

## PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS



# Australian Social Policy Conference Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity 28-30 September 2015

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Suggested citation:

Social Policy Research Centre (2015). Program and abstracts:  
Australian Social Policy Conference 2015. Sydney: Social Policy  
Research Centre, UNSW Australia.



# Australian Social Policy Conference

Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity

28-30 September 2015

*The biennial Australian Social Policy Conference, hosted by the Social Policy Research Centre, brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers from across disciplines, with a view to influencing debate and practice.*

*ASPC 2015 focuses on the fallout from the Global Financial Crisis and its impact on the welfare sector: Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity.*

*The overall direction of social policy is towards more targeting, more user-pays, more activation, less entitlement and more punitive sanctions for those who default on their obligations. Growing inequality is increasingly accepted as an immutable characteristic of the modern welfare state. These trends are a matter of grave concern for the more vulnerable members of society and for those working with them. At the same time, austerity could potentially spur creativity, forcing the development of new ways to harness social resources to address poverty, marginalisation and exclusion.*

*The importance of learning from each other's experience is therefore crucial for addressing the challenges of maintaining rights and entitlements in the face of global austerity.*

The **Social Policy Research Centre** is at the forefront of research generating change for individuals and communities. Dedicated to making a positive impact by tackling critical social issues, enlightening public debate and enhancing policy formation, our team of researchers are trusted partners with government, industry and the community.

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DISABILITY

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SOCIAL INEQUALITY & WELLBEING

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## A Centre for Change

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To discuss how we can support your research needs, contact:

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[sprcproposals@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprcproposals@unsw.edu.au)

**SPRC**  
Social Policy Research Centre

# Welcome



Welcome to the 15th Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC). The Social Policy Research Centre has been proud to host this primary event in the Australian social policy calendar for over 20 years. The ASPC has a tradition of contributing

to understanding of everyday life and policy, of both people and populations; addressing issues of global importance, which impact on the way everyday life is lived. I am particularly looking forward to this year's conference, as it is my first as Centre Director, and I am delighted at the quality and breadth of the contributions. The program offers eminent invited speakers, forums, and presentations. It brings together social researchers, policy makers, practitioners and advocates, which facilitates the active engagement between sectors we believe is essential to good scholarship, good policy making and good practice.

The theme of the 2015 conference is Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity. Our three keynote speakers will provide different perspectives on crucial areas of social change and social policy. Robert Manne will address the critical question of climate change and the challenge for humanity and for the social sciences. Jane Waldfogel will talk on new research on inequalities in child development in four rich Western countries. Guy Standing will discuss social change, the labour market and the new precariat. We are thrilled at the quality of these plenary sessions. We are also pleased that, in a new innovation, each conference day will conclude with a forum discussion moderated by ABC journalist Richard Aedy, focusing on the important issues raised by the keynote address. This will offer the opportunity to discuss with the expert speakers and conference delegates ways to deal with these pressing social problems.

We are also delighted at the high quality of the contributed papers. This year speakers from a range of sectors will present over 140 papers on all of the key issues in Australian social policy. A strong focus of a number of these papers is disability care, and early childhood education and care, both the focus of new policy initiatives transforming service delivery and coverage. We

have lunchtime workshops on the challenging issues of understanding and supporting children and young people's participation, and on national plans to end homelessness. We are also proud to host the 4th Chinese Social Policy Workshop to coincide with the ASPC and extend a particular welcome to Xuejin Zuo and other delegates from China. The Australian Social Policy Association will hold its Annual General Meeting at 6pm on Tuesday. We encourage you to attend the meeting, and consider joining the Association. Our evening reception on Monday will also be a time to come together and celebrate the Social Policy Research Centre's 35-year history and I hope to meet many of you at this event.

I acknowledge the organisations that have provided us with financial support, making this year's conference possible. We are particularly grateful to our Gold Sponsor, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, for providing the major sponsorship for this event. Thanks are also extended to UNSW Arts & Social Sciences, the Advocate for Children and Young People, the Australian Government Department of Social Services, the Benevolent Society, and UNSW Bookshop. The Social Policy Research Centre is delighted to be associated with each of these agencies and we look forward to continuing collaborations with them.

Finally, organising a conference of this size and complexity requires a very great deal of hard work. All SPRC staff have been involved in one way or another. I would like to particularly thank and congratulate those who brought it together; the ASPC committee of Associate Professor Bruce Bradbury, Professor Ilan Katz, Professor Peter Saunders and Myra Hamilton, and the conference organisers David Cami, Annie Whitelaw and Edyta Szubert. Their patience, energy, and competence have been on full display in the preparation and planning, and we will continue to feel the benefits of their excellent work throughout the conference.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Craig'.

Professor Lyn Craig  
Director, Social Policy Research Centre

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## General Information



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
SYDNEY · CANBERRA · AUSTRALIA

# John Niland Scientia and Civil Engineering



**LEGEND**

- Bus Stop
- Gate number
- Building Type

**Scale:** 0 m 40 m 80 m

**North Arrow:** NORTH

**Map Labels:** Anzac Parade, Day Avenue, Western Campus Drive, Pool Lawn, Village Green, Science Rd, Physics Rd, Engineering Rd, Barker Street, High Street, Chancellery Walk, Michael Birt Gardens, Mathews Arcade, Library Lawn, Connery Court, International Sq, Union Rd, Gate 2 Ave, Gate 3 Ave, Gate 4 Ave, Gate 5 Ave, Gate 6 Ave, Gate 7 Ave, Gate 8 Ave, Gate 9 Ave, Gate 10 Ave, Gate 11 Ave, Gate 12 Ave, Gate 13 Ave, Gate 14 Ave, Gate 15 Ave, Gate 16 Ave, Gate 17 Ave, Gate 18 Ave, Gate 19 Ave, Gate 20 Ave, Gate 21 Ave, Gate 22 Ave, Gate 23 Ave, Gate 24 Ave, Gate 25 Ave, Gate 26 Ave, Gate 27 Ave, Gate 28 Ave.

03.06.2011

## Venue

The conference is held at UNSW Kensington campus in the John Niland Scientia and Civil Engineering Buildings (refer G19 and H20 on campus map).

Conference sessions are held in the following rooms:

John Niland Scientia	
Lower ground floor	Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms
Ground floor	Gallery 1, Gallery 2, Leighton Hall
First floor	Tyree Room
Civil Engineering	
Ground floor	Rooms G1, G6, G8

The room allocated for each session is provided in the Detailed program (from page 10).

The conference venue is accessible. A map of accessible routes and accessible parking locations is available online at [bit.ly/aspc-maps](http://bit.ly/aspc-maps)

## Getting to the venue

### Parking

Driving to the conference is not recommended as parking in and near the campus is extremely limited and parking charges apply. All day casual parking is available on the top floors of the Barker Street (Gate 14) and Botany Street (Gate 11) carparks. For more information online, visit [bit.ly/aspc-parking](http://bit.ly/aspc-parking)

### Getting there on foot

From Anzac Parade - make your way directly up University Mall. Once reaching the top of the stairs, the entrance is behind and to the left.

From High St – enter through Gate 9 and make your way up Chancellery Walk until you reach Library Walk. Turn right onto Library Walk, pass through the glass doors and across the Scientia Lawn. The entrance is on the right of the stairs.

From Botany Street carpark - take the western exit, walk along Library Walk, pass through the glass doors and across the Scientia Lawn. The entrance is on the right of the stairs.

## Public transport

UNSW Kensington is serviced by express buses from Central Station. For more information online, visit [bit.ly/aspc-transport](http://bit.ly/aspc-transport)

## Registration and information desk

The registration and information desk, located in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia, will be attended from 8.30am each day.

## Name badges

For security purposes all attendees must wear their lanyard and name badge at all times when on the UNSW campus. Entrance to all sessions will be limited to badge-holders only. If you misplace your badge please advise the staff at the conference registration desk.

## Reception

A reception for all conference attendees will be held in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia Building from 5.15pm on Monday 28 September, celebrating 35 years of the Social Policy Research Centre.

## Refreshments

Lunch and morning/afternoon tea are included in the registration fee. They will be served in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia Building. If you have special dietary requirements and have requested special meals, please approach the staff at the information desk at the beginning of each break.

A variety of additional food and beverage outlets are also available on campus. For more information online, visit [bit.ly/aspc-retail](http://bit.ly/aspc-retail)

## Internet access

For any delegates who do not have access to eduroam, free wi-fi is available. Visit [bit.ly/aspc-wifi](http://bit.ly/aspc-wifi), enter the passphrase **ASPC2015** and follow the instructions to retrieve your guest account details.

# General Information

## ATM & retail services

ATMs, banks, Australia Post, and a variety of other retail services are located throughout the campus. Visit [bit.ly/aspc-retail](http://bit.ly/aspc-retail) for more information online.

## Bookshop

The UNSW Bookshop will have a bookstall in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia Building during the conference. The main bookstore is on the lower ground floor of the west wing of the Quadrangle Building (refer E14 on campus map).

## Smoking

UNSW is a smoke-free campus. Please refrain from smoking while on campus.

## Environmental impact

The conference is a carbon neutral event. Carbon credits have been purchased from Carbon Friendly.

## Conference evaluation

Help us improve the conference by completing a short survey after the event and you will enter the draw to win a \$100 voucher. A link to the online survey will be emailed to you after the event.



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New South Wales  
a better place  
for children  
& young people.

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ac  
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The **Australian Bureau of Statistics** (ABS) is Australia's national statistical agency. The ABS provides key statistics on a wide range of economic, environmental and social issues.

Online microdata products such as **TableBuilder** can construct complex tables from a range of topic-based data.

Our **Customised Data Service** can solve specific data needs through detailed, customised information. The Service can also provide training to help make best use of ABS information.

Through our **statistical data integration** service, the ABS can create enhanced datasets, enabling new research and policy insights.

The ABS is also improving and expanding the range of solutions for social policy through the **Transforming People Statistics** initiative.



Find out more at **[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)** or contact our National Information and Referral Service on **1300 135 070** or email **[client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)**

# Keynote Speakers



## Robert Manne

Emeritus Professor and Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, La Trobe University

*Climate change: Crisis for humankind; Crisis for the social sciences*

Since the late 1980s, climate scientists have warned that the temperature of the earth is warming, primarily as a consequence of the burning of fossil fuels and that unless energy is derived from other sources, a crisis, even a catastrophe, looms for human beings and other species. Since that time however, the rate of emissions produced by burning fossil fuels has steadily increased.

Robert's talk is concerned with a simple question but one which might be regarded as the most consequential ever to be asked: why have societies and the international community been unable thus far to rise to a challenge that seems

certain to determine the human future? Robert will examine critically various competitive or overlapping explanations—including the rise and impact of organised denialism; the evolutionary unfitness of the human mind for a problem of this nature; climate change as a meta-“wicked problem” unprecedented in history; climate change as a problem beyond the capacity of both the standard democratic political systems and the existing international order; the nature of “really existing capitalism”; and the nature of industrial society.

The premise of Robert's talk is that while the physical sciences have succeeded in arriving at a consensual conclusion about the potential catastrophe of climate change, the social sciences are still struggling to reach any consensual conclusions about the current collective climate change failure of nations and of international society. A crisis for humankind is also a crisis for the social sciences.



## Jane Waldfogel

Compton Foundation Centennial Professor of Social Work and Public Affairs, School of Social Work, Columbia University

*Understanding – and reducing – inequalities in child development*

Jane will present and discuss findings from a recent book, *Too Many Children Left Behind* by Bradbury, Corak, Waldfogel, and Washbrook (Russell Sage Foundation, 2015).

Drawing on detailed cohort data from the US, UK, Canada, and Australia, her talk will focus on three areas: 1) How large is the achievement gap between children from low- and high-socioeconomic status families? 2) When does this gap emerge, how much inequality is already present at school entry, and what happens to the gap as

children move through school? and 3) What can we learn from other countries to make success more common, regardless of family background? More broadly put, does it have to be this way?

Jane's talk will conclude with a discussion of policies to reduce inequality in child development, including providing more support for early learning, raising family incomes for the poor and near-poor, and improving the quality of teaching and learning in schools.

# Keynote Speakers



## Guy Standing

Professor of Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

### *The expanding precariat: Reviving empathy and universalism*

Since the 1980s, during the dis-embedded phase of the Global Transformation, the neo-liberalism underpinning the pursuit of a global market society has involved a very specific social protection system that has severely affected the precariat, the mass class that has emerged as part of a new global class structure.

This presentation will elaborate on those points, defining the precariat and its specific relations of production, relations of distribution and relations to the state, and showing how the utilitarian politics of the era has resulted in a regressive

social policy mix of means-testing, behaviour-testing and workfare. In the process, a new authoritarian moralism has taken hold at the expense of social solidarity, whittling away at the public commons and eroding all forms of rights for the precariat – cultural, civil, social, political and economic. Above all, it has involved an erosion of that vital human sentiment of compassion and empathy.

Drawing on a recent book, *A Precariat Charter: From Denizens to Citizens*, the presentation will conclude by discussing the most relevant elements of a 21st century Magna Carta for the precariat, based on reinvigorating the 'great trinity' of the Enlightenment, promoting republican freedom, equality and fraternity.



## Xuejin Zuo

Research Professor and Former Acting President, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

### *Challenges of China's social spending: How to benefit the poor while promoting growth*

Since the Global Financial Crisis in 2007-08, which led to a dramatic decline in China's exports, the country has faced the challenge of how to stimulate sluggish domestic demand. Government efforts to stimulate growth have focused on investments in transportation infrastructure, the construction/renovation of cities, and the development of manufacturing capacities. These efforts have resulted in declining returns to such investments and over capacity of manufacturing. At the same time, the household consumption has remained at a low level relative to the

country's GDP. Moreover, rural and urban households still have unmet basic needs, especially low-income households. This seemingly contradictory situation, to a large extent, reflects the flaws in the resource allocation mechanism of the economy. For future policy efforts to successfully expand domestic demand, it is essential to allocate more fiscal resources to satisfying households' basic needs.

The presentation will provide an overview of China's public health insurance schemes, public pension schemes and disability insurance. After analysing these policies, it will be suggested that governments, especially the Central Government, play a larger role and take more responsibility in the financing of the above-mentioned programs. Better satisfying the basic needs of households can enhance the equity of the country's income distribution and promote social harmony. Furthermore, it can stimulate domestic demand and growth, alleviate and eliminate the rural-urban duality and distortion in the labor market, and hence increase the potential for future growth.

# Special Events

## Gold Sponsor Session: Australian Bureau of Statistics

### **Transforming People Statistics: Data for social policy in the 21st Century**

Gemma Van Halderen  
(Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Tuesday 15.15–16.10  
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

The demand for official statistics that support timely and relevant insights into complex social challenges continues to grow - in line with the expectations of effective social policy that is targeted, agile and measurable. The ABS is responding to this increasing demand through the 'Transforming People Statistics' initiative, which will deliver significant enhancements to the breadth, timeliness, and depth of population and social statistics, as well as how they are delivered. Bjorn will provide a presentation on this future-focused work, and an opportunity for conference participants to connect directly into this important transformational initiative.



## Lunchtime Workshops

### **Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People's Participation**

Andrew Johnson, NSW Advocate for Children  
and Young People

Tuesday 12.55–13.30  
Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)

This presentation will consider the major benefits and obstacles when involving children and young people in decision making processes. Drawing upon national and international experience the address will highlight some of the key factors in ensuring participation is meaningful not only for the organisation but importantly for children and young people themselves. Currently, the office of the Advocate is conducting consultations with children and young people for the NSW strategic plan for children and young people. Already 2,600 children and young people in NSW have participated in these consultations. The workshop will provide feedback on the lessons learned from trialling different methodologies as well as providing a summary thus far as to what issues children are prioritising.

### **National Plans to End Homelessness**

Glenda Stevens, William Mudford  
(Homelessness Australia)

Wednesday 12.35–13.10  
Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)

The presenters will lead an exploration of creating a national plan to end homelessness in Australia. This workshop will interrogate with participants what a national policy should comprise of in comparison to state, territory, and local level policies and plans. It will utilise the skills and experience of the participants to focus the development of the research and the plan that Homelessness Australia is producing.



# Program at a Glance

Monday 28 September		
8.30–9.30	<b>Registration</b>	Scientia, Foyer
9.30–9.50	<b>Welcome to Country:</b> Marcia Ella-Duncan <b>Conference Welcome:</b> Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
9.50–10.50	<b>Opening Plenary:</b> <i>Climate change: Crisis for humankind; Crisis for the social sciences</i> Speaker: Robert Manne                      Chair: Ilan Katz	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
10.50–11.20	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
11.20–12.35	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.10
	<b>Chinese Social Policy Workshop: Opening and Keynote Address</b>	See program p.19
12.35–13.35	<b>Lunch</b>	Scientia, Foyer
13.35–15.15	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.11
	<b>Chinese Social Policy Workshop: Contributed Papers</b>	See program p.19
15.15–15.45	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
15.45–17.15	<b>Closing Forum:</b> <i>What are the implications of the climate change debate for evidence based policy?</i> Speakers: Robert Manne, Mark Dangerfield, Brian Head, Roy Sainsbury Moderator: Richard Aedy	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
	<b>Chinese Social Policy Workshop: Contributed Papers</b>	See program p.19
17.15–18.45	<b>Reception: Celebrating 35 years of the Social Policy Research Centre</b>	Scientia, Foyer
Tuesday 29 September		
9.20–10.20	<b>Opening Plenary:</b> <i>Understanding and reducing inequalities in child development</i> Speaker: Jane Waldfogel                      Chair: Bruce Bradbury	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
10.20–10.50	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
10.50–12.30	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.13
	<b>Chinese Social Policy Workshop: Contributed Papers</b>	See program p.19
12.30–13.30	<b>Lunch</b>	Scientia, Foyer
12.55–13.30	<b>Lunchtime Workshop:</b> <i>Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People's Participation</i> Presenter: Andrew Johnson	Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)
13.30–14.45	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.14
14.45–15.15	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
15.15–16.10	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.15
16.10–17.40	<b>Closing Forum:</b> <i>Childhood inequalities</i> Speakers: Jane Waldfogel, Donna Berthelsen, Wendy Field, Bernie Shepherd Moderator: Richard Aedy	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
18.00–19.00	<b>ASPA Annual General Meeting</b>	John Goodsell, Room 221
Wednesday 30 September		
9.00–10.00	<b>Opening Plenary:</b> <i>The expanding precariat: Reviving empathy and universalism</i> Speaker: Guy Standing                      Chair: Peter Saunders	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
10.00–10.30	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
10.30–12.10	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.16
12.10–13.10	<b>Lunch</b>	Scientia, Foyer
12.35–13.10	<b>Lunchtime Workshop:</b> <i>National Plans to End Homelessness</i> Presenters: Glenda Stevens, William Mudford	Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)
13.10–14.50	<b>Contributed Papers</b>	See detailed program p.17
14.50–15.20	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
15.20–16.50	<b>Closing Forum:</b> <i>Beyond Workfare: Progressive Social Policy for a Good Society</i> Speakers: Guy Standing, John Buchanan, Peter Davidson, Boyd Hunter Moderator: Richard Aedy	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)

# Monday 28 September

Monday 28 September	
8.30–9.30 Scientia, Foyer	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9.30–9.50 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS</b>  <b>Welcome to Country</b> Marcia Ella-Duncan (Chairperson, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council)  <b>Conference Welcome</b> Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass (Professorial Fellow, UNSW Social Policy Research Centre)
9.50–10.50 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>OPENING PLENARY</b>  <b>Climate change: Crisis for humankind; Crisis for the social sciences</b> Speaker: Robert Manne (Emeritus Professor and Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, La Trobe University) Chair: Ilan Katz (Professor, UNSW Social Policy Research Centre)
10.50–11.20 Scientia, Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11.20–12.35	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: BUILDING A NEW LIFE IN AUSTRALIA</b>  Two waves on: Methodological challenges and innovations from the Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants <i>Saul Flaxman, Naomi Downer (presenter), Jessica Arnott</i>  Psychological wellbeing and social participation of recently arrived humanitarian migrants <i>Ben Edwards, John De Maio (presenter), Michelle Silbert, Diana Smart</i>  English proficiency: A key stepping stone for participation of humanitarian migrants <i>David Marshall, Karina Sommers (co-presenters)</i>  Financial hardship in Australia: Findings from four Longitudinal Studies <i>Laura Bennetts Kneebone (presenter)</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: COMPLEX NEEDS</b>  Framing complex support needs in theory, policy and practice <i>Leanne Dowse, Louisa Smith (presenter)</i>  Knowledge Translation planning in a complex support needs environment <i>Angela Dew (presenter)</i>  Effective support planning for people with complex support needs <i>Susan Collings (presenter)</i>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>HOME OWNERSHIP</b>  Home ownership opportunity among young adult Australians: Facts and fiction <i>Terry Burke, Wendy Stone (presenter)</i>  Children's and parents' housing circumstances following parental separation: A recent empirical snapshot <i>Wendy Stone (presenter), Bruce Smyth, Bryan Rodgers, Vu Son</i>  An examination of Kemeny's thesis on the importance of home ownership if you are dependent on the age pension, using in-depth interviews with older home owners and older private renters <i>Alan Morris (presenter)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: THE AUSTRALIAN CHILD WELLBEING PROJECT</b>  Towards a better understanding of child poverty: Evidence for Australia <i>Peter Saunders, Melissa Wong (co-presenters)</i>  What is the association between mental illness, disability and drug/alcohol addiction among family members, and young people's own health? An analysis of new Australian survey data <i>Anna Moffat (presenter), Gerry Redmond</i>  Marginalisation and wellbeing in Australia: How do different groups of young people compare? <i>Jasmine Huynh (presenter), Vanessa Maurici, Gerry Redmond</i>  Who's in my family? Using consultations with children and young people to design a policy-relevant survey instrument <i>Gerry Redmond, Jennifer Skattebol (co-presenters)</i>

Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>THE CARE WORKFORCE</b> Markets, migration and care: Australia in a global context <i>Deb Brennan (presenter), Elizabeth Adamson (presenter), Natasha Cortis, Sara Charlesworth</i> Quality work and quality care: Home care in NSW <i>Mel Gatfield (presenter), Emma Lancaster</i> “I have no power”. Supporting frontline workers in asylum and refugee services in the United Kingdom: Lessons for Australia? <i>Kim Robinson, Shepard Masocha (co-presenters)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)	<b>CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES</b> The Kids in Communities Study (KICS): What and where are ‘off diagonal’ communities? <i>Sharon Goldfeld (presenter), Ilan Katz (presenter), Rob Tanton, Billie Giles-Corti, Sally Brinkman, Geoff Woolcock</i> Low income and poverty dynamics: Implications for NAPLAN outcomes <i>Diana Warren (presenter)</i> Children's entitlement to positive educational outcomes: Using research, policy and practice to improve the lives of disadvantaged young Australians <i>Anne Hampshire (presenter), Gillian Considine</i>
<b>12.35–13.35</b> Scientia, Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>13.35–15.15</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING</b> Socio-economic status and young Australians' aspirations, future plans and concerns <i>Andrew Wearing, Gemma Luckett (co-presenters)</i> New models for supporting young people experiencing disadvantage to engage with the VET system <i>Diane Brown, George Myconos (presenter)</i> What the numbers say about Australia's young people on income support <i>Bala Chettur, Emma-Kate McGuirk (presenter)</i> Adolescents and young adults in emergency departments: Evidence and implications <i>Ilan Katz (presenter), Bridget Jenkins</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME</b> The National Disability Insurance Scheme: Insurance principles in a social welfare context <i>Sarah Johnson (presenter), Sally Galbraith</i> Mind the Gap: Can the NDIS transform support for parents with intellectual disability at risk of entering the child protection system? <i>Sally Cowling, Natalie Parmenter (co-presenters)</i> Respite care: The rights implications of consumer directed care <i>Kelley Johnson (presenter), Karen Fisher, Gianfranco Giuntoli, Chris Gration, Myra Hamilton, Rosemary Kayess</i> Neurocognitive disability amongst Indigenous Australians: Implications for the NDIS <i>Clare Townsend (presenter), Delina Andrews, Paul White</i>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>HUMAN SERVICE SYSTEMS REFORM</b> Exchange of personal information between agencies: Challenges and opportunities <i>Ilan Katz (presenter), Matthew Keeley (presenter), Shona Bates, Jane Bullen</i> Policy modelling in the NSW Department of Families and Community Services <i>Merran Butler (presenter)</i> Synthesising governance networks and social networks: Implications for social policy <i>Gaby Ramia (presenter), Roger Patulny (presenter), Greg Marston (presenter), Kyla Cassells</i> Redress for adults harmed in out-of-home care as children: Social policy in times of austerity <i>Suellen Murray (presenter)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>WELFARE TO WORK</b> Active labour policies revisited by social workers <i>Jean-Pierre Tabin (presenter), Anne Perriard</i> Welfare-to-work in the emerging Vietnamese welfare state <i>Mark Considine, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Phuc Nguyen (presenter)</i> Targeting mothers? A two-phase study of the implementation of activation policies in Australia <i>Cosmo Howard, Michelle Brady (co-presenters)</i> Conditional citizenship: Have sanctions replaced support in the British welfare system? <i>Sharon Wright, Peter Dwyer, Alasdair Stewart (co-presenters)</i>

Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>MEASURING WELLBEING</b> <p>Beyond income inequality: The importance of wealth and debt for understanding the economic wellbeing of Australian households  <i>Heather Burgess (presenter)</i></p> <p>Measuring multiple socioeconomic disadvantage at the household level  <i>Courtney Williamson (presenter), Summer Wang, Anil Kumar</i></p> <p>Incorporating the 'economic' and 'non-economic' to understand the standard of living and well-being of older people: A case study of older Australians  <i>Yuvisthi Naidoo (presenter)</i></p> <p>Fuel poverty, household income and energy spending in Australia  <i>Francisco Azpitarte (presenter), Damian Sullivan, Victoria Johnson</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)	<b>CARERS</b> <p>Impact of care on career trajectories: Implications for long term support of carers in the workplace  <i>Timothy R. Broady, Hugh T. J. Bainbridge (presenter)</i></p> <p>What are carers entitled to in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)? Rights and realities in the NSW trial site  <i>Sarah Judd (presenter), Carolina Simpson (presenter), Timothy Broady</i></p> <p>Carers and social inclusion in times of austerity  <i>Cathy Thomson (presenter), Trish Hill, Bettina Cass</i></p> <p>Young kinship carers: A hidden population?  <i>Meredith Kiraly (presenter)</i></p>
15.15–15.45 Scientia, Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
15.45–17.15 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>CLOSING FORUM</b> <p><b>What are the implications of the climate change debate for evidence based policy?</b>  Speakers: Robert Manne (La Trobe University), Mark Dangerfield (UNSW Social Policy Research Centre), Brian Head (University of Queensland), Roy Sainsbury (University of York)  Moderator: Richard Aedy</p>
17.15–18.45 Scientia, Foyer	<b>RECEPTION: Celebrating 35 years of the Social Policy Research Centre</b>

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Tuesday 29 September	
9.20–10.20 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>OPENING PLENARY</b>  <b>Understanding and reducing inequalities in child development</b> Speaker: Jane Waldfogel (Compton Foundation Centennial Professor of Social Work and Public Affairs, Columbia University) Chair: Bruce Bradbury (Associate Professor, UNSW Social Policy Research Centre)
10.20–10.50 Scientia, Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
10.50–12.30	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: PATHWAYS OF CARE LONGITUDINAL STUDY</b>  A comparison of kinship and non-kinship care: A comparison of child and carer characteristics <i>Paul Delfabbro (presenter)</i>  Improving the outcomes in OOHC: An overview of the Pathways of Care longitudinal study <i>Merran Butler, Andie Cubie (presenter), Marina Paxman (presenter)</i>  Impact of service use on children in out-of-home care <i>Ilan Katz (presenter)</i>  Placement stability within the Pathways Study sample <i>Fred Wulczyn (presenter)</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>WELFARE STATE REFORM</b>  Achieving fair and sustainable prosperity: A new challenge for welfare states <i>Greg Marston (presenter)</i>  Chronicle of a death foretold? Social security in Australia and the end of the age of entitlement <i>Peter Whiteford (presenter)</i>  Intergenerational welfare contracts and social citizenship rights in a comparative and longitudinal perspective <i>Kenneth Nelson (presenter)</i>  Who is the fairest (and most efficient) of them all: income or consumption taxes? <i>Peter Davidson (presenter)</i>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>  Integrated responses to family and domestic violence and sexual assault: Ideas and evidence <i>Kylie valentine (presenter), Jan Breckenridge, Susan Rees</i>  'Safe at home' responses to prevent homelessness among women who have experienced domestic and family violence <i>Jan Breckenridge (presenter), Donna Chung, Angela Spinney, Carole Zuffrey</i>  Barriers and facilitators to integrated service provision for women affected by harmful alcohol and other drugs use and domestic and family violence <i>Jenny Chalmers (presenter), Jan Breckenridge, Anna Olsen</i>  Promoting women's economic security following domestic violence <i>Jane Bullen, Natasha Cortis, Trish Hill (co-presenters)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>AGEING, EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMICS</b>  Grandparent childcare and labour force participation in Australia: Examining the tensions between the regular family carer and older citizen worker roles <i>Myra Hamilton (presenter), Bridget Jenkins</i>  Eldercare and workplace: Towards developing improved employer responses to employees' eldercare responsibilities <i>Alexandra Heron (presenter)</i>  Working longer? Age mismatch in employment services <i>Dina Bowman (presenter), Michael McGann, Simon Biggs, Helen Kimberley</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>YOUNG PEOPLE</b>  Young people's experiences of school and education: Reconciling autonomy with family relationships and supports <i>Rose Butler (presenter), Kristy Muir</i>  Young people from culturally diverse backgrounds and their use of services for sexual and reproductive health needs: A structured scoping review <i>Jessica Botfield (presenter), Christy Newman, Anthony Zwi</i>  Being a/part: The strength and the struggle of young people's experiences of belonging <i>Tatiana Corrales (presenter), Michelle Waterford, Ian Goodwin-Smith, Leanne Wood, Kathleen Hill, Todd Yourell, Coco Ho</i>  Growing up in tourist destinations: The implications of excluding young people's voices in policy development <i>Antonia Canosa, Anne Graham (co-presenters)</i>

Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)	<b>YOUTH EMPLOYMENT</b> Social enterprises: Working for the young unemployed <i>Timothy Bayl (presenter)</i> Youth unemployment in Australia and the UK <i>Melissa Wong (presenter), Gill Main</i> The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on youth unemployment <i>Raja Junankar (presenter)</i> Analysis of income support dynamics among vulnerable youth in Australia between 1999 and 2014 <i>Agnieszka Nelson (presenter), Matthew Gray</i>
12.30–13.30 Scientia, Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
12.55–13.30 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>LUNCHTIME WORKSHOP</b> <b>Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People's Participation</b> Presenter: Andrew Johnson (NSW Advocate for Children and Young People)
13.30–14.45	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>DISABILITY AND WORK</b> Welfare reforms, work first policies and benefit conditionality: Comparative reflections on policies for disabled people in the UK and Denmark <i>David Etherington (presenter)</i> Supported employment in a time of austerity: A view from Europe with an eye on Australia <i>Roy Sainsbury (presenter), Edmund Coleman-Fountain</i> Return to work after injury: A comparative policy effectiveness study <i>Alex Collie (presenter), Christopher McLeod</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>DISABILITY AND HOUSING</b> Disability accommodation support within constrained housing options: A policy framework <i>Karen Fisher (presenter), Christiane Purcal (presenter), Anna Jones, Sally Robinson, Rosemary Kayess</i> 'Supported Living' for people with intellectual disability: What is necessary for a good quality of life? <i>Christine Bigby (presenter), Emma Bould</i> "Best move I've ever made": People with disability negotiating access to housing <i>Ilan Weisel (presenter), Karen R. Fisher, Sandra Gendera</i>
Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<b>CARE, TIME, HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b> The high conflict post-divorce shared-time family <i>Bruce Smyth (presenter)</i> Gender differences in time quality and feeling rushed: The role of family demand, work hours and work schedules <i>Lyn Craig (presenter)</i> Has the rise of the dual earner couple made Australians less healthy? <i>Danielle Venn (presenter), Michael Bittman, Cathy Banwell, Jane Dixon</i>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b> Racism and education outcomes of Indigenous children and young people: The impacts and possible risk and protective factors <i>Talia Avrahamzon (presenter), Nicholas Biddle (presenter), Naomi Priest</i> School enrolment and attendance of Indigenous children: An analysis using Footprints in Time data <i>Peng Yu (presenter)</i> Indigenous young people leaving out of home care in Victoria <i>Philip Mendes (presenter), Bernadette Saunders, Susan Baidawi</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>CHILD PROTECTION COMMUNITIES</b> Welfare conditionality as a child protection tool: Child Protection Income Management in the Northern Territory <i>Kelly Hand (presenter), Ilan Katz, Rob Bray, Matthew Gray</i> Income Management and behaviour change: Evidence and policy <i>Ilan Katz (presenter), Rob Bray (presenter), Matthew Gray (presenter), Kelly Hand</i> Failure of policy or failure of imagination? Adaptive approaches to the public governance in remote Indigenous Australia <i>Prue Brown (presenter)</i>

Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>PARENT AND INFANT HEALTH</b> <p>The impact of paid parental leave on infant health  <i>Lindsey Bullinger (presenter)</i></p> <p>Utilisation of health services for mental health during the postpartum period  <i>Liana Leach (presenter), Carmel Poyser</i></p> <p>Improving the quality of life of lone parents: A mixed methods study from Malta  <i>Angela Abela (presenter), Frank Bezzina (presenter), Claire Casha, Rose Marie Azzopardi</i></p>
14.45–15.15 Scientia, Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
15.15–16.10	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>GOLD SPONSOR SESSION: AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS</b> <p>Transforming People Statistics: Data for social policy in the 21st Century  <i>Gemma Van Halderen (presenter)</i></p>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>EMPLOYMENT STRESS AND DEPRESSION</b> <p>The role of financial hardship, mastery and social support in the association between employment status and depression  <i>Laura Crowe (presenter), Peter Butterworth</i></p> <p>Unemployment and stress: The social causation hypothesis investigated using a biomarker of physiological stress  <i>Sofie Dencker-Larsen (presenter), Anders Holm, Matias Brødsgaard Grynderup, Linda Kærlev, Aase Marie Hansen</i></p>
Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b> <p>A comparison of three forms of income management: The implications of context on perceived benefits  <i>Ilan Katz, Kylie Brosnan (co-presenters)</i></p> <p>Income management in New Zealand and Australia: Different framings but similar outcomes?  <i>Louise Humpage (presenter)</i></p>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b> <p>Hearing her voice: Culturally and linguistically diverse women, family violence and public policy  <i>Margot Clifford (presenter)</i></p> <p>Activism in times of austerity: The Older Women's Network (OWN) and the Prevention of Violence Against Older Women  <i>Jane Mears (presenter)</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>FOOD SECURITY</b> <p>Healthy food as a human right: Effective food security policy in an ever-changing political environment  <i>Amy Lawton (presenter)</i></p> <p>Is the glass half full or half empty? Food security and social safety net programs in rural Bangladesh  <i>K M Kabirul Islam (presenter)</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>PENSIONS</b> <p>Fixing the Age Pension  <i>Matthew Taylor (presenter)</i></p> <p>Pensions and regional income distribution in Brazil  <i>Marcelo Caetano (presenter), Leonardo Monasterio</i></p>
16.10–17.40 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>CLOSING FORUM</b> <p><b>What can be done to reduce inequalities in childhood outcomes? Family, preschool and school policy in Australia</b>  Speakers: Jane Waldfogel (Columbia University), Donna Berthelsen (Queensland University of Technology), Wendy Field (The Smith Family), Bernie Shepherd (Freelance Writer)  Moderator: Richard Aedy</p>
18.00–19.00 John Goodsell, Room 221 (second floor)	<b>ASPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>

# Wednesday 30 September

## Wednesday 30 September

<b>9.00–10.00</b> Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>OPENING PLENARY</b>  <b>The expanding precariat: Reviving empathy and universalism</b> Speaker: Guy Standing (Professor of Development Studies, University of London) Chair: Peter Saunders (Professor, UNSW Social Policy Research Centre)
<b>10.00–10.30</b> Scientia, Foyer	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
<b>10.30–12.10</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: CHILDCARE CHOICES</b>  Politics, the Productivity Commission and the 'problem' of child care in Australia <i>Lara Corr, Gemma Carey (co-presenters)</i>  Quality or quantity? Choice or compromise? Influences on the child care choices of parents considering using formal child care for the first time <i>Amber Hinton (presenter), Marianne Fenech, Sheila Degotardi, Naomi Sweller</i>  Looking beyond affordable, accessible and flexible child care: Exploring parental understandings about 'quality' and early learning as potential influences on child care choice <i>Marianne Fenech (presenter), Naomi Sweller (presenter), Sheila Degotardi</i>  The rise of the Nanny State in Australia: Do parents and children stand to gain? <i>Marianne Fenech (presenter), Naomi Sweller (presenter), Sheila Degotardi</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>SERVICE DELIVERY</b>  Early Years Centres: Maximising impact through integrated service delivery <i>Kaitrin McNamara (presenter), Kate Furst, Alana Laundry, Angela Carr</i>  The role and outcomes of family resource rooms for families of hospitalised children <i>Gianfranco Giuntoli (presenter), Karen Fisher, Kelley Johnson</i>  Developing outcome indicators to measure improvement in client wellbeing <i>Gemma Luckett (presenter), Jo Fildes (presenter), Brianna Perrens</i>  Mediating structures or monitors of mandatory activities: The changing nature of human service delivery in the 21st Century <i>Wilma Gallet (presenter)</i>
Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<b>WELLBEING</b>  Progress is the problem: A critical appraisal of new measures of national well-being <i>Cosmo Howard (presenter)</i>  Revised and updated budget standards for Australia: A report on progress <i>Peter Saunders, Megan Bedford (co-presenters)</i>  How do drivers of wellbeing change over time? An analysis of life satisfaction over the life course using Australian data <i>Ioana Ramia (presenter)</i>  The ins and outs of the labour market: Employment and labour force transitions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians <i>Boyd Hunter, Matthew Gray (co-presenters)</i>
Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT</b>  Supporting stronger post-school outcomes among Australian disadvantaged young people <i>Gillian Considine (presenter)</i>  High stakes: Youth employment <i>Jennifer Skattebol, Trish Hill (co-presenters)</i>  Class matters? Examining the mediating effects of socio-economic background on young people's education and employment pathways <i>Malita Allan, Dina Bowman (co-presenters)</i>  Equity and career development <i>Sharon Bond (presenter)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>SOCIAL STATISTICS</b>  Consistency of Indigenous identification in official statistics: Policy implications <i>Ching Choi (presenter), Tony Barnes</i>  Using an Indigenous worldview in producing official statistics <i>Scott Ussher (presenter)</i>  Understanding migrant outcomes: Making better use of census data <i>Jennifer Dobak (presenter)</i>  ABS data integration: Using diverse data to inform policy and research <i>Phillip Gould (presenter)</i>



Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>PARTICIPATION</b> Funding of community services through participatory planning approaches: Lessons from the Area Assistance Scheme <i>Margot Rawsthorne, Amanda Howard (co-presenters)</i> Ethical research involving children: Supporting social policy-related research with children and young people <i>Mary Ann Powell (presenter), Anne Graham</i> The power of empowerment: Parents of vulnerable children lead school and community changes <i>Susan Maury (presenter)</i> Neoliberalism and the statutory child protection system in Australia: The need for social work in an alliance with the marginalised <i>Jane Thomson (presenter)</i>
Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)	<b>RESILIENCE AND RESPONSES</b> The kaleidoscope of daily problems: Shaping holistic responses for children of prisoners <i>Vicky Saunders (presenter), Morag McArthur</i> Contextualising trauma and resilience: Recovery responses <i>Charles Waldegrave (presenter)</i>
12.10–13.10 Scientia, Foyer	<b>LUNCH</b>
12.35–13.10 Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>LUNCHTIME WORKSHOP</b> <b>National Plans to End Homelessness</b> Presenters: Glenda Stevens, William Mudford (Homelessness Australia)
13.10–14.50	<b>CONTRIBUTED PAPERS</b>
Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: IN-HOME CHILDCARE</b> Recognition of what? Visibility, voice and value for in-home childcare workers <i>Elizabeth Adamson (presenter)</i> In-home child care: A solution to parents' flexible care needs? <i>Jennifer Baxter, Kelly Hand (presenter)</i> Family Daycare Coordinators' perspectives on coordinating more flexible models of care <i>Michelle Brady (presenter)</i> Achieving high quality home-based child care in Australia: The problem of poor working conditions in family day care <i>Lara Corr (presenter), Kay Cook</i>
Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)	<b>DISABILITY RIGHTS</b> Can individualised funding deliver on its human rights promise? <i>Christina David, Paul Ramcharan (co-presenters)</i> Recognising rights in different cultural contexts: The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities <i>Kelley Johnson (presenter), Rosemary Kayess, Emily Kakoullis, Karen Fisher</i> Monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability in Victoria: Lessons learned from people with disabilities <i>Paul Ramcharan, Lee Ann Basser, Raelene West (co-presenters)</i> International conversations about individual funding <i>Carmel Laragy</i>
Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL ISSUES (AJSI)</b> A reverse form of welfarism: Some reflections on Australian housing policy <i>Keith Jacobs (presenter)</i> Economic adversity and crime: old theories and new evidence <i>Don Weatherburn (presenter), Kevin Schnepel</i> Social Work and the Australian Journal of Social Issues (AJSI) <i>Margaret Alston (presenter)</i> Envisaging New Futures for Australian Social Policy Debates <i>Boyd Hunter, Julie Lahn, Keith Jacobs, Margaret Alston, Maggie Walter (co-presenters)</i>

# Wednesday 30 September

Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)	<b>REFORMING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS</b> <p>Early intervention: Supporting and strengthening vulnerable children and families in the UK <i>Sharon Vincent (presenter)</i></p> <p>Inquiries and their role in child welfare reform in Australia <i>Annette Michaux (presenter), Robyn Mildon</i></p> <p>Determining the impact of child protection reforms: Lessons from the evaluation of Keep Them Safe <i>kylie valentine (presenter), Ilan Katz (presenter), Rebecca Cassells, Aron Shlonsky, Christine Eastman, Alan Duncan</i></p> <p>Putting practice first? Practitioners' perspectives on the implementation of a child-centred model of child protection practice in NSW <i>Natasha Cortis (presenter), Ilan Katz, Ciara Smyth (presenter), kylie valentine, Catherine Wade</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)	<b>HOUSING AND DISADVANTAGE</b> <p>How many Australians have slept rough? <i>Chris Chamberlain (presenter), Guy Johnson</i></p> <p>Childhood homelessness and adult employment: The role of education, incarceration, and welfare receipt <i>Deborah Cobb-Clark, Anna Zhu (presenter)</i></p> <p>Housing assistance and employment in Australia <i>Alison McClelland (presenter)</i></p> <p>Empowering networks or risky reliance? Social capital among low to moderate income public and private tenants <i>Wendy Stone (presenter), Ilan Wiesel</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)	<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> <p>Given the chance: Asylum seekers and employment <i>John van Kooy (presenter), Dina Bowman</i></p> <p>The impact of the mining boom (and bust) on the employment of disadvantaged people <i>Bruce Bradbury (presenter)</i></p> <p>Canberra visions and remote realities: The case of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program <i>Lisa Fowkes (presenter)</i></p> <p>Poverty and well-being: Their conceptual and empirical relationships <i>Gianfranco Giuntoli (presenter), Jane South, Ben Mitchell, Gavin Sullivan, David Devins</i></p>
Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)	<b>MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b> <p>Workplace bullying, mental health and wellbeing: Results from the PATH through Life project <i>Peter Butterworth (presenter)</i></p> <p>A tool for the study of welfare at work <i>Michael Bittman (presenter)</i></p> <p>The economic costs of the over-representation of Indigenous peoples with mental health disorders and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system <i>Ruth McCausland (presenter)</i></p> <p>The impact of discrimination and abuse on wellbeing among older people <i>Charles Waldegrave (presenter)</i></p>
14.50–15.20 Scientia, Foyer	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
15.20–16.50 Scientia Leighton Hall (ground floor)	<b>CLOSING FORUM</b> <p><b>Beyond Workfare: Progressive Social Policy for a Good Society</b></p> <p>Speakers: Guy Standing (University of London), John Buchanan (The University of Sydney), Peter Davidson (ACOSS), Boyd Hunter (Australian National University)</p> <p>Moderator: Richard Aedy</p>

# Chinese Social Policy Workshop

The 2015 Chinese Social Policy Workshop will be held on Monday 28 – Tuesday 29 September and will present recent research on developments in Chinese social policy. Its aim is to increase the capacity of Chinese and Australian researchers to collaborate in areas of joint policy research interest by building on their record of cooperative social policy research relations. Chinese, Australian and other international researchers and government and non-government officials engaged in current research in China, or with an interest in developing that research agenda, are welcome to attend the workshop.

Monday 28 September		
8.30–9.30	<b>Registration</b>	Scientia, Foyer
9.30–10.50	<b>Join ASPC delegates for Conference Welcome and Opening Plenary</b>	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
10.50–11.20	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
11.20–11.35	<b>Workshop Welcome</b> Professor Eileen Baldry (Interim Dean, UNSW Arts & Social Sciences) <b>Opening Address</b> Ms Tang Ying (Deputy Consul-General, Consulate General of China in Sydney)	Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)
11.35–12.35	<b>Keynote Address</b> <i>Challenges of China's social spending: How to benefit the poor while promoting growth</i> Speaker: Xuejin Zuo (Research Professor and Former Acting President, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences)	Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)
12.35–13.35	<b>Lunch</b>	Scientia, Foyer
13.35–15.15	<b>Contributed Papers: Accountability</b> Reforming how physicians are paid in Chinese public hospitals: The bonus scheme, motivation crowding-out and the doctor-patient relationship <i>Alex Jingwei He (presenter)</i> Analysis of accountability mechanisms in Chinese grassroots NGOs: A case from a Chinese child welfare grassroots NGO <i>Qian Fang (presenter)</i> Operational model of partnership in long-term care practice in Taiwan: Reviewing and reflecting the principles of network governance <i>Yuan Shie Hwang, Li-hsin Chuang (co-presenters)</i>	Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)
15.15–15.45	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
15.45–17.15	<b>Contributed Papers: Pensions and Poverty Reduction</b> The local governance of poverty and rural development policy <i>Sarah Rogers (presenter)</i> The evolution of China's pension system <i>Peter Whiteford (presenter), Bingqin Li (presenter), Tristan Kenderdine</i> Face funds <i>Tom Cliff (presenter)</i> Regional differences in life expectancy in mainland China <i>Jichen Li, Hazel Bateman, Kevin Liu (presenter)</i>	Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)
17.45–19.15	<b>Reception: Celebrating 35 years of the Social Policy Research Centre</b>	Scientia, Foyer
Tuesday 29 September		
9.20–10.20	<b>Join ASPC delegates for Opening Plenary</b>	Scientia, Leighton Hall (ground floor)
10.20–10.50	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Scientia, Foyer
10.50–12.30	<b>Contributed Papers: Children and Young People</b> Developing universal child welfare: A case study of Shanghai <i>Xiong Yang (presenter)</i> Never become an adult? How to achieve economic independence of young people with disabilities cared for by the State <i>Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher (co-presenters)</i> Have the effects of parents' SES on their child's educational opportunities changed since the implementation of Quality-Oriented Education Policy in China? <i>Jie Wang</i>	Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)
12.30–13.30	<b>Workshop Close and Lunch</b>	Scientia, Foyer



# Professional Development Conference

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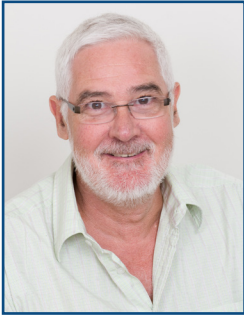
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## Celebrating 35 Years of Research Impact

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), which opened originally as The Social Welfare Research Centre in 1980. There is

much to celebrate about what the Centre has achieved over the last three and a half decades. It has pursued its central mission of conducting high quality research on social policy issues, examining the factors driving economic and social change and assessing the impacts – positive and negative, intended and unintended, immediate and longer-term – of social policy interventions. It has constantly sought to engage with stakeholders about the practical implications of its key findings, in the process raising community awareness of social issues through its evidence gathering and dissemination activities.

Its efforts have always focused on addressing key policy questions relating to what works and what doesn't, who benefits and who pays. This has often involved asking difficult questions and producing uncomfortable answers, but it has remained focused on what can be done to improve the lives and prospects of those experiencing social disadvantage. Its work has highlighted the role of research in conceptualising, identifying, analysing and addressing social problems and helped to place Australia at the forefront of international social policy research, practice, dissemination and impact.

It is all too easy to forget how much has changed since the Centre was established. The 1980s saw the virtual disappearance of one of the pillars of Australian social policy – full employment – and the erosion of another – the centralised wage fixing system. The opening up of the economy exposed Australian industries and workers to competitive forces that compelled businesses to become more flexible in order to survive, and that meant that workplaces had to change as labour markets were forced to adjust to global economic forces and technological change. Social policy continued to address traditional concerns associated with poverty and life cycle

vulnerabilities but also became an important tool for supporting economic change by minimising and mitigating its adverse social consequences. Funds were limited, but the challenges were complex and profound and deciding what to do required a better understanding of the forces driving change and an evidence base on which to build solutions.

The SPRC has not been immune from these broader social and economic trends. Its guarantee of core funding from government was replaced by a competitive model in 2001 and the flow-on effects involved a combination of increased financial uncertainty and greater workforce flexibility that resulted in a more casualised workforce. Project funding increased short-term relevance but made it harder to build long-term research capacity. Funders have become reluctant to pay for awareness-raising, dissemination and other 'non-core' activities whose benefits were general not project-specific. Training took place on-the-job but had to be accommodated within other constraints. Deliverables became the order of the day and budget balances the currency of success.

Responding to these trends still presents formidable challenges, although the SPRC has responded positively, maintaining its place at the pinnacle of Australian (and international) research by combining academic excellence with practical relevance and independence. Its staff and management have responded positively to the pressures faced, never losing sight of the importance of their work for those at the receiving end of discrimination and disadvantage. Its reputation as a productive but supportive and enjoyable workplace has survived and it remains a place where many want to join but few choose to leave. Its past survival does not guarantee its future place in the social policy research landscape, nor should it. But SPRC has achieved much to be proud of and is poised to do better and grow stronger. Long may it continue to flourish!

Professor Peter Saunders

# Abstracts by Author

## A

### Elizabeth Adamson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Wednesday 13.10–14.50, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### Recognition of what? Visibility, voice and value for in-home childcare workers

The focus of the paper is the recognition of in-home child care workers in three liberal countries – Australia, the UK and Canada. Governments across developed countries are investing more in early childhood education and care (ECEC); however, the ECEC workforce is still characterised by low pay and often poor employment conditions. These issues are particularly pertinent for in-home child care, where there are fewer employment protections and regulations. The misrecognition and undervaluing of their care work is shaped not only by ECEC policy and workforce regulations, but also employment standards and, increasingly, migration policy.

This paper investigates how the intersection of these policy areas in three countries led to different struggles for recognition by in-home childcare workers. Drawing on Fiona Williams' recognition framework, the paper analyses how care workers' struggles revolve around elements of visibility, voice and value. The findings (from my PhD thesis) are based on documentary analysis and data from interviews with 20 stakeholders from the in-home childcare (and broader ECEC) sector in each of the study countries. Overall, the paper argues that the intersection of migration within a relatively unregulated child care market leads to struggles for visibility and voice as citizens and workers, by (mostly) migrant care workers – these two elements must be first achieved in order to be valued. Where migration is restricted, and there are tighter regulations within the child care market, in-home childcare workers seek opportunities to make claims to be valued and recognised as part of the ECEC workforce.

### Angela Abela, Frank Bezzina, Claire Casha, Rose Marie Azzopardi

University of Malta

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### Improving the quality of life of lone parents: A mixed methods study from Malta

This empirical mixed methods study sought to build the profile of single parents living in Malta and whose youngest child was aged three. It also investigated factors that could adequately predict (i) dependence on social benefits (used as a proxy for poverty) and (ii) engagement in the labour market.

A questionnaire was purposely designed for the present study after consulting various sources. It was administered face-to-face with 250 participants in their homes (a response rate of 40.7%). The findings revealed that 64% had a surprise pregnancy. The study delves into the effect the pregnancy had on their lifestyle, their family background, how they view themselves compared to married partners, the sources of practical/emotional/financial support they receive, and what they see as important for their children's future.

Binary logistic regression analysis revealed that lone parents on social benefits were more likely to: be younger [ $p=0.004$ ]; be less educated [ $p<0.001$ ], report a surprise pregnancy [ $p=0.014$ ], not be in a relationship with the child's biological father [ $p=0.001$ ] and receive less practical support [ $p=0.007$ ] than others. Additionally, those who sought formal employment were more likely to: be more educated [ $p<0.001$ ], receive less financial support [ $p<0.001$ ] but more practical support [ $p<0.001$ ] than others. Reasons for not working include a lack of trust in formal/informal child care, few suitable job opportunities, lack of family friendly employers and lack of qualifications/experience.

The findings are discussed and the study concludes by providing policy recommendations aimed at improving the quality of life of lone parents in Malta.

## Malita Allan, Dina Bowman

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### Class matters? Examining the mediating effects of socio-economic background on young people's education and employment pathways

This paper reports on wave 11 of the Life Chances Study which began in 1990 and has since followed a group of babies - now young adults - and their families. Wave 11 focuses on the education and employment pathways of the now 24-25 year olds. In this wave, in addition to longitudinal analysis, we used an initial survey and semi-structured interviews to gain insight into the nature of these pathways. Our initial findings highlight the role that socio-economic background plays in the quality and length of the transition from school to satisfactory employment. For example, those from higher income families were more likely to attain a qualification than those from medium or lower income families (46% compared to 28% and 26%). Those from high income families were also more likely to be living at home at age 24-25, and to receive financial assistance from their parents than those from low income families, who were more likely to provide financial assistance to their parents. Most of the young people who had jobs were from high or medium income families, while most of those who were unemployed were from low income families. There were also more unemployed young men than young women. Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of capital, field, and habitus, we examine the mediating effects of socio-economic background on young people's transition from school to work, and consider what these young people thought had helped or hindered their path towards satisfactory employment.

## Margaret Alston

Monash University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### Social Work and the Australian Journal of Social Issues (AJSI)

The Australian Journal of Social Issues (AJSI) had its genesis in the Department of Social Work at The University of Sydney in 1961. At the time, there was much controversy about what it was that social workers should be trained to do—be handmaidens of critics of social inequalities and social policy. The establishment of AJSI built on this ideological divide

and provided a site for critique not only of social work but also of the type of society Australia should be. Since the early days, both social work and the AJSI have developed in different ways that saw them drift apart. This paper charts this journey and points to a future where social work and AJSI may well become partners again in critiquing social policy and social issues.

## Talia Avrahamzon<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas Biddle<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Priest<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>Deakin University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### Racism and education outcomes of Indigenous children and young people: The impacts and possible risk and protective factors

The significant gaps in education outcomes, including attendance, access to, participation in, and educational attainment, that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people continue to be a social policy challenge in Australia. There is a growing body of national and international empirical evidence demonstrating the negative effects of racism and discrimination on child health outcomes, but much less research on education (especially in Australia). Since health is an accepted key predictor of education outcomes, it is likely that implicit and explicit forms of racism experienced by Indigenous children and young people at the interpersonal, intrapersonal and systemic level contribute to the significant disparities in education outcomes both indirectly (through health outcomes) and more directly. It is thus necessary to explore the prevalence of racism and discrimination experienced by Indigenous children and young people and to examine the impact on their education outcomes. Using data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Youth, the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the paper highlights the relationship between self-identified experiences of racism and discrimination as a result of identifying as being Indigenous and education outcomes. It also examines possible risk and protective factors to racism and discrimination particularly on education outcomes. While population level evidence informs an understanding of the scope of the problem, the authors acknowledge the need for further mixed methods approaches to inform

the exploration and development of meaningful interventions.

**Francisco Azpitarte<sup>1</sup>, Damian Sullivan<sup>2</sup>, Victoria Johnson<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne & Brotherhood of St Laurence,

<sup>2</sup>Brotherhood of St Laurence

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

**Fuel poverty, household income and energy spending in Australia**

Over recent decades there has been a growing concern about the consequences of fuel poverty. Compared to other countries like the U.S. and the U.K. where abundant research has been done, fuel poverty has received minimal attention in Australia where research on this issue is yet very scarce.

This paper aims to contribute to energy research in Australia by estimating trends and characterising fuel poverty for the period 2005-2011. We consider different definitions of fuel poverty proposed in the literature including the cost-to-income ratio definitions, which identify as fuel poor those families for whom fuel costs represent a high share of their budget, as well as the consensual concepts of fuel poverty based on families' reported capacity to afford energy expenditures and the impact of these on their finances.

Our analysis reveals that the definition of fuel poverty plays a crucial role in quantifying and characterising fuel-poor households. We find that the income-expenditure and the consensual definitions of fuel poverty identify very different groups of fuel-poor households and the overlap between those groups is rather limited. Furthermore, welfare comparisons of the different fuel-poor groups depend on the welfare indicator considered, which poses a challenge for the design of policies to target those who are in most need. This suggests that no single definition of fuel poverty captures all forms of energy hardship. The results of this study show that, if used in isolation, none of the definitions tested would adequately cover the diverse households who experience fuel poverty in Australia.

## B

**Timothy Bayl**

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

**Social enterprises: Working for the young unemployed**

This study examines work integration social enterprises as a transformational model for improving labour market outcomes for low-skilled young unemployed people in Australia, the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark. Social enterprises are increasingly important for the social policy goals of governments in ever-harsher austerity. However, advanced economies take different approaches to the policy levers that can act to promote this model.

Some social enterprises have the specific aim of employing people experiencing 'distance' to the labour market. These work integration social enterprises (WISEs) do not just provide employment or training. Instead, WISEs generate successful outcomes by combining demand-driven real work experience, training and guidance in a supportive environment. Examined through WISE case studies in four countries, this holistic approach triggers mechanisms that enable changes in participants' resources and reasoning, resulting in greater employability and sustainable transition into the labour market.

Importantly, WISEs generate these outcomes within the contexts of public policies and of key enabling relationships: with public agencies, with partner companies and end customers, and with participants' future employers. In each of these relationships, there is a mutual understanding that the product is at least as good as that offered by the mainstream but is produced to achieve social goals. These contexts can act to enable WISEs to build confidence and trust within their business community and to be successful financially sustainable social enterprises. Policy settings in different advanced economies can therefore act to hinder or help WISEs in improving labour market outcomes for the low-skilled young unemployed.



## Jennifer Baxter, Kelly Hand

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### In-home child care: A solution to parents' flexible care needs?

The demand for flexible child care is of continuing policy interest in Australia, with home-based child care options such as family day care, in-home care and nannying all considered potential solutions for families. These approaches are thought to be especially valuable in meeting parents' demand for care outside of standard child care operating hours – such as early mornings, overnight and weekend care. This paper draws on recent research undertaken with parents and child care providers about parents' understandings of, and use of, home-based care options, as well as barriers to families accessing home-based care. Using qualitative interview data, the paper argues that while many parents value the flexibility of home-based care approaches, they will seek a range of care options that meet both the educational and social needs of their children as well as accommodating work schedules.

## Laura Bennetts Kneebone

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### Financial hardship in Australia: Findings from four Longitudinal Studies

Poverty measured simply by assessing income has limited utility. How far a person's income will stretch depends upon many factors, including where they live, how many dependants they have, how much debt they are in and their financial management skills. Poverty, or financial hardship, can perhaps be better measured by asking a few questions about being short of money.

Financial hardship is measured in at least four different longitudinal surveys in Australia using the same set of questions. More than 80 per cent of Australian households surveyed in HILDA (Household, Income, Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey) and LSAC (The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children) experienced no financial hardship while the remainder experienced one or more types of financial hardship (out of six possible types). Levels of financial hardship were much higher for parents in LSIC (The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children) and participants in BNLA (Building a New Life in

Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants): only 55 per cent of LSIC families and 60 per cent of new humanitarian migrants (BNLA) experienced no financial hardship.

These figures suggest that Indigenous families and new humanitarian migrants experience substantially higher levels of multiple financial disadvantage than other Australians. They are twice as likely to struggle with housing payments and more than three times as likely to go without meals.

This presentation explores geographic and social differences in experience of financial hardship and the relationship between financial hardship and wellbeing.

## Christine Bigby, Emma Bould

La Trobe University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

### 'Supported Living' for people with intellectual disability: What is necessary for a good quality of life?

Group homes have been the dominant disability service model. The NDIS holds the promise of greater choice for people with intellectual disability about where and how to live through 'supported living', which separates housing and support. There is little research about the housing, communities or support that lead to a good quality of life in supported living. Debate has focused particularly on shortages of affordable housing.

This study explored factors associated with good and poor quality of life outcomes of supported living arrangements. Thirty-four people with intellectual disability in supported living and 7 staff from organisations delivering support participated in focus group; 28 people and their support staff participated in face-to-face surveys and six in more in-depth case studies.

Unequivocally, people with intellectual disability felt greater independence and control compared to living with their parents or in a group home. This was a considerably cheaper option. Objectively, most, however, had a mediocre quality of life, few close friendships and felt lonely. Their quality of life was similar to a matched sample of group home residents drawn from another study, in which approximately 35% of residents had similar skills to people in supported living. Being younger, strong family support and participation in regular structured activities were associated with better outcomes. Staff identified varied types of support they provided, suggesting funding bodies undervalued coordination, and that



clustering disadvantaged people together created difficulties. We discuss the policy implications of these findings and the support necessary for good outcomes in supported living.

### **Michael Bittman**

University of New England

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **A tool for the study of welfare at work**

For some decades now, the key idea in social policy has been the benefits of paid employment. 'Welfare-to-work' has been the mantra of modern discourse about the organisation of policy. Conversely, 'joblessness' has been seen as a damaging state. However, recent epidemiological research suggests that while working in high quality jobs is beneficial for mental health, it could be that working in low quality jobs is no better than not being employed at all. But what employment-related activities and in what circumstances comprise a low quality job?

This paper introduces a new tool for studying the content and the experience of jobs. It relies on random time sampling and the data is collected via smartphones. Following a randomly timed "notification", the respondents are "walked through" a short menu of questions about their activities 60 minutes prior to the notification. They record their subjective feelings about them. There is insufficient detail about any individual to expose them to self-incrimination, but the method does provide accurate aggregate information on the typical situation of employees in that occupation. This talk will present preliminary findings from two professions, revealing how many hours employees devoted to their jobs, what days of the week and what times per day they do their jobs, as well as the extent to which they feel under time pressure, have manageable job demands and how secure they feel in their jobs.

### **Sharon Bond**

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Equity and career development**

There is increasing pressure on individuals to forge their own career path in a rapidly changing world of work. Parents are one of the most important influences in their child's career decisions, but many parents feel ill-equipped to assist their children's

career decisions. Career development in schools also plays an important role in providing information and advice, but these services are underfunded and of patchy quality. This paper draws on several research studies conducted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence to highlight career development as an equity issue. For example, a national survey of parents who participated in the Parents as Career Transition Support (PACTS) program in 2014 demonstrates the value of programs which equip parents to support their child's career decisions. The survey found that before completing the program, less than one quarter of participants knew where to access career and transitions information. The majority (94%) felt their knowledge of career and transition options improved as a consequence of their participation, and the survey indicated that participants' involvement in their child's career planning increased - rising from 36% before completing PACTS to 73% after completion of the program. Parental engagement is most effective when schools engage with parents through connections with their needs and interests in environments where they feel at ease (Menzies 2013). Survey respondents indicated that they valued the way the PACTS workshops enabled them to make connections, share experiences and ask questions. The development of careers websites in isolation cannot achieve these results.

### **Jessica Botfield, Christy Newman, Anthony Zwi**

UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Young people from culturally diverse backgrounds and their use of services for sexual and reproductive health needs: A structured scoping review**

Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Australia remain largely hidden to and underserved by sexual and reproductive health care. A structured scoping review, comprising a systematic literature search and key informant consultations, was undertaken to explore the contributions of research on this area in Australia and identify gaps in the literature to inform future research, policy and practice. 120 papers were deemed eligible, and findings presented as three analyses. The first provides an overview of four inter-related dimensions identified in the literature: cultural diversity, the resettlement experiences of migrant communities in Australia, the sexual and reproductive health needs of these communities, and the practices of health services in

this field. The second explores what is known from the literature about culturally diverse young people's needs for, use of, and engagement with services for sexual and reproductive health. The third identifies two knowledge gaps: 1) the perspectives of young people from culturally diverse backgrounds regarding sexual and reproductive health and health care, and 2) the engagement of culturally diverse young people with sexual and reproductive health services. The review concludes by proposing new directions for a research agenda on sexual and reproductive health care for culturally diverse young people in Australia and comparable settings. Sexual and reproductive health is vital to the wellbeing of communities and families, and by better engaging this group of young people it is anticipated that inequalities will be reduced, social inclusion strengthened, and service provision enhanced.

**Dina Bowman<sup>1</sup>, Michael McGann<sup>2</sup>, Simon Biggs<sup>2</sup>, Helen Kimberley<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Brotherhood of St Laurence, <sup>2</sup>University of Melbourne

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

**Working longer? Age mismatch in employment services**

Lifting employment among mature age workers is becoming an increasingly important policy concern in Australia. With the latest Intergenerational Report forecasting a doubling of the number of Australians aged 65 and over by 2055, 'embracing the [workforce participation] potential of older Australians' is seen as critical to averting the fiscal challenges of population ageing, lower economic growth and rising public expenditure on health and pensions (Australian Government 2015; Productivity Commission 2013). In an effort to extend working lives, the Australian Government has set about lifting the pension eligibility age, which will reach 70 years of age by 2035. Of particular concern is the growing number of mature age Australians who are now receiving Newstart Allowance (unemployment benefits). This reflects a broader increase in unemployment across the population although older Australians are particularly liable to long-term unemployment. Data reported by the Department of Employment shows that the average duration of unemployment for mature age jobseekers is 69 weeks compared with 42 weeks across all jobseekers (Department of Employment 2015). This paper examines the role and effectiveness of Australia's employment services system in supporting mature age jobseekers, who are

becoming a key client group of the system. Drawing upon ARC funded Linkage study with NATSEM, BSL, Jobs Australia, University of Melbourne and Curtin University, we consider how the de-professionalisation of frontline service staff and routinised approach to 'processing' job applicants has been experienced by older jobseekers. We also consider implications for the new Jobactive employment services system.

**Bruce Bradbury**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

**The impact of the mining boom (and bust) on the employment of disadvantaged people**

In the decade after 2001, mining employment in Australia more than tripled. Though at its peak this was still less than 3 per cent of the national workforce, the employment impact was much larger in some regions. The paper examines the impact of this employment growth on disadvantaged Australians - particularly Indigenous people and those with lower levels of education. Census data is used to describe the distributional impact of the employment growth up to 2011, and labour force data is used to provide some indications of the subsequent collapse in employment.

No evidence is found that disadvantaged people were forced out of mining boom regions by high housing costs (even though rents did increase). Employment outcomes were also favourable. Overall employment growth was stronger in mining regions than in the remainder of the country, and people with year 10 or less schooling had stronger employment growth than those with more schooling. Indigenous employment grew faster than non-Indigenous in all mining regions. It is anticipated, however, that many of these gains will be reversed as the mining boom collapses.

**Michelle Brady**

University of Queensland

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

**Family Daycare Coordinators' perspectives on coordinating more flexible models of care**

Over the last few years, the issue of childcare flexibility has gained increased policy attention. The former Labour government introduced the Child Care Flexibility Trials in 2013, whilst the current government launched a Productivity Commission (PC) Inquiry into childcare that had flexibility as a

core focus. Adamson and Brennan (2014) have recently suggested that Family Daycare has particular potential to deliver more flexible and high-quality childcare. Furthermore, work by Cortis, Blaxland, Brennan and Adamson (2014) suggests that there may be particular potential in expanding the role of Family Daycare Coordination Units, who currently ensure that Family Daycare Providers meet regulatory compliance, engage in quality improvement and support educators to include linking families to other care services. Drawing on focus group interviews with Family Daycare Coordinators that were conducted in co-operation with FDC QLD, I examine these providers' willingness to take up new roles that are centred on increasing childcare flexibility.

**Jan Breckenridge<sup>1</sup>, Donna Chung<sup>2</sup>, Angela Spinney<sup>3</sup>, Carole Zuffrey<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Curtin University, <sup>3</sup>Swinburne University,

<sup>4</sup>University of South Australia

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

**'Safe at home' responses to prevent homelessness among women who have experienced domestic and family violence**

The link between women's homelessness and domestic and family violence (DFV) is undeniable. Women and children who leave their home to escape a violent relationship continue to experience considerable social and economic disadvantage, and DFV is the main reason that women seek support and assistance from refuges and other specialist homelessness services.

Increasing awareness that DFV can lead to long-term homelessness, combined with demand for traditional refuge services that outstrips supply and a shortage of affordable housing, has led to the introduction of new service types to reduce the risk of homelessness. Part of this greater range of housing options is colloquially referred to as 'safe at home' programs. The common underpinning of these programs is that they aim to keep women and children safely in their home or in other independent domestic accommodation, thereby reducing the risk of the perpetrator being present and using further violence and abuse.

To date, there has been limited evidence about which interventions have and have not been helpful, why, and under what circumstances. Drawing on research being conducted for the Australian National Research Organisations for Women's Safety (ANROWS), this

paper presents new evidence from a comprehensive and detailed analysis of relevant programs.

**Deb Brennan<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Adamson<sup>1</sup>, Natasha Cortis<sup>1</sup>, Sara Charlesworth<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>RMIT University

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

**Markets, migration and care: Australia in a global context**

Although Australia is a major migration country, it has, to date, rarely figured in discussions of migration and care. This paper breaks new ground by examining the ways in which migration is being drawn into contemporary Australian debates about care policy, especially in relation to the growing demand for flexible, home-based options in aged care, child care and disability care. It examines the actors, ideas and institutions involved in debates about migration and care.

The paper situates the Australian experience within theoretical debates that have previously been applied only to Europe and North America. It extends Fiona Williams' work on the intersections of care, migration and employment, especially her conception of care and migration regimes as 'clusters of policies, practices, legacies, discourses, social relations and forms of contestation' (2012: 371). The paper identifies how proposed reforms to Australian care and migration policies differ and converge across the childcare, disability care and aged care policy domains.

Drawing on a content analysis of submissions to Productivity Commission inquiries into childcare (2014), aged care (2011) and disability care (2011), the paper assesses the extent to which migration has been overlooked, supported, or opposed, as a potential solution to addressing the care needs of Australian families and as an opportunity for migrant women.

**Timothy R. Broady<sup>1</sup>, Hugh T. J. Bainbridge<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Carers NSW, <sup>2</sup>UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

**Impact of care on career trajectories: Implications for long term support of carers in the workplace**

An individual's career progression can be significantly impacted when they provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, drug and/or alcohol dependency,

chronic condition, serious or terminal illness, or who is frail. The potentially time consuming and resource intensive nature of care can dictate that certain limitations are imposed on a carer's working capacity. The immediate impacts of care on employment (such as reduced working hours) can also lead to longer term and broader outcomes for carers' career progression, including limited promotion opportunities. This presentation will investigate particular personal and situational characteristics that are associated with carers' career outcomes, such as reduced working capacity and interruptions to career progression. Drawing on the results of a large scale state-wide survey of carers in New South Wales, this presentation identifies employment characteristics, demographic variables, and caring situations that are related to more positive and more challenging employment outcomes, and the ramifications of these outcomes across other aspects of caring experience. The implications for effectively supporting carers in the workplace are discussed, as well as the potential lessons for broader employment policy.

### **Diane Brown, George Myconos**

*The Brotherhood of St Laurence*

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **New models for supporting young people experiencing disadvantage to engage with the VET system**

The vocational education and training (VET) system is a universal education platform and the primary avenue for post-compulsory education for the 60 per cent of young people who do not enter university following secondary school. In 2014, young people aged 15-24 made up approximately 40 per cent of the VET population, and young people experiencing disadvantage are over-represented in these numbers. These young people require additional support to engage with and complete quality vocational education and training that leads to sustainable employment outcomes. They often face complex and interconnected structural, situational and individual barriers to engaging with and completing training, and to gaining employment. Quality education, career guidance, stable economic support, supportive relationships, and connections to the community, employers and mainstream services are all essential for economic and social life participation in society. For the general population, these things are often provided by family, friends, and wider networks; however, those experiencing disadvantage often do

not have access to these supports and guidance. The current VET system struggles to provide the necessary support for young people experiencing disadvantage. To address this, new models are emerging which seek to harness community effort and resources - including the critical roles of schools, training providers, employers and community organisations - to deliver a successful mainstream training offer that leads to sustainable employment outcomes for these young people. Drawing upon a number of interlinked projects and research by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, this paper explores and expands upon these emerging models.

### **Prue Brown**

*University of Queensland*

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Failure of policy or failure of imagination? Adaptive approaches to the public governance in remote Indigenous Australia**

Governments have been grappling with a range of complex issues in addressing disadvantage in remote Indigenous Australia for some time and have tested a number of national reforms in recent years. All of the new approaches have had at their core engagement and collaboration but, to date, they have not delivered on their promise and key remote Indigenous socio-economic indicators such as school attendance and life expectancy continue to lag well behind mainstream Australia.

Evaluations suggest that systemic blockages such as inflexible funding arrangements, the inability to devolve decision making to the local level, and the stifling accountability requirements implicit in the managerialist approach are part of the problem. However, they have also found that the reliance on top-down centralized approaches, the lack of effective engagement early in the process, and the lack of community and government capacity for genuine engagement and collaboration are also significant failings. In response, governments have largely concentrated on developing community governance capacity and cross-cultural capability development for staff. However, they are still giving insufficient attention to the governance of governments, particularly the adaptability of governance systems, the broader capacities of public servants and institutional culture.

In this paper I examine the role that government capacity plays in ongoing policy failure in remote



Indigenous Australia. In particular, I suggest that focusing on how governments 'imagine' adaptive collaborative governance will provide valuable insights into the barriers that prevent effective working in that way.

### **Jane Bullen, Natasha Cortis, Trish Hill**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Promoting women's economic security following domestic violence**

Economic security is central to the capacity of women to transition from violent relationships and to achieve wellbeing following domestic and family violence. Poor economic wellbeing resulting from violence has significant national as well as individual impacts and costs relating to health, disrupted labour market participation and income support payments. This presentation will outline how economic abuse and other tactics of violence impact on women's economic security and the welfare, industrial, consumer, legal and other strategies which provide opportunities for change.

Drawing on research being conducted for the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), we report analyses of women's economic pathways following domestic and family violence based on the 'Journeys Home' study of income support recipients at risk of homelessness. We also present analyses of interviews with practitioners working to support women's financial needs following violence, including employment service providers, financial counsellors and specialist domestic violence practitioners. Together, the multi-method study provides insights into the economic impact of domestic violence, and helps build knowledge of how income support, employment services, and other financial and support services can better work together and with specialist domestic violence services to promote women's economic security during and following experiences of violence.

### **Lindsey Bullinger**

Indiana University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **The impact of paid parental leave on infant health**

Most developed countries offer parents paid parental leave (PPL), granting time off work to care for a

newborn or adopted child. Policies differ across nations but most provide at least nine months of paid leave to mothers. In Australia, for example, eligible parents can take up to 18 weeks at the National Minimum Wage. Although the United States does not have a federal PPL, there are several states that do. Research on PPL policies' effects on women's economic outcomes is robust; however, very little is known about their effects on children. Expanding existing paid leave programs show no impact on children's health in Canada (6 to 12 months), Germany (2 to 6 months), or Sweden (12 to 15 months) (Baker and Milligan, 2010; Dustmann and Schonberg, 2012; Liu and Skans, 2010). These studies, however, provide little inside as to what to expect from the introduction of paid leave. In the U.S., the introduction of 12 weeks of unpaid leave decreased infant mortality by 10 percent. The effects were stronger in higher educated and married women who can afford to take time off (Rossin, 2011). These findings suggest PPL might provide children from low income and minority families health benefits early in their lives. Using linked birth/infant death certificate data in the U.S. from 2007-2012, I use across-state and within-state variation to identify the causal effect of paid parental leave on infant health. Results suggest PPL decreases infant mortality rates. The effects are stronger in communities with lower levels of education.

### **Heather Burgess**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Beyond income inequality: The importance of wealth and debt for understanding the economic wellbeing of Australian households**

Focus on the distribution of economic resources between households has intensified since the 2008 financial crisis. Alongside growing international recognition of the economic impacts of entrenched inequality, the statistical community has increasingly noted the limitations of applying a traditional income based measure to the assessment of inequality and poverty.

This paper will analyse data from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) to demonstrate the ability of coincident measures of household income and wealth to provide a clearer picture of the economic wellbeing of Australian households, and how this has changed over time. This includes examining the total economic resources available to households living



below various income based poverty thresholds. It will also consider the impact of home ownership on economic wellbeing and different methods of taking this into account in the analysis of those most at risk of experiencing poverty.

With household income and wealth information jointly collected in the two-yearly SIH since 2003-04, changes in the circumstances of Australia's most economically vulnerable households will be considered. In addition, data drawn from the six-yearly Household Expenditure Survey (HES) will be used to extend income and wealth analysis to consider the consumption patterns and financial stressors of these households.

Together, these analyses will support a more comprehensive understanding of Australia's most vulnerable households and better inform social policy development.

### **Terry Burke, Wendy Stone**

Swinburne University

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Home ownership opportunity among young adult Australians: Facts and fiction**

This paper reports on findings of a recently completed AHURI-funded study investigating the opportunity for young Australian adults to purchase a home, relative to earlier generations. While engaging with the ongoing evidence and policy debate around whether a decline in home purchase rates in Australia for the Generation X and Generation Y cohorts represents delayed entry to home purchase, or 'missing out', this paper contributes another perspective. In addition to identifying which households are least likely to own their homes in the young and middle adult years (and into retirement), this paper addresses the linked questions: (i) in the context of record low housing affordability, why aren't home purchase rates for these age cohorts even lower than they are?, and (ii) how do young adults who purchase a home manage to do so? Using ABS Census and Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) data over 30 years, the paper presents data around 9 possible home purchase 'adaptations', including increased debt, delayed/foregone child rearing and family formation, changing nature of dwelling type occupation, spatial adaption among others, and exposes the significant extent of purchase burden and trade-offs, facing cohorts of young Australians. Policy implications for equitable access to the shelter and financial benefits of home

purchase between generations are discussed in light of these original findings.

### **Merran Butler**

NSW Family and Community Services

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Improving the outcomes in OOHC: An overview of the Pathways of Care longitudinal study**

Pathways of Care is a new prospective longitudinal study that is following children and young people aged 0-17 years entering out-of-home care on Children's Court orders in NSW. Out-of-home care is alternative care for children under 18 years who are unable to live with their parents. In NSW, 18,300 children were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013. The main placement types were relative/kinship care (53%) and foster care (39%), with only a small number of children in residential care (3%). Aboriginal children are over-represented and at 30 June 2013 made up 35% of the OOHC population (NSW Department of Family and Community Services, 2014). The aim of the study is to provide new knowledge about the first five years in OOHC to help us understand the factors that improve the outcomes of children and young people. The outcomes measured include children's and young people's physical health, socio-emotional well-being and cognitive/learning development. The aim of the study is to contribute to a reliable evidence base to inform the OOHC service system to improve the outcomes for children and young people in OOHC. This presentation will describe the study rationale, the study design, the processes undertaken to ensure a high quality study including a representative sample, accurate measurement of the parameters of interest and comparability over time. The strategies used to inform and engage children and young people in the study will be described. Characteristics of the sample, data collection progress and preliminary findings will be discussed.

### **Merran Butler**

NSW Family and Community Services

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Policy modelling in the NSW Department of Families and Community Services**

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) has actively pursued modelling of the need for - and utilisation of - its services.

Extensive reform in the sector means that the need for modelling to better understand likely consequences is large.

Locally, changes are occurring in the delivery of out-of-home care and child protection services, with greater emphasis on early intervention. Delivery of housing services is also affected by dramatic change as need grows for an essentially static resource. There is also much greater emphasis on local solutions. At the national level, the NDIS is also posing many new questions for FACS; what will be the effect on housing needs as the capacity for independent living grows amongst beneficiaries of the scheme; what will be the consequence of not being found to be eligible. The presentation focuses on recent model applications, particularly better understanding clients receiving multiple services from across FACS.

### **Rose Butler, Kristy Muir**

Centre for Social Impact, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Young people's experiences of school and education: Reconciling autonomy with family relationships and supports**

This paper highlights the role of family relationships in young people's education choices in Australia, focusing on how youth themselves talk and make decisions about their education in light of such relationships. Drawing on qualitative interview data from a project titled 'We can't afford not to: Supporting young people in their families and communities from adolescence to young adulthood', it focuses on the experiences of 20 young people in one regional community and the contradictory role that family relationships played in their schooling.

Rising costs and tenure of education, reduced job security and minimization of the welfare state have all meant that family relationships today play a fundamental role in young people's education. However, as sociologists have well argued, youth are required to respond to such structural and institutional changes by becoming rational and autonomous subjects who actively shape their own future. The paradox here is that such autonomy is deeply connected to the support that young people receive from their family (even where these relationships are fraught and complex). Our findings highlight how young people attempt to make sense of such contradictions in an era of neoliberal education.

Young people's narratives are shown to stress individual autonomy, self-reliance and choice while also revealing the importance of specific family relationships, supports and emotional bonds. This paper privileges such paradoxes and focuses on how young people themselves seek to make such complex experiences into a coherent story. It further reflects on the policy implications of these findings.

### **Peter Butterworth**

Australian National University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **Workplace bullying, mental health and wellbeing: Results from the PATH through Life project**

Workplace bullying is recognized as an important risk factor for common mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, and a growing concern for policy-makers given compensation claims related to psychological injury in the workplace. This paper uses data from a large Australian community survey, the PATH through Life Study, to investigate the association that workplace bullying and other aspects of the psychosocial work environment (demands, control, insecurity) have with mental health. Workplace bullying was assessed using self-labelling and operational (scale) approaches. Factor analysis revealed three dimensions of workplace bullying: person-related bullying, work-related bullying, and violent or intimidating behaviour. The analyses demonstrated a strong association between reports of bullying and other adverse workplace characteristics but suggested bullying represented an independent risk for depression and anxiety. The results suggest workplace bullying is a particularly salient workplace stressor, and a potentially important factor to consider when seeking to improve mental health.

## **C**

### **Marcelo Caetano<sup>1</sup>, Leonardo Monasterio<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research, <sup>2</sup>Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA)

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Pensions and regional income distribution in Brazil**

Brazil has been gaining attention worldwide since the beginning of this century for its success in reducing personal income inequality. However, regional income inequality remains high. The state of São Paulo – Brazil's economic powerhouse – has a per

capita GDP of USD 14,000; meanwhile, the state of Maranhão records just one quarter of that per capita GDP.

The aim of the paper is to analyse the impact of the General Social Security System (RGPS), which is the Brazilian public pension scheme, on regional disparities in Brazil, focusing on the investigation of the regional consequences of one sort of social policy: pensions.

The study examines the impact of pensions on regional income distribution on different geographical scales (regional, state and local levels) by means of econometric tests and conventional measures of inequality, such as the Gini and progressiveness indexes. The econometric results suggest that social security transfers are inversely correlated with gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. This indicates some regional progressivity of social security transfers in Brazil. At the municipal level, a 1% increase in GDP per capita is associated with a 0.73% increase in the revenues and benefits ratio. Similarly, the analysis of the regional Gini index for the distribution of GDP per capita by municipality shows that such transfers reduce that inequality measure among municipalities from 0.39 to 0.35. The study concludes that RGPS taxes richer regions to finance benefits in impoverished areas at municipal, micro or mesoregional levels. On all scales, RGPS shows its progressivity.

### **Antonia Canosa, Anne Graham**

Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Growing up in tourist destinations: The implications of excluding young people's voices in policy development**

This paper reports on a PhD project which is seeking to explore the lived experiences of children and young people growing up in the iconic tourist destination of Byron Bay, Australia. Young people are often a marginalised and under-represented group in society, precluded from civic engagement and meaningful participation in community. This explains, in part, why young people's voices have also been largely absent in tourism impact studies and community attitudes studies, often being positioned as a 'silent' population. This is particularly evident in tourist destinations where there are multiple and often conflicting interests which are mostly played out in the adult sphere. The project utilises an

ethnographic and participatory approach including a variety of different methods such as interviews and focus groups with young people aged between 10 and 24, participant observation, and a participatory project. Part of this project also involved an analysis of relevant policy linked to young people's well-being in the Byron Shire. Preliminary findings suggest that growing up in a tourist destination poses several challenges for children and young people including the lack of safety associated with alcohol and drug consumption, issues related to the increase in prices and affordable housing and the lack of meaningful employment for youth. The findings will be discussed drawing attention to policy implications for the well-being of children and young people growing up in tourist destinations. The paper will also highlight the need to create opportunities for creative, meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in policy-related matters.

### **Jenny Chalmers<sup>1</sup>, Jan Breckenridge<sup>2</sup>, Anna Olsen<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Drug Policy Modelling Program, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>School of Social Sciences, UNSW, <sup>3</sup>National Centre of Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Barriers and facilitators to integrated service provision for women affected by harmful alcohol and other drugs use and domestic and family violence**

Research shows that alcohol and other drug use (AOD) and domestic and family violence (DFV) are inextricably linked. Women have been found to use AOD to help cope with DFV and its repercussions. There is also evidence that AOD use can put women at greater risk of violence, increase the intensity of that violence and worsen their longer term outcomes. UK and US studies show that between 30% and 75% of women in AOD treatment have current or past experiences of violence from a partner. Data from the most recent ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector Service Users' Satisfaction Survey 2012 indicates that 42.4% of men and women using alcohol and drug services requested services related to 'family concerns, including family violence'. When women do access services there are a number of barriers. Not only are services siloed, problem AOD use frequently excludes women from support services for refuge, advocacy or other assistance. AOD treatment services and services to support women who have experienced DFV tend to work independently, despite the cross-over between

these issues. This paper reports on the findings of a literature review and focus groups with professionals from the AOD sector and DFV sector in the ACT, as well as women in the affected community. It details conflicts in practitioner attitudes, views about what services are needed, barriers to accessibility for women, what models of service linkage currently exist and attitudes towards and possible approaches for increasing service linkage.

### **Chris Chamberlain, Guy Johnson**

RMIT University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **How many Australians have slept rough?**

How many Australians have experienced homelessness during their lifetime and how many people have slept rough? The paper draws on evidence from a random sample of the Australian population to answer these questions (N=1,349). First, we explain the methodology for the research. Then, we focus on the number of people who have experienced homelessness, their duration of homelessness, and the different experiences of men and women. After that, we examine where people stayed during their most recent period of homelessness and the number of people who slept rough. We conclude that about 2.35 million people have experienced homelessness during their lifetime and that 59 per cent of them (about 1.4 million people) have slept rough.

### **Bala Chettur, Emma-Kate McGuirk**

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **What the numbers say about Australia's young people on income support**

The Department of Social Services aims to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia through encouraging independence and participation. For young people looking for work or preparing for paid employment, Youth Allowance (other) is the primary income support payment. The presentation will use up-to-date administrative data to outline the characteristics of the cohort receiving this payment, and discuss how Youth Allowance (other) interacts with higher education policy. The presentation will also compare the cohort with Newstart recipients. Policy measures that address youth unemployment will also be considered.

### **Ching Choi<sup>1</sup>, Tony Barnes<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Charles Darwin University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Consistency of Indigenous identification in official statistics: Policy implications**

Closing the socio-economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is a key policy of all Australian governments. Various target areas have been identified and progress towards reducing the gaps is monitored regularly using defined indicators which are calculated from the best available statistical evidence. Each year, the Prime Minister reports to Parliament on progress made. As social conditions change slowly, the data have to be robust to correctly detect such changes in a timely fashion.

Despite considerable effort to improve and assure the quality of data underpinning the indicators there are numerous factors which can influence the robustness of these Indigenous statistics. Amongst the most important is the repeatability of the socially constructed variable 'Indigenous identification', which defines this population group. This presentation examines the consistency of this key variable. Various indices of consistency are constructed and presented and their possible uses discussed. Several national data collections are selected to show the extent of inconsistency that exist. Differences in the extent of inconsistency between states and territories are examined, as are differences between metropolitan and other regional areas. Consistency can change with the passage of time either as a consequence of efforts to improve data quality or for unknown reasons. There are some limited data for which consistency in Indigenous identification is demonstrated over time using the consistency indicators.

Possible uses of the indices in considering the policy implications for social indicators used in the reporting on Indigenous disadvantage are then discussed.

### **Tom Cliff**

Australian National University

Monday 15.45-17.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Face funds**

In small villages in semi-industrialised China, entrepreneurs are getting together to create their own micro welfare state. In response to inadequate state support for the poor, disabled and elderly of



the village, these entrepreneurs form rotating credit associations and underground banks which finance welfare schemes exclusively for those who hold a household residency (hukou□□) in their village. In this paper, I explain that the motivation for this charity is a highly localised sense of community and an equally strong desire for recognition—often glossed as “face” (mianzi□□)—within the community. These “face funds” run on networks of reciprocity and trust, networks which are particularly strong in this area of China. I examine how these networks reach into the community and into the local government, blurring the lines between political leaders and entrepreneurs. Since the entrepreneurs are, in an informal and/or a formal sense, representatives of the local state, then this phenomenon amounts to a distinctly new spin on state welfarism.

### **Margot Clifford**

[Australian Government Department of Social Services](#)

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### [Hearing her voice: Culturally and linguistically diverse women, family violence and public policy](#)

In Australia, one in three women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and almost one in five have experienced sexual violence. In the national conversation on violence against women, a range of voices are speaking – but how are the voices of the most vulnerable being heard?

Under the Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022, Commonwealth and state and territory governments have committed to deepening our understanding of diverse experiences of violence, including the experiences of women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. We have also committed to working with communities to prevent violence, ensure that the voices of CALD women are heard, and support women and their children who may require a range of targeted responses.

From October 2014 to March 2015, the Department of Social Services supported 29 “kitchen table” conversations throughout Australia with CALD women about domestic and family violence and sexual assault. The conversations were led by CALD women leaders and focused on issues and challenges, roles of governments and communities, what works well, good ideas, and engaging with men to prevent violence against CALD women.

This paper explores the themes that emerged from the conversations and the ways in which the themes have begun to inform the implementation of the Second Action Plan. It also examines the ways in which we seek to prevent and respond to violence against women among newly arrived families and communities and foster Australia’s social cohesion.

### **Deborah Cobb-Clark, Anna Zhu**

[Melbourne Institute](#)

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### [Childhood homelessness and adult employment: The role of education, incarceration, and welfare receipt](#)

This paper analyses the long-term consequences of children experiencing homelessness. Our primary goal is to assess the importance of the alternative pathways that potentially link childhood homelessness to adult employment. We find that children who experience homelessness are less likely to be employed as adults. For women, this link is largely explained by the mediating influences of low educational attainment and welfare receipt (whether in general or in the form of mental illness-related disability payments). The direct effect of childhood homelessness on employment is much larger for men than for women. Nonetheless, dropping out of high school and incarceration are both in mediating this relationship for men.

### **Alex Collie<sup>1</sup>, Christopher McLeod<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>[Monash University](#), <sup>2</sup>[University of British Columbia](#)

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### [Return to work after injury: A comparative policy effectiveness study](#)

Every year in Australia, more than 150,000 Australian workers make a workers’ compensation claim through one of the nation’s 11 major workers compensation agencies. The primary policy goal of these agencies is to return these workers to safe and productive work while minimising the cost to employers who fund the agencies via insurance premiums. This complex policy environment provides an opportunity to explore the relative effectiveness of return to work (RTW) policy. Using the National Dataset of Compensation Based Statistics (NDS), this study compares the duration of work disability (i.e., compensated days off work post injury) in specific cohorts of workers between Australia’s workers compensation jurisdictions. Analyses reveal the substantial impact



of macro level policy settings. For example, the mandated 10-day employer excess period in the Victorian workers' compensation legislation is associated with both a reduction in the number of injured workers accessing wage replacement benefits, and also an increase in the severity/duration of accepted claims, compared with other jurisdictions with briefer excess periods. Variations in policy related to work-related mental health claims is associated with substantial differences in the extent of coverage of mental health issues between jurisdictions. In turn, this is associated with differences in claims profiles in specific industry segments. To our knowledge, this is the first comparative study of RTW policy effectiveness ever undertaken in Australia. It demonstrates the major impact that macro level policy settings have on outcomes for injured workers and employers.

## Susan Collings

UNSW

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

### Effective support planning for people with complex support needs

**Aims:** The Support Planning Framework project, a partnership between UNSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, aimed to build disability sector capacity to support the move to individualised funding. The Framework will guide planning activities with people with intellectual disability and complex support needs who face vulnerability to marginalisation and disadvantage within the service system and community.

**Methods:** Action research was undertaken with services engaged in planning activities with people with complex support needs in NSW. Focus groups were held with government and non-government disability support planners and representatives from drug and alcohol, housing, criminal justice, and mental health sectors. Thematic analysis identified barriers and enablers for planners at the individual, service and system levels. Expert representatives from multiple service sectors were consulted in the preparation of evidence-informed resources that were trialled with planners and revised following feedback.

**Findings:** Effective support planners with people with complex support needs have attributes of respect and tolerance, motivational interviewing and reflective practice skills, and organisational support. Planning activities require more intensive, lengthy and creative

approaches to address complex support needs. Effective organisations provide supervision, peer mentoring and a team-based approach.

**Conclusion:** The framework identifies the individual competencies needed to identify and respond effectively to complexity. However, effective planning also needs a collaborative and integrated approach at the service provider and system level. This is important for addressing complex needs in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

## Gillian Considine

The Smith Family

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### Supporting stronger post-school outcomes among Australian disadvantaged young people

Over the last 30 years, significant changes in the Australian labour market have created a range of challenges for young people as they transition from school to work or further study. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, however, are particularly challenged, relative to that of their more advantaged peers, with regard to post-school employment, education and training outcomes.

Improving the transitions of disadvantaged school leavers requires holistic early intervention strategies that address individual, systemic and structural barriers to full participation in work or study. This paper will discuss the key elements that contribute to successful programmatic responses that address the supply and demand side factors contributing to the weaker human, social and economic capital of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Essential to any intervention is the involvement of schools, as key stakeholders, in strengthening the educational outcomes of young people before they leave school. However, in supporting the transitions of disadvantaged school leavers, there is increasing evidence of the importance of intermediaries who develop collaborative partnerships and broker between young people, schools, appropriate support services, and businesses or further education institutions.

## Mark Considine<sup>1</sup>, Siobhan O'Sullivan<sup>2</sup>, Phuc Nguyen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Welfare-to-work in the emerging Vietnamese welfare state

A global welfare-to-work market is rapidly emerging. Private employment services providers, already delivering programs in long established markets, are actively seeking out new international opportunities, including in developing economies. This trend begs the question: in what ways might emerging welfare markets present an opportunity for Australian employment services providers? With a particular focus on Asian emerging welfare states, this paper presents our early findings from Vietnam.

Vietnam's current employment assistance system is insurance-based, meaning only those with a formal work history are eligible for unemployment benefits. However, everyone in Vietnam is entitled to free job-brokering assistance. The government funds that assistance but service providers receive their outcome fees from employers, meaning the Vietnamese funding model sits somewhere between Public Employment Services (PES) and private recruitment agencies.

Our research suggests that service privatisation is not currently being considered in Vietnam. Instead, the government is trying to establish a policy framework that gets the public service providers behaving in the desired way. Our findings indicate that Australian service providers wishing to make a contribution to the Vietnamese welfare state will be confronted with something largely unrecognisable. Nonetheless, the Vietnamese government actively wants to modernise. Australian researchers/agencies thus could play a role in helping Vietnam learn from our own mistakes by avoiding the serious gaming/rotting phase in which too much money is spent for too small an outcome. This would establish Australian agencies in Vietnam and provide them with a competitive edge if a quasi-market is established in the future.

## Lara Corr, Gemma Carey

Australian National University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### Politics, the Productivity Commission and the 'problem' of child care in Australia

Child care has been at the centre of two Productivity Commission inquiries (2011, 2015). These inquiries, launched by successive Labor and Coalition governments, provide a unique opportunity to examine how the 'problem' of child care is presented not only by Labor and the Coalition, but also by the Productivity Commission. Through an analysis of the terms of reference from each child care inquiry, we explore how child care is 'problematised' by Labor and Coalition governments (Bacchi 2009). By examining the recommendations produced by each inquiry, we then demonstrate a third problematisation of child care – that of the Productivity Commission. Our findings indicate that different conceptual logics of 'productivity' underpin how governments and government agencies, such as the Productivity Commission, approach child care reform. These conceptual logics are intertwined with differing views of the role of child care in society, gender norms and values, and the value of care work. Critically, the research revealed that the ability of the Productivity Commission to adequately address the terms of reference of different governments is shaped by its own norms and values. The central role of the Productivity Commission in the design of social policy means that how their recommendations problematise child care has significant implications for discourse and action regarding child care reform.

## Lara Corr<sup>1</sup>, Kay Cook<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>RMIT University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### Achieving high quality home-based child care in Australia: The problem of poor working conditions in family day care

The government has a significant role and interest in creating good quality child care. Yet, achieving this ideal is hampered by inadequate understandings of the socio-political organisation of working conditions that underpin quality, especially in a home care context. Working conditions in family day care, which is regulated child care provided in an educator's home, are particularly challenging for workers. Left unchecked, adverse working conditions can risk educators' wellbeing, and in turn, the quality of care

they provide children. This paper presents findings from a mixed methods study with Australian family day care educators that examines the socio-political organisation of their working conditions and the impact of these conditions on educators' everyday experiences. Findings informed by social exchange and emotional labour theories provide the foundation for an explanatory model to help understand how macro influences, along with social processes and structures, create and maintain exploitative working conditions, with consequences for educator mental health and care quality. By tracing the organisation and maintenance of poor working conditions from micro to macro level influences, it is evident that gender and class norms and values play an important role in establishing and maintaining inequitable circuits of exchange. These findings raise significant questions about how high quality child care can be supported in the Australian family day care context given the mutually reinforcing policy, gender and class constraints that currently organise poor working conditions in home-based child care.

**Tatiana Corrales<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Waterford<sup>2</sup>, Ian Goodwin-Smith<sup>3</sup>, Leanne Wood<sup>4</sup>, Kathleen Hill<sup>5</sup>, Todd Yourell<sup>6</sup>, Coco Ho<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Anglicare Victoria, <sup>2</sup>Anglicare Australia, <sup>3</sup>Australian Centre for Community Services Research, <sup>4</sup>Anglicare Southern Queensland, <sup>5</sup>Flinders University, <sup>6</sup>Child and Adolescent Specialist Programs and Accommodation (CASPA)

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Being a/part: The strength and the struggle of young people's experiences of belonging**

How does a young person's history of adversity and current feelings of connection to people and places impact on their future outcomes? This is the question that the Anglicare Australia network sought to answer with its national survey of young people and their experiences of belonging.

The impact of traumatic experiences during formative developmental periods is widely recognised, and consensus now exists that such experiences can have largely negative cumulative effects through the life-course. Despite increasingly complex lenses through which to understand trauma and its impacts, little is known of the psychological mechanisms that mediate the relationship between early experiences of adversity and outcomes during young adulthood. One construct that can usefully inform a deeper understanding of the long-term impacts of trauma is

sense of belonging, or the psychological experience of 'valued fit'.

The results of this study have implications for the way service providers conceptualise their role in the psychosocial development of children and young people in the child protection and social services sector. This presentation will: examine the interrelationship between childhood adversity, sense of belonging and psychosocial adjustment in early adulthood; and show that sense of belonging is both an important predictor of poorer outcomes following childhood adversity and a mediator between these experiences and difficulties across a range of psychosocial domains in early adulthood.

Utilising both qualitative and quantitative findings insights will be shared into how these young people understood the idea of belonging and its importance within their emotional and physical worlds.

**Natasha Cortis<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Ciara Smyth<sup>1</sup>, kylie valentine<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Wade<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Parenting Research Centre

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Putting practice first? Practitioners' perspectives on the implementation of a child-centred model of child protection practice in NSW**

Around the world, statutory child protection services struggle to design practice models that achieve the goals of child safety, stability and wellbeing in contexts of high volumes of high risk, involuntary clients and limited resources. This paper reports on the impact of 'Practice First', an initiative designed by Community Services in NSW to increase practitioners' face-to-face time with families, reduce their time on administration and promote cultures of shared decision making and risk. Drawing on survey data from 728 statutory workers and focus groups and interviews with staff and managers at six Practice First CSCs, we examine practitioners' experiences of working within a 'Practice First' framework, and compare measures of service delivery across 'Practice First' and other sites. We discuss the success of the initiative in increasing practitioner time with families, improving workplace cultures, and improving practitioners' satisfaction with the quality of service delivered. However, the initiative appears to have had more limited effects on the level of administration associated with practice, and the quality of supervision received.

## **Sally Cowling, Natalie Parmenter**

UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

### **Mind the Gap: Can the NDIS transform support for parents with intellectual disability at risk of entering the child protection system?**

Parents with intellectual disability are over-represented in the child protection system. There is limited research on the extent to which this is a product of heightened risk relative to systemic discrimination. Similarly the relationship between intellectual disability, parenting capacity and stressors which increase the risk of child abuse and neglect remains poorly understood.

This paper explores the gaps in current services for parents with intellectual disability who require assistance to build capacity to parent effectively and support the development, wellbeing and safety of children. How might the extent and nature of these gaps alter with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); a scheme explicitly designed to facilitate a shift in decision making to people with disability?

Following an examination of national and international evidence on the practice and program characteristics that optimise outcomes for parents with intellectual disability, we consider if and how these can be translated to services available for purchase under the NDIS. We argue that the scant attention paid to the interface between the NDIS and the child protection system creates significant risks for parents with intellectual disability. It also provides significant opportunities to transform an approach to service delivery across a range of policy settings. 'Choice' is an important tenet that may guide improved outcomes for parents with intellectual disability and their children. However this requires greater investment in family support programs and child protection decision making processes in which the needs of parents with intellectual disability are supported and their preferences understood.

## **Lyn Craig**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### **Gender differences in time quality and feeling rushed: The role of family demand, work hours and work schedules**

We probe reasons for gender differences in couple parents' subjective time pressure, using detailed Australian time use data. We draw a sample of 756 matched couples with minor children and examine how family demand, employment hours and work schedules of both partners relate to each spouse's feelings of being rushed, and whether associations are conditioned by aspects of non-work time quality ('pure' leisure, 'contaminated' leisure, multitasking housework and childcare). Results indicate young children are central in shaping gender difference in non-employment time quality; that gender differences in non-employment time quality partially account for gender difference in feeling rushed; and that the specific aspects of non-employment time quality that relate to subjective time pressure differ by gender. Work characteristics are also associated with time use and feeling rushed in gendered ways. Time pressures of male long work hours are subjectively felt by mothers, as well as the fathers who work them.

## **Laura Crowe, Peter Butterworth**

Australian National University

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

### **The role of financial hardship, mastery and social support in the association between employment status and depression**

**Objective:** There is robust epidemiological and clinical evidence of the harmful effects of unemployment on psychological wellbeing. By contrast, there is relatively less evidence on the impact of underemployment on mental health. Utilising data collected from a cohort of 20 – 24 year olds over eight years, the present study examines a range of employed states and investigates the role of mastery, financial hardship and social support in the relationship between labour status and depression.

**Method:** Responses were from the PATH Through Life Project: A representative, community based survey conducted in Canberra and Queanbeyan (NSW) in Australia, where respondents (n = 2,389) in the early twenties were followed for eight years.



Depression was measured using the self-report Goldberg Depression Scale.

**Results:** The analyses identified unemployment and underemployment as significant predictors of depression, compared to their employed counterparts. Both unemployment and underemployment remained significant predictors of depression even after accounting for socio-demographic, economic and psychological variables. Social support, financial hardship and a sense of personal control (mastery) all emerged as important determinants between unemployment and depression.

**Conclusion:** Both unemployment and underemployment were associated with increased odds of depression. The strength of this relationship was attenuated but remained significant after accounting for key variables (mastery, financial hardship and social support) and extensive socio-demographic and health covariates, indicating that no or inadequate employment contributes to poorer mental health over and above these factors.

## D

### Christina David, Paul Ramcharan

RMIT University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Can individualised funding deliver on its human rights promise?

This paper reports on an empirical study designed to explore whether individualised funding in Victoria can deliver on its human rights promise. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a participant group of 27: 11 people using an Individualised Support Plan (ISP) and individualised funding, five family carers, two support workers, two ISP planners, and seven senior managers and co-ordinators from four disability service provider organisations. Using an idiographic interpretive approach, data were analysed and interpreted using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its key human rights principles of choice and autonomy as an analytic frame. The initial analysis confirmed both the benefits of individualised funding as previously described in the research, as well as mixed and contradictory findings identifying paradoxes, risks, and costs, as exemplified in the critical literature. But this analysis did not explain why some outcomes relating to human rights and choice were positive and some not. A further analysis employing a capabilities perspective

(cf Nussbaum, 2001 and Sen, 1992) highlighted the crucial importance of 'vectors', 'processes', and relationships that convert latent capital into manifest outcomes as defined and desired by the person. This paper details these 'vectors' and 'processes' in ways that beg significant questions of the assessment, individualised planning and delivery frameworks adopted by the NDIS. Major implications for policy and practice are outlined.

### Peter Davidson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### Who is the fairest (and most efficient) of them all: income or consumption taxes?

The idea of a switch from income to consumption taxes has been described as the 'pivot' of tax reform in Australia. With the major parties seemingly rejecting it, that pivot has become shaky. This paper explains the essential difference between these two types of taxes. Using ABS household income and expenditure data, it examines the distributional impact of the personal income tax and GST. Their impact on economic growth is then explored, using OECD modelling full of doubts and Treasury modelling full of surprises. The conclusion: a switch from taxing personal income to consumption has definite (and regressive) impacts on equity and uncertain impacts on economic efficiency.

### Paul Delfabbro

University of Adelaide

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### A comparison of kinship and non-kinship care: A comparison of child and carer characteristics

This presentation is based on Wave 1 and 2 of the POCLS and will address the characteristics of children and their placement trajectories, and the context in which children are raised. It will focus on their time in care and, in particular, the factors that relate to children and young people taking the kinship care pathway as opposed to being placed in other types of care arrangements. It is known that the types of children who are placed into kinship care may differ from those in other forms of care and that different trajectories may result. Children in kinship care are generally more stable and are less likely to be reunified with their birth parents. Analysis of kinship care, a major component of home-based placements,



is under-researched in Australia and has significant social, economic political interest given current discussions concerning population ageing and the impact of parenting responsibilities on grandparents.

**Sophie Dencker-Larsen<sup>1</sup>, Anders Holm<sup>1</sup>,  
Matias Brødsgaard Grynderup<sup>2</sup>, Linda  
Kærlev<sup>3</sup>, Aase Marie Hansen<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research & University of Copenhagen, <sup>2</sup>University of Copenhagen, <sup>3</sup>University of Southern Denmark & Odense University

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Unemployment and stress: The social causation hypothesis investigated using a biomarker of physiological stress

Unemployment is costly for the state and for the many individuals affected by unemployment each year. Previous studies link unemployment with ill health and stress. However, the causality of this relationship remains unclear. Two opposing hypotheses shape research in this field: i) the 'social causation' hypothesis stating that unemployment causes ill health and stress, and ii) the 'selection' hypothesis stating that ill health and stress cause unemployment. Analyses that cast light on the causal relationship between unemployment and stress enable us to specifically target unemployment policies and Active Labour Market Programmes to decrease adverse effects of unemployment and stress.

In this article we investigate the 'social causation' hypothesis of employment status and stress using unique biological data measuring stress in 2007 and 2009. We analyse salivary hydro-cortisone (cortisol) data and self-reported panel survey data from Denmark. Using a biomarker of physiological stress (cortisol) in the social sciences allows for a new level of accuracy in establishing whether leaving employment for unemployment is, in itself, a stressful life event. We perform difference-in-difference regression analyses controlling for variation in data and possible confounders. Our findings show that, for younger persons, losing employment increases mean levels of stress. This suggests that those who are relative newcomers in the labour market experience job loss as stressful, and that this is not the case for those closer to retirement.

#### Angela Dew

UNSW

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Knowledge Translation planning in a complex support needs environment

Addressing knowledge deficits about people with intellectual disability and complex support needs has been identified as a major challenge. This paper reports on the development of an integrated knowledge translation (KT) plan using a range of strategies to produce and disseminate knowledge about best practice and evidence-based service system improvements for people with intellectual disability and complex support needs. Graham et al's Knowledge to Action Cycle sets out a process of identification of a problem and working with interested stakeholders to create knowledge about the issue. The resulting knowledge is applied via the action cycle which involves adapting the knowledge to the local context; assessing the barriers to knowledge use; selecting, tailoring and implementing interventions; monitoring knowledge use; evaluating outcomes and sustaining use of knowledge. This paper uses the Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program at UNSW as an example of the ways the Knowledge to Action Cycle can be harnessed to raise the profile of, and highlight the challenges faced by, people with intellectual disability and complex support needs with a broad range of stakeholders in disability and mainstream settings.

#### Jennifer Dobak

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### Understanding migrant outcomes: Making better use of census data

Migrants entering Australia under the Australian Government Migration Program require specific policy responses and programmes that reflect the unique circumstances of their arrival, and these need to be informed by relevant data on the socio-economic characteristics of migrants. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' release of the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, (ACMID) 2011, allows policy makers and researchers, for the very first time, to analyse the settlement trajectories of Permanent migrants (Skilled, Family, Humanitarian) in terms of their socio-economic information captured in the 2011 Census by their migration characteristics (visa subclass, applicant status and location of visa grant).

This data set allows analysts to examine variations both within and between permanent migrant groups at small geographic areas, which previously has not been possible. This level of detail is made possible by the fact that ACMID provides access to over a million migrant settlement records, more than any other survey that captures permanent migrant information.

This paper will present some findings from an analysis of ACMID data examining how migrants have fared over time in terms of their English language proficiency, employment and education.

### **Leanne Dowse, Louisa Smith**

UNSW

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Framing complex support needs in theory, policy and practice**

A complexity analysis can help us to understand how needs emerge, interact and coexist in and across time, and the ways in which needs in one area can intensify vulnerability in others. This presentation explores the ways 'complex support needs' is currently framed and how this can be useful for thinking through the breadth, depth and dynamics of support needs for people with intellectual disability. This paper draws on current theoretical, policy and practice literature in complexity social science and disability studies to develop a framework for understanding complex support needs in the current Australian context. Implications for support services as a key area of complexity are considered; highlighting how siloed delivery, which fails to deal with complexity, can often amplify rather than ameliorate needs. The paper concludes with some reflections on the challenges ahead for the ways we think about and work with people with intellectual disability with complex support needs in an individualised and marketised disability services future.

## **E**

### **Ben Edwards, John De Maio, Michelle Silbert, Diana Smart**

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Monday 11.20-11.35, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Psychological wellbeing and social participation of recently arrived humanitarian migrants**

The Building a New Life in Australia study is a longitudinal research study that aims to provide a broad evidence base to assist policy development and program improvement and better understand the factors that influence humanitarian migrant settlement outcomes. The study population comprises almost 2,400 refugees and asylum seekers, whose settlement journey from arrival in Australia to eligibility for citizenship will be followed.

Five annual waves of data collection are planned to take place between 2013-14 and 2017-18. Participants come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, are living in urban and rural areas, and in all states of Australia. Most arrived in Australia between 3 and 6 months prior to the first wave of data collection. The first two waves of data collection were conducted during October 2013 to March 2014, and October 2014 to February 2015.

This paper will describe preliminary findings from Waves 1 and 2, focusing on stability and change in psychological wellbeing and social participation in the early years of settlement. Findings will be reported on pre-migration experiences of trauma, post-migration mental health, post-traumatic stress, family and community support, life satisfaction and experiences of settling in Australia. Differences on these key outcomes for male and females, refugees and asylum seekers, will also be explored, as will the factors associated with improvements in psychological wellbeing.

### **David Etherington**

Middlesex University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Welfare reforms, work first policies and benefit conditionality: Comparative reflections on policies for disabled people in the UK and Denmark**

The increasing number of recipients of disability and long-term sickness benefits (DLTSB) has resulted in the introduction of specific employability programmes

in OECD countries. There is also a trend towards the tightening of conditions in terms of access to sickness/disability benefits through tougher health and employability assessments. This policy shift is combined also with a move towards work first interventions. In the UK, the Work Programme, the Coalition Government's flagship welfare-to-work programme is charged with assisting long term unemployment and DLSTB into employment. In Denmark, widespread changes have involved a shift towards personalized services, limited subsidized employment schemes via 'flex-jobs.' Through a comparative analysis, this paper argues that there are common features and trends: the implementation of austerity measures in terms of cuts in expenditure, more restrictions in accessing benefits and a more neoliberal and workfare approach to labour market policy. At the same time, there are distinct differences in approaches which make comparisons between the countries interesting. In Denmark, representational structures such as the social partners in terms of monitoring employment schemes and subsidized employment assist in securing some engagement with the labour market. In the UK, the Work Programme represents one of the most stringent workfare models within the EU and most evaluations have highlighted its poor performance and emphasis upon benefit sanctions to ensure claimants conform to claimant agreements. The paper assesses how the comparisons provide insights into the neoliberal politics of workfare, and potential for opportunity structures for developing social inclusion discourses.

## F

### Qian Fang

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### Analysis of accountability mechanisms in Chinese grassroots NGOs: A case from a Chinese child welfare grassroots NGO

In China, where the non-profit sector is rapidly developing, questions about the quality of NGO accountability have been raised both in practice and for research. Most existing NGO accountability mechanisms focus on quantitative measures of performance. Accordingly, stakeholder management may be underdeveloped, which raises questions about the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms.

This study explores two research questions by examining the practices of a Chinese grassroots NGO: 1) What is the effectiveness of the accountability mechanisms that this NGO applies? 2) What are the implications from this NGO for the accountability process?

This study analyses the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms from two dimensions. Firstly, I construct the accountability standards from a multiple stakeholder perspective. I apply these standards to assess whether the NGO lives up to stakeholders' accountability expectations. Secondly, I study the quality of stakeholder management by assessing the level of stakeholder engagement. Collected data include: observations of the NGO, in-depth interviews with stakeholders, organisational documents and public policy. Content analysis and grounded theory is used to address the two research questions.

The study finds that within this NGO, both accountability standards and stakeholder management favour stakeholders who have resources that the organisation needs the most. The finding implies that this NGO would benefit from greater organizational capacity to improve accountability, including widening the leader's vision of accountability, encouraging client and volunteer participation, improving service quality. The finding also implies that supportive public policy and equal status between NGOs and donor agencies may be helpful in the accountability process.

### Marianne Fenech<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Sweller<sup>2</sup>, Sheila Degotardi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Macquarie University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### Looking beyond affordable, accessible and flexible child care: Exploring parental understandings about 'quality' and early learning as potential influences on child care choice

One of the most significant decisions faced by an increasing number of parents across Australia is whether, where and when to enrol their children into formal child care. Recent policy initiatives from the Abbott Government have focused on making child care more affordable, accessible and flexible, while in contrast, limited attention has been paid to 'quality' issues. This policy limitation is significant, with a strong established body of research attesting to the importance of child care being of high quality if

improved developmental outcomes for children, and increased workforce participation, productivity, and social inclusion are to ensue.

This paper presents findings from an ARC Linkage project investigating child care choice, specifically, a 2014-2015 national survey of current users of formal child care (n=2286). In an extension of previous child care choice research, which has focused primarily on parental satisfaction and child care affordability and accessibility, we examine parents' understandings of early child development and quality child care as potential influences on both parents' choice to use formal child care, and to continue using it. This examination includes parents' use of National Quality Framework quality ratings as an influence on their decision-making. The extent to which parental issues identified in this research are addressed in the recently released Abbott Government's child care policy will be discussed.

**Marianne Fenech<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Sweller<sup>2</sup>, Sheila Degotardi<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Macquarie University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

**The rise of the Nanny State in Australia: Do parents and children stand to gain?**

As the Leader of the Opposition in 2012, the now Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott committed to a policy trajectory that would extend child care fee relief to in-home services. Following this year's Productivity Commission report into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning, it appears that this policy will soon come into fruition, with the Commission recommending that approved nannies be deemed an eligible service from which families can claim fee relief.

We explore what parents and children stand to gain from such a policy. This exploration is in the context of a paucity of scholarly research that has investigated the employment of nannies, particularly from the perspective of quality early learning and care experiences for young children. This latter consideration is crucial as the quality of early learning and care experiences fundamentally influences young children's development and wellbeing.

In the absence of familial care, in-home care (nannies) is often regarded as the preferred child care choice of working parents with children under three years. We present findings from an Australian Research Council funded project that is investigating

parents' child care choices, to consider this assumption, and explore whether potential gains for parents may be deleterious for young children. Data presented include findings from two national surveys - the 2013 Australian Survey of Social Attitudes and a 2014-2015 national parent survey - and an analysis of parent submissions to the Productivity Commission's Child Care review.

**Karen Fisher<sup>1</sup>, Christiane Purcal<sup>1</sup>, Anna Jones<sup>1</sup>, Sally Robinson<sup>2</sup>, Rosemary Kayess<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Southern Cross University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

**Disability accommodation support within constrained housing options: A policy framework**

Australia is wrestling with whether new approaches to long-term accommodation support for people with disability are possible within constrained access to appropriate housing and mainstream services. This study about accommodation support initiatives in NSW focused on whether individualised funding, planning and service approaches enabled people with disability, and their families and carers, to exercise control over their support and achieve independent living goals. It used mixed methods and a participatory research approach with people with disability. Most support initiatives achieved some positive outcomes. Least change was evident in people's interpersonal relationships and employment, and in some options, access to preferred housing was restricted. Living in independent housing was most people's preferred option. It was realised mainly where families had financial capacity to assist or the support worker could help with the social housing application process. The research provides clear examples of good practice in accommodation support. The findings have policy implications for support design, implementation and interagency collaboration informed by the lived experience of people using support. For example, effective policies are flexible and responsive to the person's context and preferences, and they include decision making support, quality standards and integration with mainstream opportunities. These implications are important for the sustainability of the NDIS, which attempts to move towards a universal rights approach to disability support.



## Saul Flaxman<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Downer<sup>2</sup>, Jessica Arnott<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australia Children's Education & Care Quality Authority,

<sup>2</sup>Colmar Brunton Social Research

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### Two waves on: Methodological challenges and innovations from the Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants

Building a New Life in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants is a large-scale, national project which focuses on how humanitarian migrants settle into life in Australia.

The refugees and other recently arrived humanitarian migrants who comprise the study population are both extremely diverse and highly vulnerable, which created complex challenges. Many participants had low literacy and education levels and the study was their first experience of survey research and particular western concepts.

Participants came from a broad range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds and were recruited from urban and rural areas and all states of Australia. A project website, promotional materials and surveys were translated into several languages and verbatim responses had to be back-translated into English.

In order to accommodate participants' cultural requirements, it was necessary to provide a choice of male and female interviewers and to recruit interviewers or interpreters who could speak each of the languages and who had specific regional and religious backgrounds. Community Engagement Officers also assisted in introducing the study and its aims in Wave 1.

In Wave 1, computer-assisted interviews were completed face-to-face in participants' homes. In Wave 2, interviews were completed via computer-assisted telephone interview. A high response rate has been sustained despite the challenges of maintaining up-to-date contact details for this highly mobile population and the additional complexities associated with conducting the second wave of interviews via telephone.

This paper describes in more detail the methodological challenges of undertaking this study and the innovative solutions used to address them.

## Lisa Fowkes

Australia National University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

### Canberra visions and remote realities: The case of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program

In July 2013 a new Commonwealth funded employment program came into effect – the Remote Jobs and Communities Program ('RJCP'). It replaced existing Job Services Australia contracts and the long running CDEP scheme in remote areas. Local competition between providers has been replaced with a 'one stop shop' in 60 regions. Over 36,000 people are in the program, 85% of whom are Indigenous. Nearly half of the contracts are delivered by Indigenous organisations.

The new arrangements promised to be 'integrated, flexible and responsive...to help break down the barriers to employment and participation'. The program promised greater scope for local adaptation and community engagement. But, as Lipsky argued, to understand policy, it is necessary to look not just at 'rules and agency pronouncements', but at what is happening on a daily basis on the frontline of service delivery.

This paper reports early findings from a 3-year research project on the implementation of the RJCP with a particular focus on how policy is being enacted in the offices of RJCP providers. While local adaptation was a key aim, we find that there is evidence of the same type of convergence in practice that has characterised mainstream employment services. These convergent practices are playing out in settings that are a long way from where program rules are made. Labour market factors (including the supply of workers to deliver RJCP services), service infrastructure, cultural dynamics and resource issues mean that what clients experience appears to be far from the imaginings of program designers.



## G

### Wilma Gallet

University of Melbourne

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Mediating structures or monitors of mandatory activities: The changing nature of human service delivery in the 21st Century

This paper examines the changes that have been occurring in human service delivery since the advent of New Public Management type reforms in the 1990s. The paper is based on a study of four not-for-profit organisations involved in delivering contracted employment services in Australia. The study examines how the tightly controlled contracting environment dictates the services to be delivered and how this impacts on the mission and behaviour of these organisations. Principal-Agent theory guides the study focussing on how the government department uses the instrument of the contract to not only prescribe the details of the service model but also to ensure that the goals of the agent align with the goals of the government. This is particularly evident in the examination of the attitudes and approaches taken by frontline staff towards policing the mandated activities of jobseekers. The paper also explores the blurring of the boundaries between government, the market and civil society. In particular, it focuses on the growth of multi-national for-profit organisations as providers of outsourced employment services in Australia and how this has influenced the business practices of not-for-profit organisations. Although the fulcrum of this paper is the employment services sector, recommendations emerging from various government reviews suggest that the developments that have occurred within the employment services field may serve as a predictor for other human services sectors.

### Mel Gatfield, Emma Lancaster

United Voice NSW Branch

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### Quality work and quality care: Home care in NSW

The care sector in Australia is undergoing a period of significant change and uncertainty as a direct result of both government reform in the aged and disability care sectors and growing demand. The immediate challenge facing the home care sector is to build and retain a community care workforce large enough and

with the necessary skills to meet increased demand while providing quality care.

United Voice undertook a study using a qualitative and quantitative approach. A research tool was developed to gather data from 680 ADHC home care workers and members of United Voice. The purpose of the study was to explore how home care workers evaluate quality jobs, quality care and quality life. The study will contribute to the job quality literature by exploring what attracts individuals to community care, the things home care workers value about their role and aspects that may need to be improved to increase attraction and retention rates.

The paper also reports on home care workers views on important emerging issues in the direct care workforce with regard to minimum qualifications, national registration of the sector and the nomenclature of home care workers.

This study explores an under-researched workforce group in a critical and growing area of care delivery and finds that the job quality of home care workers is important because of its relationship with employee attraction and retention and its potential impact on the provision of consistent quality care.

### Gianfranco Giuntoli, Karen Fisher, Kelley Johnson

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### The role and outcomes of family resource rooms for families of hospitalised children

Family resource rooms are hospital spaces that aim to provide support and some respite from the ward to families with hospitalised children through the provision of services and amenities. Some are funded and run by the hospitals whereas others are funded and run by external organisations, such as Ronald McDonald House Charity Australia. They are intended to contribute directly to the wellbeing of the families and indirectly to the wellbeing of children.

The hospital rationale is to improve the functioning of the hospital and health professionals and to make links to the community through volunteer activities. This paper offers a critical discussion of the services and characteristics of family resource rooms within a broad framework that accounts for their spatial, social and symbolic characteristics (e.g. their distance from the ward, the interactions that they promote between family members, patients and health care staff, and the nature of their funders); the characteristics and

function of alternative communal hospital spaces, such as waiting rooms, lobbies, and cafeterias; and the historical changes in the conception of communal spaces and the role of families in providing care to patients in hospitals (e.g. family-centred care). It draws on the finding of a comprehensive literature review that included over forty studies. The paper concludes by raising the question of whether and how the private or public nature of the provider of family resource rooms can promote or hinder the delivery of their goals, relative to alternative family or child interventions in a hospital or community environment.

**Gianfranco Giuntoli<sup>1</sup>, Jane South<sup>2</sup>, Ben Mitchell<sup>3</sup>, Gavin Sullivan<sup>4</sup>, David Devins<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, <sup>3</sup>Policy Research Institute, Leeds Beckett University, <sup>4</sup>Coventry University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

**Poverty and well-being: Their conceptual and empirical relationships**

There is a renewed international interest in programmes that aim to end poverty and improve the well-being of individuals and nations. Nevertheless, there is much less clarity about precisely how poverty and well-being programmes relate to each other and what well-being interventions can be used in anti-poverty strategies. This paper reviews and critically discusses the literature on the theoretical and empirical links between poverty and well-being and on the effectiveness of well-being interventions to reduce poverty internationally. It draws on the findings of a comprehensive literature review that searched for literature published from January 2000 to September 2013 in nine databases. The review found that the relationship between well-being and poverty depends on the specific approach to well-being under consideration, whether subjective well-being (such as whether an individual feels happy or satisfied with life) or objective well-being (involving issues such as health, education and social relationships). Poverty can affect subjective well-being, but is ultimately different from it. However, it is often a synonym for a low level of objective well-being. Despite these conceptual differences, both well-being approaches converge in proposing that well-being interventions need to focus on: a) main public health and social policy issues, such as disability, including disability in older age, mortality and morbidity, and b) promoting self-confidence, self-esteem, and social relationships to improve people's skills in reacting to life events.

The paper concludes by proposing that well-being can provide a conceptual space within which to link different public policy approaches to poverty reduction strategies.

**Sharon Goldfeld<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Katz<sup>2</sup>, Rob Tanton<sup>3</sup>, Billie Giles-Corti<sup>4</sup>, Sally Brinkman<sup>5</sup>, Geoff Woolcock<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>3</sup>NATSEM, University of Canberra, <sup>4</sup>McCaughy Centre, University of Melbourne, <sup>5</sup>Telethon Institute, <sup>6</sup>Wesley Mission Brisbane

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

**The Kids in Communities Study (KICS): What and where are 'off diagonal' communities?**

This paper will report on the Kids in Communities Study (KICS), an ARC linkage project which examines the impacts of communities on the development of young children. The study focuses on comparing 'off diagonal' communities (communities where children's outcomes – as measured by the result of the Australian Early Years Census) are better than would be predicted by the level of community disadvantage, with 'on diagonal' communities (those where children's outcomes are as predicted) in the same local government area. Once communities are identified, they are examined in detail using a range of methodologies including GIS mapping of services and community assets, surveys of community members, focus groups with parents of young children and interviews with local stakeholders. The presentation will describe the methods used to identify off diagonal communities and discuss some of the conceptual and methodological issues related to this research. Some preliminary findings will be presented and issues raised for further examination.

**Phillip Gould**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

**ABS data integration: Using diverse data to inform policy and research**

Data integration is an increasingly important component of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) work program. Following the positive evaluation of feasibility testing conducted in conjunction with the previous two Censuses, the linkage of population and administrative datasets is now being used to deliver national statistics on social well-being. The linkage of Census with Death

Registration data has produced more accurate estimates of life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Use of the medical and pharmaceutical benefits schemes were combined with Census data to produce statistics on the characteristics of people who access mental health services. Visa status and Census information were combined to investigate the social circumstances of migrants. In addition, a sample of 1 million records from the 2006 Census was joined with records from the 2011 Census to create the first release of what is planned to be an ongoing Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset. This presentation will provide a brief overview of these projects, some key findings from each and discuss the directions for future data integration at the ABS.

## H

### Myra Hamilton<sup>1</sup>, Bridget Jenkins<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>(Formerly) Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### Grandparent childcare and labour force participation in Australia: Examining the tensions between the regular family carer and older citizen worker roles

Against the backdrop of an ageing population, and the social and economic challenges population ageing presents, there is increasing policy emphasis on keeping older workers engaged in the labour market. Simultaneously, however, there is a high reliance on grandparents as regular childcare providers. As a group, grandparents now provide half of all childcare in Australia. Yet, to date, no academic or policy attention has been paid to the contradictions and tensions that exist between the competing demands of the older worker and regular carer roles.

This paper seeks to address this gap in knowledge. Drawing on a national survey and qualitative focus groups with grandparents who provide regular childcare, this paper looks at the intersection between regular childcare provision, and grandparents' partial or full withdrawal from the labour force, drawing out tensions in how grandparents make decisions about work and care. This paper will position these empirical findings within the context of recent policy debates on ECEC, employment and retirement incomes policies. It is argued that policymakers need to recognise the importance of the grandparent

carer role and design policies that can better support grandparents to balance work and care.

### Anne Hampshire, Gillian Considine

The Smith Family

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### Children's entitlement to positive educational outcomes: Using research, policy and practice to improve the lives of disadvantaged young Australians

Around 1.5 million Australians are living in poverty, many of them children. Around 5% of Australia's population experience chronic or persistent poverty, with enormous social and economic costs to individuals, families and Australia.

Risk factors for long-term disadvantage include low educational attainment, Indigeneity, living in a jobless household or disadvantaged area and long-term health/disability issues. Many disadvantaged children face a combination of factors which increase the likelihood of them having poor educational, employment and other outcomes. The educational outcomes of Australian children and young people are influenced by their socioeconomic background, to a greater extent than countries such as Canada.

Improving the educational outcomes of disadvantaged children and young people is the most effective way of reducing long-term disadvantage and welfare dependency, yet there are few scalable, long-term and evaluated programs working on this goal in Australia. As a result, many children and young people are not achieving the educational outcomes they are entitled to, which will set them up for economic and social participation in the 21st century and be resilient in times of austerity and change.

This presentation will draw on longitudinal outcomes and administrative data from 34,000 disadvantaged children and young people who The Smith Family is supporting on a long-term educational scholarship. It will: (1) outline the theoretical underpinnings of the program, (2) use a unique national dataset to explore the characteristics of those being supported and the educational outcomes being achieved, and (3) highlight the research, policy and practice implications of this nationally significant work.

## Kelly Hand<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Katz<sup>2</sup>, Rob Bray<sup>3</sup>, Matthew Gray<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Institute of Family Studies, <sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>3</sup>Australian National University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Welfare conditionality as a child protection tool: Child Protection Income Management in the Northern Territory

Income management is a relatively recent form of welfare conditionality in Australia. First implemented as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response in 2007, income management has now been expanded both within the Northern Territory and across other selected sites in Australia. Income management in Australia includes both voluntary and compulsory forms. Child Protection Income Management (CPIM) is provided as a tool that can be used by the child protection workers in specific jurisdictions to assist in the management of child neglect. This form of income management applies at the discretion of child protection caseworkers and allows people to be referred to Centrelink to be subject to Child Protection Income Management where there has been a substantiation of child neglect and it is deemed that income management might contribute to improved outcomes for children. This paper considers findings relating to CPIM from the Evaluation of Income Management in the Northern Territory. It draws on a range of data sources including case file material from the Department of Children and Families accessed via caseworker interviews and more general interviews child protection managers and caseworkers about their use of CPIM in their work, their perceptions of its impacts on families subject to the measure and its effectiveness as a child protection tool.

## Alex Jingwei He

Hong Kong Institute of Education

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### Reforming how physicians are paid in Chinese public hospitals: The bonus scheme, motivation crowding-out and the doctor-patient relationship

China is currently in the midst of carrying out an ambitious national health care reform to overhaul its heavily deteriorated health system and build a universal replacement by 2020. A multitude of misaligned incentives created in the past three decades have powerfully altered the behavioral patterns of Chinese health care providers towards

profit-seeking. Overprescribing pharmaceuticals, diagnostic tests and expensive procedures are rampant in public hospitals. Among other explanations, low income and high-powered bonus schemes have been found to be the key drivers behind physicians' various perverse behaviors. Recent years have seen a rising recognition of the importance of payment reforms. Alternative payment mechanisms such as capitation, global budget and case-mix have been increasingly used in many localities on a pilot basis to pay hospitals. Positive effects have been found. Little is known, however, as to how individual physicians should be paid. This study investigates a new experiment in the Fujian Province that changes physician compensation from a low basic salary+high bonus to an annual salary system that pays physicians higher salaries. It is expected to reduce physicians' strong profit-seeking incentives. Does this work? How do physicians respond to new incentives? What are the implications to China's ongoing health care reform? This study uses a qualitative approach to answer these research questions. It contributes fresh evidence to the health policy reform in China and beyond.

## Alexandra Heron

The University of Sydney

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Eldercare and workplace: Towards developing improved employer responses to employees' eldercare responsibilities

The impact on workforce engagement of caring for older relatives on mature age employees (particularly women) needs further exploration. Leading organisational research has been undertaken on this issue in the UK (Yeandle et al., 2003) but little in Australia where it is estimated that 19% of workers have such responsibilities (Skinner and Pocock, 2014).

Exploratory case study research conducted in two large employers in 2011 investigated the question: how do employers respond to employees who take on eldercare responsibilities and how do such responses impact on employees. Interviewees understood why their organisations responded inconsistently to their individual situations despite existing policies and the critical role of their line manager in enabling them to take advantage of employer worklife balance policies. Managerial informants varied in their understanding of their role, between willingness to accommodate as a principle and viewing accommodations as a



performance reward. Despite most interviewees receiving some accommodations to care, several experienced career penalties with inflexible operational targets a particular difficulty.

Both organisations had institutionalised managerial discretion within their policies regarding accommodations to employee-eldercarers. Thus, access to accommodations was dependent on employee/line manager relationships resulting in an apparently erratic organisational response to employees' caring needs. In the light of the research and further research the author is undertaking as well as current literature on managers and access to worklife balance accommodations, the paper will explore how to make sense of organisational behaviour and identify possible policy responses.

### **Amber Hinton<sup>1</sup>, Marianne Fenech<sup>2</sup>, Sheila Degotardi<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Sweller<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Macquarie University, <sup>2</sup>The University of Sydney

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Quality or quantity? Choice or compromise? Influences on the child care choices of parents considering using formal child care for the first time**

Research has demonstrated that the quality of child care contributes to children's learning and development. In an increasingly privatised, market based sector, the responsibility for parents to identify and then choose high quality formal child care has increased. With the introduction of the National Quality Framework (NQF), and the subsequent assessment and publishing of services' quality ratings, federal governments have attempted to assist parents to become more informed consumers when selecting formal child care.

There is, however, currently little understanding of parents' knowledge of the NQF and its purpose. Moreover, research has not yet explored the influence of the NQF on the decision making of parents considering using formal child care for the first time. Presenting findings from an ARC Linkage project that is investigating parents' child care choices, this paper examines if the NQF is achieving its objective of enabling parents to make informed child care choices. Findings to be presented include data from two investigations on the child care choices of prospective users of formal child care: a national parent survey and a longitudinal qualitative doctoral case study. We examine these parents' knowledge of the NQF, their affordability and accessibility concerns as well as the

influence of their beliefs and values about quality on their decision-making. Implications will be discussed in relation to current child care policy.

### **Cosmo Howard**

Griffith University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Progress is the problem: A critical appraisal of new measures of national well-being**

In recent decades, the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a proxy for national well-being has been criticised on the grounds it excludes important social and ecological considerations. Several alternatives have been proposed that promise to generate more comprehensive and balanced quantitative measures of well-being. Despite considerable methodological refinement, these alternative indicators remain contested and controversial. This paper critically interrogates the assumptions and discourses built in to Australia's contribution to this effort: the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Measures of Australia's Progress initiative. The paper argues that the quest for a unified set of measures of progress reflects an early modernist notion that all human and social development can be fitted into an overarching historical trajectory. Any conscious effort to settle on a definition of national progress or well-being in late modernity will result in political disputes and harm the scientific credibility of the measuring agency. The paper concludes that advocates, policy makers and statisticians should relinquish their aspirations for a new unified approach to measuring well-being.

### **Cosmo Howard<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Brady<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University, <sup>2</sup>University of Queensland

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Targeting mothers? A two-phase study of the implementation of activation policies in Australia**

Australian social welfare discourse has shifted from treating single mothers as legitimate recipients of income support to "welfare dependents" in need of "activation". To what extent has this new targeting of mothers been embraced at the street level? Australia's devolved system of activation program delivery via contractual providers creates the potential for wide variation in how targeting is implemented. We carried out two phases of interviews with contracted service providers: the first

phase immediately after the introduction of current activation policies, and a second phase in 2015, to determine if the street level response to activation and targeting measures has shifted. We found that in the first phase, street level practice did not wholly embrace activation discourse as staff sought to reconcile tensions between mothers' work and caring obligations. Professional and organizational histories (including religious affiliation and professional training) gave these staff access to a wide range of discourses, which they drew upon in making decisions about service delivery. However, most of the providers interviewed in the first phase had lost their contracts by the second phase. Meanwhile, new providers enthusiastically embraced targeting and activation discourses and practices. These staff tended to have very limited experience and training in social service delivery and resorted to governmental activation discourses by default. We conclude that street level interactions have the potential to redefine target publics of activation policies, but that the existence of significant structural separation between policy and delivery is no guarantee that frontline staff will embrace alternative discourses and practices.

### **Louise Humpage**

University of Auckland

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Income management in New Zealand and Australia: Different framings but similar outcomes?**

Rights and entitlements have come increasingly under threat since the Global Financial Crisis, but restrictions have not always been justified by an 'austerity' discourse. Income management, which involves quarantining a percentage of social security income for approved expenses and thus reduces the control that benefit recipients have over their financial resources, emerged as part of the social policy arsenal in both Australia and New Zealand in the late 2000s. While in Australia income management has been framed by an explicitly racialised discourse, being introduced as part of the Northern Territory National Emergency Response in 2007 then later extended to other benefit recipients, New Zealand's 2011 income management policy has focused on all 16 and 17-year-old benefit recipients and 18-year-old parents as a means to inhibit future 'welfare dependency' amongst young people. This lack of explicit racialisation hides the fact that indigenous Māori are disproportionately more likely to be receiving benefits, and thus subject to income

management, than the general population. While analysing key historical, institutional and political differences that help explain the varied policy experiences, the paper ultimately argues that - no matter how it has been framed - income management represents yet another policy development that will negatively impact indigenous peoples in both countries.

### **Boyd Hunter, Matthew Gray**

Australian National University

Wednesday 10.30-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **The ins and outs of the labour market: Employment and labour force transitions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians**

Since 2001, researchers have made great strides in understanding the dynamics of the Australian labour market using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. Unfortunately, the relatively small size of the Indigenous sample in HILDA limits possible analysis of labour market dynamics. This paper uses data from the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD) which links data for almost 15,000 Indigenous people identified in the 2006 and 2011 censuses. This new longitudinal data set allows, for the first time, a representative analysis of labour force transitions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The main finding is that Indigenous females and males are over 10 percentage points more likely than non-Indigenous counterparts to move from employment in 2006 to non-employment in 2011. The relative instability in employment among Indigenous females is largely driven by the larger probability of part-time employed Indigenous women leaving employment between 2006 and 2011. For Indigenous males, the higher rate of leaving employment is a result of a high rate of movement out of employment from both part-time and full-time employment. Younger Indigenous Australians and those living in remote areas have a substantially lower flow into employment and a higher flow out of employment than their non-Indigenous counterparts. This paper considers several possible explanations for these transitions: marginal attachment to the labour force, labour market segmentation where Indigenous workers tend to secure less stable jobs (i.e., because of educational attainment, skills and possibly discrimination), and the relative scarcity of Indigenous-friendly workplaces.

## Jasmine Huynh, Vanessa Maurici, Gerry Redmond

Flinders University

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Marginalisation and wellbeing in Australia: How do different groups of young people compare?

There is a growing body of research on child wellbeing in Australia. The purpose of this paper is to add to this literature, using data from a new survey of young people in Australia aged 9-13 years (N=5,440, collected from a national sample of 180 schools). Five domains of wellbeing are examined: subjective wellbeing, subjective health, family, school, and relationships, with a particular focus on comparisons between four groups who are often seen as 'marginalised' in the Australian context - young people with disability, young people who are materially disadvantaged, Indigenous young people and young carers – respondents in these groups are compared to the 'mainstream' (those who are not in any of the marginalised groups).

Consistent with existing literature, analysis shows that measures of wellbeing across the five dimensions for young people in the four marginalised groups is generally 'worse' than those in the mainstream. Moreover, the gap between marginalised and mainstream young people appears to increase with age, so that the gap at Year 8 is for most indicators greater than the gap at Years 4 and 6. The paper will examine patterns of disadvantage in wellbeing among and between the 'marginalised' groups, and aim to identify 'clusters' of wellbeing, and characteristics associated with them. The paper will also discuss the policy implications of the findings: what policy levers can be used to improve wellbeing among young people who appear to experience relative disadvantage across several domains?

## Yuan Shie Hwang, Li-hsin Chuang

National Chi-nan University

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### Operational model of partnership in long-term care practice in Taiwan: Reviewing and reflecting the principles of network governance

This study aims to explore implications and operational models of partnership and further to review and reflect some principles of network governance in the context of elderly long-term care practice in Taiwan. We conducted the research using

a qualitative method. 22 staff members related to long-term care services in the public and private sectors from five counties/cities were purposely sampled and interviewed. We conclude that there are 3 significant implications of partnership: (1) Partnership means a kind of 'relationship' and 'resource body', (2) Partnership signifies a kind of 'process', 'exchange' and 'sharing', and (3) Partnership involves a kind of 'goal', 'efficiency' and 'quality'.

We summarize that the working of partnership between public and private sectors can be divided into 5 operational models, including a cooperative model, competitive model, subordinate model, perfunctory model and contend-against model. Each model has their own characteristics based on four aspects – interactive sector, main interests, interactive way, and collaborative relationship. According to the analyses, we propose five questions for reviewing and reflecting the principles of network governance: (1) Can partnership really present a kind of resource body of collaboration in practice? (2) Can partnership really realize a kind of cooperative relationship of parallel and equality in practice? (3) Can partnership really perform a kind of process of information exchange and resource sharing in practice? (4) Can partnership really accomplish a process of mutual trust, mutual help and complementation in practice? (5) Can partnership really provide integrated, efficient and quality services in practice?

I

## K M Kabirul Islam

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Is the glass half full or half empty? Food security and social safety net programs in rural Bangladesh

Since its declaration as an independent nation, Bangladesh has been fighting for food security as an approach to combating poverty. Soon after birth, the nation encountered a famine that accounted for a loss of several million lives. The issue of food security arguably occupies the major research agenda in Bangladesh. In order to combat poverty, governments have initiated Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs) to address the issue. Most of the studies related to SSNPs have mainly investigated the programme design, coverage, targeting, leakages and programme management. None of them challenged the

conventional approach of SSNPs as a means of food security.

This research intends to capture the impact of five important SSNPs on ensuring food security of the rural poor people. To do so, the empirical experiences of the two groups of people (beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) have been explored.

This research reveals that the support provided by the selected SSNPs is very meagre and none are able to ensure food security of the beneficiaries for a whole month; they can only offer partial support. It also unveils some of the governance issues: bribes, leakages, politicization, nepotism and overlapping. This research revealed that the majority of the poorest people are excluded from the poverty alleviation programs.

Finally, both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, who are in dire poverty, realize that charity is not the solution; it creates dependency tendency. Those who are physically able need work opportunities. Those who are disabled and deserve the support should be given an appropriate amount.

**J**

### **Keith Jacobs**

University of Tasmania

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **A reverse form of welfarism: Some reflections on Australian housing policy**

In this paper, I argue that we have been amiss in diagnosing the role played by the government which has exacerbated the housing problems afflicting low income households in Australia. However, I argue further that we have placed too much faith in the capacity of managerial interventions to ameliorate what are far more deep rooted and systemic challenges. It is suggested that researchers need to adopt a more critical account of the conduct of contemporary government policy making, one that casts aside a view of the State as a benevolent agency whose primary objective is to ameliorate the conditions of the disadvantaged. Instead, the State should be understood as an agency that sustains the conditions necessary for the finance industry, developers and real estate agents, along with well off householders and landlords, to reap profits. The political economy of Australian housing, in its current

incarnation, performs a form of reverse welfarism that exacerbates social inequality.

### **Kelley Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Karen Fisher<sup>1</sup>, Gianfranco Giuntoli<sup>1</sup>, Chris Gration<sup>2</sup>, Myra Hamilton<sup>1</sup>, Rosemary Kayess<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>National Respite

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Respite care: The rights implications of consumer directed care**

Over the past decade there has been a strong movement in some countries to develop policies and practices that increase the rights of people with disabilities in relation to decision-making about support and services, and choice and control in their lives. In Australia, this movement has included a shift towards consumer directed care. This paper explores the rights implications of this movement for one area of disability support: respite care. It is based on a literature and policy review and focus groups with key stakeholders, which examined the shift to consumer directed care in relation to respite care in Australia under the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The paper raises the questions of how respite care will be provided within a consumer directed framework, the balancing of rights of people with disability and care givers in relation to respite care, and the changing nature of respite care services under the new system.

### **Kelley Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Rosemary Kayess<sup>1</sup>, Emily Kakoullis<sup>2</sup>, Karen Fisher<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Norah Fry Research Centre and School of Law, University of Bristol

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Recognising rights in different cultural contexts: The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities is considered a transformative document in both its drafting and in its framework for implementing rights and entitlements. This paper explores the ways in which cultural issues have shaped these processes of the Convention. It draws on an analysis of the documents relating to the drafting of the CRPD, which shaped what rights were included or excluded in the final document. It then explores how 'culture' has influenced the ratification and implementation of the Convention in specific contexts: Cyprus, the UK and Australia. The



importance of considering the implications of culture in terms of how disability is constituted and rights are considered in particular cultural contexts is a focus of this paper, which concludes by considering how the translation of international policy into national contexts can be best facilitated.

### **Sarah Johnson, Sally Galbraith**

National Disability Insurance Agency

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **The National Disability Insurance Scheme: Insurance principles in a social welfare context**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was launched on a groundswell of community support, reflecting widespread acknowledgement of the need for a fairer system for supporting Australians with disability. Unlike the existing welfare system, the NDIS is an insurance model: a model which arises naturally from an understanding that we are all at risk of being affected by disability, so we should all share the costs.

For the community to maintain trust and confidence in the NDIS, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) bears an ongoing responsibility to demonstrate that the Scheme is financially sustainable and is making a difference to the lives of the people it aims to support. Insurance principles have been developed to guide how this responsibility will be fulfilled: through strong monitoring, a focus on lifetime value for participants, investment in research and innovation, and supporting the development of community capability and social capital. A critical component of this framework is a focus on participant outcomes, and the NDIA is in the process of developing an outcomes framework to enable tracking of individual and Scheme progress over time.

This talk will discuss the insurance principles that have been developed for the NDIS, the rationale for these principles, and how they will be implemented in practice. An overview of the NDIS outcomes framework will be presented.

### **Sarah Judd, Carolina Simpson, Timothy Broady**

UNSW Business School & University of Western Sydney

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **What are carers entitled to in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)? Rights and realities in the NSW trial site**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is changing the way that disability support is delivered. It aims to provide greater choice and control and better life outcomes for people with a significant and permanent disability and their families and carers. Whilst carers are not the focus of the NDIS, it is anticipated that the NDIS will hold direct and indirect benefits for carers. Carers will continue to provide the bulk of care for NDIS participants and will in many cases assist participants to plan and manage their NDIS supports. In the New South Wales (NSW) trial site for the NDIS, benefits are already being realised for many carers. However, carer inclusion, choice and support within the NDIS is an incomplete and evolving project, and there remains discord between the carer policy and principles espoused by Governments and the design of the NDIS and its delivery in NSW.

This paper considers where carers stand within the NDIS, comparing its policy and legislative framework with carer recognition legislation in Australia and abroad. Experiences of carers in the NSW trial site will be explored alongside this policy analysis, to highlight where key benefits and challenges are emerging. The paper aims to contribute to ongoing discussions about how the NDIS can fulfil its obligations to best support families and carers alongside people with a disability.

### **Raja Junankar**

UNSW Business School & University of Western Sydney

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on youth unemployment**

Australia was one of few OECD countries to emerge from the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) without facing a recession, usually defined as negative GDP growth for two consecutive quarters. However, the (overall) unemployment rate did increase following the GFC and has still not returned to pre-GFC levels. Unemployment rates for young people increased much more dramatically and remain high. This paper investigates the impact of the GFC on

youth unemployment and long-term unemployment. To anticipate our results, we found that youth unemployment rates increased significantly owing to a fall in aggregate demand even though youth wages had been falling relative to adult wages. These findings do not support the commonly heard claim that youth wages are pricing young people out of the market.

## K

### Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Impact of service use on children in out-of-home care

This paper, which is based on Wave 1 and 2 of the POCLS, will explore access to services for children in OOHC. A large body of research has confirmed the high levels of need of children in OOHC. This has been linked to children's backgrounds and pre-care experiences. For many children being in care improves their wellbeing, but the contribution of services to improving wellbeing is not clear, nor how this varies by different care contexts. There is currently little research which links children's access to services with their outcomes, nor how access to and satisfaction with services are linked to other aspects of the care situation. This paper will focus on those children with the highest levels of need and will assess the link between service access and wellbeing in three domains: physical health, socio-emotional wellbeing and cognitive development. The paper assesses the extent to which carers/children have accessed appropriate services, their satisfaction with the services they are and have been accessing, and (where appropriate) the difference in perception of access to and adequacy of services between children and carers. The link between casework, service provision and wellbeing will be examined for the main demographic groups (gender, Aboriginal status, CALD, age and location) as well as care types in order to determine if particular groups of children have more access to services and whether the perceived quality of service provision differs for the main groups of children under study.

### Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Rob Bray<sup>2</sup>, Matthew Gray<sup>2</sup>, Kelly Hand<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, <sup>3</sup>Australian Institute of Family Studies

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### Income Management and behaviour change: Evidence and policy

Income Management has now been part of the social policy landscape for nearly a decade. Since its beginnings as part of the Northern Territory Intervention and (in a different form) in the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial, various forms of Income Management now affect many thousands of welfare payment recipients in Australia. The Forrest report recommended a 'Healthy Welfare' card for ALL income support recipients on the assumption that this would encourage them back into employment and would alter social norms away from alcohol and substance misuse, improve parenting and money management capability. Over the decade that it has been implemented, there is now a growing evidence base as to the effects of IM. This presentation will draw primarily on the evaluation of New Income Management (NIM) in the NT, the largest and most rigorous study of IM to date. It will focus particularly on the empirical evidence for medium and long term behaviour changes for individuals who are income managed, their families and communities and for the population as a whole. These findings will then be linked back to the policy implications for IM and other attempts to change the behaviour of people in receipt of welfare payments.

### Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Kylie Brosnan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>IPSOS

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### A comparison of three forms of income management: The implications of context on perceived benefits

This paper brings together three recent evaluations of income management in the Northern Territory, Cape York and the APY Lands in South Australia. It describes the three different models of income management, the contrasting process of implementation in each location, and the implications of the process for how communities engage with income management. The presenters were engaged in the evaluations of different forms of income management in the three different locations. Although it is not possible to directly compare outcomes in the

three different contexts, it is clear that the context in which the policy has been implemented has made a significant impact on the way income management is viewed by the community and the perceived effects. The presentation will describe the differences in the three evaluation methods and will also draw out the policy implications for how community context can influence the effects of controversial interventions such as income management. The talk will particularly address some of the unintended consequences of government intervention in communities, and highlight how policy may impact or undermine existing community infrastructure and mechanisms that have evolved.

### **Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Bridget Jenkins<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>(Formerly) Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Adolescents and young adults in emergency departments: Evidence and implications**

A number of concerns are raised in the literature about adolescents and young adults and their engagement with emergency departments (EDs). There has been a reduction of access to community based services by young people over the past decade which has coincided with an increase in ED presentations. It is asserted that many young people present at EDs avoidable conditions, present as a result of risk taking which is characteristic of this age group and/or have mental health issues underlying the presenting problems. This paper, based on an evidence check commissioned by the Sax Institute for NSW Health Kids and Families reviews the existing empirical evidence for the reasons and extent of the increase in ED use by adolescents and young adults. The paper draws on the Australian and International empirical literature, analysis of ABS and population surveys as well as data provided by NSW Kids and Families for this review. The analysis provides some unexpected findings and identifies a complex set of factors influencing young peoples' engagement with EDs and health services. The paper identifies the strength of the evidence base and the areas where more research needs to be done, and points toward some of the policy challenges in this area.

### **Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Keeley<sup>2</sup>, Shona Bates<sup>1</sup>, Jane Bullen<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>National Children and Youth Law Centre

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Exchange of personal information between agencies: Challenges and opportunities**

The provision of holistic human service delivery increasingly involves government and other human services agencies appropriately sharing personal information about the users of their services. Exchanging personal information, however, can infringe a client's right to privacy and confidentiality. Information exchange is governed by a range of laws, policies, guidelines and agency procedures, and has been shown to be a challenging component of interagency collaboration. This is further complicated by the advances in technology which are affecting the way information is held and exchanged. This study examined the exchange of information and the barriers and facilitators of appropriate information exchange in NSW by focusing on 3 scenarios: child welfare; children transitioning between school sectors; and HASI, a housing, health and NGO collaboration for adults with mental health problems. The study included a review of the literature, interviews with key stakeholders in the different government departments and NGOs and analysis of case vignettes which illustrated the complexities of exchanging information in different contexts. The talk will describe the methods and report on the main findings of the study, which found that the situation has improved in NSW in some respects but there continue to be significant challenges. The presentation will identify the implications for policy and practice in the human services, not only in NSW but for service provision more generally.

### **Meredith Kiraly**

University of Melbourne

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **Young kinship carers: A hidden population?**

Young carers of vulnerable adult family members have received some attention in recent years as awareness has grown of the opportunity costs pertaining to their caring role. However, the cohort of Australian young people raising siblings, nephews and nieces in independent households – young kinship carers – are as yet unrecognised. While

kinship care has received increasing prominence in recent years, a widespread assumption is that most kinship carers are grandparents.

Recent British research utilising census data uncovered surprisingly large numbers of young people raising their younger sisters and brothers in independent households. Like other young carers, these young people were identified as mostly female and single, frequently living in poverty and forgoing education and employment opportunities.

A research project at the University of Melbourne is seeking to identify the incidence and characteristics of young independent kinship carers in Australia (30 years or under). Early census analysis suggests that there may be around 10,000 Australian households headed by young kinship carers – more than half as many as households where kinship carers are aged 60 years or over. This paper will describe work in progress on identifying the prevalence and support needs of young kinship carers via census analysis, an online survey and in-depth interviews. Findings may assist advocacy for the support needs of a hidden group of young carers and children.

**L**

### **Carmel Laragy**

**RMIT University**

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **International conversations about individual funding**

Individual funding packages are increasingly being used to fund disability support in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and elsewhere. This paper reports on 'conversations' held in England, Sweden and Canada during a study tour of individual funding services in 2013. The 'conversations' consisted of nineteen semi-structured interviews with researchers, government administrators and service providers conducted with ethics consent; and presentations at the invitation only research workshop in London titled 'Insights from Research on Personalisation' sponsored by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Social Care. While the issues raised and strategies discussed have to be considered within their local context, there were general themes relevant to our context and the NDIS. These themes include the need for adequate funding, advocacy and access to information and support; safety; fraud; and workforce support and employment arrangements. Key themes will be

presented and discussed with reference to policy implications for the NDIS and other individual funding programs.

### **Amy Lawton**

**WESTIR Limited**

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Healthy food as a human right: effective food security policy in an ever-changing political environment**

Food insecurity has become one of the biggest global issues of the twentieth century, with the global financial crisis alone pushing millions of people worldwide further into poverty and less able to adequately feed themselves. Developed countries in the self-regulated global market are not immune to food insecurity, particularly amongst their socially disadvantaged populations. As a result, there continues to be growing pressure on industrialised governments to develop social policies and plans dedicated to advancing the 'food security for all' agenda. This paper will provide an overview of innovative food security policies being implemented across all government levels in developed countries, including Australia. It will also discuss recent research undertaken for a local government in Western Sydney to expand their food access policy into a more robust, multidisciplinary food security plan underpinned by social justice principles. Overall, the paper aims to spur debate on the barriers and opportunities that impact the ability for food security to be successfully embedded into the agenda of developed governments. Based on the case studies discussed, the paper will also suggest the key tools practitioners require to develop and implement strong evidence-based food security policy as these are vital to realising the right to food for all citizens in an ever-changing political environment.

### **Liana Leach, Carmel Poyser**

**Australian National University**

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Utilisation of health services for mental health during the postpartum period**

Mental health problems are common for women during the first 12 months after birth. Yet, we know relatively little about women's use of health services for their mental health during the postpartum period. The current study reports findings from the Living with a Young Baby Survey (LYBS), an Australian



community-focused study of 1093 postpartum women recruited online during 2014. The results show that two thirds (60.8%) of the women had utilised health services for their mental health. The most common sources of help were a GP (18.2%) or the Internet (14.8%), followed by a psychologist (7.8%). Engaging services was clearly associated with symptom severity, such that 93.5% of those with very high psychological distress (K-10) had sought help, compared to 69.3% of those with medium-high distress and 45.4% of those with low distress. The main reasons distressed women did not seek help were: they did not think they had a serious mental health problem, they preferred self-management, or they were afraid what people might think. The findings suggest many women are engaged with health services for their mental health during the post-natal period, particularly women with very high psychological distress. The findings support previous studies demonstrating the importance of GPs in the management of mental health, and highlight the widespread use of the Internet to seek mental health information. Continued health and social policy efforts are needed to communicate accurate messages about postnatal mental health as many women appear to be actively seeking information and assistance.

### **Jichen Li, Hazel Bateman, Kevin Liu**

UNSW Business School

Monday 15.45-17.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Regional differences in life expectancy in mainland China**

The Chinese government is currently undertaking extensive pension reforms in response to the demographic challenge of population ageing. This requires accurate pension liability estimations, and subsequently, accurate life expectancy forecasts at both national and regional levels. The vast regional differences in socioeconomic development also raise questions about the magnitude of regional differences in life expectancy in China, and the importance of socioeconomic factors in explaining these differences. However, due to the absence of high-quality, long-term data there have been few studies on life expectancy in China.

We address this gap by investigating the current status and future trends of regional differences in life expectancy. To enable this analysis we constructed, for the first time, 800 national and regional life tables based on a unique hand-collected mortality

dataset. We examined two dimensions of regional differences in life expectancy: first, the difference between administrative regions with different levels of socioeconomic development; and second, the difference between rural and urban populations in each region. We then explored the impact of socioeconomic factors on China's demographic experience. Our results confirm nationwide improvements in mortality with a narrowing in the differences in life expectancy between highly developed and less developed regions. However, further investigation revealed different trends for the urban and rural populations. While differences in life expectancy in urban areas is converging, the differences appear to be widening for rural populations. Supplementary analysis to investigate the role of economic development on mortality improvements shows a strong association with regional GDP growth and health expenditures.

### **Gemma Luckett, Jo Fildes, Brianna Perrens**

Mission Australia

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Developing outcome indicators to measure improvement in client wellbeing**

Mission Australia has conducted a pilot to develop and test a methodology to measure the outcome of service intervention on our clients as they journey towards independence.

After developing outcome hierarchies, an organisational theory of change was developed. Indicators were then mapped against program specific outcomes. Indicator measures were selected which were able to be collected in a self-reported survey; recognised as valid and reliable; had normative data available for comparison; and easily understood by staff and clients.

The Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) met these criteria whilst being able to measure against the majority of the theory of change. The PWI encompasses the constructs of satisfaction with the following domains: standard of living, health, achieving, relationships, safety, community, future security. It also includes a stand-alone question on satisfaction with life as a whole.

All Person Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) clients who entered our services between May and July 2014 were invited to participate in the pilot. To measure client change, we conducted three waves of the survey over ten month period.

We found that clients experienced a significant increase in personal wellbeing, particularly in the domains of standard of living, health, achieving, personal relationships, community, future security, and life as a whole. We also found significant improvements in the proportion of clients who reported having control over own life, support in a crisis, adequate housing, enough money to meet needs, and who felt they were coping. The results of the pilot have been used to inform program design and delivery.

## M

### David Marshall, Karina Sommers

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### English proficiency: A key stepping stone for participation of humanitarian migrants

It is well recognised in the refugee settlement literature that attaining proficiency in the local language is a critical step on the pathway to successful settlement. Data from 'Building a New Life in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants' (BNLA) supports this sentiment. BNLA is an Australian Government study of humanitarian migrants which recruited a cohort of 2,399 recently arrived refugees and asylum seekers in 2013. Participants are being interviewed annually for the first five years of their settlement journey. Findings highlight a range of social and economic outcomes with which English language proficiency has a clear relationship. This data also shows that the cohort is particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable on a range of socio-economic and health measures. With a focus on English proficiency, this paper will examine some of the relationships between social and economic indicators of settlement including employment, self-sufficiency, access to services and community engagement. It will also explore some of the early implications for Australian Government policy, programmes and service delivery to facilitate the Government's vision of a socially inclusive society in which all Australians are valued and have the opportunity to fully participate. Wave 1 and 2 will be used to investigate use of settlement services provided and how they relate to successful settlement outcomes.

### Greg Marston

Queensland University of Technology

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### Achieving fair and sustainable prosperity: A new challenge for welfare states

The welfare states of the developed world flourished in the second half of the 20th century under conditions of rising revenues to fund social programs, based on exporting emissions and expanding imports from low-wage countries. Rapid growth, driven by expanding consumption, was the dominant economic model. This model worked until rising unemployment hit many developed economies in the early to mid-1970s. The response by national governments at the time was to deal with growing unemployment by speeding up the rate of growth. For environmental and other reasons, accelerating growth is no longer desirable or sustainable. However, a world of much slower growth poses critical questions for the political economy of welfare states. Western welfare states and post-war economic growth have undoubtedly improved living standards, health and life expectancy. However, the same factors have produced unprecedented levels of material consumption, which has resulted in undesirable environmental consequences and new types of risks in contemporary societies. The incoherence between social, economic and environmental policy reveals another problem for the political economy of welfare states. There is a real sense here of policymakers struggling with competing goals, without the benefit of political leadership to create policy synergies and open the way for economic models that can radically redistribute time and money and provide the necessary conditions for sustainable prosperity. This paper explores these tensions and examines the prospects for achieving greater synergy between environmental, social and economic objectives at the start of the 21st Century.

### Susan Maury

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### The power of empowerment: Parents of vulnerable children lead school and community changes

This action research was designed to increase parental engagement in a vulnerable school population through an empowering methodology embedded in three workshops: Visioning, Planning, and Advocating. At the end of the process, the nine

parents self-identified as a community action group, and have galvanized community action in both the school and the community arenas – far surpassing the expectations of the research team. This small pilot challenges our conceptions of what it truly means to put the child at the centre of the learning framework, and the best way for families, schools and the community to support effective learning. More generally, the pilot carries lessons for using value-aligned processes for greater impact.

### **Ruth McCausland**

School of Social Sciences, UNSW

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **The economic costs of the over-representation of Indigenous peoples with mental health disorders and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system**

Indigenous peoples with mental health disorders and cognitive disability (MHDCD) are significantly over-represented in Australian criminal justice systems. The social and human costs of this over-representation are devastating for Indigenous communities and the economic costs to government are significant. Despite this, there has been a dearth of empirical research on this most pressing human rights issue. A UNSW study on people with mental health disorders and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system has created a dataset containing information on lifelong use of government services on a group of 2,731 people who have been in prison in NSW and whose diagnoses are known, 676 (25%) of whom are Indigenous. Data was gathered from all NSW criminal justice agencies (Corrective Services, Police, Juvenile Justice, Courts, Legal Aid) and human service agencies (Housing, Ageing Disability and Home Care, Community Services, Justice Health and NSW Health). This data reveals the lifelong interactions with criminal justice and human service agencies experienced by people with MHDCD, and de-identified case studies have been compiled of the pathways of real individuals. This paper reports on an empirical approach to calculating the economic costs of these pathways for a number of Indigenous women and men in the MHDCD Dataset. It seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the real costs associated with the criminal justice management of Indigenous peoples with MHDCD, and to alternative policy and program responses.

### **Kaitrin McNamara<sup>1</sup>, Kate Furst<sup>1</sup>, Alan Laundry<sup>1</sup>, Angela Carr<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The Benevolent Society, <sup>2</sup>(Formerly) The Benevolent Society

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Early Years Centres: Maximising impact through integrated service delivery**

The Benevolent Society's Early Years Centres (EYCs) in Queensland are innovative service hubs that support the health, development, wellbeing and safety of families with young children. Open to all families in their local area, they particularly target Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islanders, South Sea Islanders, Culturally and Linguistically diverse populations, children with a disability and other 'vulnerable' families.

The EYCs aim to create integrated community hubs that offer both universal and targeted services, including early childhood education such as family/ long day care, crèche, and kindergarten; as well as early childhood health services, playgroups, parenting programs, and home visiting family support. Research indicates that integrating services is a cost-effective approach to welfare delivery. Savings are found through providers sharing resources, users accessing multiple services in the same location, and the promotion of early intervention and referral pathways which lead to reductions in the need for more intensive services. Investment in early intervention specifically targeting vulnerable groups has been shown to have high economic returns in the long-term.

The paper will present the results of an evaluation of the EYCs, exploring the extent to which they reach vulnerable groups, how many families transfer from universal to targeted/ intensive programs, the extent to which they are successful in providing integrated services responding to families' needs, and the impact on child, family and community outcomes. Finally, practice and policy implications arising from the evaluation results will be discussed to assess their applicability to the rest of the organisation, as well as more broadly.

## Jane Mears

University of Western Sydney

Tuesday 15.15-16.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms  
(lower ground floor)

### Activism in times of austerity: The Older Women's Network (OWN) and the Prevention of Violence Against Older Women

The Older Women's Network (OWN) is an activist organisation dedicated since its inception in 1991 to protecting the rights of older women, preventing gender and aged based violence. In 2007, OWN set up a Working Party to work on the Prevention of Violence Against Older Women (POVAOW). The brief of this Working Party was to research and document the needs of older women and bring about changes in policy and practice. This paper looks specifically at 3 research projects initiated and managed by this Working Party. The first project mapped the extent of violence against older women; the second project focused on older women, violence and homelessness; and the third aimed to establish referral pathways for older women. These research projects are discussed in some detail and the main findings and recommendations are outlined. The lessons learned are then discussed. The paper concludes by examining the contribution research such as this can make to policy and practice in a time of austerity.

## Philip Mendes, Bernadette Saunders, Susan Baidawi

Monash University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms  
(lower ground floor)

### Indigenous young people leaving out of home care in Victoria

Indigenous young people are known to be over-represented in out of home care and leaving care populations in all States and Territories. Yet to date, no specific research has been undertaken on the experiences of this group as they transition from care, their connections with Indigenous culture and community, or assessment of the Indigenous-specific and non-Indigenous supports and services available to them as they transition. This paper presents the initial findings from a project based on a partnership between Monash University and six child welfare agencies, and funded by the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation. The project includes consultations with Indigenous care leavers concerning their out of home

care and transition experiences, and their connections to Indigenous families and culture; Indigenous carers concerning their experiences of supporting care leavers including connections with cultural identity; and Indigenous specific and non-Indigenous services that work with Indigenous young people in and transitioning from out of home care to examine the strengths and limitations of existing services, and the extent to which they address cultural support and connections.

## Annette Michaux, Robyn Mildon

Parenting Research Centre

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms  
(lower ground floor)

### Inquiries and their role in child welfare reform in Australia

Inquiries into child welfare are regular features of the political and policy landscape in Australia. Usually, these inquiries produce recommendations which are submitted to the commissioning body to consider. What happens to the reform process once the inquiry sets down its recommendations and do the recommendations get implemented?

In 2013/14 the Parenting Research Centre examined the implementation of nearly 300 recommendations from 67 Australian inquiries. The study was commissioned by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to inform efforts to avoid duplication and to consider the adequacy of changes to laws, policies, systems and practices over time.

The study was conducted using a mixed methods design, including: data collection in the form of written comments received by the Royal Commission from Australian governments as well as accompanying documentation, verification of legislative changes, surveying senior government staff, and conducting semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved in previous policy reform.

This paper outlines findings of the study and features the following:

- the findings of a systematic scoping review which identified 17 previous implementation evaluations and messages about barriers and facilitators to inquiry-led reform in Australia
- comments on the literature on the determinants of public policy implementation, including implementation science, in relation to this study



- the methodology used for assessing the extent of implementation of inquiry-led reform, including the limitations
- discussion of some of the available findings of the evaluation relevant to large scale system change and jurisdiction-wide policy implementation in Australia.

## **Anna Moffat, Gerry Redmond**

Flinders University

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

**What is the association between mental illness, disability and drug/alcohol addiction among family members, and young people's own health? An analysis of new Australian survey data**

Many children and young people in Australia live with a family member who has chronic and/or debilitating health concerns and there is increased recognition by policymakers of the importance of this issue for children's and young people's outcomes. However, while it is understood that these children are at increased risk of a number of adverse outcomes, the relationship between having a family member with ongoing health concerns (FHC) and the health outcomes of young people is not well understood. This study uses information obtained directly from a national sample of young people to, first, derive an estimate of the proportions of young people who report FHC; and second, to explore the relationship between FHC and young people's views on their own health.

The analysis compares the subjective health of young people in Australia aged 9, 11 and 13 who live with a family member with disability/illness and/or drug or alcohol concerns and/or depression/mental illness (FHC group) to age equivalent peers. A sample of 5,440 Australian students completed an online survey regarding a number of aspects of wellbeing. Results indicate that young people in the FHC group experience negative health symptoms significantly more frequently than their peers. This group difference was greatest for those with low affluence, suggesting that higher affluence may provide some protective factors against negative health outcomes for these children. Interestingly, a bigger difference was also seen for females, compared to males. Possible explanations for this are considered, and policy implications explored.

## **Alan Morris**

University of Technology Sydney

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

**An examination of Kemeny's thesis on the importance of home ownership if you are dependent on the age pension, using in-depth interviews with older home owners and older private renters**

A key feature of Jim Kemeny's argument first proposed in the late 1970s is that in societies that have high levels of home ownership, the age pension is only adequate if you have low accommodation costs. Kemeny's thesis, was given added support by Castles' (1998) more extensive comparative analysis. He concluded that his findings were 'extremely supportive' of Kemeny's conclusion. In this paper, I use in-depth interviews to compare the circumstances of older homeowners (35 in-depth interviews) with that of older private renters (45 in-depth interviews). All of the interviewees were dependent solely or primarily on the age pension. Almost all of the older homeowners were able to consume adequately, engage in leisure activities, run a car and go on holiday. They had little anxiety about their financial situation. This was especially so in the case of those interviewees drawing the couples pension. In contrast, the older private renters invariably had to use a large proportion of their income to pay for accommodation, and as a result, they found it difficult to purchase basic items and any unexpected expense precipitated much anxiety. Their limited resources severely impacted on their capacity to sustain social contacts and engage in leisure activities. In addition to having limited resources, many had minimal security of occupancy. The interviews strongly substantiate Kemeny's original insight. They clearly illustrate that the accommodation costs and housing tenure of a person dependent on the age pension are crucial determinants of their capacity to live a decent life.

## **Suellen Murray**

RMIT University

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

**Redress for adults harmed in out-of-home care as children: Social policy in times of austerity**

Internationally public inquiries have demonstrated that many children brought up in out-of-home care have experienced abuse and other harm, which have had

long-term and ongoing impacts. Redress schemes are in place in a number of countries to provide compensation and reparation. These schemes vary according to the scope of harm addressed, population groups targeted, the nature of validation, and the forms of redress. Ireland's redress scheme for people who grew up in care has been one of the most comprehensive, including an apology, relatively generous financial compensation, resourcing of mental health and other services, and more recently a program of targeted individual care services.

In Australia, there have been modest financial redress schemes in some states, state based and national apologies and some resourcing of support services. A national financial redress scheme, as well as additional resourcing of targeted and community support services, continue to be sought by advocates. Such responses were recommended by the three national Australian inquiries into out-of-home care held in the 1990s and early 2000s. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is the most recent inquiry to demonstrate evidence of harm to children in care, with this group being the largest of all those coming forward to the Royal Commission.

This paper will survey international redress schemes, present an overview of attempts to seek redress for adults who were harmed in care in Australia, and look to the future to see what might eventuate in times of austerity.

## N

### **Yuvisthi Naidoo**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

**Incorporating the 'economic' and 'non-economic' to understand the standard of living and well-being of older people: A case study of older Australians**

Official Australian reports predict that by 2050, 20 per cent of the Australian population will be aged 65 and over. These demographic changes will significantly alter the provision of health, aged care, social security and superannuation systems with consequences for the standard of living and well-being of older Australians. The provision of public services for older people in Australia is extensive. The retirement income system is heralded as an exemplar of the World Bank's 'three tiers' approach. Home ownership is widespread amongst older

people and the government provides a range of health, community and aged-care services. The focus within the economics literature continues to use disposable income as a defining indicator to assess the standard of living of older people, ignoring the role of non-economic based service provision. This paper conceptualises the standard of living as multi-dimensional, with explicit recognition of an individual's economic, social, physical and emotional status. It extends the conventional focus beyond the 'economic' to incorporate 'non-economic' dimensions. Drawing on lessons from the social indicator movement, a multi-dimensional well-being indicator framework applicable for analysis at an individual level is developed. The results are based on wave 10 of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey. The findings highlight the inter-related and inter-dependent parts of older people's lives and show how the substantive conclusions of sub-groups of older people change when using a multi-dimensional composite index compared to unitary economic-based metrics, with implications for ageing and social policy.

### **Agnieszka Nelson, Matthew Gray**

Australian National University

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

**Analysis of income support dynamics among vulnerable youth in Australia between 1999 and 2014**

Many Governments in affluent democracies continue to debate the effectiveness of conditionality, as a policy lever, to promote engagement in education and the labour market, reduce passive welfare and rebuild social norms. Australia is not an exception, witnessing extension and diversification of the use of conditionality over the past two decades.

One target population of particular concern is youth, for whom transition from education to stable full-time employment has become increasingly challenging and protracted and who continue to rely on income support to survive. In Australia, for example, in June 2014, almost one in four of all 16-24-year-olds relied on income support (IS). For Indigenous youth, the figure is even more stark—with over half of all 16-24 year olds relying on IS. 14% of all youth in that age group have been assessed by the government as vulnerable—one in two of those for being sick or disabled and one in four for homelessness. The remaining vulnerable youth consist of those who are exposed to domestic violence, were released from

prison, have drug or alcohol problems and have significant caring roles.

Using Research and Evaluation Longitudinal administrative data from Department of Employment, we examine long- and short-term patterns of income support receipt among Australian youth and how these differ by different vulnerability types.

### **Kenneth Nelson**

Stockholm University

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Intergenerational welfare contracts and social citizenship rights in a comparative and longitudinal perspective**

Inequality in modern societies and sustainability of welfare states cannot be exhaustively understood only by focusing on structures of social class and gender. An increasingly important dimension is intergenerational cleavages. The purpose of this study is to provide an institutionally oriented analysis on intergenerational equity and the welfare state. Focus is on social citizenship rights associated with three particular stages of the life course; childhood, working age and old-age. Theoretically, we introduce the concept of an intergenerational welfare contract to describe and analyze the age-related structure of social citizenship rights. The following questions are addressed: Is there a general trend in the balancing of social citizenship rights across age-related social risks and what major types of intergenerational arrangements do the institutional structure of social policy reveal? Is there empirical evidence of zero-sum intergenerational trade-offs in policy making, and is it possible to find examples of positive-sum solutions in the intergenerational structure of welfare states? Based on data from the Social Citizenship Indicators Program, we show that intergenerational welfare contracts of affluent countries have become more balanced as social citizenship rights nowadays are more equally divided across age-related risk categories, although cross-country differences still are substantial. We find clear support of positive-sum solutions in the intergenerational structure of social citizenship rights. Income replacement in major social transfer programs tend to be higher in countries with balanced intergenerational welfare contracts than in countries where social protection is more unequally divided across age-related risk categories.

## **P**

### **Mary Ann Powell, Anne Graham**

Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Ethical research involving children: Supporting social policy-related research with children and young people**

Children's participation in social policy-related research has grown over recent years as researchers, practitioners and policy-makers have increasingly recognised the critical contribution children make regarding their own perspectives and experiences. In times of austerity, inevitably impacting children's lives, it is vital to ensure that children's rights to participate in safe, ethical policy-related research are respected. Existing procedural ethics mechanisms are essential, but generally fall short in supporting researchers as they navigate the range of complex questions arising throughout the research process. This paper presents the Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) project, which emerged in response to the need for ethical guidance to support researchers. A collaborative partnership between the Centre for Children and Young People at Southern Cross University, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, Childwatch International Research Network and the Children's Issues Centre at the University of Otago and the ERIC project involved extensive research and consultation with over 400 researchers internationally. It culminated in a range of resources to guide and support researchers, offering a distinctive approach incorporating reflexivity, rights and relationship as essential elements of ethical research. The ERIC resources, available online ([www.childethics.com](http://www.childethics.com)), include an International Charter, evidence-based Guidance, collected Case Studies, structured questions (Getting Started), an online Resources library and a monitored Forum for ongoing discussion. These have drawn considerable interest, being translated into several languages and attracting website visitors from 176 countries. The ERIC focus on best practice and critical engagement in ethical decision-making is core to ensuring policy-related research upholds children's rights, dignity and wellbeing.

## Productivity Commission (presented by Alison McClelland)

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

### Housing assistance and employment in Australia

Housing assistance, delivered as public housing and Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA), has a broad reach. In 2013, about 700,000 Australians lived in public housing and a further 2.4 million who lived in private rental accommodation benefited from CRA. This project examined the relationship between receipt of housing assistance and participation in employment. Access to large administrative datasets, including Centrelink records for all income support payment (ISP) recipients over the period 2003–13, was a feature of the work. The research revealed that the relatively low employment rates observed for public housing tenants are due to their characteristics, not their receipt of housing assistance. Given this, an often made recommendation to move public housing tenants to market rents while allowing them to receive CRA, would be unlikely to improve employment rates among tenants. The research also showed: a strong link between housing stability and participation in employment; that neighbourhood disadvantage has only a small effect on employment participation for public housing tenants; and that the potential problem of applicants avoiding employment while waiting for public housing in order to remain eligible should not be a major concern in South Australia or Western Australia (the two states that provided relevant data to the project).

## R

## Paul Ramcharan<sup>1</sup>, Lee Ann Basser<sup>2</sup>, Raelene West<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>RMIT University, <sup>2</sup>La Trobe University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

### Monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability in Victoria: Lessons learned from people with disabilities

We sought to replicate and adapt in consultation with leading self advocates, a human rights monitoring tool developed by Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI). Ninety-one people with disabilities were subsequently interviewed by trained interviewers with disabilities alongside the project's Chief Investigator and project manager using open-ended questions based upon UN CRPD principles, and closed

questions around key human rights articles. We found that the tool was difficult to use for two groups of participants. The 'institutional group' had spent much of their lives in segregated settings in which their lives were ordered around the timetables of others. This group was most likely to have no concept of human rights. A second group, the 'stoics' had no grudge to bear against their situation despite their recognition of personal disadvantage. This group was willing to manage environments and interactions to reduce challenges to their rights but was also willing to give up some rights in favour of a perceived 'better life'. The most educated group, the advocates, gave meaning to their lives in actively pursuing positive human rights outcomes for themselves and for others. Both institutional and stoic groups were characterised by 'adaptive behaviour preferences' (Nussbaum, 2001) becoming used to lives that might easily be seen as unfavourable in human rights terms. There are divergent policy implications for seeking to protect and ensure the rights of each of these groups and these are explored in the conclusions to this paper.

## Gaby Ramia<sup>1</sup>, Roger Patulny<sup>2</sup>, Greg Marston<sup>3</sup>, Kyla Cassells<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>University of Wollongong,

<sup>3</sup>Queensland University of Technology

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### Synthesising governance networks and social networks: Implications for social policy

Much of the social policy agenda in our time is delivered in and through formal governance networks which combine policy design and formulation processes with public management and service delivery channels. Policy makers and those who deliver human services are simultaneously part of broader 'social networks'. Policy scholars generally view the growth of governance networks as a product of the so-called 'network society', but rarely have they sought to systematically explore the conceptual and practical links between the two.

This presentation will account for this gap, contribute to a synthesis between the various manifestations of networks in the governance and societal settings, and explore the social policy implications of analysing networks in a synthesised format within one analytical framework. The principal argument is that a single perspective on networks has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of policy by making services more responsive to the needs of their recipients. An



additional benefit, particularly in the current political context of forced austerity, is that an understanding of networks need not add substantially to public expenditure.

### **Ioana Ramia**

Centre for Social Impact, UNSW

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **How do drivers of wellbeing change over time? An analysis of life satisfaction over the life course using Australian data**

While objective wellbeing can be assessed through economic and objective social indicators such as income level, health or safety, subjective wellbeing (SWB) is a more complex, non-forward measure, and happiness and satisfaction with life are the traditional ways of assessing it (Headey and Wearing 2010). In a recent workshop organised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2015), SWB was identified as an area where “better information on causality is needed”, and exploring whether the same causal mechanisms apply at different stages of the life course was deemed crucial for wellbeing research.

Using 2013 data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, this paper takes a life-course approach to explore the causing factors behind SWB aiming to identify areas where policy can and should be formulated to increase well-being. The focus is on the heterogeneity of effects (OECD 2015), identifying what matters to people at different stages of their life-course, and how these factors contribute to the SWB of the young, middle-aged and old age Australians.

We found that while life satisfaction follows an upward trajectory throughout the life course, the mechanisms behind SWB significantly differ. For example, the quality of housing has a greater importance for the wellbeing of older Australians, while income, availability of work and work options are essential for the wellbeing of young Australians. Such findings should inform policies in areas like housing, health, or work reforms and guide the agenda for sustained social development (Stiglitz et al. 2009).

### **Margot Rawsthorne<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Howard<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>University of Newcastle

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Funding of community services through participatory planning approaches: Lessons from the Area Assistance Scheme**

This paper draws on empirical research undertaken over the past 2 years with policy makers, service providers and local residents on the Area Assistance Scheme. The AAS operated from 1979-2006 across regions experiencing rapid growth, including Western Sydney and the Central Coast, providing millions of dollars to community services over its nearly 30-year history. Despite this, the collective memory and history of the AAS is quickly fading. Theoretically, the research focused on the enactment (or otherwise) of democratic practices, participation and power; the development of communities and social capital; and notions of social justice. The research demonstrates the ongoing legacy of AAS funding outcomes in disadvantaged communities across Western Sydney and the Central Coast through a series of organisational case studies as well as individual interviews. The paper will argue that these outcomes reflect the participatory processes and structures embedded in the AAS. In this way, the paper seeks to the ongoing debate about how community services are planned and funded. It asks, what can we learn from the AAS ‘experiment’ that will assist in responding to ‘wicked’ social problems?

### **Gerry Redmond<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Skattebol<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Social and Policy Studies, Flinders University

<sup>2</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Who’s in my family? Using consultations with children and young people to design a policy-relevant survey instrument**

The purpose of this paper is to show how young people’s voices have influenced survey instrument design for the Australian Child Wellbeing Project (ACWP). The Project set out to collect information on the wellbeing (across a range of domains) of young people aged 9-13 years with a particular focus on children who are marginalised in the Australian context, and on information that can feed into policy reform. Extensive qualitative fieldwork with young people, where the meaning of ‘the good life’ was discussed, was used to design a self-complete online survey instrument. Of particular interest for the

purposes of this paper is how young people defined their families, which were almost universally seen by them as being very important for 'the good life'. The finding that young people define 'family' in multiple ways is important for policy, which has tended to treat the concept unproblematically as a mediator between environmental conditions and child outcomes. This paper discusses how young people in different marginalised groups conceptualised family, how their conceptualisations were accommodated in a national survey instrument, and what the survey results (N=5,440) show in terms of family relationships, young people's wellbeing, and outcomes of concern to policymakers.

### **Kim Robinson<sup>1</sup>, Shepard Masocha<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Deakin University, <sup>2</sup>University of South Australia

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **"I have no power". Supporting frontline workers in asylum and refugee services in the United Kingdom: Lessons for Australia?**

Research suggests that the causes of what has been termed the 'illegalisation of migration', state restriction of entry and movement, are multiple and include an increase in securitization and moral panic (Dauvergne, 2008; Grewcock, 2010). This has a direct impact on humanitarian policy and practice with refugees and asylum seekers. Funding cuts and demands on non-government organisations (NGOs) and statutory sector agencies to provide more direct services restrict their critical political role. The security agenda is used to justify sanctions, and services that emphasise human rights and social justice face increasing pressures.

The role of social workers in host countries is a relatively new one; however, it has parallels with those working with other marginalised and stigmatised service user groups. The discourses of power, discipline and control that operate to regulate asylum seekers and refugees has implications for the frontline workers. Theorists have written about the 'gaze' of the professional (Goffman, 1968; Foucault, 1979) and the impact on service users. The consideration of a new professionalism (Fook, 2007) and human rights (Briskman, 2013) highlights how working in a sector with competing paradigms is crucial.

Drawing on empirical work conducted by the authors, this paper will explore the roles and perspectives of frontline workers in the United Kingdom and

identify issues of relevance to Australia. It highlights strategies to ensure that those working with refugees and asylum seekers are adequately supported thus contributing to their well-being, retention and effectiveness overall.

### **Sarah Rogers**

University of Melbourne

Monday 15.45-17.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **The local governance of poverty and rural development policy**

To better understand the efficacy of contemporary social policy in China we must consider the critical role played by local governments, who are largely responsible for policy implementation. This paper examines local government implementation of poverty and rural development initiatives in a nationally designated poverty county, exploring the extent to which outcomes for farmers hinge on the decision-making of local governments. Data is drawn from PhD research in four villages in Ji County, a poverty county on the Loess Plateau in the Shanxi Province. Evidence suggests that in its allocation of limited fiscal resources for poverty alleviation and rural development, local governments magnify differences in access to resources by focusing investment on agricultural modernisation, village infrastructure and drought-preparedness on "model" villages. More remote villages with higher poverty rates receive little attention and are increasingly being left behind. This pattern of resource allocation at the local scale raises questions about the ability of China's social policy, in the current fiscal and institutional environment, to reach the most vulnerable.

## **S**

### **Roy Sainsbury, Edmund Coleman-Fountain**

Social Policy Research Unit, University of York

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Supported employment in a time of austerity: A view from Europe with an eye on Australia**

This paper will draw on findings from a European comparative study to consider approaches to improving access to work for disabled people. In particular, it will focus on supported employment in a time of austerity. The paper will first introduce the theoretical framework of the research, which makes sense of disability policy as a system of

interlocking regulatory (e.g. anti-discrimination laws, quotas) and redistributory mechanisms (e.g. spending on technologies and workplace improvements and specialist integration services). Drawing on data from key informants interviews from nine European countries and statistical data on supported employment internationally, the paper will then ask how the role of supported employment, a redistributory mechanism, has changed in relation to other mechanisms in the context of austerity (and in light of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expectation that disabled people should have the right to work 'on an equal basis with others'). This data will be used to consider the changing context of supported employment at a time when disabled people's services have faced a reduction in state support. The paper will conclude with the pressures being placed on supported employment within a changing regime of labour market integration and make comparisons with the development of supported employment in Australia.

### **Peter Saunders, Megan Bedford**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Revised and updated budget standards for Australia: A report on progress**

Australia has a long history of developing and using budget standards to inform its setting of income levels. The SPRC conducted a major budget standards study in the 1990s commissioned by the federal government that produced low cost and modest but adequate estimates for over 40 household types that varied by size, composition, housing tenure and labour force status. Although still used to generate current estimates by updating by the CPI, these estimates are now over two decades old and need to be more radically overhauled. This paper reports the initial results from a new ARC Linkage project that is revising and updating the 1990s estimates for a smaller range of families who are either in low-paid employment or are unemployed. The overall approach has been informed by the concept of healthy living that has emerged from the public health literature as a basis for setting budget standards. The new estimates build on those produced in the 1990s, but have been made relevant to current circumstances by revising the products included in the budgets, making them consistent with current product availability and pricing and ensuring that they align with actual consumer spending

patterns. They have also been discussed by focus groups who have provided feedback on how they relate to their own experiences and how they can be improved. The aim is to produce new estimates that will be more widely accepted, relevant and applicable, although these are ambitious goals that are proving difficult to achieve.

### **Peter Saunders, Melissa Wong**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Towards a better understanding of child poverty: Evidence for Australia**

This paper examines and compares alternative approaches to identifying and measuring child poverty, drawing on data collected in recent surveys of poverty and child well-being. It will use ABS and other (SPRC) surveys to estimate child poverty using a standard (poverty line) approach and compare this with results derived from two applications of the deprivation approach. The first is based on the 2010 survey of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Modern Australia (PEMA), which allows deprivation to be estimated among households that contain children, while the second will use data from the Australian Child Well-being Project (ACWP), which contains information provided by children and young people themselves. Identified poverty/deprivation status will be compared with indicators of subjective well-being (SWB, where available) as a way of validating the different methods. These comparisons and other results based on the three approaches will be compared as a way of assessing the relative merits of the alternative approaches.

### **Vicky Saunders, Morag McArthur**

Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **The kaleidoscope of daily problems: Shaping holistic responses for children of prisoners**

Over the past decade, influenced by Childhood Studies and the human rights discourse, researchers have actively worked with children and young people to gain their perspectives and experiences on a range of issues in order to better inform policy and service responses. However, one group of children, those whose parents are incarcerated, have been virtually invisible to policy makers and social programs. Using a combination of policy analyses and findings from

a research project aimed at identifying the needs of children who have a parent in prison we highlight how this group of children face multiple social problems that may or may not be addressed by social policy agendas. We argue that these children can be defined or rendered invisible by the category or system lens used. They can be seen in different ways: whether that is living in poverty, in separated families, clients of the child protection system or homeless. However, the systems that surround children of prisoners do not have them in their sights and therefore children's needs are not adequately met. It is only when children and young people are seen in a more holistic way that systems can respond more collaboratively to effectively support children. Little progress can be made until policy processes allow for more holistic characterization of social problems to occur.

### **Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Never become an adult? How to achieve economic independence of young people with disabilities cared for by the State**

This research examines the economic security achieved by young people with or without disabilities leaving Chinese state care in their transition to adulthood. It applies a social inclusion framework to examine how the form of state care affects facilitators of social inclusion in transition to adulthood and the impact of the facilitators on their economic outcomes. The facilitators are social contact and use of education, health and disability support services. The outcomes are educational achievement, economic security and activity, housing and social networks. It applied a qualitative analysis to field investigations in four provincial capital cities in economically developed or moderately developed regions in China, including interviews with 42 orphans aged 16-38 years, who had or had not attained tertiary education or a job. The findings were that the state does not have clear policies about the age or conditions when state support to young people ceases. Instead of supporting their economic independence, the current policies pay more attention to "rearrangements" to these young people. Many young people fail to transit to independent adult living and remain dependent on the state child welfare institution. The research has implications for policy for supported transition from out of state support to achieve alternative support

for independent living. It also implies that improved general support to all Chinese people, such as income, employment and housing support, would reduce the difficulties facing these young people in their transition to adulthood.

### **Jennifer Skattebol, Trish Hill**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **High stakes: Youth employment**

Since the Global Financial Crisis, youth unemployment has steadily risen leaving many young people with delayed transitions into their first stable job. The situation is more acute for disadvantaged young people who do not have high levels of educational or employment capital in their homes. Young people consistently look to their parents and teachers for guidance about the world of work. There are many school based initiatives that bring young people into contact with employers who are interested in making positive contributions to youth employment. However, this employment and training landscape requires high stakes investments from both schools and employers. Schools are required to navigate an increasingly complex and competitive market of training, work experience, mentoring and skills development initiatives. Employers face a sector with limited service coordination and tend to seek out trusted broker organisations who minimise their risk. There are few initiatives that engage employers with young people who have disengaged with school and training. This paper draws on findings from an international review of research and programs and a place-based qualitative research project conducted in a youth unemployment hotspot. Interviews from young people and service providers offer insights into the program and system gaps. The paper concludes with some further directions for research and policy.

### **Bruce Smyth**

Australian National University

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **The high conflict post-divorce shared-time family**

Most shared-time arrangements tend to be made by separated parents who respect each other as parents, who cooperate, who can avoid or contain conflict when they communicate, who can compromise, and who have arrangements that are child-focused and flexible. But in some families, shared-time parenting



occurs in the context of – or indeed may be the product of – entrenched parental conflict. While much is now known about high functioning cooperative shared-time families, far less is known about the high conflict shared-time family – particularly children's and parents' wellbeing in these families, and how separated parents stuck in high conflict make shared-time arrangements 'work'. In this paper, new data on high conflict shared-time families will be presented. This research is funded by the Australian Research Council.

**Wendy Stone<sup>1</sup>, Bruce Smyth<sup>2</sup>, Bryan Rodgers<sup>2</sup>, Vu Son<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Swinburne University, <sup>2</sup>Australian National University

Monday 11.20-12.35, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

**Children's and parents' housing circumstances following parental separation: A recent empirical snapshot**

The family home is often the largest, single element of property built up during the course of a marriage (whether de facto or de jure). The splitting of property post-separation is typically expressed in financial terms – as a matter between the parents, and settled by family law courts where an agreement cannot be reached. However, it is also the case that the “family home” represents much more than bricks, mortar and shelter to children in terms of their emotional, kinship, neighbourhood and peer group ties. This paper describes the housing circumstances (housing tenure, dwelling type/size, residential location) and demographic characteristics of a national random sample of separated parents from a large, ARC-funded, longitudinal study of the impacts of the child support changes of 2006–08. The paper provides a contemporary snapshot of the housing and geography of maternal, paternal and shared-time parenting in Australia. The implications of these data for children's and parents' needs after parental separation are discussed in the context of the family law changes of 2006 encouraging shared parenting after separation.

**Wendy Stone<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Wiesel<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Swinburne University, <sup>2</sup>UNSW

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

**Empowering networks or risky reliance? Social capital among low to moderate income public and private tenants**

Many households, including those in receipt of income support and/or low to moderate wages, face increasing need to manage their needs privately, with reduced entitlement to long-term access to social insurance. Social capital, networks of relationships that connect people with one another, with services, as well as with opportunity via the potential flow of resources within networks, is one mechanism known to support some households, particularly regarding exchanges of care. With respect to housing, existing evidence highlights social relationships as push/pull factors influencing residential mobility, while the relationship between social capital and housing needs per se, remains relatively under-researched.

In this paper we present integrated findings of two AHURI-funded studies that explore the role, dynamics, limitations and risks associated with reliance on social networks for (i) exiting and non-exiting public housing tenants in metropolitan and regional areas of NSW and Victoria and (ii) low to moderate income tenants renting privately, including within the metropolitan sub-markets of Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, in formal and informal segments of the rental sector.

Quantitative analysis of a purpose-designed survey of current and exiting public housing tenants, HILDA analysis of social/private renters, qualitative interviews with exited public tenants and 75 low to moderate income private renters, along with insights from housing/welfare agency officers in three states, are presented. Findings illustrate how and for whom social capital is effective and where reliance on networks introduces or exacerbates housing risk. Implications for housing assistance provision and broader social policy are explored.

## T

### **Jean-Pierre Tabin, Anne Perriard**

University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Active labour policies revisited by social workers**

Social policies described as active have frequently been analyzed in the scientific literature on the basis of formal legal provisions. Using the notion, set forth by Lipsky (1980) as well as by several subsequent authors, that social workers who implement policies actually play a role in (re)defining them, the presentation intends to explore the way in which active social policies are implemented in a Swiss canton (Vaud).

We will show that, on the one hand, they tend to view activation as a distant goal – which means they often do not put it into practice right away (and sometimes not at all); and on the other hand, they impart a specific content to the concept of activation that differs from the way in which legislators conceive it. Moreover, our analysis shows that the norm of activation is not applied in the same way to ‘young adults’ or to ‘poor families’.

The analysis enables us to better understand the nature of active social policies and to appreciate the far more complex and nuanced character of these policies in a way that cannot come to light in studies solely based on the examination of legal provisions.

The empirical material is made up of laws, statements and parliamentary interventions defining social interventions and benefits, and of data collected through 77 interviews. The research was conducted within the framework of the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) LIVES – Overcoming vulnerability: life course perspectives, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

### **Matthew Taylor**

(Formerly) Centre for Independent Studies

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Fixing the Age Pension**

It is often said that Australians aren’t saving enough for retirement but the bleakest predictions of retiree living standards typically fail to account for the income that could be earned from the asset in which pensioners have placed 70% of their savings: the

family home. The problem is not that pensioners have failed to save, but that they have put their savings in an asset that does not earn income.

This is partly the result of the distorted incentives of the age pension means test that completely excludes home equity – allowing even those living in million dollar homes to receive significant assistance from taxpayers. The principal residence exemption contravenes the vertical, horizontal and intergenerational equity principles that Australia’s welfare system should aspire to.

In this paper, we propose a government-backed reverse mortgage scheme that would increase pensioner living standards by helping them to unlock the \$625 billion they have saved in their homes. Our modelling estimates that this – in addition to our proposed reforms to the means test – could increase the incomes of 2.3 million pensioners by an average of \$5,900 and reduce age pension expenditure by \$14.5 billion. This presentation will also outline how this proposal would restore vertical, horizontal and intergenerational equity to the age pension means test.

### **Cathy Thomson, Trish Hill, Bettina Cass**

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### **Carers and social inclusion in times of austerity**

Social inclusion is a key concept in academic and policy discourses. However, it raises fundamental questions about which activities are deemed as valuable modes of participation and the mechanisms, structures and practices through which participation is achieved. An inclusive society is one in which all citizens have the required resources and capabilities to participate fully in economic, social and political life. How are carers accounted for in conventional notions of social inclusion? The contradictory status of carers within a social inclusion framework is evident. On the one hand, carers contribute both socially and economically through the provision of support that permits people with disabilities and frail older people to remain at home and connected to their communities. On the other hand, national and international evidence indicate that carers face economic disadvantage and constraints on their participation in education, employment and social activities.

This paper, based on focus groups with carers of different age groups across the lifecourse conducted

in NSW and SA in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, reports on carers' perceptions of the barriers and facilitators to their participation in different aspects of life and possible ways to measure these.

The paper proposes a new framework for understanding the contradictory status of informal care in social inclusion theories, empirical analyses and policies. Alternative indicators of social inclusion most relevant to carers will be outlined. Future policy development to support carers' social inclusion within the current context of fiscal austerity will be discussed.

### Jane Thomson

University of the Sunshine Coast

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### Neoliberalism and the statutory child protection system in Australia: The need for social work in an alliance with the marginalised

The number of children and young people in the statutory child protection system (SCP) in Australia has increased markedly in recent decades. Recent national and international literature is briefly presented in order to provide a critique of the poor outcomes for many children and young people caught up in a bloated and often ineffective system. These poor outcomes include dislocation from kin, low educational attainment, adverse mental health, unemployment and precarious employment, criminalisation and inter-generational disadvantage. While social work is needed more than ever to tackle poverty and disadvantage, 'child-alone' practice and poor outcomes from the SCP system, its mission has been eroded by a neoliberal framing from help to surveillance and control.

This presentation proposes a radical transformation to a system which recognizes the role of social work in an alliance with the marginalized. It proposes that social workers, practitioners and scholars stand with children and young people, parents and policy-makers to tackle the problems that bring children, young people and families under the enduring gaze of the harsh neoliberal state. The presentation calls for a re-positioned system based on cultural respect and genuine child-centred approaches with children and young people, joining with their parents and other family as partners not perpetrators.

### Clare Townsend<sup>1</sup>, Delina Andrews<sup>1</sup>, Paul White<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Synapse, <sup>2</sup>Specialist Disability Services Assessment and Outreach Team, Disability Queensland

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### Neurocognitive disability amongst Indigenous Australians: Implications for the NDIS

The introduction of the NDIS will involve an additional 97,000 Queenslanders receiving disability supports. This does not include Indigenous Australians who experience more than twice the level of disability as non-Indigenous Australians. Failure to address the disability needs of Indigenous Australians challenges Article 25 (b) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Evidence is needed about the extent and nature of neurocognitive disability amongst Indigenous people to enable state and Commonwealth governments to appropriately and effectively address this issue and to be NDIS ready. Indigenous Australians are 14 times more likely to be homeless than non-Indigenous Australians. The level of disability amongst this group is unknown but is thought to be high. They constitute a particularly vulnerable group who will require a range of supports to access the NDIS. A point prevalence study undertaken in 2015 in Cairns sought to establish the extent and nature of neurocognitive disability amongst homeless Indigenous Australians and to facilitate their access to the NDIS. This paper will report on the results of this study and reflect on the implications for Australian disability policy and services development and reform within an NDIS context.

## U

### Scott Ussher

Statistics NZ

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### Using an indigenous worldview in producing official statistics

While there are many commonalities in what is important to wellbeing across cultures, there is also a recognition that different cultures have diverse perspectives on what wellbeing is. Many of these perspectives are not captured through official statistics.

In Aotearoa New Zealand there has long been recognised a need for information on the well-being of Māori that takes a Māori cultural perspective.

Historically, official statistics have taken a comparative approach to Māori well-being that often show Māori in a negative light. However, taking a Māori perspective demands a strengths-based approach to measuring Māori well-being that focuses on the strengths of Māori individuals and collectives, including Māori cultural identity. Agencies want evidence about the impact of culture on Māori well-being given the public investment in programmes with a Māori cultural focus. Such an approach is also useful for not only identifying issues, but finding opportunities to raise Māori living standards.

In 2013, Statistics NZ released the first information from Te Kupenga – our first survey of Māori well-being. Grounded in a Māori worldview Te Kupenga gives an overall picture of the social, economic and cultural well-being of Māori in New Zealand. Māori culture is generally characterised as a collectivist culture, which does not pair easily with survey design. Consequently, we have been innovative with a number of the statistics we have produced from a Māori perspective.

We will share with you our journey in developing statistics for Māori using some of the interesting findings we have published so far.

## V

**kylie valentine, Jan Breckenridge, Susan Rees**

UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### **Integrated responses to family and domestic violence and sexual assault: Ideas and evidence**

There are significant policy efforts to implement integrated responses to violence against women in Australia at a national level and in every state and territory. The current evidence base comprehensively establishes that both victims and perpetrators of domestic, family and sexual violence frequently require multiple interventions provided by a range of programs and services. There is some evidence from recent research that working collaboratively through an integrated response network can facilitate shared knowledge and communication of the client's circumstances and needs, as well as more appropriate referral paths.

However, the term 'integrated response' is often used arbitrarily and interchangeably with collaborative or coordinated multi-agency responses. Moreover, mechanisms to monitor or provide conceptual integrity and accountability to collaborative and/or coordinated responses have not always been rigorously evaluated. An added layer of complexity is that collaborations and partnerships that have been evaluated tend to be generalist, with even less evidence of service responses and connections available regarding Indigenous communities, non-English speaking background, refugee and disability sectors.

Drawing on research being conducted for the Australian National Research Organisations for Women's Safety (ANROWS), we report on the evidence base for integrated services and gaps in evidence, and the conceptual and definitional complexities underlying efforts to improve integration.

**kylie valentine<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Katz<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Cassells<sup>2</sup>, Aron Shlonsky<sup>3</sup>, Christine Eastman<sup>3</sup>, Alan Duncan<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>UNSW, <sup>2</sup>Curtin University, <sup>3</sup>University of Melbourne

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

### **Determining the impact of child protection reforms: Lessons from the evaluation of Keep Them Safe**

Many policy reforms in family support and child welfare are based on classifications of families and services in terms of vulnerability and risk: universal services for all families, early intervention services for those families with vulnerabilities, and intensive and statutory services for families at high risk of harm.

However, there have been relatively few attempts to design and implement child welfare policies that target all families and children, across all service sectors, and even fewer attempts to evaluate the overall effectiveness of these systemic interventions. This paper draws on findings from the outcomes evaluation of the child protection reform Keep Them Safe. Keep Them Safe is an effort to improve systems of child welfare and family support across multiple sectors by improving responses in early intervention and prevention, secondary services, statutory child protection, and the courts.

This paper reports on the findings of the multi-method evaluation, which involved a survey of the workforce with over 7,000 respondents; quantitative analysis of administrative data on population indicators of health,



educational outcomes and child safety; and economic and spatial analyses. It will outline the challenges of attributing impact to an intervention made up of many components, and the strategies we used to address these. More broadly, it will discuss the problems and prospects of large scale evaluation research, and the potentials and limitations of important approaches to impact evaluation (realist evaluation, experimental design) in messy, real world contexts.

### **John van Kooy, Dina Bowman**

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

#### **Given the chance: Asylum seekers and employment**

Recruitment practices in Australia tend to screen out migrant candidates based on limited local work experience, non-recognition of qualifications, and language issues. Disadvantage in the labour market is often understood as human capital 'deficiencies' (for example, low levels of 'employability' skills, qualifications, and experience). Asylum seekers face particular disadvantages in the labour market, such as mental health and trauma, fragmented social networks, and racism or cultural discrimination.

This paper draws on an exploratory study which examined the recent experiences of 20 asylum seekers looking for work in Australia and their interaction with not-for-profit employment service providers. Asylum seekers in this study were underutilised in the labour market: they were either unemployed or had found work in entry-level occupations that did not match skills and qualifications gained in their home countries.

The study highlights the importance of social capital and social resources in getting work, as well as the constraints created by the current immigration policy context and recruitment practices. This paper contributes to broader debates about the impacts of forced migration on labour market participation, and the efficacy of employment support services to such groups. Interviewees in this study had positive views about the employment support they had received from not-for-profit agencies. However, small-scale, 'special' programs have limited capacity to influence structural barriers that exist in the policy environment or functioning of the labour market.

### **Danielle Venn<sup>1</sup>, Michael Bittman<sup>2</sup>, Cathy Banwell<sup>1</sup>, Jane Dixon<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>University of New England

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Has the rise of the dual earner couple made Australians less healthy?**

Over the past thirty years, the dual earner couple has overtaken the male-breadwinner family to become the predominant family type in Australia, accounting for 68% of working couple families in 2012. As a result, combined paid working hours of households are increasing even though average working hours have remained relatively unchanged since the late 1990s. At the same time, Australia is experiencing an epidemic of obesity and obesity-related chronic disease. An emerging literature is pointing to time pressure as a key driver of health behaviours, such as healthy eating, physical activity and sleep, which can reduce the risk of obesity.

This paper uses data from the Australian Time Use Survey to examine how changes in working time at the household level are affecting participation in healthy behaviours. We use the unique features of time use data to look at both working time and healthy behaviour in their various dimensions – amount, timing over the day and week, and synchronicity between family members. We identify which working time arrangements allow families to maintain healthy behaviours when both partners work. Our results have implications for employment, participation and health policy.

### **Sharon Vincent**

Northumbria University

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms (lower ground floor)

#### **Early intervention: Supporting and strengthening vulnerable children and families in the UK**

Recent acute social and economic challenges have placed a huge strain on Children's Services in the UK. Local authorities face severe funding pressures and families are experiencing additional debt, housing and employment pressures. In times of austerity, there is a risk that already restrictive referral criteria might be tightened even further and that fewer children and families will be able to access the help and support they need. Within this context of public service cuts, resources have to be used more effectively and new, creative ways of working with children and families need to be developed.

Governments and assemblies across the UK, who are charged with the task of developing effective services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families, have all recognised the value of intervening early, both in terms of age of early support and at the onset of issues, rather than offering specialist support only once problems become complex and entrenched. Early Intervention is now a policy priority across the UK but there are significant variations in the approach being taken in different parts of the UK.

This presentation begins by comparing early intervention policy in England, Scotland and Wales. It then provides an example of promising practice in a local authority in England which has introduced a whole system and culture change within children's services. Data from the Evaluation of the Families Programme suggests that the Programme can result in hard, transformative outcomes for families and has the potential to result in considerable cost savings.

## W

### Charles Waldegrave

Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit

Wednesday 10.30-12.10, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### Contextualising trauma and resilience: Recovery responses

**Aim:** To present the results and conclusions of a trauma and resilience survey carried out during recovery work in Samoa immediately after the 2009 tsunami, follow-up work two years later in Samoa and after the Christchurch earthquakes.

**Content:** The Family Centre Psychosocial Unit response team was led by a Samoan woman Taimalieutu Kiwi Tamasese. The *asiasiga* approach was characterised by Samoan cultural protocols, extended family notions of wellbeing, spirituality and up-to-date international outcome research on resilience. Interview data was collected from 470 families from the villages directly impacted.

The results of a sub-sample of 198 youth aged 14 to 24 years who were separately surveyed are presented. The survey included questions from the Child Trauma Screening Questionnaire and these were set alongside other questions about wellness and recovery. A significant correlation between wellbeing and trauma was found. However, many of those who scored highly for trauma also scored highly on wellbeing measures, indicating that even

when experiencing trauma, individuals are able to maintain wellbeing. The 'double results' heighten the possibilities of enhancing resilient recovery responses from people with trauma symptoms.

Conclusion Resilience has been found to be an important factor in disaster recovery. These findings suggest that resilience factors often exist alongside experiences of trauma and these resilience factors can be drawn upon to help people deal with their trauma. In light of the increasing occurrence and intensity of disasters due to climate change, resilience factors may be crucial to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### Charles Waldegrave

Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

#### The impact of discrimination and abuse on wellbeing among older people

**Background:** Results from the first two waves of the New Zealand Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NZLSA) will be presented. The specific aim of this paper will be to explore the relationships between discrimination and abuse and health and wellbeing. Amartya Sen's capabilities approach has formed the conceptual basis of the theoretical framework of this research programme (Sen, 1999).

**Methods:** There was a national random sample of 3,317 older New Zealand citizens aged between 50 to 84 years in 2010 for wave 1 data. 3,015 participants were retained in 2012 for wave 2. Well tested scales were applied to provide data for statistical analysis. These included questions on discrimination (Everyday Discrimination Scale), abuse (Vulnerability to Abuse Screening Scale), health (SF-12, CES-D-10), wellbeing and quality of life measures (CASP 12, and WHOQoL 8).

**Results:** The results revealed significant associations between participants' experiences of discrimination and abuse and lower levels of health and wellbeing. We estimated linear regressions of health and wellbeing and the results showed a significant relationship for the whole model. The findings add weight to Sen's notion that human freedom and functional capability are at the centre of human wellbeing.

**Conclusions:** The results demonstrate the important negative associations discrimination and abuse have with health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they heighten the need to ensure victim/survivors are respected

and safe, and the importance of changing public awareness and attitudes to the vulnerability of older people to discrimination and abuse.

## Jie Wang

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### Have the effects of parents' SES on their child's educational opportunities changed since the implementation of Quality-Oriented Education Policy in China?

In the last two decades, the Chinese primary and secondary education policy has shifted from an emphasis on examinations to an emphasis on all-round development. The new policy is called Quality-Oriented Education (QOE). This paper examines the effects of parents' SES on their child's educational opportunities and assesses whether these effects have changed since the implementation of QOE. Under the new system, children spend fewer hours in school and have less homework, resulting in more time for extracurricular activities. The research examines whether, under these arrangements, parental resources have more effects on their children's extracurricular life. The paper uses data from the Chinese Family Panel Studies (2010 & 2012). The results show that when students move from junior high to regular senior high school, the positive effects of the father's ISEI and parent's education increase during the implementation of QOE, but do not significantly increase after QOE compared with before QOE. In addition, the effects on the opportunity for students to participate in higher education do not significantly change along with the implementation of QOE. Some of the insignificant results could be explained with the help of the Maximally Maintained Inequality Theory: for the educational expansion from the 1990s, the demand for regular senior high school is saturated for the upper class after QOE which could offset the effects since educational opportunities could trickle into the lower class. In addition, since the higher education resources are still very limited in China, the change in transition to higher education is insignificant.

## Diana Warren

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Monday 11.20-12.35, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

### Low income and poverty dynamics: Implications for NAPLAN outcomes

This article uses data from the first five waves of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) to examine the association between childhood poverty and children's test scores in Reading and Numeracy at the age of 8-9. Structural Equation Modelling is used to estimate the direct and indirect influence of poverty on these outcomes. The results show that both episodic and persistent poverty have significant negative influences on children's cognitive outcomes, particularly in the very early years of childhood. The negative influence of poverty is both direct and indirect, with the indirect influence mainly a result of differences in parental investment in cognitively stimulating activities and materials for their child.

## Andrew Wearing, Gemma Luckett

Mission Australia

Monday 13.35-15.15, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

### Socio-economic status and young Australians' aspirations, future plans and concerns

Every year, Mission Australia conducts its national Youth Survey, which asks young Australians about their current circumstances, values, concerns and aspirations. In 2014, 13,600 young people aged 15-19 responded to the survey. This report considers the results in terms of the socio-economic status (SES) of where young people were living according to low, moderate and high SES areas.

We found that young people living in low SES areas were more likely to consider that getting a job was important to them and also more likely to be concerned about bullying or emotional abuse. They were less likely to say that they planned to go to university or go on a gap year after school, but more likely to say they planned to enrol in TAFE or college, get an apprenticeship or get a job. While they considered a number of life aspirations to be of the same importance as young people in higher SES areas, young people in low SES areas were less likely to agree these would be achieved. They were also slightly less likely to agree that factors such as education, hard work, where they lived or family connections would influence their career opportunities. They were more likely to consider that

the economy and financial matters and employment were important issues facing Australia, and more likely to access community services for help with important issues. We consider the implications of these findings and discuss how young people's aspirations can be supported by schools, Government and service providers.

### **Don Weatherburn<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Schnepel<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Wednesday 13.10-14.50, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Economic adversity and crime: The old theories and new evidence**

In this article we make a case for the continuing relevance of economic adversity and social policy in the understanding and prevention of crime. We begin by discussing early theories positing a causal relationship between economic adversity and crime and examine the factors that have led to a loss of confidence in these theories. We then summarise two prominent strands of research investigating important indirect criminogenic effects of economic adversity. The first deals with the long-term impact of economic adversity on parenting. The second analyses the impact of economic adversity on crime through its effect on informal social controls within a community. Finally, we review recent empirical studies that use modern econometric techniques to explore the direct effects of economic adversity on crime, highlighting research focused on factors such as wages, employment, housing, and income support programs. The paper concludes by suggesting a number of areas for future research.

### **Ilan Weisel, Karen R. Fisher, Sandra Gendera**

UNSW

Tuesday 13.30-14.40, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **"Best move I've ever made": People with disability negotiating access to housing**

Securing affordable and suitable housing is often difficult for people with disability, even if they have the support they need to live independently in the community. The shortfall in supply of affordable and accessible housing has created a range of barriers in access to housing across all tenures. In this paper, we examine the stories of people with disability who were successful in negotiating and overcoming such systemic barriers, drawing on their own and family resources to seize rare opportunities and secure

housing that is affordable and meets their preferences and needs. The paper examines their stories to extract key barriers and success factors in access to housing, and consider the implications for housing and disability policies, in the context of transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

### **Peter Whiteford**

Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Tyree Room (first floor)

#### **Chronicle of a death foretold? Social security in Australia and the end of the age of entitlement**

Since the "crisis of the welfare state" of the 1970s, academic debate has focused on the "new politics of the welfare state" (Pierson, 1996) and the politics of "permanent austerity" (Pierson 2001), identifying the range of mechanisms by which governments sought to retrench spending as well as the barriers to restructuring and the facilitators of change.

In the Australian context, Graycar (1983) framed Australian developments from the mid-1970s onwards as "a retreat from the welfare state", a characterisation variously disputed and supported by a range of scholars, including Saunders (1994, 2002) and Mendes (2008). It is notable, however, that in his comprehensive review of "radical welfare state retrenchment", Starke (2007) makes absolutely no mention of Australia.

This paper analyses developments in the Australian welfare state from the time of the Whitlam Government (1972-1975) to the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government (2007-2013). The paper looks at trends in the level and composition of social spending, the numbers and characteristics of recipients, the design features of programmes as well as the impact of the welfare state on poverty and inequality.

The paper then considers the directions set out in the first two Budgets of the Abbott Government. Even though many of the directions set out since 2013 have not been implemented, the 2014 Budget speech and earlier and subsequent statements by the Treasurer suggest a significant shift in official rhetoric about welfare. The paper concludes with a discussion of the constraints likely to be faced by those seeking to retrench Australian welfare institutions.



## **Peter Whiteford, Bingqin Li, Tristan Kenderdine**

Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Monday 15.45-17.15, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

### **The evolution of China's pension system**

As in other parts of the world, China is facing the challenge of an ageing population. According to projections by the UN, the number of Chinese aged 65 and over will rise from 132 million in 2015 to 331 million by 2050, while the number aged 15-64 will fall from 1 billion to 849 million. That will cause the ratio of those aged 65 and over to those aged 15-64 to rise from 13 per cent in 2015 to 39 per cent by 2050.

In response to this challenge, China continues to reform its social security system, aiming to create a unified scheme covering public and private sector workers, and extending coverage to the rural population. Public pension expenditure is currently around 3% of GDP, but will grow significantly as a result of population ageing. The sustainability of the system is under question, however, reflecting issues in system design and administration, including factors such as the relatively early retirement age, the use of individual accounts to pay for the pensions of current retirees and low rates of return for pension funds. This paper documents and analyses the continuing development of the Chinese social security system between the 1980s and 2015 and assesses the impact of past and proposed reforms on the sustainability of the system.

## **Courtney Williamson, Summer Wang, Anil Kumar**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G8 (ground floor)

### **Measuring multiple socioeconomic disadvantage at the household level**

To understand societal wellbeing, it is essential to know how many people are disadvantaged, who and where they are, and the nature of their disadvantage (Scuttella, Wilkins and Horn, 2009). ABS' commitment to measuring disadvantage includes the widely used Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) built from Census data. However, the ABS also collects a wide range of other indicators of poverty and inequality through its household survey program and has started to explore multiple social disadvantage to understand the nature, severity and depth of

disadvantage at a finer unit level. Data from the ABS General Social Survey (GSS) is used for this study.

The GSS covers a broad range of socio-economic variables such as income, education, labour force participation, health, homelessness, crime, neighbourhood safety, family relationships, financial stress, community participation and wealth, which allow investigation of the interrelationships between indicators. Using this information, different domains of disadvantage are identified and methods of combining the data to compute a single or composite index are explored. Both simple and refined methods of index construction are examined. Using weights derived from principal components analysis, an overall index of disadvantage is constructed. An analysis of the derived index is undertaken in terms of its distribution and validation across a range of variables.

The paper ends with a discussion on the issues and challenges faced in constructing a household level index of disadvantage using sample data and further research into the refinements to the methodology and validation of the constructed index.

## **Melissa Wong<sup>1</sup>, Gill Main<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, <sup>2</sup>University of Leeds

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Civil Engineering, Room G6 (ground floor)

### **Youth unemployment in Australia and the UK**

Since the global financial crisis, youth unemployment has been a pressing issue in many countries. In Australia, official statistics show that unemployment rates for those aged 15 to 24 years reached its peak of 14 percent in 2014 – the highest rate in the last ten years and more than double the overall unemployment rate of around 6 percent. Similarly in the UK, the unemployment rates of young people aged 16 to 24 years has been reported at around 16 percent in 2014. Faced with a weak labour market, young people in both countries are finding it harder to find and maintain a first job. In particular, disadvantaged youth lacking basic education who were finding it hard to attain employment before the global financial crisis are now at an even higher risk of being left behind. This paper examines the characteristics of young people in Australia and the UK who were unemployed and not in employment, education or training (NEET) during the period following the global financial crisis. These groups of young people are compared across the two countries in terms of individual, household and employment characteristics. Specific attention will focus on

young people who were unemployed and NEET for long periods of time and those who received social security payments and other forms of government cash assistance. This paper uses quantitative data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey and Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study covering the period from 2009 to 2013.

**Sharon Wright<sup>1</sup>, Peter Dwyer<sup>2</sup>, Alasdair Stewart<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Glasgow, <sup>2</sup>University of York

Monday 13.35-15.15, Civil Engineering, Room G1 (ground floor)

#### **Conditional citizenship: Have sanctions replaced support in the British welfare system?**

British welfare reforms over the past 15 years have increasingly focussed on behaviour change in order to move recipients 'off benefits and into work'. Changes to social security policy and support services for a wide range of groups have become re-orientated towards conditionality, meaning that behavioural requirements have been increased at the same time as cash benefits and support have been reduced, capped or removed entirely. Since 2010, the UK Coalition government have prioritised the principle of cost-cutting over the previously important principles of meeting needs or earned entitlement and instead based sanctions at the heart of the welfare system. Universal Credit (a new benefit replacing six existing benefits for working age people 2013-17) signifies a new welfare settlement, with sanctions being applied to new groups including the partners of claimants and those who are in-work. Under Universal Credit, the right to claim benefits is conditional upon a 'Claimant Commitment' to intensive job search requirements (usually 35 hours per week) on threat of sanctions (of up to three years). Those in work, who would previously have claimed Working Tax Credit, now face sanctions if they do not increase their hours of work and pay. In this paper, we examine the impact of these changes for different user groups and investigate the extent to which sanctions have replaced support. We draw on in-depth qualitative data from a major new ESRC-funded research project on 'Welfare conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change'.

#### **Fred Wulczyn**

Chapin Hall Centre for Children, University of Chicago

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 1 (ground floor)

#### **Placement stability within the Pathways Study sample**

This paper, examining Wave 1 and 2 of the POCLS, will give us the child's developmental status at the time of the interviews. These data need to be set alongside the child's placement trajectory. The first step is to model the placement trajectory from the interview forward while controlling for the number and type of prior moves. The placement trajectory is defined as the timing, sequence, and duration of placement events. From a policy perspective and practice perspective, placement instability has an impact on child wellbeing. Reducing instability is a core task facing foster carers and social workers. The study of placement moves forms the basis of interventions designed to prevent unnecessary moves (i.e. treatment planning). The results will tell us who moves the most (including age, type of placement, number of prior moves, reason for placement, Aboriginal status, kin/non-kin placement type and gender). We will also explore whether children change levels of care during their placement spell.

#### **Y**

#### **Xiong Yang**

Institute of Sociology, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Tuesday 10.50-12.30, Scientia, Gallery 2 (ground floor)

#### **Developing universal child welfare: A case study of Shanghai**

The article will examine child welfare policies through an analysis of Shanghai, a large developed city in China. It focuses on three important issues: first, a change of policy goal, from poverty alleviation to a more positive, developmental-oriented goal, which focuses on all children's development and investment in future human resources. Second, the child welfare regime is changing from a residual model to a universal model. Third, in order to achieve the first two changes, the policy making process has incorporated an evidence-based scientific approach. The main research methods are document analysis and a case study of Shanghai's child welfare policy and practice. The research suggests that appropriate management of child welfare issues requires the establishment of child welfare departments at central, provincial and local levels.

## Peng Yu

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Tuesday 13.30-14.45, Scientia, Ronald Lu & HK Alumni Rooms  
(lower ground floor)

### School enrolment and attendance of Indigenous children: An analysis using Footprints in Time data

This paper uses the first five waves of Footprints in Time: the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children to analyse the incidence and the key determinants of school enrolment and attendance among Indigenous children. It shows that non-enrolment generally is not a big concern; virtually all the study children were enrolled in school by age six or seven. However, delay in enrolment is associated with some lasting socioeconomic disadvantages such as poor parental education and non-employment, poor family income and reliance on government benefits, and household with multiple children.

School attendance among the Indigenous children is more challenging than enrolment. Up to 19 per cent of the study children were absent from school at least one day in the week prior to interview. The reasons appear complex and related to short-term factors such as child health, sleeping issues and family financial difficulties. This research highlights the importance of school related factors such as relationships with teachers and peers.

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