

# Social Policy in a Complex World

6-8 July, 2011

Including Chinese Social Policy Workshop and  
Higher Degree Research Workshop 6 July 2011

## PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

University of New South Wales, Sydney

Hosted by:

**SPRC**  
Social Policy Research Centre

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# ASPC 2011

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# Welcome



Dear friends and colleagues,

A warm welcome to the 12th Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC). As usual the conference has a fascinating combination of keynote speakers, papers, posters and forums, combined with a lively social

program and plenty of opportunity to network and interact. The ASPC is very unusual, and possibly unique in bringing together social policy academics, policy makers and advocates to interact and exchange ideas over three days. The genuine engagement between the different sectors at the ASPC sets a tone for Australia which fosters respect and collaboration between academics and policy makers, and we are proud to be associated with this process which I believe is at the heart of good scholarship as well as good policy making.

We are also very pleased to be hosting our second Chinese Social Policy Workshop as part of the ASPC, and we particularly welcome our colleagues from China and other Asian countries who have come for this event. This year we also have a new innovation – the Higher Degree Social Policy Research Student Workshop. These two workshops form part of the SPRC's mission to build capacity in social policy research around the world, and to develop and encourage the next generations of social policy researchers. There will also be the AGM of The Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA) which was first mooted in our conference in 2007 and was officially launched at the conference in 2009. It is very important for social policy researchers and others involved in the study of social policy to have a strong and vibrant association, especially now when the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) appears to be increasingly dominant as a measure of academic competence.

As usual the Conference will be addressed by three keynote speakers, and this year the combination of speakers is particularly interesting and appropriate. The three keynotes address three of the long standing 'wicked problems' of

social policy – gender equality, poverty reduction and risk. Each of these problems has now been debated and studied over several decades, but all still elude policy interventions and continue to challenge policy makers around the world. These three speakers are amongst the best placed in the world to comment on the most contemporary understandings of these problems and whether and how policies can be designed to address them.

This year we also have two concurrent forums, and again these are addressing two of the most contentious issues in Australian social policy; Income Management and multiculturalism and migration. Both of these forums promise to be very engaging and provocative discussions. However the core of the conference is always in the presented papers, and this time we have 152 papers from a wide variety of presenters and dealing with all of the key issues in Australian social policy. As usual we have prioritised papers which present findings of empirical research or contribute significantly to theoretical understanding of social issues and policies.

This year the ASPC academic selection committee has been very ably chaired by Professor Bettina Cass, and the conference organisation itself has been headed by Melissa Roughley and David Cami. This is the first year the conference has been organised fully in-house and I am sure that the organisation will be as smooth and flawless as it always has been. Bettina, Melissa and David, as well as a number of other colleagues, have made a huge effort to ensure the high quality of the academic content and organisation of the conference, and I thank them for their dedication.

All in all therefore this promises to be a stimulating and engaging three days and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



Professor Ilan Katz  
Director, Social Policy Research Centre

## Social Policy in a Complex World

Social policy research is essential in an increasingly complex world to investigate, analyse and explain those global issues which people of all ages in their families, communities, regions and societies, and governments face. These are global issues of interconnected economies, population movements, climate change and technological transformations. Also, these issues include the requirement for more equitable access to education, training, secure jobs and adequate incomes to counteract inequality; the impacts of increasingly conditional welfare arrangements; the quest for recognition and full acceptance of diversity; population ageing; the interactions of changing family forms, labour market participation

and intergenerational caregiving; greater need for high quality childcare and young people's services, disability and eldercare services. Overall, providing the bases for the design of institutions and inclusive social practices which engender an equitable distribution of wellbeing is the domain of social policy researchers. The keynote speakers, forums, workshops and presentations at this Australian Social Policy Conference cover the range of these issues in ways which promise to be informative, insightful and intellectually stimulating - exemplars of research and researchers engaging with and informing the major policy debates in our complex world.

## 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 Centre was established in 1980 to conduct research on all aspects of social policy – to disseminate research findings, to promote research training through PhD study and to contribute to policy development. Our mission is to conduct and disseminate policy relevant social research that extends the highest standards of excellence. 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 enquiry are: poverty, social inequality and standards of living; the role of households and families in meeting social need; work, employment and welfare reform; the

organisation and delivery of human services; locality and geography in social needs; support services and community well-being; early interventions in child protection; disability, ageing and retirement; housing policies and services; issues affecting Indigenous and CALD populations; caring and carers: drugs and crime; the politics of social policy and its institutions; and Asian, in particular Chinese, social policy.

The Centre regularly holds seminars and conferences and has an active publishing program. The Centre also fosters discussion of social policy research and policy issues by organising and hosting conferences and seminars, and supports the training and development of qualified researchers and teachers in social policy through in-house and external training initiatives and a program of PhD study.

# General information

## Registration and information desk

The Conference information desk is located in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia Building. The registration desk will be open from 8:30am on Wednesday 6 July.

## Location of sessions

A map showing the location of sessions follows on page 6 and can also be downloaded from [www.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsw.edu.au)

## Disability access

All of the Conference venues are wheelchair accessible. A map of the University showing wheelchair routes is available from the registration desk.

## Special events/messages

A noticeboard is located behind the Registration Desk 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 conference staff, will handle liaison with media. Please make regular checks of the Press contacts section of the message board in the foyer. Rooms are available for media interviews.

## Welcome cocktails

Welcome cocktails will be held in the foyer of the Scientia Building from 17:30 on Wednesday 6 July.

## Morning and afternoon teas/lunches

Catering will be served in the Foyer of the John Niland Scientia Building. Excess or unused food will be collected on a daily basis by OzHarvest and distributed to charity.

## Parking

There is limited parking space on campus via Gate 14 (Barker St) or via Gate 11, (Botany Street). Check with the gate attendant for directions. Please note that parking infringements may result in a fine.

## Mobile phones

Please ensure your mobile phone is switched off while you are attending conference sessions. Please check your phone between sessions if you are presenting a paper.

## Computers/internet connections

There will be three computers available in Peter Farrell room and three in the CLB registration desk area.

## Conference evaluation

Please help us to improve the Australian Social Policy Conference, you will receive an evaluation survey via email after the conference.

## Conference dinner

The dinner will be held at Ceviche Coogee Beach from 19:20 on Thursday 7 July. The dinner will cost \$100.00 per head and includes three courses, coffee and drinks. For more information or if you wish to attend the dinner please speak with staff at the Registration desk.

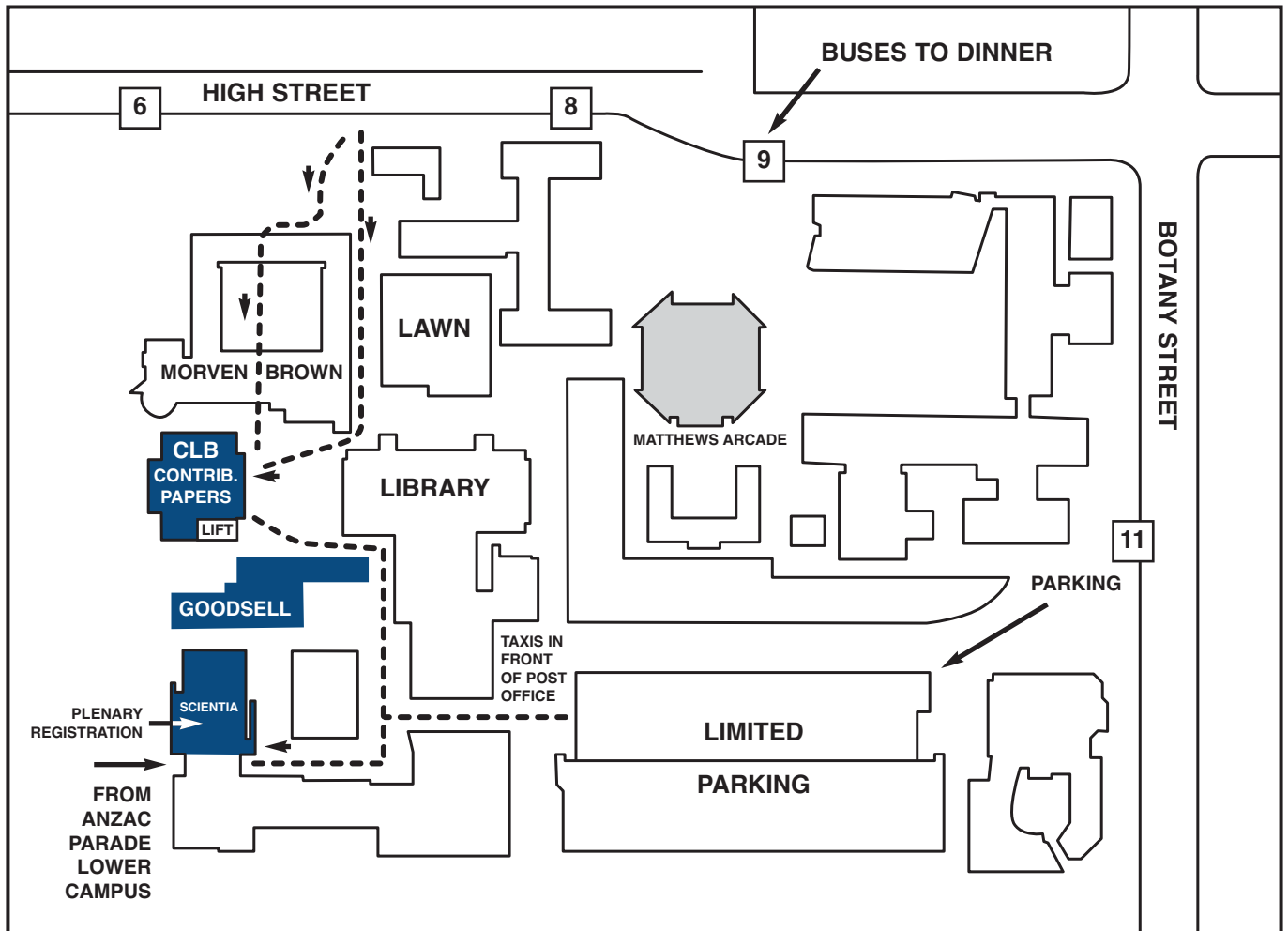
## Conference papers

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

## Conference organisation

The academic management of the conference was lead by Professor Bettina Cass. The operational management of the conference has been undertaken by David Cami, Melissa Roughley, Alyssa Handy, Juanita Vargas, Rebecca Sinclair and Kristen Ella.

# Conference venues



Located in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, the University of New South Wales is easily accessible from the city and the many nearby seaside suburbs.

To view other maps of the University in relation to the city of Sydney visit:  
<http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/Maps/maps.html>

To find out about getting to and from UNSW Campuses, visit: <http://www.transport.unsw.edu.au/>

# Program at a glance

Wednesday 6 July		
Time		Venue
8:30 – 11:00	Registration	The John Niland Scientia foyer
10:00	Welcome Tea	Scientia foyer
11:00	<b>Opening and Plenary Session</b> Welcome to Country: Donna Ingram Welcome: Professor James Donald (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) Opening address: Alison McClelland (Commissioner, Productivity Commission) <b>Plenary Address:</b> Professor Paula England (Affiliate of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University US)	Leighton Hall
12:30	Lunch	Scientia foyer
13:00	<b>Book Launch:</b> <i>Down and Out</i> by Peter Saunders	Leighton Hall
13:30	<b>Roundtable:</b> Critical questions of design and operationalisation of the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme	Leighton Hall
13:30	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and John Goodsell 119
15:00	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer
15:30	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and John Goodsell 119
17:30	<b>Welcome cocktails</b>	Leighton Hall
17:45	<b>Book Launch:</b> <i>Unsettling the Settler State</i> edited by Sarah Maddison and Morgan Brigg	Leighton Hall
Thursday 7 July		
8:30	Registration	The John Niland Scientia foyer
8:30 – 9:30	Welcome Tea	Scientia foyer
9:30	<b>Plenary Address:</b> Associate Professor Bea Cantillon (Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Social Policy, Universite of Antwerp, Belgium)	Leighton Hall
10:30	Morning Tea	Scientia Foyer
11:00	<b>Contributed papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and Galleries 1
12:30	Lunch	Scientia Foyer
13:30	<b>Contributed papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and Galleries 1
15:30	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer
16:00	<b>Forums</b> – Income Management – Multiculturalism, migration and a sustainable Australia – ‘Sharing knowledge across research, policy and delivery: fad or foundational?’ <i>organised by the Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA)</i>	The John Niland Scientia building
19:20	Dinner – Ceviche Coogee Beach	
Friday 8 July		
8:30	Registration	The John Niland Scientia foyer
8:30 – 9:30	Welcome Tea	Scientia foyer
9:30	<b>Plenary Address:</b> Professor John Quiggin (Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science, University of Queensland)	Leighton Hall
10:30	Morning Tea	Scientia foyer
11:00	<b>Contributed papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and Galleries 1
12:30	Lunch	Scientia foyer
13:30	<b>Contributed papers</b>	CLB 1-8 and Galleries 1
15:30	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer/Leighton Hall



# Keynote speakers

## Professor Paula England



*Professor of Sociology, affiliate of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University, USA*

### **The Uneven Gender Revolution**

Paula England will describe sweeping changes in the gender system in the last 50 years and offer explanations for why change has been uneven. Because the devaluation of activities done by women has changed little, women have had strong incentive to enter male jobs, but men have had little incentive to take on female activities or jobs. Thus, women changed more than men. The gender egalitarianism that gained traction was the notion that women should have access to upward mobility and to all areas of schooling and jobs. But on a number of dimensions, the gender revolution has recently stalled.

## Associate Professor Bea Cantillon



*Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium*

### **The paradox of the investment state: growth, employment and poverty in Europe**

The fight against social exclusion is high on the political agenda in Europe and elsewhere. Yet a survey of the available empirical evidence indicates that at least since the 1990s most rich European welfare states did not succeed in making any further progress in the fight against (relative) income poverty. This standstill is disquieting because social, economic and demographic circumstances were in fact favourable. Bea Cantillon argues that the decrease of the distributional capacity of welfare states is at least in part responsible for the poverty stand still.

## Professor John Quiggin



*Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science, University of Queensland*

### **Social Democracy and the risk society**

'Risk' has become a central theme in 21st century policy thinking. The fact that individuals and families are vulnerable to a wide range of social, economic and other risks, and that collective action is needed to help reduce and manage these risks, has long been important in social democratic thinking. The aim of this paper is to show how an improved understanding of risk can contribute to the development of a modernised social democratic model.

## Forum sessions

Thursday 16:00

### Income Management

Chair: Professor Peter Whiteford

- Marcia Ella-Duncan  
*Member, Board of the Review of the Northern Territory emergency response*
- Will Sanders  
*Australian National University*
- and FaHCSIA  
(FaHCSIA representative to be confirmed)

### Multiculturalism, migration and a sustainable Australia

Chair: Professor Ilan Katz

- Andrew Jakubowicz, *professor of sociology at the University of Technology Sydney*
- Padma Menon,  
*Director, Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia*
- Professor Fethi Mansouri,  
*Chair in Migration and Intercultural Research, Deakin University*

*This forum is being recorded by the Life Matters program for broadcast on ABC Radio National.*



### Sharing knowledge across research, policy and delivery: Fad or Foundational?

**(Australian Social Policy Association Session):**

Chair: Professor Brian Head, University of QLD and member of ASPA Executive

- Megan Mitchell,  
*NSW Commissioner Children and Young People*
- Dr Shelley Mallett, *General Manager Research & Service Development, Hanover Welfare Services.*
- Jan Patterson, *Project Director, SA Smarter Schools National Partnerships, SA National Partnerships Secretariat.*

## Special events – Book Launch

Wednesday 13:00

### Down and Out Poverty and exclusion in Australia

By Peter Saunders

Written by one of Australia's leading poverty researchers, *Down and Out: Poverty and Exclusion in Australia* provides the first comprehensive assessment of the nature and associations between the three main forms of social disadvantage in Australia: poverty, deprivation and social exclusion.

Drawing on the author's extensive research expertise and his links with welfare practitioners, it explains the limitations of existing approaches and presents new findings that build on the insights of disadvantaged Australians and community views about the essentials of life, providing the basis for a new deprivation-based poverty measure. Results produced by the new measure, are compared with conventional (income-based) estimates of poverty and with different dimensions of social exclusion.

This important new book pulls together in a consistent and coherent manner the author's recent research on poverty and other dimensions of social disadvantage in Australia and draws on his decades of experience researching these (and related) topics.

Wednesday 17:45

### Unsettling the Settler State Creativity and Resistance in Indigenous Settler-State Governance

Edited by Sarah Maddison and Morgan Brigg

Australia invests significant energy in debate and discussion about contemporary Indigenous affairs, yet amid the rhetoric of perpetual crisis and policy failure, Australia has missed the vibrancy and depth of Indigenous political systems.

As this book reveals, Aboriginal people have persistently attempted to enter into respectful engagement with the settler order in Australia. These efforts have received little or no reciprocal movement from the Settler State and its institutions, particularly in terms of recognising governance systems, effective inter-cultural engagement and creative resistance. The contributors to this book challenge the orthodoxy, correct the record and offer a hand to opening up a shared, positive and respectful future.



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

## Working at FaHCSIA

At the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), our vision is for a strong and fair society for all Australians.

FaHCSIA's work touches almost every part of our society through its policies, programs and partnership with other government and non-government organisations, as we aim to improve the lives of all Australians by reducing risks of poverty, exclusion or disadvantage and increasing the incentives and opportunities for people to build healthy and happy lives.

Employment with FaHCSIA offers a challenging and meaningful career at the centre of the Australian Government's social policy agenda. We are the largest spending Australian Government department with an annual budget of around one-quarter of the Commonwealth's Special Appropriation outlays.

One employment pathway with FaHCSIA is the Graduate Program. It is an exciting and challenging opportunity for graduates of all ages and from all disciplines. The Data and Analysis stream targets graduates with quantitative research, analytical and computational backgrounds to work on strategic social policy initiatives through activities such as:

- undertaking social policy research
- modelling policy options
- analysing data from a range of sources
- evaluating policy and program effectiveness
- analysing program performance

For more information about working at FaHCSIA visit our website [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Institute of Family Studies**

## 12th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference

25–27 July 2012 Melbourne Convention Centre

[www.aifs.gov.au](http://www.aifs.gov.au)



### Key dates

**Abstract submission closes** 8 February 2012

**Notification of acceptances** 23 March 2012

**Early bird registration closes** 27 April 2012


Contact details:  
**Think Business Events**  
Suite 6,  
19–23 Hoddle Street  
Richmond VIC 3121  
Ph: +61 3 9417 1350  
Fax: +61 3 8610 2170  
Email: [aifs@thinkbusiness.com.au](mailto:aifs@thinkbusiness.com.au)

12th AIFS Conference is the premier event for discussing cutting-edge research findings, policy priorities and topical issues important to family wellbeing in Australia, such as

- social and economic impacts
- family transitions and ageing
- children, young people and their families
- neglect, violence and abuse
- family law and family relationships
- cultural diversity


This conference is for policy makers, researchers and service providers working with families – parents, children, young people and senior family members.

# Sponsors



The **Australian Bureau of Statistics** is Australia's official national statistical agency. It provides statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population and environmental matters, covering government, business, community organisations and society in general.

It also has an important leadership and coordination function with respect to the statistical activities of other official bodies in Australia, and a liaison function with other countries and international organisations on statistical matters.



## Depression and anxiety can affect anyone at any time.

If it's not you, maybe it's someone you know – a partner, friend, family member or workmate.

Help is available.

To find out more – [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)  
1300 22 4636 or [infoline@beyondblue.org.au](mailto:infoline@beyondblue.org.au)



beyondblue

the national depression initiative  
[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Citizenship**

The work undertaken by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is diverse and far reaching, and conveyed in its statement of purpose—building Australia's future through the well-managed movement and settlement of people.

Last year over 28 million passengers crossed Australia's border, over four million visas were issued, and there were around 120 000 conferrals of Australian citizenship.

Nearly half of the Australian population are immigrants or children of immigrants and many Australians have worked or travelled overseas. In various ways, the work of the department touches the majority of Australians directly and we all benefit from its nation building role.

The department commissions research to support policy development and informed public consideration of immigration related issues. It values its relationships with the research community and a wide range of stakeholders.

For more information about departmental research visit [www.immi.gov.au/media/research](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/research) or email [research@immi.gov.au](mailto:research@immi.gov.au)

people our business

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## Other Contributors

UNSW Confucius institute  
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# Chinese Social Policy Workshop

Wednesday 6 July			
	Morven Brown	Speaker	Chair
8.00	Registration		
9.00	<b>Official opening</b>	Professor James Donald	Ilan Katz
9.10	<i>Opening reflections</i>		Peter Saunders
9.30	<b>Keynote:</b> Pro-Poor Growth in China: An Assessment from 2001 to 2010	Xiaolin Wang	
10:30	Morning tea		
11:00	<b>ASPC Opening and Plenary</b>		
12:30	Lunch		
13.30	<b>Papers:</b> <i>Social Security (15 minutes each)</i>		Karen Fisher
	Discussion		
15.00	Afternoon Tea		
15.30	<b>Papers:</b> <i>Social Services (15 minutes each)</i>		Megan Blaxland
	Discussion		
17.00	<i>Closing discussion and workshop summary</i>		Xiaoyuan Shang
17.30	Drinks		
Thursday 7 July			
	Galleries 1	Speaker	Chair
11.00	<b>Contributed papers III: Children</b>		Ching Choi
	Discussion		

## Background

The Chinese Social Policy Workshop will present recent research on developments in Chinese social policy. Its aim is to increase the capacity of Chinese and Australian researchers to collaborate in areas of joint policy research interest by building on their record of cooperative social policy research relations.

Chinese, Australian and other international researchers and government and nongovernment officials engaged in current research in China or an interest in developing that research agenda will present and attend the workshop. Simultaneous interpreting is available.

The expected outcome will be the formation of networks of academics, post-graduate candidates and officials to further the conclusions from the workshop. Peer reviewed papers from the workshop will be published in an international special issue journal.

# Higher Degree Research Workshop

Wednesday 6 July			
Location	John Goodsell 223	Speaker	Chair
15.30	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	Professor Laura Poole-Warren (Dean of Graduate Research)	kylie valentine
15.45	Student discussion groups (based on submitted papers)		kylie valentine
16.15	<i>The Uses and Abuses of Social Policy Research</i>	Professor Peter Saunders	Gabrielle Meagher
17.00	Workshop: Towards a national HDR social policy network		Gabrielle Meagher
17.45	Close		

## Background

This year's ASPC will include a workshop for Higher Degree Research students, to run on 6 July from 15:30 – 17:45 pm, supported by the Social Policy Research Centre and the Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA). ASPA is keen to support the development of higher degree research in social policy, and sees engagement with HDR students as a central to its activities

The workshop aims to bring together students from across Australia to meet, network and exchange ideas. All participants have been invited to submit a short paper based on a key methodological, conceptual or ethical challenge. These papers will be circulated prior to the workshop, and will be discussed at the workshop. The workshop will also include a presentation by ASPA President, Professor Peter Saunders, on 'The Uses and Abuses of Social Policy Research'. Students from all stages of their degree are encouraged to attend.

# Full program

## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

11:00

(Leighton Hall)

### Opening and Plenary Session

#### Welcome to Country

Ms Donna Ingram

#### Welcome

Professor James Donald (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science)

#### Opening Address

Alison McClelland, Commissioner Productivity Commission

#### Plenary Address

Professor Paula England  
Professor of Sociology, affiliate of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University USA

12:30

(Scientia foyer)

#### Lunch

13:00

(Leighton Hall)

#### Book Launch

*Down and Out* by Peter Saunders, to be launched by Alison McClelland, Commissioner Productivity Commission

13:30

(Leighton Hall)

### Roundtable: Critical questions of design and operationalisation of the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme

Panel members

1. Philippa Angley, National Policy Manager, National Disability Services
2. Representative, Carers Australia (TBC)
3. Vern Hughes, Director, Centre for Civil Society; & Secretary, National Federation of Parents, Families and Carers
4. Serena Wilson, Deputy Secretary, FaHCSIA (TBC)

5. Representative, NSW Lifetime Care and Support (TBC)

6. Professor Gillian Parker, Director, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, UK

7. Dr Michele Foster, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, University of Queensland

13:30 – 15:00

(CLB 1)

### Contributed Papers

*Income distribution and social inequalities workshop:*

#### Children and social inequalities

#### A study of Indigenous children's developmental outcomes: The impact of child, family and socio-economic characteristics

Killian Mullan, Gerry Redmond  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### Mothers' aspirations for their Indigenous children

Judith Robertson, Eleanor Bettini, Catherine Tamburro, Anna Davies  
FaHCSIA

#### Snakes and ladders from 4 to 8: The socio-economic gradient in child outcomes in Australia

Bruce Bradbury, Gerry Redmond  
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 2)

*Families, work and care:*

#### Conceptualising care: research, policy and practice

#### Towards broader conceptions of care in Australia

Dina Bowman, Ben Ilsley  
Brotherhood of St Laurence/University of Melbourne and Carers Victoria



## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### Re-humanising social policy

Ilan Katz  
Social Policy Research Centre

### Research in a complex world: Reflections on research in a social policy setting

Tamara Blakemore, Megan Shipley, Marian Esler  
FaHCSIA

#### (CLB 3)

*Organisation and delivery of human services:*

### Markets in care

### Markets in care? How ideas, interests and institutions shape the marketisation agenda in Australian child care and aged care

Deb Brennan, Bettina Cass  
Social Policy Research Centre

### Markets, managed competition and an ethics of care: Three intersecting themes in the 2011 Productivity Commission Draft Report on care of Older Australians

Elizabeth Ozanne  
University of Melbourne

### Twenty-first century meals delivery services in an international context: Flexibility and reform in the mixed economy of welfare

Melanie Oppenheimer, Jeni Warburton  
University of New England and La Trobe University

#### (CLB 4)

*Children, young people and families:*

### Child protection service systems Child protection involvement and illicit-drug using mothers: Results from a NSW study

Stephanie Taplin  
National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW

### Towards 'Vertical Collaboration': Developing a whole system response to family and domestic violence

Karen Wilcox  
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

### Unemployment and the wellbeing of children aged 5–10 years

Ben Edwards, Matthew Gray, Matthew Taylor  
Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian National University and NATSEM

#### (CLB 5)

*Open strand:*

### Evidence in policy-making What counts as 'evidence' in Indigenous policy?

Sarah Maddison  
Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit

### Disrupting institutional racism within health policy in Aotearoa New Zealand

Heather Came  
Waikato University

### Perspectives of academic social scientists on the benefits and impact of knowledge co-production: Australian findings

Adrian Cherney, Brian Head, Paul Boreham  
University of Queensland

#### (CLB 6)

*Retirement and ageing:*

### Older people, socio-economic circumstances and wellbeing Ill health, work and worklessness among older people in the UK

Fiona Carmichael, Claire Hulme, Lorna Porcellato  
University of Birmingham, University of Leeds and Liverpool John Moores University

# Full program

## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### **Growing old, growing unequal: The emerging dual welfare state of ageing in Australia**

Ben Spies-Butcher, Adam Stebbing  
Macquarie University

### **Health status, socio-economic conditions and retirement decisions**

Ching Choi, Peng Yu  
Social Policy Research Centre and FaHSCIA

**(CLB 8)**

*Labour market and welfare reform:*

### **Comparative issues**

### **Part-time work in Europe and the persistence of gender inequality**

Mara Yerkes, Niels Schenk, Pearl Dykstra  
University of Queensland and Erasmus University  
Rotterdam

### **Reforming Irish Housing Benefits: What can we learn from France, Germany and the United Kingdom**

Philip Hayes  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Coping strategies in low income households in Denmark: Do lower levels of social assistance improve labour market inclusion?**

Jørgen Elm Larsen, John Andersen, Maja Müller  
University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University  
and University of Copenhagen

**(John Goodsell 119)**

*Disability and mental health:*

### **Service access and engagement**

### **Attempting to meaningfully engage people with different types of disabilities in a national consultation process: Lessons from the review of the National Standards for Disability Services**

Ariella Meltzer, Kristy Muir  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Are we reaching them now? Service access patterns amongst users of headspace youth mental health services**

Saul Flaxman, Ioana Oprea, Roger Patulny, Kristy Muir, Abigail Powell, Shannon McDermott  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Private health insurance, mental health and service use in Australia**

Liana Leach, Peter Butterworth  
Centre for Mental Health Research, The  
Australian National University

15:00

(Scientia foyer)

**Afternoon Tea**

15:30 - 17.30

**(CLB 1)**

### **Contributed Papers**

*Children, young people and families workshop:*

### **Done with schooling but not with learning**

### **Social networks and schooling disadvantage**

Jennifer Skattebol  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Reshaping research about young people who do not complete school**

Deb Hayes  
The University of Sydney

### **Raising educational attainment: Policy analysis from young people's perspectives**

Kitty Te Riele  
University of Technology of Sydney

## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### (CLB 2)

*Families, work and care:*

#### **Balancing work and family**

#### **Employment arrangements and the capacity of fathers with young children to co-parent effectively**

Jennifer Baxter, Michael Alexander  
Australian Institute of Family Studies

#### **Household work-family balance strategies and gendered time in/equity**

Lyn Craig, Abigail Powell  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### **Policies to support maternal employment and care for the child: What does the research tell us?**

Wendy Boyd  
Southern Cross University

### (CLB 3)

*Organisation and delivery of human services:*

#### **Innovation in service delivery**

#### **Some initial outcomes from the Michael Project**

Paul Flatau, Tim Marchant  
University of Western Australia and Mission Australia

#### **A Framework for Understanding Indigenous Mobility**

Daphne Habibis  
University of Tasmania

#### **Growth and expansion of community housing workforce: From the stimulus and onward**

Maja Frölich  
NSW Federation of Housing Associations

#### **Brokering the digital divide in the Northern Rivers: Non-profit organisations, disadvantaged consumers and the National Broadband Network**

Danielle Notara  
Spiral Research and Consulting

### (CLB 4)

*Identity and diversity:*

#### **Identity, loss and the role of social policy**

#### **The lucky country – Providing you're from the right mob**

John Dommett, Caroline Carroll, Suellen Murray  
Connecting Home Ltd, Alliance for Forgotten Australians and RMIT University

#### **'My life's been a total disaster but I feel privileged': Identity and access to personal records**

Suellen Murray  
RMIT University

#### **The search for self**

Caroline Carroll  
Alliance for Forgotten Australians

#### **Can life stories inform policy in a complex world?**

Janet Taylor  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

### (CLB 5)

*Community and place:*

#### **Place, inclusion and cohesion**

#### **Social policy in a complex world**

Margot Rawsthorne, Amanda Howard  
University of Sydney and University of Newcastle

#### **The Benevolent Society Community Connections Survey: The role of social capital in strengthening local communities**

Stacey Gibson, Andrew Anderson  
The Benevolent Society

#### **Social cohesion and disadvantage: Measures influencing micro policy development**

Alexandra Young, Eileen Baldry  
The University of Sydney and The University of NSW

## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### **Community participation in the policy process: A study of community engagement in public housing estate renewal**

Tarsha Gavin  
University of Sydney

(CLB 6)

*Open strand:*

### **Social policy and climate change**

#### **Australian health in a decarbonised world: Implications of contraction and convergence**

Paul Read, Janet Stanley, Dianne Vella-Brodrick  
Monash Sustainability Institute and School of Psychology & Psychiatry, Monash University

#### **The Emissions Trading Scheme and low income households**

Janet Stanley  
Monash Sustainability Institute

#### **Climate change, extreme weather and the health and wellbeing of people who are homeless**

Catherine Pendrey, Marion Carey, Janet Stanley  
Monash Sustainability Institute

#### **Energy efficiency at the margins: Opportunities for improving energy efficiency and energy affordability in low income households**

Damian Sullivan, Victoria Johnson  
The Brotherhood of St Laurence

(CLB 8)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

### **The labour market and the family**

#### **Domestic violence entitlements: Safe at home and at work**

Ludo McFerran  
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

### **Cross country comparisons of the impact on intrahousehold gender inequalities of environmental factors**

Cristina Santos, Jerome de-Henau, Susan Himmelweit, Zeenat Soobedar  
The Open University

### **The economy of the family: Understanding how microfinance contributes to key wellbeing indicators**

Tanya Corrie  
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services

### **Exploring single mother's paid work 'choices' in the flexible labour market under welfare to work**

Eve Bodsworth  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

(John Goodsell 119)

*Disability and mental health workshop:*

### **Disability service governance and reform**

#### **Assessing the relative merits of disability service governance models**

Paul Henman, Michele Foster, Ros Harrington  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

### **The politics of entitlement and personalisation: A perspective on the proposed National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme**

Michele Foster, Paul Henman  
The University of Queensland

### **Research on costs and effectiveness of carer support: Searching for a new paradigm?**

Gillian Parker  
Social Policy Research Unit, University of York

### **'No Fault' National Injury Insurance: Can we afford it?**

Rosamund Harrington  
University of Queensland

## WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

17:30

(Leighton Hall)

Welcome cocktails

17:45

(Leighton Hall)

### Book Launch

*Unsettling the Settler State* Edited by Sarah Maddison and Morgan Brigg, to be launched by Dr Tom Calma

## THURSDAY 7 JULY

09:30

(Leighton Hall)

Registration and Welcome Tea

### Plenary Address

Associate Professor Bea Cantillon, John Quiggin

10:30

(Scientia foyer)

Morning Tea

11:00

(CLB 1)

### Contributed Papers

*Income distribution and social inequalities:*

#### Gender and social inequalities

#### **Social policy, labour markets and costs of motherhood under three welfare regimes**

Michael Bittman, Jenny Chalmers  
University of New England and National Drugs and Alcohol Research Centre

#### **Framing microfinance in Australia – Gender neutral or gender blind?**

Susan Goodwin, Archana P. Jetti  
University of Sydney

#### **Accumulating social disadvantage through precarious jobs: The case of midlife women**

Veronica Sheen  
Monash University

(CLB 2)

*Families, work and care:*

#### **Care and family relationships**

#### **A regional study of informal care giving in the UK: Who cares and who are they caring for?**

Fiona Carmichael  
University of Birmingham

#### **Ageing, the family and changing patterns of risk across the life course**

Elizabeth Ozanne  
University of Melbourne

#### **Grandparents raising grandchildren: Impacts of lifecourse stage on the experiences and costs of care**

Christiane Purcal, Deborah Brennan, Bettina Cass  
Social Policy Research Centre

## THURSDAY 7 JULY

### (CLB 3)

*Retirement and ageing:*

#### **Older people, housing and retirement Ageing on the edge: The plight of older renters**

Jeff Fiedler

Housing for the Aged Action Group Inc.

#### **Employment history, fertility, relationship history and retirement incomes**

David de Vaus, Matthew Gray, Lixia Qu, David Stanton

University of Queensland, Australian National University, Australian Institute of Family Studies and Australian National University

#### **Older parent carers making their way in future housing planning**

Susan Evans, Lesley Pope, Caitlin McDowell  
Social Policy & Research Unit, ANGLICARE  
Sydney

### (CLB 4)

*Citizenship and participation:*

#### **Inclusion and exclusion**

#### **The exclusionary nature of networks: Consequences for social exclusion and social capital**

Justin Lu, Nikki Stephenson  
The Australian National University

#### **Measuring social exclusion: Findings from a new approach to measure the extent and persistence of social exclusion in Australia**

Michael Horn  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

#### **The 1-in-4 Poll: Design and initial findings of Australia's first regular National Survey of People with Disability**

Nick Hagiliassis, Claire Quilliam, Erin Wilson,  
Jane McGillivray, Michael Bink, Robert Campain,  
Joe Graffam, Megan Moore  
Deakin University and Scope

### (CLB 5)

*Children young people and families:*

#### **Consistency, continuity and outcomes Protecting Children in a Complex World**

Tim Beard

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

#### **The Impact of Quality of Early Learning Experience on Australian Children's Developmental Outcomes**

Kyunghee Lee  
Michigan State University

#### **Consistency and continuity in childhood adversity: The nature and history of multiple disadvantages in families with young children**

Bina Gubhaju, Bryan Rodgers  
The Australian National University

### (CLB 6)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

#### **Low paid and casual workers Life around here: Exploring influences on labour market participation in families living in 3 Australian communities**

Kelly Hand, Daryl Higgins, Shaun Lohoar,  
Matthew Gray  
Australian Institute of Family Studies and  
Australian National University

## THURSDAY 7 JULY

### **‘What would help?’ Insights from low paid workers and disadvantaged jobseekers**

Dina Bowman  
University of Melbourne

### **Transitions around casual work: Preliminary analysis from Australia at Work**

Sharni Chan, Sally Wright  
WRC, University of Sydney

#### **(CLB 8 )**

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

### **Conditional welfare and income management**

### **Using income management to induce behavioural change: A case study in poor social policy**

Sally Cowling  
UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families

### **Conditional welfare in OECD countries: The exception or the rule?**

Peter Whiteford  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Evaluation of Income Management trials in Western Australia**

Agnieszka Nelson (nee Szukalska)  
FaHCSIA

#### **(Gal 2)**

*Disability and mental health workshop:*

### **Walking the talk: Using disability inclusive research practice to influence policy**

Sally Robinson, Karen Fisher, Rosemary Kayess, Kim Walker, Robert Strike, Patricia O'Brien, Marie Knox, Elizabeth Young  
Griffith University, SPRC, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and University of Sydney

12:30

(Leighton Hall)

#### **Lunch**

13:30

### **Contributed Papers**

#### **(CLB 1)**

*Children, young people and families:*

### **Parenting, child rearing and child care Parents as tasters of child care quality: Potential informants of policy beyond regulation**

Marianne Fenech  
Macquarie University

### **Parenting style, children's lifestyle behaviours and childhood obesity**

Jude Brown, Jan Nicholson, Dorothy Broom  
University of New England, Parenting Research  
Centre and Australian National University

### **Exploring parental responsibility for children's cognitive development**

Ciara Smyth  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **The association between playgroup participation, learning competence and social-emotional wellbeing for children aged 4-5 years in Australia**

Kirsten Hancock, David Lawrence, Francis Mitrou,  
David Zarb, Donna Berthelsen, Jan Nicholson,  
Stephen Zubrick

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research,  
Queensland University of Technology, Murdoch  
Childrens Research Institute; Parenting Research  
Centre and University of Western Australia

## THURSDAY 7 JULY

### (CLB 2)

*Organisation and delivery of human services:*

#### **Innovation in service design and policy knowledge**

#### **Paid Home Care workers in NSW: Their contents and discontents**

Jane Mears

University of Western Sydney

#### **A Centrelink/CSIRO alliance: Modelling customer interactions and service delivery at Centrelink**

David Sier, Jane Athanasiadis, Matthew Baxter, Mark Horn, Warren Jin, Leorey Marquez, Stuart Woodman, Donald Wolters, Lance Snowdon, Lisa Parker, Ross Sparks, Brad Peters  
CSIRO and Centrelink

#### **'Be entrepreneurial!': Decentred welfare provision in the revanchist city**

Geoffrey Brown

University of New South Wales

#### **New forms of social policy knowledge production: The movement of non-government organisations into the field of policy research.**

Susan Goodwin, Ruth Phillips

The University of Sydney

### (CLB 3)

*Children, young people and families:*

#### **Children and social exclusion**

#### **The complexity of vulnerable families: Characterising the diversity and homogeneity of Australian families who have received early intervention in child protection**

Fiona Hilferty, Killian Mullan, Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre

#### **Small area measures of child social exclusion in Australia: assessing findings from a composite index**

Justine McNamara, Riyana Miranti, Annie Abello, Robert Tanton

NATSEM and University of Canberra

#### **Inflicted traumatic brain injury in children: How big is the iceberg?**

Nick Rushworth

Brain Injury Australia

#### **Making the most of evaluation: A provider perspective on the outcomes of Brighter Futures**

Killian Mullan, Andrew Anderson

Social Policy Research Centre and Benevolent Society

### (CLB 4)

*Identity and diversity:*

#### **Identity, exclusion and social policy**

#### **Addressing multiple disadvantage through education**

Peter Howard, Tim Marchant

ACU and Mission Australia

#### **Everyday exclusion and racialised social identities among Sudanese refugee-background Australians: Challenges for policy and education**

Aniko Hatoss

University of New South Wales

#### **Lonely in silence: A discussion paper to explore the role of policy to facilitate friendships as quality social connections for skilled migrants to Australia**

Harriet Westcott, Mei Yi Leung

University of Sydney and City of Sydney Council

#### **'Mixed Race' across time and place**

Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre



## THURSDAY 7 JULY

(CLB 5)

*Community and place:*

### **Overcoming spatial disadvantage Children living in rural and regional areas of Australia**

Jennifer Baxter, Ben Edwards  
Australian Institute of Family Studies

### **Putting Indigenous communities at the heart of service design? How governments are implementing the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.**

Brian Gleeson  
Office of the Coordinator General for Remote  
Indigenous Affairs

### **What do barriers to participation in community activities tell us about social exclusion?**

Victoria Johnson, Graham Currie, Janet Stanley  
Monash University

### **Zones of vulnerability: Space and complexity in an ageing society**

Hamish Robertson, Joanne Travaglia, Nick Nicholas  
Ageing Research Centre

(CLB 6)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

### **Integrating work and welfare Navigating VET: The experience of 'at risk' youth**

George Myconos  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

### **Inclusive Growth, flexicurity and the Australian way**

Paul Smyth  
University of Melbourne

### **Reforming welfare reform: Choice, voice and co-production**

May Lam  
Jobs Australia

### **Favourable outcomes: How to measure the intangible**

Dana Bradford, Stefan Hajkowicz  
CSIRO

(CLB 8)

*Income distribution and social inequalities:*

### **Issues in social inequalities The socio-economic status of migrant populations in regional and rural Australia and the impact for future population policy**

Simon Massey  
Macquarie University

### **Shelter from the storm: Refugee housing in Melbourne's west**

Laura Berta  
Footscray Community Legal Centre

### **The social and economic costs of being uninsured**

Dominic Collins  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

### **Challenging conceptions of poverty as a 'residual' problem: Revisiting compulsory income management**

Angelique Bletsas  
University of Adelaide

(Gal 2)

*Disability and mental health:*

### **Service models**

### **Holding Centres or agents for social change: An exploration of the past 30 years of policy development of Community Access Services**

Ted Evans  
Flinders University

### **Recovery Oriented practice: A case study**

Sharyn McGee  
University of Western Sydney

# Full program

THURSDAY 7 JULY

## **Impact of mentoring youth with Cerebral Palsy on the mentors: Findings from evaluation of the Ignition Mentoring Program in Sydney**

Kathy Tannous, Ann Dadich, Ron Beckett, Peter Horsley

University of Western Sydney and Cerebral Palsy Alliance

## **Effectiveness of individual funding for disability support**

Christiane Purcal, Karen Fisher, Carmel Laragy  
Social Policy Research Centre and RMIT University

15:30

(Scientia foyer)

Afternoon Tea

16:00

## **Forums**

### **Income Management**

Marcia Ella-Duncan

Member, Board of the Review NT emergency response

Will Sanders

Australian National University

FaHCSIA representative to be confirmed

### **Multiculturalism, migration and a sustainable Australia**

Andrew Jakubowicz,  
professor of sociology at the University of Technology Sydney

Padma Menon

Director, Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia

Fethi Mansouri,

Professor and Chair in Migration and Intercultural Research, Deakin University

This forum is being recorded by the Life Matters program for broadcast on ABC Radio National. Come and be part of the audience, and join the debate on whether the Australian form of multiculturalism, envied by other countries, is really as good as its reputation. Or does Australian multiculturalism have its own problems? Does immigration benefit our society? Or is tolerance decreasing?



### **‘Sharing knowledge across research, policy and delivery: Fad or foundational?’ organised by the Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA)**

Megan Mitchell

NSW Commissioner Children and Young People

Dr Shelley Mallett

General Manager Research & Service Development, Hanover Welfare Services.

Jan Patterson

Project Director, SA Smarter Schools National Partnerships, SA National Partnerships Secretariat.

19:20

Dinner

Ceviche Coogee Beach

## FRIDAY 8 JULY

09:30

(Leighton Hall)

### Plenary Session

Professor John Quiggin

10:30

(Scientia foyer)

### Morning Tea

11:00

(CLB 1)

### Contributed Papers

*Income distribution and social inequalities:*

#### **Social inequalities, policy and economic growth**

#### **The timing of Family Tax Benefit receipt**

Cathy Thebridge, Andrew Whitecross  
FaHCSIA

#### **Influencing social policy: A new approach to Statutory Systems Advocacy in Queensland**

Lindsay Irons  
Office of the Public Advocate - Queensland

#### **Has economic growth been good for the poor? And for the socially excluded?**

Francisco Azpitarte  
Brotherhood of St. Laurence

(CLB 2)

*Children, young people and families:*

#### **Out of home care, attachment and agency**

#### **Parental bonding and empowerment in foster care: A pilot investigation**

Timothy Broady  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### **Don't be pushy: The voices of children, young people and parents in kinship care**

Meredith Kiraly, Cathy Humphreys  
University of Melbourne

#### **What makes for successful placement in out-of-home care? Perspectives of carers and caseworkers**

Peter Walsh  
Griffith University

(CLB 3)

*Families, work and care:*

#### **Grandparents, caring and mental health**

#### **Grandmother care and family power in Australia**

Bridget Jenkins  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### **What's changed in a decade? Needs and challenges experienced by people with mental health issues and their carers in 2011**

Pooja Sawrikar, Kristy Muir  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### **Improving mental health outcomes in vulnerable communities: An organisational approach**

Suzanne Pope  
beyondblue

## FRIDAY 8 JULY

### (CLB 4)

*Citizenship and Participation:*

#### **Services and participation**

##### **Friendship diversity amongst public housing tenants and private dwellers, and the implications for 'social mix' policy**

Roger Patulny, Alan Morris  
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

##### **Bismarckian versus non-Bismarckian systems: Enforceability of the rights and duties rhetoric (Australia, France, UK)**

Sophie Koppe  
Université Paul Cézanne Aix Marseille ( France)

##### **Mobile workers, social protection and 'belonging' in Australasia**

Paul Callister  
Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University

### (CLB 5)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

#### **Labour market marginality**

##### **Employment opportunities for low skilled men in a sex segregated Australian labour market, 1996-2006**

Megan Moskos  
Flinders University

##### **Supporting pre-release prisoners into employment: Lessons for policy and practice**

Anne Hampshire, Brian Morriss  
MTC Work Solutions

##### **On the margins of work: Some experiences of Australian baby boomers**

Helen Kimberley, Dina Bowman  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

### (CLB 6)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

#### **Labour market challenges and employment outcomes**

##### **Challenges and barriers faced by jobless individuals: Findings from consultation with service providers**

W. Kathy Tannous  
University of Western Sydney

##### **Line of sight: Integrating assistance for disadvantaged job seekers**

Michael Horn  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

##### **Employment outcomes for Australian Muslims**

Beth Cook  
University of Newcastle

### (CLB 8)

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

#### **Disadvantage and risk**

##### **What discourages Indigenous discouraged workers?**

Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter  
The Australian National University

##### **Mental disorders and welfare receipt after a decade of reform and prosperity**

Peter Butterworth  
Centre for Mental Health Research, The Australian National University

##### **Disadvantaged Australians and the intensification of risk in everyday life**

Eve Bodsworth  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

## FRIDAY 8 JULY

(Gal 2)

*Disability and mental health:*

### **Inclusion, participation and rights**

#### **The privatisation of the back wards: The accommodation of people with intellectual disability and people with mental illness in licensed boarding houses in Inner Sydney**

Gabrielle Drake  
University of Western Sydney

#### **Did 'Welfare to Work' raise or lower the incomes of sole parents and people with disabilities?**

Peter Davidson  
Social Policy Research Centre student

#### **Disability employment: Is it the Treasury's silver bullet?**

Brendan Long  
National Disability Services

12:30

Location: (Scientia foyer)

Lunch

13:30 PM

(CLB 1)

### **Contributed Papers**

*Income distribution and social inequalities:*

#### **Deprivation, social exclusion and living standards**

#### **Public perceptions of poverty, social exclusion and living standards in the United Kingdom**

Eileen Sutton, Eldin Fahmy, Simon Pemberton

#### **Assessing income adequacy: A deprivation approach**

Peter Saunders, Melissa Wong  
Social Policy Research Centre

### **Measuring deprivation in South Africa**

Gemma Wright, Michael Noble  
University of Oxford

### **The role of income and wealth in the living standards of older Australians**

Yuvisthi Naidoo  
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 2)

*Open strand:*

### **Conceptual frameworks and policy impacts**

#### **Developing a conceptual framework for measuring Australia's progress**

Imogen Wall  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

#### **Assessing the policy impact of grant- funded social science research**

Adrian Cherney  
University of Queensland

(CLB 3)

*Children, young people and families:*

#### **Young people, schooling and inclusion Engaging in sensory methods and life story work with young foster care leavers experiencing transitions to 'adult' independence: Methodological challenges in exploring the biographical 'voice' in comparative social policy research**

Caroline Cresswell  
University of Melbourne

#### **Examining the role of school suspension: Are there any viable alternatives?**

Toni Beauchamp, Samia Michail  
UnitingCare Children Young People and Families

## FRIDAY 8 JULY

### **A challenging engagement: Early findings from the evaluation of the Peninsula Youth Connections program**

Sharon Bond  
Brotherhood of St Laurence

**(CLB 3)**

*Children, young people and families:*

#### **Child support and outcomes**

#### **Family joblessness, child wellbeing and labour market and income support policies**

Matthew Gray, Jennifer Baxter  
Australian National University and Australian Institute of Family Studies

#### **The impact of fertility on labour force participation for Australian women**

Anna Zhu  
Social Policy Research Centre

#### **Child support compliance and perceptions of fairness: A pre-and post-reform comparison**

Bruce Smyth, Bryan Rodgers, Vu Son, Maria Vnuk, Marian Esler, Allan Shephard  
Australian National University, FaHCSIA and Child Support Agency

**(CLB 4)**

*Identity and diversity:*

#### **Education policy and cultural diversity: Local and international experience**

#### **Cultural diversity or cultural exclusion? Uneven multiculturalism in Sydney's schools**

Christina Ho  
University of Technology, Sydney

#### **Indigenous education policy: An international comparison**

Andrew Griffiths  
IPDRU

### **Educational policy assemblages, Islamic and Afrocentric schools and neoliberal racisms**

Kalervo Gulson  
University of New South Wales

**(CLB 5)**

*Retirement and ageing:*

#### **Ageing and policy developments**

#### **Service integrated housing: A 50 year case study in policy development**

Barbara Squires, Sarah Fogg  
The Benevolent Society

#### **New technologies for an ageing society**

Elizabeth Ozanne  
The University of Melbourne

#### **Ageing in the new millenium: Challenges for governments and individuals**

Jennifer Buckley  
University of Adelaide

**(CLB 6)**

*Labour market participation and welfare reform:*

#### **Quarantining payments**

#### **Paternalism in Australian and UK welfare policies**

Kemran Mestan  
Swinburne University

#### **Income management in the Australian social security system: Technology, indigenous people and the new conditionality**

William Sanders  
Australian National University

#### **Welfare payment quarantining: Why a punitive approach won't solve complex social issues in the long-term**

Kimberley Kammermann  
Australian Council of Social Service

15:30

Afternoon Tea – Conference Closes

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

***Has economic growth been good for the poor? And for the socially excluded?***

**FRANCISCO AZPITARTE**

*Brotherhood of St. Laurence*

The main motivation of this paper is to assess whether economic growth in Australia in last decade was beneficial for the most disadvantaged groups in this country. In addition, we are interested in to investigate how the capacity of growth to promote income gains among disadvantaged groups may vary depending on the poverty approach considered. To this purpose, we first analyze the extent to which income growth between 2001 and 2009 led to an increase in the economic well-being of low-income people in Australia. Further, we study the consequences of adopting a multidimensional approach to poverty when evaluating the benefits of economic growth among the disadvantaged. Thus, we analyze whether economic growth in Australia in the last decade was inclusive and pro-socially excluded by looking at the income gains of those who experienced social exclusion over this period.

The goals are:

- a) Examine changes in the distribution of income to determine whether income growth in the last decade has been beneficial for the income-poor and the socially excluded.
- b) Determine the relative and absolute income gains for the most vulnerable groups, such as, people with long-term ill, lone parent families, people with a disability, early school leavers and people with low levels of education.
- c) Analyze the distribution of income gains from economic growth among the different population subgroups, so we can clearly identify the big winners of this period.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***Employment arrangements and the capacity of fathers with young children to co-parent effectively***

**JENNIFER BAXTER, MICHAEL ALEXANDER**

*Australian Institute of Family Studies*

An important way that partnered parents contribute to the wellbeing and functioning of families is through the co-parental relationship. This co-parental relationship includes sharing the unpaid work of raising a family and managing the household, communicating and sharing decision-making about childrearing, as well as providing support to each other in parents' roles within and outside the family.

While fathers may be less likely than mothers to contribute through time to this co-parental relationship, they can nevertheless provide support and contributions to the parenting of children in different ways, for example through the provision of support and understanding of mothers' needs as parents. However, because much of fathers' time during the week is spent in paid employment, this places constraints on the time available for family interactions, particularly so now that non-standard working arrangements have become more common. This means the employment conditions of fathers can be crucial in their ability to fulfil this role.

This paper examines links between employment arrangements and co-parenting, particularly those arrangements that may be considered "family-friendly". The paper uses data from Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, which contains extensive information on measures of co-parenting and the job characteristics of employed parents.

# Abstracts by author

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***Children living in rural and regional areas of Australia***

**JENNIFER BAXTER, BEN EDWARDS**

*Australian Institute of Family Studies*

There is increasing policy interest in the issues experienced by families in rural and regional Australia. However, little research has been undertaken into the circumstances experienced by children living in these areas. This paper, which is based on the Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), compares the contexts and developmental progress of children living in inner and outer regional areas and major cities in Australia. Moreover, as the socio-economic status of the local area is an important differentiating factor for children's opportunities, these regions are further classified according to whether they are relatively disadvantaged. In particular, the analysis identifies characteristics of different areas that may operate as strengths or weaknesses for children's development, and the findings will therefore be valuable in informing the development of programs and services.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***Protecting Children in a Complex World***

**TIM BEARD**

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

Child abuse and neglect is a complex and multi-dimensional issue, affecting a diverse range of families across Australia. During any given year, over 32,000 Australian children are the subject of one or more substantiated child protection cases.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020, now in its third year of operation, signalled a new national approach to tackling child abuse and neglect, focusing on prevention and early intervention initiatives. Early evidence in relation to the framework shows that early progress is good, but much work remains for the ambitious, long-term gains of the framework to be successfully achieved.

This presentation will consider the following in relation to national child protection information:

- What are the main characteristics of children in the child protection system—who is most at risk?
- Trends—what do we know about national rates of child abuse and neglect?
- Reporting against the national framework—what does the first report to COAG say?
- What supports are available for children and families within the system and those at risk of entering the system?
- What current and future developments are planned to improve the available information?

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Examining the role of school suspension: Are there any viable alternatives?***

**TONI BEAUCHAMP, SAMIA MICHAIL**

*UnitingCare Children Young People and Families*

Schools are increasingly using suspension as a way of responding to students who display challenging behaviour, a trend strongly evidenced in the work of UnitingCare Burnside with children and young people experiencing disadvantage. This paper argues that school suspension is counter productive because it does not address the underlying issues that lead to disruptive behaviour. Indeed many students experience a repeated pattern of suspension, which intensifies academic difficulties and paves the way to early school drop-out. Schools need to be supported to develop a culture where suspension is used as a rare and last resort. This approach maintains the principles of social inclusion, and helps to ensure that children and young people remain engaged in education. The paper develops a typology of school responses to students' challenging behaviours. It illuminates a number of fundamental elements that are evident in successful, non-punitive strategies and argues that non-government services like UnitingCare Burnside are well placed to work collaboratively with schools to implement approaches based on these fundamental elements. The paper also



offers international policy and program examples that demonstrate how the key elements are currently being implemented, and which can inform Australian policy approaches.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB8**

***Shelter from the storm: Refugee housing in Melbourne's west***

**LAURA BERTA**

*Footscray Community Legal Centre*

This paper analyses renting and housing problems affecting refugee communities in the western suburbs of Melbourne. It seeks to identify the underlying causes of housing difficulties and explore policy solutions. The paper is grounded on the casework undertaken by the refugee tenancy clinic at the Footscray Community Legal Centre, which provides free legal advice and representation to clients from refugee backgrounds.

The findings are not surprising. Insecure and substandard housing is a major barrier to successful settlement. Families commonly live without basic essentials such as heating and hot water, in homes which are in a dismal state of repair. At the end of a tenancy, landlords are able to claim bond money and compensation from tenants for pre-existing problems with relative ease. Real estate agents exploit refugee tenants' language difficulties and poor awareness of tenancy rights. Government funded housing services are not preventing homelessness in the direst of circumstances.

The paper argues that existing sources of tenancy advice are inadequate for refugee clients, who require a high degree of assistance in negotiating with landlords and agents. On the other hand, the case studies show obvious shortcomings in tenancy laws, policies and government-funded housing services which require policy change.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

***Social policy, labour markets and costs of motherhood under three welfare regimes***

**MICHAEL BITTMAN, JENNY CHALMERS**

*University of New England and National Drugs and Alcohol Research Centre*

The consensus in the advanced economies is that mothers as well as fathers should be participating in the labour market. However, raising children costs both time and money. In these economies, fatherhood increases both men's commitment to paid work and their earnings, while women experience a motherhood penalty. To ensure equitable shares of family responsibilities various social policy options have been proposed— (a) access non-parental childcare, (b) paid parental leave and (c) the regulation of working-time. There have been extensive debates about the detail of these policies – targeted versus universal childcare, family or individual entitlement, the optimal length of paid parental leave and a dedicated ('use it or lose it') period of paternity leave, to mention just the most topical. However, the synthetic cohort analysis presented in this paper shows that the time costs of motherhood are remarkably similar across contrasting social policy regimes and change very slowly over historical time. Women's earnings vary considerably and much of this variation seems independent of social policy regime. This paper sets out the patterns of relative earnings by cohort and social policy regime, and explores the possible reasons for this surprising pattern of cross-national differences.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB2**

***Research in a complex world: Reflections on research in a social policy setting***

**TAMARA BLAKEMORE, MEGAN SHIPLEY, MARIAN ESLER**

*FaHCSIA*

Addressing the multiple and complex needs of vulnerable families requires an integrated approach informed by a strong evidence base.

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Over the past decade there has been an increased focus on producing evidence-based policy and practice to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged. While there is a strong desire to link research, policy and practice, the natural tensions between them often result in gaps between research and policy and research and practice (Lewig, Arney & Scott, 2006).

This paper concentrates on the relationship between research and policy, presenting a case study of policy-driven research. Starting from the conceptual underpinnings, this paper synthesises a series of empirical studies which had broad aim of understanding the needs of vulnerable families with children. These studies scope family disadvantage in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and examine how disadvantage links to use of health and community services. We map the study's cumulative contribution to current social policy thinking around responding to disadvantage to improve the lives of Australian families.

By deconstructing the relationship between research and policy, this paper considers the development of social policy in a complex world and the role of policy-driven research in that process.

## Risks and Sensitivities

There are no known risks and sensitivities associated with this research – all data and research findings have been previously publically presented. This paper is very timely given the Department's interest in disadvantage, social inclusion and measuring outcomes for families.

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## THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB8

### ***Challenging conceptions of poverty as a 'residual' problem: Revisiting compulsory income management***

**ANGELIQUE BLETSAS**

*University of Adelaide*

Marking a radical break with established approaches to welfare, compulsory income management is arguably the most controversial

development in social policy today. This paper offers a distinctive account, and critique, of compulsory income management. It is argued that compulsory income management can be read in terms of an implicit, and problematic, understanding of poverty as a 'residual' problem. Where poverty is conceptualised as 'residual' the 'logical' tendency is to focus on the behaviours of the poor rather than on questions of redistribution and wider economic and socio-political trends. Welfare 'quarantining' is exemplary of this mentality of solving poverty by solving the 'dysfunction' of the so-called 'residual poor'. What is unique in this analysis of compulsory income management is that it resists the dominant view that welfare quarantining is simply attributable to the rise of neo-liberalism, arguing instead that this way of thinking about poverty, as a 'residual' problem, is similarly evident in progressive writing on post-materialism which, since the 1960s, has cast poverty as a problem which has largely been 'solved' in the 'affluent West'. From this perspective the break with earlier models of welfare that income management signifies is theorised as being wider and deeper than frequently acknowledged.

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## FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB8

### ***Exploring single mothers' paid work 'choices' in the flexible labour market under welfare to work***

**EVE BODSWORTH**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

The Australian welfare debate is increasingly focused on the employment decisions and behaviour of individuals seen to be disconnected from the labour market. Social policies such as the welfare to work reforms introduced in 2006 are designed to specifically target the paid work 'choices' of single parents, among others. This paper draws upon narrative interviews with 15 single mothers affected by the welfare to work reforms and examines how these women made decisions about employment. I argue that while the women's individual circumstances and life histories played a role in shaping their decisions, broader structural changes including the

casualisation of paid work and the related notion of 'flexibility' significantly limited their choices. The inflexible requirements of the welfare to work policy also further limited the women's paid work choices and intensified their labour market and financial insecurity. While the notion of 'welfare to work' implies a one-off, linear transition, the web of obligations faced by the women in combining their engagement in paid work, complying with rigid welfare requirements and, above all, responding to the needs of their children required ongoing effort and constant vigilance which took its toll on the women's health and wellbeing.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***Disadvantaged Australians and the intensification of risk in everyday life***

**EVE BODSWORTH**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Whereas employment was once considered the main form of risk protection in Australia (Castles 1994), casualisation and labour market deregulation have shifted greater risk onto individuals. Financial markets also play an expanding role in social and economic spheres and there is evidence that this 'financialisation' is increasingly integrated into everyday life. Yet while all Australians face this increasing financial and economic risk, not all are vulnerable, or will suffer damage as a result of that risk. This paper draws on qualitative data from two separate research projects which examined the ways in which low income Australians made employment and financial decisions. This paper will focus on the ways in which disadvantaged job seekers and single mothers managed various risks in their day-to-day lives in the context of precariousness employment, housing insecurity and material insecurity. It will then examine the ways in which welfare policies - which require labour market engagement and personal responsibility - further intensify and mask the shift of risk onto low income households.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***A challenging engagement: Early findings from the evaluation of the Peninsula Youth Connections program***

**SHARON BOND**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

The federal Youth Connections program aims to address the needs of 13-19 year olds who are at risk of disengaging or who have disengaged from school. The Brotherhood of St Laurence together with Taskforce is involved in the delivery of Youth Connections in Victoria and is in the early stages of an evaluation of the program. Preliminary analysis suggests intergenerational poverty, family breakdown, insecure housing, poor mental health and substance use, are some of the key and often cumulative factors that make participation in traditional mainstream schooling difficult.

Drawing on 22 interviews with a range of youth professionals working in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region, the paper seeks to better understand the barriers young people are facing, and the ways in which existing youth service and education environments are responding to the needs of young people. Initial analysis suggests critical factors in addressing engagement in learning and training include the need for earlier intervention, access to intensive and holistic support, rigorous school exit and transfer procedures, and the availability of flexible applied learning that provides genuine pathways into decent and sustainable work. The implications for the policy and programs of government, education and community agencies will be explored.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

***'What would help?' Insights from low paid workers and disadvantaged jobseekers***

*Dina Bowman*

*University of Melbourne*

The 'Job pathways' study is a joint longitudinal project between the Melbourne Institute (part of the University of Melbourne) and the Brotherhood

# Abstracts by author

of St Laurence. It seeks to identify the factors that facilitate job retention and advancement of people who have been unemployed or out of the labour market. Research participants were recruited from clients of the three partner organisations on the project: Mission Australia, Job Futures, and CRS Australia.

Questionnaires were developed and mailed out to 8,302 clients in June-November 2008. 1265 were returned, a response rate of 15 per cent. Follow-up questionnaires were sent to these respondents in 2009, 2010 and will be sent again in 2011. The questionnaire covers a range of broad topics and includes a space where respondents are invited to provide their assessment of 'what would help' them get and keep a job, and advance in their chosen field.

This paper reports on responses to this question. The suggestions provide insight to the personal and structural obstacles that shape the job pathways of low paid workers and disadvantaged jobseekers. The respondents provide useful advice about how to improve employment services, income support and access to training to help people get and keep decent work.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB2**

## ***Towards broader conceptions of care in Australia***

**DINA BOWMAN, BEN ILSLEY**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence/University of Melbourne and Carers Victoria*

Recent academic work on care (for example Williams; Lynch; and Lister) has emphasised the importance of recognising the commonalities of different forms of care (formal and informal care and child rearing and care for adults). In different ways, these authors argue for the recognition of care as central to social and economic life.

Bureaucratic categorisations tend to both differentiate and generalise care. Categories such as 'carer' mask difference in experience and also tend to overlook the commonalities and tensions between different forms of care. Organisations that represent particular groups or specialised

aspects of care tend to emphasise distinctions rather than similarities. Broader conceptions of care may appear to homogenise care situations and so fail to connect with the lived experience of individuals.

The potential strategic advantage of a common agenda between carers and people with disabilities has been identified (Fyffe 2010). Yet the possible solidarity with other forms of care tends not to be considered or accepted by representative organisations. Thus tensions remain unexamined and separate policy directions develop, which leads to increased fragmentation of care in social policy. We suggest that broader conceptions of care provide important opportunities to highlight and address the economic and social marginalisation of care.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB2**

## ***Policies to support maternal employment and care for the child: What does the research tell us?***

**WENDY BOYD**

*Southern Cross University*

Continual increase in maternal employment in Australia over the past three decades has focused attention on family friendly employment policies and provision of childcare. To fully understand mothers' decisions regarding return to paid work and child care requires empirical, longitudinal evidence of the on-going decision-making processes beginning with their preferred options.

This prospective longitudinal study investigated preferences and decisions of 124 first-time expectant mothers about paid work and child care to 12 months postpartum. The data showed women's decisions for paid work was a complex mix of rational and emotional influences, with the majority opting for part-time paid work. Choosing care of the child was problematic and caused significant emotional strain. The desire to use informal care, where the carer is known and the environment familiar, was a significant predictor of higher levels of satisfaction with the child's care at 12 months postpartum whereas the use of formal

centre based care was associated with significantly lower levels of satisfaction with care. The data shows that policies that support women's choices for satisfying workforce engagement and care arrangements are prudent for ensuring productivity of the economy as well as enhancing the well-being of parents and children (OECD, 2007).

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB1**

***Snakes and ladders from 4 to 8:  
The socio-economic gradient in child  
outcomes in Australia***

**BRUCE BRADBURY, GERRY REDMOND**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Does the socio-economic gradient in child outcomes increase as they age? Do high levels of family resources enable some disadvantaged children to catch-up and do poor children with good early skills fall behind? This study looks at outcomes for Australia children in the first three waves of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, Child Cohort. The study follows children from pre-school (median age 4.7) to year 3 (median age 8.8).

We examine several cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes over this period and calculate the difference in outcomes between children from high and low income families. When we examine characteristics such as vocabulary skills that are measured at all three waves we find that the socio-economic gap remains constant with age. However, when using age-specific outcome measures a widening gap is observed.

Previous research (Feinstein, 2003) has found that the performance of high achieving poor children falls back dramatically as they age. However, this result is largely a statistical artifact arising from measurement error. We examine whether this pattern is also apparent when more robust methods are applied.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Favourable outcomes: How to measure  
the intangible***

**DANA BRADFORD, STEFAN HAJKOWICZ**

*CSIRO*

The success of social welfare interventions has traditionally been measured through a variety of vocational outcomes including whether the employment is supported, competitive or voluntary and the number of hours worked or amount of wages earned. Secondary measures have included welfare dependence, enrollment in education or training and, more rarely, psychosocial variables such as self esteem and social networking. Mental health outcomes are often included as a secondary measure, but only in clients with severe mental illness. Historically, secondary outcomes are not directly targeted, but are influenced, by welfare intervention. The challenge now is to measure the less tangible benefits of social welfare intervention such as a reduction in suicide ideation, escaping domestic violence or avoiding criminality. These concepts are all included in Centrelink's service delivery for high need individuals under the social inclusion agenda, and yet to date there is no empirical measurement of these outcomes. In collaboration with Centrelink, we aim to design randomised controlled trials incorporating a within-subjects model to elucidate the full range of outcomes from intensive welfare intervention. Here we discuss the methodological and ethical issues associated with randomised controlled trials to evaluate intangible outcomes for disadvantaged groups.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB3**

***Markets in care? How ideas, interests and  
institutions shape the marketisation  
agenda in Australian child care and aged  
care***

**DEB BRENNAN, BETTINA CASS**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

This paper provides an historically contextualised account of the shift towards marketisation and

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'market thinking' in child care and aged care in Australia. By comparing two policy domains within a single country the authors move beyond the focus on the nation-state that characterises much comparative social policy. The paper contrasts both the institutional architecture (policies, regulatory frameworks, subsidy arrangements) and the dynamic factors (the transmission of ideas within and between nations, the role of advocacy groups and policy makers) that shape debates about markets in each sector. The authors pay particular attention to the transfer of policy ideas between the sectors. The policy research evidence is drawn from an international study of the Political and Social Economy of Care Project (PASEC) in which the authors are the Australian representatives.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB2**

***Parental bonding and empowerment in foster care: A pilot investigation***

**TIMOTHY BROADY**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Previous research addressing issues surrounding foster carers' satisfaction with their role and their intentions to continue providing care have identified the bond between carer and child, and issues related to the empowerment of the carer as being vital contributors to these intentions. This research seeks to investigate the extent to which these two vital components of the caregiving experience impact on foster carers' satisfaction with their role, and their ongoing willingness to provide care. Set against a theoretical backdrop involving an understanding of how experience can impact an individual's perceptions of their own self-identity, this pilot study provides a preliminary investigation into how these important aspects of providing foster care interact. Implications and directions for further evaluation through wider study are also discussed.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***'Be entrepreneurial!': Decentred welfare provision in the revanchist city***

**GEOFFREY BROWN**

*University of New South Wales*

Australia is not immune from neoliberal state restructuring. At the forefront has been the restructuring of the Australian welfare state. Under the umbrella of welfare reform, the neoliberal attack on the welfare state takes many forms. Whilst welfare recipients of working age are forced to undertake workfare programmes, more significantly, however is the changing nature of welfare service delivery to the city's poor and marginalised. With the rollback of Keynesian welfarism in the urban realm, welfare service provision is being subjected to marketisation and privatisation under the neoliberal rubric of competitiveness and consumer choice. Youth welfare providers, who are increasingly Christian faith-based organisations (FBO's), are turning to corporate-philanthropic sources of funding and forming 'partnerships' with private capital. Along the way, they embrace the 'vulgarity of neoliberal speak' (Bourdieu & Wacquant 2001) of private capital, such as 'strategic plans', 'business opportunities' and 'entrepreneurial vision'. Smaller community-based, grass-roots, organisations are mimicking these FBO's. This presentation will provide a snap-shot of how smaller grass-roots youth service providers are coping in this neoliberal environment of urban welfare provision and to what extent must they embrace the neoliberal tenets of welfare provision to survive in this new competitive context.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***Parenting style, children's lifestyle behaviours and childhood obesity***

**JUDE BROWN, JAN NICHOLSON,  
DOROTHY BROOM**

*University of New England, Parenting Research Centre  
and Australian National University*

The impact of children's individual lifestyle behaviours on obesity is well known. But these

behaviours are shaped by the child's economic and social environment. Of particular importance is the child's home environment characterised more broadly by such things as household income, parental well-being and behaviours – all of which may determine specific activity and dietary patterns. Data from the first three waves of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) was used to investigate whether children's lifestyle behaviours (Wave 2, child aged 6/7) mediate the relationship between distal household/family variables (Wave 1, child aged 4/5) and child weight status (Wave 3, child aged 8/9). Results from the structural equation model revealed associations between the cluster of household and parental characteristics at Wave 1 (household income and mother's psychological distress, weight status and consistent parenting behaviour) with the cluster of lifestyle behaviours at Wave 2 (time spent watching television and engaging in moderate to vigorous exercise and snacking) and child weight status when the children were aged 8/9 years. More specifically the model revealed a clear pathway linking household income, mothers parenting behaviour, television viewing and child weight status.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Ageing in the new millenium: Challenges for governments and individuals***

**JENNIFER BUCKLEY**

*University of Adelaide*

Traditional characterisations of old age as 'decline and disengagement' are being countered by notions of the 'third age' and models of successful ageing. This optimistic construction of old age is tempered by recent policy measures to manage the effects of structural ageing (e.g. raising the Pension age) and by the increased devolution of responsibility onto the individual. We examine the health, social and financial resources of a representative sample of baby boomers from north west Adelaide and consider whether current policy arrangements will provide an effective buffer where needed. Results: although 96% consider exercise and 94.8% consider healthy weight important only 35.4% get sufficient activity

and only 25.3% have normal BMI; poor health disproportionately affects depressed and low income groups; 42.3% socialise less than they would like, with singles and the depressed at most risk of poor social support in later life. Many baby boomers expect to have tight finances in retirement and only 40% own their house outright while 34.1% of singles rent. Future policies on ageing must be strategically targeted and reflect the distinct needs of baby boomers who have more diverse family structures, household formations, marital status, labour force attachment and modes of socialising than previous generations.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***Mental disorders and welfare receipt after a decade of reform and prosperity***

**PETER BUTTERWORTH**

*Centre for Mental Health Research, The Australian National University*

Welfare reform is again a focus of policy attention in Australia. In the lead up to the 2011 Federal Budget there has been considerable commentary identifying the need to address growth in the number of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients and concern about the increasing percentage of DSP recipients with mental disorders. It is appropriate, therefore, to reconsider previous analysis of data from the late 1990s examining the association between mental health and welfare receipt. Such reanalysis is particularly important in light of the significant reforms of mental health and employment/welfare services in Australia over the past decade. This presentation reports analysis of the 1997 and 2007 ABS National Surveys of Mental Health and Wellbeing (NSMHWB) to estimate the prevalence of mental disorders among Australian income support recipients and evaluate how this has changed over the past 10 years. The analysis will investigate the prevalence of mental disorders amongst DSP recipients compared to other categories of income support recipients, the role of mental disorders as a barrier to work and participation, and estimates of risk/costs of income support receipt attributable to common mental disorders.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB4**

***Mobile workers, social protection and 'belonging' in Australasia***

**PAUL CALLISTER**

*Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University*

Who is an 'Australian'? Equally, who is a 'New Zealander'? These issues came to the fore during the 2011 Queensland floods when some New Zealanders were deemed not to be eligible for emergency benefits and, again, in the second major Christchurch earthquake when the rights of Australians living in Christchurch were considered.

New Zealand stands out among industrialised countries in terms of both the proportion of its population that lives and works overseas, many in Australia, and the resident population that is foreign born. This includes an estimated 1 in 6 Maori now living in Australia. But migration frameworks have changed dramatically in recent decades.

Temporary migration is now more common than permanent migration on both sides of the Tasman, with temporary migrants, especially guest workers, not having the same rights as permanent residents or citizens. International agencies recognise a need for new approaches to social protection for mobile workers and their families. This paper considers old, emerging and contested hierarchies of rights, social protection and 'belonging' in New Zealand and Australia in order to assess whether these work for or against the creation of a society that is globally connected, high-productivity and high-income but also fair and inclusive.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB5**

***Disrupting institutional racism within health policy in Aotearoa New Zealand***

**HEATHER CAME**

*Waikato University*

As an activist scholar I am interested in exposing injustice and working collaboratively with others to effect change. Within this paper I offer an

interpretation of how institutional racism and its counter-point privilege manifest within public health policy making in Aotearoa and offer strategies to disrupt such racism. I present a 'continuous loop of racism' to depict the points in the policy cycle where racism is detectable. These sites of racism include decision-making and consultation processes, selection of evidence base, recruitment and professional development of policy makers and the impact of Crown filters as policy are approved.

This analysis is drawn from an historical examination of the origins of institutional racism, counter narratives with Māori leaders, fieldnotes from working within a distinctive Māori co-funding agency, a desk-top review of Crown documents filtered through twenty years experience within the health sector and doing anti-racism work. The sites of racism presented are also sites of intervention with practical remedies offered to disrupt systemic racism. I am interested in whether these sites of racism/intervention hold resonance within an Australian context and to find collaborations for working towards the transformation of institutional racism in other jurisdictions as a means of adding pressure to further such change 'at home'.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-13:30, CLB2**

***A regional study of informal care giving in the UK: Who cares and who are they caring for?***

**FIONA CARMICHAEL**

*University of Birmingham*

This paper reports on the analysis of a unique regional data set containing detailed information on 1,985 informal care-givers. The data are drawn from the database of an organization providing support for carers in the West Midlands region of the UK. The database contains a record for all carers who accessed the organisation's services between 1998 and 2008. The records provide information on carers' characteristics as well as the characteristics and needs of the people they care for. They also contain data on caregiving provision including indicators of hours of care



supplied, duration of the caring episode and type of help given (personal, physical, practical or emotional). The analysis incorporates an initial comparison of informal caregiving provision by carers' age-group and gender. This bivariate analysis is extended in two main ways. Firstly by using multivariate analysis to explore the interrelationships between caregiving provision and the characteristics of both caregivers and the people they care for. Secondly, the relationship between caregiving and employment is investigated. This analysis uses instrumental variables to control for endogeneity in the caregiving-employment relationship. The results highlight the importance of the cared-for person's needs and living arrangements in the determination of informal care provision and carers' employment.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Ill health, work and worklessness among older people in the UK***

**FIONA CARMICHAEL, CLAIRE HULME,  
LORNA PORCELLATO**

*University of Birmingham, University of Leeds and  
Liverpool John Moores University*

In this paper we explore how the interrelationships between ill health, subjective wellbeing and employment impact on older men and women in the UK. We use both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine these relationships. The quantitative analysis uses data from the British Household Panel Study and indicates that ill health and low subjective wellbeing are strongly correlated with age and negatively correlated with the employment participation of older people. The significance of these relationships is maintained when other factors are controlled for in a multivariate specification. Underlying causes are explored in more depth using qualitative analysis based on interviews with 56 men and women between the ages of 50 and 68. This part of the study uses the respondents' own words to explain how physical and mental ill health has impacted on labour market participation and vice versa. This synthesis of quantitative and qualitative methods

helps to provide a more in depth understanding of how the relationships between health, employment and wellbeing impact on older men and women.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB4**

***The search for self***

**CAROLINE CARROLL**

*Alliance for Forgotten Australians*

Many Forgotten Australians experienced loss of identity during the 20th century, as inhabitants of orphanages, Homes, detention centres, training schools or foster care in Australia. Around half a million Australian-born children (including many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children) and around 7,000 child migrants have been affected by the social and legal policy frameworks that led to large scale incarceration of children. Children suffered abuse and neglect, along with loss of identity, family, culture and community. Health and wellbeing outcomes were poor.

Drawing on her personal story, Caroline, who is also a practitioner in a Forgotten Australians Support Service in Victoria, will recount her loss of identity, the impact on her and on her birth family and her efforts to re-establish herself as a person in a family context. Caroline reflects on current child protection policy, the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and the need to learn from the past, to respect the rights of family members, particularly children, and to ensure families have the support they need to care for, and to maintain strong and supportive relationships with, their children.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

***Transitions around casual work: Preliminary analysis from Australia at Work***

**SHARNI CHAN, SALLY WRIGHT**

*WRC, University of Sydney*

Around one in five Australian workers are now engaged in casual employment. Although subject to sub-standard employment protections, casual employment has been defended as providing a pathway into permanent employment as well as a

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strategy for women juggling work and care. This paper presents preliminary research exploring the role of casual work in these key market transitions, drawing on evidence from the first 4 waves of the Australia at Work study - a five year longitudinal study of the working lives of over 8,000 Australian workers.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***Assessing the policy impact of grant-funded social science research***

**ADRIAN CHERNEY**

*University of Queensland*

Academic social scientists, as well as funding bodies, are under increasing pressure to demonstrate the benefits of grant-funded social research, including the impact of research on fields of policy and practice. At present in Australia, we know very little on the subject. This paper will report data from research on the benefits and impact of ARC Linkage projects in the social and behavioural sciences. Based on interviews with chief investigators and industry partners the paper will test a theoretical model that assesses the multidimensional benefits arising from academic social research and factors that influencing the transmission and uptake of social research to policy and practitioner contexts. This is a significant issue given the emphasis placed on the “impact” of research through the evidence-based policy movement and University assessment exercises. The project adopts a case study approach using qualitative methods. Outcomes will provide improved knowledge about factors that facilitate the uptake of social research by potential end users

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB5**

***Perspectives of academic social scientists on the benefits and impact of knowledge co-production: Australian findings***

**ADRIAN CHERNEY, BRIAN HEAD, PAUL BOREHAM**

*University of Queensland*

There is a growing perception that the research process is increasingly focused on knowledge creation as a process of co-production. Contemporary knowledge production incorporates a dual focus on the scholarship of application and discovery, and places an emphasis on partnerships between academics and non-academic end users of research. There have been few contributions to the Australian literature about the impact of social research partnerships on fields of policy and practice. This paper addresses that gap in the literature and reports results from a survey of over 660 academic social scientists in Australian Universities on their reported experience of engaging in research with industry and public sector partners and end-users of research. The results highlight that while academics report a range of benefits arising from research collaborations, there are also significant impediments to research translation and uptake. One aim of the paper is to highlight that while collaborative knowledge production offers benefits, it is fraught with problems. Data on reported levels of research impact will also be outlined to illustrate the various ways in which academic social research is utilised. This research forms part of an ARC Linkage grant examining evidence-based policy and practice.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB6**

***Health status, socio-economic conditions and retirement decisions***

**CHING CHOI, PENG YU**

*Social Policy Research Centre and FaHSCIA*

One labour force response to population ageing is to encourage workers to delay their retirement. An understanding of the true reasons for early

retirement will inform policies that promote and sustain later retirement.

This study quantifies the impact of health, income, job satisfaction, living arrangements and other relevant socio-economic factors on retirement decisions.

Most Australian and overseas studies on the relationship between health and labour force participation do not deal directly with age at retirement. Studies specifically on retirement decisions ask retrospectively the reasons for retirement. Research has shown that retrospective reasons for retirement are not entirely reliable.

We are using ABS survey data to describe the changing face of retirement. Multivariate models are then built using longitudinal HILDA data to relate the actual health and socio-economic situations at the time of retirement to the timing of retirement, and to quantify the relative importance of these factors.

Preliminary results of the study show important differences in factors influencing retirement between early retirees and later retirees. They also show that while health is a factor in retirement decision, there are other more important factors at play, eg. job satisfaction and availability of retirement income.

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#### **THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB8**

##### ***The social and economic costs of being uninsured***

###### **DOMINIC COLLINS**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

The recent floods and the bushfires in Victoria in 2009 brought the risks associated with noninsurance and inappropriate insurance to public and government attention. While insurance is vital for protecting individuals' assets and providing peace of mind, there are significant barriers that limit access to appropriate insurance, particularly for low income Australians. In the case of insurance, socioeconomic inequalities are manifested in the fact that those who face the

highest risk of being unable to replace their assets, are the least able to pay for protection.

This paper draws on the findings of recent policy-driven research conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, on access to vehicle and home contents insurance by low income Australians. Based on data from a survey and focus groups, the research showed that low income Australians are often aware of and desire insurance to protect their assets, but find the 'cost of protection' prohibitive. Going beyond the identification of barriers, it also identified methods to improve access to appropriate insurance for the most disadvantaged Australians. This requires collaboration between industry, government and the community sector, as well as improvements in product marketing and design.

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#### **FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

##### ***Employment outcomes for Australian Muslims***

###### **BETH COOK**

*University of Newcastle*

Evidence from multiple sources suggests that discrimination against Muslims exists in the Australian labour market. Compared to the non-Muslim labour force, employment outcomes may also be constrained due to lower levels of English language proficiency, difficulty obtaining recognition of overseas qualifications, cultural and religious issues, lack of familiarity with the Australian labour market, employment services and job search skills and limited local work experience and references.

This paper uses 2006 Census data to provide insights into the labour force experience of Australian Muslims. Using a Probit model we investigate the labour force outcomes for Muslims in the labour force. The formal econometric modelling explores the characteristics associated with employment to determine whether the labour force experience of Australian Muslims differs from that of the entire population after controlling for a range of individual and personal characteristics (supply-side) and regional factors

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(demand-side). The regression results demonstrate that Muslims face reduced employment prospects compared to the remainder of the population. This phenomenon may be associated with unobserved characteristics that reduce the probability of being employed or may point to other explanations such as discrimination.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB8**

***The economy of the family: Understanding how microfinance contributes to key wellbeing indicators***

**TANYA CORRIE**

*Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services*

The paper will present the findings of a current national research project being published in August 2011, which explores the impact of microfinance programs on key wellbeing indicators relating to financial inclusion, material wellbeing and social and economic participation. Using a case study methodology over ten months, the research explores how access to no interest and low interest loans and matched savings programs affect the lives of recipients, particularly sole parents, Indigenous Australians, and people in receipt of Disability Support Payments and Newstart Allowance.

Microfinance programs are a means to address financial exclusion but it is clear that they are about more than money. Juggling budgets on a fixed income requires a series of decisions and prioritisations that can have adverse impacts on the ability to take part in social activities or contribute to the economy of the household, whether through paid or unpaid work. These compromises have implications for the individual as well as the family. Through analysis of the direct lived experience of program recipients and their families; and describing the intersection between microfinance interventions and broader social policies, this paper will suggest how microfinance and other policy initiatives can work to ameliorate barriers to inclusion and participation.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***Using income management to induce behavioural change: A case study in poor social policy***

**SALLY COWLING**

*UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families*

This paper explores the rise of compulsory income management as the mechanism to change an expanding array of precarious behaviours (including child abuse and neglect, poor school attendance and non-participation in employment) for defined groups of income support recipients and their children. It sets out the limited theoretical and empirical support offered for the New Income Management (NIM) from the behavioural economics and psychology literatures and the absence of a sophisticated ecological framework to advance understanding of the family, community and structural contexts for dysfunctional behaviour.

The paper defines a set of criteria for 'good social policy' including the preparedness to delineate 'wicked problems' and to address their root cause; reference to the evidence base for effective interventions; recognition of human interdependency; and the attention paid to developing the capabilities of individuals and communities to foster lasting change. In assessing income management against these criteria, it is argued that the NIM constitutes a case study in poor social policy. The theory of change and evidence base which underpin the NIM are, in turn, overly simplistic and unsubstantiated. The paper closes by proposing an alternative approach to mapping the needs to be addressed and selecting interventions which are effective and empowering.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***Household work-family balance strategies and gendered time in/equity***

**LYN CRAIG, ABIGAIL POWELL**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

As women have moved into employment, coordinating work and family has become increasingly difficult for families with young children. Households look for ways to manage the intense and conflicting demands. Strategies they could adopt include limiting their labour supply by working part-time hours, adjusting their work timing through non-standard schedules, gaining more job control through self-employment, and limiting their care commitments by using non-parental childcare. Alone and in combination these strategies hold out the promise of relief to time-pressed households. Little is known empirically about how they affect couples' joint time allocation and/or share between themselves their commitments to work and family, however. Using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Time Use Survey (TUS) 2006, we analyse data from matched couples with children aged 0-11 years, to tease out associations between the work-family balance strategies and parents' time in paid work, domestic work and childcare (both jointly and separately by gender), the scheduling of these activities, the gender division of labour and the subjective time stress of mothers and fathers. We find the strategies do not reduce couples' combined workloads, but are somewhat successful in closing the gender gap in paid and unpaid labour. This is almost exclusively as a result of adjustments by mothers rather than by fathers. Mothers are also more affected by the characteristics of their spouse's employment that vice versa, although mothers' shift work does mean more of fathers' childcare time is spent in routine tasks or in sole charge. None of the strategies is associated with lower subjective time stress for mothers.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Engaging in sensory methods and life story work with young foster care leavers experiencing transitions to 'adult' independence: Methodological challenges in exploring the biographical 'voice' in comparative social policy research***

**CAROLINE CRESSWELL**

*University of Melbourne*

This paper draws upon a PhD exploring the experiences of young foster care leaver's transitions in the context of the respective social policy frameworks governing out-of-home care and care leaver support practices in Victoria and England. Central to this study is the influence of the young person's biography – in particular, how biographies of transition are constructed and deconstructed in the context of differing socio-political and cultural settings and English and Victorian social policy prescriptions towards young people in care and care leavers. Whilst a body of empirical international research has highlighted the poor outcomes of young people leaving care, there has been little focus upon the interface between social policy prescription, social work practice and the experiential nature of youth transitions.

Reflection on the biographical 'voice' is somewhat lost, with the need for social recognition and empathy required to enable support of the strategies employed by young people experiencing 'disrupted' and accelerated transitional trajectories becoming paramount. The paper will draw upon the current methodological challenges faced, in particular, those brought about by analysing young people's experiences employing creative methods and life story narratives in the purview of comparative social policy frameworks.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, GAL 2**

***Did 'Welfare to Work' raise or lower the incomes of sole parents and people with disabilities?***

**PETER DAVIDSON**

*Social Policy Research Centre student*

The Welfare to Work policy introduced in 2006 aimed to reduce reliance on income support and increase employment among sole parents and people with disabilities. Critics of the policy at this time argued that it would reduce the incomes of most social security recipients affected by the policy as new applicants for income support were diverted from higher 'pension' payments to lower 'allowance' payments. The former Government argued that the policy would raise the incomes of most people affected by speeding transitions to employment. These propositions can now be tested (at a high level of generality) using official data on exits from income support among cohorts of sole parents and people with disabilities affected by the policy over its first year. This paper summarises the Welfare to Work policy, outlines broad trends in social security reciprocity among the two main target groups, and uses official data to make a preliminary assessment of whether the policy raised or lowered the disposable incomes of a majority of those affected.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB3**

***Employment history, fertility, relationship history and retirement incomes***

**DAVID DE VAUS, MATTHEW GRAY, LIXIA QU, DAVID STANTON**

*University of Queensland, Australian National University, Australian Institute of Family Studies and Australian National University*

This paper uses data from the first nine waves of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey to estimate the impact of employment history and family history (fertility and relationship history) on income, assets and various deprivation measures in later life. A range

of measures of economic living standards are examined including personal income, equivalised family income, assets (available on waves 2 and 6 of HILDA) and various deprivation measures. Gender differences are examined.

Economic wellbeing in later life is a major social and economic policy issue in most OECD countries and will become an even more pressing issue with the continuing trends of population ageing projected to occur across OECD. Understanding the impacts of employment and family history on income in later life, the differences between men and women and those from different socio-economic status groups is important for understanding the causes of economic inequality and hardship in later life and nature of policies which are most likely to be effective in addressing inequalities over the longer-term.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***The lucky country – Providing you're from the right mob***

**JOHN DOMMETT, CAROLINE CARROLL, SUELLEN MURRAY**

*Connecting Home Ltd, Alliance for Forgotten Australians and RMIT University*

The past policies of assimilation of the Aboriginal Peoples into mainstream (white) Australia has had a life-defining impact upon the thousands of children taken from their parents, community, language, culture and land. Whilst this represents an 'inconvenient truth' for those who are from mainstream Australia, our nation is now dealing with the direct effect of an Australian values system that ordained the mass grouping of children into institutional, group and poorly managed foster care arrangements.

John will discuss the loss of identity created by these past policies that not only created the Stolen Generations, but also the Forgotten Australians. He will identify the direct impact upon Aboriginal children that were removed, incarcerated and forced to grow up in abusive and neglectful care arrangements.

Using personal stories and reflections, John will explore societal devaluation, with the resulting human cost of a loss of identity, social roles and person-hood. John will discuss how the past policies have created a new generation of stolen children ... those children of the now adults who were wrongfully removed. John will discuss Connecting Home's Healing programs, and the healing journey that can result in re-connection with Aboriginal identity, culture, spirituality and community.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, GAL 2**

***The privatisation of the back wards: The accommodation of people with intellectual disability and people with mental illness in licensed boarding houses in Inner Sydney***

**GABRIELLE DRAKE**

*University of Western Sydney*

This research explores the use of licensed boarding houses in Inner Sydney as an accommodation option for people with intellectual disability and people with mental illness. Deinstitutionalisation, a significant social policy of the last century was introduced into Australia in the 1960's and 1970's, and involved the closure of large institutions and the integration of former residents into the community. One of the community-based accommodation options used for people leaving institutions was boarding houses. This research explores the extent to which boarding houses enact the human rights principles of deinstitutionalisation and contribute to the quality of life of residents with intellectual disability and residents with mental illness.

The research draws on an extensive literature review and policy and legislative analysis. Informing the research are forty interviews with a range of participants including current and former licensed boarding house residents, proprietors, and staff of community organisations and government agencies.

The results of this research provide evidence that licensed boarding houses are a form of transinstitutionalisation and do not serve to enact the human rights principles articulated in current

policy and legislation. This research argues for the staged deinstitutionalisation of licensed boarding houses in New South Wales.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB4**

***Unemployment and the wellbeing of children aged 5–10 years***

**BEN EDWARDS, MATTHEW GRAY,  
MATTHEW TAYLOR**

*Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian National University and NATSEM*

The impacts of an increase in the unemployment rate on children's wellbeing are not well understood. This article begins to fill this gap by using data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), local labour market data and the 2006 Census to estimate the potential impact of an increase in the unemployment rate on behavioural and emotional outcomes for New South Wales (NSW) children aged 4-5 to 8-9 years and the extent to which the negative impacts are concentrated within particular geographic areas. Living in a jobless family is estimated to have a negative impact upon a range of measures of children's behavioural and emotional problems. This finding underscores the importance of having macro-economic policies that limit the increases in the rate of joblessness during economic downturns, particularly policies aimed at reducing the rate of family joblessness. Such policies have the potential to minimise the potential negative effects on children.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, GAL 2**

***Holding Centres or agents for social change: An exploration of the past 30 years of policy development of Community Access Services***

**TED EVANS**

*Flinders University*

This research presentation will purport findings from an exploration of the policy development of Community Access Services within South Australia. Although CAS (often referred to as "day

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activity services” or “day centres”) have contributed to social, psychological and health and well being opportunities for people with disabilities, little research on CAS internationally or nationally has been conducted.

A qualitative approach has been used in the research. Following a review of literature focus groups were conducted which enabled people with disabilities, families, carers, academics, policy makers and funding bodies expectations, needs and experiences of CAS to be reviewed. The findings informed face to face interview questions and interviews were conducted in metropolitan and regional South Australia including people with disabilities, family members/advocates, CAS providers, academics, policy makers and funding body representatives. Written data such as transition planning and evaluation tools were also, with permission, gathered from CAS providers.

An analysis of the three data sources using Nvivo 9 software occurred. The findings of this research sought to inform current and future policy development and academic research, and to propose service quality attributes, applicable for the enhancement of the service quality and innovation of CAS for people with disabilities in Australia.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB3**

***Older parent carers making their way in future housing planning***

**SUSAN EVANS, LESLEY POPE, CAITLIN MCDOWELL**

*Social Policy & Research Unit, ANGLICARE Sydney*

Following an exploratory qualitative study into preferred future housing models for older parent carers and their dependent relative, the present paper discusses if and how older parent carers commit to future housing plans. In the study, 11 older parent carers of adults living with an intellectual disability or acquired brain injury were asked how they commit to decisions about future housing for their dependent relative and self. Carers were further asked to comment on the desirability of continuing to live with their son or

daughter in the event they can no longer remain living in their own home due to their own increased support needs. Shedding light on the emergent planning process of older parent carers is a strength of this study. The study did not find that the older parent carers interviewed are failing to plan for the future. Rather, carers prioritise their concerns for the future well-being of their dependent relative, however, have difficulty acting on housing preferences due to a lack of housing options and other constraining factors.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***Parents as tasters of child care quality: Potential informants of policy beyond regulation***

**MARIANNE FENECH**

*Macquarie University*

In the context of market-based child care provision governments in many industrialised countries use regulation to ensure quality standards and practices. Limited research, however, has investigated parents’ perceptions of child care quality, and whether what parents value as contributors to quality resonates with regulatory frameworks. This paper critically uses the Bourdieuan notion of ‘taste’ to explore the perspectives of parent users of high quality child care in Australia. Findings from six case study centres that participated in an Australian Research Council Discovery funded project show that irrespective of educational attainment, parents conceptualise ‘quality’ in child care in ways that are consistent with, but also extend beyond, regulation. The identification of factors parent participants considered important to the provision of quality child care highlight regulation as a potential discursive strategy that neutralises demand for other complementary but more contentious policy approaches to quality early childhood education and care.



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**THURSDAY 11:00-13:30, CLB3**

***Ageing on the edge: The plight of older renters***

**JEFF FIEDLER**

*CSIRO Housing for the Aged Action Group Inc.*

This presentation will highlight the problems faced by an often neglected yet high-need group: older renters. There are more than 110,000 people aged over 65 in Australia who rent in the private market, 80% of whom rely on the aged pension as their main source of income. Often living in difficult housing conditions and poverty, older people were identified by the Commonwealth Government's White Paper, *The Road Home*, as the group that had the greatest increase in homelessness between the 2001 and 2006 census. However, the White paper provided only minor initiatives to address their needs, focusing on those who are sleeping rough or who have multiple factors such as alcohol abuse and mental illness that cause them to become homeless. This presentation will argue that the government response must include assistance for a larger group of retirees with low levels of assets, who are struggling in the rental market.

To bring to light the problems faced by many older renters this presentation will provide documented examples and case studies of HAAG clients.

Finally, ideas will be explored about the service structures and government programs that could begin to address this increasing area of need in an ageing population.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB3**

***Some initial outcomes from the Michael Project***

**PAUL FLATAU, TIM MARCHANT**

*University of Western Australia and Mission Australia*

Mission Australia's Michael Project was a three year (2007 – 2010) private donor-funded initiative working with homeless men in the Sydney region. It combined three elements: specialist homeless accommodation services; assertive case

management; and eleven specialist allied health and support services to better support the social inclusion of homeless men.

A central component of the Michael Project is a research study which includes both quantitative (a longitudinal survey capturing data from 253 homeless men at three points in time: on entry, at three months and at 12 months) and qualitative (case studies and focus groups) components.

This presentation reports on initial results of the MP research collaboration and specifically on how participants are faring after three months relative to when they were initially engaged in the project. Improvements for clients in their housing situation, income and employment circumstances, social connections and access to health services will be examined in a context where changes in health and wellbeing were less apparent.

The presentation will reflect on the contributing factors to the changing circumstances of homeless men, examining in particular the value of enhanced, timely and integrated support and will conclude by examining the emerging implications in terms of existing national targets.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, JOHN GOODSELL 119**

***Are we reaching them now? Service access patterns amongst users of headspace youth mental health services***

**SAUL FLAXMAN, IOANA OPREA, ROGER PATULNY, KRISTY MUIR, ABIGAIL POWELL, SHANNON MCDERMOTT**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Despite the high prevalence of mental health problems among young people in Australia, various groups – males, 'older' young people (aged 18-25 years), those lacking support from family and friends, and socially and economically excluded young people – are less likely to access mental health services. The national youth mental health service, headspace, attempted to reach these groups by providing free, specialist services specifically targeted at young people.

This paper examines the extent to which

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headspace has addressed unmet service need amongst various groups of young people by comparing users of the service with young people with mental health problems in the general population using data from the 2007 National Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey. It finds that headspace has generally been successful in improving access, particularly amongst socially and economically excluded young people and those lacking support from family and friends. 'Older' young people and males are still under-represented amongst headspace service users, however, and form a group that is potentially in need of more careful targeting in the latest expansion of the initiative.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:30, JOHN GOODSELL 119**

***The politics of entitlement and personalisation: A perspective on the proposed National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme***

**MICHELE FOSTER, PAUL HENMAN**

*The University of Queensland*

The principles of 'entitlement based on need' and 'personalization' are central to the Australian Government's proposed National Disability Long-Term Care and Support Scheme (LTCSS). In this paper it is argued that a critical reflection is warranted because of the ambiguities these principles generate in contemporary debates about welfare. In particular, it is suggested that the interpretations and ambiguities of need and personalization require scrutiny as do the uncertainties generated about state intervention and the role of the market. Individual examples of care and support from research undertaken by the authors on the financing and management of lifetime care and support are used to explore some of the administrative uncertainties surrounding application of the espoused policy principles. The true test of the proposal, it is argued, will be how social policy functions to support the diversity of lifestyle choices and the extent to which it can uphold the right to receive personalized services and avoid harmful trade-offs between access, equity and choice.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB3**

***Growth and expansion of community housing workforce: From the stimulus and onward***

**MAJA FRÖLICH**

*NSW Federation of Housing Associations*

The recent increase in research into community services workforce has been sparked simultaneously by the Australian Government productivity agenda and by ongoing campaigns for better working conditions for community services workers by unions and many peak bodies. While community housing workforce shares many characteristics of community services workforce in NSW in general, it also exhibits some unique findings as consequence of its business model that departs from the traditional funding model of community services.

Community housing associations in NSW provide affordable rental housing to people on low incomes, housing over 18,000 households all across the state and accounting for approximately 12 per cent of all social housing in NSW. The community housing workforce has grown by 45 per cent in the past eighteen months, as a direct result of the Economic Stimulus package, NRAS initiatives and large scale property transfers from public housing to community housing providers and this is likely to continue over next five years. This paper describes a research project involving over 500 community housing employees and examines present challenges and opportunities for community housing providers. Overcoming barriers in workforce supply and emergence of new skills as organisations become more complex will be an imperative to respond to the needs of tenants as well as government and regulators.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB5**

***Community participation in the policy process: A study of community engagement in public housing estate renewal***

**TARSHA GAVIN**

*University of Sydney*

The emergence of participatory governance theories as a lens through which to view the policy-making process has challenged the conceptualisations of citizen engagement that are presented in traditional policy cycle models. With theories positing that the 'network governance' phenomenon and new understandings of 'community' are reconstituting the space for political engagement, the interplay of community, engagement and empowerment dynamics has become particularly evident in the newly emerging policy area of public housing estate redevelopment. Through an in-depth study of the trajectory of community engagement within the Minto Public Housing Estate Renewal Project this paper will seek to evaluate the differing conceptualisations of community engagement that are offered by public policy and participatory governance theories. Using evidence from in-depth interviews with policy stakeholders, the paper will examine the practical and conceptual tensions evident between these normative participatory theories and policy practice. It will suggest that while network governance and social constructivist approaches of participatory governance theories provide us with a better understanding of the complex dynamics of community engagement in estate renewal projects, the empirical evidence also reveals an institutional adherence to policy-cycle conceptualisations of citizen consultation that constrains policy-makers from developing community engagement strategies that reflect these new theories.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB5**

***The Benevolent Society Community Connections Survey: The role of social capital in strengthening local communities.***

**STACEY GIBSON, ANDREW ANDERSON**

*The Benevolent Society*

Research has shown that social exclusion and poverty in Australia are becoming more geographically concentrated, with intergenerational disadvantage becoming entrenched in a number of communities. Governments and NGOs worldwide have begun adopting a more coordinated and sustainable approach to addressing disadvantage at the community level, that focuses on strengthening social networks and local capacity for change.

Social capital is a vital component of resilient communities, as it allows people to interact in a cooperative and organised way to achieve shared goals, and provide assistance to one another (Stone & Hughes, 2002). The Benevolent Society has developed the Community Connections Survey to measure social capital and community belonging in local communities. This research project will fill a major gap in Australia by providing detailed indicators of social capital at the local area and, potentially, national level. Specifically it measures residents' perceptions of community connection: their ability to get help, their current participation in the community, and attitudes to others living in the community.

This presentation will present results from one pilot community in South West Sydney, with particular focus on how the findings may inform social policy development and service planning, and the role that social capital plays in resilient communities.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***Putting Indigenous communities at the heart of service design? How governments are implementing the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.***

**BRIAN GLEESON**

*Office of the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Affairs*

In December 2008, the Australian, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian governments signed the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery, thereby agreeing to implement a new approach in 29 remote Indigenous communities.

At the heart of the agreement is the recognition that all governments need to look at place rather than program and level of government, and develop partnerships with Indigenous communities with joint decision making about what will be done and how. The paper will argue that previous national reforms in remote communities have not paid sufficient attention to these critical policy and program elements.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the Remote Service Delivery approach and the role of the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services. It will then look at what is required for a successful place based approach, whether lessons from previous approaches are reflected in the Remote Service Delivery approach, and whether governments are adopting the new ways of working to be effective at the place, rather than program, level.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

***Framing microfinance in Australia – Gender neutral or gender blind?***

**SUSAN GOODWIN, ARCHANA P. JETTI**

*University of Sydney*

In Australia, microfinance is gaining visibility as a distinct poverty alleviation strategy (Burkett, 2003).

Microfinance encompasses a broad range of financial services provided to people or groups of people otherwise unable to access mainstream financial services. The Australian Government recently allocated \$33 million for the development of existing microfinance initiatives, signalling that microfinance is regarded as a legitimate approach to poverty alleviation (Macklin, 2009). In Australian microfinance policy and program discourses, the microfinance sector is framed as targeting both men and women equally. Yet at the practice level, the majority of loan recipients are women. Such a gender neutral framing is in stark contrast to microfinance policy and practices developed elsewhere. This paper reports on a detailed analysis of policy and practice statements focussed on how the 'subjects', or targets, of microfinance in Australia are represented. It then discusses the relationship between microfinance and gender inequalities, and draws attention to some of the implications of both targeting and not targeting women.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***New forms of social policy knowledge production: The movement of non-government organisations into the field of policy research.***

**SUSAN GOODWIN, RUTH PHILLIPS**

*The University of Sydney*

It is widely acknowledged across rich democracies that the third sector, or civil society, has increased its role in the delivery of human services funded by the state and that it is now seen as an integral part of social, economic and political structures. Consequently, human service NGOs have become central actors in contemporary welfare states. The broadening of the role of NGOs in Australia as both providers of core welfare services and as advocates and agents of social change has also been widely acknowledged. In this paper we focus on another new development: the movement of NGOs into the field of policy research, in particular the growing trend within NGOs to allocate resources to research aimed at potential policy influence (Phillips and Goodwin, 2010). The paper draws on

a recent study on the nature and scope of policy research in non-government human service organisations in Australia, which revealed a significant growth in numbers of policy researchers and policy research units and provided a detailed portrait of this new field of activity. The study involved an iterative element, where a number of NGO policy researchers provided commentary on the survey findings, raising important issues about the contemporary research to policy nexus and the implications of the involvement of non-government organisations in knowledge production about social needs. In this paper we extend these insights to explore NGO policy research as a deepening of the role of human service NGOs in the Australian welfare state and a reconfiguring of democratic systems of policy determination.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Family joblessness, child wellbeing and labour market and income support policies***

**MATTHEW GRAY, JENNIFER BAXTER**

*Australian National University and Australian Institute of Family Studies*

Australia has a relatively high proportion of households with children in which no adult is employed (jobless households) and this is the single most important cause of child poverty in Australia. This high rate of joblessness amongst families with dependent children has led to concerns about the impact on the wellbeing of both parents and children in living in these families. This paper uses data from the first three waves of Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) to analyse family joblessness among families with young children. Using these data the paper examines the extent to which families experience persistent joblessness, and examines risk factors associated with this experience, such as low levels of educational attainment and mental health problems. Associations between children's experience of persistent joblessness and their levels of developmental progress are examined. LSAC provides a wide range of measures of child wellbeing and this paper considers learning /

cognitive development, socio-emotional development and physical health. The findings of the analyses are discussed in relation to policies that are directed to jobless families.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***What discourages Indigenous discouraged workers?***

**MATTHEW GRAY, BOYD HUNTER**

*The Australian National University*

Indigenous people are far more likely to be discouraged from looking for work than other Australians. Understanding the determinants of what discourages particular workers has important implications for overcoming the labour force disadvantage faced by indigenous Australians. Despite the importance of this issue, the most recent analysis of Indigenous discouraged workers is based upon data from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey. This paper uses data from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey to estimate the determinants of being a discouraged worker and how they differ to those for the non-Indigenous population (estimated using data from the Multi-Purpose Household Survey). A novel feature of the analysis will be analysis that the experience of discrimination leads to Indigenous Australians dropping out of the labour force. The analysis will allow unique insights into whether Indigenous and non-Indigenous discouraged workers are different. The analysis is likely to have important implications for the ongoing social exclusion of Indigenous people from Australian society.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Indigenous education policy: An international comparison***

**ANDREW GRIFFITHS**

*IPDRU*

In recent years, determining an Indigenous education policy has become a key task of education policy units in a range of 'settler' countries such as Australia. The Indigenous

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Policy and Dialogue Research Unit was recently commissioned to undertake a comparative literature review of Indigenous education policy across four 'settler' countries with similar colonial histories (Canada, The United States, New Zealand and Australia), as part of a larger project on best practice in Indigenous education. This paper compares and contrasts the historical and contemporary approaches to Indigenous education policymaking across these four countries, with a focus on the Australian experience. Philosophical differences between the countries' approaches are highlighted and discussion will centre on which jurisdictions have been more or less successful than others in implementing effective Indigenous education policies, particularly with regard to their adherence to the relevant sections of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The UNDRIP encourages the elimination of acts of discrimination, marginalisation and social injustice among Indigenous people and has become the international benchmark against which Indigenous education policies can be measured.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***Consistency and continuity in childhood adversity: The nature and history of multiple disadvantages in families with young children***

**BINA GUBHAJU, BRYAN RODGERS**

*The Australian National University*

Using waves 1-3 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) this paper attempts to quantify the degree of overlap between various indicators and derived summary measures of childhood adversity at the same point in time and investigates the extent to which these summary measures show continuity over time. Indicators of adversity in nine domains were assessed: family background, socioeconomic position and hardship, employment conditions, time pressure, parenting, parent-parent relationships, parent health and wellbeing, life events, and social support.

Using factor analytic techniques we found that

most domains could be summarized by a single score of adversity but three required two summary scores each. Two overall indices of childhood disadvantage were developed, which we have labelled (1) socio-economic and (2) psychosocial adversity. Longitudinally, psychosocial adversity is more persistent in the same families over time than is socio-economic adversity.

Findings of this research will contribute to advancing methodologies that attempt to quantify the nature of simultaneous occurrences of various forms of disadvantage. It will also aid in policy development by identifying families that consistently experience multiple forms of adversity. At present, many policies and services are aimed at specific adversities and may not meet the needs of families experiencing multiple disadvantages.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Educational policy assemblages, Islamic and Afrocentric schools and neoliberal racisms***

**KALERVO GULSON**

*University of New South Wales*

This paper looks at the interplay of education policy, school choice, and race in relation to private Islamic schooling in Australia and public Afrocentric schooling in Canada. The paper uses the analytic of policy assemblages (Rizvi & Lingard, 2010; Ball, 2011) to examine opposition to Islamic and Afrocentric schools as part of the complex cultural politics of education. The idea of policy assemblages highlight the ways policy is constantly being constructed, re-articulated and re-asserted with different emphases on principles of equity, efficiency, liberty and community. This paper is particularly concerned with how opposition to Islamic and Afrocentric alternative schools is located within a complex and racialised policy terrain. Most specifically, these education policy initiatives that enable the establishment of Islamic and Afrocentric schools, also intersect with forms of white multiculturalism in Australia and Canada. A white multiculturalism marks out some schools like Islamic and Afrocentric schools as threatening to ideas of the nation. The paper

concludes by suggesting the complex policy assemblages that support school choice also point to how equity is being re-framed and racialised within and by marketised policy frameworks; that is re-framed through and by neoliberal racisms (Goldberg, 2009; Gulson, 2011)

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB3**

***A Framework for Understanding Indigenous Mobility***

**DAPHNE HABIBIS**

*University of Tasmania*

Indigenous Australians represent a substantial part of the homelessness population, comprising 11 per cent of SAAP clients in urban areas and 68 per cent in remote areas (National Homelessness Information Clearing House 2010). Under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, Federal and State Governments in Australia have committed to reducing Indigenous homelessness by one third by 2012. One contributor to Indigenous homelessness is the inappropriateness of housing services predicated on the needs of a sedentary population, rather than those generated by the more fluid relationships to place that characterise Indigenous lifeworlds. This paper argues that one reason for the high level of Indigenous homelessness is that Indigenous temporary mobility is a largely overlooked area of housing need. Its invisibility results partly because of the difficulties support services have in unravelling cultural and structural causes of mobility and partly because the fluid nature of some forms of temporary mobility blur the distinction between it, and homelessness. The link between temporary mobility and homelessness is also ignored in homelessness policies whose methods of homelessness enumeration ignore the contribution of temporary mobility and whose concept of rough sleepers misses an important section of the homeless Indigenous population. In proposing a framework for understanding the relationship between Indigenous temporary mobility, homelessness and migration this paper attempts to contribute to an area that has been largely opaque to the non-Indigenous gaze.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

***The 1-in-4 Poll: Design and initial findings of Australia's first regular National Survey of People with Disability***

**NICK HAGILIASSIS, CLAIRE QUILLIAM, ERIN WILSON, JANE MCGILLIVRAY, MICHAEL BINK, ROBERT CAMPAIN, JOE GRAFFAM, MEGAN MOORE**

*Deakin University & Scope*

The 1-in-4 poll is a regular survey of people with disability in Australia, beginning in 2010. The first poll focuses on social inclusion, a major element of citizenship and participation for people with disability.

The paper reports on the methodological issues and solutions of developing a survey instrument that is accessible and meaningful to a diverse population of people with disability. The paper includes a presentation of this accessible method.

The paper also provides a summary of initial findings from the first poll. This includes data about the experience of people with disability benchmarked against a range of indicators of social inclusion for the national respondent cohort. These indicators have been drawn from recent population data from a range of research studies about the levels of social inclusion in Australia.

Initial findings are also presented in regard to the key barriers to inclusion faced by people with disability, and their priorities for action to increase levels of social inclusion.

The paper will discuss the implications of these findings in relation to current national and international disability and inclusion policy.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***Supporting pre-release prisoners into employment: Lessons for policy and practice***

**ANNE HAMPSHIRE, BRIAN MORRISS**

*MTC Work Solutions*

Around 50,000 prisoners pass through the

# Abstracts by author

correctional system in Australia annually, a number which is increasing. At the aggregate level, they have low levels of educational attainment, poor employment histories, high rates of poor physical and mental health and drug misuse, and a history of imprisonment. These factors contribute to their risk of long term unemployment post their release, and negatively influence community attitudes, particularly with employers. Unemployment positively correlates with a return to prison, with over 40% of ex-prisoners returning to jail within two years of release.

This presentation will focus on the Pre Release Employment Program (PREP) provided as part of Job Services Australia, the Commonwealth Government's main initiative to enhance labour market participation. It will provide detailed profile data, including employment outcomes to date, on over 100 male and female prisoners, who have participated in MTC's PREP over the past 18 months. It will include participant case studies and perspectives from employers involved in PREP.

It will have a particular focus on policy and practice lessons learnt from implementing PREP in a range of institutions and situate these in the context of the major social policy issue of supporting a highly disadvantaged group of jobseekers into employment.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***The association between playgroup participation, learning competence and social-emotional wellbeing for children aged 4-5 years in Australia***

**KIRSTEN HANCOCK, DAVID LAWRENCE, FRANCIS MITROU, DAVID ZARB, DONNA BERTHELSEN, JAN NICHOLSON, STEPHEN ZUBRICK**

*Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Queensland University of Technology, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute; Parenting Research Centre and University of Western Australia*

Playgroups are regular gatherings of parents and children aged less than 5 years. Over \$9 million

of annual funding is contributed towards playgroups, yet little is known about the extent to which playgroups achieve their objective of improving the wellbeing of children and families. This study uses data from Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children to examine the associations between playgroup participation and the outcomes for children aged 4 to 5 years. Controlling for a range of socio-economic characteristics, playgroup participation across the ages of 0-3 years was used to predict learning competence and social-emotional functioning at age 4-5 years. For learning competence, children from disadvantaged families scored 3-4% higher if they attended playgroup when they were aged 0-1 and 2-3 years compared to children from disadvantaged families who did not attend playgroup. For social-emotional functioning, girls from disadvantaged families who attended playgroup when they were aged 0-1 and 2-3 years scored nearly 5% higher than those who did not attend. Demographic characteristics also showed that disadvantaged families were the families least likely to access playgroups. This study provides evidence that continued participation in playgroups is associated with better outcomes for children from disadvantaged families.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

***Life around here: Exploring influences on labour market participation in families living in 3 Australian communities***

**KELLY HAND, MATTHEW GRAY, DARYL HIGGINS, SHAUN LOHOAR**

*Australian Institute of Family Studies and Australian National University*

The Life Around Here Study is a multi-method study that explores the lives of families living in three Australian communities identified as experiencing high levels of joblessness, exploring how families interact with their community and the impact of where they live on workforce participation. These communities are located in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.



The Study involved qualitative interviews with adult family members and a brief survey about each participating household. Interviews were undertaken with families in several streets located within each of these communities to explore their experience of living within their neighbourhood and their perceptions of the relationship between where they live on their ability to participate in social and economic life. Interviews were undertaken with 72 individuals in 59 households from February to April 2010.

This paper provides an overview of these interviews and the key factors identified by participants about the ways in which where they live impacts on their participation in employment and/or education and training. In particular, the paper reflects on participants' perceptions of the types of supports that best assist families within their communities to fully engage in social and economic life.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, JOHN GOODSSELL 119**

***'No Fault' National Injury Insurance:  
Can we afford it?***

**ROSAMUND HARRINGTON**

*University of Queensland*

The productivity commission of Australia has recommended the creation of a National Injury Insurance Scheme which would include a federation of state based motor accident (MA) injury and workers compensation schemes, and provide 'no fault' coverage for the 'catastrophically injured'. Such a scheme would require significant legislative reform in states still retaining 'at fault' Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Schemes, with some critics questioning the community affordability of a 'no fault' model. This paper will outline findings of a three year PhD research project aimed at investigating the influence of MA Insurance scheme design on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) service system capacity and quality of life after severe TBI. Results of a series of individual case studies, and focus group discussions involving TBI service providers in the 'no fault' state of Victoria, and the 'at fault' CTP state of Queensland, as well as document analysis focusing on mechanisms for

cost shifting in MA Insurance Scheme design, will be examined. Recognition of cost shifting within existing scheme design will help to inform debates surrounding the costs of the proposed legislative reform, with a caution for policy makers that CTP premiums in themselves are not a true indicator of community affordability in scheme design.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Everyday exclusion and racialised social identities among Sudanese refugee-background Australians: Challenges for policy and education***

**ANIKO HATOSS**

*University of New South Wales*

This paper discusses everyday exclusion as experienced by Sudanese-background Australians. The study surveyed 85 families who settled in regional Queensland and collected data on their education, employment, language and literacy and identity. The survey was followed up by in-depth interviews about issues of settlement. A key finding is that a lack of English language skills is a major obstacle to the successful integration, especially for women. On the other hand, African languages play a key role in building social capital. The second key finding is the complex dynamics of their identity construction. Respondents talked about their experiences of everyday racism in the streets and in the job market. While Sudanese Australians have shown their resilience in response to acts of exclusion, they remain sensitive to the questions of belonging and identity. Most respondents demonstrate a strong ethnic self-concept and a desire to obtain an Australian identity. However, these identity positionings are in sharp contrast with the identities assigned to them by outsiders. Racial identity has become the prominent identity marker as assigned to them by other Australians. These settlement experiences pose policy challenges in developing inclusive communities in Australia. The project was funded by the ARC Discovery scheme.

# Abstracts by author

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB7**

***Reforming Irish Housing Benefits: What can we learn from France, Germany and the United Kingdom***

**PHILIP HAYES**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Since the 1970's there has been a shift from supply side 'bricks and mortar subsidies' towards demand led housing allowances in advanced welfare states. By the beginning of the 1990s housing allowances themselves came under review. Calls for reform were driven by increases in government expenditure and recipient numbers. Recipients of housing allowances in Ireland have also faced disincentives to enter employment particularly when moving from part time employment to full time employment. This paper examines what impact the introduction of the housing allowance policies of France, Germany and the United Kingdom have in Ireland and considers what can be learned from these different housing allowance schemes. Using microsimulation techniques each of the housing allowance policies of these countries is substituted into the Irish Tax Benefit system and analysed in turn. The paper analyses the effects that the introduction of these policies has on redistribution and work incentives in Ireland with an emphasis on reforming housing allowance in Ireland.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB1**

***Reshaping research about young people who do not complete school***

**DEB HAYES**

*The University of Sydney*

In sociology and youth studies, there has been a productive tension between researchers drawing upon sub-cultural theory who produce 'normal' biographies that provide insights into the collective experiences of subcultures and groups, and others who show how some individuals resist these 'normal' biographies and fashion 'choice' biographies through self-consciously reflexive

individualized projects marked by de-traditionalisation and the rejection of proscribed roles and futures. Yet others, argue that even the fragmented and multiple identities (produced in choice biographies) retain the deterministic elements of essentialism (characteristic of normal biographies), and prefer to displace concerns with identity by maintaining a focus on context, meaning and practice. These different ways of thinking about the complex and diverse lives of young people suggest different ways of understanding why some disengage from formal learning (while at school or by leaving early). Prior research allows us to predict the backgrounds and experiences of young people most likely to disengage, and to expect that they will experience reduced living standards and well-being. However, we know little about the ways in which these young people continue to engage in informal learning, and how this might be leveraged to support their re-engagement in formal learning. This type of project requires a deconstruction of marginalised identities, an acknowledgement of the highly contextualised and personalised nature of informal learning, and a re-evaluation of places and processes of learning. This paper lays the foundation for this project and provides the rationalisation for related research questions and processes.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, JOHN GOODSELL 119**

***Assessing the relative merits of disability service governance models***

**PAUL HENMAN, MICHELE FOSTER, ROS HARRINGTON**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Disability services in Australia is characterised as complex, fragmented and uncoordinated mixed economy of care with a high level of unmet need. A diverse range of governance approaches exist in financing and delivering services to people with long term care and support needs. In the context of the COAG development of a National Disability Strategy, a National Disability Insurance Scheme has been proposed. The governance of finance and service delivery will be a critical component in making such a Scheme operate effectively and

efficiently. Drawing on a three year ARC Linkage project examining the financing and management of long-term care and support needs of adults with acquired disability, this paper outlines various governance models currently in existence – from the wheel and spoke model to the integrated whole person model. It uses actual case studies from the research project to critically analyse the relative strengths and weaknesses of each model. The analysis provides important lessons and poses pertinent questions that should be taken into account in future policy and service development for people with disabilities.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***The complexity of vulnerable families: Characterising the diversity and homogeneity of Australian families who have received early intervention in child protection***

**FIONA HILFERTY, KILLIAN MULLAN, CHRISTINE EASTMAN, ILAN KATZ**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

During the last decade, vulnerable families have become the focus of increasing policy interest within the context of early intervention in child protection services. While the success of such policy intervention rests on a good understanding of these families and their issues, little is known about them within the Australian context. This paper draws on the findings of a comprehensive evaluation of Brighter Futures, a state-based child abuse prevention program, to profile participant families. The evaluation was carried out between 2006 and 2010 and used a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods including a longitudinal study of families. Brighter Futures represented a significant policy shift towards universal and preventive support for families not requiring statutory intervention. The program was originally designed for families who had minimal contact with the child protection system and who had newly developed but escalating problems. Drawing on multiple sources of data collected for the evaluation, this article examines the characteristics of participant children and their

families. Although Brighter Futures was designed to be an early intervention program, data analysis revealed that the majority of families showed evidence of entrenched, serious and inter-related problems. Our aim in profiling participant families is not to stereotype them - indeed the persistence of diversity as a characteristic is clear – but rather to ensure that the complex problems faced by these families is empirically detailed. This analysis will help to inform future practice and policy development within the area of early intervention.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Cultural diversity or cultural exclusion? Uneven multiculturalism in Sydney's schools***

**CHRISTINA HO**

*University of Technology, Sydney*

This paper provides a portrait of the cultural polarisation occurring within Sydney's schools. It uses government data on schools' cultural diversity levels, recently published on the My School 2.0 website, to show a yawning gap between public and private secondary schools. Some elite independent schools operate as virtually monocultural Anglo-Australian enclaves, while at the other end of the spectrum, many public schools in Western Sydney have been largely abandoned by Anglo-Australians, and are comprised almost entirely of students from migrant backgrounds. This polarisation undermines public policy goals for the education system to instill in all students an understanding of and respect for cultural difference. It also challenges some of the recent Australian scholarship on 'everyday multiculturalism', which argues that cross-cultural exchange is an everyday reality in social spaces such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces. The paper examines some of the causes of this polarisation, including neo-liberal Howard-era education policy, and suggests some possible ways forward.

# Abstracts by author

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB4**

***Measuring social exclusion: Findings from a new approach to measure the extent and persistence of social exclusion in Australia***

**MICHAEL HORN**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

The Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research collaborated in 2009 to measure the extent of social exclusion in Australia. The approach recognises that socio-economic disadvantage is by its nature multidimensional and its extent, causes and consequences cannot be understood merely by looking at the cash incomes of individuals or households.

We have utilised the national HILDA Survey as the best source of data for our measure, comprising 7 domains drawn from the capabilities framework articulated by Amartya Sen. For each domain, key components of disadvantage were selected to assemble the basket of indicators.

For the first time, Australia has a benchmark measure of the level of exclusion experienced by individuals. This development fills an important gap in our understandings of social exclusion, highlighted by the Social Inclusion Board's report - 'Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is faring 2010', providing a new tool to monitor progress in advancing social inclusion.

The paper will present the latest findings from the Social Exclusion Monitor and indicate which population groups are most at risk. Trends over the past decade will be presented and policy implications provided from what has been learnt so far.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

***Line of sight: Integrating assistance for disadvantaged job seekers***

**MICHAEL HORN**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

The Gillard Government has embarked on a new wave of welfare reform stressing the 'dignity of

work'. There is widespread support for policies to address the stubborn levels of underutilisation in Australia comprising over 1.5 million people. With an ageing population and inevitable declining participation rate, there is a solid argument in support of effective policy reform.

This paper argues that the proposed changes are too narrowly framed and ignore the evidence pointing to a comprehensive overhaul of welfare to work policies. Despite the changes introduced in 2009, assistance to highly disadvantaged job seekers remains poor. The current approach, even with refinements, will fail to deliver sustainable, decent jobs for this group.

A more coherent set of policy reforms is proposed to address both demand and supply side weaknesses of the labour market, resulting in higher levels of workforce participation and hence long term cost savings to the government and community. This includes a new offer to highly disadvantaged job seekers with a clear line of sight to real jobs. But equally important are measures to support job opportunities through workplace diversity and social procurement strategies, and to make work pay through taxation reform, income averaging and concession moratoriums.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Addressing multiple disadvantage through education***

**PETER HOWARD, TIM MARCHANT**

*ACU and Mission Australia*

Many Australians may at some point face an obstacle or setback which hinders their ability to learn, work, engage and have a voice. For most this is at worst a short term and temporary state of affairs. However, there are too many Australians whose disadvantage is entrenched, most likely the result of facing multiple disadvantage.

At issue are the means to tackle multiple disadvantage. This presentation reports on an ARC research project into an educational initiative which attempts to bring those who are on the

margins back into the mainstream. This initiative, the Catalyst-Clemente program, brings together community agencies and universities in partnership to provide education to some of the most marginalised Australians in appropriate community settings utilising available social structures. Across time this has come to be referred to as an example of community embedded socially supported higher education.

The presentation profiles the Catalyst-Clemente student body, in particular the multiple disadvantages faced. It then outlines the emerging research evidence on the benefits of the program, focussing on the educational benefits in reducing isolation, and then on benefits concerning students' personal wellbeing and social connectedness. Finally, the policy implications of the research for government, universities and community agencies are discussed.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB4**

***The exclusionary nature of networks: Consequences for social exclusion and social capital***

**JUSTIN IU, NIKKI STEPHENSON**

*The Australian National University*

Tackling social exclusion remains an important social policy challenge in Australia. A significant body of literature demonstrates the instrumental benefits available to individuals who are able to draw positively from their social networks. However, much less work has been done to illustrate how the exclusionary nature of social networks can perpetuate cycles of social exclusion and disadvantage. Research tying these concepts together is critical if their on-going utility to policy is to be maintained, particularly as social capital, in both theory and practice, can simultaneously exclude non-members of networks from access to resources, and prevent members from accessing outside resources or developing extra-community ties. In this paper we elaborate on the negative or 'dark side' of social capital and argue that this concept leads to a better understanding of social exclusion. Whilst exclusion is multidimensional, we contend that the

lack of economic capital is the most central determinant of both social exclusion and social capital. Importantly, we focus on the network structure of social capital and acknowledge that the ability to harness the power of networks relies on both personal characteristics of the individual and on features of social structure. We conclude by identifying policy implications and trends for Australia.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB3**

***Grandmother care and family power in Australia***

**BRIDGET JENKINS**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Australian grandparents provide significant amounts of care to their grandchildren. In 2008, grandparents provided informal child care to some 660,000 Australian children, far outstripping other forms of care like long day care and before and after school care (ABS, 2009). In addition, there are at least 14,000 grandparent-headed families in Australia (ABS, 2008). Despite the importance of grandparents as both child care providers and kinship carers in Australia and internationally, little is known about the factors, including the family dynamics, that lead to grandmother care provision.

Drawing from interviews with 12 caregiving Australian grandmothers conducted as part of the author's PhD research, this paper will examine how families make decisions regarding care for grandchildren. The research engages with the extensive feminist literature on care to examine the emotionality of care, the gendered and familial nature of carework, and the role of the state in determining and shaping patterns of carework. I argue that grandmothers both experience and wield differing degrees of power in mediating issues of choice and constraint around their care commitments. In the conclusion of this paper it is argued the family power literature needs to incorporate the complexities and contradictions associated with carework.

# Abstracts by author

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***What do barriers to participation in community activities tell us about social exclusion?***

**VICTORIA JOHNSON, GRAHAM CURRIE, JANET STANLEY**

*Monash University*

This paper presents findings of an exploration of the complex interrelationships between transport, community participation and social exclusion using a case study of participation in sports, hobbies and arts and cultural activities.

Investigation of participation in the selected community activities was conducted in two parts. First, data from the Victorian Activity and Travel Survey (VATS) (Department of Transport, 2001) and the Investigating transport disadvantage, social exclusion and wellbeing in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria (TDSE) project (Currie et al., 2009) were investigated to identify factors that have a significant association with participation or non-participation in these activities. Second, data from 50 in-depth interviews, conducted by the authors, illustrates these findings and describes the ways transport influences participation. These stories also reveal the importance of participation in community activity in people's lives; in particular for those who are not working.

Using the Burchardt et al (2002) framework of social exclusion as its starting point, this paper argues participation in community activities has an important influence on social inclusion and as such, transport related participation barriers also represent barriers to inclusion.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Welfare payment quarantining: Why a punitive approach won't solve complex social issues in the long-term***

**KIMBERLEY KAMMERMANN**

*Australian Council of Social Service*

Welfare payment quarantining is the foundation of the Australian federal government's welfare

reform and the opposition has in essence lent its support to a 'big stick' approach by announcing its own punitive welfare policy platform. This paper analyses income distribution and social inequalities through the lens of income management, in the context of the deepening conservative climate.

This paper questions whether income management can effectively achieve its aims; what the long-term impacts of deficit-based policy and programs are; and argues that income management should be a voluntary rest stop on the path to independent financial management, rather than a destination in itself.

In analyzing this issue, the paper draws on federal government and opposition policy, independent evaluation of income management programs operating in Australia, and national and international research. The paper asserts that a holistic, strengths based approach to assisting vulnerable people towards sustainable financial independence, and addressing systemic issues, is a far better strategic approach to breaking intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and will produce more long term benefits for income support recipients than the use of current punitive approaches.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB2**

***Re-humanising social policy***

**ILAN KATZ**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

The two most important influences on the theorising operationalisation of policy and practice over the past decade have been Managerialism and Evidence Based Practice. Both of these developments have had the effect of undermining and under-theorising the role of emotions and human relationships which had previously underpinned the way policies and services were developed and delivered. Indeed the rationalist approach to policy and practice underpinning these models has actively undermined the subjective judgments and collective wisdom of policy makers, practitioners and citizens.

However empirical evidence is now emerging that emotions and relationships are fundamental aspects of policy and practice development in the human services. Inter agency collaboration and 'joined up' government, for example – can only work in a context which allows relationships to develop, no matter how much attention is paid to systems and structures.

This talk will describe why there has been an 'attack on relationships' and will then chart the re-emergence of relationships, and particularly the importance of trust, as perhaps the most important component of effective policy and interventions. The talk will examine the newly emerging empirical basis for a reevaluation of the role of emotions and relationships in social policy.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***'Mixed Race' across time and place***

**ILAN KATZ**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

This talk will explore the reasons why, in the UK and Australia, policy and academic discourse around the concept of 'mixed race' has radically diverged.

'Mixed Race' or 'mixed heritage' people have become a significant minority group in the UK and are now officially recognised in the UK census. However the racial mixing has been a contentious area of social policy over that time. In the 1980s and early 1990s debates raged in social policy circles about whether 'mixed race' was a viable separate identity, or was a way of denying children their black identity and heritage.

In Australia on the other hand, 'race' and 'racial mixing' have been largely ignored by social policy and academic discourse. The politics of race have been played out in two separate domains; immigration and Indigenous affairs. Neither of these has acknowledged the significance of mixed race. But what are the implications for the individuals concerned? How does government policy affect the lived experience of individuals and communities? The paper will draw on my own and other's research to attempt to draw out lessons about policy towards 'marginalised'

individuals and communities, and the implications for conceptualising such terms as 'race' and 'culture' within policy.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***On the margins of work: Some experiences of Australian baby boomers***

**HELEN KIMBERLEY, DINA BOWMAN**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

At a certain age it is more socially acceptable in Australia to describe oneself as 'retired' rather than unemployed, even if retirement is involuntary or premature. In 2009/10 the Brotherhood of St Laurence commissioned the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) to undertake an analysis of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Wave 8 survey (2008) the better to understand the characteristics of involuntary workforce non-participation and under-participation by baby boomers in Australia. Further to that analysis, we conducted a small qualitative research study to gain a richer understanding of the factors that shape involuntary workforce non-participation and under participation. Taking a narrative and life course approach, we explored the working lives of ten baby boomers unattached or marginally attached to the labour market, the prevailing social, economic and policy contexts over this period and the influence these had had in shaping their employment trajectories. Drawing on this research, this presentation will consider the nexus between education and work decisions and social and policy contexts; gender, work, identity and self-esteem; and the intersections of age discrimination and structural change.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB2**

***Don't be pushy: The voices of children, young people and parents in kinship care***

**MEREDITH KIRALY, CATHY HUMPHREYS**

*University of Melbourne*

Kinship care for children as a child protection response is increasing as the preferred care option across the English-speaking world.

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Research into kinship care is at an early stage, particularly in relation to understanding the views of children, young people and their parents. This paper will describe a component of a larger research project on the topic of family contact in kinship care, which was undertaken to inform emerging kinship care support services in the Australian state of Victoria. 21 children, young people and young adults who had childhood experience of kinship care, and 20 parents with children in kinship care, were involved in interviews and focus groups to discuss their experiences, views and advice for workers. The research participants had clear ideas about what mattered most in providing support to children and their families, including recognising the normality of diverse family forms. Issues in relation to participation of children and parents in the research process will be discussed, including ethics, recruitment, interview environments, constraints and processes, reciprocity, and limitations. The Alfred Felton Research Program focuses on research utilisation in policy and practice. The process and challenges of influencing policymakers and practitioners will also be described.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-13:30, CLB4**

***Bismarckian versus non-Bismarckian systems: Enforceability of the rights and duties rhetoric (Australia, France, UK)***

**SOPHIE KOPPE**

*Université Paul Cézanne Aix Marseille ( France)*

With the ever-increasing popularity of notions such as the activation of labour market policies, the rhetoric of rights and duties has more or less become a prerequisite in the strategy of policy-makers. The origins of this rhetoric can easily be traced back to countries where unemployment benefits are financed through taxation and directly linked to citizenship.

But what is striking is that this rhetoric was later used in countries whose benefit systems were primarily based on social insurance contributions, hence linked to one's status as a worker and not as a citizen.

This paper will focus on the enforceability of this rhetoric mainly in Australia, France and the United Kingdom but also in Denmark and in the Netherlands.

The degree of acceptability of this rhetoric will be analysed through the reactions of different actors, including the recipients themselves. The complex nature of that notion will also be revealed by comparing how rights and responsibilities are balanced in those countries. The third and last point of this paper will be the significance of the widespread use of this rhetoric: the extent to which it is representative of a convergence of the different systems and the waning of insurance-based systems.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Reforming welfare reform: Choice, voice and co-production***

**MAY LAM**

*Jobs Australia*

While a declared aim of public sector reform is to put the citizen at the centre of public sector programs and policies, in the welfare system this must be squared with compliance policies mandating attendance and participation. To justify such measures we need to be sure that the employment services system is as responsive and effective as it could be.

This paper looks at whether and how employment services systems in Australia and the UK have listened to, and learned from, the unemployed people they intend to serve, to inform service design and delivery . It considers what opportunities service users have to provide feedback, whether a competitive market for employment services results in a sovereign consumer who is able to freely exercise choice, and what kinds of choices are possible and meaningful for people in the context of mandated compliance requirements. The paper also explores what 'co-production' might look like in the context of employment services.



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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB8**

***Coping strategies in low income households in Denmark: Do lower levels of social assistance improve labour market inclusion?***

**JØRGEN ELM LARSEN, JOHN ANDERSEN, MAJA MÜLLER**

*University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University and University of Copenhagen*

During the last decade the social assistance system in Denmark has become less generous. The social assistance benefit level was reduced after 6 months, and “workfare” obligations have increased - e.g. in terms of participation in job training schemes and a requirement of a minimum amount of employment in the normal labour market.

The arguments in the policy discourse have been that lower benefits increase job seeking motivation. However, what are the consequences for the claimants living conditions of receiving these lower levels of benefits if they are not able to find an ordinary job for the required minimum period?

The paper presents the main results and policy implications of these findings from an ongoing research project about living conditions and how recipients of the lowest benefits coped with their life situation. In 2 national surveys and 2 series of qualitative interviews we followed receivers of social assistance over a 1 year period in order to observe changes in living conditions and coping strategies.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, JOHN GOODSSELL 119**

***Private health insurance, mental health and service use in Australia***

**LIANA LEACH, PETER BUTTERWORTH**

*Centre for Mental Health Research, The Australian National University*

Aim: To report on the private health insurance status of those with and without a mental health problem, and examine whether not having private

health insurance hinders access to psychological services.

Methodology: This is a descriptive study of nationally representative population-based data (HILDA Survey) collected in 2009 with participants aged 15-93 (n=13,301). Private health insurance status was categorised as ‘hospital cover only’, ‘extras cover only’, ‘both hospital and extras cover’. Mental health status was categorised as ‘have a mental health problem’ and ‘do not have a mental health problem’ using the Mental Health Index (MHI) of the Medical Outcomes Study Short Form.

Results: Those with a mental health problem were less likely to have private health insurance than those without a mental health problem. However, private health insurance status did not effect whether a mental health professional had been accessed in the past 12 months.

Conclusions: Not having private health insurance does not appear to affect access to mental health professionals. This may indicate the Better Access Program introduced by government in 2006 has improved access to psychological services for all Australians.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***The Impact of Quality of Early Learning Experience on Australian Children’s Developmental Outcomes***

**KYUNGHEE LEE**

*Michigan State University*

This study examines Australian children’s early learning experiences and explores the impacts of those experiences on Australian children’s developmental outcomes. This study uses the data set “Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)” collected from 2004 to 2008 (Waves I, II, and III). The LSAC data provides 10,090 children that were collected from babies born in 2003-2004 (Infant or Baby cohort) who had their outcomes measured up until 3-4 years old. This study investigates the effects of non-maternal child care from years 0 to 3 of a child’s life on outcomes

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measured when children were 4-5 years old. More specifically, the hypotheses are: (1) Children who receive high quality non-maternal child care from birth up to 3 years old will have better developmental outcomes when they are 4-5 years old than those who receive lower quality of non-maternal child care after controlling for other characteristics of non-maternal child care such as quantity, entry age, and types of care. (2) Positive effects of high quality early non-maternal child care will be more pronounced for those who receive more positive family support (quality home environment, nurturing parenting styles, and higher self-efficacy) than those with less positive family support.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, GAL 2**

## ***Disability employment: Is it the Treasury's silver bullet?***

**BRENDAN LONG**

*National Disability Services*

The paper would seek to extend analysis undertaken in OECD 2007 *Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers*, where the OECD examined the employment of people with disabilities in Australia, Luxemburg, Spain and the UK. The methodology of the OECD is to examine the wedge between population and employment growth which is seen as a key driver of the intergenerational fiscal problems of an ageing population.

The analysis seeks to quantify what proportion of this widening gap between population growth and employment growth could be bridged by an integration scenario where persons with disability gain employment to the extent that they state they wish to do so.

The OECD analysis was hampered by a lack of data for Australia and an OECD average applied to all 4 countries for the measurement of the desire to work proportion.

Now SDAC 2009 is available from the ABS. Accessing unpublished SDAC ABS data this analysis will adopt the methodology used by the OECD to determine the extent to which an integration scenario for people with disabilities in Australia will bridge the wedge between population and employment growth rates.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

## ***What counts as 'evidence' in Indigenous policy?***

**SARAH MADDISON**

*Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit*

There is a tension in the evidence-based policy paradigm as it concerns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly with regard to their standing as evidence providers. Aboriginal people in Australia have primarily been seen as a 'problem to be solved' and racialised views of Aboriginal competence have allowed for past policy, now recognised as harmful, to be justified as being 'for their own good'. Government failure to engage Aboriginal people in research and policy making perpetuates these concerns, and means that policy remains focused upon the symptoms rather than the causes of Aboriginal disadvantage. Governments tend to seek out Indigenous expertise, often through a process of public enquiry, whilst often simultaneously rejecting this evidence, suggesting that there are institutionalized obstacles to incorporating Indigenous knowledge as 'evidence' in policy work. Further, the ambiguous status of Indigenous knowledge in the policy process can fuel antagonism between bureaucrats and Aboriginal participants in policy research.

This paper considers the types of 'evidence' that have weight in policy making processes that concern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a specific focus on the evidence that Indigenous people themselves have provided through public processes specifically intended to inform government policy.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB8**

***The socio-economic status of migrant populations in regional and rural Australia and the impact for future population policy***

**SIMON MASSEY**

*Macquarie University*

The migrant population living in regional and rural Australia has been expanding over the past fifteen years partly due to the introduction of a range of state-specific and regional migration [SSRM] programs by the Australian Government. The programs were created in response to both the skill shortages in regional and rural Australia and environmental and social critiques of urban migration. This study uses data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing in Australia to compare five socio-economic variables, namely labour force status, income, educational attainment and occupational status, between the migrant and Australian-born populations. The results reveal that the migrant population in regional and rural Australia now records similar values for the labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, median individual weekly income, and proportions of high skill level occupations as the Australian-born population. The most notable difference is that migrants have a substantially higher level of education, particularly university education. Recently arrived migrants are shown to be significantly more educated, highly skilled and higher paid than their longer-standing counterparts. The implications for future population policy are discussed; a renewed focus on regional and rural Australia could provide a sustainable long-term population option.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB8**

***Domestic violence entitlements: Safe at home and at work***

**LUDO MCFERRAN**

*Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse*

We know that most women who have experienced domestic violence with their current partner are in paid employment, and as many as 10% of the work force have experienced domestic violence within the past twelve months.

For many women, the lasting consequences of domestic violence are being driven into the insecurity of poverty. They will have a more disrupted work history, are on lower personal incomes, have had to change jobs more often and are employed at higher levels in casual and part time work than women with no experience of domestic violence.

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse (ADFVC) initiated a partnership with a number of trade unions which led to the negotiation of domestic violence clauses in agreements and awards. These provide paid leave for council employees and public servants to attend court for matters relating to family violence and protection from being sacked. These benefits will progressively flow onto other workers throughout Australia, and represent international best practice.

This paper explores how the partnership between the Clearinghouse and the unions was established, the key issues that need to be considered in providing the appropriate domestic violence support in the workplace, and the future challenges.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, GAL 2**

***Recovery Oriented practice: A case study***

**SHARYN MCGEE**

*University of Western Sydney*

Recovery is the most recent buzz word in the mental health field, a field replete with buzz words over the decades. But what does recovery mean for practice within mental health services and more specifically for non-government organisations working in the mental health field? This presentation will explore a specific example of recovery-oriented practice for young people with a mental health problem - the Young People's Program, Richmond Fellowship of NSW. In 2008, the Richmond Fellowship of NSW and the University of Western Sydney developed a collaborative research project that was focused on identifying the strengths and limitations of its accommodation and social program for young people (18-35) with a dual diagnosis (mental illness and substance abuse). The methodology

# Abstracts by author

was qualitative and included a retrospective analysis of case-files & internal documents, in-depth interviews with clients (past & present) and focus groups with key stakeholders. The data was analysed thematically and using Nvivo qualitative software program. The analysis indicates both the strengths and limitations of the program and has implications for recovery oriented practice.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Small area measures of child social exclusion in Australia: assessing findings from a composite index***

**JUSTINE MCNAMARA, RIYANA MIRANTI, ANNIE ABELLO, ROBERT TANTON**

*NATSEM and University of Canberra*

This paper describes the development of a regional index of social exclusion for children in Australia, covering five dimensions of disadvantage: socio-economic, connectedness, education, housing and health services. Using data from the 2006 Australian Census of Population and Housing, as well as data on regional differences in educational outcomes, we produce an aggregate measure of social exclusion risk for children aged 5-15 years at a small area level. We construct the index by combining variables within domains using both Principal Components Analysis and equal weighting methods, and then combine all domains together to come up with a single composite measure. We then analyse the regional distribution of the risk of child social exclusion and examine differences between those small areas with the highest and lowest levels of risk. We also compare our results with other small area measures of disadvantage, assessing the extent to which our multidimensional measure of child disadvantage differs from other area-level disadvantage measures such as the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) and simulated small area child poverty rates. We conclude with a discussion of the implications of the findings for policy makers and service planners, and an outline of our future research directions.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB3**

***Paid Home Care workers in NSW: their contents and discontents***

**JANE MEARS**

*University of Western Sydney*

There is a plethora of good research on the contents and discontents of informal caring, from the perspective of informal carers. However, we know little about the contents and discontents of paid care work from the perspective of paid care workers. This paper will fill this gap presenting research findings on this issue. The data utilised is drawn from home care workers accounts collected through a survey of care workers, (N=515); interviews with care workers, care managers, care recipients and families (N=46) and observation studies (N=5). Drawing from this rich database, this paper focuses on the factors that these paid care workers reported as contributing to contentment and satisfaction with the work and the factors singled out as contributing to discontent and dissatisfaction. It was found that the contents were intrinsic to care work, features such as forming relationships and making a difference to someone's life, while the discontents related to structural features of the work, such as the very poor pay and the low status of the work. The paper concludes with some recommendations as to how the working conditions of paid care could be improved to minimise these discontents.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, JOHN GOODSELL 119**

***Attempting to meaningfully engage people with different types of disabilities in a national consultation process: Lessons from the review of the National Standards for Disability Services***

**ARIELLA MELTZER, KRISTY MUIR**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

The National Standards for Disability Services represent core qualities expected from Australian disability services. Yet, these Standards have remained unchanged since their inception in 1993 and are currently under review. As part of the

review process, a widespread public consultation was undertaken in 2010 that aimed to include all key stakeholders, including people with a disability. Previous research shows that people with a disability are at particular risk of being excluded or not meaningfully included in these consultation processes.

The University of New South Wales was commissioned to design, develop and analyse consultation data that included people with different types of disabilities along with other stakeholders in different jurisdictions around Australia. This paper examines the challenges involved in developing an inclusive consultation process, describes the consultation methods used to allow people with a disability, families/carers, service providers and the disability sector to participate in conceptually comparable ways and identifies and discusses the benefits and limitations of the consultation process undertaken with over 1,200 people, of which 39% identified as having a disability. The findings can be used to inform future public consultation processes and research that aims to meaningfully engage with people with different types of disabilities alongside other stakeholders.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Paternalism in Australian and UK welfare policies***

**KEMRAN MESTAN**

*Swinburne University*

This paper will argue that welfare policies aimed at employment activation in Australia and the UK since the mid 90s have significant paternalistic characteristics. Specifically, the policies genuinely aim to improve people's well-being and apply some compulsive means to advance this objective. This conclusion has been deduced from analysis of documents and interviews with policy makers, as well as a comparison between the Australian and UK cases. Subsequently to establishing the presence of paternalistic characteristics of welfare policies, some moral implications of this will be explicated, particularly relating to citizenship and fairness.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB5**

***Employment opportunities for low skilled men in a sex segregated Australian labour market, 1996-2006***

**MEGAN MOSKOS**

*Flinders University*

An often unremarked feature of Australia's current economic and employment growth is the declining labour force participation of prime age men, particularly amongst those with low levels of formal education. Women's employment opportunities are often explained by occupational sex segregation. However, the withdrawal of men from the labour market and the growth of sectors and jobs in areas dominated by women, indicates that it may well be relevant for developing new understandings of low skilled men's labour market situation. Using 1996 and 2006 Australian Census data this research sought to understand how occupational sex segregation shapes low skilled men's employment opportunities. It found that occupations experiencing large employment growth are also occupations that are female dominated; and that men are not increasing their share of employment within these occupations. The concept of occupational sex segregation and men's limited inroads into female dominated jobs is therefore important in understanding why men are withdrawing from the labour market. The findings suggest that strategies aimed at re-engaging men who have been displaced in the new economy need to focus on both increasing men's willingness to enter gender atypical jobs and encouraging employers to reconsider the gendered nature of work.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Making the most of evaluation: A provider perspective on the outcomes of Brighter Futures***

**KILLIAN MULLAN, ANDREW ANDERSON**

*Social Policy Research Centre and Benevolent Society*

This paper describes an innovative arrangement between The Benevolent Society, Community

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Services, and the evaluator of the early intervention program Brighter Futures. The Benevolent Society is a provider of Brighter Futures and offers a range of services to families with young children, many of whom are known in the child protection system in New South Wales. The paper highlights how The Benevolent Society was able to use evaluation results specific to their organisation to directly influence the future development of its program. The paper argues that large scale program evaluations should be designed so that organisations delivering the program have ongoing access to their own results, as this would enhance the usefulness of the evaluation for these organisations. It also touches upon wider questions concerning the evaluation of large-scale programs that are delivered by a diverse range of providers. This variation potentially limits the usefulness of overall program effects as indicators of outcomes for individual providers. This may obscure examples of good practice, as well as hinder an important function of evaluation in providing information that can be used to support providers and improve services. Such issues should be addressed when designing large-scale evaluations of programs with diverse providers.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB1**

***A study of Indigenous children's developmental outcomes: The impact of child, family and socio-economic characteristics***

**KILLIAN MULLAN, GERRY REDMOND**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Closing the gap in early child development between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children is a core aim of Federal, State and Territory Governments. Addressing this aim raises a complex set of issues and yet, all too often, Indigenous people and families are simply regarded as a single unitary group. This is unfortunate, as efforts to close the gap stand a much better chance of success if they are based on a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between disadvantage and child development within Indigenous communities. This

paper offers a small step towards a better understanding of the relationship between child development outcomes and characteristics associated with the child, family, the broader environment and socio-economic conditions. Using data from the first wave of the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous we present a detailed picture of the characteristics of Indigenous children, their primary carers, their environment, and aspects of the socio-economic conditions within which they develop. Focusing on Indigenous children 3-6 years old, we look at associations between these characteristics and outcomes relating to children's readiness to learn, their early language development, and their socio-emotional development. Our results show a complex set of relationships and we discuss implications for policy development and future research.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB4**

***'My life's been a total disaster but I feel privileged': Identity and access to personal records***

**SUELLEN MURRAY**

*RMIT University*

Most of us taken for granted knowledge of our immediate family such as our parents and siblings. For people who grew up in orphanages, Homes and other forms of 'care', this and other information central to identity formation, may be unknown. They may also have spent decades not knowing why they had experienced the childhood in care that they did.

Brian – whose quote forms the title of this paper - felt privileged because, aged in his fifties, he was able to find out about his mother, meet his siblings who he had never known, and begin to make some sense of his childhood. Others, however, have been less successful in their search for meaningful information about themselves. Drawing on in-depth interviews with members of the Stolen Generations and Forgotten Australians, this paper explores the ways in which personal records are resources for identity. It also identifies the ways that accessing records can be problematic, in terms of what the records contain, how it is presented and what is

missing, and the impact that this then has on identity. The paper concludes by highlighting policy and practice implications of these findings.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Navigating VET: The experience of 'at risk' youth***

**GEORGE MYCONOS**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Victoria's response to youth disengagement has included the creation of second senior-secondary certificate. The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) was designed for students unsuited to the conventional academic pathway. Though enrolments in the VCAL are high, it does not always cater for the needs of 'at risk' youth. For this reason, some non-school providers are now delivering Community VCAL (CVCAL) in settings that do not resemble mainstream schools.

This presentation focuses on a CVCAL program in Frankston, and draws on over sixty interviews with students; most of whom had been expelled or 'exited' from secondary school. It explores problems at the interface of the three educational settings that constitute Community and mainstream VCAL: classroom tuition; industry specific training (VET); and 'work placement'.

The most important of these problems is VET's failure to cater for the needs of 'at risk' youth whose grip on education is still tenuous. This failure stems from the lack of training and support mechanisms in the VET system for those with complex needs, and particularly for young people with low literacy and/or with experience of hardship. The paper is relevant to those concerned with youth disengagement, flexible learning options, skills shortages, and the VET system.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***The role of income and wealth in the living standards of older Australians***

**YUVISTHI NAIDOO**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

The ageing of the Australian population is predicted to place enormous pressure on the nature and delivery of health, aged care, age-related pensions, and the superannuation system, and also affect the living standards of older Australians. Within the economics literature, the standard of living is predominantly assessed using income as a defining indicator and a benchmark to determine poverty status. More recent approaches have also incorporated consumption measures and financial hardship indicators. This paper discusses and illustrates some of the key conceptual and methodological limitations of the economic approach that are particularly pertinent to a study of older people by drawing on income and wealth data from Wave 6 of the HILDA survey. In this paper I argue that a comprehensive measure of the standard of living of older people needs to include both economic and non-economic dimensions. I draw on conceptual frameworks from sociological traditions that can potentially enrich our understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of the living standards of older people.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***Evaluation of Income Management trials in Western Australia***

**AGNIESZKA NELSON (NEE SZUKALSKA)**

*FaHCSIA*

Income management is a key part of the Australian Government's commitment to protecting and providing for children and vulnerable people. It works by directing a proportion of certain income support and family assistance payments to ensure that they are spent on priority items such as food, housing, clothing and utilities. Income managed funds cannot be spent on alcohol, tobacco, pornographic material, and gambling products.

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Two measures —Child Protection Income Management and Voluntary Income Management—have operated in the Kimberly and metropolitan Perth regions since 2008. An independent evaluation of Income Management in Western Australia was undertaken by ORIMA Research, involving face-to-face interviews with participants, focus group discussions with community leaders in the Kimberley region and online surveys of staff from Centrelink, the Western Australia Department for Child Protection and other key stakeholders.

This presentation will describe the methods used by the evaluators and outline some of the evaluation findings and key recommendations. The evaluation results shows, that overall, IM is helping to improve the lives of families in Western Australia.

The evaluation report was publically released in October 2010 and can be found at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB3**

***Brokering the digital divide in the Northern Rivers: Non-profit organisations, disadvantaged consumers and the National Broadband Network***

**DANIELLE NOTARA**

*Spiral Research and Consulting*

This paper considers the role of non-profit organisations in regional Australia as intermediaries in the consumer chain and is based on the findings of the research report “Yet Another Barrier”. The report looked at the realities and challenges disadvantaged consumers face in accessing essential technology; and the issues of access, affordability and accessibility under a National Broadband Network.

Twenty community organisations were interviewed across the Northern Rivers Region of NSW. What evolved is a unique, on the ground account, of how regional non-profit organisations and their clients will fare in the NBN era and the digitally enabled society.

The findings provide insight on how policy and the experiences of disadvantaged and vulnerable consumers intersect; and reveal that Non-Profit Organisations are finding themselves brokers of information and communication technology. The report makes policy recommendations to support the non-profit sector in effectively brokering the digital divide for disadvantaged and vulnerable consumers.

This project was funded by the Australian Communication Consumer Action Network’s Grants Scheme. ACCAN are the peak consumer representation body in communications and are supported by funding from the Commonwealth Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***Twenty-first century meals delivery services in an international context: Flexibility and reform in the mixed economy of welfare***

**MELANIE OPPENHEIMER, JENI WARBURTON**

*University of New England and La Trobe University*

For over sixty years in Australia, Meals on Wheels has played a crucial role in delivering services to the elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. However, today Meals on Wheels faces a number of challenges including its reliance on traditional volunteer models of service delivery. These challenges are not Australia-specific, and reflect the global phenomenon of an ageing population in the western world, and the impact this is having on community care policies and practices. This paper examines the results of recent research undertaken in the UK and Canada on a range of models of meals delivery services. Part of an ARC Linkage project and in partnership with Meals on Wheels Australia, the paper will focus on some new and emerging models of service delivery as well reappraise the more traditional models within the mixed economy of welfare. By identifying new and effective ways to enhance capacity to continue to provide these essential services, the research results will,



hopefully, assist Meals on Wheels adapt to the challenges of volunteer service provision, at the same time remaining a sustainable and viable provider into the future.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB3**

***Markets, managed competition and an ethics of care: Three intersecting themes in the 2011 Productivity Commission Draft Report on care of Older Australians***

**ELIZABETH OZANNE**

*The University of Melbourne*

This paper will take a critical discourse analysis in identifying three themes in the Productivity Commission's recently released Draft Report into Care of Older Australians (Jan 2011). The dominant metaphor underlying the report argues for increasing marketization of aged and community care policy and programs in Australia, decreasing regulation, and opening up the arena of aged care to increasing market competition to push down prices and increase choice. The existing public sector dominated system appears to be characterized as managed competition with a more regulated roll-out of aged care places based on government planning models and targeted service quotas. This system is seen to be somewhat rigid and failing to respond to existing demands. A third less dominant discourse is what might be termed a Familial or Relational Ethics of Care which is articulated by some of the major caregiving interest groups who have responded to the Productivity Commission's call for submissions. These groups recognize the interdependence and embeddedness of both formal and informal care systems and the relational dynamics, beyond markets, that need to be sustained if any future system is to be viable. This paper will explore how these three perspectives are elaborated in the Draft Report and critically review the recommendations in the light of each.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-13:30, CLB2**

***Ageing, the family and changing patterns of risk across the life course***

**ELIZABETH OZANNE**

*The University of Melbourne*

This paper will explore the impact of population ageing on the family and examine the ways in which new patterns of risk are emerging across the life course which are having particular implications for later life. The second demographic transition in much of Europe, U.S. and Australia has been characterized by major shifts in the patterns and timing of sexual partnering, marriage, family formation, fertility, parenthood, divorce and re-partnering. Marriage and parenthood are increasingly being postponed with a rise in cohabitation, childlessness and divorce. New types of hybrid living situations are emerging in both first and reconstituted family constellations. This has particular implications for both work and family relationships across the life course and the provision of care in later life not only in terms of the shrinking numbers available to provide such care but in terms of the shifting cultural, psychological and moral commitment to do so. The paper will examine some of the major demographic and other drivers of these shifts and the ways in which families and public policy in different regions of the world are seeking to respond. This paper is one of several conceptual pieces prepared as part of a Melbourne University funded interdisciplinary research project on Risk, Social Inclusion and the Life Course.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***New technologies for an ageing society***

**ELIZABETH OZANNE**

*The University of Melbourne*

New technologies being developed in an ageing society can be conceptually divided into (a) safety enhancing technologies, (b) technologies for health and wellness and (c) social connectedness technologies. This paper will explore current efforts to accelerate the opportunity for development in each of these areas, identify

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barriers, stakeholder awareness, issues related to technical performance capability, consensus on value and sustainability, and identification of major gaps. Australia is somewhat behind other mature economies in the undertaking of a systematic roll-out and evaluation of new technology developments to facilitate active ageing. This paper will present a systematic review of Australian sources in the above three areas and discuss some of the key findings in terms of opportunities and barriers in relation to future development. Amongst the major opportunities identified are significant innovation in areas of telemedicine in relation to chronic disease management by professionals and patients and increasing interoperability and interconnectivity between different information systems. Amongst barriers both patient and professional reluctance to take up new technologies and the lack of sufficient local infrastructure and training are cited. Cost and scale issues in the roll out of new technologies are also continuing barriers. Suggestions to overcome some of these barriers in the Australian context will be explored in conclusion.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, JOHN GOODSSELL 119**

***Research on costs and effectiveness of carer support: Searching for a new paradigm?***

**GILLIAN PARKER**

*Social Policy Research Unit, University of York*

Since the first review of evidence on carers in 1985, international research in this area has grown substantially. It now covers many issues, including the prevalence of care giving; the impact and outcomes of caring; issues related to combining paid work and care; and the effectiveness of support and services for carers. A recent meta-review of English-language, national and international literature published since 2000 surveyed the current state of evidence about the effectiveness and costs of interventions specifically intended to provide support for those caring for adults (Parker, Arksey and Harden, 2010). Despite the amount of research reviewed, there was little evidence of impact on the carer outcomes measured and almost no evidence on costs.

This paper will briefly outline the process of the meta-review and summarise its findings. The main aims, however, will be to question how outcomes for carers are conceptualised and measured, and to argue the need for a new paradigm for intervention research in this area.

Parker, G., Arksey, H. and Harden, M. (2011) *Meta-review of International Evidence on Interventions to Support Carers*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York, UK.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB4**

***Friendship diversity amongst public housing tenants and private dwellers, and the implications for 'social mix' policy***

**ROGER PATULNY, ALAN MORRIS**

*Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW*

A consensus has emerged in housing policy that 'social mix' – or a high ratio of middle class homeowners to public housing tenants – is important for reducing neighbourhood disadvantage. It is argued that eroding excessively homogenous and 'bonded' social networks amongst public housing tenants exposes them to wider social networks, providing access to mainstream role models, crime reduction, and improved employment opportunities. However, the homogeneity and informal support available to public tenants in Australia has not been analysed using national data. We examine age, ethnic and educational homogeneity, and informal support, comparing public housing tenants and private dwellers using the 2006 General Social Survey. Counter to expectations, public housing tenants have more heterogeneous friendship groups by all measures, regardless of respondents' age, ethnicity, education or mental health status. In addition, friendship heterogeneity is associated with more informal support in public housing, but less support in private housing. This suggests that resistance to informal social integration flows from homogenous, self-supporting, 'bonded' homeowners and private renters towards public housing tenants rather than the reverse. At a minimum, it raises the question as to how 'socially

mixing' already heterogeneous public housing communities will encourage the development of more diverse and supposedly advantageous social networks?

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB6**

***Climate change, extreme weather and the health and wellbeing of people who are homeless***

**CATHERINE PENDREY, MARION CAREY, JANET STANLEY**

*Monash Sustainability Institute*

Extreme weather events can cause sudden and widespread devastation to health. An increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is amongst the most certain effects of climate change. Vulnerability to these events is determined by hazard exposure and coping capacity. It is expected that in Australia people who are homeless are amongst the most vulnerable, due to greater exposure and reduced coping capacity, affected by social exclusion, poor health and disadvantage. However, there is a lack of evidence about the effects of climate change on the health of this population. This paper reports on interviews with service providers in Victoria exploring the impacts of extreme heat, fire, flood and storms on the health and wellbeing of people who are homeless as well as the capacity of services to respond. Interviews were conducted in inner Melbourne and three rural sites with a high prevalence of homelessness and varied experiences of recent extreme weather events, including the recent Victorian floods. Key informants were purposively sampled from government and non-government organizations providing health, social support and disaster management services. Findings will inform disaster management policy for a highly vulnerable population in the face of the emergent threat of climate change.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB3**

***Improving mental health outcomes in vulnerable communities: An organisational approach***

**SUZANNE POPE**

*beyondblue*

One out of five people in Australia are affected by a mental illness every year. It is important to recognise that mental health and wellbeing are influenced by social, cultural and economic factors that together contribute to the mental health of people in the community. In recognition of the important role that social wellbeing has on mental health, the Australian Government's 4th National Mental Health Plan asserts that "social issues should be included in the development of mental health policies and services". beyondblue exists to increase the capacity of the whole community to prevent depression and respond effectively, and through the creation and implementation of its Social Inclusion Strategy provides a framework to address social inclusion as part of mental health. The beyondblue Social Inclusion Strategy aims to improve mental health in vulnerable communities by increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding about depression, anxiety and related disorders. This presentation will describe beyondblue's Social Inclusion Strategy and will highlight how this commitment has been translated into an Indigenous Health Framework as well as research, policy and programmatic activities for other vulnerable populations to ensure social inclusion and mental health for people in our community.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB2**

***Grandparents raising grandchildren: Impacts of lifecourse stage on the experiences and costs of care***

**CHRISTIANE PURCAL, DEBORAH BRENNAN, BETTINA CASS**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Grandparents raising grandchildren are increasingly on the policy and research agenda in

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Australia and internationally. Little is known, however, about the diverse circumstances and experiences of these grandparents. In the absence of research, assumptions about the homogeneity of grandparents are often embedded in policy prescriptions and popular discourse. This paper presents findings from a survey of 335 grandparents - the largest such survey conducted to date in Australasia. Using an age-sensitive theoretical framework of care, the paper examines the impact of lifecourse stage on grandparents' experiences of care and the associated costs. Many grandparents who assume primary care of their grandchildren are preparing for retirement or have already retired and have reached a stage when age-related health problems may arise. Some, however, are at earlier lifecourse stages. How do grandparents at diverse ages and life stages experience raising grandchildren? What are the costs (financial and otherwise) associated with providing such care, and how do these affect grandparents' choices about their future? The paper focuses on grandparents' employment, housing, health, finances (income and savings) and social relationships. The authors distinguish between younger, middle-aged and older grandparents in order to explore differences and similarities in the interconnections of age and care responsibilities.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, GAL 2**

## ***Effectiveness of individual funding for disability support***

**CHRISTIANE PURCAL, KAREN FISHER, CARMEL LARAGY**

*Social Policy Research Centre and RMIT University*

The international trend in disability support policy is expanding options for self-directed, individualised support and funding packages to improve effectiveness of disability support in providing positive outcomes for clients. In countries transitioning to individual funding policy, the approach remains controversial, due to fears about risks to the people and institutions involved. Some of the potential risks are lack of quality support, exploitation and inefficiency. This research analysed the experience of individual

funding support programs in Australia to address the question of how support providers, government agencies, people receiving support and their families managed the risks. We applied mixed methods of data collection from the people involved in policy implementation: government officials, disability service providers, their staff, people with disabilities, and their families. We found that the most effective programs managed risks well. For example, they ensured both high quality of care for clients and good working conditions for support staff. However, some people with disabilities were disadvantaged in choices about access to and use of individualised support, due to limited program capacity to provide information and management support. In addition, some disability support providers struggled to change their management systems to adjust to an individualised approach.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB5**

## ***Social policy in a complex world***

**MARGOT RAWSTHORNE, AMANDA HOWARD**

*University of Sydney and University of Newcastle*

This paper will critically explore current policy approaches to communities and place through the lens of active citizenship and participation. The paper will draw on practice based research in the inner suburbs of Sydney and the Central Coast of New South Wales. It will use three major policy frameworks (Commonwealth Government's Communities for Children; NSW Government's Community Builders; and Housing NSW's Community Renewal Program) as examples of the problematic nature of current policy approaches to addressing disadvantage/building social inclusion in communities and place. The paper will argue that current policy approaches to communities and place are having detrimental effects on organic community processes and, hence, sustainable social change. It will challenge policy makers to more critically engage with concepts such as 'community' and to think about the assumptions that underpin these programs. The paper will argue that Australian policy is poorly served by current research and evaluation,

calling for greater clarity and articulation of the theories of change that underpin policies that focus on communities.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB6**

***Australian health in a decarbonised world: Implications of contraction and convergence***

**PAUL READ, JANET STANLEY, DIANNE VELLA-BRODRICK**

*Monash Sustainability Institute and School of Psychology & Psychiatry, Monash University*

Climate change is a tangle of competing issues for social policy. Whatever path is taken - from business-as-usual to global mitigation - all roads inevitably lead to some serious impact on the most vulnerable. This paper highlights similar tensions that might emerge in a carbon-constrained world. Under the principle of 'Contraction and Convergence', or C&C, global greenhouse gas emissions contract to a much smaller budget split among nations based on population, such that every nation converges on the same emissions per person. As one of the world's most carbonised economies, Australia faces some policy challenges under C&C. On the plus side, our results show that higher levels of carbon emissions are consistently related to lower, not higher, life expectancies. Only 6.8 tonnes of carbon emissions per capita maximises life expectancy, constrained within a tight and stable band ranging only 4.5-8.1 tonnes from 1960 until 2007. On the negative, any deviation outside of this band occurs with a consistent loss of life expectancy. For Australia, this requires careful policy transition to uphold issues of equity and access to resources. This paper identifies an empirical target for contraction and convergence, placing Australia within that context, and identifying its unique policy needs.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB1**

***Mothers' aspirations for their Indigenous children***

**JUDITH ROBERTSON, ELEANOR BETTINI, CATHERINE TAMBURRO, ANNA DAVIES**

*FaHCSIA*

Indigenous Australians suffer disproportionate rates of disadvantage against all measures of socio-economic position. In recognition of this, the Australian Government has committed to working towards improving the lives of Indigenous Australians through the Closing the Gap strategy. Indigenous intergenerational disadvantage can lead to welfare dependence and social exclusion. The Australian Social Inclusion Board has identified that, along with dealing with structural barriers, disadvantaged people need to have their aspirations recognised and encouraged to alleviate intergenerational disadvantage.

This paper uses data from wave 1 of the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) to explore aspirations mothers have for their Indigenous children. In line with existing literature, our research found their main aspiration was for their children to receive a good education. Children's future good health and employment opportunities were also identified as key aspirations. Aspirations were also examined in the context of socio demographic variables as well as investigating how these aspirations fit with the desire for children to retain their cultural identity.

Working with Indigenous children, families and communities towards goals that have been identified by parents is an appropriate way to move towards social inclusion. Policies and services which reflect Indigenous people's aspirations can contribute to efforts aimed at breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage and closing the gap.

**Risk and Sensitivities**

There are few risks and sensitivities associated with this research. This paper identifies aspirations which policy and programs can aim to support to help raise strong and healthy

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Indigenous children. The risk of not including these important findings in the policy debate is to continue to exclude the aspirations of Indigenous people. Without this research there is a risk that aspirations are excluded from policy development.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***Zones of vulnerability: Space and complexity in an ageing society***

**HAMISH ROBERTSON, JOANNE TRAVAGLIA, NICK NICHOLAS**

*Ageing Research Centre*

Recent events illustrate the vulnerability of particular groups of people to catastrophic events. Most of these groups are able to function well in our complex social systems as they negotiate the activities of daily life. However, their safety can be destabilised by natural and manmade disasters. This is especially true for groups such as children, older people and people with disabilities – those groups at whom much social policy is directed.

Our social support system responses are limited by our ability to plan for and provide services to highly vulnerable groups. This was made abundantly clear in the Katrina disaster and remains a persistent feature of many similar events. Yet many natural and man-made disasters are either predictable, because of their associated risk factors including location, or they can be remodelled in computer-based environments as part of planning processes. This is limited by our ability to not only quantify but locate zones of vulnerability.

We explore how a geographic approach to vulnerability and using spatial methods to engage complexity in health and social care could address these problems. We will illustrate the relationships that exist between the natural and man-made environments and how vulnerability status is constituted through these interactions.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, GAL 2**

***Walking the talk: using disability inclusive research practice to influence policy***

**SALLY ROBINSON, KAREN FISHER, ROSEMARY KAYESS, KIM WALKER, ROBERT STRIKE, PATRICIA O'BRIEN, MARIE KNOX, ELIZABETH YOUNG**

*Griffith University, SPRC, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and University of Sydney*

Disability inclusive research uses methods where people with disabilities and their allies have control over research process and outcomes. The approach is expected in disability policy research in the UK but only adopted by some Australian researchers.

This session uses inclusive practice to stimulate understanding about disability policy inclusive research, with the goal of improving the influence of inclusive research on disability policy. The interactive session with researchers with and without disabilities will demonstrate methodological benefits of these practices.

The session will introduce disability inclusive research and explain how the session will run (10 minutes). Four 'stalls' will be set up for the audience to move between, to enable discussion of practice examples where people with disabilities have participated in research as advisers, co-researchers, lead researchers and disseminators of findings influencing policy and practice. Projects will include life story work; national surveys; mixed method research; and use of photovoice (40 minutes).

The session will finish with discussion led by the organisers to address the goals: 1. What needs to change? Questions and challenges of inclusive research 2. How can we improve inclusive practice? 3. Strategy for action? Action steps for improving disability policy research practice (30 minutes).

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Inflicted traumatic brain injury in children:  
How big is the iceberg?***

**NICK RUSHWORTH**

*Brain Injury Australia*

Inflicted traumatic brain injury (ITBI) - also called abusive head trauma, sometimes "shaken baby syndrome" - is the leading cause of death and disability in children who have been abused. Infants are at the greatest risk. Over the last 5 years more than 70 children have been hospitalised with ITBI in NSW alone. Their average age was 10 months. And their numbers are increasing. The international research evidence shows that 1 in 3 of these children die as a result of their injuries. Of those who survive, 2 in every 3 will grow up with profound and permanent disabilities that will affect them not only physically but also in their thinking ability, their emotions and behaviour. Yet hospital admissions represent only a small fraction of children abused in this way. For every child hospitalised with ITBI, surveys suggest as many as 150 other children in the community may suffer head trauma from caregivers. This presentation will summarise the findings of Brain Injury Australia's policy paper on ITBI recently completed for the Australian Government. It will include findings from the latest research on ITBI, including those children whose abuse goes untreated or undetected. It will also detail the implications for policymakers in child protection and welfare, families, health and education.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

***Income management in the Australian social security system: Technology, indigenous people and the new conditionality***

**WILLIAM SANDERS**

*Australian National University*

The introduction of income management in the Australian social security system has been seen by some as a fundamental change. This paper

argues rather that it continues a tradition of conditionality in the Australian social security system. It will refer to income management as the 'new conditionality', based on modern financial smart card technology. It will compare this new conditionality with older forms of conditionality, such as breaching introduced in the 1990s and basic eligibility requirements. It will note that there have been less technologically sophisticated types of income management operating on the edges of the Australian social security system for many years, particularly in relation to Indigenous people in remote areas. It is not particularly surprising, therefore, that the new income management has also been introduced first for Indigenous people in remote areas.

The paper argues that income management is about to spread through the Australian social security system more generally and that as a form of conditionality it will prove to be more acceptable to diverse interests within the Australian social security system than earlier forms of conditionality. This is largely because it maintains the idea of meeting a basic income need while also placing conditions on clients.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB8**

***Cross country comparisons of the impact on intrahousehold gender inequalities of environmental factors***

**CRISTINA SANTOS, JEROME DE-HENAU,  
SUSAN HIMMELWEIT, ZEENAT  
SOOBEDAR**

*The Open University*

This paper examines intrahousehold inequalities in command over household resources, and how these depend on specific attributes of individuals, their partners, or their household, and whether gender matters in the impact of individual attributes on such intrahousehold inequalities. We also estimate the impact of extra-household environmental variables, collected at the regional level, particularly those that can be influenced by policy, such as the quality and the availability of childcare services or gendered unemployment levels, and assess how these condition the effect

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of other explanatory factors on intrahousehold power. Using data from three countries, UK, Germany and Australia, we explore the impact of their different family and employment policies on intrahousehold resource allocation and the bargaining power of household members. The regional dimension will allow us to examine the effect on intra-household inequalities of both variations in the outcome of policy within the same national policy, and how variations in national policies may condition the effects of extra-household environmental variables. Preliminary results suggest interesting differences across countries that suggests that policy design, whether intended to influence gender inequalities or only doing so inadvertently, needs to take account of potential effects within households.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***Assessing income adequacy:  
A deprivation approach***

**PETER SAUNDERS, MELISSA WONG**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

This paper draws on data generated by two recent surveys to examine the adequacy of different rates of social security payment (including, but not restricted to, the pension) using a deprivation approach. The deprivation approach identifies those whose standard of living is so low that they are precluded from acquiring items or participating in the activities that are regarded as necessary or essential by a majority of Australians. A comparison of the level and severity of deprivation between different groups of social security recipients is used to provide a new insight into the relative adequacy of social security payments (and other income sources) to different groups. Using 2006 data, the analysis suggests that the pension increases announced following the Pension Review were not well targeted on those who were most deprived at the time. Better targeting would have been achieved if the increases had been concentrated on specific groups of pensioners and/or extended to recipients of other payments. A second survey, conducted in 2010, is then used to examine the impact of the pension increases that were

introduced on pensioner adequacy using deprivation as well as a range of subjective indicators of well-being and financial security.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB3**

***What's changed in a decade? Needs and challenges experienced by people with mental health issues and their carers in 2011***

**POOJA SAWRIKAR, KRISTY MUIR**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Research over the past two decades has found low levels of community awareness of mental health issues, stigma and discrimination in a work and social environment and, more recently, stress on family members and carers. After a decade of high level public health promotion on depression and anxiety from organisations like beyondblue, to what extent have the needs and experiences of consumers and carers changed? Drawing on findings from focus groups with 61 mental health consumers and carers living in eight urban or regional locations within four Australian states and territories, this paper begins to answer this question. It explores the perceptions, experiences and needs of this group of consumers and carers regarding community awareness, stigma, treatment and the social and economic impact of mental health issues. This research, which was funded by beyondblue found that while community awareness has increased, little has changed in regard to people's experiences in education, work, socially and within their personal relationships. We argue that the persistent issue is stigma and provide policy and practice recommendations on how to nourish a positive feedback loop between change at a 'structural' and 'grassroots' level.



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**THURSDAY 11:00-13:30, CLB1**

***Accumulating social disadvantage through precarious jobs: The case of midlife women***

**VERONICA SHEEN**

*Monash University*

Based on a current study of thirty-eight midlife women in precarious jobs, the paper examines how entrapment in those jobs, particularly in midlife, contributes to present and future social disadvantages including social exclusion and poverty. These effects are seen to be the outcome of lack of employment security, few or no occupational benefits, and long term reliance on a low, variable income. In addition, labour processes involving work intensification, monitoring and surveillance, and onerous conditions are shown to constitute a range of mental and physical health risks which also foster social disadvantage. The paper considers several explanatory frameworks for the women's pathways into precarious employment, taking account of care work, earlier job loss, and the limited role of post-school education and previous skilled employment in assisting upward occupational mobility. It is argued that the growth of employment precariousness is inadequately accounted for in social policies which emphasise workforce participation in goals of poverty alleviation, social inclusion and self-provision in retirement. Key policy challenges are to enhance occupational mobility and to improve levels of employment security to avoid the drift towards ever sharper social divisions based on entrapment in precarious jobs and the insecure life circumstances this generates.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

***A Centrelink/CSIRO alliance: Modelling customer interactions and service delivery at Centrelink***

**DAVID SIER, JANE ATHANASIADIS, MATTHEW BAXTER, MARK HORN, WARREN JIN, LEOREY MARQUEZ, STUART WOODMAN, DONALD WOLTERS, LANCE SNOWDON, LISA PARKER, ROSS SPARKS, BRAD PETERS**

*CSIRO and Centrelink*

Centrelink delivers a range of payments and services to the Australian public. It supports people in need and assists people to become self sufficient. This talk describes a project in which we use network models to evaluate Centrelink customer pathways. The paths represent sequences of interactions and life events that occur over the time period that customers receive support from Centrelink. We use longitudinal studies to analyse the paths followed by customers over the past 10 years. Our aim is to identify whether particular customer characteristics, for example age or location, and Centrelink interactions, for example referred programs or other support services, result in positive outcomes for customers receiving different benefits such as Disability Support or Newstart. We define positive outcomes in terms of increased "self sufficiency", or reduced reliance on Government support, and use earnings from employment as a measure of different levels of self sufficiency. We also describe simulation systems that are being developed to model flows along customer pathways. These models will be used to quantify the staffing and facility resource requirements needed to deliver forecasted future demand for services.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB1**

## ***Social networks and schooling disadvantage***

**JENNIFER SKATTEBOL**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Young people's capacities to navigate pathways into post compulsory education and training or work rely on opportunities to participate in learning that is effectively tailored to their life circumstances, resources and learning needs. The National Partnership Agreement on Youth Transitions and Attainment aims to deliver more tailored, joined up and localized responses to the needs of young Australians especially those experiencing multi-dimensional disadvantage. This presentation draws on findings from a 3 year qualitative study with economically disadvantaged young Australians aged 11-17 to identify the role of different types of social networks in supporting young people through the transition process. While all young people in the study were economically disadvantaged, the way this disadvantage was experienced and perceived was nuanced by the dynamics of their local contexts. The resources and efficacy of social networks that support young people's transitions from school to work differ by locality. This paper will contrast some of the challenges faced by young people in areas of concentrated poverty with those face by young people living in areas of socio-economic mix. These contrasts will be used to consider elements of current policy initiatives and how these serve the interests of disadvantaged young Australians.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

## ***Exploring parental responsibility for children's cognitive development***

**CIARA SMYTH**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

This presentation will describe a study exploring parental responsibility for children's cognitive development, a responsibility that first appeared in the parenting advice literature in the 1960s.

During the 1990s, this responsibility was further reinforced by 'new' research in the field of neuroscience that identified infancy and early childhood as critical periods of development. This research emphasised the importance of the early years for enhancing a child's capacity for language and learning, in effect laying the foundation for future educational success. Since this time, the message concerning the importance of the early years has been taken up by educators, policy makers, the parenting advice literature and infant toy marketers. This study will make new contributions to knowledge by shedding light on contemporary parenting practices in Australia. This presentation will describe the research questions the study seeks to address and the methods that are being utilised. It will present some preliminary findings from:

- a content analysis of parenting publications;
- a content analysis of government policy and parenting information; and
- In-depth interviews with parents of pre-schoolers.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

## ***Inclusive Growth, flexicurity and the Australian way***

**PAUL SMYTH**

*University of Melbourne*

Today Australia has an opportunity to overcome the rupture between economic and social policy which grew across the period of the so called 'post 1983' free market reform agenda. Economists today are alarmed by our productivity decline which is being masked by the minerals boom and the role of social policy is being revisited. Can enhance not hinder a new productivity reform push.

The paper will review the history of social policy as hindrance which resulted in that 'welfare austerity' of the 90s which resulted in the end of 'wage earner welfare', the promotion of privatized services, and the shrinking of 'welfare reform' to

'ending 'welfare dependency'. The paper will then examine this century's emergence of the 'social policy as investment' model. Focused on the COAG human capital agenda, it was largely identified with the early years and youth policies.

The paper proposes that new productivity push offers the opportunity to articulate a more robust model of this 'social investment state'. Drawing on recent developments in flexicurity in Europe and 'inclusive growth' models at the World Bank it emphasizes ways in which Australia's historically productivist welfare model is well suited to this task.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

***Child support compliance and perceptions of fairness: A pre-and post-reform comparison***

**BRUCE SMYTH, BRYAN RODGERS, VU SON, MARIA VNUK, MARIAN ESLER, ALLAN SHEPHARD**

*Australian National University, FaHCSIA and Child Support Agency*

Sweeping changes to the Child Support Scheme were introduced between 2006 and 2008, featuring a dramatically different system for the calculation of child support. The extent to which the new Scheme is perceived to be 'fairer' and has improved the wellbeing of children and their families is of considerable policy interest, both in Australia and overseas. This paper explores child support compliance and perceptions of fairness among a national random sample of 3,585 Child Support Agency clients just prior to, and one year after, the introduction of the new formula on 1 July 2008. The data are from a large, ARC-funded, cross-sequential study of the impacts of the new Australian Child Support Scheme. Different ways of defining and measuring child support compliance will be used to explore the impacts of the recent reforms.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB6**

***Growing old, growing unequal: The emerging dual welfare state of ageing in Australia***

**BEN SPIES-BUTCHER, ADAM STEBBING**

*Macquarie University*

Australia's welfare state has greatest effect in older age, as most of the population retires from the paid labour market. Traditionally the two key elements of social provision amongst older people – home ownership and the aged pension – have ensured a much

higher level of equality than at other life stages. However, in recent decades changing policy settings and economic conditions have seen new social supports expand that not only mimic market inequalities, but potentially exaggerate them. This paper explores the emerging 'dual welfare state' within the realm of ageing, focusing on the delivery of social support through the tax system. It shows that these developments, as responses to concerns around population ageing, have ironically reinforced the potential problems. It argues that this is the result of biases in the way policy is evaluated and costings are developed that systematically promotes market alternatives, even when such approaches reduce efficiency and equity. It calls for better measures to be incorporated into policy planning, particularly the Intergenerational Reports.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB5**

***Service integrated housing: A 50 year case study in policy development***

**BARBARA SQUIRES, SARAH FOGG**

*The Benevolent Society*

The retirement housing operated by The Benevolent Society in northern Sydney for 50 years provides a case study of the historical development of 'service integrated housing', (Jones, Howe et al) and of the many changes in housing and care policy for older people in Australia over that time.

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The government funded rental housing for needy older people that was built in the 1960s gradually evolved into 'service integrated housing'. Half became an aged care facility in the 1990s, reflecting the policy of the time.

With more recent changes in demography and aged care policy, it has returned to being used for low cost, service integrated housing. It has similar aims to the Society's proposed 'Apartments for Life' project, with care provided by community based services, and an active community engagement strategy.

References: Jones, A., Howe, A. et al, (2010). Service integrated housing for Australians in later life, AHURI

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB6**

## ***The Emissions Trading Scheme and low income households***

**JANET STANLEY**

*Monash Sustainability Institute*

Australia is about to embark on an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which will put a price on carbon, thereby encouraging the use of less polluting energy sources. There has been considerable controversy about the extent of the impact of this price.

Previous work has shown that the impact is not likely to be extensive for the average Australian household – only 0.7% being added to their annual expenditure if the price is \$25 a tonne. However, low income households will be considerably more adversely impacted than high income households, even despite the lower carbon use by those on a low income.

As the leading policy advisor to the federal government on the proposed ETS, Garnaut has released recommendations about compensation for those adversely impacted. This paper reviews his recommendations and examines their adequacy for low income people. For example, will the removal of tax disincentives for taking up employment offer assistance to all unemployed Australians? Some alternative policies that would

offer improved equity outcomes as well as increased opportunities for those at risk of social exclusion will be suggested, such as infrastructure improvements, subsidies to the welfare sector, and assistance to low income people to move to a low carbon life.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB6**

## ***Energy efficiency at the margins: Opportunities for improving energy efficiency and energy affordability in low income households***

**DAMIAN SULLIVAN, VICTORIA JOHNSON**

*The Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Rising energy costs look set to be the way of the future for Australian households as domestic and international factors place upward pressure on energy prices. Low income households are particularly vulnerable to rising energy prices as the proportion of their household expenditure spent on energy increases (Sims 2010, Simshauser 2010). Energy efficiency is routinely promoted as an important response to rising energy prices and a means to reduce household greenhouse gas emissions. This paper explores the relevance of energy efficiency to low income households. It begins by outlining existing energy consumption, which is mostly lower than for wealthier households. It also identifies a small group of high energy using low income households. The existing information on household characteristics and key factors driving their energy consumption, including appliance ownership, is presented. The paper then examines available data on the energy efficiency of these households' homes and appliances and points to significant gaps in knowledge. Finally, the paper considers the implications for policies targeting household level energy efficiency including the proposed National Energy Savings Initiative.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB6**

***Challenges and barriers faced by jobless individuals: Findings from consultation with service providers***

**W. KATHY TANNOUS**

*University of Western Sydney*

Australia is currently enjoying one of the lowest unemployment rates at 4.9% (ABS, 2011) and current public discussion is on the skilled labour force shortage. However, for many people they continue to be unemployed for extended period of time or simply become 'not in the labour force' as they stop actively looking for work.

This paper presents findings from a qualitative research study undertaken in the Greater Western Sydney (GWS) that involved consultation with 80 service providers on their experience of working with long-term jobless individuals. The data collection process involved one-to-one interviews, focus groups discussion, and completion of an anonymous survey instrument. The issues explored included barriers of using the service(s); challenges for individuals in gaining employment; gaps in services provided; and how well the services work together. A number of barriers identified have been described by other research but others, such as the need to have a car and a licence to simply be considered for a job given the state of public transport in that area, are unique to the GWS.

The findings of this study are significant in providing some direction to policy makers in assisting this increasingly forgotten group.

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, GAL 2**

***Impact of mentoring youth with Cerebral Palsy on the mentors: Findings from evaluation of the Ignition Mentoring Program in Sydney***

**KATHY TANNOUS, ANN DADICH, RON BECKETT, PETER HORSLEY**

*University of Western Sydney and Cerebral Palsy Alliance*  
Young people with a disability often experience

social exclusion. Many are disengaged from peers, education, and career prospects. This can have significant implications for the individual, family members, and the labour market. It is therefore important to identify strategies that foster and sustain community engagement. This paper reveals one such approach.

This paper presents findings from large evaluation of a mentoring program for young people with cerebral palsy. The 12-month program matches volunteer mentors from the finance sector with young people aged 14 to 16 years attending mainstream school. The program is comprised of three complementary components: group discussion, social activity, and parental support.

This paper presents quantitative and qualitative data collected over six years from approximately 150 mentors. Results suggest that the program was beneficial for both mentors and mentees – benefits manifested psychologically, cognitively, and behaviourally; furthermore, these benefits were perceived in the short-term and long-term.

The significance of these findings is three-fold. First, they demonstrate the multidimensional nature of the benefits associated with mentoring; second, they suggest that, although the program was tailored to the needs of one group of disenfranchised individuals, both parties may serve to benefit; and third, they confirm the sustained nature of perceived benefits.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB4**

***Child protection involvement and illicit-drug using mothers: Results from a NSW study***

**STEPHANIE TAPLIN**

*National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW*

The 'Child protection and mothers in substance abuse treatment study' is the first study to interview a relatively large sample of women in opioid pharmacological treatment in NSW about their children, parenting and child protection involvement. Nearly 200 women who had children under 16 years of age, were recruited into the study. Over one third of them were involved with child protection services at the time, mostly with

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children in out-of-home care, and one quarter had had some past child protection service involvement. Another third had had no child protection service contact within the past 16 years. Logistic regression analyses were undertaken to identify the factors associated with child protection involvement. The results show that, rather than severity of substance use being associated with mothers' involvement with the child protection system, other factors are of greater importance. Of particular interest was the finding that having greater social supports significantly reduced the likelihood of being involved with the child protection system. These findings and others from this new study will increase our knowledge about parenting and substance use and provide some suggestions for ways in which we can work better with these families.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB4**

## ***Can life stories inform policy in a complex world?***

**JANET TAYLOR**

*Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Australian longitudinal research with a social policy focus has often been quantitative rather than qualitative. The longitudinal Life Chances Study offers the opportunity to explore young people's real life stories from infancy to age 18, both from the perspectives of their parents and, as they grow up, in their own words. The stories can illustrate important processes, ranging from financial disadvantage to parenting styles to career choices.

The Life Chances Study has followed the lives of some 140 children who were born in the same inner Melbourne suburb in 1990. The families are from diverse income levels and ethnic groups. The study has a particular interest in the reduction of child poverty and social exclusion.

The paper presents one family's story to explore issues of policy as the study child grows up through the 1990s and early 2000s. It asks what life stories can tell us about the accumulation of advantage and disadvantage for young people

growing up in Australia today and about the effectiveness of our social support system in assisting families as they raise their children. These are considered in the context of changes in Australian society over the last 20 years.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB1**

## ***Raising educational attainment: Policy analysis from young people's perspectives***

**KITTY TE RIELE**

*University of Technology of Sydney*

In the context of international consensus that the knowledge economy requires more highly educated people, the Australian federal, state and territory governments have agreed on a set of policies and new target for lifting the minimum level of educational attainment of young people. This 'Compact with young Australians' will have the most impact on the quarter of young people who in the past would have left school early. The presentation will critically analyze the Compact initiatives from the point of view of such young people, drawing on research with early school leavers and students in 'second chance' schools.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

## ***The timing of Family Tax Benefit receipt***

**CATHY THEBRIDGE, ANDREW WHITECROSS**

*FaHCSIA*

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) is income tested on current financial year adjusted taxable income. At the introduction of FTB in 2000-01 families had the choice of claiming fortnightly payments based on an estimate of their family income (as a payment or as a reduction in tax liability) or claiming the entire amount after the end of the financial year. This 'all-or-nothing' approach resulted in all but a few families receiving assistance on a fortnightly basis, and a large number of families incurring debts.

Since then policy change has focussed on reducing estimation debt through mechanisms that allowed families to either choose to defer

some (but not all) assistance until the end of the year, prevented debt occurring in particular circumstances, prompting customers to revise their estimates, and changes to the rate calculator to limit debts accruing. While debt levels have reduced, the proportion of FTB payments made after the end of the financial year has increased.

This paper will examine how the timing of assistance differs between family types – how the pattern of receipt differs by income, rate type, number and age of children, relationship status etc. The paper will then explore the likely reasons for these outcomes and the impacts on families.

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#### **FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB2**

##### ***Developing a conceptual framework for measuring Australia's progress***

###### **IMOGEN WALL**

*Australian Bureau of Statistics*

Australia's progress has been measured in different ways over many years, going back to colonial times. Since 2002, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 'Measures of Australia's Progress' has brought together specially selected indicators from across social, economic and environmental statistics to allow Australians to assess whether life in Australia is getting better. In 2011, ABS is undertaking a wide public consultation with the aim of strengthening the conceptual framework underpinning this publication.

This paper explains how statistical frameworks are the first step in the statistical process, as they map the conceptual terrain surrounding an area of interest, clarify boundaries, and support consensus when defining terms. Frameworks then provide consistent ongoing guidance as to what measures best inform the research question and what gaps exist in the coverage of data. Most importantly, when used widely, they maximise comparability and usefulness of data for all stakeholders.

The paper will focus on the development of a discussion model, or framework, designed to assist communities and governments have a national conversation about measuring progress.

It will discuss how progress might be defined for measurement and broken into important component concepts, such as progress aspirations, outcomes, measures and trade-offs, to support a coherent approach.

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#### **FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB2**

##### ***What makes for successful placement in out-of-home care? Perspectives of carers and caseworkers***

###### **PETER WALSH**

*Griffith University*

In late 2010, the Centre for Parenting and Research (Department of Human Services) conducted a series of seven focus groups with carers and caseworkers to investigate the characteristics of successful and unsuccessful placements in out-of-home care (OOHC) in New South Wales (Australia). This was the first time a study of this nature has been undertaken in NSW. The findings from this study were used to inform the design of a large-scale, prospective longitudinal study of children and young people in OOHC in NSW.

Participants included Indigenous and non-Indigenous carers (both kinship carers and foster carers), caseworkers and Managers Casework in metropolitan and regional areas of New South Wales. A key purpose of the focus groups was to ensure that the primary data collection component of the longitudinal study (in-depth interviews with carers of children and young people recruited to the study) were measuring domains that were seen as important to those with personal and professional expertise in OOHC.

This paper reports on the key findings arising from the focus groups. There were some similarities and differences between the existing literature and the issues identified in this study.

# Abstracts by author

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**THURSDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB4**

***Lonely in silence: A discussion paper to explore the role of policy to facilitate friendships as quality social connections for skilled migrants to Australia***

**HARRIET WESTCOTT, MEI YI LEUNG**

*University of Sydney and City of Sydney Council*

This discussion paper aims to generate awareness and discussion about one of the lesser recognised personal consequences of skilled migration – loneliness. With over 107,000 total skilled migrants to Australia in 2009-10, this issue faces many people (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 2011). Typically, skilled migrants come to Australia alone, without family members (Kennedy, 2004, p161). Old friends are ruptured following migration, and new ones need to be made (Spencer and Pahl, 2006, p106).

Immediately following migration, new friends can provide an essential utility role to assist with practicalities such as finding accommodation, and offering emotional support. However, making new friends can be challenging. This paper uses interview findings with a sample of 20 skilled migrants to show some of the barriers faced, such as the availability of others for friendship.

Currently, skilled migrants have few formal options available to facilitate friendships, and feelings of loneliness are common. To provide an example of how policy at local government level can facilitate migrants' friendships this paper will briefly describe the City of Sydney's, Super Volunteer 8 Program. Finally, to promote further discussion, this paper gives suggestions for policy options to assist migrants in making friends and considers their potential implications.

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**THURSDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB8**

***Conditional welfare in OECD countries: The exception or the rule?***

**PETER WHITEFORD**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

Following the 2007 intervention in the Northern Territory income management was introduced for

recipients of pensions and benefits in designated locations. In 2010 this policy was replaced by a new scheme of income management which applied across the whole of the Northern Territory but mainly to persons receiving specified payments or in defined circumstances (e.g. families with a child at risk). Income management has been regarded as introducing the principle of conditional welfare into the Australian social security system for the first time. In assessing the likely impact of conditional welfare it has been noted that the only other examples of conditional payments are a range of conditional cash transfer schemes that have been introduced mainly in developing countries over the past 20 years, mainly in Latin America and more recently in Asia and Africa, in many cases in countries without a developed social security system. It seems reasonable to question whether the successes and failures of these schemes are relevant in Australia, a rich country with a comprehensive and longstanding social security system. This paper reviews the evidence from other rich OECD countries about the extent to which their social security systems are conditional or unconditional. The paper focuses on the design principles of social security systems, including the initial eligibility conditions, the conditions required for continuing entitlement to payments, the level of discretion in determining entitlements, and the mix of benefits in cash and benefits in kind. The objective of the paper is to identify the extent to which conditionality is new or a well-established principle in social security design, and to discuss the extent to which Australia can learn from the experience of other countries.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-15:00, CLB4**

***Towards 'Vertical Collaboration': Developing a whole system response to family and domestic violence***

**KAREN WILCOX**

*Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse*

The domestic violence sector has for some time argued the need for greater multi-agency collaboration and cross-sectoral integration to enhance responses to domestic and family violence. Many states and territories have



developed new systems to address the adverse consequences of multiple and disconnected service and legal interventions. However, for victims of family and domestic violence with children, the benefits of integration at a state and territory level (which the author calls 'horizontal integration') can be undermined by continuing 'dis-integration' between work at this level and the federal family law system. The author outlines a case for the development of 'vertical coordination' across the tiers of Australian federation, with specific emphasis on enhanced engagement between state based service systems and agencies within the family law sector.

This paper includes an overview of key developments in this direction as well as good practice features that might assist in advancing a more effective and unified response to domestic and family violence.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB1**

***Measuring deprivation in South Africa***

**GEMMA WRIGHT, MICHAEL NOBLE**

*University of Oxford*

We will present a profile of deprivation in South Africa using the socially perceived necessities or 'consensual' approach to defining and measuring deprivation. Forty-eight focus groups were undertaken followed by a module in a nationally representative survey in 2006 in order to explore which items and activities were regarded as essential for an acceptable standard of living. Those who experienced an enforced lack of these items can be thought of as deprived using this approach. South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world and the apartheid legacy is still evident with high levels of racial and spatial inequalities; this approach enables us to explore whether – in spite of these divisions - South Africans have a shared view about the necessities in life. We summarise methodological challenges encountered including taking into account the cultural diversity of South Africans; exploring what an 'acceptable standard of living' means to people in a country where 70% are income poor using a prevalent income threshold; and how in these circumstances to derive a deprivation threshold.

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**WEDNESDAY 13:30-16:00, CLB8**

***Part-time work in Europe and the persistence of gender inequality***

**MARA YERKES, NIELS SCHENK, PEARL DYKSTRA**

*Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland*

Despite EU efforts at gender mainstreaming and attempts to provide seemingly gender neutral means for combining work and care, social and employment policies remain largely diversified at the national level and gendered outcomes in paid and unpaid work remain common. This article focuses on gendered differences in paid work across Europe, in particular differences in part-time employment. Taking a multilevel approach, we use data from the 2nd round of the European Social Survey and the Multilinks national level policy indicators on intergenerational care dependencies across Europe to estimate the likelihood that men and women will work part-time rather than full-time. Our findings confirm that part-time work remains a gendered phenomenon in both Western and Eastern Europe, driven by differences in care responsibilities for children and attitudes towards the division of paid work in the household. National policy contexts are also important for understanding continued differences in paid employment but continued research is needed to improve comparative policy data across the 27 EU member states.

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**WEDNESDAY 15:30-17:30, CLB5**

***Social cohesion and disadvantage: Measures influencing micro policy development***

**ALEXANDRA YOUNG, EILEEN BALDRY**

*The University of Sydney and The University of NSW*

A number of projects around Australia over the past fifteen years have measured changes in social functioning in various communities to provide knowledge about the effects of such approaches to mitigate disadvantage at the micro level. We discuss one such project, Working From

# Abstracts by author

the Ground Up (WFGU), which involves a participatory approach to community regeneration in public housing neighbourhoods in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. WFGU is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and is working in collaboration with public housing residents, government agencies and local organisations. We explore the use of measurements like the Buckner neighbourhood cohesion scale as well as a range of methods of capturing the views of residents, including children, to inform ongoing micro policy and practice developments in these communities.

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**FRIDAY 11:00-12:30, CLB1**

## ***Influencing social policy: A new approach to Statutory Systems Advocacy in Queensland***

**LINDSAY IRONS**

*Office of the Public Advocate – Queensland*

Statutory systems advocacy is defined as advocacy delivered from within government, and with a legislative basis. It occupies a unique position of influence over the development of social policy, and is an important complement to public interest advocacy.

In the absence of existing models in Australia or overseas, the Office of the Public Advocate (Queensland) has developed a contemporary framework for the delivery of statutory systems advocacy to influence policy for protecting the rights and advancing the wellbeing of its target population: people with impaired decision-making capacity.

This paper will present the Office's Systems Advocacy Framework 2010-12 and will discuss how this model provides a basis for influence in the social policy arena through:

- collaboration with government, coupled with statutory independence
- alignment with the key levers for change – state, national and international

- an evidence-based management approach to advocacy
- focus on the structural barriers to rights protection and social participation
- contemporary application of legislation

The paper will also discuss key priority projects under the Framework including social inclusion and participation for people with impaired decision-making capacity, and abuse and neglect of older people.

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**FRIDAY 13:30-15:30, CLB3**

## ***The impact of fertility on labour force participation for Australian women***

**ANNA ZHU**

*Social Policy Research Centre*

What is the impact of fertility on labour force participation for Australian women? While the literature consistently shows that women face a trade-off between motherhood and work, the reasons behind this trade-off are less clear. Why do some mothers negotiate balancing work and care responsibilities around time and resource constraints, while others do not? Some strongly argue that mothers are constrained by institutional barriers and inadequate service provisions and that they are pushed to 'choose' between having that additional child versus participating in the labour market (McDonald 2000). In contrast, other researchers argue that there is selection into the group of mothers who go on to have three or more children as they have a strong preference for mothering and were not so attached to the workforce to begin with.

The uncertainty over how the relationship between fertility and female employment patterns operate arise from limitations in available data. Therefore, the main aim of this research is to distinguish the part of the correlation that is causal from the part that is driven by selection factors. It will tackle the problem by using statistical methods, such as instrumental variables.

**[www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au)**

Social Policy Research Centre  
The University of New South Wales  
Sydney NSW 2052 Australia

Telephone: (02) 9385 7800 Fax (02) 9385 7838  
[sprc@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprc@unsw.edu.au)