

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY CONFERENCE 2007

**SOCIAL POLICY
THROUGH THE
LIFE COURSE**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY
AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE**

Program & Abstracts

The University of New South Wales 11-13 July 2007

Major Sponsors:

**Australian Government
Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**



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**Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing**



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Welcome to the 10th Australian Social Policy Conference organised by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

The ASPC is the primary event on the social policy calendar in Australia and we are proud that it has been running successfully for 20 years and is still going from strength to strength. As usual we have a wonderful mix of keynote presentations, paper sessions and forums, as well as extra events including the launch of *Longevity and Social Change in Australia*, edited by Allan Borowski, Sol Encel and Elizabeth Ozanne, and published by UNSW Press, and an interesting new development – the start of an Australasian Social Policy Association, and, of course, a full social calendar!

I would like to begin by acknowledging the organisations that have provided us with financial support for this year's Conference: The major sponsors of the conference are the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and The New South Wales Government Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care.

The conference was also sponsored by the New South Wales Department of Community Services, the New South Wales Department of Health and Ageing the New South Wales Department of Housing, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Benevolent Society, Mission Australia and The Smith Family. We would also like to thank AusAID for their support for our session on Chinese Social Policy.

The SPRC is delighted to be associated with each of these agencies and we look forward to future collaborations with them.

The theme of this year's conference is '*Social Policy through the Life Course: Building Community Capacity and Social Resilience*'. Our three keynote speakers will provide complementary perspectives on issues to do with family life, caring, and their relationship to social policy, in Australia and internationally.

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn addresses the question of why children living in disadvantage fare badly – even when they are very young. She will focus on the socioeconomic, prenatal, early health, parenting, and child care conditions that contribute to these early gaps, and the most effective mix of early programs and policies that are likely to reduce these gaps in school readiness.

Barbara Pocock focuses on Australian policies impacting on the work/life balance. She will argue that an ethic of care needs to accompany Australia's well developed ethic of work, and that new arrangements are necessary to ensure that care and work are appropriately balanced.

Fiona Williams will take a European view on child care provision, focusing on responsibility between state and family and the economic and caring responsibilities between mothers and fathers. She will also address the impact of globalisation on caring. She will explore how an ethic of care can be developed to encompass local, national and international relations and policies.

The task of organising the conference was shared by many of the Centre's staff; overall responsibility for the conference was shared by Bruce Bradbury, Tony Eardley, and Lyn Craig, the forums were organised by Peter Saunders, Bettina Cass and Catherine Spooner and conference administration undertaken by Duncan Aldridge and Melissa Roughley. Once again we would like to extend our thanks to the team at The Hotel Network who have handled the practical business of organising the conference. Their work has been crucial to the smooth running of the event. 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.

We hope that you will find the 2007 Australian Social Policy Conference stimulating and enjoyable.



PROFESSOR ILAN KATZ
Acting Director

The theme for the 2007 conference is '*Social Policy through the Life Course: Building Community Capacity and Social Resilience*'. This theme encapsulates two interrelated issues in social policy. The first concerns life-course transitions, including the diverse challenges and opportunities which people experience within their age, gender, social, economic and cultural contexts. The second focuses on identifying the interconnections between social investment policies, services and programs that build both community capacity and social resilience for individuals, situated within their social networks.

ABOUT THE SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

The Social Policy Research Centre is a research centre of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. 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 regularly holds seminars and conferences and has an active publishing program. Further information is available from our website at www.sprc.unsw.edu.au, where you can also join our email list, or by telephoning 02 9385 7800, where you can ask to join the SPRC Newsletter mailing list.

General Information

INFORMATION DESK

For general enquiries about the conference and any special needs, please contact the Hotel Network and SPRC staff at the Registration Desk. This will be located in the foyer of the Clancy Auditorium on the morning of Wednesday 11, then move from lunchtime that day to the foyer of the Central Lecture Block (CLB). Centre staff can be recognised by red registration ID lanyards.

LOCATION OF THEATRES

The Wednesday Plenary Session will be held in the Clancy Auditorium and the remaining plenaries will be held in CLB theatre 7. All of the concurrent sessions will be held in the CLB. Forums will be in CLB theatres 1, 6, 7 and 8. The locations are shown on the map opposite.

DISABILITY ACCESS

All of the Conference venues are wheelchair accessible. CLB theatres, except theatre 3, are accessible from the front and rear. Theatre 3 is only accessible from the front (podium, lower campus end). A map of the University showing wheelchair routes is included in the program or available from the registration desk. The Clancy Auditorium and Central Lecture Block have audio loops for people with a hearing impairment.

SPECIAL EVENTS/MESSAGES

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

Journalists may wish to contact paper contributors during the conference. The University's Media Office, with help from designated SPRC staff, will handle liaison with media. Please make regular checks of the Press Contacts section of the message board in the CLB foyer. A press room, for media interviews, is being finalised but is expected to be located in the Morven Brown Building (on the left as you exit into the CLB courtyard).

MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS/LUNCHES

Coffee/tea will be available during registration on Wednesday morning in the Clancy foyer. Lunch on Wednesday will also be held in the Clancy Foyer. Other morning and afternoon teas/coffees will be served in the Marquee located in the CLB courtyard. Lunch on Thursday and Friday will be served in the Pavilions (behind the Clancy Auditorium).

RECEPTION

A welcome reception will be held in the foyer of the Clancy Auditorium from 5.45 to 7.00 pm on Wednesday 11 July.

CONFERENCE DINNER

The Conference Dinner will be held on Thursday 12 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 \$85.00 per head and includes three courses, coffee and drinks. There will be an after-dinner talk from Ross Gittins, Sydney Morning Herald economics columnist and author of 'Gittinomics'. 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 4.00pm and 4.15pm, arriving at the Domestic Terminals at approximately 4.30pm and 4.45pm. Please reserve your seat at the Registration Desk on registration. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

TAXIS

If you require a taxi at the conclusion of the conference please add your name, and details of your destination to the list at the Registration desk.

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. On-campus parking will be limited during the conference, as the University is hosting other Conferences during this week. Some parking is usually also available in High St and surrounding streets. Please note that parking infringements (on or off-campus) 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 and outside the CLB.

MOBILE PHONES

If you have a mobile phone, please ensure that it is silenced 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 keep the Australian Social Policy Conference continually improving 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.

BEST PAPER PRIZE

We will be awarding a Best Paper Prize of a \$200 book voucher for the best contributed paper, as judged by the conference participants. The voting form is at the end of the conference evaluation form and we encourage all participants to give us their views on the best papers presented at the conference.

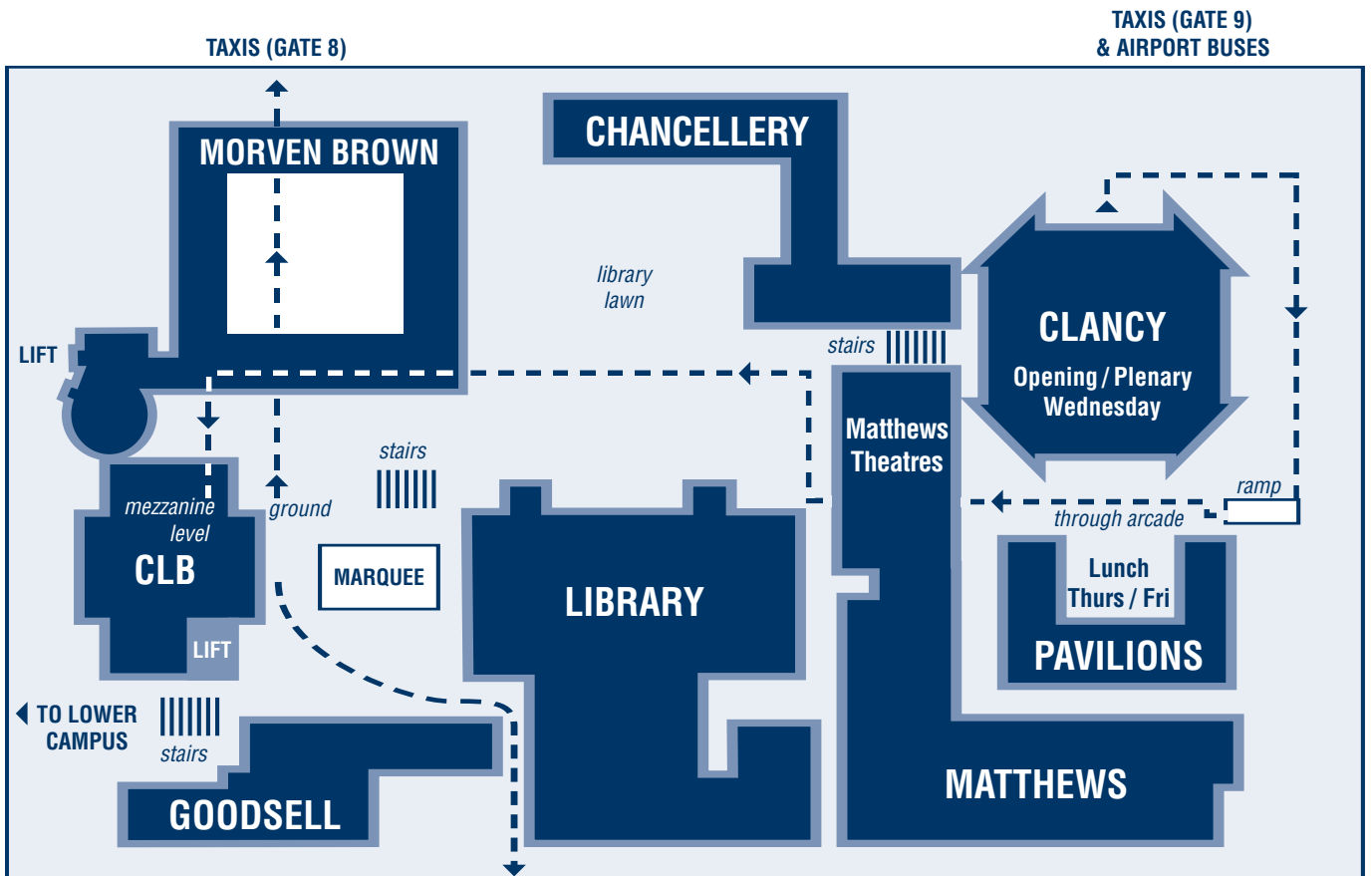
CONFERENCE PAPERS

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 Bruce Bradbury and Tony Eardley, with help from Duncan Aldridge and Lyn Craig. The forums were organised by Bettina Cass, Catherine Spooner and Peter Saunders. Sponsorships were arranged by Melissa Roughley, with administrative assistance from Duncan Aldridge.

CONFERENCE VENUES



TO LIMITED PARKING

WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

9:30 am	Registration	Clancy Foyer
10:30 am	Morning Tea	Clancy Foyer
11:00 am	OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION Welcome to Country: <i>Uncle Norm Newlin, local Indigenous elder</i> Welcome: <i>Professor Les Field, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), UNSW</i> Plenary Address: <i>Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn</i>	Clancy Auditorium
12:30 pm	Lunch	Clancy Foyer
1:30 pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	CLB Courtyard
3:30 pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
5:45 pm	Reception	Clancy Foyer

THURSDAY 12 JULY

9:30 am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
11:00 am	Morning Tea	CLB Courtyard
11:30 am	PLENARY SESSION <i>Professor Barbara Pocock</i>	CLB 7
12:30 pm	Lunch	Pavilions
1:00 pm	Book Launch <i>Longevity and Social Change in Australia, eds. Allan Borowski, Sol Encel and Elizabeth Ozanne</i>	Pavilions
1:30 pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	CLB Courtyard
3:30 pm	FORUMS • Advocacy and consumer participation • Building family and community capacities • Australia's demographic challenges • Rethinking Indigenous policies and programs	CLB 1 CLB 6 CLB 7 CLB 8
6:45 pm	Buses Leave for Dinner	Hotels and Gate 6, UNSW
7:30 pm	Dinner	Crowne Plaza, Coogee
11:00 pm	Buses Return to Hotels and UNSW	

FRIDAY 13 JULY

9:30 am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
11:00 am	Morning Tea	CLB Courtyard
11:30 am	PLENARY SESSION <i>Professor Fiona Williams</i>	CLB 7
12:30 pm	Lunch	Pavilions
1:00 pm	Meeting to discuss formation of Australasian Social Policy Association	CLB 7
2:00 pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:30 pm	Afternoon Tea	CLB Courtyard
4:00 & 4:15 pm	Buses Depart for Airport	Outside Gate 9



WEDNESDAY 11:00AM – 12:30PM

CLANCY AUDITORIUM

PROFESSOR JEANNE BROOKS-GUNN

Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor in Child Development and Education, Columbia University. Founder and Co-director of the National Center for Children and Families, Columbia University

Families and policies matter: how to enhance the well-being of children in poverty

Disparities in the well-being of children from different social class and ethnic backgrounds have been documented in most societies. Why do these disparities exist? What can be done to reduce them? The focus of this presentation will be on young children for several reasons. One is that disparities in vocabulary, cognitive, and regulation are seen early, often by age 3. These disparities exist between children who are poor and affluent, who have parents with high and low education, and who are ethnic minorities and majorities. Another is that the gaps in school readiness continue throughout the childhood and adolescent years. Yet another is that the programs and policies that have been shown to reduce these gaps are often ones that originate in the early years of life. This presentation will focus on the socioeconomic, prenatal, early health, parenting, and childcare conditions that contribute to these early gaps. An estimate of how much of the gap can be 'explained' by each of these five conditions will be presented. Then, programs and policies focusing on each of these conditions will be considered, with a focus on how effective each has been in influencing child language, early reading and math skills, and behavior problems in the early school years. Based on this review, recommendations will be given for the most effective mix of early programs and policies that are likely to reduce these gaps in school readiness.



THURSDAY 11:30AM – 12:30PM

THEATRE 7, CENTRAL LECTURE BLOCK

PROFESSOR BARBARA POCOCK

Director of the Centre for Work+Life, University of South Australia

Governing work life intersections in Australia over the life course: policy and prospects

This paper examines the current situation of Australians as they put together their work and larger lives, under a particular policy regime. It reviews current policy settings governing care and work, finds them wanting in key respects (especially for particular groups of workers), and argues that some recent Australian policy proposals and actions do not adequately respond to the problem. The paper refers to industrial relations law, childcare policies and leave arrangements. The paper argues that an ethic of care needs to accompany Australia's well developed ethic of work, and that new arrangements are necessary to govern their simultaneous realization.



FRIDAY 11:30AM – 12:30PM

THEATRE 7, CENTRAL LECTURE BLOCK

PROFESSOR FIONA WILLIAMS

Professor of Social Policy, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds. Past Director of the ESRC Research Group for the Study of Care, Values and the Future of Welfare, University of Leeds

Shifting child-care policies and practices in Western Europe: is there a case for developing a global ethic of care?

Fiona Williams will analyse the extent to which the distribution of three sets of responsibilities for child care provision is shifting in Western and Southern Europe: responsibility between state and family; the economic and caring responsibilities between mothers and fathers; and the transnational redistribution of care work between poorer and richer regions, within and outside Europe. She will then go on to ask how far a political ethic of care can be developed to encompass local, national and international relations and policies for care.

THURSDAY 12 JULY 3.30 – 5.00PM

Advocacy and consumer participation

CLB 1

- Chair:** ANDREW MCCALLUM
Chief Executive Officer, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- ELENA KATRAKIS
Chief Executive Officer, Carers NSW
- ANNETTE MICHAUX
Director Executive Strategy Unit, Benevolent Society
- MICHAEL RAPER
Director Welfare Rights Centre NSW, President National Welfare Rights Network Australia
-

Building family and community capacities: policies that make a difference for children and families facing economic adversity

CLB 6

- Chair:** PROFESSOR ILAN KATZ
Social Policy Research Centre
- PROFESSOR JEANNE BROOKS-GUNN
Columbia University
- ROBYN MCKAY
Deputy Secretary, Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- PROFESSOR ROSS HOMEL
Director, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance
- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR DON WEATHERBURN
Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
-

Australia's demographic challenges

CLB 7

Organised in conjunction with the ARC/NHRMC Research Network in Ageing Well (Productivity and Economic Security Theme)

- Chair:** PROFESSOR PETER SAUNDERS
Social Policy Research Centre
- PHIL GALLAGHER
Senior Executive Manager, Retirement and Income Modelling Unit, Commonwealth Treasury
- PROFESSOR PETER MCDONALD
Director, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University
- PROFESSOR JULIEN DISNEY
Director, Social Justice Project, University of New South Wales
- PROFESSOR LINDA ROSENMAN
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Region), Victoria University
-

Rethinking Indigenous policies and programs: building community strengths and social resilience

CLB 8

- Chair:** MRS SALLY GOOLD OAM
Chairperson of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses
- DR TIM ROWSE
Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University
- COLLEEN MURRAY
Executive Officer, Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre
- HEIDI NORMAN
Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology Sydney

BOOK LAUNCH

On Thursday 12th there will be a launch of a new book *Longevity and Social Change in Australia*, edited by Allan Borowski, Sol Encel and Elizabeth Ozanne, and published by UNSW Press. The book will be launched by the Hon. Kristine Keneally MP, NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services. The launch will take place in the Pavilions at 1.00pm. The book's editors will also present papers from it in the contributed paper session immediately following the launch (in CLB 6).

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF WELFARE TO WORK REFORMS: A NETWORKING WORKSHOP

The Federal government's controversial Welfare to Work policy changes took effect in mid-2006. Due to the 'grandfathering' of current recipients the impact of those changes will be felt gradually and will grow over time. There has been considerable debate about the likely impact on recipients – especially people with disabilities and sole parents. The Government is anticipating improved outcomes as a result of increased workforce participation, whereas much of the welfare sector has predicted increased poverty, housing stress, exacerbated health problems, etc. The impact of the changes could also be exacerbated by labour market deregulation through Work Choices and by changes to the child support regime.

This networking workshop is an opportunity for those researching the Welfare to Work changes to get together. It is hoped that a clearer picture of what research is being undertaken will result from this exercise, which will help to identify research gaps, enhance collaborative efforts and build a holistic picture of the multi-faceted nature of Welfare to Work. To aid discussion, it would be helpful for workshop participants to prepare a one-page summary of research projects that they are engaged in, including: aims and objectives; method/methodology; target population; time-frame and funding source. Please bring copies to distribute.

This workshop has been organised by Paul Henman, Greg Marston and Rose Melville from the Social Policy Unit at the University of Queensland. It will take place from 9.30-11.00am on Thursday 12th in either the breakout area of the CLB or in CLB7, depending on the number of people involved.

MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF AN AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

The SPRC invites delegates to the Australian Social Policy Conference 2007 to a meeting to discuss the idea of setting up an Australasian Social Policy Association (ASPA). The proposed Association would aim to attract membership from academics and other researchers, policy makers, students and practitioners across university, government and non-government sectors, in Australia, New Zealand and other countries in the region.

Australia and the greater region currently lacks an association dedicated to the discipline of social policy and a journal which focuses specifically on social policy. The Association would be linked to the Australian Social Policy Conference and a peer reviewed journal.

The main activities of the Association would be to:

- promote social policy as a discipline across the Asia Pacific region;
- run workshops;
- form specialist research groups;
- secure funding to offer scholarships and small grants; and
- strengthen links with local and international collaborators.

Members would receive the journal free, along with reduced conference fees. The Association would produce a regular newsletter and other information. We have had some preliminary discussions with the UK Social Policy Association and it may be that members will have access to some of their publications and resources.

The meeting will discuss the various options for the Association (such as who the membership should include, and links with other professional associations). If there is agreement that planning should go ahead, it will appoint an interim steering committee which would take forward the ideas and set up a process for establishing the Association.

The meeting will be held on Friday 13th at 1.00pm in CLB 7.

WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

9:30 – 10:30AM

(CLANCY FOYER)

Registration

10:30 – 11:00AM

MORNING TEA

(CLANCY FOYER)

11:00AM – 12:30PM

(CLANCY AUDITORIUM)

OPENING SESSION

Welcome to country

Uncle Norm Newlin, local Indigenous elder

Welcome

Professor Les Field

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), UNSW

Families and policies matter: how to enhance the well-being of children in poverty

Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn

Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor in Child Development and Education, Columbia University

12:30 – 1:30PM

LUNCH

(CLANCY FOYER)

1:30 – 3:00PM

(CLB 1)

Citizenship and participation

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

Social capital and its popularity

Denise Thompson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Researching community-based support networks: what policy makers should know

Ann Dadich

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Social networks and women's agency: the role of voluntary associations in brokering opportunities across the life course

Christie Robertson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 2)

Families, work and care

WORK-FAMILY STRAIN, SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE LIFE STORIES OF FORMER CHILDREN'S HOME RESIDENTS

Mothers' work-family strain in single and couple parent families: the role of job characteristics and support

Jennifer Baxter and Michael Alexander

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Negotiating 'shared responsibility': how children and parents manage childhood asthma

Jacqueline Tudball

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Building a life story: providing records and support to former residents of children's homes

Jenny Glare, Jenny Malone and Suellen Murray

Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University

(CLB 3)

Families, work and care

CARE THROUGH THE LIFE COURSE

A framework for work and care across the life cycle

Sarah Squire

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

The costs of care/the benefits of care: a precarious balance?

Considering the case of young carers

Bettina Cass and Ciara Smyth

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Understanding grandparent care: policy and practice implications of grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren in the Australian context

Anne Hampshire, Deb Brennan and Bettina Cass

Mission Australia, University of Sydney and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 4)

Early childhood

INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN

Public investment in early childhood: how does Australia compare?

Gerry Redmond and Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

What do we want for children? Considerations for the development of comprehensive and complementary policy for the early years.

Fran Press

Charles Sturt University

Promoting high quality early childhood education and care services: Beyond a risk management, performative regulatory environment

Marianne Fenech and Jennifer Sumsion

Macquarie University and Charles Sturt University

(CLB 5)

Retirement and ageing

POPULATION AGEING, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND WELL-BEING IN RETIREMENT

Population ageing and human capital accumulation in Australia

Ewa Orzechowska-Fischer and Hui Wei

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Examining retirement, bridge employment and full-time work in a community survey of older Australians: the influence of physical health, mental health and cognitive functioning

Peter Butterworth, Sarah C. Gill, Bryan Rodgers,

Kaarin J. Anstey and Timothy Windsor

Centre for Mental Health Research, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, The Australian National University

Organisational change and older workers' training: evidence from a matched employer-employee survey

Lisa Magnani

School of Economics, UNSW

(CLB 6)

Income distribution and social inequalities

LOOKING AT POVERTY AND WELLBEING COMPARATIVELY

Family wellbeing in an era of reform: monitoring changes in family wellbeing for different family types in New Zealand between 1981 and 2001

Andrew Sporle

University of Auckland

WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

The impact of family and government financial support on the income of Canadian workers vulnerable to poverty

Myriam Fortin

Human Resources and Social Development Department, Canada

Institutional responses to poverty: Korea's evolutionary social security System

Yong-Moon Jung

University of Sydney

(CLB 7)

Community and place

HOUSING

(Research commissioned by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute)

A sustaining tenancies approach to demanding behaviour in public housing

Daphne Habibis

AHURI Southern Research Centre

Housing social cohesion: do housing policies and housing assistance make a difference to Australian communities?

Wendy Stone and Kath Hulse

AHURI Swinburne-Monash Research Centre

Indigenous community housing organisations: enhancing capacity in a new indigenous policy context

Karel Eringa, Fred Spring, Mara West, Martin Anda,

Paul Memmott and Stephen Long

AHURI Western Australia Research Centre, AHURI Queensland Research Centre, Shelter WA, Relspre Pty Ltd, Mahdijungu Consultancy

(CLB 8)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

TRANSITIONS INTO EMPLOYMENT

Movements from Welfare to Work: building capital in the next generation

Rebekah Levine Coley

Boston College, U.S.

Mothers' employment transitions after the birth of a new child: longitudinal analyses using HILDA

Bob Gregory, Prem Thapa and Yu Peng

Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University

Social networks and labour market participation in Melbourne

William Mitchell, Anthea Bill, Pip Pattison, Galina Daraganova and Scott Baum

University of Newcastle, University of Melbourne and Griffith University

3:00 – 3:30PM

AFTERNOON TEA

(CLB COURTYARD)

3:30 – 5:30PM

(CLB 1)

Citizenship and participation

ETHICS, MORALITY AND LANGUAGE IN A NEO-LIBERAL SOCIETY

Radical change or more of the same under neoliberalism? The 'life course' of public attitudes towards social citizenship in New Zealand

Louise Humpage

Auckland University

At home in the world: the moral and political language of homelessness

Andrew Hollows

RMIT University and Hanover Welfare Services

Dialling up disadvantage: ethical issues when a journalist wants to speak to a 'poor person'.

Ingrid van Steenwyk and Karen Bevan

UnitingCare Burnside

'Make your own way there': neo-liberal public policy

Joanne Baker

James Cook University

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AMONG INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

From Indigenous child welfare to indigenous community well being

Terri Libesman

University of Technology, Sydney

Participatory evaluation in practice: challenges and early lessons with an Aboriginal-community run centre for Aboriginal boys

Catherine Spooner, Saul Flaxman, Colleen Murray, MaryAnn

Seymour, Lisa Jackson Pulver, John Howard and Elizabeth Moore

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, Tirkandi Inaburra, Muru Marri

Indigenous Health Unit, UNSW, Ted Noffs Foundation, and Centre for

Rural Social Research, Charles Sturt University

Transition to governance: building capacity in an Indigenous community

Fiona Mawson, Miranda Madgwick, Jane Judd and Doseena Fergie

Yarra Valley Community Health Service

Family support programs and social inclusion: early findings from the evaluation of the Intensive Family Support program at the Womens Centre Cairns

Genevieve Sinclair

James Cook University and Intensive Family Support Worker,

Womens Centre Cairns

(CLB 3)

Children and young people

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Working towards a guarantee for kids in out-of-home care

Rani Kumar and Linda Frow

UnitingCare Burnside and NSW Council of Social Services

A cost benefit analysis of intensive foster care for young people in out-of-home care with high support needs

Nicola Robinson

NSW Department of Community Services

Cost benefit analysis of the Campbelltown Community Service

Centre restoration project

Nicola Robinson

NSW Department of Community Services

(CLB 4)

Families, work and care

PARENTING AND WORK IN DIVERSE FAMILY FORMS

Housework, babies and divorce: does domestic fairness promote second births and/or relationship survival?

Lyn Craig and Pooja Sawrikar

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Keeping the balance: the experiences of lesbian parents

Margot Rawsthorne

University of Sydney

WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

One decade on: teenage mothers talk about parenting

Ann Evans

The Australian National University

Changes in patterns of post-separation parenting over time

Bruce Smyth, Nick Richardson, Ruth Weston and Lawrie Moloney

Australian National University, Australian Institute of Family Studies and La Trobe University

(CLB 5)

Retirement and ageing

AGEING WELL: DIVERSITY, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY

Baby boomers: are they a new wave?

Sol Encel

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Will Australia's baby boomers change their retirement plans in line with government calls for later retirement?

Natalie Jackson and Maggie Walter

University of Tasmania

Ulyssean ageing: an alternative model for the third age

Jenny Onyx and Rosemary Leonard

University of Technology, Sydney and the University of Western Sydney

Building a model of collaboration to help communities age well

Jeni Warburton, Jo-Anne Everingham, Michael Cuthill, Helen Bartlett

The University of Queensland

(CLB 6)

Income distribution and social inequalities

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Has mutual obligation made life harder for the unemployed?

Evidence from two social surveys

Peter Saunders and Yuvisthi Naidoo

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Left out and missing out: deprivation and social exclusion in Australia

Peter Saunders, Yuvisthi Naidoo and Megan Griffiths

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Who are the most vulnerable to financial exclusion?

Sherman Chan

Social Policy Research Centre and the School of Social Science and International Studies, UNSW

Poverty amongst privilege: child social exclusion in Boroondara

Janet Stanley, Kemran Mestan, Chi Wai Ng

Brotherhood of St Laurence

(CLB 7)

Citizenship and participation

DISABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Heidegger, Dasein and disability: re-thinking what it means to be 'human'

Terri Fealy

School of History and Philosophy, UNSW

Citizenship and social participation: opportunities created through the disability independent living movement

Carmel Laragy

La Trobe University

Impact of Chinese disability accommodation support policy on participation

Karen Fisher

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Life expectancy, ageing, disability and demand for disability services

Xingyan Wen

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

(CLB 8)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

WELFARE TO WORK

Incentives and capabilities in Australian welfare to work policy

Peter Davidson

Australian Council of Social Services

Assessing the policy assumptions and lived realities of welfare-to-work transitions

Greg Marston and Catherine McDonald

The University of Queensland, RMIT University

'People often say oh bludger or whatever, they don't try and think what could be going on': understanding the complexities around labour force participation

Kath Hulse and Lise Saugeres

Institute for Social Research

Autonomy and capacity building in active income support policies for Australian single parents

Michelle Brady

Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, Canada

5:45 – 7:00 PM

RECEPTION

(CLANCY FOYER)

THURSDAY 12 JULY

9:30 – 11:00AM

(CLB 1)

Citizenship and participation

PARTICIPATION AND DISADVANTAGE

Enhancing participation - new possibilities for disadvantaged Australians

Tim Marchant and Peter Howard

Mission Australia and Australian Catholic University

Citizenship and the social fringe: the significance of marginal and alternative networks and groups

David E. Sprigg

Participation is not a simple process

Jeanette Lawrence

The University of Melbourne

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

CARE PRACTICE AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY

The African Companions Project: building capacity within African refugee communities to prevent alcohol and other drug-related harm

Helen Sowe and Hamed Turay

Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre

Policy imposed practice change: a critical ethnography of child and family health nursing in NSW

Annie Dullow

University of Newcastle

What makes a 'good' care worker? How care coordinators and care workers negotiate professional and personal boundaries.

Jane Mears

Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre, UWS

(CLB 3)

Children and young people

POLICIES FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN CHINA

The role of extended families in child care and protection in China

Xiaoyuan Shang, Morris Saldov and Lang Liu

Social Policy Research Centre and Monmouth University, and China Great Encyclopaedia Press

Care or control: an analysis of Chinese welfare provision for the street children

Fucai Cheng

Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Developing community-based child protection in China

Tingyu Wang

Save the Children UK

(CLB 4)

Families, work and care

GENDER, CARE AND EQUITY

Families, gender and support for gender equity policies

Rebecca Warner and Brent S. Steel

Oregon State University

The social lives of carers in Australia

Benjamin Edwards, Daryl Higgins and Norbert Zmijewski

Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

"Well, you've cared for him too much": the current cohabitation rule as an obstacle to caring relationships

Lyndal Sleep

Griffith University

(CLB 5)

Retirement and ageing

AGEING IN COMMUNITY: DIVERSITY AND DISADVANTAGE

'I know I can't do what I used to': factors affecting uptake of community aged care services for older people and their carers.

Lucy Nelms, Victoria Johnson and Karen Teshuva

Brotherhood of St Laurence and La Trobe University

Myth busting 'frail aged': exploring age-related vulnerability in community care clients

Pauline Marsh

Tasmanian Council of Social Service

Disadvantage among older people: not always what it seems

Sarah Fogg and Barbara Squires

The Benevolent Society

(CLB 6)

Income distribution and social inequalities

INEQUALITY AND EDUCATION

Pathways to learning and social participation: the growing role of learning support programs

Michael Horn

Melbourne Citymission

Constructing knowledge collaboratively: the African Positive Pathways Project

Agnes Dodds and Jane Hunt

The University of Melbourne and Mission Australia

Social protection and study-work-life balance among international students: an Australian case study

Danny Ong and Gaby Ramia

Monash University

(CLB 8)

Citizenship and participation

MENTAL HEALTH/YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH

Challenging the disabling nature of mental illness: the evaluation results of the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI)

Kristy Muir, Karen Fisher, David Abello, and Ann Dadich

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Living with mental illness: perceptions, attitudes and challenges

Cris Abbu and Jacqueline Nelson

Wesley Mission

Youth 'at risk'? Young people, sexual health and social inequality

Anastasia Powell

School of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology, The University of Melbourne

(BREAKOUT SPACE (OR CLB 7))

Labour market participation and welfare reform

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCHING THE IMPACT OF WELFARE TO WORK REFORMS

Understanding the impact of Welfare to Work reforms: a networking workshop

Paul Henman, Greg Marston and Rose Melville

Social Policy Unit, University of Queensland

THURSDAY 12 JULY

11:00 – 11:30AM MORNING TEA

(CLB COURTYARD)

11:30AM – 12:30PM

(CLB 7)

PLENARY SESSION

Governing work-life intersections in Australia over the life course: policy and prospects

Professor Barbara Pocock

Director of the Centre for Work+Life, University of South Australia

12:30 – 1:30PM LUNCH

(PAVILIONS)

1:00 – 1:30PM

(PAVILIONS)

BOOK LAUNCH: LONGEVITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN AUSTRALIA, EDITED BY ALLAN BOROWSKI, SOL ENCEL AND ELIZABETH OZANNE

To be launched by the Hon. Kristine Keneally MP,
NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services

1:30 – 3:00PM

(CLB1)

Citizenship and participation

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

From deficit to disenfranchisement: rethinking youth participation

Kathy Edwards

Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

To cast a vote: homelessness and disenfranchisement

Violet Kolar

Hanover Welfare Services

Correlates and consequences of civic literacy among American youth

Brent S. Steel and Rebecca Warner

Professor and Director, Master of Public Policy Program,

Oregon State University and Professor and Chair, Department of
Sociology, Oregon State University

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

*The national evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities
Strategy 2004-2008*

Joy Russo and Ilan Katz

Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Consortium

*Learning the lesson of working together: using pathways to
prevention as a case study for evaluating institutional change*

Kate Freiberg, Sara Branch and Ross Homel

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Griffith University

*Implementation of the facilitating partner model in the
Communities for Children program: early learnings*

Christiane Purcal, Catherine Spooner and Cathy Thomson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 3)

Organisation and delivery of human services

CHILD SAFETY, CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD CARE

*Working with or against each other? How statutory and non-
statutory child welfare workers perceive their relationships with
each others' agencies.*

Gabrielle Meagher and Karen Healy

University of Sydney and University of Queensland

*Housing assistance as a contributor to child safety: building a child
protection system*

Peter Young, Christina Benham and Leisa Milla

Department of Housing

*The rise of the for-profit child care sector: implications for choosing
quality child care in a regional community*

Nonie Harris

James Cook University

(CLB 4)

Early childhood

EARLY CHILD WELLBEING, PARENTAL EMPLOYMENT AND TIME

*Latest information from Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal
Study of Australian Children*

Carol Soloff

Australian Institute of Family Studies

*The influence of parental employment on how children spend their
day*

Jude Brown

University of New England

The Australian Time Use Survey of New Mothers

Julie Smith and Mark Ellwood

Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health and Pace

Productivity Inc., Canada

(CLB 5)

Multiple Themes

LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE/JUVENILE JUSTICE

*The geography of child disadvantage: a measure of child social
exclusion risk at the small area level*

Ann Harding, Justine McNamara, Rob Tanton, Mandy Yap

and Anne Daly

NATSEM

*Socio-economic indexes for individuals and families: exploring the
ecological fallacy of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas*

Joanne Baker and Pramod Adhikari

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Juvenile justice supervision in Australia

Ingrid Johnston and Rachel Aalders

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

(CLB 6)

Retirement and ageing

SPECIAL SESSION OF PAPERS FROM THE BOOK 'LONGEVITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE'

The politics of ageing : longevity and social change in Australia

Elizabeth Ozanne

The University of Melbourne

THURSDAY 12 JULY

Longevity and social change

Allan Borowski
School of Social Work and Social Policy, La Trobe University

A critique of the Intergenerational Reports

Sol Encel
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 8)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS

Australia, France and the United Kingdom: helping youth into the labour market: a community responsibility to maintain social cohesion?

Sophie Koppe
University of Bordeaux

Employment in Ngukurr: values and concepts of work

Eva McRae-Williams
Charles Darwin University

Sweet 16: life chances and school to work transitions

Janet Taylor and Lucy Nelms
Brotherhood of St Laurence

3:00 – 3:30PM AFTERNOON TEA

(CLB COURTYARD)

3:30 – 5:00PM

(CLB 1)

Forum

ADVOCACY AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

Chair: Andrew McCallum
Chief Executive Officer, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

Elena Katrakis
Chief Executive Officer, Carers NSW

Annette Michaux
Director, Executive Strategy Unit, Benevolent Society

Michael Raper
Director, Welfare Rights Centre and President, National Welfare Rights Network Australia

(CLB 6)

Forum

BUILDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CAPACITIES: POLICIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FACING ECONOMIC ADVERSITY

Chair: Professor Ilan Katz
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Robyn McKay
Deputy Secretary, Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Professor Ross Homel
Director, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

Adjunct Professor Don Weatherburn
Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn
Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor in Child Development and Education, Columbia University

(CLB 7)

Forum

AUSTRALIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

Organised in conjunction with the ARC/NHRMC Research Network in Ageing Well (Productivity and Economic Security Theme)

Chair: Professor Peter Saunders
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Phil Gallagher
Senior Executive Manager, Retirement and Income Modelling Unit, Commonwealth Treasury

Professor Julian Disney
Director, Social Justice Project, UNSW

Professor Linda Rosenman
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Region) Victoria University

Professor Peter McDonald
Director, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University

(CLB 8)

Forum

RETHINKING INDIGENOUS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS: BUILDING COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Chair: Mrs Sally Goold OAM
Chairperson of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses

Dr Tim Rowse
Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University

Colleen Murray
Executive Officer, Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre

Heidi Norman
Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney

6:45 – 7:00PM

(HOTELS AND UNSW GATE 6)

Buses leave for conference dinner

7:30 – 11:00PM

(CROWNE PLAZA, COOGEE)

Conference dinner

After-dinner speaker: Ross Gittins – *Sydney Morning Herald*

11:00PM

(CROWNE PLAZA, COOGEE)

Buses return to hotels and UNSW

FRIDAY 13 JULY

9:30 – 10:30AM

(CLB 1)

Retirement and ageing

POPULATION AGEING: FAMILIES, DIVORCE AND SUPERANNUATION

The treatment of superannuation on divorce in Australia

Grania Sheehan, April Chrzanowski and John Dewar
Griffith University

Financial circumstances of divorced mothers relative to married mothers: is the gap narrowing?

Lixia Qu, Ruth Weston and Robyn Parker
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Divorce and the wellbeing of older Australians

David de Vaus, Matthew Gray, Lixia Qu and David Stanton
La Trobe University, Australian Institute of Family Studies and
Australian National University

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

INFLUENCES ON POLICY AND PRACTICE IN SERVICE DELIVERY

Advocacy in the age of compacts: the effect of funding models

Jenny Onyx, Bronwen Dalton, John Casey, Rose Melville and
Robin Banks
University of Technology, Charles Sturt University, University of
Queensland and PIAC

Administering individualisation: competing logics of social service delivery in Australian welfare reform

Cosmo Howard
University of Victoria, Canada

We know what to do but we don't always do it - aligning policy and practice.

Jan Patterson
Social Inclusion Unit Department of the Premier and Cabinet,
South Australia

(CLB 3)

Children and young people

CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

Re-thinking issues of safety: challenging orthodoxy

Elizabeth Rowe and Charles Waldegrave
Elizabeth Rowe Consulting and Family Centre Social Policy Research
Unit

Academic performance of children in the care of the state: how do they compare?

Nicole Hunter and Sushma Mathur
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Transitioning from the state care system: the impacts of in-care experiences on the post-care outcomes for young people leaving care

Badal Moslehuddin and Philip Mendes
Department of Social Work, Monash University

(CLB 4)

Early childhood

EVALUATIONS OF EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Partnerships in Early Childhood: preliminary findings from the evaluation

Greg Antcliff, Linda Harrison, Tom Longden, Cathy Thomson and
kylie valentine
Benevolent Society, Charles Sturt University, and Social Policy Research
Centre, UNSW

Impact and sustainability of a brief early parenting intervention for parents and young children facing social and economic disadvantage

Jan Nicholson, Donna Berthelsen, Julie Wallace, Vicky Abad and Kate
Williams
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital,
Melbourne and School of Early Childhood, Centre for Learning
Innovation, Queensland University of Technology.

A positive start: factors associated with positive parenting and the social inclusion of young children at risk of disability

Eric Emerson and Gwynnyth Llewellyn
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney

(CLB 5)

Organisation and delivery of human services

SERVICE DELIVERY IN LOCAL CONTEXTS

The Working Together in Minto Place Management Project: lessons learned and implications for practice

David Lilley and Martin Stewart-Weeks
NSW Department of Housing and Cisco Systems

Understanding and building resilience in the South West

Deborah Costello
Injury Control Council of Western Australia Inc

The tyranny of distance and domestic violence: a challenge for human services in rural and regional NSW

Santi Owen
University of New England

(CLB 6)

Income distribution and social inequalities

CAUSES OF SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

Indigenous victims of violent crime: an exploratory analysis of risk and protection factors

Lucy Snowball and Don Weatherburn
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Cumulative causation and the Productivity Commission's framework for overcoming indigenous disadvantage?

Boyd Hunter
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

Mortality of children and parental disadvantage

Peng Yu
Research and Analysis Branch, Australia Government Department of
Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

FRIDAY 13 JULY

(CLB 7)

Community and place

HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement: who receives assistance and what impact has it had on their lives?

Tracie Ennis, Melinda Petrie, Janice Miller, Justin Griffin and Diane Gibson

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Access to your living space: considering affordability and public housing provision

Emma Allen and Beth Cook

University of Newcastle

The debate about boarding houses

Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson

Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University

(CLB 8)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

OVERCOMING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISADVANTAGE

Employment retention and advancement of disadvantaged jobseekers

Rosanna Scutella and Daniel Perkins

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and

The Brotherhood of St Laurence

How effective is the Personal Support Programme?

Daniel Perkins

Brotherhood of St Laurence

What is stopping the very long term unemployed (VLTU) from getting a job?

Louise Ward and Karen Turvey

Job Futures

11:00 – 11:30AM

MORNING TEA

(CLB COURTYARD)

11:30AM – 12:30PM

(CLB 7)

PLENARY SESSION

Shifting child-care policies and practices in Western Europe: is there a case for developing a global ethic of care?

Professor Fiona Williams

School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

12:30 – 2:00PM

LUNCH

(PAVILIONS)

1:00 – 2:00PM

(CLB 7)

Open

AN AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION?

Open discussion

2:00 – 3:30PM

(CLB 1)

Citizenship and participation

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Culture, multiculturalism and welfare state citizenship

Sheila Shaver

Visiting Professor, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

A level playing field? Culturally and linguistically diverse women's perspectives on sport and recreation

Natasha Cortis, Pooja Sawrikar and Kristy Muir

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Migration and motherhood: the importance of support networks

Kylie Sait

Centre for Research on Social Inclusion (CRSI), Macquarie University

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

HOMELESSNESS

Measuring the impacts of SAAP-funded homelessness services on client 'self-reliance': conceptual and methodological challenges

Tony Eardley, Ann Dadich, Denise Thompson and Bettina Cass

Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Improving outcomes for homeless jobseekers: the YP4 experience

Marty Grace and Louise Coventry

Victoria University and YP4

The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of homelessness programs

Paul Flatau

AHURI Western Australia Research Centre

(CLB 3)

Children and young people

CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN SOCIAL POLICY

Children's agency and the welfare state

Gerry Redmond

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

2PIC: young people and social policy: narrative filmmaking

Simon Ruth

Peninsula Health

New light on the overscheduled child controversy: evidence on children's activities and children's outcomes from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

Michael Bittman and Jude Brown

University of New England

(CLB 4)

Families, work and care

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Diversity and work-life balance policies - an opportunity to progress gender equality?

Dalia Ben-Galim

Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford

His and hers jobs: when the quality of partners' jobs matter

Megan Shipley, Lyndall Strazdins, Dorothy Broom, and

Rebecca Matthews

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health,

The Australian National University

Part-time work and academic careers: constraints and opportunities

Cathy Thomson, Kylie Valentine, Trish Hill, and Sharni Chan

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

FRIDAY 13 JULY

(CLB 5)

Community and place

LOCATIONAL INFLUENCES ON FAMILY AND CHILD OUTCOMES

Neighborhood influences on young children's emotional and behavioral problems and prosocial behavior: evidence from an Australian national sample

Benjamin Edwards and Leah M. Bromfield
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Young families who relocate to non-metropolitan areas: exploring policy responses for promoting social inclusion

Karen Healy, Wendy Hillman, Margot Rawsthorne, Anne Hampshire, Annette Michaux, and Ted Smeaton
School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences, The University of Queensland

Dealing with disadvantage: community, place and resilience in girls' identity work

Dorothy Bottrell
University of Sydney

(CLB 6)

Income distribution and social inequalities

EQUITY, SOCIAL POLICY AND POLITICS

Equity in response to climate change

Michael Raper
Welfare Rights Centre

Federal cabinet and social policy in the Keating and Howard administrations

Michael Wearing
University of New South Wales

Towards productive welfare? A comparative analysis of welfare state effort in 18 OECD countries

John Hudson and Stefan Kuhner
Department of Social Policy & Social Work, University of York

(CLB 8)

Organisation and delivery of human services

SERVICE PROVISION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Developing an integrated GIS approach to health and human services

Hamish Robertson, Nick Nicholas, GA (Tony) Broe
Ageing Research Centre and Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute and Faculty of Medicine

E-government and the delivery of welfare: why technology matters

Paul Henman
School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences, University of Queensland

Building community capacity through e-consultation: Darebin e-forum

Monika Merkes, Lucas Walsh and Jackie Bailey
Coordinator, Social Policy and Research, Strategy and Governance Department of the Darebin City Council, Research Fellow, Deakin University; Research Analyst, Australia Council for the Arts

3:30 – 4:00 PM

AFTERNOON TEA

(CLB COURTYARD)

4:00 – 4:15 PM

(UNSW GATE 9)

Buses depart for airport

CRIS ABBU AND JACQUELINE NELSON

Wesley Mission

cris.abbu@wesleymission.org.au

Living with mental illness: perceptions, attitudes and challenges

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

This study attempted to explore community attitudes towards mental illness. Four mental illnesses were given focus: depression, schizophrenia, bipolar and anxiety disorders.

A community attitudes survey of 600 randomly selected households was undertaken in Metropolitan Sydney and in Metropolitan Newcastle. A survey of Wesley Mission staff who work with individuals with a mentally illness was also undertaken. Focus group discussions were done to delve deeper into staff experiences and insights.

The study points to the high level of exposure to mental illness either through family members or through friends. In a number of cases, the respondents themselves had previously suffered from a mental illness or are currently suffering from it. While community attitudes are generally benign, there is still discrimination in the workplace. The study also found a disparity between respondents' reported attitudes about people with a mental illness, and how far they are actually prepared to go to embrace individuals in their personal lives.

There are differences in the findings among the four illnesses under consideration. More negative responses are often associated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder than with depression and anxiety. The findings highlight some serious implications for policy specifically relating to gaps in community service provision.

EMMA ALLEN AND BETH COOK

University of Newcastle

emma.allen@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

Access to your living space: considering affordability and public housing provision

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 7

The reduced share of public housing since the 1980s has resulted from the adoption of neoliberal policies that privilege private provision. While the Australian government has increasingly favoured rent assistance over direct provision, State governments have cited fiscal constraints to justify reductions in public housing stocks.

Strict eligibility criteria have residualised public housing, transforming estates into highly disadvantaged communities. Welfare recipients in the private rental market endure housing stress; insecurity of tenure; and are frequently banished to the periphery of major cities with

adverse impacts on access to social support networks, employment, transport, services, and cultural activities.

This paper reports research findings on the extent of unmet accommodation needs in NSW, broadly defined to include permanent and temporary housing. It combines analysis of local government social plans and a recent qualitative survey conducted with local government social planners. Preliminary results reveal that lack of availability of affordable housing, public housing and crisis accommodation services are significant issues for Australian communities.

Additionally, over half of respondents reported need for provision of brokerage support services to assist in the locating of affordable accommodation during crisis periods. This analysis indicates an urgent need for more progressive, spatially aware public housing policies as the only feasible long term solution.

GREG ANTCLIFF, LINDA HARRISON, TOM LONGDEN, CATHY THOMSON AND KYLIE VALENTINE

Benevolent Society, Charles Sturt University, and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

cm.Thomson@unsw.edu.au

Partnerships in Early Childhood: preliminary findings from the evaluation

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

Research shows that interventions focusing on the development of secure relationships between child care staff and children are linked to improved outcomes in children. The Partnerships in Early Childhood (PIEC) project applies attachment theory to child care settings, hypothesising that pathways between the quality of a children's service can lead to improved attachment relationships and social competence. A child and family worker is placed in the children's service setting to train and support staff to increase their understanding of children's behaviours. The worker can also assist families with all aspects of parenting and act as a resource person and 'bridge' to support services and programs within the local community.

The PIEC project is funded under the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCs), Invest to Grow program. The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) was contracted to develop and implement the evaluation. This paper will outline the theoretical basis of the program and then describe the preliminary results from the comprehensive evaluation, which includes both an outcomes and a process component. The implications of the preliminary findings for policy will also be discussed.

JOANNE BAKER

James Cook University
joanne.baker@jcu.edu.au

'Make your own way there': neo-liberal public policy

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 1

Like the seductive advertising slogan of the Sportsgirl fashion store, young people in Australia are increasingly addressed through a public policy discourse which invites them to 'make their own way there' (Spierings 2002). This message is delivered through a public policy discourse which centres personal responsibility, individual journeys and the valorisation of choice.

This paper reports on recent empirical research conducted with young women aged 18-25. The research found a strong endorsement of individualism, a parallel discounting of socially determined disadvantage, resentment of dependency and a chilling of empathy for those experiencing disadvantage. Paradoxically, despite the striking congruence between young women's epistemological preferences and neo-liberalism, an analysis of their stated needs and aspirations reveals that they are poorly served by the current Australian Government's social policy agenda. Two key challenges that emerge from these findings are discussed; the need for any critique of neo-liberalism to understand and engage with its robust cultural support and backing by many young people; and the implications of weakened support for the recognition of interdependence and collective approaches to community well-being.

JOANNE BAKER AND PRAMOD ADHIKARI

Australian Bureau of Statistics
joanne.baker@abs.gov.au

Socio-economic indexes for individuals and families: exploring the ecological fallacy of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has used the Census of Population and Housing to calculate Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) since 1991. The SEIFA indexes are a widely used measure of relative socio-economic status (SES) at a small area level. The indexes rank and identify areas that are relatively more, or less, disadvantaged. They also provide contextual information about the area in which a person lives.

In some research, SEIFA has been used to indicate the SES of individuals within an area. However, within any area there will be individuals and sub-populations which have very different characteristics to the overall population.

Making judgments about individuals based on an area level measure like SEIFA may create an ecological fallacy.

This paper investigates the ecological fallacy of using SEIFA as a proxy for individual and family level SES. We begin by creating an individual and family level socio-economic index using the same variable selection and methodology as is used for SEIFA. By comparing these two new indexes with the analogous SEIFA scores we find a large amount of heterogeneity in the SES of individuals and families within small areas. This indicates that an ecological fallacy is created when SEIFA is used as a proxy for the SES of smaller groups within an area.

JENNIFER BAXTER AND MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Australian Institute of Family Studies
jennifer.baxter@aifs.gov.au

Mothers' work-family strain in single and couple parent families: the role of job characteristics and supports

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

For parents there can be negative aspects of how work 'spills over' to family and how family 'spills over' to work. This analysis focuses on these aspects of work-family strain for mothers of young children, in particular exploring how work-family strain differs for single and couple mothers. While there has been increased focus on the work-family strains of mothers, less is known about single mothers and their experience of work-family strain. We might expect that single mothers would have more difficulty in combining work and family, given that they do not have the support of a partner to assist with childrearing responsibilities.

This paper explores the relationships between work-family strain and a number of demographic, employment and support factors. We examine whether there are distributional differences, such that single mothers have different types of jobs or different levels of support than do couple mothers. We also consider whether associations between the measured factors and work-family strain are different according to family form; that is, whether certain factors make the work-family balance significantly worse or better for single mothers than for otherwise similar couple-parent mothers.

We use the 2004 Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). This dataset contains detailed family and child data for around 10,000 families, all with at least one child aged 5 or under. With such a large sample size, the number of single mothers is sufficiently large to enable more analyses than is often possible from survey data.

DALIA BEN-GALIM

*Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford
dalia.ben-galim@socres.ox.ac.uk*

Diversity and work-life balance policies - an opportunity to progress gender equality?

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 4

‘Work-life balance’ policies are often implemented within the context of ‘diversity’ in the UK. This implies an association between work-life balance policies and progressing gender equality. It extends the remit of work-life balance policies beyond parents, recognising that people have a variety of roles and responsibilities. In theory, diversity offers the possibility to overcome the same-difference dichotomy that has challenged progress towards gender equality. In practice, the possibilities offered by diversity are rarely utilised to their fullest potential. The UK government frames diversity and work-life balance policies in the context of maximising the individual’s potential in the workplace and based on the business case. This gender neutral approach is problematic given the gender disparities in paid work (and the home).

Drawing on primary data collected from organisational case studies, this paper examines whether work-life balance policies provide opportunities to progress gender equality in the context of diversity. It suggests that the current conceptualisation and implementation of work-life balance policies still prioritises mothers, not capitalising on the potential universality offered by these policies. This is despite a broader conceptualisation including life-course approaches, increased provision and utilisation of policies.

MICHAEL BITTMAN AND JUDE BROWN

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New light on the overscheduled child controversy: evidence on children’s activities and children’s outcomes from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 3

Middle-class parents, claim Rosenfeld and Wise, engage in hyper-parenting - making themselves what has been called ‘crazybusy’ trying to give their child every possible advantage in life. According to this view, parents fill up their child’s lives with a hectic schedule of ‘enrichment activities’, starting in the early preschool years, all in an effort to help them gain admittance to a top-ranked schools and achieve the highest university entry scores. The result is ‘overscheduled’ children that have too little ‘down time’. Opponents of these ideas argue that children who engage in these activities do better on most measures than children who are do not participate in these activities. Using data from the 4-5 year cohort of the first wave of the

Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) this paper examines these claims and counterclaims in a two-step process. First, it describes how much time children of this age typically spend in scheduled activities and the extent of unstructured free time among these children. Second, it compares the school preparedness and social adjustment of children with differing levels of ‘scheduling’.

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Longevity and social change

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

The adequacy and equity of national retirement incomes policies to meet the lifestyle expectations of ageing populations presents challenges for governments and citizens, especially in view of increasing longevity. Policy priorities include establishing clarity about the goals of the collective and private arrangements, assuring their financial stability and security, ensuring that the interface or interaction between public and private arrangements is coherent and maintaining an equitable and

politically acceptable balance of costs and benefits across income classes, gender, age cohorts and between employers and employees.

The presentation will describe the evolution of Australia’s retirement income arrangements and the shifting forces that have shaped them. The contemporary design features of these arrangements will be described and placed within the context of the various public and private choices available to nations when shaping their retirement incomes systems including their coverage, adequacy and financing. Particular emphasis will be placed on the key distributive issues of the economic security of older women.

The presentation will conclude with an assessment of the reforms in retirement income provision that remain necessary. The ‘fracture’ in the nexus between earned and retirement incomes will be underscored.

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Dealing with disadvantage: community, place and resilience in girls’ identity work

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 5

This paper explores young people’s understandings of the social problems and strengths of their community. Drawing on doctoral research completed in 2002, the paper discusses girls’ (13 to 24 year-olds) accounts of their experiences of growing up in the Glebe public housing estate.

The difficulties they face, their critiques and aspirations indicate resilience, their positive adaptation despite adversity. Social capital accrued through the resources and support of local networks may be seen as significant to their resilience. However, the girls' accounts also explicate youth resistances to school and inevitable trouble through participation in the local youth network, raising questions for conceptualisations of both social capital and resilience. Moreover, their articulation of living in a 'stereotyped' community indicates the significance of social identity and how it is understood and constructed in reference to both place and the inequitable relations of identifiable groups. The relations of differentiated social capitals and the relative strength of specific resources which constitute them are challenges for community development. Dynamic rather than normative definitions may be necessary for the recognition of resilience in young people and communities dealing with disadvantage.

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Autonomy and capacity building in active income support policies for Australian single parents

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 8

Over the last two decades a focus on capacity building has been central to social policy discourses concerning single parents in Australia. The Personal Adviser (PA) initiative, the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program, and several new Job Network (JN) programs aim to promote single parents' capabilities in areas such as employment skills, awareness of support services, abilities to make clear plans, identifying steps needed to fulfil plans and monitoring progress towards personal goals. These are the sorts of capabilities that income support recipients and their advocates would probably accept as valuable and important. In this paper I examine the administrative procedures through which policy makers and service providers have sought to develop these capabilities for single parents and the ways that these procedures have been experienced by single mothers receiving income support.

I argue that the administrative procedures through which the JET and PA programs operated were frequently as constraining for single parents as they were enabling. Although Centrelink claimed that PAs and JET advisers helped clients 'towards actively determining their future' and 'offer[ed]' support and encouragement with 'current and future plans', I argue, through an analysis of policy procedures and interviews with single mothers, that the JET and PA interview procedures were not orientated towards supporting and developing the autonomy of the

individual. Instead these procedures were primarily orientated to uncovering and documenting details of clients' existing characteristics and encouraging compliance with administrative requirements. I also report on interviews with JN providers in Perth concerning new programs they have developed for single parents. I argue that while some JN providers are devising innovative practices for capacity development, many of the elements of these new programs replicate the highly problematic administrative features of the old JET and PA programs.

JUDE BROWN

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The influence of parental employment on how children spend their day

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

There is a longstanding controversy about the impact of parental employment, particularly maternal employment, for pre-school aged children on developmental outcomes such as reading, vocabulary and mathematics. Relatively few studies have examined the ways in which parental employment, including paternal employment, directly impacts upon the daily lives of children, as viewed from the child's perspective.

This paper uses diary data from the 4-5 year cohort of the first wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) to examine the relationships between the time that both mothers and fathers spend in market work and the time children spend in developmentally important activities such as reading and play and in potentially detrimental activities such as watching television and engaging in problematic or aggressive behaviors.

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Examining retirement, bridge employment and full-time work in a community survey of older Australians: the influence of physical health, mental health and cognitive functioning

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

The transition between full-time employment and complete retirement is often not crisp, with many people moving to complete retirement through participation in bridge employment activities involving reduced hours of work, change of occupation or industry, and lower levels of

work commitment. There has been research interest in the factors associated with retirement transitions amongst older adults, with evidence that physical health is one of strongest predictors. Thus, declining functional ability may be an important determinant of retirement decisions, particularly the extent to which job performance is compromised. Cognitive functioning, including the decline in abilities associated with normal cognitive ageing, may also be an important factor that has been overlooked in most of the previous research. The aim of this paper is to examine the physical, mental and cognitive correlates of full-time employment, bridge employment or complete retirement in a community survey of older Australian men and women close to the traditional retirement age (aged between 60 and 64 years). In addition, we follow respondents longitudinally (over 4 years) to examine the extent to which physical, mental and cognitive functioning is associated with changes in employment status. This research contributes to understanding of the factors that influence older Australians' decisions around retirement and may assist policy development.

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The costs of care/the benefits of care: a precarious balance? Considering the case of young carers

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

A major research strand on young carers focuses on the costs incurred by children and young people who provide informal care for a family member who has a disability, long-term health condition or is elderly. These costs include early school leaving, reduced participation in post-secondary education, training and employment, reduction of future income. Caring responsibilities reduce participation in friendship networks, social and recreational activities, with implications for social connectedness, health and well-being. Another research strand highlights the benefits of young peoples' care-giving: the acquisition of caring skills; maintaining 'at home' care for disabled or seriously ill family members; contributing to the integrity and resilience of families and reducing the costs of residential care. This paper will analyse the international literature on young carers and draw on focus group fieldwork to explore these two sides of the caring coin. The paper will also highlight a number of important policy issues: what are the family circumstances and policy settings in which children and young people undertake informal caring? How might the nature and intensity of care be altered under different policy frameworks, so that a young person's normative ethic of 'caring about' need not be extended into responsibility for 'taking care of'?

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The debate about boarding houses

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 7

Nancy Rogers (2004) has pointed out that there are two ways of thinking about boarding houses in the current Australian literature. On the one hand boarding houses are said to be a declining sector at the bottom end of the private rental market, nonetheless providing essential accommodation for a range of disadvantaged people who would otherwise end up in the homeless population. This argument contends that it is critical for governments to stimulate the supply of boarding house rooms by providing a range of incentives to private investors. On the other hand, the Australian Bureau of Statistics identifies people living in boarding houses as part of the tertiary homeless population. This paper attempts to adjudicate between these arguments by assembling the evidence on three issues. First, we investigate the facilities provided for boarding house residents and ask whether these approximate to the facilities provided in the private rental market. Second, we review the social characteristics of people using boarding houses and ask whether boarding houses provide residents with a safe and secure environment. Third we investigate whether new residents of boarding houses are introduced to other homeless people and whether this provides them with an entry point into the homeless sub-culture.

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Who are the most vulnerable to financial exclusion?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 6

Financial exclusion is a branch of social exclusion and it refers to the lack of access to the financial system or the lack of participation in key financial activities. A recently conducted postal survey on a random sample of the Australian population found that the majority of respondents considered having access to financial institutions as essential in everyday life. It is therefore concerning to note that a proportion of the respondents reported that they had no access to financial institutions and/or required assistance in using financial services. Using data from the same survey, this paper studies the characteristics of those with no access to financial services and explores the factors inhibiting financial inclusion.

The degree of financial constraint experienced by the financially excluded will be examined, and the correlation between financial exclusion and financial stress will also be discussed.

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Care or control: an analysis of Chinese welfare provision for the street children

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

From the 1980s, China has seen an increasing number of children roaming on the streets. This article discusses the development of Chinese policy regarding the street children. By using related policy documents and street children research sources as vehicles, the author analyzes and evaluates the policy. It highlights the paternalistic and the authoritarian control-directed nature of the current welfare-policy, which ignores the street children's personal perception and preference, and over-emphasizes the importance of maintaining social order instead of the street children's individual needs. The connection between Chinese traditional culture Confucianism and the socialist ideology and the formulation and implementation of the policy is disclosed. The article argues that the current control-directed social policy of street children should be gradually replaced with a preventive and outreaching approach. More works should be invested to prevent children-at-risk from migrating into the public streets, and to help those children who already live in the streets to get necessary provision and protection.

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A level playing field? Culturally and linguistically diverse women's perspectives on sport and recreation

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 1

Sport and recreation are key leisure activities and important components of national culture and social life. As well as promoting physical health, sport and recreation offer social and political spaces in which to promote social inclusion and cultivate cultural diversity. This paper will report findings from research about how women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds participate in sport and recreation, which has been conducted by the SPRC for the Australian Government Office for Women.

Consultations with fifteen stakeholders confirm that the idea of sport as a level playing field remains pervasive, and that supporting cultural diversity is not always a high priority for sporting organisations. Twelve focus groups with ninety-four culturally and linguistically diverse women in three states reveal how they experience sport and recreation; the barriers they confront; and the strategies

that can help support participation and diversity in this area of social and cultural life.

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Understanding and building resilience in the South West

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

In 2004 the Injury Control Council of Western Australia received funding from the Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing for the Understanding and Building Resilience in the South West project. The research phase of the project was completed in May 2006.

The aim was to produce an evidence-based and community endorsed report that would make recommendations on how to build community resilience and reduce risk factors for suicide.

Data collection occurred through focus groups/interviews involving 300 people across 6 rural communities. Focus groups were also held with 3 Aboriginal communities. The data was used to develop 'Community Road Maps'. These included local profiles, key issues and recommendations for building resilience and were validated by each community.

The following community resilience factors were investigated: community composition, social exclusion/connectedness, help seeking, history of addressing issues, decision making, trust and safety, service gaps and sustainability

The recommendations of the project are: to form local working groups to promote community resilience, investigate strategies to increase opportunities for people to connect with community, build community capacity in recognising and responding to people at risk of suicide, increase community awareness of referral and support services, implement and promote early intervention and education programs and develop strategies to address service gaps and improve access to services

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Housework, babies and divorce: does domestic fairness promote second births and/or relationship survival?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 4

Meeting the competing claims of work and family is difficult and demanding, particularly for mothers. Despite the large-scale entry of women into the paid workforce,

there has been little corresponding movement by men into domestic labour, and it continues to be women who most often adjust their work commitments around family, or most suffer the time stress concomitant with managing both roles. Social and workplace policies rarely address the division of domestic labour, which is widely regarded as a private matter. However, domestic inequity may have practical implications including upon the survival of marital relationships and fertility outcomes, which have pervasive social effects. Using logistic regression analysis of data from Waves 1-4 of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA), this paper investigates i) whether inequality in the division of domestic labour diminishes the likelihood couples will have a second child, and ii) whether perceived or actual inequity in the division of household labour contributes to the likelihood of divorce.

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Researching community-based support networks: what policy makers should know

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

Research suggests that Self-Help Support Groups have a valuable role in civic society. They contribute to the wellbeing of individual group participants and the communities to which they belong. These findings extend to young people who experience mental health issues. However, it is difficult to measure the value of these groups using positivist research approaches that typically attract the attention of policymakers. This is because Self-Help Support Groups are consumer-driven and involve voluntary participation. Therefore, they cannot be regulated by research agendas or prescribed like treatment - lest the group be altered. As consumer-driven groups, Self-Help Support Groups do not share common aims; nor do they operate in similar ways. The frequency of group meetings varies between groups, as does the level of involvement from professionals who do not share the experience of group participants. While social policy has an important role in the use and availability of Self-Help Support Groups, this paper argues that social policy research in this field needs to be driven by group participants. In accordance with the self-help ethos, this involves allowing group participants to identify indicators that measure the value of group participation; appropriate research methods to measure this value; and the timeframe in which benefit might be demonstrated. Only through a participatory approach will social policy have the potential to enhance wellbeing in this field.

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Incentives and capabilities in Australian welfare to work policy

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 8

Successful 'welfare to work' policies improve people's incentives and capabilities. In Australia and most Anglophone countries, incentive-boosting policies take precedence. Activity requirements have been progressively tightened and extended to more income support recipients including people with disabilities and parents. Income tests have been eased to encourage workforce participation and proposals to introduce working tax credits have been debated.

For Australia to make further inroads into unemployment, policy must change focus in response to the social and economic disadvantage faced by those who remain jobless. Over 60 per cent of jobless single parents and long term unemployed people have Year 10 qualifications or less. Around half of all Newstart Allowance recipients received this payment for over two years. A minority of income support recipients live in families and communities that have little or no experience of stable employment. To simply intensify job search requirements is to set these job seekers up to fail and expose them to harsh financial penalties.

Two directions for reform are canvassed. First, activation should not be an end in itself. It should be a gateway to training, work experience, mentoring and intermediation with employers. In theory the Job Network model rewards providers for these interventions if they improve employment outcomes. In practice, it deprives them of the resources and incentives to do so. The funding structure should be overhauled to give employment consultants the tools to overcome barriers to work and fulfil the Network's original promise of consumer-responsive service.

Second, the income support system needs major reform. The main problem is not income tests. It is the complex web of payment categories based on people's 'distance from employment', that creates unfairness and perverse incentives (for people with disabilities, for example) to avoid participation in the labour market. The structure belongs to another era when people were either jobseekers or students or parents or people with disabilities. The system does not facilitate the combinations of these roles that are essential to navigate a changing labour market.

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Divorce and the wellbeing of older Australians

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

As the first generation that experienced high rates of divorce reaches retirement age, the number of older Australians who have experienced divorce at some point in their lives will increase dramatically in coming decades. The impact of this is compounded by the structural ageing of the Australian population. Experience of divorce has been shown to have an adverse impact upon living standards in later life (de Vaus, Gray, Qu and Stanton 2007). There are reasons for believing that divorce, in certain circumstances, may also increase the likelihood of experiencing social isolation. There are likely to be gender differences in the consequences of divorce in older age.

This paper extends the work into the financial consequences of divorce to examine the connections between divorce, a wide range of measures of wellbeing and the level of support received from families, friends and neighbours. Data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA) are used. The effects of an ageing population combined with those approaching retirement having much higher rates of divorce than preceding generations will mean that the issues relating to the consequences of divorce for older people will be of high public policy relevance.

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Constructing knowledge collaboratively: the African Positive Pathways Project

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

Current discussions of links between policy, research and service delivery often refer to the gaps between sectors and the need to bridge those gaps by transferring knowledge from one to another. The greater need is to collaboratively generate a body of knowledge that is usable in each sector. We report initial work on a project combining policy, research and service delivery from its beginnings and throughout its implementation and evaluation phases. The African Positive Pathways Project is a collaborative partnership between Mission Australia, a NGO with experience in policy and service delivery and a team of university-based developmental researchers and evaluators. The project aims to support young people from African refugee families as they move through the Australian school system. A developmental pathways approach involves

locating children in all their social contexts and across different transition experiences. Appropriately designed and evaluated interventions have implications for the children, the culture, the local social context and government and non-government providers. Operating across sectors adds significantly to challenges for all as knowledge is co-constructed rather than transferred. We report on challenges and opportunities involving concepts, language and priorities that must continually be negotiated and renegotiated to avoid rather than bridge gaps.

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Policy-imposed practice change: a critical ethnography of child and family health nursing in NSW

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

The implementation of the Families First initiative and changes in the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, between 2000 and 2002, presented Child and Family Health (C&FH) nurses in New South Wales with an unprecedented degree of change in their daily practice. This paper reports on a qualitative study exploring the nurses' experiences of these changes (in progress). Grounded in critical social theory the nurse participants' expressed meanings and assumptions, and apparent discords between these meanings and assumptions were critically analysed. The paper discusses the dissonance between the nurses' historically bound understanding of their role in primary health care and their emerging roles and functions arising from policy and legislative changes. Some C&FH nurses described how they were working with families experiencing hardship, uncovering sometimes long standing emotional issues during home visits, and developing their community brokerage role. Along a continuum of responses some nurses reported working beside families through the notion of friendship, others described their role in terms of building families' self-esteem and facilitating positive health behaviours and protective factors in the family home, while others felt challenged by a new level of intensity in their relationships with families and were in need of additional professional support.

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***Measuring the impacts of SAAP-funded
homelessness services on client 'self-reliance':
conceptual and methodological challenges***

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 2

The Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP) aims to 'provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services to help homeless people achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence'. The SPRC was commissioned by the SAAP National Coordination and Development Committee, through FaCSIA, to carry out a client survey to measure how far receiving SAAP services increases self-reliance.

The SAAP V Agreement describes self-reliance as multifaceted, demonstrated by access to long-term independent accommodation, family links, social inclusion, financial security and self-sufficiency. Other research has conceptualised self-reliance for homeless people as 'getting back on one's feet', measurable along a number of dimensions including affect, control/security, knowledge, behaviour, status, connectedness and stability.

In spite of the groundwork laid by earlier studies, developing the survey involved significant conceptual and methodological challenges, including:

- limitations of an individualist perspective on homelessness;
- client heterogeneity;
- links and contradictions between self-reliance and independence/resilience;
- measuring small changes;
- establishing causal links between client change and service use;
- determining which clients might be expected to demonstrate change; and
- balancing conceptual complexity with expressive simplicity in survey design.

This paper discusses the conceptual and methodological issues involved, the preliminary results of the survey and the lessons for homelessness research.

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The social lives of carers in Australia

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

In Australia, 13 per cent of people living in households were carers who provided some assistance to those who needed help because of disability or age (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2003). Although there are tremendous benefits to society as a result of providing care to relatives who have a disability, the impact of this on the family can be substantial. This paper compares the social lives of a representative sample of 1002 carers who receive government assistance to a sample from the general population. We use data from wave 4 of the HILDA survey for our sample from the general population and data from the Families Caring for a Person with a Disability Study. Carers were 1.46 times more likely than the general population to have low social contact with friends or relatives outside of the household ($p < .001$) even after controlling for a suite of demographic variables. More detailed analysis of demographic and caregiving variables associated with carers' low social contact and wanting more social contact were also conducted. Carers who experienced more financial hardship and cared for a person with a disability with high care needs were more likely to have low social contact with friends and relatives outside of the household and, want more contact with these people.

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***From deficit to disenfranchisement: rethinking
youth participation***

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

The current discourse around youth participation is characterised by concern regarding their perceived declining participation in political, civic and community life. Using empirical data from the Youth Electoral Study (YES) this paper focuses on youth electoral participation. YES was an ARC Linkage project with researchers at the University of Sydney and the Australian National University. The partner investigator was The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The AEC have identified that a significant number of young Australians are not enrolled to vote, and the popular press frequently attributes this to their political apathy. The roots of this perceived 'civic deficit' have been considered by the policy literature to lie in a deficit of democratic knowledge. Thus youth electoral participation has been addressed primarily in the context of

education policy. This paper discusses some of the barriers that marginalised young people face to accessing the franchise. In doing so it seeks to reposition youth electoral participation in a social justice context and as a problem for social policy. In particular it explores a paradox: in contemporary Australia youth are castigated for a lack of electoral participation while at the same time a shrinking welfare state contributes to their disenfranchisement.

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Neighborhood influences on young children's emotional and behavioral problems and prosocial behavior: evidence from an Australian national sample

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 5

Mechanisms by which neighborhood socioeconomic status influenced children's hyperactivity, conduct problems, peer problems, emotional symptoms and prosocial behavior were investigated using data from a nationally representative study of 4983 four-to-five year old children growing up in 330 neighborhoods in Australia. Children's hyperactivity, emotional symptoms, peer problems and conduct problems were found to be associated with neighborhood socioeconomic status, neighborhood safety and neighborhood belonging after accounting for family demographic variables. Further analyses demonstrated that perceptions of neighborhood safety and neighborhood belonging mediated the relationships between neighborhood socioeconomic status and children's hyperactivity, conduct problems, emotional symptoms and peer problems. Furthermore, the associations of neighborhood safety with these variables were mediated by neighborhood belonging. A different pattern of results was evident for prosocial behavior. Neighborhood cleanliness and neighborhood belonging had a direct association with prosocial behavior and no mediated associations were evident. Neighborhood belonging and to a lesser extent perceptions of neighborhood safety seem to be important mechanisms in the transmission of the effects of neighborhood socioeconomic status.

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A positive start: factors associated with positive parenting and the social inclusion of young children at risk of disability

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

Families supporting children whose impairments place them at risk of disability are at significantly greater risk than other families to exposure to poverty and social exclusion. As such, they are at increased risk of exposure to social conditions that have been repeatedly shown to impede development, restrict life opportunities and jeopardize the health of children. Little is known about the factors associated with positive parenting practices toward and the social inclusion of young children at risk of disability, especially among families facing significant adversities.

This paper will present cross-sectional data from the first wave of the K-cohort (age 4-5 years old) of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). Within these data we have operationally identified 6.5 per cent of children as being at risk of disability due to falling within the bottom 2.5 per cent of the sample population with regard to health, learning or social/emotional development. The paper will identify factors associated with positive parenting practices and increased social inclusion among children at risk of disability overall, and among children at risk of disability who are facing additional adversities relating to poverty and/or exposure to high rates of adverse life events. Implications for social policies directed at increasing the life opportunities of disabled children will be drawn.

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Baby boomers: are they a new wave?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 5

The expected impact of the baby boom generation has already generated a substantial literature and looks certain to generate much more. In the UK, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation sponsored a series of studies of 'Transitions After 50' in 2002, and these were followed more recently by research conducted by the DEMOS research group. In Australia, the subject has attracted the attention of popular authors like Hugh Mackay and Bernard Salt. The Australia Institute published its own analysis of attitudes and expectations in 2006. Other studies have been carried out by private firms in the finance sector, including the insurance group AXA and the banking corporation Citigroup.

The paper compares the findings of these studies, which present a confusing picture of possible outcomes. Some of them commit the fallacy of treating the baby boom generation as a more or less homogeneous group, while others emphasise that the diversity of responses makes prediction very difficult. This diversity is particularly marked in relation to continued participation in the paid labour force, and to expectations about retirement incomes.

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A critique of the Intergenerational Reports

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

The Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, has now produced two 'Intergenerational Reports' (2002 and 2007). The first report was clearly influenced by the 'crisis' school of thought which has dominated much public discussion about the impact of an ageing population, and made much of a 'fiscal gap', estimated at 5 per cent of GDP, that would develop by 2041. The gap would be the result of increased government spending on health care, aged care services, and age pensions. The term 'fiscal sustainability', which in plain language means no new taxes, recurs throughout the report.

The language of crisis is less evident in the second report, which revises the projected fiscal gap from 5 per cent to 3.5 per cent of GDP. The report concedes that 'while an ageing population is projected to contribute to an increase in spending over the next 40 years, roughly two-thirds of the projected increase in real spending per person is driven by factors other than ageing'. It also acknowledges the point, made in an OECD report in 2005, that labour force participation rates for people over 55 are well below the OECD average. It does not, however, suggest how they can be raised.

Although the two reports contain much statistical detail, they do not advance the argument significantly beyond the analysis made in a paper by Clare and Tulpule in 1995 ('Australia's Ageing Society'), which also calculated the costs of health care, pensions etc, and concluded that as GDP continued to grow, a modest rise in taxation (not more than 2 per cent) would meet the cost increases. Talk of tax increases is political poison, but governments will have grasp this nettle sooner or later.

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The 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement: who receives assistance and what impact has it had on their lives?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 7

The aim of the 2003 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) is to provide appropriate, affordable and secure housing assistance for those who most need it, for the duration of their need. This aim translated into almost 375,000 households at 30 June 2006 who were living

in mainstream public housing, targeted Indigenous public housing or mainstream community housing.

This presentation describes those households who received CSHA housing assistance in 2005-06. Aspects such as household composition, age of main tenant, income source, whether or not in receipt of a rental subsidy, Indigenous status, and how quickly priority applicants are housed, will be covered. It will also provide information on households' satisfaction with their housing, their reasons for entering CSHA housing, the benefits they have gained and issues relating to workforce participation. Details on CSHA dwellings, such as number, size and location will also be presented.

The 2003 CSHA expires on 30 June 2008 and a new Agreement is currently being negotiated between states/territories and the Commonwealth. With this in mind, the presentation will also highlight key changes that have taken place since the start of the 2003 Agreement.

**KAREL ERINGA, FRED SPRING,
MARA WEST, MARTIN ANDA,
PAUL MEMMOTT AND STEPHEN LONG**

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Indigenous community housing organisations: enhancing capacity in a new indigenous policy context

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 7

The project aims to provide a detailed, contemporary, empirical understanding of Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) to inform an understanding of, and to identify short and longer-term options, to enhance the capacity of the ICHO sector. The study focuses on non-financial factors affecting viability, and builds on AHURI Project 30282, 'Indigenous housing - assessing the long term costs and the optimal balance between recurrent and capital expenditure' that explored financial viability factors affecting ICHOs.

The project methodology developed a multi-measure model of the capacity factors facing ICHOs, which were tested by pilot and telephone surveys and field studies with 20 ICHOs. This paper will report on the short and longer-term options and the policy implications.

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One decade on: teenage mothers talk about parenting

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 4

What do women who had their first child as a teenager say about their lives nearly a decade later? The Young Motherhood Study conducted by The Australian National University interviewed 50 young mothers in 2006. The interviews were conducted in metropolitan and rural areas across NSW and the ACT and reveal the complexities of teenage motherhood.

In the UK a 'social exclusion' framework has been adopted to direct policy responses to teenage pregnancy. In light of this study, how useful is social exclusion as a policy framework for Australia? This paper explores how young mothers themselves understand the challenges they face in combining the transition to adulthood, work, education and motherhood. From this we can consider how useful social exclusion might be for framing work and family policies in Australia.

The study finds that many young mothers have enormous social capital within their family and immediate networks. However, this capital is not necessarily sufficient to enable their transition to meaningful social and economic participation.

TERRI FEALY

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Heidegger, Dasein and disability: re-thinking what it means to be 'human'

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 7

Citizenship relies on notions of what it means to be a human person. Within the western philosophical tradition the human person is understood to be an able-bodied, rational, autonomous and free individual who is also an economically producing member of society. Suffice it to say, many people with disability would not fit this criteria. Consequently citizenship, and the inclusion it implies, would seem to be denied them. What options are therefore available to challenge this philosophical based view?

Martin Heidegger, who was arguably one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century, challenged these traditional western philosophical views. By using a phenomenological approach to address the ontological question of what it means 'to be' a human person, he came up with an alternative understanding. In this paper I will outline his theory and explore the ways in which it enables inclusion for people with disability. I will then argue that

Heidegger's ontology provides a foundation that may potentially lead a political society that is able to recognise and value disability as part of the spectrum of what it means to be human.

MARIANNE FENECH AND JENNIFER SUMSION

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Promoting high quality early childhood education and care services: beyond a risk management, performative regulatory environment

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

Quality early childhood education and care is today recognised by governments in Australia as being of critical importance to children's optimal development and wellbeing, and to the nation's economic prosperity. To this end, state regulations and a national system of quality assurance are promoted in Australia as mechanisms that enhance the quality of early childhood education and care services. However, findings from an ARC funded, multi-phased study aimed at investigating early childhood teachers' perceptions of the impact of the NSW regulatory environment on quality in long day care suggest that these regulatory requirements are limited in their capacity to effect high quality standards. We suggest that this limitation is owing to the risk management and performative construction of the current regulatory environment. In the wake of an 'overhauled' quality assurance system for children's services, and an impending review of the NSW Children's Services Regulation 2004, we propose that a transformed system of regulatory accountability underpinned by notions of 'a decent and nonhumiliating society' (Margalit, 1996), socially just policies (Wishart, Taylor, & Shultz, 2006) and professional trust (Power, 1994, 1997, 2004) presents as a way forward that could more effectively enhance and support quality in children's services.

KAREN FISHER

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Impact of Chinese disability accommodation support policy on participation

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 7

This year China signed the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which aims to promote the ability of people to participate fully in all aspects of life, including where they live. The paper analyses Chinese people with disabilities' experience of these citizenship rights by investigating the impact of disability

accommodation support policy on their participation in their communities. The analysis draws on empirical research in Beijing in 2006 with people with disabilities and officials. The findings show that responsibility for accommodation support rests primarily with the person and their family. Only when they have no relatives does the government provide alternative accommodation support, in the form of institutional care. Very little personal assistance or alternative accommodation is available. Minimum income support and the gradual introduction of social services are progressively enabling people with disabilities to participate as equal citizens. The research contributes to understanding policy implications to realise the rights of Chinese people with disabilities.

PAUL FLATAU

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The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of homelessness programs

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 2

This paper provides research findings from a project concerned with assessing the cost-effectiveness of homelessness programs and reflects on the methodological issues and research processes involved in developing cost-effectiveness estimates. The paper outlines and reflects on the researcher-agency collaborations involved in the project, the measurement and interpretation of client needs and outcomes and the assessment of the cost of delivering programs and the evaluation of cost offsets.

SARAH FOGG AND BARBARA SQUIRES

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Disadvantage among older people: not always what it seems

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

Disadvantage and social exclusion in older age are associated with a number of interrelated factors, including but not limited to financial status. Although there is a tendency for social exclusion to cluster in geographic locations and communities, not necessarily everyone at risk of social exclusion lives in a deprived area.

The Benevolent Society is planning a major project to trial a new model of housing, care and support for older people. Central to the Society's mission are helping to build stronger communities and targetting social and economic disadvantage.

On average, Waverley in Sydney's eastern suburbs, where the project is located, is a relatively advantaged area socio-

economically. However, rapid gentrification from being a predominantly working class area has created some particular social and financial pressures for its long term residents - i.e. older people. These pressures are particularly felt by low income older renters, and by low income home owners when declining health makes their housing unsuitable.

This paper will examine the factors that combine in this area to create vulnerability among older people, and the implications for the planning of the Society's new model of housing, care and support for older people and for social policy.

MYRIAM FORTIN

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The impact of family and government financial support on the income of Canadian workers vulnerable to poverty

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

The objectives of the paper were: 1) to identify major risks faced by Canadian workers, including a lack of family or government support; 2) to provide definitions of vulnerable workers that consider those risks; 3) to identify the main determinants of economic vulnerability and low-income for Canadian workers in 2002; 4) to assess if vulnerable workers are more prone than other workers to life-disrupting events in Canada (such as unemployment or family dissolution); and 5) to analyze the long-term situation of vulnerable workers in Canada over 1999 to 2003.

Data source: Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID).

Key Results:

- Being low-paid, being a woman or being self-employed are the most important determinants of economic vulnerability for workers.
- Although some workers could potentially become poor if they lost family and/or government support, over a 5-year period, those workers are not more likely than other workers to experience separation or divorce, to lose the economic support of other family members or to experience drastic cuts in government benefits.
- Actually being poor has long-term consequences that 'simply' being vulnerable to poverty does not have. Consequently, if poverty is our main concern then the working poor, not vulnerable workers, should be our focus.

KATE FREIBERG, SARA BRANCH AND ROSS HOMEL

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Learning the lesson of working together: using Pathways to Prevention as a case study for evaluating institutional change

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

Children's development is a complex process that is influenced by a range of contexts and systems (e.g., families, schools, religious groups, ethnic communities). Positive development is more likely when these systems work together. This capacity to work across contexts and set up integrated systems of support for development is particularly important for children who experience family adversity and various forms of social and economic disadvantage that are known risk factors for development. If key players in children's lives do not jointly encompass all critical developmental domains through the skills, resources and opportunities they bring, children's wellbeing may suffer. This paper discusses institutional culture change as one key element of this challenge, using as a vehicle a new initiative within the Pathways Project called 'Circles of Care' This initiative is designed to surround all primary school children with a small group of caring adults who help set learning goals, facilitate support for the child and its family, and resolve difficulties in the school context as they arise. Evaluation involves a systematic examination of institutional cultural change in two partner organisations that are central players in the Pathways Project; and will be implemented in three phases. This paper introduces the approach taken by the program team to identify and map institutional culture change over a three-year period.

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Building a life story: providing records and support to former residents of children's homes

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

Childhood institutionalisation has affected a significant number of Australians with around 500,000 children institutionalised nationally over the twentieth century. Growing up in care, however, is not just a part of childhood; it can have ongoing impact across a person's life. People who grew up in orphanages may not know who their parents, siblings and other relatives are or what happened to them and why they came into care. Access to records can be a very important way that they construct the

story of their lives contributing to their self-identity and also finding out practical information such as their age and medical history. Our paper draws on interviews with former residents of homes aged between 40 and 70 years and uses the recommendations of the third of the Federal Government reports concerned with the institutionalisation of Australian children - Forgotten Australians - as the starting point to examine the work of a sample of Australian agencies who hold these records or assist former residents to access their records. In particular, we are interested in the way that these agencies provide these services and how former residents are supported in receiving their records. Our work has social policy implications for good practice and the resourcing of agencies working in this area

MARTY GRACE AND LOUISE COVENTRY

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Improving outcomes for homeless jobseekers: the YP4 experience

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 2

Providing adequate assistance for people to overcome the extraordinary circumstances that lead to homelessness and unemployment seems, on the face of it, to make good sense. Yet there are diverse opinions about what adequate or meaningful assistance may comprise. One idea is that joining up otherwise discrete government and non-government services can improve outcomes for people facing multiple disadvantages. YP4 is a randomised controlled trial of service delivery options for people experiencing the double disadvantage of homelessness and unemployment. It is an initiative of Hanover Welfare Services, in conjunction with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne Citymission and Loddon Mallee Housing Services. The service delivery option of greatest interest to YP4 is joined up services.

This paper is a reflection on YP4. It focuses on the highly unusual experience of designing and implementing a randomised controlled trial in Australia and on the various challenges of creating a joined up service delivery model. We also provide detailed information about the experiences, before joining the trial, of the 414 trial participants.

BOB GREGORY, PREM THAPA AND YU PENG

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Mothers' employment transitions after the birth of a new child: longitudinal analyses using HILDA

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

This paper analyses the patterns and determinants of employment transitions of mothers following a new birth, and the effects of such transitions on several key outcomes reflecting wellbeing of the mothers and their families. A clearer understanding of the nature of the decision to enter paid employment within a short period after the birth of a child, and the consequences of these choices, is essential for better informing a wide array of labour market and social policy issues.

The current paper is based on panel data from 3 waves of HILDA (with updates expected using the full 5 waves now available prior to the Conference presentation). The distinctive feature of our study is it uses the panel data from the detailed job calendar section in HILDA to provide a continuous perspective on maternal employment dynamics after birth. The limited Australian research in this area (i.e. Baxter 2005) has been based on recall data from cross-sectional surveys and lacks a genuine longitudinal perspective.

In addition to documenting employment transitions after a new birth, we estimate probit models on mothers' employment status 6 months and 12 months after birth. A key result is the pre-eminent role of pre-birth employment status. Among mothers not working before birth only 5 per cent are employed 6 months after; while among mothers working 6 months before birth 57 per cent are employed 6 months after, increasing to 69 per cent at 12 months after birth. This major distinction underscores the additional insights that panel data can provide which are not as evident with cross-sectional data.

DAPHNE HABIBIS

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A sustaining tenancies approach to demanding behaviour in public housing

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 7

Changes in the profile of public housing tenants in recent decades have seen growth in the number of tenants with complex needs. Many tenants who engage in demanding behaviour fit within this category. These tenants are especially susceptible to the cycle of homelessness and its damaging effects. The public housing sector is in a unique

position to break this cycle by integrating a sustaining tenancies approach to routine housing management practice. This paper reports on a study funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute into positive housing management approaches to demanding behaviour in public housing. It describes strategies which seek to balance the rights of those in acute housing need with those of the broader community to safety and security from behaviour which may be threatening, difficult or just unconventional. The research identified examples of existing good practice in this area using an international literature review and interviews with housing and other relevant agencies in New South Wales, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and South Australia. Indigenous issues are a specific focus of the research.

ANNE HAMPSHIRE, DEB BRENNAN AND BETTINA CASS

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Understanding grandparent care: policy and practice implications of grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren in the Australian context

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

In Australia, Europe and the US, there is a dramatic rise in the number of grandparents assuming the role of primary carer of their grandchildren. This is a consequence of a number of factors including government child protection policies which prefer kinship models of out-of-home care, federal Family Court decisions following family breakdown and informal kin care arrangements where family members determine a more protective care-giving environment is required for a child's wellbeing. A distinctive feature of the Australian environment is the adoption of an 'Aboriginal Child Placement' principle in all jurisdictions. This prioritises placement of Indigenous children within their extended families.

This paper will outline current data on grandparent care in Australia and some of the factors impacting on this growing trend. It proposes a new, more comprehensive model for conceptualising the complex relationships between child, parent and grandparent than is currently used in most of the literature. It identifies some of the complex policy and legal issues impacting on the wellbeing of both grandchildren and grandparents in this form of care. It will also report on a successful Australian program working with grandparents and some of the key practice learnings which have emerged from it.

**ANN HARDING, JUSTINE MCNAMARA,
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***The geography of child disadvantage:
a measure of child social exclusion risk at the
small area level***

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

In targeting scarce resources, policy makers and planners often need to identify where the most disadvantaged children live. While the ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas are very widely used to identify disadvantaged areas, these indexes are developed based on the characteristics of adults, rather than being specifically related to the circumstances of children living within each small area. During the past year NATSEM has developed a child social exclusion index for each Statistical Local Area within Australia, using specially commissioned Census data tailored to the circumstances of children. This paper provides an overview of the methodology used and presents results about the geography of child disadvantage. The results show, for example, that the risk of child social exclusion is greater for children living outside the capital cities - and that children living in Queensland and Tasmania face higher risks than those living in the ACT and the other States.

NONIE HARRIS

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***The rise of the for-profit child care sector:
implications for choosing quality child care in a
regional community***

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

The Federal Government maintains that the growth of for-profit child care services promotes child care choice - a responsive market driven sector that establishes centres where parents need them and provides quality care at a price parents can afford. The qualitative research results presented in this paper challenge these assumptions. The research aimed to explore the impact of the rapidly expanding for-profit child care sector on women's opportunities to choose quality child care. This research complements recent quantitative research on the quality implications of for-profit child care provision, and adds to our understanding of current child care policy by focusing on the experiences of women in a regional location. The women in this study associated the expansion of the corporate child care sector with a decline in child care quality and claimed that the 'market' approach to child care provision had diminished their child care choices.

Corporate, one-size-fits-all child care services, managed in distant capital cities were seen to be unresponsive to the needs of their regional community. These results challenge the Federal Government's child care choice rhetoric and encourage policy makers to re-examine the child care quality implications of a dominant corporate child care sector

**KAREN HEALY, WENDY HILLMAN,
MARGOT RAWSTHORNE,
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***Young families who relocate to
non-metropolitan areas: exploring policy
responses for promoting social inclusion***

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 5

In recent years, the population growth rates in parts of regional Australia have significantly outpaced those found in metropolitan areas. Escalating private housing costs and shifts in public housing policy have been identified as key drivers of this trend, though, there is evidence also that some households relocate to take advantage of the perceived lifestyle benefits offered by many non-metropolitan areas. In this paper, we will report on the findings of the first two phases of a three year study about families with young children (0-8 years) who relocate to non-metropolitan areas. Drawing on demographic analysis of population trends and interviews with service providers and young families who have recently relocated, we will identify and discuss factors that motivate young families to relocate to non-metropolitan areas and factors that contribute to vulnerability to social exclusion and those that can promote inclusion.

On the basis of this analysis, we will discuss policy approaches for optimising the social inclusion of young families relocating to non-metropolitan areas.

**PAUL HENMAN, GREG MARSTON
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***Understanding the impact of Welfare to Work
reforms: a networking workshop***

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, BREAKOUT SPACE (OR CLB 7)

The Federal government's Welfare to Work policy changes took effect in mid-2006. Due to the grandfathering of current recipients the impact of those changes will be gradually felt and will grow over time. There has been

considerable debate about the likely impact on recipients - especially those with disabilities and sole parents. The Government is anticipating improved outcomes as a result of increased workforce participation, whereas much of the welfare sector has predicted increased poverty, housing stress, exacerbated health problems, etc. The impact of the changes is also complicated and could be exacerbated by labour market deregulation through Work Choices and changes to the child support regime. Given the policy and political controversy associated with these changes, there is a considerable research effort being undertaken to objectively and precisely understand the impact of the new regime.

This networking workshop is an opportunity for those researching the Welfare to Work changes to get together and share what each other are doing. It is hoped that the clearer picture of what research is being undertaken resulting from this exercise will help to identify any research gaps, enhance collaborative efforts and build a holistic picture of the multi-faceted nature of Welfare to Work.

To aid discussion, it would be helpful for workshop participants to prepare a one-page summary of the research project, including: aims and objectives; method/ methodology; target population; time-frame and funding source. Copies to distribute would also be beneficial.

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E-government and the delivery of welfare: why technology matters

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 8

Administrative technologies are mundane devices that are often only evident when they do not work. A common understanding of technology is that they are neutral tools used by political actors, and accordingly is given little attention in the social and public policy literature. This paper takes a different perspective, arguing that a critical examination of administrative technologies is required to appreciate the very real ways in which social policy, service delivery and the lived experience of welfare staff and recipients is being reconfigured. In recent years there have been significant technological developments including networked systems, on-line access and service delivery, smart cards and radio frequency identification chips. This paper draws on research on a number of Australian e-government projects to chart some of the key social policy debates that these developments raise.

ANDREW HOLLOWES

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At home in the world: the moral and political language of homelessness

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 1

Inspired by the political theorist Hannah Arendt, this paper poses the question: 'what does it mean to think morally and politically about homelessness?' Recent research by Hanover Welfare Services, a prominent Melbourne-based homeless agency, confirms how moral judgements about homelessness continue to be informed by a stereotypical focus on individual attribution and responsibility.

Following Arendt, this paper proposes that it is necessary to 'think well' about homelessness - namely critically and empathetically as a necessary precursor to social action - and outlines an alternate moral and political lexicon. The suggested lexicon revolves around three related concepts: the homeless experience rather than the 'homeless'; the 'home' and what the home provides rather than shelter; and institutional rather than just individual attribution and responsibility.

MICHAEL HORN

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Pathways to learning and social participation: the growing role of learning support programs

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

Melbourne Citymission is undertaking an evaluation of its Learning Support Programs (LSP) operating in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs in 2007. As part of the groundwork for this study, an audit of community-managed LSPs has been undertaken to provide a profile of these fast growing programs.

In general, LSPs offer out-of-school hours tutoring or homework assistance with the aim of improving educational outcomes for students of all ages. The goal of most LSP's is to prevent the disengagement and early school leaving of children in disadvantaged circumstances.

A total of 33 programs took part in the survey undertaken by telephone interview during fourth term 2006. Enrolments in 2006 totalled over 1,300 students across all ages, with a regular weekly attendance of over 800 students. Whilst the longest running program commenced in 1992, nearly half the programs have been running for only 2 years.

The audit suggests that LSPs are effective in making a substantial contribution to learning outcomes for disadvantaged students. It also indicates a lack of robust data on program outcomes and the need to share good

practice. This partly reflects the opportunistic and individualised nature of their evolution.

The development of LSP's outside the mainstream education system suggests that too many children from disadvantaged circumstances at primary and secondary levels are struggling to keep up with their peers and stay attached to school. This raises questions about the capacity of Victoria's education system to ensure engagement and retention of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The rapid growth of this community based response should stimulate policy debate to understand why there has been such growth, where LSP's fit within the suite of formal education programs and how governments might take a more proactive approach to supporting their future development, as has occurred in the UK.

COSMO HOWARD

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Administering individualisation: competing logics of social service delivery in Australian welfare reform

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

In Australia and several other jurisdictions, welfare reform has been shaped by the imperative to treat service users as individuals. This reflects the rise of 'individualisation': the notion that state institutions should respond to clients as unique persons and build their capacities to act autonomously and self-sufficiently. Many commentators have noted that individualised social service delivery is problematic because it conflicts with important bureaucratic values such as consistency and efficiency. However, the defining tension in contemporary Australian social administration is not between bureaucracy and individualisation, but instead between two alternative approaches to individualised service delivery. One approach is the 'bureaucratic choice' model, in which clients are required to choose from a list of predetermined service options. This is exemplified by the Mutual Obligation Initiative developed in the late 1990s. The second model relies on the development of personalised relationships with clients, wherein front line staff are supposed to have the necessary discretion and resources to assist service users. This logic of personalisation is reflected in Centrelink's now defunct One to One Service and Personal Adviser initiatives.

The paper presents findings from a large ethnographic study of street level administration in Centrelink. The research found that the personalised relationship model is preferred by many front line staff and unemployed service users, but is incompatible with contemporary service delivery and

policy contexts, and has been marginalised in favour of the bureaucratic choice model. The paper discusses the implications of this research for current systems and future directions in Australian social service delivery.

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Towards productive welfare? A comparative analysis of welfare state effort in 18 OECD countries

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 6

Whether the term 'retrenchment' or 'resilience' best typifies the nature of welfare reform processes has been the focus of much cross-national academic research in recent decades, but more recent claims that reform processes have resulted in a 'recalibration' of welfare state effort have posed problems for empirical work in the field. Numerous social policy analysts have suggested that globalisation and the emergence of more knowledge based economies have encouraged high income nations to shift away from a model of 'protective' welfare focused on social rights and towards a model of 'productive' welfare focused on social investment. However, much of the work in this area remains purely theoretical, not least because comparative social policy research has tended to focus the measurement of social protection rather social investment. Indeed, almost 20 years after its publication, Esping-Andersen classification of welfare regimes according to the strength of their social rights - as measured by his innovative 'decommodification index' - still dominates the field. In this paper we explore the possibility of developing a 'productification index' that captures the strength of social investment strategies in the same sample of 18 OECD countries that formed the basis of Esping-Andersen's decommodification index.

KATH HULSE AND LISE SAUGERES

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'People often say oh bludger or whatever, they don't try and think what could be going on': understanding the complexities around labour force participation

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 8

A growing body of research in Australia and internationally indicates that the interaction of the taxation and income support systems contribute to unemployment and poverty traps but, as noted by the Reference Group on Welfare Reform (2000), research on behavioural responses to such disincentives is 'in its infancy' in Australia.

In this paper, we report on qualitative research which explored the attitudes preferences and decisions of people in receipt of Centrelink payments and government housing assistance about paid work relative to other contributors to wellbeing. The research, funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, involved in depth interviews with 105 low income people, two thirds of them women. It found that preferences and decisions about paid work reflected the necessity to manage the logistics of everyday life, including supporting mental and physical health and caring for children. Underlying these were cultural attitudes about what would promote family wellbeing, both now and in the future, including the role and importance of unpaid activities such as child rearing and voluntary work. The research indicated the complex range of factors which underpin decision-making about housing and paid work over the life course.

LOUISE HUMPAGE

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Radical change or more of the same under neoliberalism? The 'life course' of public attitudes towards social citizenship in New Zealand

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 1

This paper focuses on one component of a larger project evaluating theoretical assumptions that conditions placed on the receipt of welfare assistance under neoliberalism have affected the way citizens conceive social citizenship. The paper begins to develop a 'social citizenship timeline', by mapping changing attitudes to the social rights of citizenship (and more broadly the welfare state) as documented in the limited, existing New Zealand public opinion data. This first 'cut' at tracking social attitudes suggests that making comparisons with the past is difficult because New Zealanders have always been somewhat ambivalent and contradictory about the welfare state, although certain social rights and assistance for certain social groups have been strongly supported. Although New Zealanders do appear to have become more socially conservative, there is little evidence that neoliberal reform has significantly transformed attitudes towards social rights. This rather ambiguous data does not deal directly with issues of conditionality, making planned focus groups and interviews with New Zealand citizens all the more important, particularly for determining whether conditions placed on welfare assistance have impacted upon social belonging and cohesion. The paper briefly sets these preliminary findings against the experience of Australia and other countries before considering their policy implications .

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Cumulative causation and the Productivity Commission's framework for overcoming Indigenous disadvantage?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

Indigenous poverty is clearly entrenched and often different in nature to that experienced by other Australian poor. This paper examines recent evidence on Indigenous poverty and social exclusion and attempts to relate it to the Productivity Commission's Framework for Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage. However, it is not sufficient to measure the various aspects of disadvantage as we need to understand the pathways into disadvantage and the evolution of more sustainable positive outcomes. This is not a trivial exercise as it requires that theoretical models of the inter-relationships between these dimensions disadvantage be developed. The notion of cumulative or circular causation, which had its origins in the writings of Thorstein Veblen and Gunnar Myrdal, may be a useful basis for building a model for overcoming indigenous disadvantage. Note that the empirical tests of any such models are likely to be informationally demanding and will probably require the collection of longitudinal data over the lifecycle. Notwithstanding such difficulties, this paper uses existing cross-sectional evidence to suggest circular causation between the three priority outcome areas identified by the Productivity Commission.

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Academic performance of children in the care of the state: how do they compare?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

There is a lack of evidence about the outcomes of child protection services, in particular, their impact on the educational outcomes of children in the care of the state. Education makes a significant contribution to the development and well-being of children, providing an important gateway to future employment and life opportunities. For many children in the care of the state, school is their safest and most supportive environment. However, disrupted school attendance due to relocation and exclusion is also a common experience, and it has been suggested that lost educational opportunities have a cumulative effect on children in care as they move through the various stages of education and development.

This presentation highlights key findings from a pilot study which examined the academic performance (as assessed by

literacy and numeracy test scores) of children on guardianship and custody orders. This research involved interdepartmental linkage of administrative data across multiple jurisdictions, the first Australian study in this field to have done so. The academic performance of children on orders is compared to that of all children sitting the tests, and the influence of factors such as Indigenous status, sex, living arrangements (e.g. foster care) and length of time on orders is also explored.

NATALIE JACKSON AND MAGGIE WALTER

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Will Australia's baby boomers change their retirement plans in line with government calls for later retirement?

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 5

This paper reports on the first findings from a new national survey which has canvassed the acceptability of calls for later retirement and the conditions that may lead to a change in present plans. The research finds that, contrary to popular belief, Australia's baby boomers are not lining up to retire. They also have many ideas about how they would like their transition to retirement to unfold. However, few have yet discussed their plans with 'the boss' - primarily because institutional avenues to do so appear to be lacking. The paper identifies which occupational groups are expecting to work on and which are expecting to leave as soon as possible; who is likely to take up the various 'carrots' offered by government; and what the Boomers propose would be acceptable policies to deal with population ageing.

INGRID JOHNSTON AND RACHEL AALDERS

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Juvenile justice supervision in Australia

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

The Juvenile Justice national minimum data set (NMDS) is a new data set which for the first time provides national data on all young people in juvenile justice supervision in Australia. It includes both community based supervision and detention, from pre-sentence to sentenced and parole. Community based supervision may include community service orders, probation and recognisance. The movement of young people to and from supervision is tracked over time, with data from 2000-01 to 2004-05. This paper presents information on the number and characteristics of young people in juvenile justice supervision, including sex,

age and indigenous status, and their transitions between community supervision and detention. The different approaches in each jurisdiction are reflected in the data on length of and type of supervision periods and the characteristics of those under juvenile justice supervision. The paper also looks at the proportion of young people who return to juvenile justice in subsequent years and discusses their characteristics.

YONG-MOON JUNG

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Institutional responses to poverty: Korea's evolutionary social security system

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

Ironically, the economic crisis in 1997 transformed the Korean welfare state from a residual to an institutional model. Mass unemployment and the concurrent expansion of people living in poverty was an inevitable outcome of the process of economic restructuring, thus precipitating a fundamental change in poverty policy. The most remarkable change was the introduction of the National Basic Livelihood Security System (NBLSS) in 2000. This was a turning point from the paternalism of the pre-existing Livelihood Protection Law, which had been in place for about 40 years, without major change, to the establishment of welfare as a right, consolidating the government's responsibility for poverty. The most important new feature of the policy was that all households below the poverty line were now eligible for income support irrespective of the ability of members of the household to work. Under the old system, the provision was limited to disabled and the older people over 65 years. However, this did not mean the complete abolition of the distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor. Under the rhetoric of 'productive welfare', those who have ability to work have to participate in self-help community work, job training or job search to maintain the eligibility. Also, beneficiaries do not have to meet both the means and asset test with the introduction of 'income acknowledgement', which is a device to convert assets to income to compute a single income standard. Although the NBLSS has significant meaning as the government's active concern about the 'working poor', it is the fact that poverty problem continues and along with an on-going controversy about the work-incentive policy.

As part of wider PhD research on meanings of poverty in Australia and Korea, this paper examines the implications of Korea's recent institutional responses to poverty and how they fit into the wider cultural perceptions of poverty in Korea.

VIOLET KOLAR

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To cast a vote: homelessness and disenfranchisement

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

This paper presents findings from a brief study of the voting behaviour among clients of Hanover Welfare Services. A Melbourne-based agency, Hanover provides crisis accommodation and support to people experiencing homelessness or housing crisis.

Following the November 2006 Victorian State Election, Hanover contacted clients to determine: how many were eligible to vote at the election; what proportion of eligible clients actually did vote; and what were the obstacles to voting. Of the 230 clients who took part in the study, 90% were eligible to vote in the election. Of this group, only 40% actually did vote, while the majority (60%) did not. What was the reason for not voting? Overwhelmingly, it was related to clients not being enrolled (63%).

If these results are projected nationally, they suggest that up to 60% of the estimated 100,000 people who are homeless each night, that is, 60,000 adults may not vote in the forthcoming Federal Election. Hanover will collaborate with other agencies to ensure that one of the most disadvantaged groups in society has a greater opportunity to participate in the political process and able to cast their vote at the 2007 Federal Election.

SOPHIE KOPPE

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Australia, France and the United Kingdom: helping youth into the labour market - a community responsibility to maintain social cohesion?

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

Youth is often equated to the dynamics of transitions between various states: From adolescence to adulthood, from school to work, from family protection to personal responsibility. Often labelled as the age group with the highest unemployment rate, young people are seen as having specific needs which involve specific risks. In the late 1990s newly elected governments seemed keen on launching programmes which -at least in the beginning- targeted young people: Such were Work for the Dole in Australia, the Emplois-Jeunes programme in France, or the New Deal for Young People in the United Kingdom. As most programmes hinted at the necessity to include young people into the broader community, there could be a point in analysing the diverse methods and rhetorics used. The

focus on the obligations young people have to fulfil to be considered as good citizens, the suggestion that they are a potential threat to community building may have found a different echo in those three countries. The part played by the community in the inclusion process must also be considered as it reveals the legitimacy of the state in tackling social issues.

RANI KUMAR AND LINDA FROW

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Working towards a guarantee for kids in out-of-home care

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 3

Research shows that outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) consistently lag behind that of children and young people in the general population. There is consensus among community organisations and policy makers that this is unacceptable and must be addressed urgently. However agreement on how to address this long term issue has been difficult to reach. This year in the lead up to the NSW state election the Every Kid coalition, a group of key community service agencies, proposed a Guarantee for Kids in Care as a mechanism to ensure services and supports for children and young people who have been removed from their families. The Guarantee promotes a holistic, coordinated approach to a child or young person's life.

This paper will focus on the Guarantee and how it operationalises the rights of children in care through tangible strategies in health, recreation, education, transition to independence and pursuit of interests. It will explore broader research and policy directions in this area and discuss similar initiatives that have been adopted in other countries such as the UK and other Australian states.

CARMEL LARAGY

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Citizenship and social participation: opportunities created through the disability independent living movement

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 7

This paper presents the findings of an exploratory study of independent living programmes for people with a disability in England and Sweden conducted in 2005 and 2006, and the preliminary findings from the evaluation of an Australian pilot project. Interviews covered a wide range of disability categories and included people with a disability, families, researchers, support services, government

administrators and personal assistants. Programme designs vary within and between countries and while these differences limit direct comparisons, common attributes can be identified. Not everybody wants the increased responsibility of organizing their own supports and services which is the new alternative to using established disability services. However, for those who do want more flexibility and greater social participation, the opportunities available through independent living arrangements are warmly welcomed. The studies identified that key factors contributing to successful outcomes are adequate resources; information regarding funding and opportunities; availability of support services as required to manage the additional responsibilities; and the availability of staff. Existing disability services can play an important role in supporting independent living but challenging workplace cultural and structural changes are required. Accounts need to be individualised, and more fundamentally, power and control need to be devolved.

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Participation is not a simple process

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

Participation in decisions is a desired achievement for individuals and communities. It is a means to equity and equality. Procedurally, it is a mark of having a voice and respect. Nevertheless, the participation of vulnerable persons and groups is difficult to achieve, as revealed in two different areas. The first involved studies where young people were asked what adults and children could do to make procedures fair in scenarios where an adult confronts a child who has stolen. Responses of over 1500 young people revealed an overwhelming tendency to rely on the adult's consistency, neutrality and explanations rather than on the child's voice and ability to appeal or be represented. Procedures for child participation were less important than relying on adult benevolence. In the second area, participation in collaborative planning for research and service delivery for refugees met different barriers - the need to find a voice and a sense of belonging that could be expressed across cultures, languages and areas of knowledge. All participants experienced the frustration of not being heard. All had to find an appropriate voice. Working priorities needed articulation and negotiation. While social interaction relies on participation, the processes for making participation work demand situational analysis.

REBEKAH LEVINE COLEY

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Movements from Welfare to Work: building capital in the next generation

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

In the United States, a primary argument for reforming the public welfare system was to improve the lives of poor children. Policy makers argued that moving poor women from welfare into employment would improve the financial stability, regularity, and functioning of families, therefore benefiting children's development. Although few changes have been found in poor children's development in the years following welfare reform in the US, little research has assessed whether the proposed intervening processes have changed. More immediate effects on family environments could, in the longer term, help to build social and economic capital in the next generation.

The proposed paper analyzes data from a representative sample of 2,000 low-income American families in the years following welfare reform. Autoregressive models found that mothers' movements into stable employment predicted substantial increases in income, improvements in mothers' psychological functioning, and declines in food insecurity. Sustained or initiated welfare receipt, on the other hand, was related to declines in income, physical health, and psychological functioning, but also to improved access to medical care. In contrast, few effects on parenting or the home environment were found. Results are discussed in relation to potential long-term effects on the creation of capital in the next generation.

TERRI LIBESMAN

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From Indigenous child welfare to Indigenous community well being

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 2

Repeatedly, communities, Government reports and independent research have noted that case based child welfare services delivered by government departments do not provide good outcomes for Indigenous communities. They also suggest that a community development approach to Indigenous children's well being is an approach which in the longer term is likely to provide better outcomes for Indigenous children, and that such an approach is likely to be most effective if developed and controlled by communities themselves. The failure of case based programs developed and delivered by government departments is born out by anecdotal evidence, empirical data and academic research. This presentation considers why policies of self determination are likely to provide

better outcomes for Indigenous children and how the development of international human rights law could assist with the realisation of Indigenous children's rights.

**DAVID LILLEY AND
MARTIN STEWART-WEEKS**

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***The Working Together in Minto Place
Management Project: lessons learned and
implications for practice***

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

Place management refers to the planning and delivery of human services on a place (or geographic) basis. This involves giving primacy to the interests and priorities of local populations, subordinating to some extent standardised agency programs, services and projects to the interests and influence of local communities.

In this paper we explore the issues and challenges faced in establishing a place management project, with an emphasis on the struggle between being faithful to the theory and principles of place management on one hand, and operating effectively in a challenging and politically charged local environment on the other. This is done using the Working Together in Minto project as a case study.

The terrain we cover includes: the theoretical underpinnings of place management; the development of pragmatic structures and processes; the role of senior managers as 'enablers of change'; stakeholder involvement; funding and resourcing issues; and the importance of a sustained focus on solutions and outcomes (as opposed to problems and outputs).

The authors also discuss the promise and the limitations of place management generally, by beginning with local experiences and looking to their implications for theory and practice generally.

LISA MAGNANI

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***Organisational change and older workers'
training: evidence from a matched employer-
employee survey***

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

In economies where labour forces are rapidly ageing, one policy-relevant question regarding technological and organisational innovations has to do with their labour-market consequences: do they affect the structure of employment and, as a consequence, do they hurt the employment prospects of older workers? This study

discusses and tests a set of hypotheses concerning the impact of organisational changes on the observed relative disadvantage older workers face in training opportunities. For this purpose I use an Australian matched employer-employee survey, AWIRS-1995, which has been uniquely designed to capture those technological and organisational change recently experienced by many other OECD economies. Drawing upon previous work on measures of technological change at the industry level I am able to overcome the endogeneity problem detected in other studies. Finally, differently from the existing literature I distinguish between technological innovation and technological diffusion.

New and important findings of this study are that, although technological innovation at the industry level cause economic obsolescence among older workers, industry level technological diffusion increases the chances of the oldest workers' training. Also, the expanded use of alternative employment arrangements (casuals and outsourcing) increases the training opportunities for workers aged 55 and plus and to a less extent, for workers aged 50 and plus. These findings suggest that there is ground for training and technology policies that reduce social exclusion, particularly in the face of substantially longer expected lives.

TIM MARCHANT AND PETER HOWARD

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***Enhancing participation - new possibilities for
disadvantaged Australians***

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

This paper explores recent collaborative research into an innovative educational program working with Australians facing disadvantage. The program, Catalyst-Clemente, is based on an international model and has been delivering university-level humanities education in a community setting in Australia since 2003.

In the second half of 2006, Mission Australia, The St Vincent de Paul Society and Australian Catholic University conducted a study of participants' perceptions of the impact of Catalyst-Clemente. The research was conducted at three sites across three points in time with the four participant groups: lecturers, learning partners, community agency staff and students.

Catalyst-Clemente students often face significant life challenges which might include amongst others drug and alcohol misuse, mental health issues and the risk of homelessness. Research findings indicate that the program, a genuine inter-sectoral collaboration, has significant impact on the participant groups, especially the students,

beyond traditional measures such as course completion. This paper reports on these findings outlining some of the impacts, most particularly in relation to self, social interaction, relationships with others, learning, community participation and the future. The research indicates that participation in the Catalyst-Clemente course at an appropriate point in the life-course can affect real transitions resulting in enhanced social and economic participation.

PAULINE MARSH

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Myth busting 'frail aged': exploring age-related vulnerability in community care clients

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

Home and Community Care (HACC) policy is underpinned by an aim to decrease the vulnerability of people who live in the community, in particular, the vulnerability of 'frail aged' and young people with a disability. However, age-related vulnerability is a slippery concept, its causes and outcomes are not always easy to identify. Frequently the causes are simplified, based on assumptions about gender, physical capacity and marital status. A danger of simplistic constructions of age-related vulnerability is the potential for negative impact on community care policy development, and, ultimately, inappropriate service provision.

The purpose of this paper is to present some of the findings from a qualitative study which demonstrate the complexity of age-related vulnerability, and challenge the stereotypes of the 'frail aged'. The study uses a framework for understanding age-related vulnerability developed by Schröder-Butterfill and Marianti and, through in-depth interviews and focus groups with 'frail aged' HACC clients across Tasmania, develops a complex picture of vulnerability that considers the interplay between the individual and broader social and political structures. The findings identify opportunities for community care policies and interventions that may decrease vulnerability.

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Assessing the policy assumptions and lived realities of welfare-to-work transitions

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 8

A key thrust of contemporary labour market policy in Australia and other English speaking countries is that long-

term unemployed people lack the personal motivation and moral disposition to engage proactively and successfully in the search for paid employment. The emphasis on changing the motivation and morals of unemployed people is consistent with the individualisation of unemployment in Australia and the consequent imbalance between demand and supply side policies. In this paper we argue that the implementation of paternal and punitive welfare-to-work programs can be counter-productive to achieving the policy goal of making a successful transition from unemployment to secure paid employment. In the final part of the paper we suggest alternative principles and strategies that are consistent with a 'life-first', rather than a 'work-first' approach to improving social and economic well-being for long-term unemployed people. The discussion presented in the paper is based on preliminary findings from a semi-longitudinal study that has tracked 75 long-term unemployed people in three different labour markets in Australia since 2005. The study was funded by the Australian Research Council and Jobs Australia.

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Transition to Governance: building capacity in an Indigenous community

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 2

This paper outlines the various issues and challenges currently experienced by the Transition to Governance project, its partners and the Indigenous community members who are committed to establishing an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

Historically the Indigenous community in outer eastern Melbourne was serviced by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO). However, in 1998 following a review by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) the health service was de-funded and OATSIH approached Yarra Valley Community Health Service (YVCHS) to accept the auspice for the delivery of Indigenous health services in the Shire of Yarra Ranges. The Indigenous community's response to the transmission of services to YVCHS was varied as the Indigenous community is in principle committed to aboriginal control of health services. The transmission of service delivery to an Indigenous specific team within a mainstream health organisation was a bold move and a new model of management for OATSIH. The auspice arrangement is an interim arrangement, subject to the development of an accountable aboriginal community controlled organisation.

In 2004 a report was commissioned to investigate and propose models for the governance of the Indigenous health service. The preferred proposal was the transfer of Indigenous health services back to community control and subsequently the transition to governance project was established.

This paper provides a case study of the journey by partners and Indigenous community members as they undertake the 'transmission of business' from Yarra Valley Community Health Service to a newly constituted Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO).

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Employment in Ngukurr: values and concepts of work

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

This paper draws on ethnographic data gathered through participant observation between June and September, 2006, and February and March, 2007, in Ngukurr; a remote Aboriginal community in South East Arnhem Land. This paper suggests that CDEP, as the primary industry in Ngukurr, has provided the context in which Aboriginal people, define, understand and value 'work'. Non-Aboriginal perceptions and tensions associated with this program in Ngukurr are briefly discussed. The paper then concentrates on the Aboriginal experience of CDEP.

Drawing on these findings, this paper concludes with a discussion on the implications of a 'social career' for the younger generation of 'workers'. Social career path means in this context the manipulation of obligations, negotiations and expectations of kin. This is an all consuming preoccupation and substitutes for notions of the western work ethic by creating meaning, direction and purpose in life. Adoption of a social career rather than a Western work career is encouraged inadvertently by the way in which the 'work ethic' is applied in remote communities. While CDEP is the framework in which the 'social career' phenomenon has developed, its construction has also been influenced by both traditional Aboriginal culture and contemporary relations between Aboriginal people and mainstream Australian society.

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Working with or against each other? How statutory and non-statutory child welfare workers perceive their relationships with each others' agencies

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

Improving interagency collaboration has been a key focus of child and family welfare policy development in Australia and elsewhere for more than a decade. For the non-government child and family welfare agencies who deliver the bulk of preventative family support services, the agency with which they are mostly likely work is the relevant statutory child welfare authority. Despite policy focus on enhancing relationships between non-government and statutory agencies in child welfare, evidence suggests that room for improvement remains. This paper reports the findings of a survey of 143 practitioners working in non-government family welfare agencies in two Australian states, and 66 practitioners in the statutory child welfare agency in one state. We explore how these practitioners evaluate their relationships with each others' agencies. We find that assessments of the helpfulness-or otherwise-of another agency depend on the quality and extent of communication, the availability and accessibility of services and personnel, resource issues, and levels of respect for the different demands and priorities in each kind of organisation. We conclude with some recommendations for further improving interagency relationships in child and family welfare services.

JANE MEARS

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What makes a 'good' care worker? How care coordinators and care workers negotiate professional and personal boundaries

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

This paper draws off some of the findings from a research project where in-depth interviews were conducted with 12 care coordinators/managers and 22 paid care workers, exploring specifically what care workers and care coordinators/managers spoke of as central to being a 'good' care worker. Basically there was a general consensus in regard to the qualities, skills and knowledge required, for example, both groups agreed that care workers needed the skills to develop and maintain 'professional' working relationships with those they were caring for. However, what constituted a 'professional' working relationship exposed points of tension between care workers and their

care coordinators/managers. There were recurring discussions about where boundaries might need to be drawn. Was the care relationship too close and how was one to assess that? In analysing the accounts of the care workers and the care coordinators/managers contradictory messages become clear. It is these contradictions that are explored in this paper.

MONIKA MERKES, LUCAS WALSH AND JACKIE BAILEY

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Building community capacity through e-consultation: Darebin e-forum

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 8

Launched in March 2006, Darebin eForum seeks to provide an online mechanism for local government to consult the local community and make local politics a more meaningful part of people's lives. This online discussion forum's aims included: to extend pathways to democratic discussion, consultation and decision-making by citizens, Councillors and Council officers in a local government area; to offer greater government transparency and accountability; to facilitate easy access to Councillors and Council officers; to demonstrate the potential of electronic democracy in local government; and to promote lifelong learning. Topics range from transport issues, and community harmony, to developing sustainable approaches to the environment.

This presentation is divided into three parts: the first section provides a brief overview of this local government initiative, extending back to its inception as a pilot project in 2004. The second part of the paper provides a critical review of its development during the last twelve months, including the practical and political challenges of using the Web as a means for extending community engagement. The final part of the presentation looks at some of the recommendations and guidelines for local governments seeking to conduct community consultation online.

WILLIAM MITCHELL, ANTHEA BILL, PIP PATTISON, GALINA DARAGANOVA AND SCOTT BAUM

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Social networks and labour market participation in Melbourne

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

It has been argued that social networks are responsible for differentiated access to job-related information possessed by workers; workers with diverse or 'high quality' network structures having significant labour market advantages. This paper specifically examines the proposition that the composition and reach of individuals' social networks contribute to the low levels of labour force participation and earnings within a characteristically disadvantaged region of Melbourne.

The paper draws on labour market and demographic information collected from 500 residents in the high unemployment area of Brimbank-Sunshine, Melbourne. This survey employs a snow-ball design (surveying both initial respondents and network members) and details participants' network characteristics and structure, in addition to information concerning the geographical barriers to employment. Using spatial analytic techniques (Moran's I and Geary's C) we examine the extent to which networks appear to be spatially localised. We also employ logit techniques (accounting for the dependency induced by the snowball structure) to assess the role networks play in labour force participation and earnings, independent of other characteristics. If network structures are geographically constrained and independently influence participation and earnings, employment outcomes between individuals become positively correlated over time and space. Thus individual social networks may represent a possible source of spatial dependency and partly explain persistent neighbourhood inequality observed within Australian cities.

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Transitioning from the state care system: the impacts of in-care experiences on the post-care outcomes for young people leaving care

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

Young people leaving care are arguably one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. Compared to most young people they face numerous barriers to accessing educational, employment and other developmental and transitional opportunities.

The Australian and international literature suggests that care leavers experience significant health, social and educational deficits including homelessness, disproportionate involvement in juvenile crime and prostitution, poor educational and employment outcomes, poor social supports, mental health problems, and early parenthood. Consequently, many of these young people are likely to end up with a long-term dependence on state

support services and payments. The post-care outcomes are found to be significantly influenced by a range of factors associated with their in-care experiences such as the stability and quality of care, and attitudes to education.

Using findings from a qualitative study, this paper examines the key in-care factors that influence the outcomes (positive and negative) for care leavers, and outlines some policy and practice reforms that may lead to better outcomes for care leavers.

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Challenging the disabling nature of mental illness: the evaluation results of the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI)

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

People with mental illness can be profoundly disabled by their condition and are at risk of social exclusion. Previous research has found that transitional models of supported accommodation for people with mental illness can hinder, rather than facilitate, recovery and community integration. The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) Stage One aims to support people with high levels of psychiatric disability to stabilise their tenancy and improve their mental health, living skills and participation within the community. This social investment has had a profound effect on the lives of people involved in the program, their families and the communities they live in. Using the longitudinal, mixed-method evaluation of the HASI program conducted by the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, this paper examines the challenges participants faced prior to joining HASI, the changes they have experienced since participating in the program and the intergovernmental and organisational partnerships that have made the model a success. The paper captures the important interactions between a major life course event (mental illness), social investment, program implementation, and individual and community outcomes. Finally, it concludes with policy implications for future programs supporting people with mental illness.

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'I know I can't do what I used to': factors affecting uptake of community aged care services for older people and their carers.

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

Recent Federal budgets have increased funds for community care for older people. This paper contributes to understanding the factors that impede or facilitate uptake of community aged care services that are critical to meeting the needs of older people and their carers.

Outcomes for older people with complex or chronic care needs, a study undertaken by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and La Trobe University, examines older Victorians' use of community services following Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) recommendations that they remain living at home. The paper reports on interviews with older people and carers undertaken at three-monthly intervals, over 12 months.

The study found that cost, lack of information, gaps in services and waiting lists, social isolation, high carer burden and the older person reporting low mood were all barriers to service uptake. The study concludes there is a need for better means of identifying and supporting older people and carers at risk to improve community service uptake. These findings give rise to policy recommendations that will be presented.

JAN NICHOLSON, DONNA BERTHELSEN, JULIE WALLACE, VICKY ABAD AND KATE WILLIAMS

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Impact and sustainability of a brief early parenting intervention for parents and young children facing social and economic disadvantage

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

Promoting a healthy start to life has become central to Australian social policies. The Stronger Families and Communities Strategy through the Invest to Grow initiative has provided funding for the dissemination of evidence-based programs that promote a healthy start to life, particularly for children from more disadvantaged family circumstances. Sing and Grow is a music-therapy early intervention program funded under the Invest to Grow initiative for nation-wide implementation. The program is provided through Playgroup Associations and partnering community organisations. Targeting marginalised parents and their children aged 0-3 years, group music and song-based activities are used as an enjoyable and non-threatening approach for engaging parents and teaching appropriate parenting skills. Data were collected at pre-intervention, post-intervention and 3-month follow-up using parent self-report questionnaires and therapist observations. Results are reported from 358 parents and

children attending 37 groups. The program was successful in reaching its target population of young, poorly educated, low income parents. Significant pre to post improvements were found for therapist-observed parent and child behaviours, and parent-reported irritable parenting, educational activities in the home, parent mental health, and child communication and social play skills. Maintenance of effects over 3-months was more variable across outcomes. The implications for social policy that promotes early life health will be discussed.

DANNY ONG AND GABY RAMIA

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Social protection and study-work-life balance among international students: an Australian case study

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

Recent research shows that, in choosing a host country for their studies, international students place high priority on a safe environment and the availability of suitable part-time employment. In addition, some studies find that academic progress is affected by students' quality of life inside and outside of the university environment. The central objective of this paper is to analyse the study-work-life balance (SWLB) of international students, using a case study of an internationalised university in Australia. The study utilises a mixed design consisting of 21 in-depth semi-structured interviews with key university staff informants and more than 500 quantitative surveys of enrolled international students. The analysis suggests that protecting universities' and the nation's share of the international student market depends increasingly upon broad student quality of life factors and in particular SWLB. This is a considerably broader concept than the 'student experience' as adopted by universities and the Australian government. In addition, regulatory instruments - the Education Services for Overseas Students Act and the National Code of Practice governing educational institutions - fall short of SWLB aspirations. The primary social policy prescription is that international students should be viewed as subjects of social protection and social citizenship rather than 'consumers' of education services.

JENNY ONYX AND ROSEMARY LEONARD

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Ulyssean ageing: an alternative model for the third age

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 5

The way we theorise ageing provides a 'cultural template' which effects both policy and practice and which has consequences for the way people make a social contribution. At present, the 'Rise and Fall' model of the life span remains the dominant template in public and professional thinking, and underlies much medical and social security planning. We propose a typology with alternatives to the decline model of ageing for the young-old age period including, among others the concept of Ulyssean Ageing. The paper illustrates the implications of this cultural template, by reference to an ongoing empirical study of Grey Nomads and the voluntary contribution they make to isolated rural towns across Australia. The study builds on an ethnographic study of grey nomads, a questionnaire survey identifying their interests and willingness to contribute in a voluntary capacity to rural community development projects, and six case studies of isolated rural towns who are developing community projects that will both benefit the towns in material social and economic ways, and that will support the Grey Nomads search for new knowledge and adventure. It is argued that the Grey nomad project both explicates the nature of Ulyssean Ageing, and demonstrates ways in which Grey Nomads may materially benefit both rural community capacity, and a more enlightened national ageing policy

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Advocacy in the age of compacts: the effect of funding models

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

Government control over advocacy by community organisations is not a new issue, and is re-iterated in the recent Australia Institute, publication *Silencing Dissent* (2006). New contracting provisions appear to channel community sector input into narrow consultative and funding streams which exclude dissenters. However, even in mainstream discourses the focus has now shifted to partnerships, and participatory governance, and new pathways for policy influence are being created

As part of the evolution of governance approaches, Australian state governments have followed the lead of the UK compacts to develop written agreements to regulate government community relations, known here as partnership agreements, including those related to the participation of community organisations in policy development.

This paper reports one aspect of an ongoing ARC Linkage project examining Australian advocacy in the age of compacts. In particular, we examine the effect of funding contracts on the capacity of organizations to effectively advocate. The relationship is not simple or obvious, with some organizations reporting mature relationships with particular (state) departments, and others reporting difficulty with state or federal government jurisdictions. The paper concludes by exploring alternative institutional arrangements for the resourcing of advocacy including the establishment of a Public Interest Fund administered independently of any government department, one not requiring specific service contracts but rather evidence that it is indeed advocating for the broader public good.

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The tyranny of distance and domestic violence: a challenge for human services in rural and regional NSW

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 5

Over the last 30 years authorities have responded to public concern about domestic violence with solutions in the form of legislation, policy and programs for dealing with domestic violence. The typically private setting of this form of violence and the interpersonal relationships of parties involved makes domestic violence a particularly complex crime and social problem. Currently, when intervention is sought by the victim a number of agencies may become involved in providing protection and support. Cultural values of rural communities about gender roles, family expectations, confidentiality, rights and responsibility are localised and cannot be assumed to be idealised values of metropolitan areas before urbanisation. Within the rural context, domestic violence is still viewed by many community members as a private matter. While family violence within Indigenous communities has lent itself more readily to public intervention.

The multi-agency approach has been relatively effective in urban communities, however rural and regional communities are structurally and culturally distinct, and as such, these features affect service delivery and the vulnerability of victims of domestic violence. Factors impacting on service delivery include geographical isolation and economic hardship, poor access to transport and telecommunications, proximity to firearms on farms and distance from services. This paper will present preliminary findings from research being conducted on government and non-government responses to domestic violence in rural and regional NSW.

ELIZABETH OZANNE

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The politics of ageing : longevity and social change in Australia

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

The emergence of the 'ageing enterprise' in Australia since the mid 1980's has paralleled increasing international and government initiatives in response to population ageing and the need to mediate rising cost and social pressures by active government intervention. Classified as a neo-liberal welfare state with some corporatist leanings, Australia has responded to population ageing with a specific set of policy interventions designed to regulate and recalibrate its economy in the light of these shifting economic and social demands (Productivity Commission 2005/7). As a federated parliamentary system with considerable concentration of power at the federal level, the major challenges of population ageing have been central to prime ministerial and electoral politics in recent decades and have, as well, been actively driven and mediated by key public agencies that have tended, along with their political masters, to have had primary agenda-setting power. The process of policy elaboration that has occurred over several decades has had a major effect in mobilizing institutional interest groups, voters and citizens around the issues of an ageing society. It is argued that the politics of an ageing society have been essentially government and policy led rather than being a direct response to mobilization of aged individuals, interest groups or the aged vote. The chapter explores the nature and sources of power in an ageing society and some of the reasons why a 'grey power' thesis is difficult to substantiate (Skocpol 2003).

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We know what to do but we don't always do it - aligning policy and practice.

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

Improving the educational outcomes for young people has been a key social policy focus of state governments across Australia, evidenced for example: by moves to increase the school leaving age; reform of certificates of education; and expansion of vocational education and training in schools. In South Australia a major component of this activity has been the school retention focus of the Social Inclusion Initiative. Established as a whole of government endeavour, it has been driven by the independent Social Inclusion Board and an Inter Ministerial Committee. Over the past three years, a number of demonstration programs have

resulted in an increased capacity to respond to the complexity of issues relating to early school leaving and an increased capacity to make a difference through benefit to young people who have remained engaged or re-engaged with learning in a range of different environments. Systems change has been more incremental in nature. The policy challenge now presents of how to effectively embed 'school retention' into mainstream policy and practice across the agencies. In an era of striving for evidence based policy, this paper will explore the implications for the development of policy that encapsulates learning from demonstration programs, both in relation to ongoing benefit for young people and for systems change.

DANIEL PERKINS

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How effective is the Personal Support Programme?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

The Personal Support Programme aims to increase economic and social participation amongst job seekers facing severe or multiple personal barriers. Participants represent some of the most disadvantaged job seekers in the labour market: typically they are long-term unemployed, suffer from mental health problems and have less than year 11 education in addition to other personal barriers.

The paper will present longitudinal data collected as part of an evaluation of the PSP undertaken by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne Citymission, Hanover Welfare Services, and The University of Melbourne. The effectiveness of PSP in reducing the impacts of personal barriers, increasing economic participation and increasing social participation will be discussed.

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Youth 'at risk'? Young people, sexual health and social inequality

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

Much of the focus on youth sexual health focuses on young people in general as 'at risk' of sexual ill-health, unwanted pregnancy, and sexual coercion. In Australia, there is a growing emphasis on sexuality education to reduce the risk of disease by providing young people with knowledge about STIs. However, it is important to acknowledge that these risks are not experienced in the same way by all young people. Inequalities across gender, race, class, rurality

and sexuality shape young people's experiences of sex and sexual health, such that knowledge alone may be insufficient to facilitate young people to make choices which support their sexual safety and autonomy. Drawing on interview and focus group data with young people aged 14 to 24, this paper provides a window into the sexual lives of a small number of youth in urban and rural Victoria, and explores their varying opportunity to actively negotiate and promote their sexual health. Implications for sexuality education and broader social policy interventions are then considered.

FRAN PRESS

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What do we want for children? Considerations for the development of comprehensive and complementary policy for the early years.

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

Parental leave, and early childhood care and education are key elements in the mix of policy approaches designed to support families with young children. But how effective are they implemented in Australia? More importantly, are we making the most of their potential to become effective population based interventions in the early years?

In 2006 the National Investment in the Early Years (NIFTEY), the NSW Commission for Children and Young People and the Qld Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian commissioned a policy paper to examine future policy directions for children in the years before school. The resulting paper *What about the kids?* critically examines the plethora of jurisdictional arrangements for children's care and education outside the home in the light of research concerning children's developmental wellbeing and families experiences of juggling work and family. This paper will present key findings from *What about the kids?* including an examination of the complexities arising from the current configuration of the early childhood education and care system; the intersection between family policy and early childhood policy; and offer proposals for reform.

CHRISTIANE PURCAL, CATHERINE SPOONER AND CATHY THOMSON

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Implementation of the Facilitating Partner model in the Communities for Children program: early learnings

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

Governments in Australia have been increasingly outsourcing human service provision to the non-government sector. An innovative outsourcing model - the Facilitating Partner model - is used in 45 sites around Australia by the Commonwealth Government as part of its Communities for Children program 2004-2008. Under this model, the government commissions a non-government organisation in each site to work with local stakeholders to develop a plan for children's services in the area, to commission new services and to increase service coordination. Evaluations of this type of model are not yet available. Therefore the viability of the model for government, the non-government sector and the community warrant examination. This paper presents findings from 95 in-depth interviews conducted in 10 sites as part of the National Evaluation of Communities for Children. It explores the implementation of the model in the different sites and its impact, so far, on service delivery and coordination. The strengths and limitations of the model, as evident at this stage in the implementation of the program, are discussed, as well as the factors that facilitate or inhibit service improvements.

LIXIA QU, RUTH WESTON AND ROBYN PARKER

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Financial circumstances of divorced mothers relative to married mothers: is the gap narrowing?

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

Research in the 1980s suggested that divorced mothers (and their children) were more likely to be financially disadvantaged than divorced fathers. However, in recent years, research has suggested that there is some recovery in financial circumstances for sole mothers in the longer term, although they remain worse off financially than mothers who have repartnered.

Mothers who have separated in recent times differ in a number of ways from those who separated some 20 years ago. For example, recently separated mothers are considerably more likely to be better educated and to have retained substantial attachment to the workforce during their marriage. In addition, child support compliance has

increased and payments have changed from a 'going rate' to a rate that takes into account both parents' earning capacity. Welfare payments for lone parents have also changed. To what extent, then, has the gap between the financial circumstances of lone and married mothers narrowed since the early 1980s? This paper uses census data from 1981 to 2001 to explore this issue.

MICHAEL RAPER

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Equity in response to climate change

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 6

Both political parties now seem committed to the introduction of a 'cap and trade' Emissions Trading Scheme with at least a long-term emissions reduction target. Research commissioned for the March 2007 'Equity in our National Response to Climate Change Roundtable' in Melbourne indicates that low income and disadvantaged people will be disproportionately adversely affected by the impact of climate change. However, the research also indicated that placing a price on carbon in any form is regressive as energy costs constitute a larger proportion of the weekly budgets of low income earners even though they use substantially less energy than high income households.

In responding to climate change it is therefore essential that we not only adopt policies that are as efficient and effective as possible in both environmental and economic terms but which are also as fair and as equitable as possible. Otherwise, low income and disadvantaged Australians will not only miss out on the opportunities that our responses to climate change will provide, but they will also be further disadvantaged and will not be able to contribute to our effort to reduce greenhouse gases.

This triple 'E' approach demands policy attention to energy pricing mechanisms, the design and implementation of appropriate compensation and the introduction of policies and programs to reduce the energy expenditure of low income and disadvantaged households through energy efficiency measures.

The paper will outline the key evidence on the issues affecting low income and disadvantaged people in this debate, the principles on which policy development should proceed, the experience of and lessons from the UK, which is almost a decade ahead of Australia, and the key policy and advocacy challenges.

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Keeping the balance: the experiences of lesbian parents

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 4

This paper will report on the findings of a study of lesbian parents in 2006. The study includes unpublished data drawn from the ABS 2001 Census and interviews with lesbian parents in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Illawarra and regional New South Wales. Like other western countries there is increasing numbers of children being conceived into lesbian families. The literature in the past has concentrated on the wellbeing of children raised in lesbian families. Very little is known about the workforce arrangements of these families. The ABS data indicates lesbian parents have a much higher workforce participation rate than other female parents in New South Wales. The paper will report on the support and barriers lesbian parents experience in balancing their parenting and work roles. Comparisons will be made with the findings of a similar study undertaken in 2005 with female parents from heterosexual partnerships. Flexibility in relation to workforce participation, household duties and social policy entitlements all appear to assist these parents maximise their work/life balance. Despite this, however, the continuing lack of legal recognition of their status as a family and the enshrining of the rights of co-parents creates an undercurrent of anxiety.

GERRY REDMOND AND ILAN KATZ

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Public investment in early childhood: how does Australia compare?

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

In the past decade there has been an enormous shift in emphasis in social policy towards increased investment in the early years. This has been driven by a combination of neurology - recent findings that experience can impact on physical brain development, and economics - findings that interventions relating to children under the age of three are the most cost effective. This has led to calls for a shift of resources towards early childhood from older children.

In this paper we summarise the economic and neurological arguments for public investment in the early years as opposed to later childhood. We then use two approaches to examine the adequacy of this investment. First, we use aggregate data (from national accounts and other sources) compare levels of public investment in early childhood in Australia and in other rich countries. Second, we use data from fiscal incidence studies applied to nationally

representative household expenditure survey datasets for the years 1988-9 to 2003-4 to analyse investment trends in Australia over the past 20 years. Our results are mixed. In terms of total investment in early childhood, Australia appears to sit somewhere around mid-table among OECD countries. However, data for Australia does show that investment in children has increasingly focused on the early years since the 1980s.

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Children's agency and the welfare state

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 3

Welfare States, in designing and implementing policies to support families and alleviate poverty, tend to assume that children are not only dependent on their parents, but are also effectively voiceless and passive members of their families. The aim of this paper is to show that this assumption is fundamentally incorrect, and rather than assuming voicelessness and passivity, Welfare States actually depend on children's agency to support activation policies that are increasingly aiming to push both single and couple parents who are dependant on welfare into paid employment.

This paper first draws on the sociological literature on agency to develop a typology of agency that children might adopt in relation to poverty. Second, the paper examines a number of qualitative studies of children's attitudes to poverty and social exclusion in order to apply this typology to activities that children themselves report participating in. The innovation here is to examine the extent to which parents' agency to get out of poverty - the sort encouraged and perhaps even demanded by welfare state bureaucracies - depend on their children's active support (and not just acquiescence) in two jurisdictions with strong activist welfare to work policies - Australia and the UK. This paper's main conclusion is that if children do not actively support their parents (often at some personal cost), then the parents may not be able to continue in paid employment, and may experience sanctions from the welfare state as a result.

The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of Welfare State and parental dependency on children's agency. In one sense, this dependency is analogous to the dependency of 'autonomous' men (in the liberal philosophy tradition) on their spouses for home production and reproduction. In another sense, this dependency is not far removed from dependency of families and labour markets in many developing countries on children's market work, and domestic and care work. In both richer and poorer countries, children actively and willingly engage in work

because institutions (the welfare state, the labour market, the family) implicitly or explicitly expect their participation. It is the children themselves who may be the biggest losers, in terms of potentially lost education, and lost childhoods. While rich countries such as the UK and Australia have been successful in removing most children from labour markets, Welfare States, by increasing pressure on parents who are dependent on welfare payments, are pushing some children back into the world of work.

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Social networks and women's agency: the role of voluntary associations in brokering opportunities across the life course

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

Early debates about voluntary associations and social capital revealed their potential significance as sites for the realisation of a range of societal outcomes, from facilitating small-scale collective endeavours and building capacity and resilience within communities, to promoting civic virtue and building social trust. However, in the process of drawing connections between associations and social capital, these debates were noted for neglecting the context-specific nature of social capital, the differential outcomes it enables and constrains for individuals and social groups, as well as the influence of broader social dynamics including gender. This paper brings these aspects into sharper focus, presenting results from a qualitative case study of a large women's service organisation in the Australian context. In interpreting this case study, a network concept of social capital is used to understand the processes through which social networks, and the social and organisational contexts in which they are embedded, broker opportunities for women's engagement and agency across their life cycle. I argue that social capital, in the form of social networks, both enables and constrains the capacity for organisations to promote women's agency. Furthermore, for women this is interconnected with experiences, identities, resources and networks developed across their life course.

HAMISH ROBERTSON, NICK NICHOLAS, GA (TONY) BROE

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Developing an integrated GIS approach to health and human services

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 8

Health and human service delivery represent a complex

and confusing field of human activity. The range of providers, their funding sources and the variety and location of clients are so great that there is no detailed picture of these sectors available. This has important consequences for the quantity and quality of care provided to various groups in the community. In a time when social capital has become a serious policy concern, planners and service providers can't adequately identify or document the range of service providers, voluntary organisations and care providers already at work in their communities. Yet, the technology to do this already exists. The potential of develop and monitor key human service sectors can be built with geographic information systems technology and key policy analyses conducted with the aid of an evidence-based information architecture. This paper will show how the authors have used GIS technology to not only build a database of health and human service infrastructure but also to link this to key population characteristics and trends. The result is an expanding and dynamic picture of health and human services infrastructure, workforce and population characteristics that can be used to model emerging problems and rational, resource-based solutions.

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A cost benefit analysis of intensive foster care for young people in out-of-home care with high support needs

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 3

Intensive foster care (also known as professional foster care or multidimensional treatment foster care) is an alternative placement option to residential accommodation for young people with high support needs in out-of-home care. Intensive foster carers are recruited from the community and provided with specialist training and greater financial resources compared with traditional carers. The young person is provided with a structured living environment, casework support, a relationship with a mentoring adult, and separation from delinquent peers.

Prior overseas studies have found that intensive foster care for young people with high support needs, compared with residential care leads to better outcomes in terms of reduced criminal activity, increased placement stability and better mental health outcomes. An economic evaluation found that intensive foster care for chronic juvenile offenders achieved significant cost savings in terms of reduced criminal justice costs and savings to victims of crime.

The Department of Community Services is undertaking an economic evaluation of intensive foster care in NSW. Placement costs and a range of pre and post placement

outcomes will be compared for matched samples of high needs young people placed in intensive foster care and residential care to estimate the relative net benefit per placement option.

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Cost benefit analysis of the Campbelltown Community Service Centre restoration project

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 3

In certain circumstances, children and young people experiencing significant harm or abuse may be placed into out-of-home care (OOHC) by the Department of Community Services (DoCS). Where restoration to family is in the child's best interests, DoCS is committed to ensuring that restoration occurs. In 2002 DoCS commenced a new program aimed at increasing the number of children and young people in OOHC being restored to their families.

The program involves caseworkers visiting families in their own homes to improve their strengths, advocating for them to secure permanent accommodation, and coordinating services such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation and family counselling. Work with the child and the foster carer also occurs.

A cost benefit analysis of the program found that higher savings in out-of-home care costs over time due to a greater percentage of successful restorations relative to a comparison area outweighed the higher cost of restoration caused by a more intensive caseload.

While the findings are encouraging, the sample size was small and the analysis assumes that restorations in both groups remain intact. The benefits achievable by this sort of program are likely to be underestimated, given that benefits such as reduced parental drug-use were not estimated.

ELIZABETH ROWE AND CHARLES WALDEGRAVE

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Re-thinking issues of safety: challenging orthodoxy

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

This presentation explores the challenges that arise for practitioners and policy makers working in areas where the safety of vulnerable people is a fundamental concern. Two areas are considered: State-supported interventions where there is intimate partner violence and State responses to

child maltreatment. Current practices are assessed for speed and comprehensiveness, and for their ability to meet the expressed needs of victims and families.

In intimate partner violence, current Australian and New Zealand interventions focus primarily on victims and perpetrators as individuals. In contrast, restoring family processes is the main focus of the family or collective model. Recent efforts to reform this area of practice are reviewed.

In child maltreatment, research comparing the Anglo-American model of child protection, which Australia and New Zealand use, and the European model of family services is identified. The former is based on an adversarial legal approach, where the primary focus is on removing the child from harmful family situations and gathering evidence for legal proceedings. The family services model emphasises maintaining the family unit wherever possible, and uses the inquisitorial legal approach, where judges lead social workers to equip parents to meet their obligations to their children.

The authors conclude with suggestions (both root-and-branch and incremental) for change.

JOY RUSSO AND ILAN KATZ

Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Consortium

The national evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

The Stronger Families and Communities Strategy represents considerable Australian Government investment in the wellbeing of Australian children, their families and communities, providing them with the opportunity to build a better future.

The Strategy was implemented in the Australian community in two phases, with Phase one operating from 2000 until 2004. Phase two of the Strategy commenced in 2004 and will continue until 2009. It aims to help families and communities build better futures for children; build family and community capacity; support relationships between families and the communities they live in; and improve communities' ability to help themselves.

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs commissioned a consortium, led by the Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW, working closely with the Australian Institute of Family Studies and a range of advisors to evaluate Phase two of the Strategy. A national evaluation framework forms the basis of the evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008, currently being undertaken.

This paper provides an update on the progress of the evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities

Strategy 2004-2008. The paper will identify some of the challenges involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of this complex initiative.

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2PIC: young people and social policy: narrative filmmaking

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 3

In 2006, the 2PIC Project used arts practice - narrative film making - to develop a viable and meaningful alcohol harm reduction message with and for local young people. Young people moved from being the passive subjects of social policy to being active in the design and implementation of social policy.

We will screen and discuss the two short films, Everywhere You Go and Adrift, made by young people, produced through a partnership between the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Peninsula Health and funded by the Federal Attorney General's Department.

Narrative film making was used to enable:

- Young people to discuss their experiences confidentially;
- Stories to be blended together and a collective message to be presented;
- Young people to act in their own films giving them a central place in the production process; and
- Young people to define their stories rather than being defined by them.

The films were finished on 35mm and launched to a packed house at the Rosebud Cinema. Audience members included policy makers, social planners and members of government and the local community. The films will be seen more broadly in local cinemas over school holidays as community service announcements before features.

KYLIE SAIT

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Migration and motherhood: the importance of support networks

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 1

This paper explores the complexities surrounding the dual transitions of migration and parenthood. For newly arrived migrants, in particular mothers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, difficulties associated with the settlement period may be compounded

by the major life changes of parenthood. In addition to the stress and demands of becoming a mother, they are confronted with learning a new language and negotiating different cultural practices. It is likely that they will have lost valuable social support networks, such as family and friends, at a time when these resources are most critical. Further to this, they may avoid accessing mainstream family and early childhood support services and organisations such as playgroups, due to an actual or perceived lack of respect for cultural, linguistic and religious diversity on the part of service providers. With little or no support available, and communicative barriers due to a limited command of English, new mothers may feel marginalised and isolated from the local community. It is thus essential that local governments and communities encourage isolated mothers to establish support networks. Preliminary findings from a qualitative study investigating these issues within the Ryde local government area will be presented.

PETER SAUNDERS AND YUVISTHI NAIDOO

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Has mutual obligation made life harder for the unemployed? Evidence from two social surveys

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 6

Despite sustained economic growth and declining unemployment, the numbers of working-age Australians in receipt of a social security benefit continues to rise, particularly the numbers on disability benefit. But the last six years has seen a marked shift in the tightening of eligibility for benefit under the banner of mutual obligation, which first affected those on unemployment benefit and, from July 2006, those on disability support pension and lone mothers. Although these policy shifts are intended to shift people from welfare into work, their immediate impact has been to make life harder for those forced to comply with new regulations and face the prospect of having their benefits withdrawn if they fail to take what policy makers deem to be appropriate steps to look for work.

This paper begins by providing a brief overview of welfare to work policy reforms in Australia, focusing on the impact of policy on the numbers on unemployment benefit and on the attitudes and experiences of those who have had their payment withdrawn temporarily (or been 'breached'). This is followed by an examination using data from the official Household Expenditure Survey of recent trends in financial stress among social security recipients to establish whether there has been a break in the relationship between financial stress and other key variables. It then analyses data from

two social surveys that collected information on a variety of indicators of subjective well-being to assess how low-income and social security receipt affect life satisfaction and happiness. The surveys were conducted in 1999 and 2006 and cover around 2,400 and 2,700 adult Australians, respectively, and much of the information in each is directly comparable. The analysis will focus on establishing whether dependence on social security benefits contributes to subjective well-being independently of other factors such as income, age, health status, susceptibility to deprivation and poverty, experience of adverse events and family circumstances. Comparisons of the results from the two surveys will also provide an insight into whether and how recent changes to social security eligibility associated with welfare to work reforms have affected the living standards of social security recipients.

PETER SAUNDERS, YUVISTHI NAIDOO AND MEGAN GRIFFITHS

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Left out and missing out: deprivation and social exclusion in Australia

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 6

The problematic nature of using income as a proxy for poverty is widely acknowledged amongst Australian poverty researchers. There is lack of agreement on setting an income poverty line and a failure to include the complexity of the factors in addition to income that contribute to the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. This paper presents findings from the first comprehensive Australian study that seeks to identify what constitutes material deprivation and social exclusion as a way of developing new indicators of poverty and disadvantage. The basic premise for the study is that poverty is not just defined by low income, but is multi-dimensional and its measurement must be grounded in the actual living standards and experiences of poor people. The findings are based on two surveys, one of the general population, the other of welfare service users, that explore community understandings of, and attitudes to different dimensions of deprivation, social exclusion and poverty. The study was conducted in collaboration with ACOSS, Mission Australia, The Brotherhood of St Laurence and Anglicare, Sydney.

ROSANNA SCUTELLA AND DANIEL PERKINS

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Employment retention and advancement of disadvantaged jobseekers

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

Little is known in Australia as to whether the types of jobs that disadvantaged jobseekers are encouraged to enter do actually provide the basis for a 'successful' transition into the labour market. At the very least, this 'successful' transition would consist of being able to retain employment. Ideally, it would then lead to career advancement and wage progression. However, there is evidence suggesting that particularly vulnerable groups of jobseekers find it difficult to retain employment and cycle between joblessness and precarious employment. This study seeks to add to the Australian literature on the dynamics of unemployment and low-paid employment by undertaking an analysis of the long-term employment outcomes of particular groups of jobseekers in Australia. We will use the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey to investigate whether entering low-paid employment improves particular groups of jobseekers future employment prospects. Aggregate figures provide at least circumstantial evidence of a 'low-pay no-pay' cycle in the Australian labour market. Further analysis will examine the dynamics of this relationship further. We will also examine the use of Employment Retention and Advancement programs in improving long term employment outcomes of the low-skilled in Australia.

XIAOYUAN SHANG, MORRIS SALDOV AND LANG LIU

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The role of extended families in child care and protection in China

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

The paper focuses on a traditional system of protecting orphaned children in rural areas in Southern China. It examines the role of extended families in supporting orphans, and the division of labour between the family and the state in terms of financial and caring responsibilities in child protection. The research finds that orphans are effectively supported and protected by the traditional system of family care and protection. However, the traditional system faces challenges and financial difficulties in terms of bearing the costs of education and health care for orphaned children. To protect children more adequately, intervention by the modern welfare state is urgently needed in China.

SHEILA SHAVER

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Culture, multiculturalism and welfare state citizenship

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 1

Theoretical discussion of welfare state citizenship has focused too narrowly on bundles of rights and duties, with too little concern for the cultures of institutions, relationships and meanings that define them. It has been convenient, especially for comparative research, to reduce citizenship to measurable quantities and qualities of obligations and entitlements. The price of such convenience is to abstract these rights from the political culture and social action that make them meaningful for the citizenry concerned. Culture, in its broadest sense of the 'design for living' that a people may share, pervades the rights and expectations of citizenship. Given global migration, cultural differences are increasingly seen among peoples living side by side, within the borders of the same nation state or across territories bridged by supranational frameworks. Modern communications enable immigrants to maintain connections in their societies of origin as well as residence. As national boundaries grow more permeable, the increased mobility of capital, people and ideas raises significant questions about the coherence of the cultural foundations that underpin national social policy arrangements and the capacity of welfare state citizenship to mediate the local effects of global development. These questions are as relevant to developing as to advanced welfare states.

Citizenship is itself a cultural identity in a world where identities are often multiple and less fixed than in the past. Drawing on the work of Turner, García Canclini, Kymlicki, Parekh and Sen, the paper addresses theories of citizenship and multiculturalism. Its premise is that citizen identity marks the intersection of public and private life in relation to the self and is socially constructed. The paper argues that culture forms a thread in the narratives of citizen identity that individuals construct for themselves in the course of daily life, which are correspondingly diverse. Linking public and private in the recognition of rights and responsibilities to self and other, these narratives reflect the nature of the networks and interactions by which citizens of different cultural background (amidst differences of status and class, gender and other important attributes) interact. The mutual recognition amongst citizens that welfare state citizenship entails is not guaranteed but contingent, the byproduct of the social and economic processes that order everyday social life in employment and commerce, cities and neighbourhoods, schools and religious groups.

The paper will conclude with discussion of what its

argument implies for welfare states in countries of the north and south. It will point to the importance of institutions supporting the complex identities, loyalties and aspirations of diverse individuals.

GRANIA SHEEHAN, APRIL CHRZANOWSKI AND JOHN DEWAR

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The treatment of superannuation on divorce in Australia

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

This paper presents the findings from a national study of property distribution on separation divorce. The aim of the study was to evaluate the impact on settlement behaviour of the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Superannuation) Act 2001 (Cth), which allows superannuation to be split between former spouses on divorce. Superannuation has become an increasingly important source of wealth in Australia, yet its benefits continue to be unevenly distributed between men and women. This gender disparity is concealed for married women so long as they can share in their husband's superannuation on retirement. Prior to the Act, access to a share of their husband's superannuation was frequently lost to women on separation and divorce.

The study comprised a national telephone survey of marital property and its re-allocation on separation and divorce. The sample included 660 women and men who had divorced post June 2001. The findings suggested that an unexpectedly low proportion of former spouses split their superannuation. However, the extent to which superannuation is now taken into consideration when dividing matrimonial property has increased the overall share of this property received by particular groups of women. The legal, social and economic factors that were related to the uptake of superannuation splitting are also discussed.

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His and hers jobs: when the quality of partners' jobs matter

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 4

Employment delivers a range of benefits to families but some jobs can also have detrimental effects on wellbeing. Many Australian families are dual parent, often with both

parents in the labour force. Previous research has shown parent wellbeing is related to the quality of their jobs, but there has been minimal research exploring the link between job quality and partner wellbeing.

We use a brief index of job quality which classifies jobs by four working conditions (paid parental leave, perceived security, job control and flexible work times) to examine the relationship between job quality and partner wellbeing within dual parent families. Data was drawn from the Growing up in Australian Study, a nationally representative sample of parents with children in two age cohorts; 4-5 years (n=2,431) and 18 months or less (n=2,708).

Father job quality was associated with their own and their partners' wellbeing, particularly if she was also employed full-time. The quality of mother jobs was related to her own, but not her partners', wellbeing. Parents lives are interlinked and the job quality of one parent should not be viewed in isolation. Family dynamics and gender should also be considered when exploring the relationship between work and wellbeing.

GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR

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Family support programs and social inclusion: early findings from the evaluation of the Intensive Family Support program at the Womens Centre Cairns

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 2

This presentation aims to discuss some of the early findings from an exploratory evaluation of the Intensive Family Support program at the Womens Centre Cairns. The evaluation, which forms the basis of current studies for a Masters in Social Policy (James Cook University) is supported by the Queensland Department of Communities and is undertaken using an action research model

with mixed qualitative and quantitative methods and informed by feminist principles. The project commenced in April 2006 and is due to conclude in December 2007. Specifically, the inquiry has explored the efficacy of the Intensive Family Support (IFS) program at the Women's Centre Cairns, in particular, the relationship between the provision of a family support program and improved social connectedness and housing stability. The evaluation has also aimed to improve our understanding of how concepts of 'social capital' and 'social exclusion' function in a specific local context. Data collection has included substantial quantitative and qualitative data (including: exhaustive program statistics; literature review; narrative studies; focus groups; and client feedback forms).

Most of the families engaged in the IFS program at the

Womens Centre Cairns are fleeing or have recent experiences of domestic or family violence and approximately 40 per cent of families participating in the program are Indigenous Australians. Some of the early findings from the evaluation include:

- The critical importance of social inclusion in improving safety outcomes for women and children;
- The role women (e.g., family, friends, neighbours etc.) assume in providing informal social support networks for families in crisis;
- Strengths and dilemmas associated with family and social support networks for Indigenous families engaged in the program;
- The impact of the current national housing affordability crisis on social connectedness, particularly for families who have historically experienced considerable structural barriers to accessing affordable accommodation (e.g., single mothers, Indigenous families);
- The value of agency collaboration in order to strengthen 'bridging' type social connections for families in crisis

LYNDAL SLEEP

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"Well, you've cared for him too much": the current cohabitation rule as an obstacle to caring relationships

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

This paper argues that the current cohabitation rule (Marriage-like Relationship (MLR) criteria) is experienced by Centrelink clients as an obstacle to care relationships. Diverse care relationships are scrutinised through the criteria. These relationships are then pressured.

John Gilliom (2001) argued that 'welfare mothers' experience intense social security surveillance as an obstacle to caring for their dependents. However, for those targeted by the current cohabitation rule, caring relationships are not confined to single mothers. DSP (Disability Support Pension) recipients, DSP recipient's carers, aged pensioners, those caring for the elderly, and single fathers are also targeted - and their relationships scrutinised. Indeed, Fiona Williams points out that caring is not a 'gender binary' (Williams, 2001, p. 476), instead 'care as a practice invokes different experiences, different meanings, different contexts and multiple relations of power' (Williams, 2001, p. 468). This paper uses semi-structured interviews with 18 Centrelink clients who have contested a MLR decision to extend Gilliom's thesis to show that the current cohabitation rule is experienced as an obstacle to diverse caring relationships.

JULIE SMITH AND MARK ELLWOOD

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The Australian Time Use Survey of New Mothers

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

Although the presence of a newborn in a family is very time-intensive, national time use data focusing on new mothers' time use is rarely collected. This is despite the labour market and social policy importance of understanding maternal time use during infancy. The intensive time demands of an infant on its mother also present particular research design and measurement issues.

The nationwide Time Use Survey of New Mothers (TUSNM) commenced at the Australian National University in March 2005. Around 200 mothers have enrolled in weeklong time-use tracking sessions using an electronic tracking device, the TimeCorder. Data was collected pre-natally, and at 3 months, 6 months or 9 months post-natally. Mothers did up to four tracking sessions over the period of the study, allowing comparison over time of the same mother-infant pair, as well as analysis of activities for mothers of infants at different ages. Data on socio-demographic, employment, wage and childcare variables, and infant feeding practices was also collected via questionnaire.

This paper will outline the TUSNM methods and present initial results, and explore implications of maternal time investments in infant care for women's labour market participation and retirement incomes policy.

BRUCE SMYTH, NICK RICHARDSON, RUTH WESTON AND LAWRIE MOLONEY

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Changes in patterns of post-separation parenting over time

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 4

Under the recently introduced Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act 2006 (Cth), courts with family law jurisdiction now have a responsibility - subject to the particular circumstances that are relevant to the welfare of the children in that case - to consider making orders for the children to spend equal, or else substantial or significant periods of, time with each parent. Yet despite the broad legislative and policy changes in recent years towards encouraging co-parenting after separation, little is known in Australia about the durability of 50:50 shared care or other patterns of post-separation parenting (such as traditional weekly or fortnightly arrangements, daytime-only care, holiday-only care, or little or no father-child

contact). Drawing on recent Australian longitudinal data, this paper examines changes in different patterns of care over time. These data are likely to be of considerable interest to policy makers, legal professionals, practitioners, and separating parents themselves since changes in post-separation parenting arrangements can have important consequences for children's and parents' wellbeing and financial circumstances.

LUCY SNOWBALL AND DON WEATHERBURN

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Indigenous victims of violent crime: an exploratory analysis of risk and protection factors

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

In recent times there has been much discussion about the high level of violence amongst Australia's Indigenous population. Research into the issue, however, has never proceeded beyond simple bi-variate analyses of risk factors drawn from the National Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The present article presents the results of an exploratory multivariate analysis of risk factors for violent victimisation using a wide range of factors drawn from the NATSISS. The results show higher risks of violent victimisation amongst young people, lone parents, those living in a crime prone area, those exposed to social stress, those involved in social activities, those who are unemployed, those who have moved at least once in the previous twelve months, those who have a severe or profound disability, those who are members or related to members of the stolen generation and those who abuse alcohol and/or illicit drugs. The strongest correlate of Indigenous violence was high risk alcohol abuse.

CAROL SOLOFF

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Latest information from Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 4

In 2004, more than 10,000 children and families around Australia agreed to take part in Growing Up in Australia, the longitudinal study of Australian children (LSAC). This study involves two representative cohorts of children - approximately 5,000 infants and 5,000 children aged 4-5 years in 2004. The study is following the development of these children until at least 2010, returning to the children and their families every two years. Two waves of interviewing have now been completed, with data from the second wave due for release in the second half of 2007.

Growing Up in Australia is a major data resource for researchers and policy makers. The study collects information about many aspects of children's development, - physical and mental health, social adjustment, cognitive development, and school achievement - and their experiences at home, in child care, at school and in local communities. Socio-economic and other contextual information is also collected.

This paper provides an update on Growing Up in Australia, including an overview of the longitudinal data. Changes that have happened to the families will be outlined and an indication will be given of how the children are progressing since they joined the study.

HELEN SOWEY AND HAMED TURAY

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The African Companions Project: building capacity within African refugee communities to prevent alcohol and other drug-related harm

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 2

Refugees from African countries might be vulnerable to alcohol and other drug-related harm, not only because of the trauma they have experienced but also due to the significant challenges they face in settling into a very different socio-cultural environment.

The African Companions project aims to build capacity within African refugee communities to prevent alcohol and other drug-related harm. The project utilises a unique model which engages the gatekeepers of various African refugee communities as 'African Companions'. These African Companions undertake extensive training, after which they are supported to share alcohol and drug information with members of their communities, and assist in making referrals to treatment services when required. The project has been running in NSW for nearly two years. To date, evaluation measures have documented not only increased knowledge of participants, but also attitudinal shifts which are essential for working with taboo issues such as alcohol and other drugs

This paper describes the achievements of the project so far, examines some of the challenges in implementation, and highlights some pointers for effective and sustainable ways of working cross-culturally around sensitive issues.

CATHERINE SPOONER, SAUL FLAXMAN COLLEEN MURRAY, MARYANN SEYMOUR, LISA JACKSON PULVER, JOHN HOWARD AND ELIZABETH MOORE

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Participatory evaluation in practice: challenges and early lessons with an Aboriginal-community-run centre for Aboriginal boys

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 2

Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre is a new Aboriginal-community-run centre in rural NSW offering Aboriginal boys aged 12 to 15 a culturally-based residential program aimed at reducing future contact with the criminal justice system by strengthening the boys' cultural identity, self-esteem and resilience.

A consortium led by the Social Policy Research Centre was commissioned to assist Tirkandi Inaburra in developing a monitoring system and to conduct an outcomes study. Constraints for the evaluation included geographic distance (most of the research consortium is based 600 km from the program, the boys live up to 500 km from the program) and a modest evaluation budget. Challenges for the evaluation included the need for culturally appropriate and sustainable methods and instruments; obtaining 'informed consent' from people with low literacy levels; and capturing the multitude of program effects on the program participants while minimising the burden of data collection.

In a joint presentation, Catherine Spooner (Chief Investigator) will discuss how a participatory approach enabled the evaluation constraints and challenges to be managed. Colleen Murray will describe the benefits and problems of being involved in a participatory evaluation from the perspective of the Program Manager. Ingredients for successful participatory research will be discussed.

The presentation concludes with a selection of early results from the evaluation.

ANDREW SPORLE

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Family wellbeing in an era of reform: monitoring changes in family wellbeing for different family types in New Zealand between 1981 and 2001

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 6

It is well documented that New Zealand's economic reforms over the past two decades have had significant social impacts. However, while the economic outcomes of the reforms have been well documented the social impact of the reforms, especially on different family types has been less well monitored.

This paper uses information collected from the five-yearly Census conducted by Statistics New Zealand to develop indicators of family wellbeing. Twelve indicators grouped in the domains of income, education, work and housing are then used to track changes in wellbeing for different family types over the period 1981 to 2001.

While there are limitations to the range of indicators that can be constructed from Census data due to the restricted scope of the information gathered, the indicators developed for this project do allow an assessment of changes in wellbeing for different family types to be made. Evidence shows that on most counts single parent families fared worst during this period.

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Citizenship and the social fringe: the significance of marginal and alternative networks and groups

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 1

This paper presents evidence on social fringe collectives as being important 'mooring points' for people dislocated by circumstances of marginalisation or alternativeness from mainstream, providing symbolic opportunities to their citizenry experience. The recent PhD qualitative investigation behind this analysis involved 16 sample collectives represented by 40 people across Victoria who had consciously bonded with others in similar circumstances to themselves. With national and other tiers of governments struggling to balance economic wellbeing with social wellbeing, the results lend a greater understanding of the needs and aspirations of those who in many ways have become increasingly sidelined by the current direction in nation state building and maintenance. On the one hand there are elements of homelessness, job precariousness, cultural-based isolation and other forms of marginality that bear witness to fault lines within the social framework. On the other, there are alternative 'life world' extensions by people digressing from the current main order through mediums such as intentional communities, 'New Age' spirituality, and pro-active environmentalism. This paper contributes to the debate insisting that for Australia to accommodate social consciousness beyond disposable materialism within an ever-increasing web of globalisation, it needs to review substantially ideas of 'citizenship' and 'governance'.

SARAH SQUIRE

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A framework for work and care across the life cycle

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

In the context of an ageing population, with increasing workforce participation by women and older workers, one of the biggest challenges facing Australian families is balancing paid work with unpaid care.

The second Intergenerational Report (Treasury 2007) predicts that labour force participation rates will either rise or stabilise for all age groups. Over the last ten years participation rates for women aged 55-64 have risen more strongly than those for men. As the population ages and more people remain in paid work for longer periods, it is important to consider the unpaid caring obligations that many of these workers will face. Meeting care needs is a challenge that most workers experience at some stage in the life cycle.

Drawing on evidence gathered during HREOC's two year women, men, work and family project, this paper outlines a framework and series of policy recommendations that will help meet this challenge

JANET STANLEY, KEMRAN MESTAN, CHI WAI NG

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Poverty amongst privilege: child social exclusion in Boroondara

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 6

Government policy is increasingly using a place-based approach to targeting government funds towards ameliorating disadvantage. As a consequence, the needs of disadvantaged people who live in areas where poverty is not concentrated are missing out on this funding. A recently completed study titled 'Social exclusion in Boroondara' contributes to better understanding this phenomenon of scattered poverty. Boroondara is one of Melbourne's wealthiest municipalities; despite this it was found that within Boroondara there is a concerning amount of child social exclusion. Using the Henderson Poverty Line it was revealed that in order of 12% of children are living in poverty. This presentation will focus on the specific nature of child social exclusion in Boroondara. Due to wide affluence and great income inequality in Boroondara, child social exclusion has particular characteristics in comparison to other areas where poverty is concentrated. For example, difficulty accessing resources can be compounded by social ostracism

and shame. This was shown through surveying 27 community agencies and interviews with staff of agencies that work with families in Boroondara, as well as a focus group with nine mothers who live in Boroondara.

BRENT S. STEEL AND REBECCA WARNER

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Correlates and consequences of civic literacy among American youth

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

Two of the most important requirements associated with democracy and civil society are active political participation and the presence of an informed electorate. Previous research has found that an informed and involved citizen is seen as better able to promote her or his self-interest, more satisfied with the electoral process and the citizen's impact on it, and better integrated into political systems. However, much research concerning the distribution of civic knowledge in various areas of public policy has documented a 'knowledge gap' separating younger and older cohorts, with youth exhibiting significantly lower levels of knowledge. There are two theories that have been proposed to explain this knowledge gap. The first focuses on 'trans-situational' conditions associated with lower SES, while the second focuses on 'situation-specific' factors, which are motivational in nature (e.g., having a stake in a particular policy outcome).

Using data gathered from a 2006 survey conducted in the western U.S., this research examines the correlates and consequences of civic literacy among American youth and then suggests some possible strategies to increase knowledge levels. Preliminary findings suggest both trans-situational and situation-specific hypotheses are useful in explaining knowledge levels and that some information sources (e.g., internet use) have potential to improve civic literacy.

WENDY STONE AND KATH HULSE

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Housing social cohesion: do housing policies and housing assistance make a difference to Australian communities?

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 7

Within Australian public policy it has become something of an orthodoxy to assume that housing and planning policy initiatives are positively linked to outcomes such as family functioning, educational attainment, participation in paid employment, physical and mental health, and cohesive

community life, among others. This is despite the relative dearth of empirical evidence indicating that this is so and, in particular, why this may be the case. This paper presents findings from one of the first ever studies to investigate these relationships empirically, under the umbrella concept of 'social cohesion'. Social cohesion is defined in terms of three key dimensions: inequalities; social connections; and cultural context. Using this concept, we present findings of an AHURI funded project which, using existing survey data (HILDA and AIFS Social Capital data), analyses how each of these dimensions of social cohesion relates to various dimensions of housing and housing assistance. Results indicate that, importantly, various aspects of housing do have a direct relationship with social connectedness within communities, over and above the mediating impact of inequalities. As well, we find evidence to support the current policy emphasis upon place-based housing programs.

JANET TAYLOR AND LUCY NELMS

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Sweet 16: life chances and school to work transitions

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 8

The transition from school to further training and employment is generally seen as a crucial aspect of the life course, but one that can differ across different socio-economic groups. The Brotherhood of St Laurence's longitudinal study, the Life Chances Study, provides data to explore the experiences of a diverse group of Australian-born young people. The study commenced in 1990 with 167 children born in that year. By the end of 2006 some of the participants, now 16 year olds, were making crucial decisions about their futures.

The paper draws on both the longitudinal data and the new data of stage 8 of the study to explore:

- What are the differences in school engagement and family life for the 16 year olds who have grown up in low-income families and those in higher income families?
- What are the links to the workforce for those who have left school early and those still at school?
- What is the history and current situation of the 16 year olds who have already left school?

Implications of the findings for policy and building resilience are outlined.

DENISE THOMPSON

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Social capital and its popularity

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 1

The concept of ‘social capital’ has met with huge success among governmental agencies, including governments themselves at all levels and transnational entities such as the OECD and the World Bank, as well as NGOs, academics, policy analysts, etc., in short, any and every institution concerned with or about the well-being of populations. And yet the concept has been subjected to a critique so devastating that it is difficult to understand why it has been so popular. The proposed paper will take a brief look at the extent of the spread of the notion of ‘social capital’, and then go on to investigate a number of the reasons given in the literature for its popularity. These reasons are both admiring (e.g. it broadens our understanding of community well-being beyond the economic - ABS), and critical (e.g. ‘a sort of capital- and capitalism-fetishism, by analogy with commodity fetishism, reigns supreme’ - Ben Fine). The paper will conclude by suggesting that the question of why ‘social capital’ continues to prevail, despite its dubious epistemological status, can most usefully be explored by asking who stands to benefit (if anyone) from its continued usage.

**CATHY THOMSON, KYLIE VALENTINE,
TRISH HILL AND SHARNI CHAN**

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Part-time work and academic careers: constraints and opportunities

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 4

Family and caring responsibilities affect the capacity of many employees to work full-time, and women are more likely than men to work part-time in order to meet these responsibilities. However, career interruptions may have a negative impact on participation, promotion and career development.

This paper presents preliminary findings from a project on managing work-life balance in the university sector. The project investigates the constraints and opportunities for part-time work and academic career progression in a large university faculty.

The project employs a mixed methodology of surveys and focus groups. Its aims include:

- To increase understanding of the effect of current and previous part-time employment on the career development of academics;

- To identify factors that inhibit academics from undertaking part-time work, particularly those with sole responsibility for family and caring roles;
- To identify factors that constrain and improve the career development and research output of part-time (fractional) academics;
- To identify models of good practice in supporting part-time (fractional) women academics and the potential for their broader application.

Theoretical and policy implications from these early findings will be discussed.

JACQUELINE TUDBALL

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Negotiating ‘shared responsibility’: how children and parents manage childhood asthma

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 2

The main premise of the chronic disease self-management literature (CDSM; including academic and consumer) is that the responsibility for the management of childhood asthma lies with the primary caregiver - most often parents. Yet the very nature of asthma management in children, relying primarily on self-administered, inhaled medication, means that responsibility for the management of their condition is literally placed in children’s hands.

This paper reports the findings of the qualitative component of a PhD project that explored how children manage their condition - what they do, the tools they use to manage asthma, and how they negotiate and collaborate in these practices with their parents. A new model of how childhood asthma is managed demonstrates the ‘missing link’ in the childhood CDSM literature: that CDSM is socially constructed, in part by the relational interactions between children and parents.

**INGRID VAN STEENWYK AND
KAREN BEVAN**

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Dialling up disadvantage: ethical issues when a journalist wants to speak to a ‘poor person.’

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 1

Using the media is an effective advocacy strategy for non government organisations that seek to bring attention to or stimulate debate on important social policy issues. Some researchers suggest that the media have more influence on child protection policy and practice than professionals.

As well as promoting the views of experts in the field, one

of the best ways to convey the real impact and complexity of an issue is through the voice of someone experiencing the effects of it first hand.

'Case studies' are a recognised tool used by workers in the human services and the media to influence social policy and bring a human face to the serious issue of disadvantage. Media often source their case studies - people who are considered poor or marginalised in some way through NGOs.

This paper will explore some of the ethical considerations that UnitingCare Burnside experiences in putting forward 'case studies' to media. Does the process help to empower marginalised individuals, whose voice is ordinarily stifled in public debate? Or does it represent the exploitation of vulnerable people merely to satisfy a media agenda? What are the risks and benefits - for service users? staff? the organisation? How can NGOs maintain a presence in the media but protect the safety and integrity of those they assist at the same time?

TINGYU WANG

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Developing community-based child protection in China

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 3

This paper reports on the impact of development of working community-based child protection mechanisms in China. While legislation exists, there is a gulf between legal/policy intentions and their effective implementation and practice. There is no integrated mechanism nor national system for the effective protection of children. A large part of the problem is identifying methods and processes of work that are effective, and take account of the diversity of children and childhoods across the country.

A series of pilot projects take identified and particular issues of abuse, vulnerability and children's rights violations as focus for development of local, community-based children's centres, that act as hubs for integrating child protection mechanisms across sectors and agencies. Children's participation is a core work-method alongside research and monitoring of impact monitoring across five dimensions of change.

Child abuse in China takes many forms. Street children, trafficking, exploitation are increasingly recognised, and being linked to home violence. These issues remain sensitive for open discussion, and sexual abuse even more so. Educational pressures produce emotional stresses that some children find intolerable, and injure themselves. Existing systems of child welfare are based on older assumptions/norms and struggling to adjust to the impact

of economic reform, with growing unemployment, geographical and rural-urban inequalities, that have brought migration, trafficking, domestic tensions and increases in crime.

Results of project work so far show how participatory centres and other mechanisms have reduced trafficking, promoted children's resilience, provided psycho-social support: some children have reported a reduction in violence.

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Building a model of collaboration to help communities age well

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 5

Collaborative networks involving state and community sector partnerships are increasingly central to all areas of Australian social policy. This includes the ageing field, where the major policy framework, the National Strategy for an Ageing Australia, emphasises that 'the responsibility for meeting the challenges of population ageing lies not only with the Commonwealth Government but with other levels of government, with business, with communities and with individuals' (2001: 2). However, far less is known about how to achieve effective collaboration across such diverse partnerships, and what ensures successful policy outcomes. In this presentation, we discuss the findings from the first stages of an ARC Linkage grant aimed at developing and implementing a model of local collaboration to enhance the community's capacity to age well. We explore how models of successful collaboration are conceptualised in the literature; and how these models resonate with the experiences and perceptions of key stakeholders in healthy ageing in Queensland communities. The paper presents the institutional features and operational strategies identified for use in fostering, strengthening and sustaining a collaborative approach to ageing policy. These will then be used to build collaborative capacity to address the challenges of ageing and develop policy and practice initiatives that are valued by older people themselves.

LOUISE WARD AND KAREN TURVEY*Job Futures**louise.ward@jobfutures.com.au****What is stopping the very long term unemployed (VLTU) from getting a job?***

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 8

As the unemployment rate falls, increasingly it is the VLTU, who are making up a growing proportion of the jobseekers in Job Network. These jobseekers are arguably the most difficult to place into employment; facing a multitude of barriers which have become compounded during their period of unemployment. Although this group is significant there has been limited research on why they have been unable to gain employment in today's buoyant labour market.

As a provider of JN services Job Futures was in a unique position to gain access to VLTU jobseekers for this research. The research consisted of three components: literature review, analysis of our VLTU database and a small scale qualitative study conducting focus groups with VLTU jobseekers. The focus groups explored who the VLTU are, why they are not gaining and retaining employment, and finally what policies and strategies they think might be effective in getting them into employment.

This paper will explore how the research can influence the direction of new policy and practice approaches at Job Futures and also in the public policy arena, to more effectively assist VLTU jobseekers gain sustainable employment.

REBECCA WARNER AND BRENT S. STEEL*Oregon State University**bsteel@oregonstate.edu****Families, gender and support for gender equity policies***

THURSDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 4

Social scientists have found that raising daughters versus raising sons can have a significant effect on parental values and behaviors. For example, research suggests that when sons are present, fathers participate more in some dimensions of family life. Other research has found that having daughters results in stronger parental agreement with gender equity. Our paper expands this research by examining support for public policies that are specifically designed for gender equity while controlling for SES, religiosity, and political ideology. Using data from a recent survey conducted in the western United States, we examine if raising daughters or sons makes parents more or less supportive of gender equity policies. The hypothesis underlying this research is that when daughters are present, parents become more aware of inequities that exist in

society that relate to gender, and because parents want what is best for their children, they will want a world that treats girls fairly. Our findings suggest that parents are indeed influenced by the gender of children. However, the effect varies by gender of the parent and the public policy issues involved.

MICHAEL WEARING*University of New South Wales**m.wearing@unsw.edu.au****Federal cabinet and social policy in the Keating and Howard administrations***

FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM, CLB 6

This paper will assess in specific social welfare areas the role of Federal Ministers in changing, curtailing and/or maintaining certain social policy agendas in Australia. The select areas will include taxation, income security, employment services, ageing and health and community services. There is a broader concern for in the paper for understanding welfare reform and policy transfer in setting such reforms. The paper will form part of a longer history on social policy that wants to understand how cabinets have driven certain agendas in policy initiatives and in spending, and how party competition, pragmatism and ideological components have influenced this history. The purpose is to acknowledge the part played by Cabinet in national social policy and the way in which Federal Ministers have post facto accounted for their role in the policy process. Other writers have connected public policy cycles and policy periods to the making of social policy. This policy history will contribute to an extension of such approaches. Political biographies and accounts of policy initiatives and other policy documents are used in combination to reconstruct the role played by key ministers insignificant policy events, decision making and the ideological framing or otherwise of social issues and policy debate.

EWA ORZECZOWSKA-FISCHER AND HUI WEI*Australian Bureau of Statistics**hui.wei@abs.gov.au****Population ageing and human capital accumulation in Australia***

WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 5

Population ageing is an important economic issue facing developed countries, generating many studies and debates. The analysis of population ageing and policy initiatives for dealing with it requires the availability of relevant statistics. Using the experimental measurement framework of human capital developed at the Australian Bureau of Statistics this

study provides quantitative assessment of the impact of population ageing on human capital development.

Our estimates show that since the early 1990's, the human capital stock in Australia has been depreciating at an accelerated rate due to population ageing, and this trend has been to some extent counterbalanced by increasing investment in education and training.

With population ageing projected to accelerate in the future, negative contribution of ageing to the human capital accumulation is likely to significantly increase. Substantial investment in maintaining and increasing educational attainment of the Australian population will be necessary to compensate for ageing-driven depletion of human capital stocks.

XINGYAN WEN

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Life expectancy, ageing, disability and demand for disability services

WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM, CLB 7

Life expectancy has increased markedly over the last century in Australia. Has the number of years lived with a disability fallen or risen as overall life expectancy has lengthened? What is the impact of greater longevity on trends in disability? How much unmet demand is there currently for disability services? How are levels of demand expected to change over coming years? This paper starts with a re-examining the trends in expected years of life lived with disability over a period of 15 years (from 1988 to 2003) using the latest available data. It then gives estimates of current levels of unmet demand for specialist disability services, and presents data and commentary relating to projected future demand and the key factors likely to influence levels of demand in coming years.

PETER YOUNG, CHRISTINA BENHAM AND LEISA MILLA

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Housing assistance as a contributor to child safety: building a child protection system

THURSDAY 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM, CLB 3

Queensland has recently undergone a significant reform of child protection services, which have included a number of measures to build a more effective child protection system. The Queensland Department of Housing is one of a number of agencies that are now a partner in the delivery of services to at-risk children and their families.

The key question of the paper is how does an agency, whose core business is the provision of housing assistance, respond in a meaningful and effective way to children in need of protection, and does this contribution really make a difference?

Concepts explored will include influencing the culture of an organisation, alignment of internal policy with externally determined priorities and the learnings gained from working in partnership on a local and central level.

More specifically the paper will examine the way the Department of Housing engaged with the reform process whilst maintaining its identity as a housing agency. Included in the discussion will be the challenges faced by the department, both in developing and delivering a response to child protection, how we engaged with and built the capacity of housing staff to take some ownership of the reform agenda and our role in the wider government process.

Housing as a contributor to child protection services in Queensland is a practical example of an attempt at joined up government.

PENG YU

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Mortality of children and parental disadvantage

FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM, CLB 6

This paper investigates the correlation between mortality risk of children and parental disadvantage at individual level. There is plenty of evidence for intergenerational transmission of disadvantage. However, mortality, as the most significant adverse outcome of children, is not well explored, especially in Australia. Lack of appropriate data is one of the main reasons. To tackle this issue, the paper uses a unique administrative dataset of FaCSIA, which contains almost a whole birth cohort of Australian children. It finds that mortality of children is significantly correlated with several indicators of parental disadvantage, including Indigenous status, low income, long duration on income support, teenage motherhood, disability, and living in remote or socio-economically disadvantaged areas. The paper will discuss how some measures of disadvantage, such as unemployment or income support reliance for young adults used in isolation, may underestimate the extent of intergenerational transmission of disadvantage, because premature deaths prevent some children, especially those from disadvantaged families, from being included in the sample.



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