

An Inclusive Society? Practicalities and Possibilities

8-10 July 2009

Chinese Social Policy
Pre-conference Workshop

7 July 2009

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

University of New South Wales, Sydney

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Welcome



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

This is the 11th ASPC, and the SPRC has been staging this conference for over 20 years. In these days of financial straits it is gratifying that so many people are still attending the conference and our numbers continue to hold up. That is an indication of the fact that the ASPC is the primary event in the social policy calendar. Since the last conference the social policy context in Australia has changed considerably. The election of the Rudd government and the global financial crisis have both had significant impacts on the way we think about social policy in Australia, and I am sure this will be reflected in the conference presentations and discussions.

As usual we have a wonderful mix of keynote presentations, paper sessions and forums, as well as extra events and, of course, a full social calendar. Of particular significance is the official launch of the Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA) which I would urge you to join. This is a key new development in Australia, and it is another important step towards raising the profile of Social Policy not only as an academic discipline but also as recognition of the need to bring together academics and policymakers. Unlike the UK SPA or the USA APPAM, the ASPA will not confine its membership to academics but will engage with social policy stakeholders from all sectors. This is also the strength of the ASPC, which contains presentations from policy makers, NGOs and practitioners, as well as researchers.

I would like to acknowledge the organisations that have provided us with financial support, making this year's conference possible. Our thanks are extended to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences here at the University of New South Wales and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), both of who are providing the major sponsorships for this event. The Conference Dinner has been sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and we have also received sponsorship from the Australian Government Department of Human Services, the NSW Department of Health, the NSW Department of Housing, the Australian

Institute of Family Studies, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Mission Australia and The Benevolent Society. The Chinese Social Policy Workshop has also been supported by the UNSW Confucius Institute. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by AusAID towards international delegate travel.

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

The theme of this year's conference is *An Inclusive Society: Practicalities and Possibilities*. Our three keynote speakers will provide different perspectives on this important topic. Naomi Eisenstadt, Director of the Social Exclusion Task Force in the UK, will discuss the UK experience of tackling disadvantage across the life course and between generations. Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from the Australian Human Rights Commission will discuss social inclusion for the most marginalised groups in Australia – Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders – and Professor Ann Orloff from Northwestern University in Chicago will discuss conflicts in the pursuit of gender equality between supporting women as full-time caregivers and requiring employment for all.

These promise to be three very stimulating and fascinating presentations, all of whom will add to our understanding of inclusion and how best to promote it.

The task of organising the conference was shared by many of the Centre's staff and they are listed elsewhere in the program. I would just like here to highlight those with overall responsibility for putting together the program – the intellectual content of the conference. They are Bruce Bradbury, Tony Eardley and Lyn Craig, plus Deb Brennan who organised the refereed paper stream. Once again we would also like to extend our thanks to the team at the Hotel Network who have assisted with the practical business of organising the conference; their work and professionalism has been crucial to the smooth running of the event. All those involved deserve our thanks for the time and effort that they have put in to ensure that we can all get the best out of the next three days.

We hope that you will find the 2009 Australian Social Policy Conference stimulating and enjoyable.

Professor Ilan Katz

Conference theme

How can we build an inclusive society? This theme is a topic of growing importance in social policy – and one that is central to the stated aims of the current Labor Government. At a time of global economic insecurity, exacerbated by the challenges of climate change, how do we create a society that is both socially and economically inclusive within its own borders and actively engaged with its regional neighbours to promote a wider form of global inclusiveness? The current realities, the possibilities and the practical challenges involved in meeting these goals will be discussed by plenary and forum speakers, and taken up in contributed papers.

Marking the increasing engagement of Australia with Asia, the conference this year will be preceded on 7 July by a one-day workshop on Chinese Social Policy.

About the Social Policy Research Centre

The Social Policy Research Centre is a research centre of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. The Centre was established in 1980 to conduct research on all aspects of social policy - to disseminate research findings, to promote research training through PhD study and to contribute to policy development. Our mission is to conduct and disseminate policy relevant social research that extends the highest standards of excellence. The Centre's research is funded by governments at both Commonwealth and State levels, by academic grant bodies and by non-governmental agencies.

Our main topics of enquiry are: poverty, social inequality and standards of living; the role of households and families in meeting social need; work, employment and welfare reform; the organisation and delivery of human services; locality and geography in social needs; support services and community well-being; early interventions in child protection; disability, ageing and retirement; housing policies and services; issues affecting Indigenous and CALD populations; caring and carers: drugs and crime; the politics of social policy and its institutions; and Asian, in particular Chinese, social policy.

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

General information

REGISTRATION DESK

Registration for the conference will take place in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia building for the duration of the conference.

INFORMATION

For general enquiries about the conference and any special needs, please contact the Hotel Network staff at the Registration Desk. There will also be an SPRC Help Desk in the foyer of the Central Lecture Block (CLB). Centre staff can be recognised by red registration ID lanyards.

LOCATION OF THEATRES

The Plenary Sessions will be held in Leighton Hall (in the Scientia Building) and all of the concurrent sessions will be held in the Central Lecture Block (CLB). Forums will take place in CLB theatre 6, plus the Galleries (Scientia building). The locations are shown on the map following this section.

DISABILITY ACCESS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS/MESSAGES

A board is located in the Scientia for participant messages, media contacts and for information about program changes and special events.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Journalists may wish to contact paper contributors during the conference. The University's Media Office, with help from designated SPRC staff, will handle liaison with media. Please make regular checks of the Press Contacts section of the message board in the Scientia foyer. Rooms are available for media interviews. Please speak to staff at the registration desk for further information.

RECEPTION

A welcome reception will be held in the foyer of the Scientia Building from 5.45 to 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8 July.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS/LUNCHESES

Coffee/tea will be available during registration in The Scientia Building foyer and Tyree Room. Lunches will also take place in these rooms. Excess or unused food will be collected on a daily basis by OzHarvest and distributed to charity.

CONFERENCE DINNER

We are pleased to announce that the Conference Dinner this year is sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The dinner will be held at WatersEdge Restaurant (Ground Floor, Pier One, 11 Hickson Road Walsh Bay) on Thursday 9 July from 7.20pm. Complimentary buses will leave from the various hotels from 7.00pm (see dinner ticket for details) to the University Campus (Gate 9) and arrive at the dinner venue at approximately 7.20. Buses will return to the campus (Gate 9) and hotels at 11.00pm. The dinner will cost \$100.00 per head and includes three courses, coffee and drinks. Please book with the Hotel Network staff at registration as soon as possible.

AIRPORT BUS

Two 42-seater complimentary buses will transport people to the airport at the conclusion of the conference. The buses will leave from Gate 9, High Street at 3.45pm and 4.15pm, arriving at the Domestic Terminals at approximately 4.15pm and 4.45pm. Please reserve your seat at the registration desk on registration. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

TAXIS

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

PARKING

There is limited parking space on campus via Gate 11 on Botany Street. It is advisable to take public transport. To find out about getting to and from UNSW Campuses, visit <http://www.transport.unsw.edu.au/>. For more information about parking on campus please visit <http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/fm-assist/parking/>.

TELEPHONES

Public phones are available in the foyer of the Scientia Building and outside the CLB.

MOBILE PHONES

If you have a mobile phone, please ensure that it is on silent while you are attending conference sessions. Paper presenters are reminded to leave a mobile phone number at the registration desk and are encouraged to check it between sessions in case of potential media contact.

PHOTOCOPYING

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

COMPUTERS/INTERNET CONNECTIONS

Some computers are available in the speakers' preparation area in the Tyree room within the Scientia. Wireless network access for your own computer is available if you registered for this prior to the conference. More information is available from the registration or information desks.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

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

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Please help us to keep the Australian Social Policy Conference continually improving by completing the evaluation sheet provided in your conference satchel. Please drop the completed sheet in the box at the registration desk before you leave.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The practical management of the conference has again been contracted out to the Hotel Network Ltd. Within the SPRC, it has been organised by Melissa Roughley, Bruce Bradbury, Tony Eardley and Lyn Craig, with help from Juanita Vargas, Duncan Aldridge, Kathy Tannous, Bettina Cass, Carol Sullivan and David Cami. The refereed paper stream was organised by Deborah Brennan with assistance from Saul Flaxman, and the organisers thank the external reviewers for their time. The forums were organised by Peter Whiteford, Bruce Bradbury and Tony Eardley.

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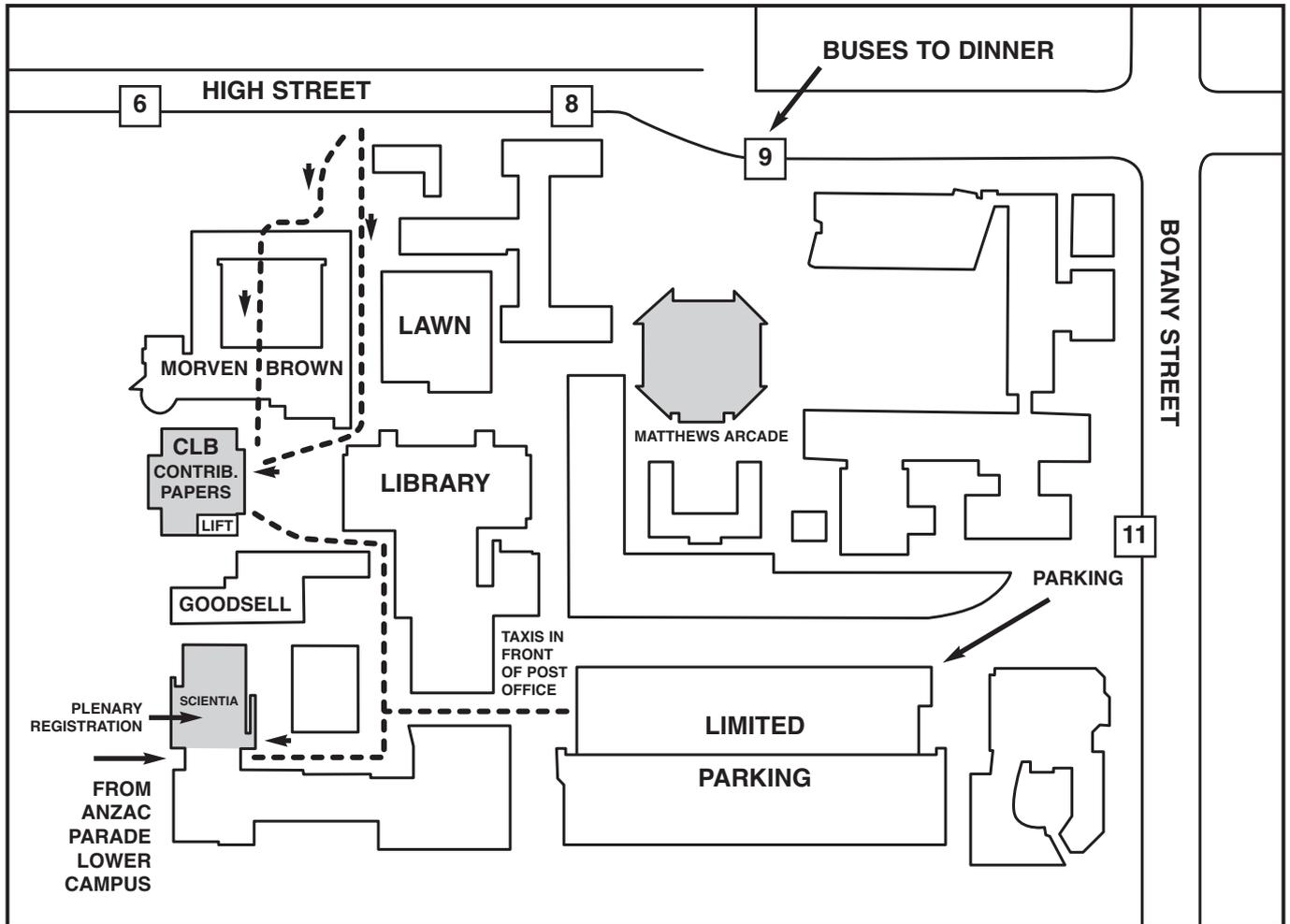
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Conference venues



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

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

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

Program at a glance

Tuesday 7 July		
9:00am	Chinese Social Policy Workshop	Matthews Arcade room
Wednesday 8 July		
9:30am	Registration	Scientia foyer
10:30am	Morning tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
11:00am	OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION Welcome to Country: Uncle Norm Newlin, Eora nation elder Welcome: Professor Fred Hilmer (Vice-Chancellor, UNSW) Opening Address: Her Excellency The Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce Plenary Address: Naomi Eisenstadt	Leighton Hall
12:30pm	Lunch	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
1:30pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:00pm	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
3:30pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
5.45pm – 7.00pm	Reception and launch of Australian Social Policy Association	Scientia foyer
Thursday 9 July		
9:30am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
11:00am	Morning tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
11:30am	PLENARY SESSION – Tom Calma	Leighton Hall
12:30pm	Lunch	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
1:30pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:30pm	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
4:00pm	FORUMS • The challenges for social policy in financial crisis and recession • Planning and delivering services in hard times	Scientia Galleries CLB 6
7:00pm	Buses leave for dinner	Hotels and Gate 9, UNSW
7:20pm	Dinner	WatersEdge, Walsh Bay
11:00pm	Buses return to hotels and UNSW	
Friday 10 July		
9:30am	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
11:00am	Morning tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
11:30am	PLENARY SESSION – Professor Ann Shola Orloff	Leighton Hall
12:30pm	Lunch	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
2:00pm	CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	CLB 1-8
3:30pm	Afternoon tea	Scientia foyer and Tyree room
4:00pm	Conference closes	
4:15pm	Buses depart for airport	Outside Gate 9

Keynote speakers

Wednesday 11:00am – 12:30pm, Leighton Hall



NAOMI EISENSTADT CB *Director, UK Social Exclusion Task Force*

UK experience of tackling complex disadvantage

Naomi Eisenstadt will be presenting the UK experience of tackling social exclusion. The theme for this talk will be the intergenerational transfer of disadvantage. In particular, she will describe the role of the Social Exclusion Task Force, and some of its most recent projects: the effect of place on young people's aspirations, women in the criminal justice system, and the Public Service Agreement on socially excluded adults. She will use these pieces of work to explore two key approaches to reducing disadvantage: systems reform and evidence based interventions including some examples of successful examples of both approaches. Finally she will finish her talk with two key challenges: working across government departments with differing priorities and organisational cultures; and the challenge of diversity: what has to be the same nationally and what should be left to local government, and indeed local neighbourhoods to decide for themselves.

Thursday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Leighton Hall



TOM CALMA *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner Australian Human Rights Commission*

Including the marginalised – social inclusion and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

'By almost any measure, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be considered to be at the margins of Australian society. We are over –represented against all indicators of social and economic disadvantage. We lack a national representative voice and we are subject to policies and practices over which we have little say. Many of us live in regional, rural and remote locations with limited access to services and support.'

Commissioner Calma will discuss the challenges and the opportunities for including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian institutions of governance and decision-making. His presentation will describe practices that facilitate social inclusion. He will also review policies and practices that must be changed if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are to have equal access to the opportunities available in Australian society.

Friday, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Leighton Hall



PROFESSOR ANN ORLOFF *Professor of Sociology, Gender Studies and Political Science at Northwestern University USA, and Chair of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 19*

Farewell to maternalism? State policies, feminist politics and mothers' employment

In much of the developed world, we are in the midst of what might be called a "farewell to maternalism," a change in the gendered logic of our system of social provision from supporting women as full-time caregivers (in households headed by breadwinning men or as single mothers) to requiring and supporting employment for all. Today, in many welfare states, motherhood no longer offers a basis for making entitlement claims unless accompanied by employment, whatever its considerable remaining cultural and political-discursive power. Systems of social provision and regulation are being restructured to encourage "activation" and economic self-sufficiency. This is an epochal shift in social policy, politics and gender relations. In this paper, I aim to describe and to explain this shift; to understand its implications for future policy possibilities; and to assess the gains and losses for feminism in maternalist policy and in the employment-based policies that have replaced it. Many feminists have argued persuasively that to advance toward greater gender egalitarianism, we should pursue policies that will help to bring into being, and support, greater gender equality in the allocation and performance of carework and paid employment: a dual earner/dual carer society. Other feminists continue to champion the project of valorizing carework and motherhood, combating masculinist assumptions in social policy; this might be thought of as an attempt to rethink and update maternalism. I assess these alternative goals from the perspective of long-standing feminist debates about emancipatory projects based on "sameness" and "difference," how we can get beyond the well-known limitations of both, and perhaps find ways to overcome this dilemma.

Forum sessions

Thursday 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

The challenges for social policy in financial crisis and recession

Scientia Galleries

Chair: Peter Whiteford
(Social Policy Research Centre)

Wayne Vroman
– *Senior Fellow, Urban Institute*

Bob Gregory
– *Emeritus Professor of economics, ANU*

John Quiggin
– *ARC Federation Fellow, University of Queensland (via video link)*

Clare Martin
– *CEO, Australian Council of Social Services*

Planning and delivering services in hard times

CLB 6

Chair: Kristy Muir
(Social Policy Research Centre)

Lorna Hallahan
– *School of Social Work, Flinders University South Australia*

Monsignor David Cappo
– *Chair of the Social Inclusion Board of South Australia and Vice Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board*

David Thompson
– *Chief Executive Officer, Jobs Australia*

Special event

LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 8 July, Conference Reception 5.45pm, Scientia Foyer

In 2007 delegates at the Australian Social Policy Conference were invited to a meeting to discuss setting up an Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA). This has been taken forward and the Australian Social Policy Association will be launched at the conference reception by Serena Wilson from FaHCSIA.

Special sessions

MEASURING SOCIAL IMPACT: THE STATE OF EVALUATION IN AUSTRALIA FROM NON-PROFIT PERSPECTIVE

Wednesday 8 July, 1:30pm-3:00pm, CLB 8

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Thursday 9 July, 1.30pm - 3.30 pm, CLB 8

Violence against women is examined from three contemporary perspectives, with original presentations by experienced practitioners, activists and researchers:

- Lesley Laing, founding Director of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, presents her research about the interface between domestic violence and mental illness
- Betty Green, convenor and co-founder of the NSW Domestic Violence Committee Coalition, advocates for systemic responses to prevent domestic violence homicides
- Ludo McFerran, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, and Robyn Edwards, Social Policy Research Centre, discuss the groundbreaking research *Staying Home Leaving Violence*, and strategies to prevent homelessness for women and children when leaving domestic violence

Gaby Marcus, Clearinghouse Director, will open the session and provide an Australian context for the presentations.

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Friday 10 July, 9.30-11.00am, CLB 1

DISABILITY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Friday 10 July, 2.00-3.30pm, CLB breakout space

The session has been arranged to discuss the development of an Australian disability research agenda. The session will build on the discussions from the Disability Studies Conference, Australia.

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The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is Australia's official statistical agency. It provides statistics on a wide range of economic, environmental and social matters, covering government, business and the population in general. It also has an important leadership and coordination function with respect to the statistical activities of other official bodies, both in Australia and overseas.



The full range of ABS publications and products are made available FREE via the ABS website. Visit www.abs.gov.au now or call our National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 to discuss your data requirements.



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Australian Institute of Family Studies

A proud sponsor of the Australian Social Policy Conference 2009

The Australian Institute of Family Studies seeks to increase understanding of factors affecting how families function by conducting research and communicating findings to policy-makers, service providers, and the broader community.

Established in February 1980 under the *Australian Family Law Act 1975*, the Institute is an Australian Government statutory agency in the portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Institute's research program is guided by the Research Plan 2009–2012 and includes major projects that are managed under contract for the Australian Government such as *Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)* and the Evaluation of the Family Law Reforms.

Information on AIFS research, publications and activities is available on the website at:
www.aifs.gov.au

Mark your diary!

The 11th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference will be held 7–9 July, 2010 in Melbourne

To be hosted in 2010 at the new Melbourne Convention Centre, the biennial AIFS conference is the ideal event to complement the Australian Social Policy Conference.

Further details on the 11th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference will be available soon.

www.aifs.gov.au

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The **Human Services Portfolio** is about people and the services we may need at different stages of our lives. It consists of the Department of Human Services (DHS)—including the Child Support Agency and CRS Australia—and the Human Services agencies, Centrelink, Medicare Australia and Australian Hearing.

The Department of Human Services provides a central policy and coordination role for the delivery of services across the Portfolio as well as being the delivery agency for child support and vocational rehabilitation services. The Department and the Human Services agencies work to improve government social and health-related services to all Australians. The Department directs, coordinates and brokers improvements to policy on service delivery and service delivery reform across Human Services agencies from a whole-of-government perspective.

By providing advice on service delivery policy and programs the Department has brought about more effective and efficient delivery of a wide range of services in the areas of social inclusion, health, families and income support. In 2008–09, its work contributed to improved service delivery for a range of Australians, including the homeless, the sick, children, seniors, Indigenous Australians, same-sex couples and farmers affected by drought.



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

The Benevolent Society is a non-religious, not-for-profit organisation with nearly 200 years of experience of working to bring about positive change in communities.



Helping vulnerable people is our core work, with a focus on quality service delivery and evidence-based practice, supported by research and evaluation.

Conducting research helps us to grow our knowledge about social issues and find better solutions for clients and communities. Evaluation helps to ensure our services are making a positive difference to people's lives.

We influence social policy by mobilising a broad section of the community around social issues, working together to bring about positive change. Our purpose is to create caring and inclusive communities and a just society.

www.bensoc.org.au

Chinese Social Policy Workshop

Tuesday 7 July		
8.00am	Registration	
9.00am	WELCOME – Richard Henry	Chair: Xiaoyuan Shang
9.30am	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW – Peter Saunders	
10:30am	Morning tea	
11:00am	SOCIAL SECURITY AND POVERTY	Chair: Ilan Katz
	Sustaining pension reform in China – Peter Whiteford and Xin Yi	
	Features of a social policy framework and development strategy of social welfare in China – Liu Jitong	
	Social inclusion in Taiwan: a preliminary subjective investigation under the framework of social quality – Lih-Rong Wang	
12.00pm	DISCUSSION	
12:30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	OLDER PEOPLE	Chair: Megan Blaxland
	The absent role of the state: analysis of social support to older people with disability in rural China – Karen Fisher, Xiaoyuan Shang and Li Zhengang	
	A profile of aged population in China: results from 2000 and 2006 sample surveys of the aged population in urban/rural China – Guo Ping and Liu Fang	
2.10pm	DISCUSSION	
2.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3.00pm	SOCIAL SERVICES	Chair: Peter Whiteford
	Empowerment for people with disabilities (rights-based programmes for PWDs) – Tingyu Wang	
	Child protection systems in rural China: interagency responses – Ilan Katz, Yahua Zhang and Xiaoyuan Shang	
3.40pm	DISCUSSION	
4.00pm	FUTURE RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES	Chair: Karen Fisher
5.00pm	CLOSING SUMMARY	Chair: Xiaoyuan Shang
5.30pm	Drinks	

Background

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

Chinese, Australian and other international researchers and government and nongovernment officials engaged in current research in China or with an interest in developing that research agenda will present and attend the workshop. Simultaneous interpreting is available. The expected outcome will be the formation of networks of academics, post-graduate candidates and officials to further the conclusions from the workshop. Peer reviewed papers from the workshop will be published in an international special issue journal.

Full program

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

(Leighton Hall)

Plenary Session

Opening Session

Chair: Ilan Katz, SPRC

Welcome to country

Uncle Norm Newlin, Eora nation elder

Welcome

Professor Fred Hilmer AO

Vice-chancellor and President, UNSW

Opening Address

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

UK experience of tackling complex disadvantage

Naomi Eisenstadt

Director of the Social Exclusion Task Force, UK Cabinet Office

12:30 pm to 1:30pm Lunch

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

(CLB 1)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Relationship breakdown and women's incomes

Chair: Roger Patulny

[R] The 'quintessential problem debtor'? Mother-led households in economic hard times

Maureen Baker

University of Auckland

The effect of relationship breakdown on poverty and social exclusion: the impact of stability of income and control over household expenditure

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

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

Addressing abused women's financial security: securing safer outcomes

Rochelle Braaf and Emily Hamilton

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, UNSW

(CLB 2)

Children, young people and families

Child support and family well-being

Chair: Ching Choi

Patterns of post-separation parenting, family dynamics and family wellbeing among separated parents registered with the Child Support Agency: a pre-reform snapshot and plan for post-reform investigation

Bruce Smyth, Bryan Rodgers, Jeremy Temple, Marian Esler and Allan Shephard (CSA)

Australian National University; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; and Child Support Agency

[R] The use of child support money in meeting housing costs.

Kristin Natalier

School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania

Private collect arrangements and child support

Maria Vnuk

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

(CLB 3)

Identity, diversity and citizenship

Framing the debate on politics and ideology

Chair: Lyn Craig

[R] 'Beyond left and right' or 'the end of ideology'? Comparing two discourses

Denise Thompson

Social Policy Research Centre

Social inclusion/exclusion: a faulty paradigm for a strong welfare state?

Ruth Phillips

University of Sydney

Gay treachery and the punishment of queers

David Patricia Abelló

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 4)

Housing, place and the environment

Homelessness, mental health and disability

Chair: Kristy Muir

Are the homeless mentally ill?

Guy Johnson and Chris Chamberlain

RMIT University

What policy approaches are needed to ensure that people with psychiatric disabilities have access to appropriate housing?

Sam Battams

Flinders University of South Australia

Facilitators and barriers in Australian disability housing and support policies: using a human rights framework

Sarah Parker and Karen Fisher

Department of Disability & Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Note: The symbol [R] before a paper title means that it has been accepted via a full-paper refereeing process.

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

(CLB 5)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

Taxes and transfers

Chair: Trish Hill

[R] A generation of change, a lifetime of difference? Model lifetime analysis of changes in the British Welfare State since 1979

Martin Evans and Lewis Williams
Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford

Applying gender equality to the Australian tax transfer system

Helen Hodgson
ATAX, UNSW

Australian tax-transfer policy in comparative perspective

Peter Whiteford
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 6)

Children, young people and families

School entry

Chair: Jennifer Skattebol

Does it matter at what age children start school in Australia? Investigating the effects of school starting age on six-year old children's outcomes

Ben Edwards, Mario Fiorini and Matt Taylor
Australian Institute of Family Studies and University of Technology, Sydney

Child care influences on children's adjustment and achievement in the first year of school

Jennifer Bowes, Linda Harrison, Alan Taylor, Naomi Sweller and Catherine Neilsen-Hewett
Institute of Early Childhood

Home to school transitions for financially disadvantaged children: findings from Growing up in Australia, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

Diana Smart, Ann Sanson, Jenny Baxter, Ben Edwards and Alan Hayes
Australian Institute of Family Studies and University of Melbourne

(CLB 8)

Organisation and delivery of human services

Panel discussion on measuring social impact

Chair: Annette Michaux

Measuring social impact: the state of evaluation in Australia from a non-profit perspective

Annette Michaux and Rob Simons
The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family

3:00pm to 3:30pm Afternoon tea

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

(CLB 1)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Disability and social exclusion

Chair: Karen Fisher

The geography of disability and economic disadvantage

Louise O'Rance
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Disability and community life: does regional living enhance social participation?

Samara McPhedran
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Social inclusion among young people with a disability

Peng Yu
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Inclusion is ... / inclusion is not...: the lived experience for people with disabilities

Josey McMahon
Queenslanders with Disability Network

(CLB 2)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

Employment services

Chair: Elizabeth Adamson

The wheel turns again – recession, long term unemployment and public policy

Peter Davidson
Australian Council of Social Service and post-graduate student, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Flexibility and regulation: 10 years of Job Network frontline services

Siobhan O'Sullivan, Mark Considine and Jenny Lewis
University of Melbourne

Employment services for tough times

Louise Ward
Job Futures

'It's easier to be a policeman than an unlocker of dreams': successful employment strategies in a deeply excluded area

Julia Perry and Frances Jamieson

(CLB 3)

Children, young people and families

Early intervention, child rights and community care

Chair: Fiona Hilferty

Partnerships to develop early intervention and prevention: the Let's Start project in urban, regional and remote contexts of the NT

Gary Robinson*, Yomei Jones*, Kate McGuinness*, Stephen R Zubrick** and, Sven R Silburn***
*Charles Darwin University; **Curtin University of Technology and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, ***Menzies School of Health Research.*

Full program

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

The Brighter Futures program in New South Wales – interim findings

Kathy Tannous, Fiona Hilferty and Megan Griffiths
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Rights of children and kinship foster care in China

Xiaoyuan Shang and Morris Saldov
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Self-directed care and individual budgets: transforming provider-centred service systems to person-centred systems in community care

Vern Hughes
National Federation of Parents, Families and Carers

(CLB 4)

Children, young people and families

Early childhood, health and development

Chair: Deborah Brennan

Whom do we reach? Exploring health and community service use by Australian families with young children

Tamara Blakemore and Megan Shipley
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

[R] Tensions and challenges in Australia's early years field: views from the inside

Natasha Cortis and Brian Head
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW and the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland

Identifying high quality centre-based childcare using quantitative data sets: what the numbers do and don't tell us

Marianne Fenech, Naomi Sweller and Linda Harrison
Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University and Charles Sturt University

Maternal employment and overweight children: an Australian study

Anna Zhu
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 5)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Thinking about social inclusion

Chair: Pooja Sawrikar

Transformative or a new hegemonic discourse?

Kay Turner
SDN Child and Family Services

Resisting 'class'-based distinctions in a 'classless' society? Talking to New Zealanders about social citizenship

Louise Humpage
University of Auckland

Perspectives from below the ceiling: conceptualising gender inequality in higher education leadership in the context of change.

Joanne Pyke
Victoria University

Deservingness: perceptions of who has gained in Australia's new welfare state

Shaun Wilson, Gabrielle Meagher and Kerstin Hermes
Macquarie University, University of Sydney, Macquarie University

(CLB 6)

Children, young people and families

Young people's perspectives and experiences

Chair: kyli valentine

I'm just helping out the family: profiling hidden young carers

Cathy Thomson, Trish Hill, Ciara Smyth and Bettina Cass
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Young people's experiences of economic adversity

Jen Skattebol and Megan Griffiths
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

"Shit that normal people do": using young peoples' voices to create a qualitative scale for measuring young peoples' progress in treatment

Mandy Wilson, Sherry Saggars, Helen Wildy and Carmen Acosta
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, University of Western Australia and Mission Australia

Young people and the juvenile justice system: a research, policy and practice disconnect?

Jioji Ravulo, Anne Hampshire and Prue Burns
Mission Australia

(CLB 8)

Children, young people and families

Work and family

Chair: Bina Gubhaju

Struggling to keep the balance: work-life experience of Australian mothers in paid work between 2000 and 2005

Ibolya Losoncz
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

[R] 'The policeman and the part-time sales assistant': household labour supply, family time and subjective time pressure in Australia 1997-2006

Lyn Craig and Killian Mullan
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Investing in working families: which policies promote the best balance of time and money for parents and children?

Michael Bittman and Jenny Chalmers
University of New England

International work-family policies: what do they mean for Australia?

Jennifer Baxter, Jennifer Renda and Matthew Gray
Australian Institute of Family Studies

THURSDAY 9 JULY

9:30 am to 11:00 am

(CLB 1)

Organisation and delivery of human services

Client-centred service delivery

Chair: Sandra Gendera

Tensions between purported aims of healthcare policy in Australia and the delivery of health care services

Connie Donato-Hunt and Ian Flaherty
Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre

From support to prevention: policies and services for young carers

Christiane Purcal, Bettina Cass, Myra Hamilton, Cathy Thomson and Deborah Brennan
Social Policy Research Centre

Comparative conceptualisation of disability and aged support services as a right, intrusion and complement to other support in Australia and Sweden

Carmel Laragy, Karen Fisher and Elisabet Cedersund
RMIT, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, and Jönköping University

(CLB 2)

Organisation and delivery of human services

The human services workforce

Chair: Gabriel Meagher

The non-profit community services workforce: towards capacity and sustainability

Sharni Chan, Natasha Cortis, Fiona Hilferty and Kathy Tannous
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

The para-professionalisation of Australia's community services sector: an analysis of contemporary employment patterns

Bob Lonne and Karen Healy
Queensland University of Technology and University of Queensland

How are local or situated knowledge and expertise in the non-profit sector faring under the purchase-of-service model?

Peri O'Shea, Michael Darcy and Rosemary Leonard
Social Justice & Social Change Research Centre

(CLB 3)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Dimensions of inclusion/exclusion

Chair: Sara Graham

Social inclusion through community embedded, socially supported university education (CESS)

Peter Howard and Tim Marchant
Australian Catholic University and Mission Australia

Telecommunications and social inclusion: new approaches to accessibility and affordability'

Tony Eardley, Gerard Goggin and Jasmine Bruce
Social Policy Research Centre and Journalism and Media Research Centre, UNSW

[R] Can measures of disadvantage perpetuate the problems they seek to solve? A discussion of the use of car ownership as a variable in multidimensional measures of disadvantage

Victoria Johnson, Graham Currie and Janet Stanley
Monash University

(CLB 4)

Identity, diversity and citizenship

Identity, language and exclusion

Chair: Patrick Dodson

[R] How useful is the term 'culturally and linguistically diverse' (CALD) in Australian research and policy discourse?

Pooja Sawrikar and Ilan Katz
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Urban Indigenous Australians: segregation and inclusion

Nicholas Biddle
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

A policy of exclusion: the 457 visa and its implications for migrant women

Angelica Hannan
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 5)

Open

Disadvantage and children's rights

Chair: Samia Michail

Children's right to development: how should we interpret 'fullest potential'?

Gerry Redmond
Social Policy Research Centre

The developmental systems framework for developmental prevention in disadvantaged communities: moving from small scale demonstrations to large scale practice

Ross Homel
Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research

The 'D' word: responding to disadvantage within a universal and integrated service model for children and families

Sally Cowling and Trish Brown
UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families

(CLB 6)

Children, young people and families

Families at risk

Chair: Robyn Edwards

Moving forward: women's journeys after leaving an abusive relationship. Implications for policy and practice in Australia

Genevieve Nelson, Kate Spalding, Judith Teicke and Melina Isgro-Rarp
The Benevolent Society

Full program

THURSDAY 9 JULY

'There's a whole community belongs to this child': building capacity In Indigenous child protection

Mary Ivec
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Protecting the 'good family': The child discipline debate in New Zealand

Anita Easton
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

(CLB 8)

Children, young people and families

Parents and children

Chair: Ching Choi

What event matters? Exploring the relationship between stressful events and psychological distress in mothers of infants

Annemarie Nicol
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Parenting in place: exploring parenting behaviours and socioeconomic position in the context of neighbourhoods

Megan Shipley and Tamara Blakemore
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The experience of families around diagnosis of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder: finding from a qualitative study

Marianne Rajkovic and kylie valentine
Social Policy Research Centre

11:00 am to 11:30am Morning tea

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

(CLB 7)

Plenary Session

Plenary Session

Chair: Bettina Cass

Including the marginalised – social inclusion and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Tom Calma
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission

12:30 pm to 1:30pm Lunch

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

(CLB 1)

Community, social participation and care

Fostering communities

Chair: Deborah Brennan

[R] Creating inclusive rural communities: grass roots perspectives on the opportunities and challenges

Margot Rawsthorne
University of Sydney

Transition support: helping older carers and their families – summary of findings

Margaret Skillman
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Research to practice in community aged care

Jarrah Hoffmann-Ekstein and Annette Michaux
The Benevolent Society

[R] Different types of community networks

Jenny Onyx, Nina Burrige and Ellen Baker
Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, University of Technology, Sydney

(CLB 2)

Labour market participation and welfare reform

Employment for disadvantaged groups

Chair: Megan Blaxland

The impact of Mutual Obligation on mature age NewStart Allowance recipients: a program evaluation

Hazel Lim
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)

[R] Disability and employment: the interface with income support policies

Greg Marston, Jeremy Moss and Sarah Lantz
University of Melbourne and University of Queensland

[R] Is career advancement important to disadvantaged jobseekers? Analysis of a large survey of disadvantaged jobseekers

Daniel Perkins, Lauren Tyrrell and Rosanna Scutella
Melbourne Institute and Brotherhood of St Laurence

Workfirst policies and mental health: employment is not a magic bullet

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

THURSDAY 9 JULY

(CLB 3)

Retirement and ageing

Retirement choices and constraints

Chair: Myra Hamilton

Which of Australia's baby boomers expect to delay their retirement? An occupational overview

Natalie Jackson and Maggie Walter
School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania

Towards small area indicators of well-being for older Australians: concepts and issues

Riyana Miranti, Alicia Payne and Justine McNamara
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra

The Brotherhood's Social Barometer on Retirement and Ageing

Helen Kimberley
Brotherhood of St Laurence

Time Banking for a More Socially Inclusive Retirement

Jill Miller
Australian National University

(CLB 4)

Housing, place and the environment

Homelessness

Chair: Killian Mullan

The risk and prevalence of homelessness: implications for research and policy

Andrew Hollows
Hanover Welfare Services

Understanding public perceptions and attitudes to homelessness in Australia

Deb Batterham
Hanover Welfare Services

The experiences of young people: how do their living arrangements impact?

Anne Hampshire, Kathryn Di Nicola and Susie Scherf
Mission Australia

Housing agencies' roles in preparing for and responding to natural disasters

Stewart Williams and Keith Jacobs
University of Tasmania

(CLB 5)

Identity, diversity and citizenship

Indigenous identity in social policy research

Chair: Saul Flaxman

Aboriginal mothers as outsiders

Leanne Cutcher and Talila Milroy
University of Sydney

[R] Conflict and collaboration: a sociology of knowledge production in the field of Indigenous Studies

Benjamin L. Kelly
Nura Gili Indigenous Programs, UNSW

[R] Indigenous education and social policy development in NSW

Tessa Keenan
Nura Gili Indigenous Programs, UNSW

Wellbeing and equality in Indigenous policy: is the pursuit of statistical equality compatible with Indigenous wellbeing?

Kirrily Jordan, Hannah Bulloch and Geoff Buchanan
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

(CLB 6)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Measurement of social inclusion/exclusion

Chair: Tony Eardley

Investigating the predictors of social and economic inclusion

Peta Raftery
Anglicare South Australia

Still doing it tough: an update on deprivation and social exclusion among welfare service clients

Peter Saunders and Melissa Wong
Social Policy Research Centre

Developing an Australian measurement and reporting framework for social inclusion

Joanne Hillermann and John Landt
Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

(CLB 8)

Open

Prevention of violence against women

Special Session
Chair: Gaby Markus

Opening remarks

Gaby Marcus
Director of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales

Domestic Violence Homicide Review: preventable deaths

Betty Green
NSW Domestic Violence Committee Coalition

Staying home, leaving violence

Ludo McFerran and Robyn Edwards
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

'It really was that I was nuts and therefore it was legitimate' – the interface between domestic violence and mental health

Lesley Laing
University of Sydney

3:30pm to 4:00pm Afternoon tea

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Full program

THURSDAY 9 JULY

(CLB 6)

Forum

Planning and delivering services in hard times

Chair: Kristy Muir

Lorna Hallahan
Flinders University South Australia

Monsignor David Cappo
Chair of the Social Inclusion Board of South Australia and Vice Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board

David Thompson
CEO of Jobs Australia

(Scientia galleries)

Forum

The challenges for social policy in financial crisis and recession

Chair: Peter Whiteford

Wayne Vroman
Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Bob Gregory
Emeritus Professor of Economics, Australian National University

John Quiggin
ARC Federation Fellow, University of Queensland (via video link)

Clare Martin
CEO, Australian Council of Social Services

FRIDAY 10 JULY

9:30 am to 11:00 am

(CLB 1)

Children, young people and families

Methodological issues in research with children and young people

Special Session

Chair: Ilan Katz

Exploring young carers' active agency

Ciara Smyth and Samia Michail
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Issues of consent and assent in research with young children

Sue Dockett, Bob Perry and Emma Kearney
Charles Sturt University

(CLB 2)

Children, young people and families

Families

Chair: Abi Powell

Welfare to work activity agreements, or how to reduce mothers' autonomy by requiring they do what they are already doing

Megan Blaxland
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Families on the fringe: a report on a study of social exclusion in non-metropolitan communities

Karen Healy, Margot Rawsthorne, Anne Hampshire and Annette Michaux
University of Queensland, University of Sydney, Mission Australia and The Benevolent Society

Second class citizens? Single mothers' reflections on the income support system under 'welfare to work'

Teresa Grahame
School of Social Work and Human Services, University of Queensland

(CLB 3)

Retirement and ageing

Social inclusion in old age

Chair: Chris Deeming

Active ageing in Australia: social, civic and community participation of older people

Bettina Cass and Trish Hill
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Should poverty be the reward for a life spent caring?

Somali Cerise
Australian Human Rights Commission

Ex-household social contact amongst retired men and women in Australia

Roger Patulny
Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

(CLB 4)

Community, social participation and care

Public perceptions and service delivery

Chair: Karen Fisher

[R] Impact of the *non*-inclusive organisation on the delivery of socially inclusive public services

Kerry Wilson
Centre for Cultural Leadership, Liverpool John Moores University

Problems for people with intellectual disability of de-differentiated policies of social inclusion: findings from two studies of institutional closure

Christine Bigby
School of Social Work and Social Policy, La Trobe University

FRIDAY 10 JULY

Inclusion or exclusion? Experiences of people with an intellectual disability in government disability advisory bodies

Patsie Frawley
LaTrobe University Victoria

(CLB 5)

Organisation and delivery of human services

Partnerships and structures of government

Chair: Cathy Thomson

[R] Missing the forest for the trees: How Australia's dynamic federal structures and processes affect the school funding settlement.

Bronwyn Hinz
University of Melbourne

Building sustainable partnerships: Aboriginal community-controlled and generalist organisations learning together

Carolyn Atkins and Lauren Matthews
Victorian Council of Social Service

The impact of the Communities for Children program on partnerships among service providers

Christiane Purcal, Kristy Muir, Roger Patulny, Cathy Thomson, Saul Flaxman and Catherine Spooner
Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB 6)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Factors affecting mental health

Chair: Kate Cummings

The impact of job loss on family mental health

Silvia Mendolia
School of Economics and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Are separated families worse off? An analysis of mental health, perceptions of safety and alcohol use in married and separated/divorced families.

Judith Planitz
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The impact of drought on mental health and alcohol use

Ben Edwards, Matthew Gray and Boyd Hunter
Australian Institute of Family Studies and Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

(CLB 8)

Children, young people and families

Education and social inclusion

Chair: Kylie Valentine

[R] The challenge of social inclusion for Australian schooling

Louise Watson
Centre for Research on Education, Poverty and Social Inclusion (CREPSI), University of Canberra

Life chances and social inclusion in education

Janet Taylor and Nina Gee
Brotherhood of St Laurence

The cost of a 'free' education: implications for low income Australians

Sharon Bond and Michael Horn
Brotherhood of St Laurence

11:00 am to 11:30am Morning tea

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

(Leighton Hall)

Plenary Session

Chair: Deborah Brennan

Farewell to maternalism? State policies, feminist politics and mothers' employment

Professor Ann Shola Orloff
Professor of Sociology, Gender Studies and Political Science at Northwestern University USA, and Chair of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 19

12:30 pm to 1:30pm Lunch

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

(CLB 1)

Housing, place and the environment

Housing and retirement

Chair: Bettina Cass

Home ownership as a (crumbling) fourth pillar of social insurance in Australia

Judith Yates and Bruce Bradbury
University of Sydney and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Contentment and suffering: the impact of Australia's housing policy and tenure on older Australians

Alan Morris
School of Social Sciences and International Studies

Older home-owners and reverse mortgage products: what are the implications for retirement decisions during an economic downturn?

Catherine Bridge, Peter Phibbs, Toni Adams and Mark Mathews
AHURI UNSW/UWS Research Centre in partnership with SEQUAL

Full program

FRIDAY 10 JULY

(CLB 2)

Children, young people and families

Families' characteristics and child outcomes

Chair: Kathy Tannous

The relevance of family characteristics, family transition and conflict in explaining poor outcomes for young adults from non-intact families.

Paula Mance and Peng Yu

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The impact of socio-economic background on the association between television viewing and developmental outcomes among young Australian children

Jude Brown

University of New England

Using the ABS Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey 2006-07 to map parent-child relationships within and across dwellings

Heather Crawford

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(CLB 3)

Social exclusion and economic inequalities

Poverty in developing countries /Immigration and policing

Chair: Melissa Wong

Economic liberalisation and new urban poverty in the global South

Shahadat Hossain

School of Social Sciences and International Studies, UNSW

Towards a consensual poverty line for the Maldives

Asim Ahmed

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Immigration status, uncertainty and community policing

Leanne Weber and Helen McKernan

University of New South Wales and Swinburne University

(CLB 4)

Open

Sociology, social inclusion and human rights

Chair: Denise Thompson

A sociology for nation-building and the limits of public sociology

Sheila Shaver

Visiting Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

[R] The social exclusion discourse and welfare reform

Beth Cook

University of Newcastle

Social inclusion and human rights – strange bedfellows on the road to an authentically Australian inclusion agenda

Helen Szoke

Chief Conciliator/ Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission, Victoria Australia

(CLB 5)

Organisation and delivery of human services

Stronger families

Chair: Ciara Smyth

The Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) study of the impact of Communities for Children

Ben Edwards, Sarah Wise, Matthew Gray, Alan Hayes, Ilan Katz, Sebastian Misson, Roger Patulny and Kristy Muir

Australian Institute of Family Studies and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

Can area-based interventions work in Australia? Findings from the longitudinal evaluation of Communities for Children

Kristy Muir, Ilan Katz, Christiane Purcal, Roger Patulny, Saul Flaxman, David Abelló, Natasha Cortis, Cathy Thomson, Ioana Oprea, Sarah Wise, Ben Edwards, Matthew Gray and Alan Hayes

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, and Australian Institute of Family Studies

Who are the 'hard to reach' client groups and what are successful strategies for engaging them?

Natasha Cortis and Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre

(CLB Breakout space)

Identity, diversity and citizenship

Disability research workshop

Special session sponsored by the Disability Studies and Research Centre

Chair: Rosemary Kayess and Karen Fisher

A research network for disability academics?

Rosemary Kayess

Disability Studies and Research Centre and Faculty of Law, UNSW

Abstracts by author

Note: The symbol [R] before a paper title means that it has been accepted via a full-paper refereeing process.

DAVID PATRICIA ABELLÓ

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW
d.abello@unsw.edu.au

Gay treachery and the punishment of queers

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

'Same sex' relationship law reforms are to be enforced from the 1st of July. They are the result of negotiations between the Australian Government and a small group of middle-class, anti-intellectual Labor party members and lobbyists within the 'gay community'. Their blend of influence, callous disregard and stupidity has had disastrous effects for over 10,000 Centrelink and DVA benefit recipients. In taking disadvantage protection off the bargaining table, the lobbyists have sold out these people for their own vision of 'gay marriage' and lifestyle. They do not represent the hundreds of thousands of queers who outnumber the 'gay community', who are uninterested in its culture and maleness, who struggle against heteronormativity, who shake their heads at the oxymoron of gay marriage, who maintain multiple partnerships or live in multiple households, or otherwise uphold their independence in relationships, who reject abilism and the objectification and idealisation of 'beauty', who have invented their own political practice, sense of collectivity and kinship systems, who make their own fetishes and problematise the apparent truth effects of heteronormative discourse, such as binary sex categories, dependency, romantic love, monogamy and ageism. The antipathy of these lobbyists of the 'gay community' towards queers and sex radicals is historical, as this paper will argue.

ASIM AHMED

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
Asim.Ahmed@vuw.ac.nz

Towards a consensual poverty line for the Maldives

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

This research uses focus groups to determine a minimum income level for the Maldives. This approach allows people to deliberate and discuss their own experiences in developing a budget suitable for the social and economic

conditions of the Maldives. This approach overcomes the arbitrariness of the US \$ 1 per person per day used by the World Bank.

Using a qualitative approach to develop a quantitative poverty line raises a number of conceptual and measurement issues that underpin this paper. The Maldives is an island nation where two thirds of the population live on small atolls. Life in the atolls and in the capital island Male' are qualitatively different. People in the atolls make greater use of own produced goods to meet many of their daily needs, compared to Male', resulting in lower average incomes. Existing social networks of extended families and multi-generational households provide for considerable intra-family redistribution of income and resources. Housing costs are also more important in Male' than the atolls where there is no housing market. Therefore, how should own produced goods, exchange of gifts as well as housing be treated in calculating a minimum income?

These issues are analysed as they are the precursors to establishing a minimum income level and a social welfare scheme for the Maldives. The initial results show that the limited income inequality especially within rural and urban areas provides a focus group result that is similar to the majority of the population. The results will be appropriate for other developing countries where income levels are similar and above subsistence level.

CAROLYN ATKINS AND LAUREN MATTHEWS

Victorian Council of Social Service
Lauren.Matthews@vcoss.org.au

Building sustainable partnerships: Aboriginal community-controlled and generalist organisations learning together

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

Drawing on the learning's of a recent VCOSS, UnitingCare and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) forum, this presentation will explore the key elements of building sustainable and meaningful partnerships between Aboriginal community-controlled and mainstream community sector organisations.

As we focus on 'Closing the Gap' as a nation, it is vital that culturally competent human services are delivered to Indigenous Australians - a key way of achieving this is through partnerships between Aboriginal community-controlled and mainstream community sector organisations. This presentation will explore the key

Abstracts by author

elements required in building sustainable and meaningful partnerships between these organisations.

This paper initially addresses questions around the value of Aboriginal community-controlled and mainstream organisations developing partnerships. The qualities of good partnerships and the partnership process will then be explored, as well as a discussion around what is unique about these types of human services partnerships. Examples from the Victorian community sector will be drawn on to illustrate current partnerships between Aboriginal community-controlled and generalist organisation and key learnings from these. Four key questions about developing, overcoming stumbling blocks and ultimately sustaining partnerships are explored and the outcomes of this investigation will be framed in this paper to provide partnership building hints and strategies for human service organisations.

MAUREEN BAKER

University of Auckland
ma.baker@auckland.ac.nz

[R] The ‘quintessential problem debtor’? Mother-led households in economic hard times

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

As the world slides deeper into economic recession, rising levels of personal and household debt become more of a policy concern, especially when combined with increasing unemployment and high rates of separation and divorce. While most household debt relates to mortgage costs that are gradually paid off over time, British research has suggested that the quintessential ‘problem debtor’ is a young single parent living in rental accommodation (Balmer et al 2005). When relationships break down, couples usually divide their marital assets but most couples have few assets and considerable debts. Furthermore, the living arrangements, family responsibilities and earning capacity of separated mothers and fathers continue to differ substantially. This paper examines the gendered patterns of family debt in the liberal welfare states, arguing that the social circumstances of sole mothers particularly contribute to unmanageable debt levels and reduce their strategies for recovery. The paper argues that policy strategies need to better acknowledge the interconnectedness of problem debt with relationship breakdown, the challenges of the ‘post-divorce family’ and the reduced earning capacity often related to mothering alone.

SAM BATTAMS

Flinders University of South Australia
sam.battams@flinders.edu.au

What policy approaches are needed to ensure that people with psychiatric disabilities have access to appropriate housing?

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

This paper is based on research which considered policy processes leading to housing outcomes for people with psychiatric disabilities. It examined both intersectoral collaboration between the mental health and housing sectors, and community participation processes leading to housing outcomes. The South Australian mental health reform period (2000-2005) was used as a case study. Qualitative research methods were employed and triangulated across four stages which included; a thematic analysis of national and state policies in the health, housing and disability sectors, interviews, focus groups and participant observation with state level NGOs, interviews and focus group with consumer groups and interviews with professionals from the health, housing and disability sectors. There were 91 participants, including 39 in interviews and focus groups and 52 in participant observation stages. The study pinpointed a number of barriers to ensuring appropriate housing outcomes for people with psychiatric disability, including the neo-liberal policy context, a lack of coordination across policy sectors and services, ongoing public sector reform and resistance to deinstitutionalisation. The focus of this presentation is upon policy responses to promote positive housing outcomes. These include strategies for intersectoral collaboration for policy agenda setting and implementation, addressing community stigma, tackling professional resistance to mental health reform, developing advocacy alliances, providing housing models which address social isolation, and challenging medical discourses on disability.

DEB BATTERHAM

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Understanding public perceptions and attitudes to homelessness in Australia

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

This paper presents findings from the 2007 Australian Survey of Social Attitudes on Homelessness. While many believed individual factors led to homelessness (e.g. poor

decision making, lack of effort), many also identified reasons beyond individual control such as family breakdown, domestic violence, and shortages of affordable housing. Government and public services were most commonly, but not solely, seen as responsible for addressing homelessness.

Exploratory principle components analysis revealed an underlying structure to participants' responses. Three components or response patterns emerged. Respondents viewed Homelessness as a problem:

- with external causes requiring government solutions;
- of collective responsibility;
- with individual causes, where individuals and their families held responsibility.

Demographic factors such as age, gender, class, educational attainment and political affiliation were explored as predictors of attitudes. While some significant relationships were found, multiple regression analysis revealed that these factors explained very little of the overall variance in attitudes to homelessness. This has implications for public opinion research on homelessness, which has focused largely on demographic attributes as predictors of attitudes.

Hanover Welfare Services is a leading Melbourne-based provider of services to people experiencing homelessness or housing crisis. Attitudes towards homelessness are a prominent component of Hanover's research agenda.

JENNIFER BAXTER, JENNIFER RENDA AND MATTHEW GRAY

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International work-family policies: what do they mean for Australia?

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

It is now generally accepted that governments have an important role to play in assisting families to successfully manage their work and caring responsibilities. Supporting those with caring responsibilities is important from a public policy perspective for a number of reasons including; the potential negative impact on individual and family wellbeing that may occur when the demands of work and family are in conflict and the desire to improve gender equity and increase workforce productivity. This paper begins by providing a review of work-family policies that governments across industrialised countries have adopted and highlights the diversity in the range of

policies and approaches taken. Then, in order to examine some of the policies and approaches adopted in other countries in an Australian context, the ABS 2007 Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation is used to examine how employed men and women in Australia differ in their use of family-friendly working arrangements that are supported or legislated by governments in other countries and how this use varies according to the nature of caring responsibilities. The unmet demand for particular working arrangements is also discussed.

NICHOLAS BIDDLE

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Urban Indigenous Australians: segregation and inclusion

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

More than three quarters of the Indigenous Australian population live in urban or regional Australia. However, there is a large degree of residential segregation with those Indigenous Australians who live in urban centres substantially more likely to live in neighbourhoods with relatively few non-Indigenous Australians. Furthermore, those urban neighbourhoods that Indigenous Australians are concentrated in are more likely to have poor employment prospects, low education attendance, poor quality housing and low levels of volunteering. This paper documents the level of residential segregation and socioeconomic concentration of Indigenous Australians in large urban centres. It also looks at some of the processes that impact on changes in segregation patterns including inter and intra-urban migration. The final part of the paper considers the implications of the results for building an inclusive society. The potentially positive aspects of residential segregation are considered, however the paper also discusses the role of segregation in entrenching socioeconomic disadvantage and the development of negative stereotypes.

Abstracts by author

CHRISTINE BIGBY

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Problems for people with intellectual disability of de-differentiated policies of social inclusion: findings from two studies of institutional closure

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

Since the 1980s disability policy has been underpinned by normalisation with institutional closure and establishment of small group homes as core implementation strategies. Research suggests outcomes have been increased community presence of people with intellectual disability rather than social participation. From the mid 1990s, policy was more strongly influenced by the social model of disability. Alongside service provision attention turned to tackling exclusionary social structures and processes. For example, Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-2012 goals included building inclusive communities and accessible public services. This paper presents findings of two large mixed methods studies of institutional closure in Victoria that had some similar findings to earlier deinstitutionalisation studies. Despite the addition of broader social change strategies, relocation of people from institutions to the community led to presence rather than participation. We also found some staff grappled with the meaning of policy goals, interpreting them to be community presence, and did not think social participation was feasible for people with severe intellectual disability. This paper argues that poor outcomes are due to weak implementation of group home programs, but also policy and implementation strategies pitched at too high a level of generality that fail to differentiate obstacles to inclusion experienced by different impairment groups, or to effectively articulate expected policy outcomes for people with more severe intellectual disability.

MICHAEL BITTMAN AND JENNY CHALMERS

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Investing in working families: which policies promote the best balance of time and money for parents and children?

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

Raising children takes both time and money. However, given there are a finite number of hours in the day, childcare and paid work compete for parents' time.

Research shows that the time costs of children are high; employed parents particularly mothers, experience high levels of objective and subjective time pressure. At the same time an extensive literature documents a substantial 'motherhood penalty' in lost earnings and savings over a women's life course.

Most policy instruments designed to make raising children more compatible with paid work, have different emphases and, therefore, different limitations. In some important respects market services are not perfect substitutes for parental care. Psychological research suggests that children seem to benefit from their parents' personal attention in the first year of life. While parental leave may appear superior to non-parental care, as Gornick and Meyers have pointed out, absences from the labour market reduce earnings capacity. This paper reports on preliminary results from a study that compares cross-national trade-offs between time-use and earnings, to increase our understanding of the policies that make it easiest for parents to find time for raising children, while minimizing the detrimental effects on earnings capacity and savings.

TAMARA BLAKEMORE AND MEGAN SHIPLEY

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Whom do we reach? Exploring health and community service use by Australian families with young children

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

International research has identified significant differences in the patterns of service use by families of differing socio-economic position. However, at present little research exists within the Australian context that clearly describes differences in service use that exist across socio-economic groups for families with young children. Using data from waves 1 and 2 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children this research seeks to understand the populations using a range of health and community services, exploring the relationship between family socio-economic position and the use of services for both young children and other family members. Consistent with the existing literature, the findings of this research identify families in the lowest socio-economic positions are often the least likely to access a range of preventative and supportive health and community services and are the most likely to access economic support, crisis or emergency care type services. These findings suggest

that the relationship between family socio economic position and service use is not necessarily straightforward. Further, preliminary investigations into the relationship between the number and type of disadvantages families experience and their use of services suggest that traditional, global or summary measures of disadvantage may present only part of the story. The type of disadvantage that families experience may have important implications for their engagement and use of services. Findings from this research can make an important contribution to the knowledge base for the development of responsive social policy relevant to improving the lives of families and their children.

MEGAN BLAXLAND

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[R] Welfare to work activity agreements, or how to reduce mothers' autonomy by requiring they do what they are already doing

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

From 2003, Australians Working Together compelled Parenting Payment recipients of teenage children to engage in approved activities in order to remain eligible for income support. Australians Working Together was abandoned for Welfare to Work in 2006, in part because there had been little change in Parenting Payment recipients' activities in the preceding years. In this paper, I contend that there was little change in behaviour, not because there were too few compulsory measures as argued by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, but because most parents were already undertaking the kinds of activities that Australians Working Together made compulsory. As a result, while the policy did not greatly increase parents' employment, education or voluntary work, it did reduce parents' autonomy to decide what activities to do when. Welfare to Work further sharply reduces parents' autonomy.

SHARON BOND AND MICHAEL HORN

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The cost of a 'free' education: implications for low income Australians

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

Australian schooling presents an oxymoron - it is both free and you have to pay for it. In Victoria this relates to a narrow definition of 'free' as classroom instruction in

traditional subjects and access to school facilities. However, with public investment below average and expenditure from the private purse at more than double the OECD average, Australian schooling is effectively a 'user pays' system.

This presentation examines the available data on what it actually costs to send children to school, how this has increased relative to the Consumer Price Index; the extent to which government assistance to low income families has kept up pace and the practical implications of these costs for low income families.

Ensuring that cost is not a barrier to full participation in education is an elementary first step for educational reform and to achieve the 90% Year 12 completion goal. Adopting Sen's capabilities approach, eliminating the impact of financial hardship on participation in learning is also essential in securing the social and economic inclusion of young Australians.

**JENNIFER BOWES, LINDA HARRISON,
ALAN TAYLOR, NAOMI SWELLER AND
CATHERINE NEILSEN-HEWETT**

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Child care influences on children's adjustment and achievement in the first year of school

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

Child Care Choices (CCC) is a study of the child care and early school experiences of children in urban and rural Australia. It focuses on factors that explain differences in children's social-emotional strengths and difficulties, relationships with teachers and peers, feelings about school, learning skills, and achievements in literacy and numeracy in the first year of school. CCC used multiple respondents (parents, teachers, children, research assistants) and mixed methods (questionnaires, interviews, observations, assessments) over six annual waves of data collection. Results for 12 outcomes at school-age are presented, based on regression analyses using multiple imputation datasets containing 344 cases. Child care experiences as toddlers and preschoolers were found to be important predictors of outcomes at school-age. Longer hours and more multiple or changeable care arrangements were associated with poorer adjustment. Poorer socio-emotional and relationship outcomes were predicted by behaviour problems, negative social interaction towards peers, and less positive relationships with carers during earlier development and child care

Abstracts by author

experience. The paper concludes that early school success is supported by the relationships children form with others and the learning opportunities they experience in good quality child care, but diminished by extensive amounts or instability of care.

ROCHELLE BRAAF AND EMILY HAMILTON

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Addressing abused women's financial security: securing safer outcomes

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

Domestic violence can have a crippling effect on women's financial security, preventing many women from leaving violent situations and forcing some women to return to these relationships due to hardship. The individual and interconnected contributions of domestic violence to victims' poverty, unemployment, homelessness, health problems, diminished confidence and self esteem make it a key driver of women's social exclusion. This paper will report on initial findings of a one year project being conducted by the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, that examines ways of supporting abused women to become financially secure. The project is investigating barriers and avenues to financial security for women affected by domestic violence (pre and post separation). The study is especially concerned with identifying practical strategies that will promote women's financial security, and working with services and agencies to further develop and implement these. The project is being conducted across three Australian States, involving interviews/focus groups with women clients and services.

CATHERINE BRIDGE, PETER PHIBBS, TONI ADAMS AND MARK MATHEWS

AHURI UNSW/UWS Research Centre in partnership with SEQUAL

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Older home-owners and reverse mortgage products: what are the implications for retirement decisions during an economic downturn?

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

Reverse mortgages are technically available to home-owners who are 60 years or older. Older home-owners can borrow between 15% and 40% of the value of their

home. Residential property represents the largest single asset class of older Australians with a potentially large market potential. However the Reverse Mortgage market has suffered with the international capital market crisis making liquidity difficult. This paper reports on the results of a research project funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute into 'Reverse mortgages and older people: Growth factors and implications for retirement decisions'. It covers the beliefs of lenders, reverse mortgage practitioners and older borrowers in terms of what they believe to be growth factors. The research integrates findings from a systematic international literature review, online survey with mortgage practitioners, older persons focus groups and interviews with bankers and older people across New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria. Understanding the policy implications was a specific focus of the research.

JUDE BROWN

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The impact of socio-economic background on the association between television viewing and developmental outcomes among young Australian children

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

The impact of television viewing on young children has received considerable attention. On the one hand television viewing is promoted as an important educational and recreational tool particularly as it enables parents to engage in other tasks while children remain occupied. On the other hand television viewing has been identified as being potentially deleterious to young children's neurological, cognitive, social and physical development. One potentially important mechanism by which television is thought to impact negatively on children's development is through the displacement of other developmentally important activities such as reading or play. However, it is well known that outcomes for children differ quite markedly depending on their social economic background. Thus the relationships between television viewing and child outcomes may differ between different social strata.

Using time use data from Waves 1 and 2 of the Longitudinal study of Australian Children (LSAC), this study seeks to examine the associations between developmentally important activities and television use among young Australian children and in turn consider how these activities impact upon key developmental outcomes.

PETER BUTTERWORTH AND LIANA LEACH

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Workfirst policies and mental health: employment is not a magic bullet

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

Background: People who are unemployed generally have poorer physical and mental health than those who are employed. However, research (largely cross sectional) has shown that the health of those in poor quality jobs is similar or worse than those who are unemployed. This study uses longitudinal data to examine whether transitions in employment status and job quality are associated with changes in physical and mental health, and whether moving from unemployment to work is universally associated with improvement in mental and physical health regardless of job quality.

Method: Random- and fixed-effects models were used to analyse 6 waves of data from the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. We follow 7843 respondents aged between 20 and 60 through labour-force transitions and changes in the psychosocial aspects of job quality including security, marketability and job strain (demands and control).

Results: Compared to those in optimal jobs, those in the poorest quality jobs (insecurity, low marketability and high job strain) and those who were unemployed reported significantly poorer mental health, and did not differ. While those moving from unemployment to good quality jobs showed an improvement in mental health, moving from unemployment to the poorest quality jobs was associated with a significant decline in mental health.

Conclusions: These findings raise questions about the personal benefits of workfirst policies and show that policy makers need to be aware that the benefits from employment may be dependent on the quality of work.

BETTINA CASS AND TRISH HILL

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW

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Active ageing in Australia: social, civic and community participation of older people

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

This paper presents an investigation of the links between the well-being of older people in Australia, and their participation in economic, social and community life. The

paper identifies the key risk and protective factors relating to economic and social participation and active engagement in social networks of older people and their carers. The study analyses the ways in which older people's social and economic participation may be maintained and supported. Drawing on an analysis of the ABS General Social Survey 2006, this paper presents a conceptual framework for understanding the risk and protective factors associated with various dimensions of social participation. The findings of the analysis show that there are positive associations between, on the one hand, social contact, social support, and social, cultural, civic and community participation, and on the other hand good health, education, income, access to transport, and perceptions of safety. There is also a positive interrelationship between networks of mutual support, care and voluntary work and the maintenance of social participation by older people.

SOMALI CERISE

Australian Human Rights Commission

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Should poverty be the reward for a life spent caring?

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

Over the last two decades, there has been a strong public policy focus on superannuation as a means to provide income during retirement and reduce reliance on the Age Pension. However, the linking of the current superannuation exclusively to paid work disadvantages women and other groups with marginal labour force attachment. Women are more likely to have broken paid work patterns due to caring responsibilities and have lower life-time earnings due to pay inequity. As a result, there is a significant disparity between the retirement savings and retirement income of men and women. Current figures show that women's superannuation balances are less than half of those of men. With women generally retiring earlier and living longer than men, there are a number of serious implications stemming from the gender inequality in retirement savings. Many women, after a life spent in unpaid caring work, face prospects of financial insecurity and poverty in retirement, often solely relying on the Age Pension.

This paper will outline some of the Australian Human Rights Commission's contributions to public discussions and policy developments in the area of women's retirement savings. The paper will conclude by raising some potential policy proposals to increase women's financial security in retirement.

Abstracts by author

BETH COOK

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[R] The social exclusion discourse and welfare reform

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

Since the McClure report on welfare reform in 2000, the discourse of social inclusion/exclusion has been used as a justification for welfare reform in Australia. The Rudd Labor Government espouses social inclusion as a focus of policy and has established the Social Inclusion Unit and the Australian Social Inclusion Board to develop and implement policies and strategies to achieve social inclusion.

Social inclusion requires that people have sufficient financial and other resources to participate in economic, social, cultural and political life. Against the backdrop of high and persistent rates of labour underutilisation that have excluded large numbers of Australians from adequate access to paid work and using the conceptual framework of social exclusion developed by Levitas (2005) this paper seeks to investigate how the reality of welfare reform has conformed to the ideal of facilitating social inclusion? Welfare reforms are examined against the three discourses of social exclusion: the redistributionist discourse (RED), the Moral underclass discourse (MUD) and the social integrationist discourse (SID). The paper concludes that the dominant discourses guiding welfare reform policies in Australia are moral underclass and social integrationist.

NATASHA CORTIS AND ILAN KATZ

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Who are the 'hard to reach' client groups and what are successful strategies for engaging them?

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

Reaching and engaging those most marginalised from society and from service systems is a persistent problem in community service delivery and design. This presentation explores how a sample of child and family service providers in Australia defined 'hard to reach' client groups the challenges they encountered reaching out to those groups and the strategies they used to address those challenges. Conducted as part of the National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities

Strategy, interviews with project leaders show that service providers' perceptions of which groups are 'hard to reach' depends on service and community context. Many client groups including young parents, fathers, culturally diverse families and those who are socially and geographically isolated were considered 'hard to reach'. However service providers found it most difficult to engage Indigenous families. Reach and engagement strategies included developing 'soft' entry points; embedding interventions in universal services; building relationships and formal partnerships with other services; and employing workers from target communities. Particular challenges included identifying 'hidden' populations; working with clients experiencing extreme adversity; and ensuring the quality and continuity of staff necessary for successful relationship building. These findings help clarify which groups of users are most likely to achieve outcomes and who may be missing out; 'what works' with different populations and in different service and community contexts; and how targeting and engagement strategies across the human services might be improved.

NATASHA CORTIS AND BRIAN HEAD

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, and the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland
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[R] Tensions and challenges in Australia's early years field: views from the inside

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

Traditionally private responsibilities for mothers and families, early childhood health, development and care have emerged as legitimate objects of public policy in contemporary welfare states. But despite renewed public interest and commitment, the early years field in Australia remains complex and contested. With the sector considered poorly co-ordinated and under-resourced compared with many other wealthy countries, the next stage of attempted reform may risk exacerbating a series of system-level tensions and challenges.

In this paper, we use interview findings to take stock of early years policy in Australia, identify some current challenges, and outline some principles for change. We show that while developments in the field have been spurred by advances in research evidence, sustained advocacy and the renewal of government commitment, progress remains compromised by unresolved tensions around the goals and vision of the system, fragmented system design, unsustainable resourcing, and an unstable service delivery workforce.

SALLY COWLING AND TRISH BROWN

*UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families
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The 'D' word: responding to disadvantage within a universal and integrated service model for children and families

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

The national policy debate on effective service provision for children and families is increasingly framed in terms of developing a system of 'universal and integrated' services. We argue that the currency of the phrase masks an emerging tension around the place of socio-economic disadvantage in decisions about how, why and where such services are delivered. For some, universality implies uniformity and limits our capacity to make a difference in communities with a higher concentration of risk factors. For others, a focus on disadvantage and social inclusion in the policy discourse has seen welfare imperatives dominate an approach which should provide quality early education and care programs to all children as a right of citizenship.

In this paper we explore the causes of these tensions in Australian policy debates about if and how universal, targeted and specialist intervention services can be integrated. We review how responses to risk and disadvantage have been cultivated in established service models in the United Kingdom and Europe and the extent to which these have involved approaches which are universal but area-based. Finally, we consider what Australian policy makers can learn from the international experience to facilitate the shift to a universal prevention approach which can effectively engage with families and communities experiencing disadvantage and respond to the need for more intensive or specialist support services.

LYN CRAIG AND KILLIAN MULLAN

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[R] 'The policeman and the part-time sales assistant': household labour supply, family time and subjective time pressure in Australia 1997-2006

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

This paper explores associations between social and policy context and how parents of young children allocate time to work and family, using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Time Use Survey (TUS) 1997

and 2006. Over the period, Australia's economy was growing and unemployment was low. Family tax policy favoured single income or 'modified male-breadwinner' households, and part time work was the most common 'family-friendly' workplace measure. Against this background, we investigate the market labour supply and intra-household time use of mothers and fathers in couple-headed households with at least one child aged 0 – 4 years (N=772 in 1997 and 652 in 2006). We identify associations between household labour supply and total (paid and unpaid) work, the way paid work, domestic labour and childcare is divided between mothers and fathers, and their subjective feelings of time pressure, at each time point. We find that by 2006, there was lower average maternal market work and a higher proportion of families with young children conformed to the one-and-a-half earner family form than in 1997. In the main there was increased total household work, increased gender specialisation in paid work and caring labour, and much higher subjective time pressure, especially for fathers and the relatively few mothers who were employed full time.

HEATHER CRAWFORD

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Using the ABS Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey 2006-07 to map parent-child relationships within and across dwellings

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

Most statistics about families are based on the notion of a family unit that is constructed using information about the relationships between individuals within a dwelling. It has been observed by researchers and commentators that 'where parents have repartnered after separation, [stepparent-child] relationships often cross household boundaries' (Qu and Weston, 2005). The Australian Bureau of Statistics Family Characteristics Survey is acknowledged as a key source of data about step and blended families derived from relationships between individuals within the dwelling. This paper describes how the Family Characteristics Survey also captures some information about parent-child relationships across dwellings. The paper then goes on to illustrate how information about parent-child relationships both within and across dwellings collected as part of the Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey 2006-07 can be analysed to obtain more detailed information about the diversity of parent-child relationships and their living situations.

Abstracts by author

LEANNE CUTCHER AND TALILA MILROY

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Aboriginal mothers as outsiders

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

In this paper we seek to show how media reports about public policy outcomes reinforce negative stereotypes of Aboriginal mothers. In order to do this we examine media reports relating to the introduction of the 1912 Maternity Allowance and the 2004 Maternity Allowance. Through analysis of media reports about the introduction of the two schemes we show how the 'everyday text' of the media (van Dijk 1992) has perpetuated negative constructions of what it means to be an Aboriginal mother that do not reflect the way in which many Aboriginal women are mothered and mother.

We see in the way that Aboriginal mothers are portrayed in the media accounts in 1912 and in 2004-8 a deep seated fear about racial purity. We show how the 2004 maternity allowance, and its earlier iteration in 1912, reinforced the construction of women as 'citizen-mother' (Lake, 1992; Curtin 2003) a construction that has historically excluded 'black' mothers and labelled them as 'outsiders'.

PETER DAVIDSON

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The wheel turns again – recession, long term unemployment and public policy

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

The social policy response to the economic downturn has focused so far on recently retrenched workers and school leavers entering the labour market. Within a few years, long term unemployment is likely to attract the attention of policy makers. This cannot come too soon. Long term unemployment is a key source of poverty, social exclusion and reliance on income support - including DSP and parenting payments as well as Newstart Allowance.

Two year after the 1991 recession, the number of long term recipients of Newstart Allowance rose from 217,000 to 451,000 people. Fifteen years later it has still not fallen to pre 1990s-recession levels. What can we learn from policies to reduce long term unemployment since the last recession and what are the prospects for success this time?

The presentation will profile long term unemployed and jobless people on income support, and briefly assess the effectiveness of employment assistance and income support policies such as vocational training, work experience, benefit levels and compliance policies. It will then examine the likely impact of the current suite of policies including the new employment services system that replaces the Job Network.

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

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The effect of relationship breakdown on poverty and social exclusion: the impact of stability of income and control over household expenditure

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

One of the important pathways into poverty and social exclusion for families with dependent children is relationship breakdown. Most research into the impact of relationship breakdown on economic wellbeing has focused on equivalent household income and the likelihood of experiencing income poverty. However, while income measures are correlated with the experience of financial hardship and perceived prosperity, there are differences. Preliminary analysis of Australian longitudinal data reveals that a significant proportion of mothers report a lower rate of financial hardship and higher levels of perceived prosperity despite their equivalent household income being reduced following relationship breakdown.

This paper uses data from the first seven waves of HILDA to explore possible explanations for this finding. These include changes in the stability of income pre and post separation and the extent to which post-separation the resident mother has greater control over the management of the households' expenditure and management of money.

This research has important implications for understanding the impact of relationship breakdown on poverty and social exclusion. It also has implications for policies aimed at increasing employment rates of mother post-separation and for the equivalence scale literature, which generally assumes that income is allocated across all household members.

SUE DOCKETT, BOB PERRY AND EMMA KEARNEY

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Issues of consent and assent in research with young children

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

Informed agreement to participate in research is a critical element of ethical practice. Inviting adults to participate in research involves sharing information about the specific project, providing opportunities for potential participants to ask questions, think about the research and then make a decision. When researching with children, such opportunities are often afforded to adult gatekeepers, yet not necessarily extended to the children involved. While there is a clear legal position in terms of obtaining informed parental consent, this should not negate the importance of seeking children's informed assent to participate in research.

This paper reports an ongoing approach to engaging with children in research, emphasising strategies to facilitate children's informed, and ongoing, assent within the research process. In particular, we note the development of a range of information sheets for children as part of a project seeking children's input about their local communities. The responses of over 100 children (aged 4 to 12 years) to this information, and the ways in which it was presented and discussed, form the data for this paper. The paper concludes with a consideration of ethical tensions inherent in research with children, and implications for research.

CONNIE DONATO-HUNT AND IAN FLAHERTY

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[R] Tensions between purported aims of healthcare policy in Australia and the delivery of health care services

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

The approach of many drug and alcohol (D&A) treatment services in Australia relies heavily upon Anglo-centric models of healthcare. However, there are policies for healthcare delivery in New South Wales (NSW) which clearly outline the inclusive principles by which services must conduct their business. These policies underpin claims that the Australian system guarantees universality of healthcare. The lived experience of many people from

CALD backgrounds is, however, starkly at odds with such claims making. In this paper we explore how there is discrepancy between NSW policies outlining equity of access to services, and actual D&A service delivery. We look at two studies of worker practices and attitudes regarding CALD clients. These were both conducted by the Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Centre (DAMEC), one in 1997 and a pilot in 2007. Key issues emerging were the underutilisation of interpreter services and attitudes towards including non-English speaking people among service's client populations. Comparisons highlight that there was little change from 1997 to 2007. The possible underlying reasons are discussed and recommendations are made for policy and practice that will better meet the needs of people from CALD backgrounds when they seek help for substance use issues

TONY EARDLEY, GERARD GOGGIN AND JASMINE BRUCE

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Telecommunications and social inclusion: new approaches to accessibility and affordability

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

New forms of telecommunication can benefit both national economies and individuals. There is also evidence that lower-income groups can benefit particularly from access to mobile phones, through improved work and productivity gains. Social benefits are also important, including maintenance of familial links and enhancement of social capital. However, affordability remains a problem. In Australia, although the notional cost of mobile phone usage has fallen, expenditure on telecommunications has been growing and placing strain on some family budgets.

Access to these technologies, particularly broadband connections, is also still inequitable, as is the digital literacy necessary to make use of them. However, the concept of the 'digital divide' is less useful in the technological context than that of 'social exclusion', as digital exclusion tends to follow and reinforce existing social inequalities. There is evidence that as telecommunications usage becomes normal practice for a majority, those unable to access or use these technologies become further disadvantaged, particularly where many public and government services are increasingly moving online.

Abstracts by author

The paper draws on a review of the Australian and international literature on the relationship between telecommunications and community wellbeing, commissioned by Telstra's Low Income Measures Assessment Committee. It discusses access and affordability issues for disadvantaged groups in the context of rapid technological change, and benchmarks Telstra's Access for Everyone social tariff package against those in other comparable countries. We conclude with recommendations for taking forward practice and policy debates on access and affordability.

ANITA EASTON

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Protecting the 'good family': The child discipline debate in New Zealand

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

In 2005, after decades of campaigning, New Zealand started the legislative process to remove the explicit legal protection of parental physical discipline. The public debate that resulted was divisive and politically significant, as it crystallised the division between conservative Christian and socially liberal forces; as well as providing a focus for resistance to government intervention within the home.

This paper examines the hypothesis that the core of the debate was not parental discipline; instead it provided a forum to debate the nature and role of family, and the relationship between the state and the home. Layered approaches drawn from corpus linguistics and discourse analysis, as well as interviews with key campaigners, shed light on the construction of the family used by competing campaigns.

All campaigners on the surface argued that 'good' families should be protected from state intervention and intervention was required to protect children from abuse within 'bad' families. This obscured the deep divide between campaigners about the nature of a 'good' family; with a conservative model of the married heterosexual couple contrasting with a liberal model which ignored the form of the family and focused on liberal behaviours.

This poses the key question, how can policy processes address hidden cultural contention?

BEN EDWARDS, MARIO FIORINI AND MATT TAYLOR

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Does it matter at what age children start school in Australia? Investigating the effects of school starting age on six-year old children's outcomes

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

In April 2004 the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) agreed to implement a uniform national school starting age by 2010. A report that focused on the monetary and costs of implementing a common school starting age was produced, but it did not consider the impact of changes on school starting age for children's development.

In this presentation we examine the causal impacts of school starting age in Australia.

Previous empirical research in this area suggests that children who start school later do better than early entrants. However, some parents might not comply with state entrance cut-offs, delaying or anticipating school entry based on theirs or their children's characteristics. Therefore, a positive correlation between age at school entry and school tests does not imply that late school entry causes better learning.

To address this issue we use data from 6 year olds in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). We use variation in compulsory school starting ages in the states and territories to model the causal effect of school starting age. The key point to understand here is that one month difference in age can mean that children in one state start school one year later. Importantly, this discontinuity in school starting ages is independent of other child and family characteristics.

We find that school starting age is correlated with children's cognitive but not social emotional outcomes. However, when we use predicted school entry from compulsory school starting ages to estimate the causal effect of school starting age, there is clear evidence of an effect for the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test but not for Matrix Reasoning. We discuss the potential implications of these results for understanding child development and public policies on school starting age.

BEN EDWARDS, MATTHEW GRAY AND BOYD HUNTER

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The impact of drought on mental health and alcohol use

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

The most recent drought has been one of the most severe on record with large parts of southern and eastern Australia experiencing dry conditions since 1996. There have been few large studies that examine the impact of drought upon the mental health and alcohol use of people living in regional and rural areas of Australia or other developed countries.

We use the Rural and Regional Families study, a cross-sectional study of 8,000 people from rural and regional areas of Australia that interviewed people in areas that were in severe drought, drought, below average and above average rainfall. We compare working age people who were in drought (as defined by rainfall and also self report) to those that were not in drought. We use regression models to adjust for demographics that would not be expected to be affected by drought to estimate the impact of drought on the mental health problems, mental health, anti-depressant use for stress and alcohol use.

One of the primary mechanisms by which mental health and alcohol abuse problems arise during and after a drought is through the financial impact associated with decreased agricultural productivity in rural areas. While the drought of 2002-2007 had significant negative economic impact on the Australian economy it had particularly large effects on financial hardship in regions affected - especially among farmers (Edwards et al. 2009). We discuss our findings of the impact of drought on mental health and alcohol use in this context and the possible policy implications.

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The Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) study of the impact of Communities for Children

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

Locational disadvantage is of increasing interest as international and Australian studies have shown that living in a disadvantaged community can have negative consequences for children's development. Few area-based interventions have been developed to address this issue, a notable exception in the UK is Sure Start Local Programs which has reported some positive outcomes. In Australia, the Communities for Children (CfC) initiative is an area-based strategy designed to promote better child, family and community outcomes. CfC was funded under the Australian Government's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS) 2004-2008. It was previously unknown whether a placed-based initiative, like CfC, would work in Australia.

This paper presents the results of the Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) survey, which was a major component of the CfC evaluation. The survey was a three-wave longitudinal study of 2,202 families living in 10 sites that had a CfC program and five sites that did not have a CfC program but were in other ways comparable to the CfC sites (contrast sites). The paper will discuss the evaluation methodology, statistical estimation and results.

Overall, there is evidence that CfC programs had some positive impacts (fewer children were living in a jobless household and parenting practices were improved). There is some evidence of a negative impact on some health outcomes but it is unclear whether this reflects an actual deterioration.

The analysis also examined the effectiveness of the CfC intervention for more disadvantaged groups such as households that were hard-to-reach, had lower income or lower education. The paper will compare these results to other early childhood interventions and discuss some implications.

Abstracts by author

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[R] A generation of change, a lifetime of difference? Model lifetime analysis of changes in the British Welfare State since 1979

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

This paper introduces research that will be published in a book, 'A Generation of Change, A Lifetime of Difference? British social policy since 1979', in September 2009. The research employs a series of lifetime simulations to examine the changes in taxation and social security provision since 1979 in Britain, using the Lifetime Opportunities and Incentives Simulation (LOIS) to profile hypothetical individuals who live their whole lives under the rules in place at three points in time: 1979, 1997 and 2008. These three years are taken to represent the cumulative changes in policy that have been taken by three differing political approaches to social policy. 1979 represents the culmination of 'Old Labour' – a left social democratic approach; 1997 represents the culmination of 18 years of right-wing Conservative governments under the Prime Ministers, Margaret Thatcher and John Major and 2008 represents the culmination of 11 years of 'New Labour' under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Three hypothetical families are used to produce lifetime profiles and each is based on contemporary levels of earnings for each year: the Meades are median earners, The Moores are twice median earners and the Lowes earn 50 percent of median earnings. The paper outlines the methodology of 'model lifetime' and demonstrates the differences in inputs and outputs from taxes and benefits for each model family over their hypothetical lifetime for both comparison years and shows outcomes for poverty.

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Identifying high quality centre-based childcare using quantitative data sets: what the numbers do and don't tell us

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

That the quality of centre based childcare impacts on children's developmental outcomes is well established.

Currently, how to more effectively promote and monitor quality in centre based care is a priority of the Australian and state/territory governments (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Penn and Lloyd (2007) note that in developing early childhood policy, policy makers are most receptive to the scientific evidence offered by quantitative studies. In this paper, however, we argue that evidence from both quantitative and qualitative approaches to quality offers a stronger platform to inform the development of policy such as the National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care.

For this purpose, we draw on preliminary findings from an Australian Research Council Discovery funded multi-phased project. This project is taking a mixed-methods approach to investigate elements that determine and sustain quality in Australian centre based childcare. In this paper, we present longitudinal data for 74 centres and consider the utility of three approaches – external observation measures used internationally (ECERS/ITERS), Australia's national system of accreditation (QIAS), and staff perspectives – to identify high quality centres and the elements that support high quality. How findings can inform the development of the National Quality Framework will be discussed.

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The absent role of the State: analysis of social support to older people with disability in rural China

TUESDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, ARCADE ROOM

China is experiencing rapid population ageing. Already it has 44 million older people with disability (OPWD aged over 59 years) (OSCNSSD 2007). Social support of OPWD in China has not been systematically researched inside or outside China. This article will apply a disability rights framework in four domains (right to protection; economic security; social support; and social participation) to analyse local cases from South China.

The main argument of the article is that although the family is still the main provider of economic and care support to older people with disabilities, the absent role of the state in welfare provision to older people with disability in rural China has negative impacts the wellbeing of rural families, both on the older and younger generation. The social rights of older people with disability

cannot be realized without the support from the state. Because older people heavily rely on financial and care support from their children, the family of the younger generation is over burdened in their financial situation, and physical and mental health. The ageing population in China requires a new development in the Chinese welfare state which strengthens the role of the state in old age and disability support in rural areas. The research is based on field work with older people over 80s in a Shanxi county. The research methods include a small scale questionnaire and in-depth interviews with over 80 old people, most of whom have disabilities.

PATSIE FRAWLEY

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Inclusion or exclusion? Experiences of people with an intellectual disability in government disability advisory bodies

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

Government and service providers have for a number of years involved people with an intellectual disability in decision making about policy through consultation and participation on committees. This study aimed to find out how people with an intellectual disability experience this role and what mediates these experiences.

This qualitative study positioned people with an intellectual disability as the experts about their own experiences by relying primarily on their first person accounts of their experiences. Ethnographic and case study methods were employed to describe these experiences. A thematic analysis led to the development of a typology of participation.

The study found that structures and the processes used by advisory bodies can mediate people's experiences, however more significantly, the experiences of people with intellectual disability are shaped by their perception of how they are regarded by others. Central to this is the efficacy of support based on the development of collegiate relationships. The study concluded that citizen participation bodies have not fully recognised the personal and political potential of members with an intellectual disability. It presents evidence that people with an intellectual disability are capable of this form of participation, can provide legitimate and informed perspectives on policy and can engage meaningfully.

TERESA GRAHAME

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Second class citizens? Single mothers' reflections on the income support system under 'welfare to work'

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

The implementation of 'welfare to work' policies from July 2006 has resulted in a substantial shift in how single mothers experience the income support system in Australia. The changes include that most single parents on income support whose youngest child has started school (aged 6 or 7) must be employed or looking for paid work of at least 15 hours per week. These policies are underpinned by financial sanctions for those that do not comply and lower benefits being paid to all single mothers who have claimed a payment since July 2006 if their youngest child is aged eight or over.

This presentation will report on initial findings from interviews undertaken in the second half of 2008 with 21 Brisbane single mothers, most of whom have experienced the sharp transition in the income support payment rules. I argue that the new administrative requirements underpinned by the legislation construct a negative identity of single mothers which frames them as 'second class citizens'. This is at best experienced as an irritation, and at worst a threat to the autonomy and general well-being of single mothers. This research represents the PhD component of a broader study: '150 Low Income Australians' which is funded by the Australian Research Council and Jobs Australia.

BETTY GREEN

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Domestic Violence Homicide Review: preventable deaths

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

On average up to 58% of murders committed in Australia are intimate partner homicides. In March 2006 the NSW Domestic Violence Committee Coalition was formed in response to the increased number of domestic violence murders of women in NSW. The DV Coalition has consistently advocated for the establishment of a Domestic Violence Homicide Review to help understand why women die, and help prevent further deaths.

Abstracts by author

When domestic violence related deaths are seen as the escalation of a predictable pattern of behaviours with increasing risk factors, then domestic violence homicides can be viewed as preventable deaths. There is much to learn from overseas jurisdictions where Homicide Reviews have been established, in some cases from 1994. Currently Victoria and New South Wales are the only states in Australia that have announced the establishment of a domestic violence homicide review.

This paper will explore the concept of a domestic violence homicide review and what differences the process can make including strengthening policing and criminal justice systems, establishing new practices and understandings in responding to domestic violence and the capacity to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and conversation.

ANNE HAMPSHIRE, KATHRYN DI NICOLA AND SUSIE SCHERF

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The experiences of young people: how do their living arrangements impact?

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

In 2008, over 45,500 young Australians aged 11 to 24 years participated in the seventh annual Mission Australia survey of young Australians. Three hundred and seventy five respondents were homeless young people and one hundred and thirty five were in foster care, with the remainder predominantly living with family, in a share house or alone.

This presentation will provide data from the 2008 survey regarding what young people value, what concerns them, where they go for advice and support and who they admire, broken down into three groups – homeless young people, those in foster care, and the remainder of the sample, which includes young people living in families, share houses and alone. Data on homeless young people from the 2006 and 2007 surveys will also be provided to examine possible trends for this group.

The focus of the presentation will be the data from the homeless and foster care groups which offers rare insights into the lives of these young people and how their lives compare with other young Australians. Some of the significant policy and practice implications of the findings will also be examined.

ANGELICA HANNAN

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A policy of exclusion: the 457 visa and its implications for migrant women

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

Women comprise 50% of the world's migrants, yet are barely visible in Australia's data collection or migration policies. In a labour market increasingly comprised of female migrant workers or female spouses of migrant workers, greater gender-conscious policy planning is paramount.

In August 1996, the Howard government introduced the Temporary Business Visa (subclass 457), allowing employers to sponsor a skilled overseas worker for between three months to four years. Since 2001, 457 visas granted have increased from over 30, 000 to close to 90, 000 in 2006-07. Despite the program's apparent success, there have been reports of exploitation of workers by sponsor-employers who manipulate the minimum salary level, increase the hours required to be worked above the standard 38 per week or fail to meet their obligations in other ways. Understanding the impact of current migration policies from a gendered perspective has been neglected in the policy planning for this scheme.

This paper explores implications of the 457-visa scheme for migrant women, utilising three key sources: (i) survey data compiled by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in relation to the scheme; (ii) findings and recommendations of the October 2008 Deegan Report into the scheme's integrity; and (iii) findings and recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration regarding the Inquiry into Eligibility Requirements and Monitoring, Enforcement and Reporting Arrangements for Temporary Business Visas.

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Families on the fringe: a report on a study of social exclusion in non-metropolitan communities

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

According to Australian census figures, the populations of Queensland and New South Wales grew by more than 700 000 people between 2001 and 2006. Remarkably, more than half of the population growth occurred outside the capital cities. The areas of strongest growth were those within commuting distance to capital cities, major regional cities or significant centres of employment. Our research suggests that a substantial proportion of the population growth outside the capital cities is occurring amongst young families, that is families with children under 9 years. Many of these young families face pressures, such as commuting significant distances to work and limited service access, which increase their vulnerability to social exclusion. Reviewing population and SEIFA data from 2001 and 2006, we will examine changing patterns of advantage and disadvantage in four non-metropolitan sites in Queensland and New South Wales where significant population growth has occurred. We will conclude with a discussion of what families who have made the move to these non-metropolitan sites view as effective strategies for reducing their vulnerability to social exclusion.

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The non-profit community services workforce: towards capacity and sustainability

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

A high quality, capable, well-managed and sustainable workforce is integral to community service quality and effectiveness, and the capacity of government agencies and their non-government partners to meet key social policy objectives. In Australia, documented workforce challenges are multiple, complex and interlinked. Issues relate to labour dynamics (recruitment and retention difficulties, especially for qualified and specialist staff, and staff in rural areas); worker characteristics (including workforce ageing and over-representation of women); and working conditions (including high caseloads, low pay, underemployment, casualisation, limited career paths; poor supports for staff development and unclear boundaries between professional and non-professional roles).

This paper presents the findings of a study that explored these issues as they affect the non-government community services sector in NSW. Survey responses from around 2000 non-government sector workers in

NSW (collected in early 2009), as well as focus groups and stakeholder interviews, highlight the strength and value of non-profit community services work and the NGO workforce, and provides some vital clues about how workforce quality and capacity can be improved and sustained.

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Developing an Australian measurement and reporting framework for social inclusion

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

An important element of the government's Social Inclusion agenda is the development of a performance reporting framework - to identify the number and characteristics of people and families suffering severe and multiple forms of disadvantage and to monitor the impact of government policies to address social inclusion. Indicators of social inclusion need to cover the wide range of economic, social and personal factors that affect people's ability to participate fully in the community. The paper outlines the framework being developed and discusses the importance of developing a unified framework that provides a better understanding of the multiple factors that can enable or impede the social inclusion of individuals, families and communities, and that enables better evaluation of the effectiveness of government policies.

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[R] Missing the forest for the trees: how Australia's dynamic federal structures and processes affect the school funding settlement.

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

Schools funding is repeatedly identified as one of the policy areas most in need of reform to Commonwealth-State relations. It possesses many of the said shortcomings of our federal system, including complexity, inefficiency, duplication and limited accountability. This negatively impacts upon service delivery, schooling outcomes and equity. Research to date has had little

Abstracts by author

impact because it ignores the complex, dynamic and interactive nature of Australian federalism within which school funding operates. This paper argues that understanding federalism as a complex and dynamic set of governance systems, processes and structures, interacting with society and political actors and institutions, is central to understanding and enhancing Australia's school funding settlement and indeed other spheres of complex and concurrent State and Commonwealth activity. After outlining this problem and its broader federal context in detail, the paper discusses some dimensions of federal evolution and reform under the Howard and Rudd governments. It concludes by proposing a theoretical and conceptual framework, drawing on elements of new institutionalism and frame reflection, as an essential foundation for future research and reforms seeking to restore equity and fairness to Australian schooling.

HELEN HODGSON

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Applying gender equality to the Australian tax transfer system

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

The Review of Australia's Future Tax System (Australian Treasury 2008) is examining the structure of Australia's tax and transfer systems. In the same way that modern tax policy analysis now addresses global issues (Meade 1978; Australian Treasury 2008; Griffith, Hines et al. 2008), there is a key argument in the literature that gender equity issues should now be incorporated fully in tax policy design.

Feminist theorists have developed frameworks to examine the gender equity of different regimes and the impact that government policies have on gender equity (Lewis 2006). Gender equity programs, whether based on removing or acknowledging gender difference, are still largely justified by economics (Lewis and Giullari 2005). Depending on the conditions required to access such schemes in particular jurisdictions they may be seen as programs to ensure equality or to address difference (Lewis 2006).

The tax policy framework needs to consider this feminist framework. Are the traditional concepts of vertical and horizontal equity adequate as an analysis tool, particularly in view of the extent to which tax transfer measures are used to achieve other policy goals? For example progressive tax rates, for women, may be less relevant than the work/care balance (Lewis 1997; Apps 2007)

although the EMTR is often excessive for women as second earners and/or receiving income support (Harding, Vu et al. 2006)

This paper applies a feminist approach to tax policy in Australia. In the process I will consider whether the traditional approach to tax transfer systems of vertical and horizontal equity is sufficiently comprehensive, or whether the framework should be updated to explicitly include aspects of gender equity (Cass 1986).

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Research to practice in community aged care

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

Stakeholders have identified that although in some areas of human services such as children's services there are a large number of websites, briefing papers and other forms of communication between researchers and practitioners, this is far less developed in the community aged care sector, as is the body of research findings. There are also differences in the training and organisation of practitioners in community aged care.

In response the Benevolent Society, in partnership with Social Policy Research Centre, is attempting to generate cultural change by introducing evidence based practice into the community aged care sector through Research to Practice Briefings. The Research to Practice Briefings are resources for community aged care teams to stimulate discussion and reflection on their practice. Each Briefing draws on the existing research about a certain topic, with a strong focus on what the research says about the value of existing practices and suggestions for improving practice. The first two briefings addressed older people's social networks, and care workers and care practices which support and enable good care.

This presentation explores aspects of the content of the Briefings, the process of producing and disseminating the Briefings and the response of community aged care staff and the sector more generally.

ANDREW HOLLOWES

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The risk and prevalence of homelessness: implications for research and policy

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

With over 105,000 individuals counted nationally by the ABS census as homeless each night - be it rough sleeping, staying with friends or being put up in inappropriate accommodation the experience of homelessness can be quite devastating. This paper re-examines homelessness in terms of its risk, prevalence and duration; and poses a series of questions for the research and policy communities: what is the risk of homelessness between different population groups? What is the life-long prevalence of homelessness and why is it that some groups, while at risk, do not actually become homeless? And why is it that for those people who experience homelessness the majority do so only once and only briefly? Through an analysis of the distribution of homelessness and its risk, this paper maps out an alternate research agenda to address the social policy undertakings of the Australian Government's Homelessness White Paper.

ROSS HOMEL

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The developmental systems framework for developmental prevention in disadvantaged communities: moving from small scale demonstrations to large scale practice

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

Developmental prevention involves the organized provision of resources to individuals, families, schools or communities to forestall the later development of problems such as mental health disorders, crime, and child maltreatment. Within the developmental systems framework, development is understood as systematic and successive change in individuals or in other units of analysis that is associated with the dynamic relations over time among structures from multiple levels of organization. These levels of organization range from the individual or inner- psychological through the proximal social relational - especially within the context of the family - through local community levels to the sociocultural and social structural. Within this interdisciplinary perspective human agency and relative

plasticity across the life course are central concepts, and family processes, social institutions and societal access routes that open up opportunities to take new directions are fundamental to the preventive enterprise. The basic unit of analysis is relations, connections or transactions between individuals and contexts and between levels of organization. This paper uses the Pathways to Prevention project in Brisbane as an example of a research-practice-policy partnership developed within the systems framework that aims to apply knowledge about human development to the design of programs that affect preschool and primary school children living in socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Reflective analyses highlight the importance of policies and practices that promote strong connections between the systems and social settings within which children develop, especially the family and the school. The paper discusses the prospects for generalising this approach across Australia in the light of experience with Pathways, Communities for Children, and similar programs in Australia and internationally.

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Economic liberalisation and new urban poverty in the global south

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

Now more than ever it is important to investigate liberalization as process of socio-spatial restructuring, manifested in such things as informal urban development and negotiated through elaborated legal and extra-legal systems of regulation. The 'new' moment requires a direct engagement with the nature of liberalization as a distinctive phase of development and urbanisation.

Informal-sector employment grew two to five times faster than formal-sector jobs- has inverted their relative structural positions, establishing informal survivalism as the new primary mode of livelihood in the global 'South'. Millions of rural immigrants cling to urban life by the most precarious and usually illegal of handholds. Most of the jobs they found in small towns and cities are in the informal sector of the economy. While these informal-sector jobs tend to be labour-intensive and can absorb significant numbers, there are questions about their economic efficiency and productive potential.

However, a new structural situation has developed whereby economic instability produces moments of high

Abstracts by author

unemployment so suddenly that the urban informal sector is unable to absorb the surplus labour force. Thus, economic liberalization has brought a general deterioration in living condition of millions of new urban poor in the global 'South'.

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Social inclusion through community embedded, socially supported university education (CESS)

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

This paper explores recent collaborative research into an innovative educational program working with Australians facing disadvantage. Catalyst-Clemente, an exemplar of community embedded socially supported university education, delivers university level humanities education in a community setting. The program operates at eight sites nationally with more than 25 graduates and a current enrolment of over 100 students.

Preliminary research (2005-6) into the impact of the program pointed to increased student self esteem and autonomy. Subsequent research, conducted at four sites across Australia (2007-8) by Mission Australia and Australian Catholic University, developed a more detailed profile of the students and a more nuanced understanding of the outcomes achieved. This research which provided a clearer understanding of pathways through the program laid the groundwork for a successful three year Australian Research Council linkage grant currently underway.

This paper, reporting and critically reflecting on past and current research, will examine emerging outcomes and initial thinking about the factors and processes which underpin it. In so doing, the paper will point to 'what works' in engaging or re-engaging people who may have been out of the mainstream for a considerable period of time and hence offers practical suggestions for a national social inclusion agenda.

VERN HUGHES

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Self-directed care and individual budgets: transforming provider-centred service systems to person-centred systems in community care

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

The paper examines the issues and challenges in transforming provider-centred service systems in disability, aged care, chronic and mental illness to person-centred systems characterised by self-directed care and individual budgets.

The paper identifies six key structural components in this transformation:

1. Aggregation of resources from disparate programs into person-centred individual budgets.
2. Introduction of a 'per person unit cost' for all programs and services, so that individuals and their agents may purchase a suite of units of service and support to fit their personalised needs.
3. Establishment of a budget holding and management facility, independent of service providers.
4. Establishment of a retail market in community care, independent of service providers, in which comparative price and quality information about services and service providers is available to individuals.
5. Establishment of a technology-based platform to enable individuals and their agents to manage self-directed care and individual budgets.
6. Consolidation of provider-held information into a person-centred information system to include all components of an individual's history and care plans.

The paper explores recent policy and practice innovation in the UK and various Australian states towards self-directed care and self-managed individual budgets, and examines issues arising from this innovation. The paper concludes with an assessment of the strategic and political obstacles to person-centred reform of human service systems in Australia.

LOUISE HUMPAGE

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Resisting 'class'-based distinctions in a 'classless' society? Talking to New Zealanders about social citizenship

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

As part of a broader project documenting public attitudes to social citizenship rights in New Zealand, 87 focus group and interview participants from a wide range of backgrounds were asked to respond to the statement: 'People receiving social security benefits are made to feel like second class citizens'. This paper discusses participant responses to this statement and follow up questions which asked why beneficiaries might feel 'second-class', whether participants themselves felt 'first class' and what citizens might need to feel 'first class' in New Zealand today. In addition to considering the policy implications of these responses, the paper compares the discourses draw upon by New Zealand participants with those identified when British participants discussed the same statement. This comparison highlights many overlaps as well as significant discursive differences in the New Zealand context. Overall, it is argued that the participant's responses reveal interesting and, at times, troubling tensions between the reality of significant class-, ethnic- and gender-based divisions in New Zealand today and the continuing myth that New Zealand is an 'egalitarian' or 'classless' society.

MARY IVEC

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'There's a whole community belongs to this child': building capacity in Indigenous child protection

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

There is a small, but slowly emerging research literature about the experiences of parents and families involved in child protection systems (Harries 2008, Thorpe 2002). The focus of this study has been to examine child protection from a responsive regulatory perspective. This newly emerging perspective is based on the initial theoretical work of Ayers and Braithwaite (1992) and is currently being applied to the child protection field by Braithwaite (2008) and Harris (2008 and forthcoming) at the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) Research

Centre within the Australian National University. By conceptualising child protection as a regulatory activity we can apply the vast literature and evidence base of responsive regulatory theory to inform the development of a more effective compliance model to achieve higher compliance from those being regulated. This approach aims to build capacity in families, communities and service systems. It offers opportunity for dialogue, education, persuasion as well as incorporating sanctions when children's safety is at stake. Engagement of the wider community in the regulator's aims is also a key dimension of responsive regulation.

This paper presents findings on how Indigenous parents and families experience and perceive contemporary child protection interventions. Data is taken from forty-five in-depth interviews conducted in 2008 with Indigenous parents and self-identified carers in urban and regional areas of the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Queensland. Findings suggest that child safety regulators can influence parents' behaviour towards keeping their children safe and that strategies of enforcement by child protection authorities can impact on the support capacity within informal care networks around the child.

NATALIE JACKSON AND MAGGIE WALTER

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Which of Australia's baby boomers expect to delay their retirement? An occupational overview

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

A handful of studies on the retirement intentions of Australia's Baby Boomers have each come to a similar conclusion: most Boomers are open to the idea of later retirement, with many expecting to work well into their sixties. This is good news for the Australian Government, which was concerned that Boomers would follow their immediate predecessors and retire early. However, intentions to delay retirement are by no means evenly distributed through the population by occupation. Nor are discussions pertaining to retirement occurring at the required level or evenly across occupations. By contrast with the few Australian studies which have examined similar issues for individual occupations or industries, this paper provides a comparative overview of findings for all 35 occupations at the ANZCO 2-digit level. Among these

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findings are that Professionals and Associate Professionals - many of whom hold so-called 'critical skills' which are central to the functioning of many businesses, organisations and departments - have the youngest expected retirement ages, while Labourers and Production/Transport Workers have the oldest. The findings indicate that an early retirement crisis of critically-skilled workers may yet remain.

VICTORIA JOHNSON, GRAHAM CURRIE AND JANET STANLEY

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[R] Can measures of disadvantage perpetuate the problems they seek to solve? A discussion of the use of car ownership as a variable in multidimensional measures of disadvantage

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

Improved understanding of the multidimensional nature of disadvantage has led to development of a wider range of measurement variables than traditional income poverty lines. One variable commonly included in indexes of disadvantage, is households that do not have a car. The use of this variable in the Townsend Index, the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage and the Child Social Exclusion Index is discussed in this paper.

This paper challenges the logic of including 'not having a car' as an indicator of disadvantage and argues that the inclusion of this variable distorts the true picture of the distribution of advantage and disadvantage in wealthy nations such as Australia. It presents evidence to show that zero car ownership may be a positive feature of low income households and that conversely high car ownership can put significant financial stress on households with low income.

An examination of these measures of disadvantage can help to illuminate the vital role of transport in addressing social exclusion and economic inequality. The purpose of this paper is to open debate and contribute to the development of more accurate measures of disadvantage.

GUY JOHNSON AND CHRIS CHAMBERLAIN

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Are the homeless mentally ill?

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

In Australia, it is widely believed that most homeless people have mental health issues, and that mental illness is a primary cause of homelessness. This paper uses information from a study of 4,291 homeless people in Melbourne to investigate these propositions. The research found that neither proposition was plausible. Fifteen per cent of the sample had mental health issues prior to becoming homeless, and 16 per cent developed mental health issues after becoming homeless. For those that had mental health issues prior to becoming homeless, it was the break down of family support that usually precipitated homelessness. For those who developed mental health issues after becoming homeless, it was often their experiences in the homeless population that precipitated mental illness. Regardless of whether mental illness preceded or followed homelessness, most people with mental health issues experienced long-term homelessness. The paper concludes with a policy discussion.

KIRRILY JORDAN, HANNAH BULLOCH AND GEOFF BUCHANAN

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Wellbeing and equality in Indigenous policy: is the pursuit of statistical equality compatible with Indigenous wellbeing?

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

In recent years there has been an increasing recognition of the limits of GDP as a measure of 'progress' and a growing emphasis on notions of wellbeing, satisfaction or quality of life. A number of alternative measures of national progress have emerged both in Australia and overseas, with some of the better known including the 'Australian Unity Wellbeing Index,' the 'Genuine Progress Indicator' and the 'Happy Planet Index.' A number of frameworks have also sought to identify Indigenous-specific notions of wellbeing, including the 'Indicators of well-being, poverty and sustainability relevant to indigenous peoples' developed under the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the

Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) emerging approach to the measurement of Indigenous wellbeing. This paper reflects on the influence of these and other frameworks of wellbeing on current Indigenous policy and discourse in Australia as well as the implications for future policy development. In this it compares a wellbeing approach to the 'capabilities approach' developed by economist Amartya Sen. It asks whether a practical commitment to Indigenous wellbeing is compatible with the current policy focus on 'statistical equality' that is evident in the federal government's approach to 'closing the gaps.'

ILAN KATZ, YAHUA ZHANG AND XIAOYUAN SHANG

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Child protection systems in rural China: interagency responses

TUESDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, ARCADE ROOM

This project is jointly being undertaken by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW in Sydney, Australia and Save the Children China. Its aims are to examine the current systems and processes which now operate in China, with a view to policy and practice reform. This paper reports on preliminary findings from the first phase of the research carried out in Lixin, a rural county in Anhui Province. The main hypothesis of the research is that child abuse is still a hidden problem in China and the current systems are unable to provide effective protection to maltreated children even in serious cases.

The research involves a detailed analysis of legal and policy documents at the national and provincial levels and fieldwork in three areas of China – a rural county, an urban setting and a metropolitan setting. The fieldwork consists of semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders (judges, senior police officers, policy makers) and focus groups with front line practitioners – police, teachers, welfare workers and doctors. In addition children in each location were interviewed about their views. This paper reports on the preliminary document analysis and the first round of fieldwork

The main finding of the research to date is the remarkable minimisation of the problem of child abuse by participants, who mainly indicated that they would be unwilling to report even severe cases. Although physical punishment is forbidden in public schools, some parents said physical punishment is an acceptable method for disciplining children. Thus although there is a reasonable

legal framework for child protection, the actual systems and the attitudes of those responsible for child protection mitigate against adequate protection for children.

ROSEMARY KAYESS

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A research network for disability academics?

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

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Bill Shorten, has suggested disability academics explore forming a research network. The ASPC offers a timely opportunity for disability policy researchers to contribute to that development. DSRC is hosting a special session to discuss the development of a Australian disability research agenda and will focus on questions including: developing a Australian body of knowledge on disability studies theory and methodology; researching with disability community organisations and people with disability; Establishing a national network of disability researchers; Resources for disability researchers - clearinghouse, web resources, training, scholarships, partnerships, journal; International opportunities; Governance and setting research priorities and Establishing an Australasian disability studies society. The session will build on the discussions from the Disability Studies Conference, Australia.

TESSA KEENAN

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[R] Indigenous education and social policy development in NSW

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

This paper discusses the historical context of the NSW AECG and the NSW Aboriginal Education Policy, and emphasises the need for culturally inclusive policies with relevant policy implementation strategies. It also highlights the relationship between Indigenous educational disadvantage and colonisation, demonstrating the need for dominant educational frameworks to be inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.

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BENJAMIN L. KELLY

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[R] Conflict and collaboration: a sociology of knowledge production in the field of Indigenous Studies

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

In this paper I seek to introduce Bourdieuan field theory (e.g. Bourdieu, 1990, 2000) and Legitimation Code Theory (e.g. Maton, 2000, 2004; Moore & Maton, 2001) into the field of Indigenous Studies. I use these theories to analyse the relationship between different discourses in Indigenous Studies and compare the field theory approach to understanding academic discourses to the more popular 'paradigms' approach. It is argued that a critical and sensible awareness of our own position within the field is essential if we, as researchers and teachers, wish to produce constructive research and avoid inadvertently contributing to the colonial domination of Indigenous peoples.

HELEN KIMBERLEY

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The Brotherhood's Social Barometer on Retirement and Ageing

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

International trends in poverty definition and measurement such as the social inclusion approach of British and European social policy and Amartya Sen's 'capabilities' framework, propose multidimensional measures of disadvantage and deliver similar social indicators. These approaches, particularly Sen's, have influenced the Melbourne Institute's work on poverty and the Cape York Institute's work with Indigenous people (see Headey 2006; Cape York Institute 2005). Likewise they are informing Brotherhood research toward the evolution of social and economic policies that respond to the changing conditions in Australia and in the global environment.

Retirement and Ageing is the fourth research report in the Brotherhood's Social Barometer series that utilises the capability framework, its predecessors being The working years (Allen Consulting Group 2007), Monitoring children's chances (Scutella & Smyth 2005) and Challenges facing Australian youth, (Boese & Scutella 2006). Retirement and Ageing examines the extent of disadvantage among older Australians through indicators of people's capabilities covering eight key dimensions of life.

LESLEY LAING

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'It really was that I was nuts and therefore it was legitimate!' - the interface between domestic violence and mental health

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

Efforts to promote interagency collaboration in domestic violence service delivery have primarily been built around the criminal justice system with only limited engagement of health services. Yet only a small proportion of abused women ever have contact with the criminal justice system. In contrast the majority of women who experience domestic violence report deleterious impacts on their mental health, experiencing increased rates of depression, anxiety and PTSD, suicidality, and misuse of alcohol or other substances. This paper presents the findings from a three year ARC research project which aimed to enhance collaboration between mental health services and women's domestic violence services in New South Wales, Australia. At the beginning of the project women were invited to recount their experiences of using both domestic violence and mental health services. Their stories were central to the development of an action research project in which several locally based initiatives aimed at enhancing coordinated responses between domestic violence and mental health services were developed, trialled and evaluated. The paper will discuss some of the challenges that emerged in bridging divergent understandings about domestic violence and the outcomes that enhanced women's opportunities to participate more fully in civil society.

CARMEL LARAGY, KAREN FISHER AND ELISABET CEDERSUND

RMIT, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, and Jönköping University
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Comparative conceptualisation of disability and aged support services as a right, intrusion and complement to other support in Australia and Sweden

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

Do people who are ageing or experience disabilities conceptualise formal support services in their home as a right, intrusion or complement to their other support? This paper analyses qualitative data from interviews with

people with support or wanting support in their home to test these conceptualisations of formal support from four Australian and Swedish studies. The analysis identifies that the way people talk about formal support in their home includes their right to receive support and the desire for control over the way the support is organised; experience of support complementing other relationships and activities; and experience of support as intrusive. The comparative analysis highlights the effect of different senses of entitlement on the other concepts of control, intrusion and complementing relationships. The findings have implications for aged and disability support policy, including the interface between formal and information support and people's control of formal support arrangements.

HAZEL LIM

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The impact of Mutual Obligation on mature age NewStart Allowance recipients: a program evaluation

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

In July 2002, the coverage of the Mutual Obligation (MO) was increased to include mature age NewStart Allowance (NSA) recipients aged 35 to 49. The Welfare Reform Task Force hailed MO as the key to addressing social and economic disadvantage of job seekers. Participation in community service, training or part-time work are supposed to enable NSA recipients to exit NSA and work. In this research, the effectiveness of MO in facilitating exits from NSA is assessed by applying program evaluation methods. The longitudinal administrative dataset is used to represent the individual's workforce participation decision-making by taking into account his/her time-use preference, participation barriers and expected labour demand.

It is found that MO is not effective in the way the previous government envisioned it to be. MO is more of a policy-tightening exercise than an active labour market policy aimed at enhancing the skills of the mature age NSA recipients. Only 2.2 percent of mature age NSA entrants manifested the behavioural change the government intended -- take up an MO activity, complete it and leave income support to work. This raises questions on the cost-effectiveness of MO as an ALMP given the expenditure on the program.

LIU JITONG

Department of Health Policy and Management, Peking University

Features of a social policy framework and development strategy of social welfare in China

TUESDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, ARCADE ROOM

In the historical transformation of social structure, the reform of China's economic system and government function lead to the emergence of socialized social welfare policy, which tremendously changes the social welfare system and policy model, and stimulate the social welfare system innovation and its theoretical innovation. The market orientation of economy, the socialized social welfare, and the modernization of society enhance the making of social policy, a prelude of modern social welfare system framework. Now, the crucial issue is how professional social workers and social work educators shall play their roles in such a framework.

BOB LONNE AND KAREN HEALY

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The para-professionalisation of Australia's community services sector: an analysis of contemporary employment patterns

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

The community services sector provides a range of services to vulnerable people. The sector is one of the fastest growing fields of employment in Australia. In this paper we draw on a range of data sources to present an analysis of the characteristics of the front-line workforce and current and projected employment trends. Our analysis incorporates data sets from: the Australian Censuses (2001 and 2006); DEEWR data on the 'helping professions'; and Graduate Careers Australia. This data indicates an emerging "para-professionalisation" of the community services sector. By this we refer to the exceptionally strong employment growth amongst occupational groups with non-degree level qualifications. Employment amongst these occupational groups has almost tripled over the past decade. This group is now the largest occupational group in the sector. Strong employment growth is also observed amongst workers without post-school qualifications. By contrast, employment growth amongst professionally qualified workers has remained steady. We will discuss policy

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drivers contributing to these employment trends. We will discuss the implications of the para-professionalisation of the community services workforce in terms of the capacity of the sector to respond to the increasingly complex challenges it faces.

IBOLYA LOSONCZ

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Struggling to keep the balance: work-life experience of Australian mothers in paid work between 2000 and 2005

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

Australian mothers in paid work often try to reconcile two equally important aspirations: participation in the labour market, and commitment to caring for their family and children. Research by Losoncz (2008), using cluster analysis on the HILDA survey data, identified six major homogenous groups of working mothers who had distinctive profiles in terms of their work-family life experience. Mothers in two of these two clusters Aspiring and struggling, and Indifferent and struggling - experience strong tension in managing their work and family responsibilities.

Subsequent descriptive analysis found that mothers in these clusters were characterised by long working hours, high work overload, lack of support from others, lower outcomes on health measures, and low satisfaction with family life and parenthood regardless of their level of aspiration to be in paid work.

This second part of the project will use longitudinal analysis of the first six waves of HILDA to examine the extent of transition of individual mothers in these two clusters. Furthermore, the research will investigate the extent to which increased support from others, re-partnering, and reduction in paid and/or unpaid working hours either by the mother, her partner or at the household level will predict a more positive work-family life experience.

PAULA MANCE AND PENG YU

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The relevance of family characteristics, family transition and conflict in explaining poor outcomes for young adults from non-intact families.

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

Previous research by Mance and Yu (2009) found that young adults who had ever lived in a stepfather family had significantly lower academic achievement and aspirations and higher rates of independence than both young adults from intact families and never re-partnered lone parent families. The authors proposed that this relationship was due to a combination of factors including contextual factors, parental relationship transition and parent-child or stepparent-child conflict.

This research extends the previous study by using multivariate regression techniques to examine the relative contribution of each factor to the outcomes of young adults from stepfather, stepmother and lone parent families on four measures: educational attainment; being suspended or expelled from school; regular smoking; and being in trouble with police. The research uses data from 2430 matched parent-child pairs collected in wave 1 of the Youth in Focus Survey which was conducted in 2006 when the young adults were aged 18 years.

Contextual factors play a major role in explaining poorer outcomes for young adults from non-intact families across all measures. However, the number of parental relationship transitions and to a lesser extent, conflict is also important in explaining poor youth outcomes, depending upon the family type being examined and the measure chosen.

GREG MARSTON, JEREMY MOSS AND SARAH LANTZ

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[R] Disability and employment: the interface with income support policies

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

In this paper we examine the relationship between disability and paid employment in the context of recent policy changes associated with the former government's

'welfare-to-work' package. We consider the question about whether a high level of disability income provisions increases or decrease the risk of people being outside the labour market. The conventional assumption in welfare reform debates is that a more generous payment rate provides a disincentive to seek paid employment. What we argue in this paper, based on international research and a qualitative study undertaken by the authors, is that the reverse is more likely to be true. A lower rate of payment increases the risk of poverty and reduces the chance that people will be able to meet the costs of seeking and maintaining employment. Lifting the employment rate of people with a disability requires a comprehensive strategy that focuses on the adequacy of the income support system, accessible education and employment and an employment services system that is able to meet a diversity of aspirations and skills.

LUDO McFERRAN AND ROBYN EDWARDS

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Staying home, leaving violence

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

By the 1990s Australia had developed a nationwide system of placing the victims of domestic violence for their safety in refuges and shelters. Raising the idea that the domestic violence offender, overwhelming the male, should be removed from the family home rather than the women and children challenged the centuries old myth that 'a man's home is his castle' and the feminist hegemony of the 1970s that women and children could not be safe in their homes. The Commonwealth Government Homelessness White Paper 'The Road Home' (2008) has committed Australia to reducing the homelessness of women and children by supporting strategies that keep them safe in their homes. How have different Australian states and territories responded to this paradigm shift in domestic violence policy? What is occurring internationally? How did the role of research and leadership contribute to driving change? What are the major enduring barriers to making the home a safe and sustainable option for women and children? The presentation will reflect on the findings and aftermath of the Staying Home Leaving Violence research study (2004), and will unpack meanings behind safety at home.

JOSEY McMAHON

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Inclusion is ... / inclusion is not...: the lived experience for people with disabilities

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

This paper will critique and discuss the theme of social inclusion for people with disabilities. It will explore what social inclusion is, how it is experienced (or not) by people with disabilities and some of the circumstances and supports required to make society more inclusive and welcoming.

The paper will include personal stories from people with disabilities to give participants powerful insights into how movements for social change, policies, practices impact on people's lives. It will critique social inclusion from a historical perspective – looking at the origins of de-institutionalisation – provide a reminder of the original impetus for change that put social inclusion for people with disabilities on the agenda.

Part of this review will include a discussion of policies and practices that empower people with disabilities, and a look at some practical ways to facilitate social inclusion. The paper will also critique legislation, funding strategies, policies, practices and service models that progress and support societies to be inclusive of people with disabilities.

The paper will be followed by a brief panel discussion which critiques emerging practices and explores the positive or negative these have on social inclusion. This discussion will develop key suggestions on what social inclusion is, what it is not, and how communities can be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

SAMARA MCPHEDRAN

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Disability and community life: does regional living enhance social participation?

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

It is well documented that disability can be associated with exclusion from full participation in employment, education, and social opportunities. This may in turn impact on the overall wellbeing and life satisfaction of people with disability. Less clear, however, are the ways in which location may affect social participation and access to social support among people with disability. Although it

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has been argued that living in regional Australia facilitates social connectedness and access to social support, the validity of this hypothesis in the context of disability has not been assessed. Therefore, the current study investigated different types of community involvement, levels of perceived social support, and self-reported life satisfaction among regional people with disability, relative to their counterparts living in major cities. The results partially support the hypothesis that location and social participation are related, with regional people with disability reporting higher involvement in volunteer work, more frequent attendance at community events, and stronger feelings of being part of their community. The findings are set within a policy framework, with emphasis on supporting social participation opportunities for people with disability.

SILVIA MENDOLIA

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[R] The impact of job loss on family mental health

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

The objective of this paper is to examine the impact of job loss on family mental well-being.

Negative income shock due to job loss can affect the mental health status of the individual who directly experiences such displacement, as well as the psychological well-being of her/his partner; also, job loss may have a significantly detrimental effect on life satisfaction, self-esteem and on the individual's perceived role in society. All these elements are likely to have repercussions on family members' mental health. This analysis is based on the complete sample of married/cohabitating couples from the first 14 waves of the British Household Panel Survey. Controls are included for mental-health related sample attrition and mental health dynamics. Data from employment histories is utilised and redundancies (different from dismissals) in declining industries are used as an indicator of exogenous job loss. Two sensitivity analyses are conducted, including instrumental variable estimation. Results to date show evidence that couples in which the husband experiences a job loss are more likely to experience poor mental health and the negative effect is found from both exogenous redundancy and from dismissals. Hence there is evidence of multiple transmission channels through which displacements affect family well-being.

ANNETTE MICHAUX AND ROB SIMONS

The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family

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Measuring social impact: the state of evaluation in Australia from a non-profit perspective

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

This session is an interactive panel discussion. The panel presenters will be

- Annette Michaux General Manager Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society
- Rob Simons, Head of Research and Evaluation, The Smith Family

As non-profit organisations in Australia are developing a range of strategies to more effectively measure the impact of their work, funding bodies (both government and non-government) are requiring a complex array of data on service provision.

There are major opportunities and challenges in this environment. Are we on the cusp of developing a more rigorous Australian evidence base about what works, or are we drowning in complex data reporting requirements that tells us very little?

In this interactive session, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family will share their experiences of strategies to effectively measure social impact.

JILL MILLER

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Time banking for a more socially inclusive retirement

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

Time banks offer a way in which individuals outside paid employment, including retirees, can afford to offer and receive services through the exchange of time. Some studies on time banks in the West indicate that these organisations foster social and economic inclusion. The benefits that older time bank members derive through giving their time include a sense of personal worth, formation of new friendship networks to replace those lost on retirement and the opportunity to use old skills and learn new ones. This presentation provides the example of a time bank in Japan founded to foster a new role in society for male retirees. It is a qualitative study based on

my doctoral dissertation completed in 2008 about time banks and the aged in Japan. Time banks have proved successful in a number of countries, including the United Kingdom, United States and Japan and they could be of benefit in Australia as well.

RIYANA MIRANTI, ALICIA PAYNE AND JUSTINE MCNAMARA

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Towards small area indicators of well-being for older Australians: concepts and issues

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

NATSEM is currently working on an ARC-funded project entitled Opportunity and Disadvantage: Differences in Well-being among Australia's Adults and Children at a Small Area Level. This project is focused on the identification and, where necessary, creation, of small area level data related to advantage and disadvantage for different groups of Australians, and is aimed at increasing our understanding of the nature of locational disadvantage. A key stage of this project is to develop a set of indicators appropriate for studying differences in advantage and disadvantage among older people in Australia at the small area level. To initiate this development we have conducted an extensive literature review of Australian and international sources in order to develop conceptual frameworks and domains to inform the selection of indicators for analysis. This paper will present our findings thus far, and will include a discussion of the context of our project and the indicators that are currently being used in Australia and internationally to measure older people's well-being. We will also present the broad conceptual frameworks underpinning our work, the domains of well-being we have selected; and provide examples of preliminary results at the small area level.

ALAN MORRIS

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Contentment and suffering: the impact of Australia's housing policy and tenure on older Australians

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

Housing policy in Australia has focused historically on facilitating homeownership and creating some buffer for those households that are not homeowners. This paper explores the implications of this policy for older Australians. What is argued is that housing tenure has become a crucial divide between those older Australians who have had the good fortune to access homeownership or public / community housing and those who are dependent on the private rental sector. The latter often find themselves in desperate circumstances. The argument is developed, based on primary material and in-depth interviews, that the failure to put in place a housing policy which would give all citizens the ability to access adequate and affordable housing has led to a situation where a substantial and increasing number of older Australians, especially those living by themselves, have untenable housing costs and minimal disposal income. The paper concludes that the present policy initiatives aimed at addressing the housing affordability crisis will have little or no impact on the situation of the majority of older households who are currently in housing stress.

KRISTY MUIR, ILAN KATZ, CHRISTIANE PURCAL, ROGER PATULNY, SAUL FLAXMAN, DAVID ABELLÓ, NATASHA CORTIS, CATHY THOMSON, IOANA OPREA, SARAH WISE, BEN EDWARDS, MATTHEW GRAY AND ALAN HAYES

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Can area-based interventions work in Australia? Findings from the longitudinal evaluation of communities for children

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

Internationally and in Australia, governments are focusing on area-based interventions to address disadvantage. Communities for Children, which is part of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' (FaHCSIA)

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Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (2004-2009), is a major area-based intervention that aims to support disadvantaged families with young children (0-5 years of age) and their communities. While there is some international evidence to suggest that area-based interventions may work, there is very little evidence to show that they work in Australia. This paper uses findings from the longitudinal evaluation of Communities for Children (2004-2008) by the Social Policy Research Centre and the Australian Institute of Family Studies to answer the question: can area-based interventions work in Australia?

The evaluation, commissioned by FaHCSIA, used a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, including a survey and interviews with families, service providers, government representatives and other key stakeholders. This paper describes the Communities for Children model; briefly discusses the outcomes for services, families and communities; and discusses aspects of the model that influenced change. The evaluation findings suggest that area-based interventions can work in Australia under certain circumstances. This paper concludes by drawing together policy implications for governments investing in, or considering investing in, area-based interventions.

KRISTIN NATALIER

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[R] The use of child support money in meeting housing costs

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

This paper explores how - and indeed, if - child support money is a useful resource in meeting the housing needs of the children of separated parents and the resident parent who receives the payments. The study reports on the findings arising out of a in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 33 parents who received child support money. The impact of child support is often limited by three factors: the amounts paid, the circumstances of its payment (and in particular, the lack of reliability of payments), and the values guiding its allocation.

GENEVIEVE NELSON, KATE SPALDING, JUDITH TEICKE AND MELINA ISGRO-RARP

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Moving forward: women's journeys after leaving an abusive relationship. Implications for policy and practice in Australia

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

Domestic violence is a pervasive and enduring problem facing many families in Australia today. Whilst research has examined the experiences of women and children experiencing domestic violence and the processes involved in leaving an abusive relationship, there is a paucity of research examining their journeys after they have separated from the abuse. This paper reports the findings of an in-depth qualitative research report conducted by The Benevolent Society that explored the experiences of women and children who have separated from domestic violence. Fourteen semi-structured interviews were conducted with women and professionals, whereby women had been separated from the abuse for a minimum of one year. Key findings emerging from the data were focused around the long-term, enduring impact of domestic violence on physical and mental health, the roles played by formal and informal support services, internal and external coping strategies initiated by the women themselves, and the unique experiences of women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Recommendations for policy and practice are given including the need for outreach services in Australia that are free, anonymous, and flexible and soft entry points for domestic violence specialists in existing community services.

ANNEMARIE NICOL

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What event matters? Exploring the relationship between stressful events and psychological distress in mothers of infants

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

Psychological distress incorporates an important component of the overall health and wellbeing of individuals. Psychological distress also represents a risk

factor for illnesses such as depression. In mothers, psychological distress has been linked with poorer outcomes, both for the mother and her child. This study explored the relationship between stressful events and high psychological distress in mothers of infants. Using 4,240 mothers of infants from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, it was found that certain subpopulations of Australian mothers, such as young mothers, single mothers, and unemployed mothers were at an increased risk of reporting high psychological distress. In addition, mothers with high distress were more likely than mothers with low distress to report experiencing at least one stressful event within the past 12 months. The study also found that although the number of stressful events predicted the likelihood of high psychological distress, certain events were more strongly associated with high distress than other events. These included relationship separation, work disappointment and financial crisis. The results are discussed, with particular emphasis on policy implications.

LOUISE O'RANCE

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The geography of disability and economic disadvantage

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

The Australian government's Social Inclusion Principles for Australia recognise the importance of using locational approaches to focus efforts on communities at high risk of social exclusion, especially those whose members face multiple disadvantage.

This presentation uses Census disability data, available for the first time, to paint a picture of the geography of severe disability in Australia. It will show that the proportion of people with severe or profound core activity limitations varies considerably between regions, and will investigate the contribution of key demographic and geographic factors to the variability in disability rates.

Special attention will be given to the distribution of severe disability within the state and territory capital cities. Evidence will be presented of a strong social gradient underlying the geography of disability in the cities. The analysis will identify metropolitan communities whose members face significant barriers to social inclusion due to high rates of severe disability as well as high relative socioeconomic disadvantage. Implications for service planning and delivery will be discussed in the light of the facts presented.

PERI O'SHEA, MICHAEL DARCY AND ROSEMARY LEONARD

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How are local or situated knowledge and expertise in the non-profit sector faring under the purchase-of-service model?

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

This paper draws on data from three SJSC research projects examining the effects of quasi-market reform on non-profit organisations in NSW. These projects comprise of: two interview studies and on-line survey of sector workers and management committee members. These studies found that local knowledge is valued and seen as extremely significant to the effective provision of community services by workers and management committee members of non-profit organisations. It was found that these same workers and managers believed that the increased prescriptive nature of state and federal funding programmes, through funding contracts, had devalued or 'side-lined' local knowledge. Nonetheless, it was also found that there was a degree of pragmatic adjustment in organisations that allowed them to continue to develop and use situated knowledge. Organisations whose primary focus was community development, policy advocacy or lobbying, however, were more likely to say that the way that outcomes were reported or measured were not relevant to the aims of their programs. This paper explores how local knowledge and expertise is faring under a purchase-of-service model and suggests strategies to assist organisations to ensure that needs specific to their community remain relevant under this model.

JENNY ONYX, NINA BURRIDGE AND ELLEN BAKER

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[R] Different types of community networks

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

Networks appear to be the basic ingredient of all community action. But what kind of networks, how formalized, for what purpose, and what specific impact are questions about which there is little understanding in either theory or practice.

This paper explores three civil-society networks in

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Australia, which differ in structure, decision-making, and sharing. The research involved interviews of key informants in several organizations from each network.

The first is a network with a "head office". After establishment of "Job Network", employment-service contracts were awarded to external agencies, and these agencies organized themselves into networks to jointly bid for contracts. These networks with formal structures proved difficult to manage.

The second network is the Aged Care Alliance, which operates in a traditional civil- society manner, with community organizations collaborating to mount a particular campaign, usually under the aegis of a peak body. This network has mounted several very successful campaigns.

The third case describes a loose network, comprising a number of small, activist organizations operated mainly on-line and by young people. This type of network, although essential for the survival of these organizations, has no formalized structure.

The three networks are treated as ideal types and are theorized, using complexity theory.

SIOBHAN O'SULLIVAN, MARK CONSIDINE AND JENNY LEWIS

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Flexibility and regulation: 10 years of Job Network frontline services

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

Reform of the Australian employment sector was initiated by Paul Keating and subsequently intensified under the Howard Government, resulting in the privatisation of Australia's employment services to an extent not seen in any other OECD country. In January 2008, with the ALP returned to office, the Rudd Government quickly undertook a review of Job Network, and concluded that Australia's 'new Employment Services will give Providers greater flexibility in how they respond to the opportunities and constraints in each community.*' In short, the Government's current reform agenda is explicitly focused on provider discretion, elaborated services, and flexibility.

This paper uses survey data collected from frontline employment services staff in 1996 – 1999 and then again in 2008. In 2008, Australian frontline employment services professionals persistently reported a reduction in their level of workplace autonomy. At the same time, survey

respondents reported an increased feeling that the decisions they make are governed by standardised rules and regulations, and that their IT system dictates how they perform their duties. In 2008, frontline staff working for for-profit, and not-for-profit agencies, reported similar feelings of rigidity. These findings suggest that employment services have become less discretionary and increasingly inflexible, over the last decade.

* Commonwealth of Australia (2008), Exposure draft of the new employment services 2009–12 purchasing arrangements, p.26.

SARAH PARKER AND KAREN FISHER

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Facilitators and barriers in Australian disability housing and support policies: using a human rights framework

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

Australian disability housing and support policies are changing due to high unmet demand, new international approaches and opportunities, and constraints in housing and disability sectors. This research applies a human rights framework of goals in disability theory and policy to identify and analyse the key facilitators and barriers to adequate supported living in Australia. These include: legislative and regulatory systems; building regulations; interagency coordination; current arrangements of supported living; funding and demand; staffing; the impact of discrimination; the importance of flexibility and choice; and the major concerns for carers of a person with a disability. Examples of national accommodation support models are provided to offer insight into the range of approaches taken by states and territories in a changing policy context.

ROGER PATULNY

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Ex-household social contact amongst retired men and women in Australia

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

Social contact beyond partners and co-residents is vital for wellbeing in old age. Besides the obvious benefit to life-quality, broader contact with family and friends who

live outside the household (ex-HH) provides support beyond that available in one's own household (in-HH), particularly in circumstances of relationship breakdown or death of a spouse. However, broader social contacts are likely to be disrupted by retirement. Retirement is difficult to define, incorporating aspects such as ending work, defining oneself as 'retired' and more leisured, and entering a particular retirement 'age' where most partners and peers are also retired. Retirement brings more free time for socialising, but also changes one 'community' of friends, by ending regular contact with work friends and disrupting partner's social patterns as retired persons spend more time at home. These events have different implications for men and women. This paper reports on the duration of time spent with exHH family/friends by retired and non-retired men and women using the Australian Time Use Survey, 2006. Results vary by how retirement is defined and operationalised, but an interaction effect between men and retirement predicting less social contact is present when a definition of retirement integrating non-work, self-defined retirement and age is used. There is a consistently strong effect of marital status on social contact, no matter how retirement is defined.

DANIEL PERKINS, LAUREN TYRRELL AND ROSANNA SCUTELLA

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Is career advancement important to disadvantaged jobseekers? Analysis of a large survey of disadvantaged jobseekers

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

For many jobseekers low-paid work is in itself not a good stepping stone towards a better job (Perkins & Scutella 2007). Research indicates that some groups of Australian workers are at risk of persistent low pay (Dunlop 2002; Richardson 2003). Evidence from the United Kingdom also suggests that low-paid low-skilled employment, like unemployment, can lead to similar 'scarring' effects on future employment opportunities, as these jobs allow skills to deteriorate and act as signals to prospective employers of low future productivity (Stewart 2007). The policy focus has thus shifted from helping welfare recipients to obtain jobs, to supporting employment in quality jobs that offer opportunities for wage and career progression. 'Employment Retention and Advancement' (ERA) demonstration programs have been developed in the US and the UK to learn what works in promoting stable employment and career progression for welfare recipients and other low-income workers.

While much has been learned about what factors are likely to encourage (Brown et al. 1998); (Holzer 2004); (Kellard et al. 2002); (Strawn & Martinson 2000); (Yeo 2007) or act as a barrier to (Holzer et al. 2004); (Holzer & Martinson 2005); (Wood & Paulsell 1999) advancement, there has been comparatively less inquiry into how low-wage workers themselves define advancement and their attitudes towards it. This study seeks to fill part of the gap on research in this area by examining career aspirations amongst Australian unemployed and other jobless groups that have experienced long spells out of the workforce, such as sole parents and people with minor disabilities. Using survey and qualitative interview data from the ARC Linkage project 'Job retention and advancement of disadvantaged jobseekers' the study will determine the importance placed on and identify determinants of attitudes towards career advancement.

JULIA PERRY AND FRANCES JAMIESON

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'It's easier to be a policeman than an unlocker of dreams': successful employment strategies in a deeply excluded area

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

Recent employment policy was 'work-first', enforced through harsh penalties for non-compliance. Case management, vocational planning, skills development and staged re-entry to work was rationed to certain categories of Job Network clients with emphasis on the individual rather linked with community development. The Rudd Government is looking for more holistic approaches in areas of social exclusion.

Established in 2006, the Local Enterprise Centre (LEC) in Airds, a Sydney public housing suburb, successfully promoted social engagement, skills development, employment and self employment. In a suburb with no employment growth over the previous 4 years, employment increased by 20 per cent in two years and an impressive number of residents established themselves in self-employment. The LEC also provides a hub for community development activities, services and referrals addressing other personal and family needs, training and skills development in IT and other areas, a community run library, a community garden, and arts and crafts. The LEC used a socially inclusive, participative approach to decision-making, working with individuals and groups of residents to help them realise their aspirations in the economic, personal and community spheres. Housing NSW plans to replicate the LEC model in other areas. This paper reports on the LEC's approach and outcomes.

Abstracts by author

GUO PING AND LIU FANG

China Research Centre on Ageing

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Tuesday 1:30pm to 2:10pm. Arcade Room

A profile of aged population in China: results from 2000 and 2006 sample surveys of the aged population in urban/rural China

This article presents a profile of the aging population in China, aging policy in China, the Sample Survey of the Aged Population in Urban/Rural China (SSAPUR 2000 & 2006), and some results from two surveys.

This research has found significant differences between urban and rural areas. In comparison with rural areas, urban older people have better living condition but less satisfaction with housing, are less willing to live with children and a growing number live in "empty nests". Rural elders are more likely to be lonely, show evidence of poorer psychological well-being and have significantly higher needs for care.

This paper also presents recommendations for government on social policy to facilitate improved living conditions for older people in China.

RUTH PHILLIPS

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Social inclusion/exclusion: a faulty paradigm for a strong welfare state?

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

The social inclusion framework adopted by the new Labor government has not only been liberally expressed as a means of reorientation of the Australian welfare state but as a catchall phrase for broad social change - a recipe for social cohesion? Asserted as a reframing of the social exclusion policy framework adopted by the UK Labour government, recently reframed in the establishment of the Social Exclusion Task Force and the Communities and Local Governments Initiative, Australia's social inclusion approach is yet to be measured against outcomes or even tested as a theoretically rigorous approach for addressing social policy problems. So far we have seen national policy machinery put in place and the emergence of a strong social inclusion discourse as the required 'social policy speak' that, in many ways replicates, the social justice agenda of the latter years of the Hawke/Keating regime. The key difference between social

justice and social inclusion as social policy framework rests with the place equality takes in both its theorisation and realisation.

Utilizing three case studies, this paper applies a critical analysis to social inclusion policy and the fundamental problems that arise when it is tested against what are generally asserted as the pillars of a strong welfare state.

JUDITH PLANITZ

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Are separated families worse off? An analysis of mental health, perceptions of safety and alcohol use in married and separated/divorced families.

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

A significant body of research suggests that parental separation has an adverse effect on family outcomes. Growing evidence, however, suggests that often times associated effect sizes tend to be small or that effects are indirectly linked to family structure. This research assessed potential differences between married and separated/divorced families on three variables reported on by parents: mental health, perceptions of safety, and consumption of alcohol. Data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA, involving approximately 5,000 participants) survey were analysed. Results suggested that statistically significant differences exist on variables; that is, those in separated/divorced families generally had worse outcomes. However, when effect sizes are taken into consideration, effects were very small, indicating that there is substantial overlap between the family types. Overall, this research suggests that the substantial overlap should be considered when investigating differences between family types; that policy should consider the wide range of functioning in families; and that while there may be different dynamics in different family types, family type should not be considered alone as the defining variable in assessing family outcomes.

**CHRISTIANE PURCAL, BETTINA CASS,
MYRA HAMILTON, CATHY THOMSON AND
DEBORAH BRENNAN**

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From support to prevention: policies and services for young carers

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

Young people who provide unpaid care for a relative with chronic illness or disability are a growing focus of public policy and research in Australia and internationally. Policies and support services for these young carers have emerged, but little has been done to categorise them according to their objectives and outcomes and assess their effectiveness.

In assessing young carer policies, this paper develops an analytical framework that categorises policies and services according to their goals and level of intervention. Services and policies may: support young people who provide care; mitigate the care-giving burden; and/or prevent the routinisation and normalisation of care work at an early stage. Analysis of the movement in policy for young carers from support to prevention is an innovative contribution to both theory and policy analysis in a field which rarely goes beyond the concept of support for carers.

In an original contribution, the framework is then used to assess young carer services available or recommended in Australia as best practice. The paper draws on Australian and international literature and findings from Australian studies on young carers. Findings stem predominantly from focus groups and interviews with young carers and service providers carried out in recent SPRC projects.

**CHRISTIANE PURCAL, KRISTY MUIR,
ROGER PATULNY, CATHY THOMSON,
SAUL FLAXMAN AND CATHERINE
SPOONER**

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The impact of the Communities for Children program on partnerships among service providers

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

Partnerships denoted by collaboration and coordination among service providers are an important aspect of

human service delivery, including in the early childhood sector. Government funders increasingly require services to work collaboratively and in a coordinated manner to increase service efficiency and effectiveness. There is extensive international literature on factors contributing to successful partnerships, but little evidence exists of outcomes when partnerships are funded components in large-scale programs.

This paper examines the outcomes of collaboration and coordination from the Australian Government's Communities for Children (CfC) program, implemented in 45 sites around the country. Based on quantitative and qualitative findings from a three-year evaluation of CfC, the paper outlines changes in partnerships among early childhood service providers and outcomes for services and children, as well as facilitating factors and barriers to change.

The data indicated that the partnership focus of CfC helped improve the delivery of early years services. Agency staff worked together significantly more and services engaged better with clients, and this was associated with improved outcomes for children and their families. However, the effectiveness of CfC partnerships depended on structural, organisational and practical factors such as the skill of partnership agency staff, pre-existing service networks and the site's geography.

JOANNE PYKE

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Perspectives from below the ceiling: conceptualising gender inequality in higher education leadership in the context of change.

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

Women remain under-represented within the Australian professoriate despite more than twenty years of equal employment opportunity policy and initiatives. This is in the context that women's participation is now equal or becoming equal at lower academic levels. This paper discusses findings of doctoral research that explores the conditions that operate to constrain women's transition from senior lecturer level (Level C) to Associate Professor (Level D). In particular, the research explores whether or not women are pulling out from promotion to the professoriate just when they have the human capital to be eligible and potentially successful.

Using critical realism as a theoretical perspective, the

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questions posed by the research rely on a case study of one Australian university. In particular, the research draws on interviews with women academics who are currently appointed at Level C. A key focus is on the relationships between structure and agency and how gendered processes operate to shape the 'choice' of whether to aspire to promotion to Level D. Findings show that while the pathway is clear for some, the cumulative effect of multiple delays experienced over the course of an academic working life combine to make the aspiration to Level D either untenable and/or undesirable.

PETA RAFTERY

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Investigating the predictors of social and economic inclusion

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

The complex nature of social and economic disadvantage is well documented, with factors such as low levels of education, unemployment, family breakdown and poor health widely regarded as contributing to such disadvantage. This complexity is also acknowledged in government policy and initiatives designed to address social inclusion, both within Australia and overseas, with the phrase 'joined-up solutions for joined-up problems' often being cited. What remains unclear, however, is the way in which characteristics and circumstances such as those mentioned above interact to influence the level of inclusion or exclusion experienced by an individual. This paper begins to address this issue by reporting on the findings of a survey conducted in a South Australian local government area to investigate the predictors of social inclusion. The paper proposes a model, derived through structural equation modelling, that represents the inter-relationships between the various predictors of social and economic inclusion. Perhaps more significantly in terms of its implications for social policy, the paper also differentiates between the predictors of social inclusion and the predictors of economic inclusion.

MARIANNE RAJKOVIC AND KYLIE VALENTINE

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The experience of families around diagnosis of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder: finding from a qualitative study

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

This paper draws from a research project, 'Post-diagnosis support for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families and carers', which is being conducted at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The project draws on qualitative interviews with families, clinicians and service providers to explore the experience of families in the period following diagnosis, and the supports and services that families find most effective.

This paper explores the tasks parents face in finding and choosing therapies, and the engagement of parents in therapeutic programs. For autism spectrum disorder the path from diagnosis to treatment is not clear cut. As children with ASD present with symptoms which are diverse from sensory deficits to communication problems, with intellectual deficits being present for some children, the most suitable treatment can be much harder to determine than for many other disabling conditions. Parents often feel disempowered and overwhelmed by the diagnosis of ASD. The priorities for families in selecting therapies are often based on reducing the severity of behavioural traits of autism which are anti social, improving communication and eliciting emotional response from the child. Several therapeutic approaches to ASD involve a 'parent training' component, changing the ways that parents (and sometimes siblings) communicate with and interact with the child with ASD. In this paper, we discuss the processes by which parents make decisions about treatment and their experiences of their child's treatment.

JIOJI RAVULO, ANNE HAMPSHIRE AND PRUE BURNS

Mission Australia

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Young people and the juvenile justice system: a research, policy and practice disconnect?

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

On any given day in Australia 6,000 young people are under juvenile justice supervision. The daily average number of young people who are incarcerated is increasing, despite clear and consistent evidence of the poor outcomes achieved through incarceration. Conversely, there is growing evidence of the positive impact of integrated holistic community based programs which work with young people involved in the juvenile justice system, and their families, peers, communities and the institutions in which they come into contact. Is there a research, policy and practice disconnect?

This presentation will report on new in-depth research conducted with 100 young people involved in the juvenile justice system, half of whom are of Pacific background. It will highlight the differences and similarities between the Pacific and non-Pacific young people, explore the role that culture, family and community plays for these young people, identify the strengths of this group of young people as well as systemic factors which can work against their rehabilitation. It will showcase an externally evaluated program which is achieving significant and positive results across a whole range of domains for young people, including a significant reduction in re-offending. It will conclude with a range of policy and program recommendations.

MARGOT RAWSTHORNE

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[R] Creating inclusive rural communities: grass roots perspectives on the opportunities and challenges

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

Rural communities in developed countries such as Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland have experienced profound challenges over the past three decades. The social fabric of rural communities in these countries has been and will continue to be affected by global and local processes that compound

poverty and exclusion. The paper then asks, given this social exclusion and poverty how can social inclusion be achieved for these rural communities? Drawing on the experiences in North Eastern United States, the Scottish Highlands, Ireland and Northern England the paper examines how communities, particularly through the third sector, are responding to this crisis. What are the opportunities and challenges to creating social inclusive, vibrant and sustainable rural communities in developed countries?

GERRY REDMOND

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Children's right to development: how should we interpret 'fullest potential'?

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

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential." Although the term 'fullest potential' has been widely used, there has been little discussion of how it can be interpreted, or of its implications for the realisation of children's rights. My purpose in this article is to offer one interpretation of the meaning of 'fullest potential'. I propose that while legal conceptualizations of human rights, currently dominant in the human rights discourse, cannot easily accommodate aspirational notions such as 'fullest potential', ethical conceptualisations of human rights offered by Thomas Pogge and Amartya Sen can accommodate the aspirations embodied in this term. I also propose that 'fullest potential' can be used as a practical motivator for policies to reduce inequities in outcomes among children. Discussion of the term however also brings to the fore a number of issues that remain unresolved in wider human rights debates, such as how priorities for children's education should be socially agreed, debated and adapted over time, and prioritisation of use of scarce resources for the realisation of human rights.

Abstracts by author

GARY ROBINSON*, YOMEI JONES*, KATE MCGUINNESS*, STEPHEN R ZUBRICK AND, SVEN R SILBURN*****

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Partnerships to develop early intervention and prevention: the Let's Start project in urban, regional and remote contexts of the NT

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

Evidence suggests that University research capacity can be used to develop effective preventive strategies in child welfare, education and public health. However, the systematic use of research and development to build intervention capacity is not yet a feature of the Australian setting. A narrow construction of the role of research within current bureaucratic and policy thinking constrains the utilization of research to develop capacity at the community level. Using the example of the innovative Let's Start project, an early intervention program targeting Indigenous children in urban and remote areas of the Northern Territory, this paper highlights the challenge of establishing and maintaining partnerships between the University, the education sector and other agencies to develop quality services in a context of high need and very limited service capacity.

PETER SAUNDERS AND MELISSA WONG

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Still doing it tough: an update on deprivation and social exclusion among welfare service clients

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

This paper will report results from a new survey of disadvantaged Australians conducted in 2008 and draw comparisons with the situation in 2006. Both surveys recruited clients of selected welfare services when they accessed services or sought assistance and thus provide an important insight into the circumstances of those experiencing the most extreme forms of disadvantage. The methods and indicators developed in earlier SPRC research will be used to examine the incidence of different forms of disadvantage as well as the incidence of multiple disadvantage, and the robustness of these

methods will be tested across the two surveys. Attention will focus on comparing the level and patterns of deprivation and social exclusion among different groups (including those reliant on different social security payments) and how they have changed over the period using benchmarks that capture community views on which items and activities are essential for all Australians to have or to participate in. Evidence on the existence of deprivation and exclusion will be correlated with information on the experience of adverse events and subjective perceptions of well-being as a way of identifying the kinds of factors that trigger the onset of disadvantage and the consequences that result for the individuals affected.

POOJA SAWRIKAR AND ILAN KATZ

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[R] How useful is the term 'culturally and linguistically diverse' (CALD) in Australian research and policy discourse?

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

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) was introduced in 1996 to replace Non-English Speaking Background (NESB), both of which are commonly used in the social policy discourse to refer to all of Australia's ethnic groups other than the English-speaking, Anglo-Saxon majority. However, CALD has developed negative connotations. It can produce 'relational exclusion', or the feeling of not belonging, for both minority ethnic groups as well as the majority, and it can produce 'distributional' exclusion, which refers to unequal access to services, opportunities, or representation. We argue that CALD should only be used in a functional way to celebrate Australia's diversity, but not in a categorical way to refer to a sub-group of its population. For this latter function, we propose the term 'Australians Ethnically Diverse and Different from the Majority' (AEDDM). We explore in this paper how this term can provide researchers, practitioners, and policy makers with a better ability to monitor and respond to their level of social exclusion and inequity to services, opportunities and representation, as the basis for promoting ethnic equality in the future.

XIAOYUAN SHANG AND MORRIS SALDOV

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Rights of children and kinship foster care in China

The paper examines the system of child care and protection in rural China from the perspective of child rights. Based on field investigations from 2005 to 2008, the authors find that the premise of child protection is child contracts instead of human rights of children. That means children are protected because they are expected to take responsibilities and obligations to repay their parents or guardians. The main problems facing the system include: i) Female and disabled children are discriminated; ii) mothers are excluded from caring for children; iii) without external support, the main care givers: grandparents, are not capable of providing orphans adequate support, and orphans may face high risks in their life and poverty. The paper concludes that it is urgent that China establishes a child rights based system of care and protection.

SHEILA SHAVER

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A sociology for nation-building and the limits of public sociology

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

Recently critics have decried the apparent decline of the public intellectual and the relative absence of academic voices in democratic debate. More positively, Burawoy and others have sought to validate a reinvigorated public sociology in parallel with the professionalised sociological mainstream. This paper recalls an earlier conception of social science, mainstream in its own time, as scientific knowledge with the capacity to inform social policy and democratic process. Australian sociology developed in the post-war years and, like its counterparts in many other countries, was imbued with the nation-building ethos of the period. The paper examines that conception of social science in the work of Jean Isobel Martin (1923-1979), the 'founding mother' of Australian sociology. Best known for her research on immigration, she created an empirical sociology in dialogue with an expanding post-war welfare state. Martin understood social science knowledge as at once an account of the social world and a product of it. This paper addresses the relationship between social science as a form of academic knowledge and social science as it supports and frames interventions in the

public arenas of democratic debate and decision. In the 21st century both of these domains have become increasingly internationalised, the subjects of global debate and cross-national policy borrowing. The tensions between academic and public sociology are being felt in different national and political contexts. Martin's conception, emphasising objectivity but also reflexivity, met limits in the 1970s politicisation of social knowledge. This paper considers the implications of these limits for a 21st century public sociology.

MEGAN SHIPLEY AND TAMARA BLAKEMORE

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Parenting in place: exploring parenting behaviours and socioeconomic position in the context of neighbourhoods

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

Children rely on their parents to care for them, provide for them and keep them safe from harm. This can present a greater challenge for disadvantaged families as they have fewer resources available to aid in parenting their children. Research consistently shows factors such as socioeconomic position as well as family and community characteristics are associated with parenting, which in turn influences child outcomes. However, there is little Australian work examining these factors jointly. Consequently, disadvantaged and poor families are often labelled as 'bad parents' without clear understanding of the contexts in which they parent their children. This research uses Wave 2 data of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children to explore parenting across a socioeconomic gradient while also considering neighbourhood factors which may influence the relationship. Preliminary analyses indicate socioeconomic position and some parent perceptions of neighbourhood are both related to parenting behaviours. This lends evidence to the notion that parenting, socioeconomic disadvantage and neighbourhood characteristics are not mutually exclusive and should not be considered in isolation. A solid understanding of how these factors apply to parenting will ensure a responsive social policy framework that intertwines both socio-economic disadvantage and place-based approaches to build strong families and communities and ensure the wellbeing of Australian children.

Abstracts by author

JEN SKATTEBOL AND MEGAN GRIFFITHS

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Young people's experiences of economic adversity

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

This presentation explores the experiences and perspectives of young Australians who face economic adversity. The Making a Difference research project aims to better understand what matters to these young Australians in order to better design interventions that make a difference to their lives. To date, 55 semi-structured interviews and 9 small groups have been conducted with young people aged 11 to 17 from economically disadvantaged families. Young people's stories reveal that they have a multi-layered and nuanced understanding of their circumstances and adopt a variety of complex strategies for overcoming adversity. Many have complex income arrangements in their families and households to buffer the effects of economic adversity. While these complex arrangements are sometimes effective ways of mobilising resources, many of these young people are unclear about the actions needed to navigate the education and employment systems in order to generate more secure longer-term incomes. Furthermore, young people have repeatedly drawn our attention to the poor quality of their physical environments and the impact of these environments on their relationships. The findings illustrate the value of hearing from young people about the interplay of the multiple communities which impact on their lives, and how they attempt to negotiate viable pathways of inclusion and support to escape from a sense of deprivation and exclusion.

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Transition support: helping older carers and their families - summary of findings

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

This paper highlights the findings from interviews conducted with 1600 older carers (over the age of 65 years) caring for immediate family members with disability (over the age of 40 years). The focus of the interviews was to discuss options for providing future care for their immediate family member with disability, and also to

provide referrals for services to continue to support older carers to provide care within their home for as long as they were capable, or wished to do so.

The discussions with the older carers did in fact provide an understanding of the formal service needs of this group and provided an insight into their unmet support needs and their identified future support needs. However, what also emerged from these interviews was important information about a large group of carers who are not connected to formal services, who are socially isolated, are maintaining highly complex caring arrangements, who are struggling in their caring role due to their own poor health and increasing frailty, and whilst they are concerned for the future, do not have care plans in place, in the eventuality they are no longer able to care.

Finally, the paper also considers what we have learnt from older carers about the importance of early intervention, case management and coordination of services, and assistance with formulating future plans.

DIANA SMART, ANN SANSON, JENNY BAXTER, BEN EDWARDS AND ALAN HAYES

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Home to school transitions for financially disadvantaged children: findings from Growing Up in Australia, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

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

This paper presents findings from a study commissioned by The Smith Family and conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which aimed to identify key influences on Australian children's school readiness, particularly children in financially disadvantaged households. A large set of child, family and broader environmental factors were found to be related to children's school readiness. When this set of variables was included together with family financial disadvantage (FD), financial disadvantage was seldom a unique predictor. Nevertheless, children from FD families were more likely to show low school readiness, due to the much higher rates of risk factors evident among this group. There was considerable commonality in the factors related to school readiness for children from FD and non-FD households. School readiness at 4-5 years was a powerful predictor of school achievement and adjustment

at 6-7 years, and family FD increased the likelihood of poor literacy progress. Findings are discussed in relation to two models proposed to explain links between FD and low school readiness: the family stress model, which appeared particularly relevant for social and emotional readiness; and the family investment model which appeared salient for learning and cognitive readiness.

**BRUCE SMYTH, BRYAN RODGERS,
JEREMY TEMPLE, MARIAN ESLER AND
ALLAN SHEPHARD (CSA)**

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***Patterns of post-separation parenting,
family dynamics and family wellbeing
among separated parents registered with
the Child Support Agency: a pre-reform
snapshot and plan for post-reform
investigation***

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

Sweeping changes to the Child Support Scheme were recently introduced, featuring a dramatically different system for the calculation of child support. The extent to which the new Scheme is perceived to be 'fairer' and has improved the wellbeing of children and their families is of considerable policy interest, both in Australia and overseas. This paper describes the parenting arrangements and circumstances of a national random sample of 5,046 Child Support Agency clients just prior to the introduction of the new formula on 1 July 2008. These pre-reform baseline data are the first plank in a new longitudinal investigation of the impacts of the revised Scheme.

CIARA SMYTH AND SAMIA MICHAIL

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Exploring young carers' active agency

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

The recognition of children and young people as active agents, not merely passive subjects, has become a cornerstone of much research undertaken in the social sciences over the last three decades. This research has sought to actively engage with children and young people to gain greater insight into their subjective understandings

of their lives, while noting that this agency operates within constraints. Drawing on research with young carers who provide support and assistance for family members with an illness or disability or are frail aged, this paper explores children and young people as active agents within their families and communities. The paper also describes the research techniques employed to actively engage these young carers in the research process. The paper concludes with a discussion of the research and some reflections on the effectiveness of the methodologies employed.

HELEN SZOKE

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Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission, Victoria
Australia*

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***Social inclusion and human rights -
strange bedfellows on the road to an
authentically Australian inclusion agenda***

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

This paper explores the capacity to develop an authentically Australian concept of social inclusion by positing it within and alongside a human rights policy paradigm.

Noting the emergent primacy of social inclusion in public policy, and in light of the current debate about whether to adopt a federal Charter of Human Rights, Dr Szoke argues that a progressive approach will see what are sometimes seen as separate constructs converge.

Currently, despite its potential strength in recognising the multi-dimensional causes of marginalisation including systemic discrimination, contemporary discussions of social inclusion appear almost devoid of human rights content, to the detriment of both policy frameworks.

The paper will critically evaluate the progression from a needs based to rights based model, arguing that traditional conceptual barriers between anti-poverty theory and legalist constructions of human rights fail our most marginalised communities.

Using examples from the disability and culturally diverse communities, Dr Szoke will explore whether social inclusion can be made more robust if linked to a human rights framework, so that those currently on the margins are able to participate as fully valued, respected and contributing members of society.

Abstracts by author

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The Brighter Futures program in New South Wales - interim findings

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

This paper presents interim findings from a longitudinal evaluation of the NSW Department of Community Services' (DoCS) Brighter Futures program. This evaluation is currently being conducted by a team of researchers at SPRC to examine the effectiveness of the program in meeting the needs and improving the lives of participant children and their families. As an early intervention program, the overall aim of Brighter Futures is to prevent the escalation of serious family problems that may impact upon a parent's ability to care for children, and may lead to a progression of the family through the Child Protection System. Brighter Futures is a voluntary program, with families generally being offered services following a risk of harm report to DoCS in which the children have been assessed as being at low to medium risk of harm. This presentation will provide interim findings from a state-wide survey designed to measure client families' progress whilst on the program; interviews conducted with client families; and analysis of client family data including risk-of-harm reports. The presentation will include a discussion of the challenges involved in this evaluation.

JANET TAYLOR AND NINA GEE

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Life chances and social inclusion in education

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

The Federal Government is promoting the Education Revolution as a key part of the social inclusion agenda:

"Investing in the education, skills and training of our young people and our workforce is the best way to enhance the life chances of individual Australians and boost the productivity and prosperity of our nation."
(Prime Minister's website)

The Brotherhood of St Laurence's longitudinal study, the Life Chances Study explores the experiences of a diverse group of young Australians making the transition from school to further training and employment. The study

commenced in 1990 with children born in that year. By the end of 2008 most of the 140 participants, now 18 year olds, had finished school and were making crucial decisions about their futures, in the context of economic downturn.

The paper draws on both the longitudinal data and the new data of stage 9 of the study to explore:

- What are the differences in school completion and academic achievement for the 18 year olds who have grown up in low-income families and those in higher income families?
- What are the factors affecting their inclusion in education?

Implications of the findings for promoting an inclusive policy are outlined.

DENISE THOMPSON

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[R] 'Beyond left and right' or 'the end of ideology'? Comparing two discourses

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

This paper argues that there are similarities between recent arguments to the effect that politics has moved 'beyond left and right' and the 1950s Cold War thesis concerning 'the end of ideology'. In particular it argues that both are ideological offensives against the left, and as such, both are right-wing, claims to neutrality and moderation notwithstanding. The paper starts by briefly defining 'left' and 'right' in terms of stances in relation to power-as-domination. The main part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of what each discourse has had to say about both the left and the right, in order to demonstrate some of the ways in which both discourses can be regarded as right-wing. It points out that politics today, far from transcending any left/right distinction, demands ever greater clarity and vigilance about what is at stake. It concludes by raising the question (but not answering it) of why there has been a renewed ideological offensive against the left, given the success of neo-liberal policies worldwide.

CATHY THOMSON, TRISH HILL, CIARA SMYTH AND BETTINA CASS

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I'm just helping out the family: profiling hidden young carers

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

The term 'young carer' is used in research and policy to denote children and young people who provide assistance and support to people with disability or chronic illness. The term tends to be recognised by young people only after they come in contact with services. Much of the knowledge about young carers is therefore based on this group. It is widely acknowledged, however, that existing research does not capture the full extent of young people's caregiving, as many remain hidden and do not identify with the term 'young carer', instead perceiving what they do as part of normal family life.

This paper uses an innovative method to identify and profile the demographic characteristics and geographical distribution of these potential or hidden young carers. An analysis of Census investigates whether caring differentially affects identified and potential or hidden young carers' current social and economic participation and, hence, their opportunities in later life. Results show that young people of Indigenous and CALD backgrounds are over represented among potential carers. The policy implications and recommendations for future service development to best identify and support hidden young carers are then discussed.

KAY TURNER

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Transformative or a new hegemonic discourse?

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

Social inclusion has been of international interest since the 1980s in response to the social impact of market conditions and in particular, to increasing poverty juxtaposed against increasing wealth. In this context, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) introduced an Australian Social Inclusion Agenda when elected to office in 2007 and has subsequently been discussing the agenda widely. However, the concept of social inclusion is a contested concept that lacks clarity and can conceal assumptions and agendas.

This presentation will report on findings of a study that used discourse analysis of documents relating to the Australian Social Inclusion Agenda to explore the explicit and embedded meanings of social inclusion contained within them. The analysis provided evidence of diverse meanings being applied to social inclusion by the current Australian Government. Given this evidence it will be proposed that, rather than being transformative, the new Australian Social Inclusion Agenda contains a master narrative. Such a narrative risks sustaining and furthering a hegemonic discourse that, if acted upon in policy, could further stigmatise and exclude those the agenda purports to include.

MARIA VNUK

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Private collect arrangements and child support

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

This paper will add to the limited information about parents who transfer child support payments privately between themselves and not through the Child Support Agency (CSA). Using data from the General Population of Parents 2006, the paper compares parents who pay (or are meant to pay) child support and parents who receive (or are meant to receive child support) by demographic characteristics and family composition, separation experience, current relationship, proximity and frequency of communication about the children, and payment/receipt of child support. Some differences between paying and receiving parents will also be discussed (the groups of parents are not ex-couples). The paper highlights the significance of the separation itself and the post-separation parental relationship for a successful private collect arrangement. As is common with this type of research, receiving parents reported a lot lower rate of receipt of child support than parents reported as required to pay. 55.9 per cent of CSA collect and 79.5 per cent of private collect parents reported that their child support is always received full and on time. 82.1 per cent of CSA collect parents and 93.5 per cent of private collect parents reported that they always paid their child support in full and on time.

Abstracts by author

LIH-RONG WANG

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TUESDAY 11AM-12:30AM, ARCADE ROOM

Social inclusion in Taiwan: a preliminary subjective investigation under the framework of social quality

This paper outlines a preliminary attempt to measure social inclusion in Taiwan through a framework of social quality. The research investigates social inclusion variables using factor analysis, testing the correlation between dependent and independent variables in seven multivariate regression models drawn from a comprehensive social quality survey. Across all models, this research suggests social inclusion is weak in Taiwan. In addition, education, democratic satisfaction, and the level of group participation are the most important variables for an individual's subjective feelings about social inclusion. The models examine different domains of social inclusion, such as social networks, and social service, and citizenship. In addition to its findings about social inclusion, this paper provides supplementary evidence on the link between subjective and objective measures of social quality.

TINGYU WANG

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Empowerment for people with disabilities (rights-based programmes for PWDs)

TUESDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, ARCADE ROOM

This paper discusses the impact of the development of a rights-based approach for people with disability in communities. A series of pilot projects for people with disability undertaken in the countries of East Asia and Pacific Region which aimed to resolve issues related to disability, in particular, individual and family poverty and high levels of unemployment.

Some of the pilot projects focused on the community development of empowerment for people with disabilities, training for partners of disabled person's support agencies and people with disabilities; strengthening capacity building, empowering the accessibility of community services for people with disability, education, employment, working together with people with disability to advocate and Campaign on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The programme identified a gulf

between legal policy intentions and their effective practice, a lack of integrated mechanisms for effective services for people in legislation and policy designed to support people with disability in most of the pilot countries. With technical and financial support from Leonard Cheshire Disability, the programme implemented in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines demonstrated the effectiveness of holistic approaches to rights-based programming for people with disabilities.

In the project areas, there is increased recognition of the rights of people with disability; there is more open discussion of vulnerability, social exclusion and discrimination; and poverty has been reduced. For example, the China Economic Empowerment project has provided more job opportunities; in the Philippines, the inclusive education project has helped 1300 disabled children to enjoy a meaningful education; and in Banda Aceh of Indonesia, the Disability Resource Centre is providing comprehensive services in communities for around 660 persons with disabilities. The programmes increased accessible community services; awareness of gender inequalities; understanding of social exclusion and poverty for families with disabilities; and knowledge of trafficking in disabled children, and the abuse and abandonment of children with disability.

LOUISE WARD

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Employment services for tough times

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

Over the next year, unemployment is forecast to grow to 7%. This increase is the most dramatic that Australia has seen since the late 80s/early 90s. However, the Government designed its new employment service delivery model – 'Jobs Service Australia' for good times, how well it will perform in the current labour market where we are facing widespread retrenchment and increasing unemployment is unknown. Its ability to provide services to newly retrenched workers and long term unemployed job seekers will be critical to its success.

This paper will explore the impact of this new model on job seekers, both long term unemployed and the newly retrenched. It will discuss ways the system may need to adapt to ensure that newly retrenched workers get the assistance they need – when they need it - and ways to ensure that long term unemployed job seekers are not further disadvantaged and isolated from the labour market.

The paper will draw on focus group studies, which explore the experiences of newly retrenched workers, their needs and their response to the services available. We will also draw on the experience of Job Futures as a provider of employment services for more than 10 years.

LOUISE WATSON

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[R] The challenge of social inclusion for Australian schooling

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

The social inclusion policy agenda has led to significant reform of the way in which governments deliver social services. The health and community services sectors have been transformed by structural changes emanating from "joined up government" arrangements and multi-sectoral partnerships. Yet in spite of its dominance in national and international social policy circles, the social inclusion policy agenda has had minimal impact on how we deliver schooling. Although schools play a major role in determining the life chances of individuals, education has remained beyond the reach of the social inclusion policy agenda. This paper argues that reform of our school education systems is critical to achieving a more socially inclusive society. The author identifies directions for the reform of school education policy that would improve the capacity of schools to promote social inclusion. The paper reviews recent national government policy initiatives that aim to make Australian schools more responsive to the social inclusion policy agenda. Some of the challenges for Australian education policy in promoting social inclusion are discussed.

LEANNE WEBER AND HELEN MCKERNAN

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Immigration status, uncertainty and community policing

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

With increasing global mobility, local communities are characterised not only by ethnic diversity but ongoing transnational linkages and differences in identification as citizens. Immigration status is therefore an important aspect of the structural positioning of people from minority cultural groups. The interplay of an insecure immigration

status with gender, ethnicity and socio-economic status has implications for people's vulnerability to exploitation and readiness to seek help. The paper explores how uncertain immigration status impacts on the every day experiences of security and safety by Vietnamese Australians. The study contributes to a four-year ARC Linkage project, 'Exploring the experience of security in the Australian Vietnamese community: practical implications for policing'. The ethics of border control and policing approaches are questioned, particularly interventions that exacerbate insecurity for already marginalised people. The authors consider the implications for cooperative policing models in communities characterised by diversity of immigration status.

PETER WHITEFORD

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Australian tax-transfer policy in comparative perspective

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

This paper will provide a background for considering key social security transfer policy issues in Australia. The paper will be based in a range of major databases developed by the OECD Secretariat, including the social expenditure database, the "net social expenditure" database, the benefit recipient database, the income distribution database, and the benefits and wages database. The paper will concisely summarise the main conclusions to be drawn from analysis of these data sources and identify implications for reform of Australian transfer payments. In particular, the paper will place the Australian system of social transfers and taxes in an international comparative perspective, identifying the distinctive design features and outcomes of Australian arrangements, as well as the similarities between Australian arrangements and those in other countries; discuss the distributional profile of Australian transfers compared to those in other OECD countries, and how these have developed over the past two decades; and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Australian system in terms of poverty reduction and impacts on income inequality.

Abstracts by author

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Sustaining pension reform in China

TUESDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, ARCADE ROOM

China is continuing the process of developing a pension system through a time of unparalleled economic and demographic transition. The situation is further complicated by the global financial crisis, which can be viewed as calling into question many of the basic assumptions of the model adopted in China.

Since 1997 many significant reforms have been implemented and the framework and direction for a national unified system has been set out. In spite of this significant progress, the scope of the system remains limited, as the coverage rate among urban employees remains below 50%. The rural population remains largely outside the national pension system, and it currently seems likely that the majority of the population will remain dependent on old age provision through family support for many years to come. The system must also deal with the situation of migrant workers, where the problems range from those associated with low coverage to those associated with guaranteeing equitable treatment to persons retiring in different parts of the country and subject to differing conditions of entitlement.

The current situation provides a "demographic window" until around 2015 to address these short-comings. Extending coverage through improved compliance by employees and companies as well as the continuing financial commitment towards the National Social Security Fund are crucial to create the financial and institutional basis that can cushion the effects of a much older population, starting in about 20 years time.

This paper analyses how far the process of creating a national old age insurance system has proceeded. It provides an assessment of to what degree the pension system has achieved "its primary goal of social security for more people" (Chinese Government, September 2006), and looks at the challenges in building a national system.

STEWART WILLIAMS AND KEITH JACOBS

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Housing agencies' roles in preparing for and responding to natural disasters

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

Natural disasters are rapid onset events that have huge consequences for individuals and communities, causing injury and death as well as extensive damage to private property and public infrastructure, and requiring a broad government and multi-agency response to facilitate recovery. Most significant in Australia are bushfires, floods, storms and cyclones. It is generally accepted that climate change, population growth and other demographic shifts have accentuated the risks faced by populations. In nearly all such disasters, there is a need to provide emergency shelter, temporary forms of housing, repairs to damaged property and welfare support for the households affected. While there is considerable understanding of the procedures that are used in disaster management, there is a gap in knowledge with respect to how key actors engage in the various planning and response activities and negotiate the complex array of tasks required. This paper reports on the findings from an investigation funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to explore the role of housing agencies in preparing for and responding to natural disasters. It discusses the opportunities as well as conflicts and tensions that arise when housing agencies seek to implement procedures, and the insights gleaned from recent disasters in the ACT, NSW and Queensland.

SHAUN WILSON, GABRIELLE MEAGHER AND KERSTIN HERMES

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Deservingness: perceptions of who has gained in Australia's new welfare state

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

The Howard Government was an activist regime in several key areas of social policy— retirement incomes, income support for people of working age, family policy, health, and housing. Measures reoriented these programs, sometimes subtly, sometimes radically, creating new categories of winners and losers. We analyse new data from the Australian Election Study 2007 to examine how awareness of policy developments (knowledge),

perceptions of deservingness (attitudes), and receipt of benefits (constituency effects) shape the public's willingness to support measures targeted at different social groups. We find that, despite considerable 'toughening' of residual welfare system, many Australians are reluctant to recognise that reforms have tightened the welfare rules on marginal groups (immigrants, Aboriginal people, and the unemployed), and believe that these groups deserve even tougher treatment. There is some recognition that the main 'middle class' targets of increasingly generous welfare measures (home buyers, retirees, and working families) benefited under Howard – but the public still believes these groups deserve more. We conclude by drawing out the implications of this new public opinion data for the debate about 'middle class welfare' and the evolution of Australia's targeted welfare model.

KERRY WILSON

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[R] Impact of the non-inclusive organisation on the delivery of socially inclusive public services

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

This paper discusses tensions between the *non*-inclusive leadership and management of public service organisations and their attempts to contribute to social inclusion policy agendas. Using the public library service in England as a case study, the paper presents a recent two-year empirical study, 'The Right 'Man' for the Job? The role of empathy in community librarianship', conducted at the University of Sheffield, UK and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) 2006-08. The project investigated library staff attitudes towards social inclusion policy and disadvantaged groups in society, exploring the relationship between their own social and cultural identities, and their capacity to make an effective, empathic contribution to social inclusion objectives. Selected key findings are discussed, including the impact of local government 'tick box' culture on policy effectiveness and staff engagement, and issues relating to staff awareness, development and subsequent role strain amongst a predominantly white female middle-aged homogenised workforce. The paper demonstrates that a fully inclusive and participative society cannot be realistically achieved by ambiguous policy directives and without the full endorsement of appropriately recruited, trained, and included public service sector staff.

MANDY WILSON, SHERRY SAGGERS, HELEN WILDY AND CARMEN ACOSTA

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"Shit that normal people do": using young peoples' voices to create a qualitative scale for measuring young peoples' progress in treatment

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

Adolescent substance use in Australia is on the rise. Evidence exists linking misuse of alcohol and other drugs to a range of health and social harms, and reduced life chances for young people. Young people with substance misuse problems are less likely to complete their schooling, obtain secure employment, and contribute positively to their communities than other young people.

Studies indicate that people who undergo formal treatment are more likely to reduce drug use and have improved physical and mental health than those who do not. However, insufficient evidence is available to determine 'what works' for young people using inpatient treatment services. There are few qualitative tools to gauge outcomes - despite research and practitioner wisdom suggesting that issues related to client's experiences of treatment are not being captured by existing quantitative measures.

Focusing on data collected from young people at two residential drug and alcohol services over the period of a year, this paper describes the development of a qualitative composite framework for measuring the progress of young people in treatment for alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues and considers the implications these findings may have for future service and policy practice.

JUDITH YATES AND BRUCE BRADBURY

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Home ownership as a (crumbling) fourth pillar of social insurance in Australia

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

This paper examines the potential that asset based welfare has to protect households from poverty after

Abstracts by author

retirement by focusing specifically on the role of home ownership in maintaining average living standards and preventing poverty among older Australians. Incomes and housing costs are compared between Australia and six other nations (Canada, UK, USA, Italy, Finland and Sweden) and the likely future trends in Australia examined.

Though asset-based welfare has the potential to ease the fiscal constraints faced by the state, it may well lead to poorer social insurance outcomes for households with limited saving capacity over their lifetime. Access to home ownership tends to be more limited than access to the labour market and fluctuations in asset prices can lead to arbitrary shifting of wealth between generations. Social insurance programs can be more readily designed with explicit distributional objectives.

By international standards, the older population in Australia has a low average income and a high income poverty rate. However, unlike most other rich nations, more than 80 per cent of people over retirement age in Australia own their own home. After taking account of their lower housing costs, their average living standard and after housing poverty rate is similar to that in the other countries. Nonetheless, the Australian model means that those who miss out on home ownership are multiply disadvantaged and projections suggest that this group will grow in size in the coming decades.

PENG YU

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Social inclusion among young people with a disability

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

This paper examines social inclusion issues among young people with physical or developmental/learning disability using data collected from a cohort of 18-year-old youth. It explores differences in past experiences (school attainment and performance, and childhood happiness), present circumstances (participation in education/employment and social life), and future prospects (expected education and confidence about future) by the disability status of the youth.

Results show that after controlling for individual, family and contextual factors, young people with disability scored similarly to those without disability on most indicators of present circumstances and future prospects. As such, youth growing up with disability are not

significantly disadvantaged when compared to their peers without disability, at least at the early transitional stage of life. However, youth with disability were more likely to have reported poor school attainment and performance, a troublesome and unhappy childhood, and poor current health. Since school attainment, school performance and health are significant influencing factors for most of the selected indicators for present circumstances and future prospects, they may serve as intermediate factors through which childhood/adolescent disabilities affect the development and wellbeing of people over time. The research also highlights the importance of parental engagement for young people with disability.

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Maternal employment and overweight children: an Australian study

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

The alarming rise in the number of overweight children in developed nations during a trend of increasing rates of female participation in the labour force has raised concerns about whether longer hours in employment (and away from the child) contributes to poorer health outcomes for children. This paper explores this relationship for Australia using the first wave of data from the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children (LSAC). However, this paper goes beyond using traditional controls in regression analysis and shows that there are statistically significant sources of unobservable heterogeneity which can underestimate the impact of maternal employment on child obesity, if unaccounted for. More specifically, it argues that the self-selection bias effect is not uniform across different employment loads, that is, the unobservable factors that influence some mothers to choose full-time employment are different to the unobservable factors which influence other mothers to choose part-time work or to not join the labour force. This paper therefore, contributes to the literature by raising awareness of this issue and adopting an econometric method which efficiently addresses it.

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