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<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADF</td>
<td>Australian Defence Force</td>
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<td>AIFS</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Family Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHURI</td>
<td>Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute</td>
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<td>ANCD</td>
<td>Australian National Council on Drugs</td>
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<td>ARACY</td>
<td>Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth</td>
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<td>ARC</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>China Research Centre on Ageing</td>
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<tr>
<td>DADHC</td>
<td>Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care (NSW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoCS</td>
<td>Department of Community Services (NSW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSaRI</td>
<td>Disability Studies and Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECICP</td>
<td>Early Childhood Intervention Coordination Program</td>
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<td>ECIA</td>
<td>Early Childhood Intervention, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>FaCS</td>
<td>Department of Family and Community Services (now FaCSIA)</td>
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<td>FaHCSIA</td>
<td>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>FASS</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
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<td>FISS</td>
<td>Foundation of International Studies on Social Security</td>
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<td>FYRST</td>
<td>Follow-on Youth Recovery Support Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>HASI</td>
<td>Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative</td>
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<td>HILDA</td>
<td>Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDS</td>
<td>(FaCSIA) Longitudinal Data Set</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIS</td>
<td>Luxembourg Income Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSAC</td>
<td>Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Government Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIES</td>
<td>Partnerships in Early Childhood Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLWHA-NSW</td>
<td>People Living With HIV/AIDS New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMIT</td>
<td>Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAAP</td>
<td>Supported Accommodation Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPIRT</td>
<td>Strategic Partnerships with Industry – Research and Training Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPITC</td>
<td>Social Policy in the City</td>
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<td>SPRS</td>
<td>Social Policy Research Services</td>
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<td>SSLP</td>
<td>Sure Start Local Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>Technical and Further Education</td>
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<td>UNSW</td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
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THE CENTRE

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) conducts research, provides postgraduate research training, and fosters discussion of the nature and consequences of social policy and of the social needs and processes which give rise to it. The primary focus of SPRC research is Australia, with concern also for comparative international study of social policy, including social policy development in Asia. The Centre’s main areas of research 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; the politics of social policy and its institutions; and theory and methodology in social policy research.

The Centre was established in 1980 under an Agreement between the Commonwealth Government (through the then Department of Social Security) and the University of New South Wales. The initial five-year Agreement was extended in 1985, 1990 and 1995 before being terminated in 2000. The Centre currently attracts funding from a range of sources including the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, a range of other Commonwealth and State Departments, research funding bodies such as the Australian Research Council and a variety of non-government agencies. Financial and in-kind support is also provided by the University of New South Wales, where the SPRC is located within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

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DIRECTOR’S REPORT

STAFFING

It is a pleasure for me to report on SPRC activities in 2007, which has been another outstanding year for the SPRC. This year saw a considerable expansion of our staff numbers and the range of projects, as well as a successful conference and other significant developments.

In June I was privileged to be appointed director, following Peter Saunders’ decision to step down after 20 years in the post. It has been a real challenge to step into Peter’s shoes. Peter has been an inspiration to the SPRC since joining it in 1987, and his contribution to social policy in Australia and internationally is unrivalled. His success in becoming not only an ARC Professorial Fellow, but also a Scientia Professor at UNSW, and his selection for the social science panel for the (thankfully) now defunct Research Quality Framework, all demonstrate the esteem with which he is held by his peers as well as policy makers in Australia. I would also like to acknowledge his support and guidance whilst I was Acting Director.

Deborah Brennan was appointed as a Professorial Fellow in 2007. This was a wonderful coup for the SPRC, as Deb is not only a leading scholar in her field but also a superb colleague and a great nurturer of emerging research talent. Since joining the SPRC Deb has seldom been out of the media spotlight, and has had an enormous impact on the developing policy direction in child care.

The unsung heroes of a centre such as ours are the administrative staff. The SPRC has a small but dedicated group of administrators who provide support for an increasing number of researchers. The SPRC is held up as a model of a smooth-running centre with excellent administrative systems, and this is all due to Melissa Roughley and her staff. In recognition of their excellence they received the award for excellence in support for research outcomes. Melissa was also awarded a Universitas 21 scholarship to study Research Centre administration in New Zealand and the UK. Melissa has been temporarily seconded to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to help build faculty-wide research infrastructure. This is a real acknowledgement of her high levels of skill in this area, but we are keenly anticipating her return to the SPRC.

2007 was a successful year for the SPRC in terms of the success of its proposals. As a result, a number of new staff members were recruited during the year. New staff include Carol Sullivan, Maree Williams, Roger Patulny, Fiona Hilferty, Killian Mullen, Megan Blaxland, Shannon McDermott, Anna Zhu, Robyn Edwards, Saul Flaxman and Kathy Tannous.

Two staff members left during the year, both of them for promotion opportunities. Sarah Parker was offered a tenure track post in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and Ann Dadich has joined Orygen in Melbourne as a Research Fellow.

Our postgraduate program has continued to develop, and during the year there were 18 students at various stages. We were very pleased that Karen Fisher, Sarah Parker, Marilyn McHugh, Shannon McDermott and Christie Robertson all submitted their PhDs.

This was the first year of the SPRC’s new Intern Program, and five interns (undergraduate students) were placed at the SPRC. There were also two PhD student / intern workshops held during the year.

The most significant event in the year was the tenth Australian Social Policy Conference, held in July. Like its predecessors the 2007 conference was a great success, with 460 delegates attending. The keynote speakers were:

- Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor in Child Development and Education, Columbia University) Families and policies matter: how to enhance the well-being of children in poverty
- Barbara Pocock (Director of the Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia) Governing work life intersections in Australia over the life course: policy and prospects
- Fiona Williams (Professor of Social Policy, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds) Shifting child-care policies and practices in Western Europe: is there a case for developing a global ethic of care?
There were 225 papers presented in 8 concurrent sessions, a book launch, and special sessions on the formation of an Australian Social Policy Association and on Social Policy in China.

In addition to the Conference, the Centre continued its successful seminar program. Altogether there were 26 seminars covering a range of topics. Some of these seminars were jointly organised with other schools in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: the School of Economics (Prof Tony Atkinson), and the School of Social Science and International Studies (Keith Banting), and a workshop on New Developments in Critical Disability Studies. The average attendance was about 30, which is very satisfactory. We will be aiming to build from this during 2008.

One of the outcomes of a staff planning day in 2006 was the development of a more active in-house training program for staff members on various aspects of research methodology. This successful program is to be offered to the whole Faculty in 2008.

*Social Policy in the City* is our joint seminar series with The Smith Family and Mission Australia. Only one was held in 2007, but it was a very successful event held in Anti-poverty week, with Peter Saunders and Andrew Leigh from ANU as the speakers.

In October the SPRC hosted a workshop, *Seen and Heard: Children’s voices in research, policy and society*, sponsored by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Two additional workshops will be held early in the new year.

**PROJECTS**

Altogether three new ARC projects were funded in 2007 to commence in 2008:

**ARC Discovery**
- Comparing the living standards of children and older people within and between nations – Peter Saunders, Bruce Bradbury, Gerry Redmond and others.

**ARC Linkage**
- Making a difference: building on children’s perspectives on economic adversity – Peter Saunders, Bettina Cass and Gerry Redmond; and


In addition, post-doctoral fellowships were awarded to Natasha Cortis (Vice Chancellors Post-doctoral Fellowship, UNSW) and Pooja Sawrikar (DoCS, NSW).

Ilan Katz  
Director
**SPRC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**AT DECEMBER 2007**

Professor James Donald, Dean, Faculty Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW (Presiding Member)

Professor Ilan Katz, Director, SPRC

Professor Richard Hugman, School of Social Sciences and International Studies

Associate Professor Rogee Pe-Pua, Head, School of Social Sciences and International Studies

Mr James Walsh, Strategic Development Manager (Industry), Research Strategy Office

**SPRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AT DECEMBER 2007**

Professor James Donald, Dean, Faculty Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW (Presiding Member)

Professor Ilan Katz, Director, SPRC, UNSW

Professor Peter Saunders, Australian Professorial Fellow, Scientia Professor and Research Professor in Social Policy, UNSW

Ms Jennifer Mason, Director-General, NSW Department of Community Services

Mr Michael Raper, Director, Welfare Rights Centre

Mr Ross Clare, Super Funds, Director of Research, The Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, Ltd.

Professor Alan Hayes, Director, Australian Institute of Families Studies

Professor Mark Considine, Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Peter Kriesler, School of Economics, UNSW

Mr Richard Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, The Benevolent Society

Associate Professor Gawaine Powell-Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, UNSW

Professor Annette Hamilton, School of English, Media and Performing Arts, Faculty Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW

Dr Kristy Muir, Elected Staff Member, SPRC, UNSW
**SPRC STAFF**

*(As at December 31, 2007)*

**Professor and Director**

Ilan Katz  
BA Witwatersrand, PhD Brunel

**Australian Professorial Fellow, Scientia Professor and Research Professor in Social Policy**

Peter Saunders  
BSc DipEc S’ton, PhD Syd., FASSA

**Professorial Fellow**

Bettina Cass  
BA PhD UNSW, AO, FASSA

**Professor**

Deborah Brennan  
BA Syd., MA Macq., PhD Syd.

**Senior Research Fellows**

Bruce Bradbury  
BSoSc MCom PhD UNSW

Tony Eardley  
BA Oxon, DipSocAdmin Bristol, DPhil York

Karen Fisher  
BA LLB Auck., MEC Macq, PhD UNSW

Xiaoyuan Shang  
BA Nankai, MA Renmin, PhD Sussex

Catherine Spooner  
BA PhD UNSW, MPH Syd.

**ARC Post-doctoral Fellow**

Lyn Craig  
DipSocWk Victoria, NZ, DipBusSt. BA Massey, BSoSc PhD UNSW

**UNSW Post-doctoral Fellow**

Natasha Cortis  
BEC(SoSc) (Hons) PhD Syd., GradCert PubAdmin Canb.

**DoCS Post-doctoral Fellow**

Pooja Sawrikar  
BPsych PhD Syd.

**Research Fellows**

Trish Hill  
BA Murdoch, PhD UNSW

Marilyn McHugh  
BSW Syd, PhD UNSW

Kristy Muir  
BA PhD W’gong

Gerry Redmond  
BSoSc Dublin, GradDipComp MA Bath

Cathy Thomson  
BA Syd., MA UNSW

kylie valentine  
BA PhD Syd.

Kathy Tannous  
BA Carleton, PhD UWS, GradDip AFI, FP, MAF SIA

**Research Associates**

Megan Blaxland  
BSoSc (Hons) UNSW

Robyn Edwards  
BSoScWk (Hons) UNSW

Fiona Hillerty  
BEd (Hons) PhD Syd.

Shannon McDermott  
BA Boston College, MPS PhD UNSW

Killian Mullan  
MA NUI (Galway)

Yuvisthi Naidoo  
BEd, MPS UNSW

Roger Patulny  
BA/Econ ANU, PhD UNSW

Christiane Purcal  
MA PhD Olden.

Ciara Smyth  
BA MSc Applied Social Research Dublin

**Research Officers**

David Abelló  
BASocSc UTS

Saul Flaxman  
BSoSc (Hons) UNSW

Megan Griffiths  
BSoSc (Hons) UNSW

Belinda Newton  
BA(Sociology) (Hons) UNSW

Marianne Rajkovic  
BA (Hons) DipLib University of North London

Denise Thompson  
BA (Hons) PhD UNSW
**Librarian**  
Katherine Cummings  
BA Syd., BLS Tor, AALA

**Office Manager**  
Carol Sullivan  
BA(Visual) CSA, MLitt ANU

**Business Manager**  
Melissa Roughley  
BSocSc UNSW

**Research Support Manager**  
Roxanne Lawson  
AssocDip(Bus Admin), OAC

**Project Support Officer**  
Maree Williams  
BA Syd

**Events and Publications Officer**  
Duncan Aldridge  
BA DipEd W‘gong

**Visiting Professorial Fellows**  
Professor Michael Bittman  
BA UNSW, PhD RMIT

Emeritus Professor Sol Encel  
MA PhD Melb.

Emeritus Professor Sheila Shaver  
AB Stanford, PhD La Trobe, FASSA

**Senior Visiting Fellow**  
Associate Professor Judy Cashmore  
BA DipEd Adel., MEd N‘cle, PhD Macq.

**Visiting Fellows**  
Sara Graham  
BSc London, PhD West Indies
**RESEARCH PROGRAM**

During 2007 there were 94 research projects under way in the Centre, funded from academic research grants, and from contracts with government departments at federal, state and territory levels and with non-government organisations. The projects are described below. They are grouped into broad areas of social policy and listed alphabetically within each area.

**POVERTY, SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

**Analysis of expenditure information in the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey**

Garry Barrett (School of Economics)
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

There is a large body of research that shows that family expenditure provides a more accurate guide to a family’s economic wellbeing than current income. If individuals and families have access to (formal or informal) saving and credit facilities, they have the capacity to smooth transitory fluctuations in income. Focusing only on weekly or annual income during an atypically good (bad) period produces an over (under) estimate of family wellbeing. Recent international research on economic inequality and welfare has thus turned to the use of expenditure data. This project undertakes an empirical analysis of the expenditure information in Waves 1 and 3 of the HILDA survey. The analysis includes: an investigation of the relationship between income and expenditure; an examination of the relationship between the family expenditure items in Waves 1 and 3 and between these items and family wealth (wave 2); and an analysis of expenditure and income inequality (and welfare).

**Changing patterns of resource transfers across the lifecycle**

Gerry Redmond and Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The project draws on data assembled by the ABS in the four most recent Fiscal Incidence Studies (based on the Household Expenditure Surveys (HES), and undertaken in 1988-89, 1993-94, 1998-99 and 2003-04). The research examines the fluctuations in incomes and costs over lifetimes and the role the Australian government has played in evening out these fluctuations over the past 15 years. It asks how this role has changed in response to large changes in employment (particularly of women) and in private saving behaviour (particularly housing and superannuation), and what pressures this places on families to undertake private saving and/or private transfers between generations.

**Expenditure costs**

Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Expenditure costs are an important factor influencing demographic and labour market decisions as well as being directly relevant to particular policy areas such as child support. The project examines how much the income (or total expenditure) of a household would have to increase in order to maintain the living standards of the household members when some hypothetical change occurs. (Reductions in costs can be similarly modelled.) Potential changes might include increases in the number of adults or children, the disability or impairment of household members, separation or widowhood, employment or job search, etc. The concepts of costs and living standards are usually restricted to items associated with consumer expenditures (rather than time costs), though it is possible in principle to include time costs in this framework.
An integrated framework for developing credible indicators of deprivation and other dimensions of inequality

Peter Saunders and Yuvisthi Naidoo
Principal Funder: ARC Discovery Grant and Australian Professorial Fellowship

The existing instruments for measuring poverty have become disconnected from the life events that cause poverty and the adverse outcomes associated with low income. A new approach is needed that is focused on how low-income, deprivation and joblessness produce unacceptable outcomes, particularly for children. Community concern over the growing ‘rich-poor divide’ suggests that poverty research must also be better integrated with issues of affluence and inequality. This innovative program is developing an integrated conceptual and empirical framework for identifying poverty, deprivation and other dimensions of inequality, and using it to derive a set of new social monitoring instruments and policy-evaluation tools.

Left out and missing out: towards new indicators of disadvantage

Peter Saunders, Yuvisthi Naidoo and Megan Griffiths
Principal funder: Australian Research Council Linkage Grant with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Mission Australia, The Smith Family, Anglicare, the Diocese of Sydney

This ground-breaking project utilises academic knowledge and practical agency experience built up over decades to produce a new framework for identifying and measuring exclusion and deprivation in contemporary Australian society. It is generating new findings on public attitudes to the ‘necessary requirements’ needed to participate at all levels in society and the economy. It is examining the population profile of the individuals and groups who are denied these opportunities, using both quantitative (survey) and qualitative (focus group) data, as well as existing data collections to complement its findings. The project report was released during 2007.

Making a difference: building on children’s experience of economic adversity

Peter Saunders, Bettina Cass and Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

The continuing collaboration is aiming to explore and develop appropriate methodologies to conduct research into how families cope with different kinds of economic adversity and what this implies for the well-being of children. The project has a dual focus: firstly, on children’s and parents’ perceptions of their poverty and social exclusion, and on their coping strategies and views of helpful and less helpful interventions; and secondly, on service providers’ views of the efficacy and relevance of their services for parents and their children, and their attempts to engage children and families in service-provision and planning. This dual parent/child and service-provider approach allows for a more complex understanding of the interweaving experiences of economic adversity in families as they affect children, and of the many factors which construct vulnerability and risk, and what kinds of resources are required (in the perceptions of those affected) to mitigate and overcome adversity.
The new social productivity
Bettina Cass and Trish Hill
Principal funder: Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and Australian Bureau of Statistics

This is an essay using data from the Census of Population and Housing (2006). It was commissioned and funded by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The essay explores the dimensions, correlates and interconnections of various forms of social participation (social productivity) and economic participation at different life stages. It is a conceptual, methodological and empirical investigation, asking: How might productivity be reconceptualised to include both economic and social participation and the relationship between the two at different life stages? What should be taken into account in reconceptualising, measuring and understanding economic/social productivity in a comprehensive way, to include care-giving (child-care, elder care and disability care) and volunteering, as well as labour force participation? How do men and women in different family circumstances, at different ages, in different socio-economic circumstances, in different cultural and geographic contexts, combine social and economic participation, and what are the components of their participation?

Poverty in Australia: sensitivity analysis and recent trends
Peter Saunders, Bruce Bradbury and Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Council of Social Service

This project examines the sensitivity of income poverty in 2003-04 for the entire population, for adults and children, and for sub-groups broken down by: family type, age of household head, labour force status, principal income source, and state/territory of residence. The study uses three different poverty lines and explores the impact on the poverty rate of excluding households who report zero of negative income, are self employed, report high levels of expenditure or net wealth, and report no incidence of financial stress over the previous year. The different methods are also used to examine the extent of changes in poverty in the decade to 2003-04.

Review of special disadvantage test
Peter Saunders and Yuvisthi Naidoo
Principal funder: Legal Aid Commission of NSW

The project provides advice to the Legal Aid Commission of NSW regarding the theoretical framework underpinning the concept of social exclusion as a means of measuring disadvantage and poverty. The project will also provide a comparative analysis of three different approaches to disadvantage: the economic approach, the approach based on social exclusion, and a demographic approach.

Wealth-holding patterns of Australia’s elderly
Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Many elderly live in dwellings that are much larger than they need or can afford to maintain. It is possible that economic distortions, e.g. exemption of owner-occupied homes from the Aged Pension asset test, may lead to a higher than optimal investment in housing among the Australian aged population – and hence a lower than optimal level of non-housing consumption. The project compared home-ownership and other wealth-holding patterns among the aged in Australia, with those in countries with different pension systems (the US and Western Europe), to see if the wealth-holding patterns of the Australian elderly are indeed unusual. The comparison used new Australian data on wealth holdings (HILDA and the ABS 2003-04 HES) together with data from the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS).
EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY AND THE CARE OF DEPENDENT OTHERS

**Active ageing: inter-generation transfers, caring networks and policies maintaining participation of older Australians and their carers**

Bettina Cass, Trish Hill and Denise Thompson
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The objectives of this project are to analyse the key risk and protective factors relating to economic and social participation and active engagement in social networks of older people and carers, and the role of care-giving in maintaining participation. The project is identifying the factors facilitating economic and social participation in later life.

**Assessing self-employment as a strategy for balancing work and family life**

Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: UNSW Vice-Chancellor Post-doctoral fellowship award

Conflict between work and family life constrains women’s workforce participation, depresses national fertility rates, and limits business growth and national economic competitiveness. This research will establish how work and family intersect for a significant group of Australian workers: those who employ themselves in their own businesses. By analysing new survey and qualitative data, the research aims to: identify whether and how self-employment and small business ownership shape experiences of family life; contribute Australian evidence to international debates about the role of self-employment in strategies for balancing work and family; and inform the development of policies to enhance family life and sustain micro-business.

**Children and young people with disabilities - family resiliency**

Kristy Muir, Ilan Katz and Karen Fisher with Sally Robinson and Edwina Pickering (DSaRi)
Principal funder: Disability Policy and Research Working Group, Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Having a child with a disability can place significant stress on a family. It may negatively affect a family’s working, social and home life as well as their financial security. Families may also experience feelings of grief, a sense of hopelessness and/or social isolation. While some families have difficulty coping with these stressors, others develop and maintain resilience. This project is aiming to define and describe the term ‘family resilience’ as it relates to families who have a child aged 0-8 years with a disability, and to describe the evidence that underpins the identification and practice of family resilience in the 0-8-year age range. The research is analysing service models in order to identify and define elements of practice that build family resilience or detract from it, and that are crucial to its maintenance during times of transition. The project will identify and present tools that can be used to measure resiliency in families who have children with disabilities.

**Critical success factors of the Communities for Children model**

Kristy Muir, Ilan Katz, and Shannon McDermott
Principal funder: The Smith Family

The major component of the research is to analyse the model, processes and governance issues within The Smith Family Communities for Children (C4C) sites. The same issues are also examined for Learning for Life to ensure that the most relevant, applicable and effective results can be obtained in the final section of the research. The final component of the research involves drawing out the lessons from C4C for Learning for life and for The Smith Family within the whole of community perspective.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Principal Funders</th>
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<tr>
<td>The costs of foster care in Australia</td>
<td>The grant funds PhD research on the costs of foster care in Australia.</td>
<td>Peter Saunders, Judy Cashmore and Marilyn McHugh</td>
<td>Principal Funder: Australian Research Council, Australian Postgraduate Award Industry Grant with the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies as Industry Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early childhood services models of integration and collaboration: evidence into action topical paper</td>
<td>The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has funded the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) to provide support services for organisations funded through Communities for Children. To this end, ARACY has commissioned 20 Evidence Into Action topical papers relating to the wellbeing and life chances of children. ARACY has identified a need for a practical guide for practitioners, service managers and policy makers on which interventions produce effective outcomes for children. The papers are presented in a format which distils the evidence-base into practical messages for ready application by the Communities for Children projects. The focus of this paper is on initiatives aiming to integrate children’s education and care services with health and family support. Initiatives of this type range from the very local (where two or more services collaborate to provide services differently) to large structural-policy developments. The main focus of this paper is on the latter, including ‘whole-of-government’ and ‘wraparound’ services designed and implemented at the level of policies and programs.</td>
<td>Kylie Valentine, Ilan Katz and Megan Griffiths</td>
<td>Principal funder: Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>The effect on relationship survival of (dis)satisfaction with work and family balance and/or the division of domestic labour</td>
<td>Does dissatisfaction with work family balance and/or the division of domestic labour contribute to relationship/marriage breakdown over time? Following the large-scale entry of women into the paid workforce, the issue of work-family balance has become increasingly important to social policy. However, it is also apparent that the issue remains largely a problem for women. Currently it is overwhelmingly women who take up ‘family-friendly’ work measures, and women who do the bulk of the domestic labour and childcare within the home. This project investigates an aspect of this issue that has hardly been researched. What is not known is whether the gender imbalance is evidence of a positive choice on the part of women, or whether it reflects unwelcome constraint. Further, it is not known if there are practical implications, including whether stress in these areas affects the survival of marital relationships. Establishing whether domestic fairness and/or family-friendly workplace measures ‘matter’ to relationship survival would be an important original contribution to knowledge in this field and provide new evidence to inform policy.</td>
<td>Lyn Craig and Pooja Sawrikar</td>
<td>Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exploring the dimension of significant life-course transition for parents and children

Tony Eardley
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project addresses the paucity of Australian data and information through a qualitative study of mothers’ experiences of workforce return, including both mothers’ and children’s perceptions of that transition. As well as producing a sense of the subjective experiences of this major life-course transition for mothers and their children, within changed policy parameters, this study could inform the future design of a larger quantitative study measuring the extent and distribution of such outcomes. Research looking at children’s experiences of this transition has produced significant findings in the UK, but a study of this nature has not been undertaken in Australia.

Fostering and kinship care in Australia

Tony Eardley
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

In the context of the current National Plan for Foster Children, Young People and their Carers, there is a need for a better understanding of trends in fostering and kinship care, the outcomes being achieved in different types of care, and the models and structures of support required to meet future needs in out-of-home care placements for children. This project undertakes: a literature search and review for Australia and overseas, with particular emphasis on English-speaking countries; a review of policy documents relating to fostering and kinship care in the States and Territories of Australia; and informal contact and discussions with key policy informants in Australia and overseas, both academics and practitioners/policy makers.

Grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren: a national, state, and territory analysis

Deborah Brennan, Bettina Cass, Megan Blaxland and Ciara Smyth with Sue Green (Nura Gili, UNSW) and Anne Hampshire (Mission Australia)
Principal funder: Australian Research Council, Linkage Grant, with NSW Department of Community Services, Department of Families and Communities (SA), Mission Australia, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and NT Department of Health and Community Services

This unique collaboration between researchers, four government Departments concerned with child and family welfare (Commonwealth, NSW, South Australia and the Northern Territory), and Nura Gili and Mission Australia, uses innovative methods to investigate issues of concern to non-Indigenous and Indigenous grandparents who are primary carers of their grandchildren. The project analyses the circumstances and needs of grandparents and grandchildren in different formal and informal arrangements. It will provide a comprehensive audit of national, state and territory policies, and identify gaps for the development of policies and services to promote the health and wellbeing of grandparents and children.

If men did more housework would women have more babies?

Lyn Craig
Principal funder: Australian Research Council Discovery Grant

This project increases understanding of falling birth rates in Australia and other OECD countries. Low fertility leads to structural ageing of the population with adverse economic and social consequences. Using comparative research and analysis of time-use data, the project investigates the ways in which men and women in different countries allocate time to market work, and whether or not domestic labour influences cross-national fertility outcomes. It will yield important new policy-relevant knowledge by testing whether gender equity in work-family balance and the division of labour is associated with a greater likelihood that citizens will have a first child and, having had the first, go on to have subsequent children.
The impact of separation and child support payments on income support receipt and income

Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Do parents who separate and pay child support reduce their labour supply and/or their income? For many child support payers, the returns to working are substantially lower when they have to pay child support. It is possible, therefore, that this might lead to a reduction in workforce participation among payers (and/or a reduction in declared income). Though there has always been speculation about a possible labour supply impact from the child support payments, evidence to date on this question is inconclusive. This project compares patterns of income support receipt (as a proxy for labour supply) by non-resident parents before and after their separation.

The impact of child support on payer and payee incomes

Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The research examines the circumstances and living standards of families with children who are affected by child support payments, because their parents/step-parents are either payers or payees. The analysis encompasses the families of all payer and payee parents, plus the families of separated and divorced parents where no payments are made. The research also examines how the living standards of children whose parents divorce or separate change after separation. The research is important because there has been little recent research carried out in Australia on the impact of the child support system on children's living standards.

Invest to grow: partnerships in early childhood

Cathy Thomson, Kylie Valentine and Tom Longden
Principal funder: The Benevolent Society

The Partnerships in Early Childhood (PIEC) project links families to support services and programs by using childcare centres as a 'bridge' for families to other services and programs. It places childcare centres at the centre of the community, building on existing strengths and resources, and harnessing the skills and resources of major childcare providers. The PIEC program is funded under FaHCSIA’s Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, through the Invest to Grow program. SPRC is conducting the evaluation component of the project.

Kinship care

Ilan Katz, Bettina Cass, Marilyn McHugh, with Jan Mason (UWS), Paul Delfabbro (University of Adelaide), Eric Scott (Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies), Marina Paxman (NSW Department of Community Services) and Leonie Gibbons (UWS)
Principal funder: Australian Research Alliance on Children and Youth

This is a partnership involving the academic, government and NGO sectors, aimed at developing an ongoing collaboration to address the research gap relating to kinship care in Australia. Kinship care refers to the provision of full-time care to a child by someone who is related to the child either by family ties or by a significant prior connection. The collaboration engages a wide range of stakeholders to build research capacity in this area which can directly impact on policy and practice. It is intended to begin to fill the current void in the evidence base and move towards better understanding, policy and practice relating to kinship care.
Management of work and family balance

Lyn Craig, Michael Bittman, Denise Thompson and Jude Brown
Principal Funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Most Australian research on work-family balance has been within the industrial relations tradition of workplace-based studies. While there is some qualitative data on work-family strain and the life course, there has been very little research which studies the relationship between childcare arrangements (including mixed formal and informal care), hours of employment, patterns of paid work, the hours of domestic labour, and perceived time-pressure, both for individuals and households. The investigation focused on: developing an index of work/family strain incorporating time-pressure, health and satisfaction measures; describing how parents with different labour-force statuses spend time with their children, and the effects of non-parental care on these patterns; and studying the association between formal childcare and informal support (e.g. extended family) and achieving a successful balance between work and family.

Negotiating caring and employment: the impact on carers’ wellbeing

Michael Bittman, Cathy Thomson, Trish Hill and Megan Griffiths,
Principal funder: Australian Research Council Linkage Grant
Industry Partners, NSW Premiers Department Office for Women and Public Employment Office, NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Health, Office of Industrial Relations, and Carers NSW

Work and caring compete for carers’ time. Little is known about the difficulties of combining work with the care of adults or children with disabilities. Between 40 and 60 per cent of Australian carers combine employment with caring responsibilities. The project adopts a life-course perspective to study the effects of caring on income security, social participation and the health of employed carers. It makes innovative use of existing data sources, including new longitudinal survey data, supported by a specially designed program of qualitative research to study key transitions, possible workplace solutions and the effective provision of human services.

Non-resident parents’ use of services

Tony Eardley
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

There has been a rise in the number of non-resident parents in Australia over a number of decades, but questions relating to their involvement in their children’s lives have only recently become an issue for policy makers. Although there is a growing body of evidence on the importance of fathers in children’s development, relatively little research or policy attention has been paid to the role of mainstream services for families where there is a non-resident parent. The research studies how the most significant mainstream services (including schools, primary health care, social housing and children’s services) address the needs of children who have a non-resident parent. The study aims to inform policy development to improve the organisation and delivery of services, to help them adapt to the increasing diversity of family structures and to make them more father-inclusive. The research involves a review of Australian and international literature, and interviews with policy makers, expert informants and staff in the relevant services.
Outcomes of children of young parents

Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This study investigates the causal relationship between child outcomes and parental age at birth. In particular, there has been much concern about the impact of teenage pregnancy on child health and functioning outcomes. However, it is not clear that the poorer outcomes observed in these families are causally related to the parent’s age at birth or due to other factors (such as health and socio-economic status of the parents), which influence both the likelihood of a teenage pregnancy and the outcomes for the child. The project examines the way child health and functioning indicators vary according to parental characteristics, as well as comparing the outcomes of siblings. Data from the initial wave of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and HILDA are used.

Part-time work and academic careers: constraints and opportunities in FASS

Sharni Chan, Trish Hill, Cathy Thomson, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: UNSW Gender equity grant

The project developed initiatives to enhance part-time (fractional) employment as a viable academic career option for balancing work and life, and hence to meet the need expressed by women academics in the Gender Equity in Academic Employment at the University of New South Wales report.

Private and public expenditure on early childhood

Ilan Katz and Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Over the past decade there have been increasing calls for governments in developed countries to shift resources towards early intervention for families with young children. The argument is that infants’ brains are ‘malleable’ until age three, when the growth of neurons slows considerably. If basic skills are not learned before age three, children will be ‘hard wired’ for failure, and later interventions are bound to have limited impact and be less cost-effective. Building on three bodies of work – evaluation of early childhood programs, time-use studies, and estimates of the costs of children – this project examines these factors, in order to develop a better understanding of the value and impact of public and private investment in children of different ages.

Work and family balance: transitions to high school

Lyn Craig and Pooja Sawrikar
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The project establishes how the transition of children from primary to high school affects the way Australian parents organise their work commitments, and their satisfaction with work-family balance. The early teen years raise particular issues for parents, but they have rarely been investigated with regard to their impact upon the challenges parents face in juggling employment and home responsibilities. The project analyses data from the cross-sectional ABS Time Use Survey 1997 and the longitudinal HILDA survey, Waves 1 and 3, to provide information not previously available on how parents with young teenagers experience balancing work and family, compared to parents with younger children.

Wealth as a protective factor for child outcomes

Ilan Katz and Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project analyses the reasons for the relationship between positive outcomes for children and SES and in particular why young children in the highest SES bracket do best. The research addresses whether there is continuity across the SES range, or whether the factors producing outcomes for the lowest SES and the average are different from those producing outcomes for high SES children.
Young carers (costs, impact on welfare)
Bettina Cass, Trish Hill, Ciara Smyth and Megan Blaxland
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Defining young carers as children and young people up to the age of 25 who provide informal help, support or supervision on an on-going basis for a family member or a close friend with one or more disabilities or severe illness (using ABS definitions), this project identifies the levels of young carers’ participation in education, training and employment, and in friendship and other social/cultural/sporting networks. Where data is available, comparisons are being made with young people without care-giving responsibilities. The findings will be used as indicators of the level of social, educational and labour market connectedness/disconnectedness of children and young people who provide informal care, and will also be used to assess the longer-term costs of care for young people with respect to their educational attainment, employment and market-income opportunities.

Young carers: social policy impacts of the caring responsibilities of children and young adults
Bettina Cass, Deborah Brennan, Ilan Katz, Cathy Thomson and Megan Blaxland with Deborah Mitchell (Australian National University)
Principal funder: Australian Research Council – Linkage Grant, with Carers NSW, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (NSW), Department of Health (NSW), Health Administration Corporation, Children Youth and Women’s Health Service, NSW Commission for Children and Young People, Carers Association of SA, Department of Education and Children’s Services (SA), Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (SA), Department for Families and Communities (SA), Social Inclusion Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

In Australia, 347,700 young people up to age 24 provide care for family members with long-term illnesses or disabilities; 18,700 are primary carers. The project analyses the circumstances and needs of young carers and care recipients, including the costs and benefits of the care relationship. The findings will contribute to policies for young carers, a national public policy priority. The expected outcomes are innovative contributions to theories of care; evidence about the diverse socio-economic and demographic characteristics of young carers and care recipients; and development of supportive policies and services.
### Community Services Outcomes and Evaluations

**Attendant Care Program direct-funding pilot project evaluation**

Karen Fisher, Kristy Muir and Andrew Anderson, with Sally Robinson and Carolyn Campbell McLean (DSaRI)

Principal funder: Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW

The research evaluates the NSW Attendant Care Program (ACP) direct-funding pilot project. The ACP project is aimed at people with physical disabilities with high personal care needs, who have the capacity to directly manage attendant care funding. The objectives are to measure the success of the project, providing comparisons with existing funding arrangements, and identifying issues for consideration when determining future funding options for the ACP. The evaluation includes process, outcomes and economic measures. Methods include a literature review; longitudinal data collection through interviews and questionnaires; and economic analysis.

**Better Futures 14-19-year-olds**

Ilan Katz, Glenn Took and Denise Thompson

Principal funder: NSW Department of Community Services

The project extends the Better Futures Outcomes Framework literature review to 14–19-year-olds. Although the outcomes frameworks for the 8–14-year-olds and the 15–19-year-olds were very similar, there were outcomes specific to the older age group. The project addresses those latter issues.

**Better Futures outcomes framework**

Natasha Cortis, Glen Took, Ilan Katz, Cathy Thomson and Denise Thompson

Principal funder: NSW Department of Community Services

The Better Futures Regional Strategy intends to improve the health, education and safety outcomes of young people by improving the ways in which communities and services support young people and respond to their needs. To achieve the outcomes, the Strategy employs an early intervention and prevention approach designed to increase community capacity to identify problems early and provide support and assistance. This research project undertook a literature review and developed an outcomes framework from secondary data.

**Carer payment (child) review**

Kylie Valentine, Marianne Rajkovic, Punitha Arjunan, Anna Nina Chua, Sonia Goldie, Shannon McDermott, B.J. Newton, Sarah Young, Noreen Metcalfe and Hanna-Leena Myllärinen

Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA)

FaCSIA conducted a review of Carer Payment (child) which involved a public submission process and extensive consultation activity. Researchers from the SPRC were responsible for analysing the submissions, examining the themes which arise from the analysis and providing a report on the findings.

**Early Intervention Program (Brighter Futures) evaluation**

Ilan Katz, Karen Fisher, Pooja Sawrikar, Sarah Parker, Fiona Hiltbert, Christiane Purcal, Kathy Fannous (SPRC), with Jane Hall, Kees van Gool and Marion Haas (Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, UTS), June Wangmann, Christine Woodrow and Christine Johnston (School of Education and Early Childhood Studies, UWS), Judy Atkinson and Beverly Grant Lipscombe (Gnibi College of Indigenous Australia Peoples, SCU), and Pam Meadows (National Institute of Social and Economic Research, London)

Principal funder: NSW Department of Community Services

DoCS commissioned the SPRC consortium to design and implement an evaluation of the Early Intervention Program (Brighter Futures). By providing targeted support to vulnerable families, the Program aims to prevent problems from escalating into family crises. A key factor underpinning the evaluation design is the need for the evaluation to be both summative (report retrospectively on the effectiveness of the Program) and formative (facilitate the refinement of the policy and practice related to implementing the Program). We expect at the conclusion of this project that the evaluation findings will provide significant insights into the implementation of the Program, and optimal service models, including identifying facilitators and barriers to its success. In addition, the evaluation findings will contribute to the evidence-base of the Program to improve early childhood results.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Principal Funder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Mental Health Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative</td>
<td>NSW Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre Program</td>
<td>NSW Attorney General's Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow-up to the longitudinal study of wards leaving care</td>
<td>Department of Community Services, NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>HASI care planning review</td>
<td>NSW Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The impact of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) on client self-reliance</td>
<td>SAAP Coordination and Development Committee, through the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
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**Evaluation of the Mental Health Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative**

Karen Fisher, Kristy Muir, Ann Dadich and David Abelló, with Alan Morris (School of Social Science and Policy, UNSW) and Michael Bleasdale (Disability Studies and Research Institute)

Principal Funder: NSW Health

This two-year evaluation of the Mental Health Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) measured the outcomes and processes, focusing on the interests of the people supported by HASI. Methods included interviews with those people, and with providers, government, carers and advocacy groups; together with quantitative data analysis, document and literature reviews, and cost-effectiveness analysis.

**Evaluation of the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre Program**

Catherine Spooner and Saul Flaxman, Lisa Jackson Pulver (Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, UNSW), Elizabeth Moore (Centre for Rural Social Research, CSU) and John Howard (Ted Noffs Foundation)

Principal funder: NSW Attorney General’s Department

Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre (Tirkandi Inaburra) is a community-controlled, regionally-based residential facility for Aboriginal boys aged between 12 and 15 years, who are at risk of contact with the criminal justice system. The facility hosts a culturally appropriate, strengths-based 3-6 month program to build resilience. The NSW Attorney General’s Department, which funds Tirkandi Inaburra, engaged a consortium led by the SPRC to a) assist Tirkandi Inaburra in their conceptualisation and development of data collection tools for ongoing monitoring that will enable them to refine their policies and programs; and b) conduct an outcomes study that will assess the effectiveness of Tirkandi Inaburra in achieving its objectives for participants, particularly in relation to education, social integration and involvement in the criminal justice system. A multi-method evaluation has been planned and initiated, including: interviews with program participants, their families and staff; observational research; a staff diary; and a survey of board members.

**Follow-up to the longitudinal study of wards leaving care**

Judy Cashmore

Principal Funder: Department of Community Services, NSW

This study gathers information about the experiences of the cohort of young people interviewed for the earlier SPRC project, Longitudinal Study of Wards Leaving Care, conducted in the early 1990s, providing for the first time, a continuous record of what happens to young people over an extended period of time beyond their time in care. The project provides a basis for the development of practice in this area, at a time when leaving care/after care services are just being established.

**HASI care planning review**

Karen Fisher, Ann Dadich and Kristy Muir

Principal funder: NSW Health

The project reviews the effectiveness of client support care planning processes in HASI 1, funded by NSW Health and the NSW Department of Housing. The review examines the care plans, and includes interviews with clients, accommodation support-provider caseworkers, and mental health case managers.

**The impact of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) on client self-reliance**

Tony Eardley, Denise Thompson, Bettina Cass and Ann Dadich

Principal funder: SAAP Coordination and Development Committee, through the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The research developed and implemented a measure to ascertain the extent to which receiving SAAP services facilitates change in client ‘self-reliance’, within the terms of the requirements of the SAAP V Accountability Framework. The project involved consulting with peak homelessness bodies and homelessness services to inform the development of a valid and reliable instrument to measure self-reliance; carrying out a national client survey using this instrument; and conducting a small number of case studies to explore further the nature and dimensions of self-reliance for people experiencing homelessness.
Integrated rehabilitation and recovery care program evaluation

Karen Fisher, David Abelló, Robyn Edwards, Kristy Muir, Megan Griffiths, with Heather Gridley and Jenny Sharples (Victoria University)
Principal funder: Department of Human Services Victoria
The research evaluates the Integrated Rehabilitation and Recovery Care Program (IRRCP) for consumers in Secure Extended Care Units and Continuing Care Units, who need a higher level of combined clinical and community treatment and support than is usually available to support them to live in the community. IRRCP aims to improve consumer outcomes through: provision of more targeted and time-limited, high-level psychosocial rehabilitation and clinical support; facilitating access to appropriate housing or other accommodation options; and increasing opportunities to participate in community activities such as recreation, education, vocational training, and employment. The evaluation includes process, outcomes and economic measures. Methods include a literature review; longitudinal data collection through administrative data, key performance indicators, interviews and questionnaires, and economic analysis.

Integrated services project for clients with challenging behaviour evaluation

Karen Fisher, Kristy Muir, Shannon McDermott and Peter Abelson with Edwina Pickering (DSaRI)
Principal funder: Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW
The Integrated Services Project (ISP) for Clients with Challenging Behaviour provides an interagency service response that delivers a cost-effective approach to assessment, intervention and support to people 18 years and older who exhibit complex, challenging behaviours. This evaluation assesses the cost and operational effectiveness of the Project in terms of the impact on clients and others, service system capacity and effective governance.

Longitudinal Study of Australian Children: outcomes and the family environment

Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
This project describes the associations found in the wave 1 LSAC data between child outcomes and various characteristics of the family environment. Characteristics being examined include the economic circumstances of the family (e.g. financial hardship), geographic location, family structure (parental age, family type and family structure dynamics), and parental relationships (parenting stress, inter-parental relationships). The project will also describe the independent associations of these variables with outcomes in the context of the previous Australian and international (English-language) literature, and recommend strategies for further research in this area using later waves of the LSAC data.

Low-intensity coordinated care in child disability assessment

Karen Fisher and Ciara Smyth
Principal Fund: UNSW Faculty Research Grant
This project examines whether low-intensity coordinated care improves the quality of families’ experiences during child-disability assessment. Research has shown that parents want ongoing support to improve their understanding about their experiences. Case management can be costly, however, and the effectiveness of low-intensity coordinated care for these families has not been examined. This project measures outcomes for children, families and government in two locations, with and without low-intensity coordinated care, using qualitative interviews with families.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Measuring changes in community strength</strong></th>
<th>The research aims to identify communities which have changed in their levels of social or economic disadvantage over time, and then more closely investigate the factors appearing to have led to those changes, focusing on the extent to which there have been changes in community strength (or social capital). The research will enable the measurement of the strength of communities, the changes in strength over time, and the contributions of Government and other initiatives to changes in social capital in communities.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ilan Katz</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kristy Muir</strong>, <strong>David Abelló</strong> and <strong>Phillip French</strong> (Disability Studies and Research Institute)</td>
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<td>Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Provision of ‘quality of life’ outcomes reporting for younger people with disabilities in residential aged care</strong></th>
<th>In 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced a jointly funded program to reduce the number of younger people with disability living in residential aged care. The project aims to derive a set of credible, effective and relevant indicators to measure the impact of ‘Quality of Life’ Program activities on participants’ quality of life.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kristy Muir</strong>, <strong>David Abelló</strong> and <strong>Phillip French</strong> (Disability Studies and Research Institute)</td>
<td>FaHCSIA commissioned the UNSW Consortium to implement an evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (2004-2008) (SFCS). The SFCS aims to: help families and communities build better futures for children; build family and community capacity; support relationships between families and the communities they live in; and improve communities’ abilities to help themselves. Recognising the need for additional research capacities to undertake the evaluation of a complex strategy such as SFCS, the UNSW Consortium includes members from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and experts in the fields of early childhood development, parenting, early intervention and prevention, non-government organisations, economic evaluation, community strength, and the pathways approach to crime prevention.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Stronger Families and Communities Strategy evaluation - stage 2</strong></th>
<th>The research aims to improve the monitoring and evaluation systems at Waverly Action for Youth Services (WAYS) and to work collaboratively with WAYS staff and management to develop program logic and a plan for monitoring and evaluation.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</td>
<td>Principal funder: Waverly Action for Youth Services</td>
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# The Organisation and Delivery of Human Services

## Approaches to packages of support for people with a disability

**Bettina Cass and Denise Thompson**

Principal Funder: NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

The purpose of this literature review is: to investigate flexible packages of support for people with disabilities which enable them to remain in their own homes; to identify how these packages are provided in Australian jurisdictions and overseas; and to assess the applicability of effective models to the NSW context.

## Cost of providing specialist disability services and community services in Queensland

**Karen Fisher, Marianne Rajkovic, David Maynard with Lesley Chenoweth (Griffith University) and Sally Robinson (DSaRI)**

Principal funder: Disability Services Queensland

The research investigates and reports on the cost and funding of the services provided by non-government service providers and funded by DSQ and Queensland’s Department of Communities. It identifies the resources and tasks associated with all aspects of service provision that incur a cost; determines the current cost of providing services (in existing service models) through analysis of a representative sample of service providers; tests the validity of ‘service clustering’ for costing purposes; identifies changes in the cost of service delivery over time using historical service delivery costs and, where possible, future cost projections; examines the reasons for and extent of variation in service costs; reviews current revenue streams for funded non-government service providers, the reliability of those revenue streams and their impact on the viability of the service providers; and undertakes research to identify expenditure benchmarks used by other Australian jurisdictions when delivering similar services.

## Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families in the NSW child protection system (CPS)

**Pooja Sawrikar**

Principal funder: Department of Community Services, NSW

The research project employs a mixed methods approach. Using both case-file review and interviews with caseworkers and CALD families, it investigates the challenges involved in implementing universal and statutory child protection policies in ways that are culturally sensitive and competent across different cultures, as well as the needs of CALD families in the CPS and any barriers they perceive or experience. The results will be used to identify strategies and make policy recommendations that promote the implementation of child protection policies in culturally appropriate and effective ways. It will also identify possible models of service delivery that can be evaluated in future research on CALD families’ experiences of the CPS.

## CALD young people and mentoring

**Kristy Muir, Pooja Sawrikar and Megan Griffiths**

Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

National Youth Affairs Research Scheme

This project focuses on the mentoring of young people (aged 12 to 25 years) from the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan). Mentoring involves the formation of a formal relationship in which one party offers paths, connections and networks to another party, which may help them pursue opportunities or overcome disadvantages or challenges. This research will identify effective practice to be considered when providing mentoring services to young people from Horn of Africa communities. It will also identify model options for CALD mentoring programs; good practice case studies of mentoring services to Horn of Africa communities; and principles to guide mentoring service-delivery to young people from CALD communities. The research will include a literature review, consultations with community agencies and government providers, and focus groups with Horn of Africa young people in NSW, Victoria and South Australia.
### Effectiveness of supported living in relation to shared accommodation

Karen Fisher, Sarah Parker, Christiane Purcal, Megan Griffiths, Ofir Thaler and Peter Abelson, with Sally Robinson, Edwina Pickering (DSaRI) and Bill Randolph (City Futures, UNSW)

Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The research for the Disability Policy and Research Working Group informs both improved access to housing for people with disabilities with high support needs, and innovative accommodation models for people with disabilities requiring 24-hour care. The research includes quantitative analysis and modelling, literature and document reviews, interviews with people with disabilities and relevant organisations, observation, case studies, and cost-effectiveness analysis.

### Issues paper: enhancing family and relationship service accessibility and delivery to CALD families in Australia

Pooja Sawrikar and Ilan Katz

Principal funder: Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Issues Paper reviews the national and international literature on effective models and practice of family and relationship services. Specifically, it informs policy makers of the most effective ways in which to increase the accessibility of these services to CALD families, and informs service providers and practitioners of the most effective ways to improve service delivery to CALD families. As such, it facilitates the overarching goals of developing cultural awareness, sensitivity and competence, and strategies for sharing their expertise with other service providers and practitioners that assist CALD families. The findings of paper will stimulate further research and interest in the experiences and needs of CALD families when they engage with family- and relationship-related services.

### Participation in sport and recreation by CALD women

Kristy Muir, Natasha Cortis and Pooja Sawrikar

Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The project is examines CALD women’s current patterns of participation in sport (as players and non-players), as well as barriers to their involvement, and policy and program strategies for supporting their participation. The project includes a literature review and analysis of existing data sources, consultations with key stakeholders in sporting and cultural organisations, and focus groups with CALD women.

### Service needs of residents in private residential services

Karen Fisher, Gerry Redmond and Jacqueline Tudball with Lesley Chenoweth (Griffith University) and Sally Robinson (DSaRI)

Principal funder: Disability Services Queensland

The research examines the nature and volume of need for government and non-government support services among residents of private residential services in Queensland. It profiles people living in private residential services across regions in the state, to determine the scope and frequency of service support access and the gaps in services and supports, and to identify what services need to be developed. It determines which services are being accessed and how often; which services are needed but not accessed; the barriers to service access; and what services are required but not being provided by government or non-government providers. The research findings will inform future funding and service-development strategies. The research is needed to improve support and remedy the poor access to mainstream services for people living in private residential services compared to other members of the public.
The Smith Family VIEW Clubs of Australia: from philanthropy to social enterprise

Sue Keen and Christie Robertson
Principal Funder: Australian Research Council SPIRT Grant with The Smith Family as Industry Partner

This grant funds PhD research investigating The Smith Family VIEW Clubs’ responses to the plans for their new role in social development and social change.

Sustainability, funding and governance of NGOs in the alcohol and other drugs sector: implications for the future

Catherine Spooner, Ann Dadich and Ilan Katz, with Wesley Noffs (Ted Noffs Foundation), Peter Homel (Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Griffith University), and Marian Shanahan (National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW)
Principal funder: Australian National Council on Drugs

This project investigates implications of the current context of sustainability, governance and funding of Australian NGOs in the alcohol and other drugs sector, and explores future options to operate effectively under a range of service delivery models. Methods include a review of international literature and consultations with key informants from the NGO sector, funding bodies, and academia across Australia. Structured discussion groups were conducted in New South Wales, Victoria, and Northern Territory.

Young people with disability living in residential aged care research agenda

Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal and Saul Flaxman
Principal funder: Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW

DADHC requires research on the evidence base needed to inform policy development for the support of young people with disabilities living in residential aged care, young people at risk of entering this care, and young people preferring to leave this care. The research prepared an agenda identifying evidence gaps and proposing research priorities to address them.
COMPARATIVE SOCIAL POLICY

Developing an effective system of child protection in China

Xiaoyuan Shang, Ilan Katz and Anthony West (Save the Children, UK)
Principal funder: Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

The study explores the extent, nature and causes of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect facing children in China. The research examines the existing child-protection system, and the extent to which it provides an adequate response to children’s need for protection. This project breaks new ground and puts forward recommendations for consideration by the Chinese government and civil society for appropriate action, including effective remedies and preventive and rehabilitative measures at the international, national and local levels. The project will provide greater knowledge of child-protection practices in a major East Asian society, where kinship and family networks play an active role in protecting children within their own communities. It offers a unique opportunity for Australia to demonstrate its commitment to utilising its own research to the benefit of a major developing country with which it is establishing strong linkages across many activities. It will strengthen the existing connections between Australian higher educational institutions, Chinese government and non-government organisations, and international NGOs.

Early childhood education and care (ECEC): building an international research collaboration

Deborah Brennan, Megan Blaxland and Christiane Purcal
Principal funder: Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

The project involves the development of a policy-relevant research agenda locating Australian ECEC policy in comparative perspective. It connects Australian researchers with international experts in a network that is extending the recent OECD work of building a research agenda that reflects the needs and interests of the local research, policy-making and practitioner communities. The network is looking at mapping the ‘big questions’ in comparative early childhood policy across the four liberal countries, and encourages collaborative applications for competitive grants.

Experiences of families of children with disabilities in China

Xiaoyuan Shang and Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Contestable Funding Scheme, UNSW

The project further develops strategic relationships between the University of New South Wales and Peking University for the purpose of developing research collaborations in the field of child protection and families of children with disabilities. The project expands links between researchers in the SPRC, and the School of Public Health and the Department of Sociology, Peking University, to include other Schools and Faculties at UNSW, and to build on contacts with the Chinese government and international NGOs.
Growing old in a rapidly changing world

Peter Saunders, Xiaoyuan Shang and Kaiti Zhang (China Research Centre on Ageing)

Principal funder: Australian Research Council Linkage Grant with China Research Centre on Ageing

The project builds on earlier ARC-funded research and the partnership with the China Research Centre on Ageing (CRCA), to investigate how the aged are faring in terms of their economic status (as measured by income and access to resources), their social status (as indicated by within-family interactions, patterns of social and political participation, and attitudes to family roles and social change), and their health status (as indicated by self-assessed health, use of health services, and the financial and non-financial barriers to health care usage). This involves detailed analysis of a unique dataset not elsewhere available to Australian researchers, combined with a series of focus group discussions and face-to-face interviews with aged people that will explore their life histories and ‘flesh out’ the lived experience of ageing in an era of rapid economic and social change. A series of comparisons with the aged in Australia will highlight similarities and differences in objective and subjective conditions and point to areas where policy must address common concerns.

Lessons from the UK Sure Start Program

Ilan Katz and Kylie Valentine

Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project examined the policy developments that led to the establishment of Sure Start in the UK and the move from Sure Start Local Programs (SSLPs) to Sure Start Children’s Centres. Specific issues covered included: analysis of current policy developments and the move from SSLPs to Children’s Centres; the broader context of UK policy in relation to early intervention and its relevance to the Australian context; the strengths and challenges of area-based initiatives; inter-agency working, in particular the interface between NGOs and statutory organisations; ‘mainstreaming’ and sustainability; the uses of outcome performance indicators; evaluation methods; impact and implementation; cost-effectiveness; the relationship between local and national evaluations; and how practitioners and policy makers have used the evidence base to develop services. A second strand of this research focused on the Australian experience of similar initiatives, and investigated the influence of Sure Start and other international programmes on early-years intervention in Australia, and the extent to which the lessons from Sure Start are relevant and have been taken on board.

Sole mothers’ time allocation to paid work and childcare in contrasting policy regimes

Lyn Craig

Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project compares the time that sole parents spend in paid work and in care of their children in Australia, the USA, Sweden and France. These countries have been chosen because they take contrasting policy approaches to the support of sole parents, and have differing social expectations of how mothers should balance market work and childcare. This project is expected to yield original evidence-based knowledge by bringing together time-use analysis with policy regime comparison. France and Sweden have histories of high female work force participation for both sole and married mothers. Absolute poverty rates of sole mothers and the income disparity between sole and couple families in these countries are low by world standards. In Australia and the United States income gaps are wider and sole mothers and their children have much higher poverty rates than other family types.
Research for a statistical portrait of children in migrant families in Australia in 2001

Ilan Katz and Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: UNICEF

The overall objective of the project is to devise empirical indicators that will be comparable across countries for children in both migrant and native-born families, to portray the national and international contexts within which such children live. These new statistical results will be calculated from national census, survey, or registration data for selected North American and European destination countries.
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

**Australian Social Science Data Archive: facility enhancement and network development**

Peter Saunders and Bruce Bradbury (as part of a consortium with the Australian National University, University of New South Wales and University of Queensland)

Principal funder: Australian Research Council (Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities grant)

This project enhances the existing archive facility at ANU and develops a distributed data network through the establishment of specialist archive nodes at the Universities of Queensland and NSW. The project develops Australia’s research infrastructure using recent IT-based developments in data archiving, data linking and networked data processing to create a distributed data archive with state-of-the-art cataloguing and access.

**Consortium for social policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases**

David Abelló and Ilan Katz, with the National Centre for HIV Social Research (UNSW), AIDS Council NSW, and People living with HIV and AIDS, NSW

Principal Funder: NSW Department of Health

The SPRC is part of a consortium with the National Centre in HIV Social Research, the AIDS Council of New South Wales, and People Living with HIV and AIDS, New South Wales, to build and strengthen research capacity at the intersection between academic research and health service organisations in the area of HIV and hepatitis C in NSW. It also aims to encourage collaborative research and the formation of public health policy in these fields.

**Labour Migration Group**

Kathy Tannous with Meena Chavin, Fei Guo, Kehui Luo, Michael Olive, Farhat Yusuf

Principal funder: Economics and Financial Studies Strategic Support for Strength Scheme (SSRS), based at Macquarie University

The Labour Migration Group is an inter-disciplinary collection of academics within the School of Economic and Financial Studies (Macquarie University) that received a grant for 2007 under the Economics and Financial Studies Strategic Support for Strength Scheme (SSRS). The grant, valued at $52,243, is divided into funds dedicated for (1) the employment of a research assistant ($32,243) and (2) data purchases ($20,000 to be shared with the Demography Group). The scope of the research encompasses research in labour migration, offshoring and outsourcing, underemployment of labour, impact of changing demographics and the labour market, labour productivity measurement of outsourcing, ethnic business, impact of population ageing, and women in business.

**The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)**

Peter Saunders and Bruce Bradbury

Australian Funders: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ANU Centre for Social Research and SPRC

The LIS was established in 1983 under a grant from the Luxembourg government. Its main aim is to assemble in one location a series of micro-data files for a range of advanced countries, and to render the data comparable by the adoption of standardised concepts and definitions. The data are then made available to researchers in each member country and are used for comparative analysis of aspects of poverty, inequality, redistribution and economic wellbeing in those countries. The SPRC’s participation in this project has ensured that it maintains close and continuing links with the international social policy research community.
## Australian Research Council Grants Awarded During 2007

During 2007 SPRC staff prepared applications to the Australian Research Council for research funding under its Discovery and Linkage programs. The successful applications described below commence in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Principal Investigators</th>
<th>Principal Funders</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparing the living standards of children and older people within and between nations</strong></td>
<td>Peter Saunders, Bruce Bradbury, with Jonathan Bradshaw (University of York, UK), Tim Smeeding (Syracuse University, USA) and Aya Abe (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan)</td>
<td>Australian Research Council, Discovery Grant Scheme</td>
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<td>The living standards of children and older people depend on public and private resource transfers from the working generation, but little is known about factors other than income that determine them, or how they vary within and between groups. This project measures and compares the living standards of young and old within and between countries using a range of data and a variety of methodologies. The research will generate knowledge about the measurement of living standards, document and explain inter- and intra-generational inequalities, and assess the impact of government policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Making a difference: building on children’s perspectives on economic adversity</strong></td>
<td>Peter Saunders, Bettina Cass, Gerry Redmond, Tess Ridge (University of Bath), Janet Stanley (Brotherhood of St. Laurence), Anne Hampshire (Mission Australia) and Megan Griffiths</td>
<td>Australian Research Council, Linkage Grant Scheme, with Mission Australia, The Smith Family, Office for Children, The Brotherhood of St Laurence, Association of Child Welfare Agencies, Social Inclusion Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (South Australia), Department of Education and Children’s Services (South Australia) and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, as industry partners</td>
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<td>This project will interview children experiencing economic adversity in order to gain a better understanding of what adversity means to them, and what actions they think could make a difference to their lives and prospects. Interviews will also be conducted with parents and with service providers to see how their perceptions differ from those of children, and to examine the implications for the design and delivery of services to those facing economic adversity. The research will shed new light on the forms of social exclusion experienced by children and provide a platform for developing more effective policy interventions.</td>
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<td><strong>Trends in time: work, family and social policy in Australia 1992-2006</strong></td>
<td>Lyn Craig</td>
<td>Australian Research Council, Linkage Grant Scheme with Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Australian Bureau of Statistics as industry partners</td>
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<td>This project will examine how Australians manage the challenge of balancing work and family. Using large nationally representative datasets including the ABS Time Use Survey, it will: i) describe empirical trends in work and family time from 1992-2006, conceptualised within demographic change and social and economic policy developments; and ii) explore how a range of intra-household work-family management strategies impact upon the gender division of domestic labour, the quantity, composition and scheduling of time with children, joint family-time, leisure, subjective time pressure, and work force participation in contemporary Australia.</td>
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RESEARCH TRAINING

The SPRC offers research training at PhD and Masters by Research levels, providing research supervision, accommodation and facilities, and access to research literature, data and skills training. Currently students in the Centre are enrolled in an appropriate School of the University, and are jointly supervised from the Centre and their School of enrolment. From September 2008, the SPRC will have the authority to enrol higher degree research students directly in the Centre and administer their candidature. Their study is funded through a variety of scholarships.

Division of labour of married couples in Japan

Akiko Asuda
Supervisors: Bettina Cass, Hélène Bowen Raddeker and Lyn Craig
School: School of History and Philosophy

This thesis investigates Japanese married men’s views on their wives’ employment and married women’s employment in general. The results show that Japanese husbands do not actively participate in housework and child care, however their participation increases somewhat when wives are highly educated or older. The study explores the extent to which Japanese husbands resist full-time employment for their wives and seek to maintain traditional gender roles.

Citizenship and unemployment in Australia and the UK: comparing theories and policies

Scott Burrows
Masters by Research
Supervisor: Ilan Katz and Alan Morris
School: School of Social Science and International Studies

This thesis is a comparative study of the relationship between citizenship and unemployment in Australia and in the United Kingdom from 1996-2001. It addresses changing conceptions of citizenship within unemployment policies such as mutual obligation and welfare-to-work legislation in Australia, and the New Deal policies in the United Kingdom. Commencing with Marshall’s (1949) model of citizenship, the thesis tracks the way ‘social rights’ discourse is framed within unemployment policy. To ascertain these changes, the study utilises key public policy documents such as Hansard, and documents from government departments and political parties. The study intends to highlight the importance of ‘social rights’ in recent income-support changes, and to highlight policy discrepancies and areas for improvement.

Indicators of financial exclusion

Sherman Chan
Supervisors: Peter Saunders and George Argyrous
School: Social Sciences and International Studies

The term ‘financial exclusion’ refers to exclusion from the financial system. This includes a lack of physical access to financial institutions, as well as intangible barriers such as high fees and charges that prevent certain groups of people from using financial products and services. The aim of the thesis is to develop two indicators (or indexes) of financial exclusion: (1) the likelihood of someone falling into financial exclusion given his/her characteristics and circumstances; and (2) a quantitative measure of the extent of financial exclusion they face. These indicators will give an estimate of the proportion of the Australian population that is financially excluded.
Service providers in managed markets for human services

Bob Davidson
Supervisors: Peter Saunders and Michael Johnston
School: Social Sciences and International Studies

The increasing use of market processes to determine the design and delivery of government-funded social policy and human services programs is based on a number of assumptions about competitive markets. Some of these assumptions have an inherent tension with key factors in the actual environment in which these ‘managed markets’ (or ‘quasi-markets’) must operate, (e.g. the nature of human services, government as the source of demand, the type of provider organisations that operate in human services, the contracting mechanism, etc). This research is examining the theoretical reasons and the empirical evidence for the kinds of service provision and market structures that are likely to emerge in managed markets for human services, and the reasons why the profiles of providers and the market structure vary between services. There is a particular focus on services for disadvantaged people, on managed markets where competitive tendering and contracting processes are used to determine and manage service providers, and on the differences between providers in terms of their ownership (i.e. non-profit, for profit, government, or cross-sectoral partnerships), and size. The findings will have implications for the future design of human services programs and the operations of service providers.

Drug-user identity positions and specialist health services

Gary Gahan
Masters by Research
Supervisors: Joanne Bryant and Kylie Valentine
School: National Centre for HIV Social Research

Blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C pose a significant and on-going threat to the health and well being of people who inject drugs. In order to develop realistic and effective methods of minimising the spread of such viruses, there is a need for public health practitioners to more fully appreciate those factors which facilitate, or act as barriers to, accessing specialist health services such as needle & syringe programs.

This study aims to explore the social construction of the drug-user identity and how such an identity influences decisions to access health and other supportive programs. The thesis will examine the hypothesis that people who reject, or who are yet to incorporate, the ‘junkie’ identity are less likely to access specialised ‘explicit’ drug-use services such as staffed needle & syringe programs. The study aims to gain insight into the ways in which factors such as stereotyping, stigma and exclusion influence how people learn about ‘being’ a drug user and subsequent utilisation of drug-user services.

A Proposal for a family tax transfer system

Helen Hodgson
Supervisors: Bettina Cass and Chris Evans
School: Atax

This thesis is concerned with an exploration and analysis of the principles concerning equity and efficiency embedded in the Australian family tax transfer system, examining direct payments and tax rebates with respect to families with children.
Getting on with it? understanding the employment experiences of people living with chronic hepatitis C in the hunter region

Nadine Krejci
Masters by Research
Supervisors: Carla Treloar and Tony Eardley
School: National Centre for HIV Social Research

This study explores the employment experiences of people living with chronic hepatitis C. The primary focus of the research is the impact of hepatitis C on people’s work-life and the ways in which potential or real disruptions (both physical and social) are managed. It is anticipated that a better understanding will also be gained of the ways in which labour-market participation enables or constrains the medical or self-management of this chronic viral infection. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with people living with hepatitis C in the Hunter region of New South Wales, a large geographic area covering urban, regional and rural settings. A sophisticated understanding of participants’ experiences as employees living and working with hepatitis C must recognise the contextual basis of these experiences, taking into account the apparent and not-so-apparent influences of personal illness experience (for example, symptoms and side-effects), labour-market and workplace structures, and health and social service systems. To this end, a policy analysis will be undertaken of relevant upcoming or proposed policy and system changes, with a view to identifying whether such changes can be expected to make it easier or harder for people living with hepatitis C to ‘get on with it’.

Costs and consequences: understanding the impact of fostering on carers

Marilyn McHugh
Supervisor: Peter Saunders, Judy Cashmore and Rogee Pe-Pua
School: Social Sciences and International Studies
Scholarship: Australian Postgraduate Award – Industry

This project examined the economic and social costs of fostering for carers. It used methodology on itemised costing for children to estimate the direct costs of a foster child, in conjunction with empirical data to derive conclusions about whether current levels of allowances are adequate to meet the needs of a foster child. The principal aim of the study was to determine appropriate levels of reimbursement for carers by undertaking empirical research on direct and indirect costs associated with fostering. The thesis was submitted and the degree conferred during 2007.

Understanding children’s living standards and their right to development

Gerry Redmond
Supervisor: Peter Saunders and Peter Kriesler
School: Social Science and International Studies

The purpose of this thesis is to develop a feasible rights-based approach to evaluating the adequacy of Australian children’s living standards. Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to ‘a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development’, while Article 29 states that children have the right to education for the development of their personalities ‘to their fullest potential’. I interpret these two articles to mean that resources invested in the child must be sufficient to ensure the most favourable developmental outcome. Questions of living standards and adequacy are discussed in the context of three approaches in the social sciences to the analysis of poverty (broadly defined): economic welfare, capabilities, and social exclusion. The relationship between living standards and child development is then measured using LSAC, with the focus on children in the bottom quartile of a number of developmental scales. The thesis concludes with a discussion of the policy implications of the child’s right to a standard of living adequate for their development.
From solidarity to empowerment: voluntary associations, social capital and women’s agency

Christie Robertson
Supervisor: Sheila Shaver and Sue Keen
School: Social Sciences and International Studies
Scholarship: Australian Postgraduate Award – Industry

The research investigated the effectiveness and sustainability of women’s voluntary participation through a case study of the VIEW Clubs of Australia. Drawing together the concepts of social capital and women’s agency, the research interrogated the role of social and organisational networks in facilitating opportunities for women, through organisational environments, to exercise greater choice and power in their lives, at individual and collective levels, and across individual, social and political dimensions. The research also explored the way features of the internal and external organisational environment operate dynamically in this process – generating both opportunities and constraints. This was evident in this case study, particularly in recent efforts focused on promoting a different and more active role for the organisation in the community and broader public sphere. The thesis was submitted during 2007.

Government-funded health care and the distribution of income in Australia

Peter Siminski
Supervisor: Peter Saunders, Gary Barrett and Timothy Smeeding
School: Economics
Scholarship: University Post-graduate Award

The thesis consists of three independent essays, unified by the common theme of the distributional impacts of government. The first paper estimates the price elasticity of demand for pharmaceuticals amongst high-income older people in Australia by exploiting an exogenous change in eligibility rules for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). This elasticity estimate is a key input into an analysis of the distributional impact of the Commonwealth CSHC reform, which is addressed in the second paper. In the third paper, I estimate the Australian public sector wage premium using a quasi-differenced panel data model. The thesis will be submitted for examination early in 2008.

Looking after the grannies: a social policy audit of Commonwealth and State legislation and social policies impacting on grandparent-headed extended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in New South Wales.

Wendy Hermeston
Supervisors: Bettina Cass and Deborah Brennan
School: Social Sciences and International Studies
Scholarship: NHMRC Infrastructure Capacity Building Grant

The aim of this study is to examine the extent to which legislation, social policies and programmes which impact upon grandparent care-arrangements are effective in meeting the needs of grandparent-headed extended Aboriginal families in New South Wales. Qualitative fieldwork will be undertaken in NSW, and the policy audit will situate NSW within an overall audit for the following jurisdictions: Family Court (Commonwealth) and family income support (Commonwealth through Centrelink). The research will provide a picture of what level of recognition grandparent care of grandchildren is accorded as a socially important form of care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities, as well as amongst policy makers. The research will consider how the legislation and policies reflect this recognition and deal with the phenomenon, and the role these policies play in keeping Aboriginal families together.
A comparative study of welfare policy in Australia and Korea: focused on immigration policy

Ji-sun Kim  
Supervisor: Peter Saunders and Rogee Pe-Pua  
School: Social Sciences and International Studies

The research will examine Australian welfare policy and particularly how it operates for immigrants. The study will explore the kinds of advantages and disadvantages Korean immigrants are facing in the process of settlement in Australia, and how the Australian welfare system assists their successful adjustment. In addition, it especially discusses whether or not Australia could be classified as a liberal or a radical welfare state by analysing the impact of the welfare system on immigrants. The pilot study will use two types of research methodologies – document analysis and interviews.

Living standards of the elderly: cross-national comparisons

Yuvisthi Naidoo  
Supervisor: Peter Saunders and Bruce Bradbury  
School: Social Sciences and International Studies  
Scholarship: Postgraduate PhD Award from Australian Institute for Population Ageing Research (AIPAR)

The 2007 Intergenerational Report predicts that by 2047 over 25 per cent of the Australian population will be aged 65 and over, nearly double the current proportion of 13.4 per cent. It is widely acknowledged that the living standards of older people aged 65 and over will increasingly become dependent on a declining proportion of working-age people (18-64), and cause increased pressure on health, aged-care and income support as recipients of these services. The purpose of this thesis is to explore the living standards of older people in Australia while comparing them to those in a sample of OECD countries (such as the US and UK), with a view to developing a set of standard of living (SOL) indicators in addition to income. The methodology involves a comparative analysis of Australian and international datasets using measures of income, expenditure, wealth, deprivation and social exclusion. Focus groups with older people will also be conducted to situate living-standard measures within their personal circumstances and perspectives. The findings from this study will provide a multi-dimensional framework for the SOL of older people, and as such, it will inform the policy response required to meet this intergenerational challenge.

Parents and carers of children with autism

Marianne Rajkovic  
Masters by Research  
Supervisor: Kylie Valentine and Deborah Brennan  
School: Social Sciences and International Studies

This research will look at the impact of having an autistic child. The study looks mainly at rural Australia to determine whether stress levels of families in these areas are more than those experienced by families in urban areas. The study will look at the impact on siblings as well as parents, and hopes to determine what improvements can be made to assist rural families effectively.
INTERN PROGRAM

During 2007, the Social Policy Research Centre commenced an intern program enabling senior undergraduate and postgraduate students from Australia and overseas to undertake unpaid placements in a leading multi-disciplinary policy research environment. The Internship program was administered by Sarah Parker, Natasha Cortis and Bettina Cass.

PRIYA BALACHANDRAN
University of New South Wales, supervised by Yuvisthi Naidoo, worked on the papers: ‘Has Mutual Obligation Made Life Harder for the Unemployed’ and ‘Gender Differences in Older Homeless People’s Transition to Sustainable Housing.

MATTHEW HATTON
University of Sydney, supervised by Megan Griffiths, worked on the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth Mentoring project.

SAMANTHA NER
University of New South Wales, supervised by Ciara Smyth and Megan Blaxland, worked on the Young Carers and Early Childhood Education and Care projects.

ELISE TRASK
Maquarie University, supervised by Saul Flaxman, worked on the Tirkandi Inaburra Centre Evaluation.

OFIR THALER
University of Sydney, supervised by Sarah Parker, worked on the FaHCSIA Supported Living project, the DoCS Early Intervention Program evaluation, the ANCD Sustainability of NGOs in the Alcohol and Other Drugs sector, the Tirkandi Inaburra Centre evaluation, and the HASI program evaluation.
The SPRC publishes a regular newsletter containing articles about current issues in social policy, reports from research in progress in the Centre, information about forthcoming and recent seminars and conferences, and other information of interest to the social policy community. The SPRC Newsletter is available free of charge by post or through the Centre’s website (www.sprc.unsw.edu.au). The SPRC Newsletters published during 2007 were edited by Karen Fisher, Cathy Thomson and Duncan Aldridge.

No. 95, lead article by Bettina Cass, ‘Using the social care framework to analyse research on young carers’.

No. 96, lead article by Natasha Cortis, ‘Culturally diverse women and sport’.


These longer reports are usually the final output from commissioned research projects undertaken by the SPRC. They are available for download from the SPRC website.


**OTHER RESEARCH REPORTS**

These are final or major stage reports submitted by the SPRC to funding bodies during 2007 which have not been included in the SPRC Research Reports series listed above. Except where noted, they are generally not yet publicly available.


Abello, D. and K. Muir, ‘“Quality of Life” outcomes reporting for younger people with disabilities in residential aged care: literature review and stakeholder consultations’, December, unpublished.

Cass, B., C. Smyth, T. Hill and M. Blaxland, ‘“More people should know what good jobs young carers do!” Young carers, the costs and impact on welfare’, report prepared for the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra, unpublished.

Cass, B. and D. Thompson, ‘Active ageing: participation, social networks and well being of older people, A review of the literature to inform the “Active ageing: links between participation, social networks and well being of the aged study”’, report prepared for the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra, unpublished.


Fisher, K.R., ‘Cost of providing specialist disability services and communities services in Queensland, fair level of funding research plan’, report for Disability Services Queensland, unpublished.


Sawrikar, P. and I. Katz, ‘Enhancing family and relationship service accessibility and delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse families in Australia’, report prepared for the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC), a division of the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), unpublished.

Shang, X., ‘The Chinese orphaned children’, report prepared for Save the Children UK, also available in Chinese

Shang, X., ‘Costs of children in China’, report prepared for Save the Children UK, also available in Chinese


BOOKS


BOOK CHAPTERS


**JOURNAL ARTICLES**


Cass, B., ‘Using the social care framework to analyse research on young carers’, *Youth Studies Australia*, 26 (2), 44-9.


Saunders, P. and P. Davidson, ‘Rising poverty is bad for our health’, Medical Journal of Australia, 187 (9), 530-1.


Shang X., ‘Examining the relationship between civil society organization and the state’, Youth Studies, 8, 37-44.


OTHER PUBLICATIONS


Katz, I, V. La Placa and J. Corlyon, Barriers to Inclusion and Engagement of Parents in Mainstream Services, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.


PHD THESIS


AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY CONFERENCE 2007

The 2007 Australian Social Policy Conference took place at the University of New South Wales on 11-13 July. This was the 10th biennial national conference organised by the Social Policy Research Centre. The conference theme was Social Policy through the Life Course: Building Community Capacity and Social Resilience.

The conference was attended by approximately 500 delegates across the three days of the conference. The conference program and papers can be accessed via the SPRC website.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

*Families and policies matter: how to enhance the well-being of children in poverty*
Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn
*Columbia University*

*Governing work life intersections in Australia over the life course: policy and prospects*
Professor Barbara Pocock
*Director of the Centre for Work+Life, University of South Australia*

*Shifting child-care policies and practices in Western Europe: is there a case for developing a global ethic of care?*
Professor Fiona Williams
*University of Leeds*

FORUMS

Advocacy and consumer participation

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

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

Australia’s demographic challenges

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

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Over 140 papers were presented on a wide range of social policy topics. About half of these can be downloaded from the conference website.

MAJOR SPONSORS

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

The New South Wales Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

SPONSORS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, The Australian Department of Health and Ageing, The Benevolent Society, the NSW Department of Community Services, the NSW Department of Housing, Mission Australia and The Smith Family.
SEEN AND HEARD; CHILDREN AS ACTIVE AGENTS IN FAMILIES, POLICY AND RESEARCH

ASSA/ARACY WORKSHOP - UNSW, 11 & 12 OCTOBER 2007

This workshop explored issues relating to children as productive members of society and children as active participants in research. The workshop brought together a group of academics and policy makers from a wide range of disciplines, including social policy, economics, law, psychology, public health, philosophy and sociology, as well as key stakeholders from the NGO sector, federal and state governments and Children's Commissioners. The papers explored a range of topics including policy-focused research with children and young people; children's and young people's participation in decision-making processes; and representations of children.

The papers presented at the workshop are listed below:

Jan Mason, ‘Acknowledging children’s agency in childhood research: Rationale and issues’.
Kerryn Boland, ‘A regulator reflects on participation in the OOHC sector’.
Judy Cashmore, ‘Children’s participation in family law matters: theoretical underpinnings from procedural justice’.
Brian Head, ‘Why not ask them? Mapping and evaluating youth participation’.
Gillian Calvert, ‘Participatory research with children – reconciling the intended benefits and the reality’.
Natalie Grove, ‘“No one ever asked us about this before”: promoting the participation of youth in research’.
Catherine McDonald, ‘The importance of identity in policy: the case of and for children’.
Sharon Bessell, ‘Policy, research and children’s participation’.
Bettina Cass and Ciara Smyth, ‘Children and young people as active agents: the case of young carers’.
Anthony Zwi, Ilse Blignault and colleagues ‘Young people and psychosocial health in fragile states - issues for consideration’.
Ann Dadich, ‘All psyched up and nowhere to go: What keeps young people with mental illness from participating in community groups and related research?’
SPRC SEMINAR SERIES

These in-house seminars are held approximately fortnightly in or near the SPRC’s campus premises and are open to the public. The program and selected seminar papers are available on the Centre’s website at www.sprc.unsw.edu.au. The 2006 Seminar Program was arranged by Megan Griffiths, Gerry Redmond and Duncan Aldridge.

Sir Tony Atkinson (Nuffield College, Oxford), ‘The evolution of the distribution of individual earnings in OECD countries’, 14 February, public lecture co-sponsored by the School of Economics.

Timothy Smeeding (Director, Center for Policy Research, Maxwell School Syracuse University), ‘Conditions of social vulnerability, work and low income: evidence for Australia in comparative perspective’, 19 February.

Michael Rasell (University of Birmingham), ‘Welfare reform in Russia: confusion, continuity and change’, 1 March.


Ann Dadich (Social Policy Research Centre), ‘How do young people with mental health issues access community-based support networks?’ 10 April.

Professor Keith Banting (Queen’s Research Chair in Public Policy, Queen’s University in Canada), ‘Multiculturalism and the welfare state: is diversity the enemy of redistribution?’, 17 April, public lecture co-sponsored with the School of Social Science and International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Catherine Spooner and Ann Dadich (Social Policy Research Centre), ‘Governance, sustainability and funding of non-government organisations in a neo-liberal world’, 8 May.

Alison Ritter (Director, Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre), ‘Policy-making on illicit drugs: some challenges and new approaches’, 15 May.

Robert Griew (Formerly Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services), ‘Taking Aboriginal health and welfare seriously’, 22 May.

Heidi Norman (Senior Lecturer at Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology), ‘Aboriginal land rights in New South Wales – from assimilation to self-determination’, 29 May.


Ian Walker (University of Warwicks, Visiting Professor CHERE UTS and UNSW Economics), ‘Ostensible hypothecation: the effect of cash transfers to the elderly for fuel on their fuel expenditure’, 27 June.

Denise Thompson (Social Policy Research Centre), ‘The popularity of social capital’, 17 July.


Lisa Jackson Pulver and Tony Broe (Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), ‘Aboriginal ageing: is there such a thing’, 4 September.

Sol Encel (Visiting Professorial Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre), ‘Baby boomers: will they re-make the world’, 2 October.

Jacqueline Tudball (Centre for Health Equity, Training, Research and Evaluation, School of Public Health and Community Medicine), ‘“Asthma is as Asthma does”: children managing extra(ordinary) asthma in their daily lives’, 9 October.

Sonya Michel (Department of History, University of Maryland, USA), ‘Protecting American women in old age: gender and old-age security’, 5 November, co-sponsored by the Gender Research Network, University of Sydney.

Karen Fisher (Social Policy Research Centre), and Carolyn Campbell-McLean (Research Associate, Disability Studies and Research Institute), ‘Consumer control through direct payments: experiences from the Attendant Care Program direct funding pilot’, 13 November.

Helen Meekosha, Leanne Dowse, Russell Shuttleworth and Jessica Cadwallader, ‘New developments in Critical Disability Studies’, 15 November, seminar organised with the School of Social Science and International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.


Ruth Hancock, (Department of Health and Human Sciences, University of Essex), ‘Paying for long-term care for older people: arguments and evidence from the UK’, 10 December.

Anne Hampshire, (National Manager of Research and Social Policy, Mission Australia), ‘Australia’s young people: what do they value, what worries them and what are the implications for policy and practice?’ 11 December.

**SOCIAL POLICY IN THE CITY**

Social Policy in the City is a seminar series jointly sponsored by the SPRC, The Smith Family, and Mission Australia, with additional support from Macquarie Bank, including hosting. This series takes discussion of current developments in social policy to the city centre and the practitioners and policy makers who work there. During 2007, one Social Policy in the City was held during Anti-poverty week.

Peter Saunders (Social Policy Research Centre), and Andrew Leigh (Australian National University), ‘New understandings of poverty and what we can do about it’,
CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

SPRC staff contribute to the dissemination of research and its contribution to policy through their involvement in seminars, workshops and conferences organised by other institutions. The following list of presentations illustrates the breadth and extent of such activity during 2007.

INVITED PLENARY ADDRESSES


Craig, L., ‘Valuing unpaid work and care: a time use perspective’, keynote address to the 4th Chinese Women Economists International Workshop, China Center for Economic Research (CCER), Peking University, 2-3 June.

Eardley, T., ‘Innovation in programs and policies to address homelessness’, keynote address to the Newcastle and Hunter Homelessness Interagency Network Forum, Maitland, 23 May.


Spooner, C., ‘Sustainability, governance and funding of non-government organisations in the alcohol and other drugs sector: Implications for the future’, keynote address at Alcohol and other drugs key stakeholder prevention workshop, Perth, Western Australia, 7 February.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


Craig, L., ‘Male domestic labour and household fertility’, refereed paper presented at Public Sociologies: Lessons and Trans-Tasman Comparisons, Joint Conference of The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) and the Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand, 7 December.


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

+ Indicates invited.


+ Brennan, D., ‘Demographic change, social policy and employment-based family provision in Australia’, paper presented at Department of Social Policy, Oxford University, June.


+ Cass, B., ‘Families, care-giving and social inclusion policies through the life-course’ Paper presented at Academy of Social Sciences in Australia Workshop ‘Combating social exclusion through joined up policy: addressing social inclusion through whole-of-government approaches’, Adelaide University, 29-30 November.


Dadich, A., ‘All “psyched” up and nowhere to go: What keeps young people with mental illness from participating in community groups and related research?’ paper presented at the Seen and Heard: Children as Active Agents: Academy of Social Sciences in Australia Workshop, UNSW, 12 October.


Fisher, K.R., ‘Enjoying the PhD process’, paper presented at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Postgraduate Induction, 21 February.


+ Hilferty, F., ‘The national framework for values education in Australian schools’, St Brigids Primary School, Coogee, 22 October.

+ Hilferty, F., ‘Shire for values’, Community Forum, Sutherland Entertainment Centre, 31 October

Hill, P., ‘Within household inequalities and time use’, seminar presentation at the Open University, United Kingdom, 25 June; paper also presented at the International Association for Feminist Economics 16th Annual Conference, Bangkok, 30 June.


Katz, I., ‘Inter-agency working in the early years’, paper presented at the Sax Institute research symposium, Sydney 6 June.


+ Muir, K., ‘Evaluation issues’, paper presented at the Community Development Practitioners Workshop, University of Sydney, 26 February.


Muir, K., “‘There were no ticker tape parades for us’: homecomings of veterans with mental health problems’, paper presented at the When the Soldiers Return Conference, University of Queensland, 28 November.


Saunders, P., ‘Left out and missing out: towards new indicators of deprivation and social exclusion’, paper presented at School of Social Policy, Doshisha University, Kyoto, 24 April.


Saunders, P., ‘New perspectives on Australian poverty: deprivation and exclusion in the midst of affluence’, public lecture organised by La Trobe University and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne, 30 August.


Saunders, P., ‘Health care deprivation: access and adequacy of services and environment’, Anti-Poverty Week presentation to the Social Determinants of Health Action Group, Sydney, 16 October.


Shang, X., ‘The role of non government organisations in child protection in China’, paper presented at Beijing Normal University, 16 April.


+ Tannous, K.W. ‘Approaches and modes of dealing with international firms as customers and the role of manufacturing firms in China’, paper presented at Division of International Business Seminar, University of Nottingham, Ningbo Campus China, 13 December.


The Centre and its researchers participate in a wide range of scholarly, developmental and policy-making activities elsewhere. These activities range from peer review of manuscripts for publication, research grant applications and the performance of other research centres, to contributions to the work of community and industry groups in the wider social policy arena. Much of this work is unpaid, and the cost of staff time involved is borne by the Centre and the University.

Visitors to the Centre include academics from Australia and overseas, often on sabbatical from their own institutions. Increasingly, the Centre is also receiving visits from government officials and policymakers from other countries, mainly in East and Southeast Asia. The Centre hosted visits from students on UNSW Exchange program.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS


Advisory Board Member, Australian Social Science Data Archive (Peter Saunders)

Advisory Committee, Australian Human Rights Centre, UNSW (Karen Fisher)

ARACY/ARC Research Network on Future Generations (Peter Saunders)

ARC Research Network on Ageing Well (Peter Saunders)

ARC Asia-Pacific Futures Network (Peter Saunders)

Board of Governors, Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (Peter Saunders)

Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee, National Centre for HIV Social Research, University of New South Wales (Sheila Shaver)

Management Committee Member, Gilbert and Tobin Centre for Public Law, UNSW (Peter Saunders)

Member of the LSAC Consortium Advisory Group (Bruce Bradbury)

Member of the External Reference Group for the HILDA survey (Bruce Bradbury)

Member of Social/Health Human Ethics Advisory Panel (Cathy Thomson)

Research and Policy Advisory Board, International Social Security Association (Peter Saunders)

Review of Research Centre Designation, University of Western Sydney, Member of Review Panel (Sheila Shaver)

Roundtable of Advice, Research Department, Brotherhood of St Laurence (Peter Saunders)

Steering committee for Early Career Research @ UNSW (Natasha Cortis)

Steering Committee for the UNSW Initiative for Health and Human Rights (Catherine Spooner)

Vice President, International Sociological Association Research Committee 19 on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy (Sheila Shaver)

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEES

*Social Policy through the Life Course: Building Community Capacity and Social Resilience*, Australian Social Policy Conference, July 2007 (Bruce Bradbury, Tony Eardley, Lyn Craig and Duncan Aldridge)
COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Advisory Board of the Australian Workplace Research Centre, University of Sydney (Bettina Cass)

Australasian Evaluation Society, NSW Convenor Group (Karen Fisher)

Adviser to the review of The Benevolent Society’s Early Childhood Program evaluation instruments (Karen Fisher)

Families First Research Advisory Board (Ilan Katz)

NSW Health Drug and Alcohol Council Prevention Sub-committee (Catherine Spooner)

Member of the Academic Advisory Group to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) project Striking the Balance: Women, men, work and family (Lyn Craig)

Research Advisory Council, New South Wales Department of Community Services (Peter Saunders, Ilan Katz, Sheila Shaver)

Research Forum, Associated Children’s Welfare Agencies (Marilyn McHugh)

South Australian Government’s Social Inclusion Board (Bettina Cass)

The Smith Family, Research Advisory Board (Ilan Katz)

Board of Directors, Welfare Rights and Legal Centre (Tony Eardley)

Workshop Committee, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (Peter Saunders)

VISITING APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

British Academy, May-July 2007, (Trish Hill)

Institute of Chinese Studies, Oxford University, May-June (Xiaoyuan Shang)

National Poverty Center, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. (Bruce Bradbury)

MEMBERSHIP OF EDITORIAL BOARDS

Australian Journal of Social Issues (Bruce Bradbury and Bettina Cass)

Australian Journal of Labour Economics (Bruce Bradbury)

Journal of Social Policy (Bettina Cass)

Economics and Labour Relations Review (Peter Saunders)

Social Policy and Administration (Peter Saunders)

Social Policy and Society (Sheila Shaver)

Social Politics (Sheila Shaver)
**REVIEWING AND REFEREEING**

During 2007, SPRC staff refereed journal articles and grant submissions for the following journals and bodies.

- Addiction
- Ashgate Publishing
- *Australian Journal of Human Rights*
- *Australian Journal of Social Issues*
- *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*
- *Australian Research Council*
- *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*
- *Czech Academy of Sciences*
- *Drug and Alcohol Review*
- *Journal of European Social Policy*
- *Economic and Social Research Council*
- *Economic Record*
- *Families in Society: The Contemporary Journal of Human Services*
- *Feminist Economics*
- *Gender and Society*
- *International Journal of Drug Policy*
- *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*
- *Journal of Population Economics*
- *Journal of Social Policy*
- *Journal of Sociology*
- *Journal of Youth Studies*
- *Political Research Quarterly*
- *Policy and Politics*
- *Policy Research Papers (FaCS)*
- *Research in Economic Inequality*
- *Review of Income and Wealth*
- *Social Behaviour and Personality*
- *Social Forces*
- *Social Policy and Society*
- *Social Policy & Administration*
- *Social Politics*
- *Social Problems*
- *Trans-Tasman Conference in Community Psychology, Papers*
- *The China Quarterly*
**PHD THESIS EXAMINATION**

University of New South Wales, School of Social Science and International Studies

University of Newcastle, Department of Economics

Waikato University, Faculty of Economics

University of Sydney, Faculty of Law, and Department of Government and international Relations

**LECTURES**

Notre Dame University – Professor Peter Saunders

University of New South Wales – Professor Bettina Cass

**VISITORS TO THE CENTRE**

**JEREMY BLIESCHKE**

March 2007

*Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet, South Australia*

Jeremy Blieschke visited the Centre to become familiar with the Centre’s research program.

**WENDY HERMESTON**

September 2007 to February 2008

*Northern Rivers University, Department of Rural Health*

Wendy visited the Centre to assist with the Grandparent Care ARC project, and will commence her PhD during Semester 1, 2008.

**REBEKAH LEVINE COLEY**

June 2007 to July 2008

*Boston College, US*

Associate Professor Levine-Coley visited the Centre and continued her research program in the areas of urban families; father-child relationships; poverty; child care; and federal welfare policy and its influence on the development of children and adolescents.

**SOPHIE KOPPE**

May to July 2007

*University of Bordeaux*

Sophie Koppe visited the Centre to continue her research focusing on the comparative approach to welfare to work policies in Australia and in the UK – questioning the relevance and legitimacy of the concept of an Anglo-Saxon social model.

**HEIDI NORMAN**

February to June 2007

*University of Technology, Sydney*

Heidi Norman continued work on her doctoral thesis on the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983) and a Premier’s history award-funded community-history project that will investigate economic change and its social effects on the Aboriginal community in Redfern.
MICHAE L RASS E L
February 2007
University of Birmingham

Michael Rassell visited the Centre to develop the methodology and theoretical framework of his PhD.

MARTA SZE BEHE L Y
November 2007 to March 2008
Stockholm University

Marta Szebheley undertook a program of research on care and ageing, and assisted in organising a workshop comparing care policies and services in Australia, Sweden and UK, to be held in February 2008.

NORIYASU WATANAB E
December 2006 to January 2007
Rissyo University

Professor Watanabe visited to Centre to continue his research on comparative pension policies.

YANG YANG
July to September 2007
Save the Children UK

Yang Yang worked on the literature review of the joint ARC project between the SPRC and Save the Children UK, ‘Developing an effective system of child protection in China’

VISITING PRACTICUM STUDENTS

During 2007, the Centre hosted visits from the students listed below, who worked on a range of projects.

HANNA LEENA MYLLARINEN
February to September 2007
University of Turku

TINA PLAIMER
July to October 2007
University of Linz, Austria

VISITING DELEGATIONS

CHINESE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS

The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs sent a senior delegation to meet with researchers at the Social Policy Research Centre. The delegation members are involved in aged care, non-government agencies, social work and homelessness. They also met with representatives from the Australian Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the NSW Department of Health and Aged Care, and a rest home.

The members of the delegation are listed below:

Dou Yupei, Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs
Chen Chuanshu, Director, Office of the Ministry of Civil Affairs
Kang Peng, Director, Bureau of Foreign Exchange, MCA
Wu Guiying, Director, Bureau of Civil Affairs, Zhejiang Province
Liu Quan, Section head, in Bureau of Foreign Exchange, MCA
Meng Zhiqiang, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Affairs
SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

Statement of Financial Performance
for the Year Ended 31 December 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Funds</td>
<td>(i) 3,664,312</td>
<td>4,625,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW Contribution</td>
<td>(b) 750,069</td>
<td>553,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$4,414,381</td>
<td>$5,178,806</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Payroll</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>46,546</td>
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<td>Contractors</td>
<td>943,046</td>
<td>1,140,247</td>
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<td>Materials</td>
<td>302,045</td>
<td>205,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>189,025</td>
<td>115,913</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$4,436,145</td>
<td>$3,755,619</td>
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<td>Operating result</td>
<td>-21,764</td>
<td>1,423,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus(Deficit) Bfwd from Prior Year</td>
<td>205,943</td>
<td>-405,917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment to Accumulated Funds Previous Years</td>
<td>(c) 811,327</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds Surplus(Deficit)</td>
<td>$995,506</td>
<td>$1,017,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i) Excludes debtors (unpaid invoices)</td>
<td>(d) 628,244</td>
<td>327,219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to the Statement of Financial Performance

This statement of financial performance is reported on a cash basis as per the UNSW requirements:
(a) External income is on a cash basis and does not include debtors.
(b) UNSW Contribution includes all UNSW funds appropriation including competitive infrastructure and strategic priorities funding.
(c) Accumulated funds have been adjusted from $205,944 to $1,017,270 to reflect an underreporting of income from 2005. The adjusted figures have been verified.
(d) The trading result (including debtors) is a profit of $606,480 for the 2007 financial year.