managing other difficulties in their lives, were so engaged in meeting their requirements, that these seemed to have replaced actual job search activities. In effect, the system operates not as 'welfare to work' but 'welfare as work'. Many people in this situation expressed great dissatisfaction, even hostility, with Centrelink. The changes in policy reflect a new 'enterprise ethic' applied to both service providers and clients. Proposals to engage more effectively with this group are suggested

The Social Policy Research Centre is an independent research centre of the University of New South Wales. Under its original name, the Social Welfare Research Centre was established in January 1980, changing its name to the Social Policy Research Centre in 1990.

The SPRC conducts research and fosters discussion on all aspects of social policy in Australia, as well as supporting PhD study in these areas. The Centre's research is funded by governments at both Commonwealth and State levels, by academic grant bodies and by non-governmental agencies.

Our main topics of inquiry are: economic and social inequality; poverty, social exclusion and income support; employment, unemployment and labour market policies and programs; evaluation of health and community service policies and programs; and comparative social policy and welfare state studies.

The Centre has an active publishing program and fosters discussion of social policy research and policy issues by organising and hosting conferences and seminars. The Centre supports the training and development of qualified researchers and teachers in social policy through in-house and external training initiatives and a program of PhD study.

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