

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS



Contemporary Challenges for Social Policy
14th Australian Social Policy Conference
16–18 September 2013

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Social Policy Research Centre

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Australian Social Policy Conference

Program and Abstracts Contemporary Challenges for Social Policy 14th Australian Social Policy Conference

16–18 September 2013

The Australian Social Policy Conference is the country's leading event for the discussion and dissemination of social policy.

This biennial conference brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers from across disciplines and provides an opportunity to explore research and practice.



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© Social Policy Research Centre 2013
ISSN 2202-6770 (online)

UNSW CRICOS Code 00098G

Design and layout by Judi Rainbow
Copyediting by Judi Rainbow

Suggested citation:

Social Policy Research Centre (2013). Program and abstracts:
Contemporary challenges for social policy, 14th Australian Social
Policy Conference. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre,
University of New South Wales.

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Welcome



On behalf of all the staff at the Social Policy Research Centre, I wish you a very warm welcome to the 13th Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC). We trust that you enjoy the program, which offers eminent invited speakers, forums, and presentations and posters. We are very proud that the ASPC brings together social researchers, policy makers,

practitioners and advocates, and enables the exchange of information and ideas over three days.

Our keynote speakers are leaders in the field, and influence policy and research around the world. They will present papers on critical areas of social change and social policy from national and cross-national perspectives: gender equality, work-family reconciliation, and ageing societies. The ASPC has a tradition of contributing to our understanding of everyday life and policy, of both people and populations, and this is sure to continue here. The three forums are presented by the Australian Social Policy Association and we expect that they will, as always, produce the most provocative moments of the conference. We are thrilled at the quality of these plenary sessions, and at the program of contributed papers. This year speakers from a range of sectors will present 180 papers on all of the key issues in Australian social policy. A strong focus of a number of these papers is DisabilityCare, the national disability

insurance scheme which should transform the design and delivery of support for people with disability, and is sure to have impact in other sectors as well.

We are proud to host the third Chinese social policy workshop to coincide with the ASPC and extend a particular welcome to delegates from China. A special welcome also to Higher Degree Research students: we hope you find the workshop at 12.00 md on Monday 16 September valuable.

The Australian Social Policy Association will hold its Annual General Meeting at 5.45 pm on Tuesday 17 September. We encourage you to consider attending the meeting, and joining the Association.

An extraordinary amount of work is required to coordinate a conference of this size, and my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the ASPC academic committee of Professor Ilan Katz, Dr Trish Hill and Dr Bruce Bradbury; and the conference organisers David Cami and Annie Whitelaw. They have carried out innumerable administrative and diplomatic tasks with energy, capability and humour, and the conference is all the stronger for their work.



Dr kylie valentine
Acting Director, Social Policy Research Centre

Conference theme

We are living through a time of major economic and social change that is presenting new challenges to social policy. Australia has so far escaped the worst ravages of the Global Financial Crisis and its impact on social protection and services. Yet in Australia, as internationally, governments are cutting back on welfare spending at a time when many areas of need are increasing. Whoever wins the Federal election (the results of which will be known by the conference date) will be likely to continue this trend.

Structural changes in society created by globalisation, migration, ageing and casualisation of the workforce continue the diversification of the population and throw up ever more complex challenges for social policy research and development. Furthermore

the emergence of new types of welfare regimes in China and other parts of Asia and the 'global south' are challenging the conceptual categories used by social policy theorists for decades. On the other hand the 'old' problems of inequality, unemployment, discrimination, social exclusion and poverty continue to defy solution. Yet this is also a time where research and theorising in social policy is in an exciting phase, with new ways of thinking and new data emerging to challenge the orthodoxies. The ASPC brings together academics, policy makers and practitioners from Australia and internationally to provide a forum to test the best conceptual thinking and empirical findings to support the development of innovative and equitable policy for the future.

General information

Venue

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.

All conference sessions will be held within the John Niland Scientia. The precise location of each activity is provided in **Breakdown of sessions**.

A map of the Kensington campus and floorplans of the John Niland Scientia appear on the following pages. Other maps of the University are available at <http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/getting-uni>

Registration and Information Desk

The registration and information desk, located in the foyer of the John Niland Scientia, will be attended from 8:30am each day. A noticeboard will advise of cancellations, special events and requests from Press.

Welcome cocktails

Welcome cocktails will be held in the John Niland Scientia foyer from 5.00pm on Monday 16 September.

Conference dinner

The conference dinner will be held at Ceviche from 6.30 pm on Tuesday 17 September. The cost of the dinner is \$100 per head and includes three courses, coffee and drinks. Tickets may be purchased from the Registration Desk until 5.00 pm Monday.

Banking

There are two banks on campus: Commonwealth Bank (near the Post Office (map reference F22) and ANZ Bank (in the Quadrangle building near the UNSW Bookshop) (map reference E14).

Bookshop

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

Conference evaluation

Following the conference you will be emailed a link to an online survey. Please help us to improve the conference by completing the survey.

Disabled access

The conference venue is wheelchair accessible. A map of wheelchair routes and disabled parking appears on the following page.

Environmental impact

The conference organising committee is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the conference. Carbon credits have been purchased from *Carbon Friendly*.

All leftover food will be collected daily by OzHarvest.

Food and drink

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

Health, medical and dental needs

The University Health Service is on the ground floor of the Quadrangle Building (map reference E17). Doctors are available for consultation Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 5 pm. Telephone 9385 5425.

Within the University Health Service, there is a Dental Surgery. Telephone 9313 6228.

There is a pharmacy on campus in the Quadrangle Building (map reference E15). Telephone 9385 7617.

Internet access

Free WIFI access is available to all delegates. Your personal password is printed on the reverse of your name tag. Computers are available in the Peter Farrell room of the John Niland Scientia.

Media contacts

Journalists may wish to contact speakers during the conference. The University's Media Office, with help from designated conference staff, will liaise with media. Please regularly check the Press Contacts section of the message board in the foyer.

Mobile phones and pagers

As a courtesy to all delegates and speakers, please switch off mobile phones during all sessions.

General information

Name badges

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

Parking

Driving to the conference is not recommended as parking in and near the campus is extremely limited.

Casual day-parking is available at UNSW via Gate 14 (Barker St) or via Gate 11 (Botany St) only on levels 5 and 6 of the parking stations, where a Pay 'n' Display system operates. Coins are required for parking meters. Lower floors are only available to staff and heavy parking fines apply.

Photography and filming

No photography or filming of sessions is permitted.

Post office

The campus post office is located behind the Library, near the Commonwealth Bank (map reference F22).

Printing or photocopying

Photocopying, laser printing, transparency copying, binding and scanning are available at PrintPostPlus (P3) located on the lower ground floor of the Mathews building (map reference F23) (phone 9385 7726). Opening hours are 8.30 am to 5.30 pm daily.

Public transport to UNSW

For information on buses to UNSW, visit <http://www.transport.unsw.edu.au/>

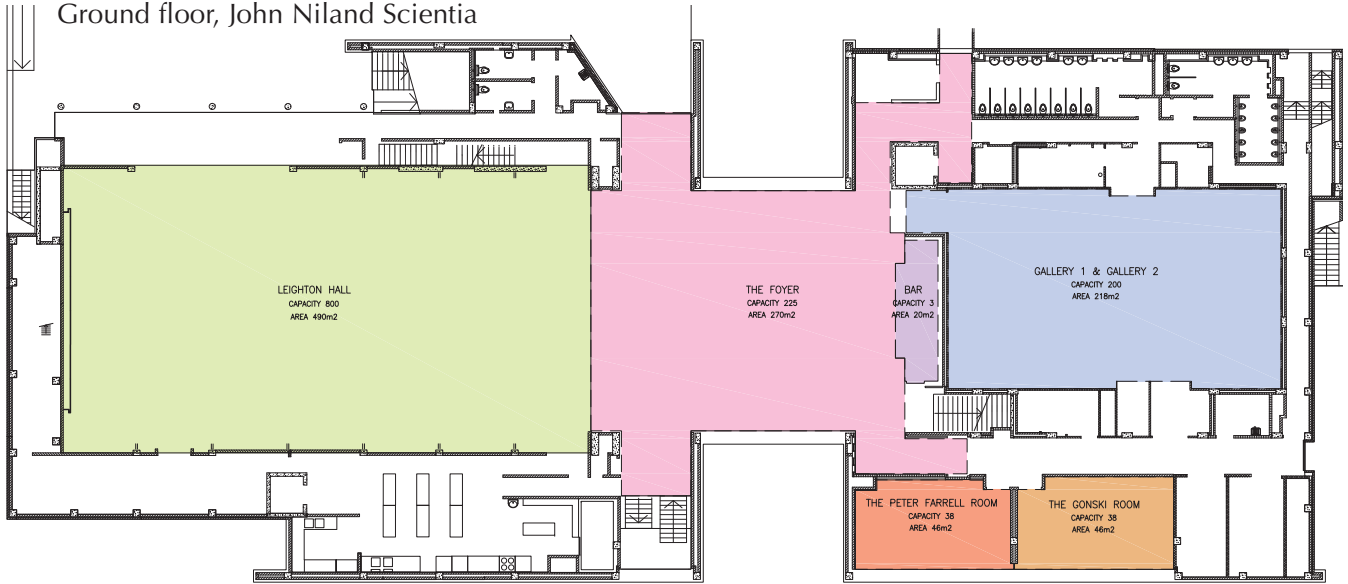
Smoking

UNSW is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is only permitted within designated smoking zones. The closest location is at map reference F21.

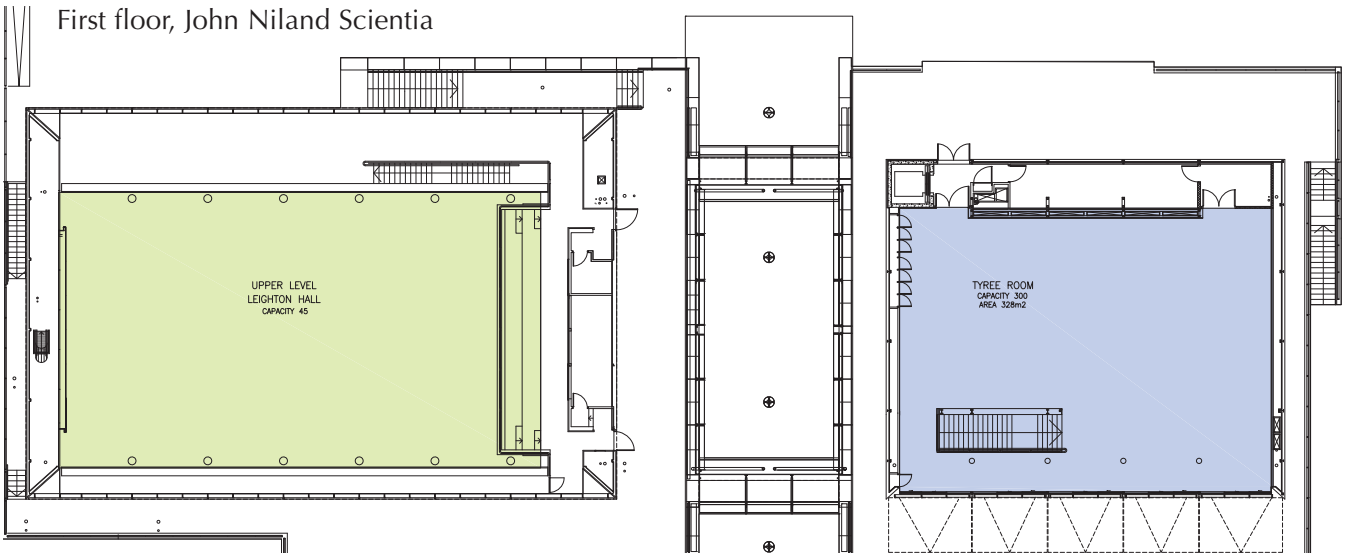


Venue floorplans

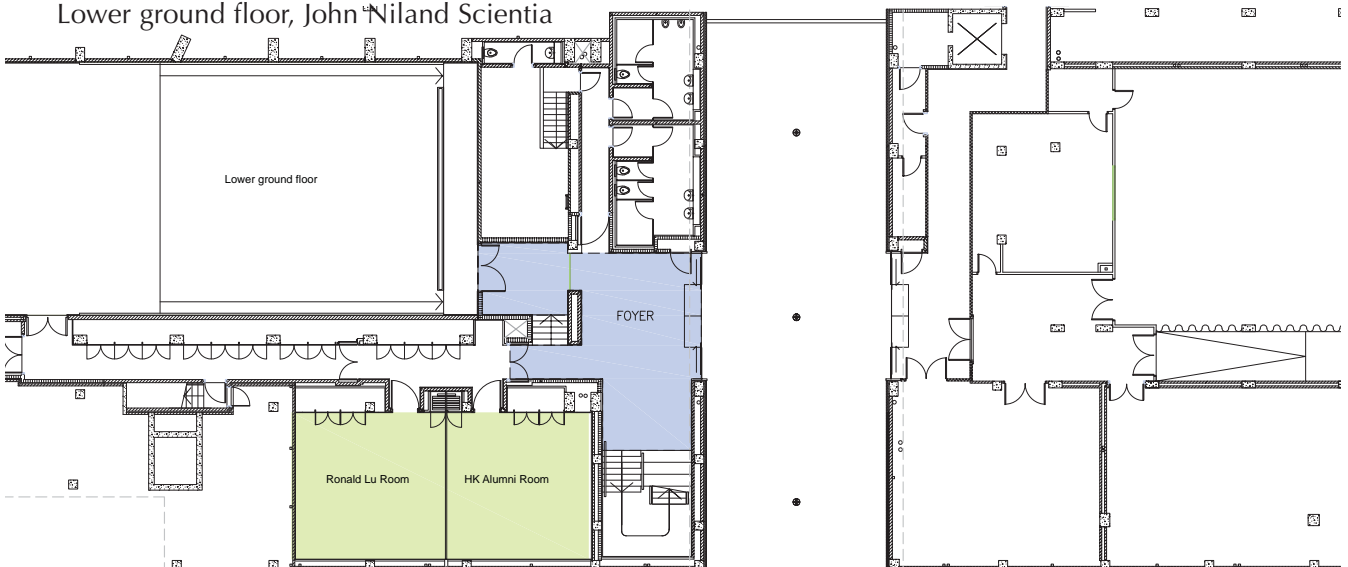
Ground floor, John Niland Scientia



First floor, John Niland Scientia



Lower ground floor, John Niland Scientia



Program at a glance

Monday 16 September		
8.30–10.30	Registration	Foyer
9.30–10.30	Morning tea	Foyer
10.30–10.50	Welcome to Country Marcia Ella-Duncan (Chairperson, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council) Conference welcome Professor James Donald (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) Opening address Megan Mitchell (National Children's Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission)	Leighton Hall, ground floor
10.50–12.00	Plenary session Janet Gormick	Leighton Hall, ground floor
12.00–1.00	Lunch	Foyer
1.00–3.00	Contributed papers	See full program
3.00–3.30 3.00–3.15	Afternoon tea Report launch <i>Grandparents raising grandchildren: Towards recognition, respect and reward</i> Chief investigators: Professors Bettina Cass and Deb Brennan and A/Professor Sue Green. To be launched by Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family.	Foyer
3.30–5.00	Contributed papers	See full program
5.00–6.00 5.15–5.30	Welcome cocktails Book launch <i>Combining paid work and family care: Policies and experiences in international perspective,</i> To be launched by Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.	Foyer
Tuesday 17 September		
8.30–9.30	Registration	Foyer
9.30–10.30	Plenary session Sue Richardson	Leighton Hall, ground floor
10.30–11.00	Morning tea	Foyer
11.00–12.30	Contributed papers	See full program
12.30–1.30 12.45–1.00	Lunch Sponsor's address <i>Better lives through better statistics</i> to be presented by Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Population, Labour and Social Statistics Group Australian Bureau of Statistics	Foyer Gallery 1, ground floor
1.30–3.30	Contributed papers	See full program
3.30–4.00	Afternoon tea	
4.00–5.30	Forums	See full program
5.45–6.00	Annual General Meeting Australian Social Policy Association	221/223 John Goodsell
6.30–9.00	Conference dinner Ceviche Restaurant	56 Carr Street, Coogee
Wednesday 18 September		
8.30–9.30	Registration	Foyer
9.30–10.30	Plenary session Joakim Palme	Leighton Hall, ground floor
10.30–11.00	Morning tea	
11.00–12.30	Contributed papers	See full program
12.30–1.30	Lunch	
1.30–3.30	Contributed papers	See full program

Keynote speakers



Janet Gornick (Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Graduate Center, City University of New York)

Work-family reconciliation policy and gender equality: A cross-national perspective

Janet Gornick will speak about 'work-family reconciliation' (WFR) policy: a term that primarily encompasses (1) maternity/paternity/parental leave policies, (2) working time regulations, and (3) publicly-financed or/and provided early childhood education and care. She will tackle a series of questions, including: What is the role of the European Union in establishing WFR policies in Europe? How do WFR policy provisions vary across high-income countries? What do we know about the effects – both intended and unintended – of WFR policies? What explains the comparatively low level of provision in the English-speaking countries, especially the United States?



Professor Sue Richardson (Principal Research Fellow, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University)

Breadwinner men and the gentle invaders: Men, women, work

The great social shift of our times is the movement of women from the domestic sphere into paid employment and other public domains. We examine the extent and nature of the change in women's engagement with paid work. We pay particular attention to the implications for men's work and for the gender division of earnings in the household. We consider possible differences in the experiences of low, middle and high education men and women, together with changes in their real and relative earnings. Have the gentle invaders taken more than a few steps outside the front door, to become breadwinner women, or is the old order still largely undisturbed?



Joakim Palme (Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden)

The quest for sustainable social policies in ageing societies

The ageing of populations and the need to provide decent living conditions for the elderly are increasing the pressure for more redistribution of resources between different age groups. The debate about the role of the welfare state has, however, been dominated by discussion of pension reform and the management of healthcare systems. Too little focus has been given to the critical question of how to secure the future tax base. As the GFC has turned into a crisis of the real economy, the political horizon appears to have been shortened. The potential returns on human capital investments have not been given adequate attention. Here, the emergence of a 'social investment strategy' can be seen as an alternative response, not only to the challenges of ageing populations but also to the current threats to social cohesion.

Special events

Forum sessions

These forums were organised by the Australian Social Policy Association and will be held at 4:00pm, Tuesday 17 September.

Indicators, indices and improvement: Will better measures of wellbeing increase wellbeing?

Speakers: Professor Mike Salvaris (RMIT University), Jenny Gordon (Productivity Commission), and Peter Martin (National Economic Correspondent for The Age, Sydney Morning Herald and The Canberra Times)

Location: Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Organisers: Peter Saunders (SPRC) and Judith Griffiths (Colmar Brunton)

Never-deserving citizens or ending the entitlement culture: The debate about the merits of conditionality in income support policy

Speakers: Sally Cowling (UnitingCare Burnside), Andrew Baker (Centre for Independent Studies) and Dr Shelley Bielefeld (University of Western Sydney)

Location: Tyree Room, First Floor

Organisers: Greg Marston (Queensland University of Technology) and Matthew Gray (Crawford School of Government, Australian National University)

Got a problem, fix it yourself! Local autonomy and devolution or centralisation? A dilemma for public policy

Speakers: Professor John Toubmourou (Deakin University), Christine Cawsey AM (Principal Rooty Hill High School and President NSW Secondary Principals' Council) and Paul Ronalds (CEO Save the Children)

Location: Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Organisers: Anne Hampshire (The Smith Family) and Annette Michaux (Parenting Research Centre)

Launches



Combining paid work and family care: Policies and experiences in international perspectives

T. Kröger and S. Yeandle (Eds.)
Australian contributing authors: Bettina Cass, Kylie Valentine, Cathy Thomson and Trish Hill from the Social Policy Research Centre

This book will be launched by Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.

Monday 16 September 5.15–5.30pm, Foyer

As populations age around the world, increasing efforts are required from both families and governments to secure care and support for older and disabled people. At the same time both women and men are expected to increase and lengthen their participation in paid work, which makes combining caring and working a burning issue for social and employment policy and economic sustainability. International discussion about the reconciliation of work and care has previously focused mostly on childcare. *Combining paid work and family care* widens the debate, bringing into discussion the experiences of those providing support to their partners, older relatives and disabled or seriously ill children. The book analyses the situations of these working carers in Nordic, liberal and East Asian welfare systems. Highlighting what can be learned from individual experiences, the book analyses the changing welfare and labour market policies which shape the lives of working carers in Finland, Sweden, Australia, England, Japan and Taiwan.



Grandparents raising grandchildren: Towards recognition, respect and reward

Chief Investigators:
Professors Bettina Cass and Deb Brennan and Associate Professor Sue Green

This report will be launched by Ms Anne Hampshire, Head, Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family.

Monday 16 September 3.00–3.15pm, Foyer

As in many other countries, grandparent carers in Australia have become both politically organised and a focus of policy attention. Their growing public visibility reflects not only their political mobilisation but also the increasing reliance of child protection authorities on kinship care (mainly grandparent care). This study has brought together the perspectives and insights of grandparents, service providers, policy makers and researchers from all parts of the country to identify and explicate the situations and experiences of grandparent kinship carers in Australia, and their needs for support. This research has identified several issues for policy debate, data collection and research which are related to the particular demographic and social characteristics of grandparent carers in Australia: access to payments, services and support; provision of timely, accessible and up-to-date information to grandparent carers; and new approaches to gathering data on the number of grandparent families which can incorporate the complexity and fluidity of grandparent-headed families.

Workshops

CHINESE SOCIAL POLICY WORKSHOP		Monday 16 September
8.00–9.00	Registration	Foyer
8.30–9.00	Morning tea	Foyer
9.00–10.30 Gallery 2	<p>Keynote address: Civil society, corporatism and capitalism in China</p> <p>Jude Howell (Professor of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Sciences) Political economy of welfare structure differences in China's developed regions: A comparison of Liaoning, Zhejiang and Guangdong Provinces</p> <p>Jialiang Guo Poverty and social security in Hong Kong: Recent research and policy developments</p> <p>Peter Saunders The impact of political systems on the East Asian Social Development Model</p> <p>Lixiong Yang</p>	Gallery 2, ground floor
10.30–10.50	Join ASPC delegates for conference welcome	Leighton Hall, ground floor
10.50–12.00	Plenary session Janet Gormick	Leighton Hall, ground floor
12.00–12.30	Lunch	Foyer
12.30–3.00	<p>Keynote address: China's poverty reduction: How it happened, is it sustainable?</p> <p>Hongmin Cao (Foreign Fund Project Management Center, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development of People's Republic of China) The effects of health insurance reform on outcome-based health equalities among the elderly: A longitudinal study in China</p> <p>Xiaoting Liu Understanding the implementation gap of China's urban pension scheme at the level of rural-urban migrant workers</p> <p>Yuan Wang Urban Old-age Insurance for China's Migrant Workers: Determinants & Obstacles</p> <p>Chenxi Huang Pension Reform in China: Racing against the Demographic Clock</p> <p>Hazel Bateman, Kevin Liu Livelihood Risks and Poverty: A case study of a poor village in rural China</p> <p>Ling Zhong</p>	Gallery 2, ground floor
3.00–3.30	Afternoon tea	Foyer
3.30–5.00	<p>Awareness of child maltreatment among professionals in Shanghai</p> <p>Xiaoyuan Shang, Ilan Katz Negative impact of social exclusion on identity of orphans in China</p> <p>Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher The paradoxes of sex between men in the cultural revolution</p> <p>Heather Worth The transitioning of Chinese state/family power relationship from a child protection perspective</p> <p>Zimin TAN Biofuel social drivers in China's policy of development and research investment</p> <p>Bo Dong, Stuart Pearson</p>	Gallery 2, ground floor
5.00–6.00 5.15–5.30	<p>Welcome cocktails</p> <p>Book launch <i>Combining paid work and family care: Policies and experiences in international perspective</i>, introduced by Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.</p>	Foyer

HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH WORKSHOP		Monday 16 September
12.00–12.05	Welcome	John Goodsell, room 221
12.05–12.35	Presentation by Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass and Professor Deborah Brennan Surviving and Thriving in the Current Research Environment	John Goodsell, room 221
12.35–1.00	Discussion	John Goodsell, room 221

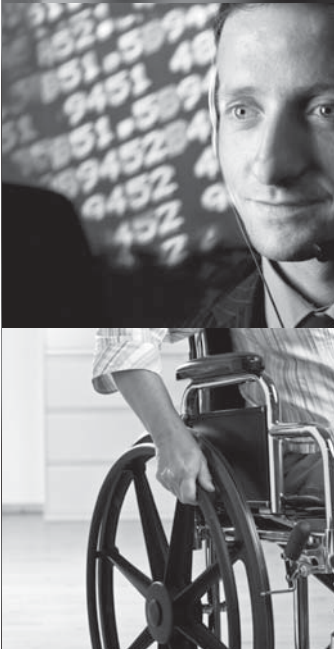


Is life in Australia getting better?

Our business is to measure the wellbeing of Australians.

ABS' vast data holdings cover a comprehensive range of social, economic and environmental topics, providing data at all levels from national down to local. As an accredited data integrating authority, we are bringing together data from a range of different sources to enable analysis for statistical and research purposes.

For more information on the products and services available from the ABS, visit our website at www.abs.gov.au.



Measures of Australia's Progress 2013

Revised indicators to measure the key aspirations of Australians for the nation's progress across our society, economy, environment and governance.

Updated content and the new **Progress Dashboard** will be released on the **14th November 2013**.



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Australia's welfare 2013



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- People with disability
- Older people
- Homelessness
- Housing assistance
- Informal carers
- Community services workforce
- Welfare expenditure
- Indicators of Australia's welfare.

Now available

Download the report from **www.aihw.gov.au**

Australia's welfare smartphone app—coming soon!

Breakdown of sessions

Monday 16 September

8.30–9.30 Registration

9.30–10.30 Morning tea

WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS

10.30–10.50
Leighton Hall
ground floor
Welcome to Country
Marcia Ella-Duncan (Chairperson, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council)
Conference welcome
Professor James Donald (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW)
Opening address
Megan Mitchell (National Children's Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission)

10.50–12.00
Leighton Hall
ground floor
PLENARY ADDRESS
Work-Family reconciliation policy and gender equality: A cross-national perspective
Janet Gormick

12.00–1.00 Lunch

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

1.00–3.00 RETIREMENT AND AGEING

Gonski
ground floor

Theories of ageing: Do people with lifelong cognitive impairments fit in?
Trevor Parmenter (presenter), Rafat Hussain, Matthew Janicki, Patricia O'Brien, Marie Knox, Stuart Wark, Meaghan Edwards, Miranda Cannon, Chez Leaggatt-Cook

Living at home, living better? Implications from an evaluation for living longer living better aged care reforms
Jude Teicke (presenter), Saul Flaxman, Tomas Sitek

Towards a multi-dimensional framework to understand the living standards of older people: A case study of older Australians
Yuvisthi Naidoo (presenter)

Living longer, living better? Queering the heteronormative and cisnormative space of aged care in Australia
Sujay Kentilyn (presenter)

1.00–3.00
Ronald Lu
lower ground

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

The campaign for professional wages in early childhood education and care
Karol Florek (presenter)

Developmental outcomes, early childhood risk factors and participation in early childhood education
Robyn Seth-Purdie (presenter), Nicholas Biddle

'It's so expensive': Assessing early childhood education and care costs and subsidies for low income families
Megan Blaxland and Deborah Brennan (co-presenters)

Comparing claims for recognition of ECEC workers: The case of in-home child care in Australia, the UK and Canada
Elizabeth Adamson (presenter)

1.00–3.00
HK Alumi
lower ground

OPEN STREAM

Child friendliness in post conflict contexts: A case study of the experiences and perceptions of young children in post-conflict Sri Lanka
Nanditha Hettitantri (presenter)

Impact of microfinance and poverty alleviation
Ume Laila and Muhammad Arshad (co-presenters)

Comparative social policy analysis: Towards a methodology for knowledge transfer from developing countries
Susan Goodwin and Archana P. Voola (co-presenters)

What scope for tenant choice in reshaping Australia's social housing?
Hal Pawson, Ilan Wiesel (presenter), Vivienne Milligan

1.00–3.00
Gallery 1
ground floor

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Maps and pathways: Collaborative research and focused action with children with disability and their families in the NSW Tweed Valley
Sally Robinson (presenter), Danielle Notara

A child-centred perspective to informed consent: Putting it into practice
Kate Neale (presenter), Sally Robinson

I just want to go to school: Using digital storytelling to explore young people's experiences of educational disadvantage
Magdalena McGuire and Ché Stockley (co-presenters)

Interpreting children's wellbeing in the context of disadvantage: Early findings from an Australian study
Gerry Redmond (presenter), Jen Skattebol, Bridget Jenkins, Grace Skrzypiec, Myra Hamilton, Kirk Dodd

1.00–3.00 Tyree first floor	<p>ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF HUMAN SERVICES</p> <p>The impact of employment and working conditions on the retention of home care workers in NSW Jane Mears (presenter)</p> <p>Outcomes-based contracting in social services: Ready or not? Sally Cowling and Natalie Scerra (co-presenters)</p> <p>Striking the balance between practice and accountability: Can the Outcome Star be the tool for all seasons? Lisa Harris and Sharon Andrews (co-presenters)</p> <p>Who delivers the service? The changing gender profile of Australia's frontline employment services staff Siobhan O'Sullivan, Phuc Nguyen (presenter), Mark Considine</p>
3.00–3.30 Foyer	<p>Afternoon tea</p> <p>Report launch <i>Grandparents raising grandchildren: Towards recognition, respect and reward</i> Chief investigators: Professors Bettina Cass and Deb Brennan and A/Professor Sue Green. To be launched by Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family.</p>
CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	
3.30–5.00 Gonski ground floor	<p>CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Non-energy benefits of residential energy efficiency: Looking for a win win win Victoria Johnson and Damian Sullivan (co-presenters)</p> <p>Rethinking the welfare state: The climate change challenge Greg Marston (presenter)</p> <p>Wellbeing policy for a 'wicked' problem: Addressing vulnerability and exposure of children pre- and post-climate related disasters Nadine Elizabeth White (presenter), Anne Graham, kylie valentine</p>
3.30–5.00 HK Alumni lower ground	<p>INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS</p> <p>Welfare conditionality and Aboriginal lifeworlds: the emergence of recognition as a policy principle Daphne Habibis (presenter)</p> <p>The "real economy" and the "hybrid economy": Rival visions of Indigenous economic development and cultural survival Katherine Curchin (presenter)</p> <p>The Mining Boom and Indigenous communities Boyd Hunter (presenter), Monica Howlett, Matthew Gray</p>
3.30–5.00 Tyree first floor	<p>INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES</p> <p>Personal stress, financial stress, social support and women's experiences of physical violence: A longitudinal analysis Nadine Smith, Don Weatherburn (presenter)</p> <p>Understanding the dynamics of welfare receipt and mental health in Australia Kim Kiely (presenter), Peter Butterworth</p> <p>On the duration of poverty in Australia: A duration analysis based on HILDA data Francisco Azpitarte (presenter), Eve Bodsworth</p>
3.30–5.00 Ronald Lu	<p>SEPARATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION</p> <p>Financial living standards following parental separation: A pre- and post-reform comparison Vu Son (presenter), Bryan Rodgers, Bruce Smyth</p> <p>Mothers with a child support liability in Australia. How does gender affect compliance? Maria Vnuk (presenter)</p> <p>Learning from the beginning: The contemporary significance of the formative social protection era in Australia and NZ Gaby Ramia (presenter)</p>
3.30–5.00 Gallery 1 ground floor	<p>PARENTING</p> <p>How parents' income, time and job quality affect children's health and development Jan Nicholson (presenter), Lyndall Strazdins, Jude Brown, Michael Bittman</p> <p>Parenting payments and time pressure in single parent families: Impact on child outcomes Fabrizio D'Esposito (presenter), Nina Lucas, Amanda Cooklin, Jan Nicholson</p> <p>Fathers' and mothers' persistent depressive symptoms across the early parenting period: Relationship to parenting and child socio-emotional wellbeing Rebecca Giallo, Fabrizio D'Esposito, Amanda Cooklin (presenter), Daniel Christensen, Jan Nicholson</p>
5.00–6.00 5.15–5.30 Foyer	<p>Welcome cocktails</p> <p>Book launch <i>Combining paid work and family care: Policies and experiences in international perspective</i>, To be launched by Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.</p>

Tuesday 17 September

9.30–10.30 PLENARY ADDRESS

Leighton Hall ground floor **Breadwinner Men and the Gentle Invaders: Men, women, work**
Sue Richardson (Principal Research Fellow, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University)

10.30–11.00 Morning tea

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

11.00–12.30 **DISABILITY, WORK AND WORKFORCE**

Gonski ground floor **Precarious professionalism? Planning for and protecting Australia's disability workforce**
Natasha Cortis, Gabrielle Meagher and Sharni Chan (co-presenters)

Not-for-profit disability organisations, the common scaffold in successful career building for people with disability
Jenny Green (presenter)

Right to work: Young adults with intellectual disabilities and difficulties transitioning to work
Louisa Smith (presenter)

11.00–12.30 **PARENTING**

Gallery 1 ground floor **Grandparent child care in Australia: Exploring the time outcomes of providing care while parents work**
Bridget Jenkins, Lyn Craig (presenter)

New fatherhood and mental health in Australia
Liana Leach (presenter), Sarah Olesen

Fathering and socio-economic class: Experiences of couple families with infants in Australia
Michelle Brady (presenter), Maria Zadoroznyj, Bill Martin, Laetitia Coles

11.00–12.30 **OUT OF HOME CARE**

Gallery 2 ground floor **The self-perceived role identity of foster carers**
Timothy Broady (presenter)

Reforming foster care: Presenting a convincing argument to government
Marilyn McHugh and Anita Pell (co-presenters)

Young people with a disability transitioning from out of home care in Victoria
Philip Mendes (presenter), Pamela Snow

11.00–12.30 **SEPARATION**

Tyree first floor **Has the prevalence and demography of shared-time parenting changed following the family law reforms of 2006?**
Bruce Smyth (presenter), Richard Chisholm, Bryan Rodgers, Vu Son

The socioeconomic impact of divorce on women in Japan: A longitudinal analysis
Yuko Tamiya (co-presenter), Masato Shikata (co-presenter)

Safe post-separation parenting arrangements in the context of family violence: Lessons from the Coordinated Family Dispute Resolution Pilot
Clive Price, Tara Houseman and Sally Cowling (co-presenters)

11.00–12.30 **CAPABILITY PERSPECTIVES**

HK Alumni lower ground **Exploring the contribution of frontline welfare service delivery to capability development in Australia**
Claire Mason (presenter), Anneliese Spinks, Stefan Hajkowicz, Liz Hobman

Assessing the impact of internet use from a capability perspective
Sharon Dane (presenter), Claire Mason, Beth McNally

Using a capability framework to understand performance in the finance sector
Barton Loechel (presenter), Jocelyn Pixley, Claire Mason

11.00–12.30 **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

Ronald Lu lower ground **Aboriginal success in overcoming disadvantage and promoting well-being: An in-depth case study of Koori success in an urban locality and its greater region**
Deirdre Howard-Wagner (presenter)

'Talking back' to policy in Australia
Inara Walden (presenter)

Place-based approaches in the remote Indigenous context: Early lessons from the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on remote service delivery
Brian Gleeson (presenter)

12.30–1.30 Lunch

Foyer Sponsor's address: *Better lives through better statistics* to be presented by

12.45–1.00 Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Population, Labour and Social Statistics Group
Gallery 1 **Australian Bureau of Statistics**
ground floor

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

1.30–3.30 Gonski ground floor	DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH Exploring inclusive research with people with younger onset dementia Karen Fisher and Ariella Meltzer (co-presenters) “I’m still not clear about disability care”: Voices of parents and carers using early intervention services in the Hunter Amanda Howard, Lou Johnston, Tamara Blakemore, Darleen Taylor and Rani Dibley (co-presenters) Disability rights, welfare reform and global fiscal austerity Karen Soldatic (presenter) The many lives of data: Evidence, evaluation and new identities kylie valentine (presenter)
1.30–3.30 Gallery 1 ground floor	FAMILIES, WORK AND CARE Spending longer out of the workforce- does it matter for mothers with young children? Anna Zhu (presenter), Bruce Bradbury Paid work at home: Effects on objective and subjective time use in Australia Abigail Powell (presenter), Lyn Craig Is it worth working yet? Matthew Toohey (presenter) A longitudinal study of childbirth and occupational mobility in Australia Michael Bittman (presenter)
1.30–3.30 HK Alumni lower ground	CARERS Carers and social inclusion: Relevance, representation and reframing Catherine Thomson (presenter), Trish Hill, Bettina Cass Carers and social inclusion: How so carers fare within the social inclusion framework in Australia? Melissa Wong (presenter) Exploring caring responsibilities and social inclusion in Indigenous communities Margaret Raven (presenter) Carers in the EU: Paid employment and quality of life Robert Anderson (presenter)
1.30–3.30 Gallery 2 ground floor	YOUTH TRANSITIONS Youth and the law: it’s not all about juvenile justice and child welfare Deborah Macourt (presenter) Sport, culture and the internet: Are Australian children participating? Anne Hampshire (presenter) Uncertain transitions from school to work: The challenge of walking straight on a crooked pathway Joseph Borlagdan (presenter), Janet Taylor Trusted adults outside of the home: The role of significant adults in supporting young people as they move from adolescence to adulthood Kristy Muir (presenter), Lyn Craig, Ariella Meltzer
1.30–3.30 Tyree first floor	WELFARE REFORM Evaluation of New Income Management in the Northern Territory: Early findings Ilan Katz, Matthew Gray and Rob Bray (co-presenters) A critical examination of compulsory income management: A case study of the place-based trial in Greater Shepparton Philip Mendes (presenter) Is income management for young New Zealand beneficiaries justified? Kirsten Hanna, Michael Fletcher (presenter), Danae Anderson What future lies ahead for today’s youth? An investigation into recent trends in youth unemployment in Europe and Australia and government policies employed to tackle this problem Agnieszka Nelson (presenter), Matthew C Gray
1.30–3.30 Ronald Lu lower ground	COMMUNITY AND PLACE ‘We are part of our own solution’: Social inclusion through community-embedded, socially-supported education Peter Howard and Tim Marchant (co-presenters) Place-based services: A case study of the opportunities and challenges Margot Rawsthorne and Alison de Pree (co-presenters) Medicare Locals and the not-for-profit community sector in NSW Solange Frost (presenter) Talking community Jan Idle (presenter)

3.30–4.00 Afternoon tea

FORUMS

- 4.00–5.30
Gallery 1
ground floor
Indicators, indices and improvement: Will better measures of well-being increase well-being?
Professor Mike Salvaris (RMIT University), Jenny Gordon (Productivity Commission), Peter Martin (National Economic Correspondent for The Age, Sydney Morning Herald and The Canberra Times)
- 4.00–5.30
Tyree
first floor
Never-deserving citizens or ending the entitlement culture: The debate about the merits of conditionality in income support policy
Sally Cowling (UnitingCare Burnside), Andrew Baker (Centre for Independent Studies) and Dr Shelley Bielefeld (University of Western Sydney)
- 4.00–5.30
Gallery 2
ground floor
Got a problem, fix it yourself! Local autonomy and devolution or centralisation? A dilemma for public policy
Professor John Toumbourou (Deakin University), Christine Cawsey AM (Principal Rooty Hill High School and President NSW Secondary Principals' Council) and Paul Ronalds (CEO Save the Children)
- 5.45–6.00
John Goodsell,
room 221
Annual General Meeting
Australian Social Policy Association
- 6.30–9.00
Conference dinner
Ceviche Restaurant (56 Carr Street, Coogee)

Wednesday 18 September

8.30–9.30 Registration

- 9.30–10.30
Leighton Hall
ground floor
Plenary session
The Quest for Sustainable Social Policies in Ageing Societies
Joakim Palme (Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden)

10.30–11.00 Morning tea

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

- 11.00–12.30
Gallery 2
ground floor
HOUSING
Long-term renting in the Australian private rental sector: Incidence, nature and outcomes
Wendy Stone (presenter)
Is housing first for mental health community support possible during a housing shortage?
Karen Fisher and Jane Bullen (co-presenters)
Struggling on Newstart: The experience of a “neoliberal” form of employment assistance
Alan Morris (presenter), Shaun Wilson
- 11.00–12.30
HK Alumni
lower ground
SOCIAL POLICY IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES
Cash transfer to the poorest? How remoteness influences the participation rate in poor rural isolated municipalities
Kenia Parsons (presenter)
The demographic structure of old-age poverty in Indonesia and its implications for providing social assistance targeting poor elderly
Jan Priebe and Fiona Howell (co-presenters)
Anti-poverty strategy and resilience among poor people in South Korea
Boram Hwang (presenter)
- 11.00–12.30
Tyree
first floor
INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES
Deep and persistent disadvantage in Australia
Rosalie McLachlan (presenter), Geoff Gilfillan, Jenny Gordon
Comparing poverty in Australia and Japan using different approaches
Peter Saunders (co-presenter), Melissa Wong (co-presenter), Kuriko Watanabe (co-presenter), Kohei Komamura
Financial inclusion and capability: Microfinance in addressing market inequity
Tanya Corrie (presenter)
- 11.00–12.30
Gonski
ground floor
CARING ALTERNATIVES
Kids in Care: A group for parents who have lost children to the ‘system’
Christina Battle and Janine Bendit (co-presenters)
Kinship care: Will it all end in tears?
Meredith Kiraly (presenter)
Recognising working carers: Barriers and supports to workforce participation in New South Wales
Timothy Broady (presenter)

11.00–12.30 Ronald Lu lower ground	<p>WELFARE REFORM</p> <p>Out of the labyrinth: simplifying benefits for people of working age Peter Davidson (presenter)</p> <p>SMEs attitudes to employing people who have a mental illness Rick Kane (presenter)</p> <p>Does welfare stigma explain the association between mental health and welfare dependency? Considering transitions to the Age Pension Peter Butterworth (presenter), Kim Kiely</p>
11.00–12.30 Gallery 1 ground floor	<p>AUSTRALIA'S WELFARE 2013: SPECIAL SESSION</p> <p>Ageing and aged care Pamela Kinnear (presenter)</p> <p>Indigenous Australians Fadwa Al-Yaman (presenter)</p> <p>Housing and homelessness Geoff Neideck (presenter)</p>
12.30–1.30	<p>Lunch</p>
CONTRIBUTED PAPERS	
1.30–3.30 Gallery 2 ground floor	<p>OPEN STRAND</p> <p>Integration and partnerships: Promising strategies in NSW human service delivery kylie valentine, Jan Breckinridge, Jennifer Hamer, BJ Newton, Christine Eastman</p> <p>Exploring culture and welfare regimes: Can the examination of cross-national differences in societal values help us to understand differences in welfare state activity? John Hudson, Nam-Kyoung Jo, Antonia Keung</p> <p>Australian health policy and social determinants of health and equity: A review of policy content Matthew Fisher, Fran Baum, Colin MacDougall, Lareen Newman, Dennis McDermott</p> <p>Bridging the research-policy gap: How better connections between academics and social policy makers can create greater capacity for evidence-based policy making Jenny van der Arend, Jenny Bell</p>
1.30–3.30 Ronald Lu lower ground	<p>EXPLORING COMPLEX NEEDS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN SERVICES</p> <p>Complexity in social science Leanne Dowse (presenter)</p> <p>Indigenous Australian men with intellectual disability in police custody Julian Trofimovs (presenter)</p> <p>Complexity at the intersection of needs, services, and social networks Alec Sewell (presenter)</p>
1.30–3.30 Tyree first floor	<p>INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES</p> <p>Revealing hidden disadvantage: A household-level index for Australia Phillip Gould (presenter)</p> <p>Detecting Disadvantage in the ACT Gemma Wood (presenter)</p> <p>Choice, schools & equity: Are they compatible? Gillian Considine (presenter)</p> <p>Highly educated, well paid and less happy? Income, higher education and subjective well-being in Australia Ioana Ramia (presenter)</p>
1.30–3.30 HK Alumni lower ground	<p>SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL</p> <p>Parental relationships with ECEC services in Australia: The need for holistic and dynamic approaches Jen Skattebol, Bridget Jenkins</p> <p>Imagining policy change: Is current education policy matching children and young people's needs? Catharine Simmons</p> <p>Promoting wellbeing at school for children with behavioural disorders: Is new policy needed? Donnah Anderson</p> <p>Fostering children's cognitive development in the preschool years: The message and the uptake Ciara Smyth</p>

1.30–3.30 Gallery 1 ground floor	<p>WELFARE REFORM</p> <p>The impact of complex disadvantage in a strengths-based employment program Linda Isherwood (presenter), Megan Moskos, Deb King, Katy Osborne, Ruth Walker</p> <p>Wellbeing in Immigration Detention Abigail Powell (presenter), Ilan Katz, Sandra Gendera</p> <p>The social construction of asylum seekers by stakeholders in Immigration Detention and the implications for policy and practice Ilan Katz (presenter)</p> <p>Single mothers and mainstream employment services: de-gendering, individualization and re-gendering Cosmo Howard, Michelle Brady</p>
1.30–3.30 Gonski ground floor	<p>AGED CARE SERVICES</p> <p>Zones of Vulnerability II: A virtual spatial model for ageing policy analysis Hamish Robertson (presenter), Nick Nicholas, Joanne Travaglia, Andrew Georgiou, Julie Jphnson</p> <p>Community aged care services: Localisation or McDonaldisation? Bob Davidson (presenter)</p> <p>Living alone with dementia: Challenges for policy and service delivery Kylie Sait (presenter)</p> <p>Quality failures in residential aged care in Australia: An analysis of the relationship between structural factors and regulation imposed sanctions Richard Baldwin (presenter)</p>
3.30	Conference closed

A

Elizabeth Adamson

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Monday 1:00–3:00, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Comparing claims for recognition of ECEC workers: The case of in-home child care in Australia, the UK and Canada

Countries across the developed world have advocated for access to high quality, primarily centre-based, early childhood education and care (ECEC) provided by qualified professionals. A lesser known debate has evolved within the ECEC sector across many liberal welfare states and some European countries. This calls for government support for informal and private child care arrangements from advocates of in-home child care including families, care providers, representative bodies and, in some cases, governments themselves. In order to understand ECEC policy systems, it is critical to understand the interaction between informal and formal, centre-based and home-based settings, and the implications of policy for all types of ECEC settings.

The paper explores the policy mechanisms that support in-home child care in three liberal welfare states, and aims to i) compare the extent to which these policy mechanisms have encouraged formalisation and professionalisation of in-home child care, and ii) consider how these policy mechanisms have encouraged claims for recognition among different sectors of the ECEC workforce. Findings are based on research from my PhD which included analysis of government and stakeholder documents as well as interviews with sector stakeholders in order to analyse the policy mechanisms and discourses supporting in-home child care.

Donnah Anderson

Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Promoting wellbeing at school for children with behavioural disorders: Is new policy needed?

Student 'wellbeing' has been the target of considerable policy and program intervention for many years. Teachers are increasingly involved in designing and implementing personalised learning

support, especially for students 'at risk', including those with behavioural disorders. This paper reports on a recent study in NSW that found teachers were ambivalent about teaching children with behaviours associated with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (Anderson, Watt, Noble & Shanley, 2012). This ambivalence resided in teachers holding unfavourable beliefs and emotions concerning children with ADHD, while at the same time reporting favourable behaviours towards these children. Notably, teachers' ambivalence was found to increase with more classroom experience. The findings of this study raise significant questions about whether and how ambivalent attitudes can be addressed in both policy and practice, not only to reduce negative impact on children's academic and psychosocial wellbeing but also to ameliorate teacher burnout and attrition.

Francisco Azpitarte^{1,2}, Eve Bodsworth¹

¹ Brotherhood of St Laurence

² The University of Melbourne

Monday 3:30–5:00, Tyree Room, First Floor

On the duration of poverty in Australia: A duration analysis based on HILDA data

We investigate the time dimension of poverty in Australia using longitudinal information from the HILDA survey. Compared to other dimensions, the duration dimension of poverty has attracted much less attention in the literature. We use data for the period 2001–2010 to identify poverty and non-poverty spells considering two alternative concepts: the standard income-poverty definition and a multidimensional measure based on the concept of social exclusion. The samples of poverty and non-poverty spells are used to estimate exit and re-entry equations to identify the impact of characteristics on the probabilities of exiting poverty and returning to it after an exit. We find that those groups usually identified as most disadvantaged according to the incidence and intensity dimensions of poverty are also more likely to experience longer episodes of poverty. In particular, older people, those living in jobless households, in households with disabilities or in public housing, and individuals with poor education living in areas with high unemployment are at higher risk of spending more time in poverty. The reason is twofold: these groups are less likely to move out of poverty once they start a poverty spell and are also more likely to return to it soon after an exit.

B

Christina Battle, Janine Bendit

Relationships Australia NSW

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Kids in Care: A group for parents who have lost children to the 'system'

In NSW large numbers of children are removed from their families each year. Many of the parents of these children seek out parenting groups in their efforts to have their children returned to their care. Relationships Australia NSW Hunter Region began offering a tailored group to these parents in 2011 called 'Kids In Care'. This paper explores the challenges faced by these parents and the group facilitators in working with these issues. Struggles with addiction, domestic violence, past familial abuse and mental health characterise these families. The issues they bring to the group context include grief, stigma, isolation, trauma and a deep mistrust and anger at the system that removed their children. A combination of therapeutic models is employed in the group to open opportunities for members to engage in therapeutic and peer relations. Through this process distress and anger are acknowledged and ameliorated opening the way for members to engage in self affirming change behaviours in the face of the uncertainty of restitution. The sharing of stories of strength and anguish in a group setting aids in challenging shame and stigma. The tensions inherent in this work and future directions are also discussed.

Megan Blaxland, Deborah Brennan

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Monday 1:00–3:00, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

'It's so expensive': Assessing early childhood education and care costs and subsidies for low income families

Mention early childhood education and care to almost any family, and their response will include reference to how expensive it is. Australian ECEC services are subsidised by the federal government, but how well does this support serve low income families? This paper presents findings from a qualitative study with low income families in four states, Families at the Centre: Care and Education and Young Children. We explore our data developing and applying the concept of 'policy literacy'. 'Health literacy' is the ability to make use of relevant information to maintain health and make informed decisions about healthcare. We

develop a comparable concept in social policy: the understanding of subsidies and benefits and the ability to make use of this knowledge.

While all families who used ECEC services at the time of this research knew about Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, there were generally low levels of policy literacy about how the subsidies worked. Perhaps this is not surprising given Child Care Benefit involves complicated calculations and both benefits have a wide range of delivery mechanisms. While many families found claiming ECEC benefits to be a straightforward process, others described a tangle of systems, rules, information and misinformation that were difficult to navigate. In this paper we explore some of the reasons for this variation, including the important role that ECEC services can play in facilitating the claims process. We conclude by considering the critical question of how Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate could better enable children in low income families to attend ECEC services.

Michelle Brady¹, Maria Zadoroznyj², Bill Martin², Laetitia Coles²

¹ School of Social Science, The University of Queensland

² Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Fathering and socio-economic class: Experiences of couple families with infants in Australia

Research on fatherhood and infants is dominated by studies that examine the objective impacts of fathering on child and maternal well-being. There is increasing interest in interpretive examinations of experiences and meanings of fatherhood and 'good fathering', yet these socio-cultural studies are overwhelming based on small and/or geographically restricted samples that have given researchers limited ability to explore the diversity in men's narratives and how class and other social factors shape fathering experiences. We add to the current literature by drawing on a large qualitative sample to examine how social class shapes fatherhood and men's and women's perceptions of good fathering. We interviewed 50 fathers and 50 mothers of infants born in September 2012. Participants are spread across five regions - Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and regional New South Wales. The findings suggest social class intersects with gender, education, geography and ethnicity in complex ways to shape men's and women's accounts of good fathering and dads' relationship with infants.

Timothy Broady

Carers NSW

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Recognising working carers: Barriers and supports to workforce participation in New South Wales

Caring for a family member or friend can have major impacts on the life of informal family carers, particularly in terms of balancing multiple commitments. Australian and international research has demonstrated the significant conflicts experienced by carers in managing their employment and caring responsibilities to the extent where being a carer reduces workforce participation relative to non-carer peers. Several additional barriers to workforce participation have also been identified that further exacerbate the stresses of attempting to balance work and care. This paper reports on results from a state-wide survey of carers to examine the extent to which these issues exist amongst carers in New South Wales. Approximately half of working age carers were in paid employment, and almost one third of those not working indicated that they would like to be. Analysis of demographic variables suggested certain situations that increased barriers to carers' workforce participation. The responses of working carers also indicated scenarios whereby workplace practices assisted in combining working and caring responsibilities, as well as how such practices had impacted carers' health and wellbeing. Survey results raise avenues for further investigation, as well as implications for workplace policy and carer support strategies.

C

Gillian Considine

The Smith Family

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Choice, schools and equity: Are they compatible?

In a time when we are nationally focused on education policy there are lessons to be learned from the significant policy reforms of the recent past. Examining the effect that the Metherell reforms of the late 1980s are still having in public secondary schools in NSW provides numerous such lessons. The market mechanisms and ideology of choice that emerged with those neo-liberal public sector reforms expanded and diversified differentiation in the public secondary school system. Notions of devolved

authority, autonomy, community-school cohesion and self-governance were intimately linked to this differentiation but the small print wasn't included – enrolment discrimination, residualisation and social divisions. As the 'education market' burgeoned, the number of traditional comprehensive schools declined while the proportion of public 'non-comprehensive' schools increased exponentially. Using qualitative and quantitative data, this paper will argue that a consequence of this growth has been the sanctioning of student segmentation through public policy. While arguably it may be unintentional, the outcome of these policies has been the creation of a fragmented system in which the ideals of common educational experiences for all, have been lost.

Natasha Cortis¹, Gabrielle Meagher², Sharni Chan¹

¹ Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

² The University of Sydney

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Precarious professionalism? Planning for and protecting Australia's disability workforce

DisabilityCare Australia (DCA) is a flagship social policy intervention of the ALP government. With its strong, and welcome, focus on the needs of people with disability and their families, the national reform agenda for disability services has not given much attention to workforce issues. By contrast, in other social services fields, specifically early childhood education and care and aged care, which arguably have much in common with disability services, the reform agenda has included a strong focus on professionalising the workforce as a means to improving service quality, capacity and outcomes. The relative lack of attention to workforce issues in disability policy development is important because international research on individualised funding arrangements, such as the model underpinning DCA, points to the often precarious nature of work and employment they rest on. Based on documentary research and analysis of postings to the 'Your Say' forum on the National Disability Insurance Scheme website, this paper explores why workforce issues might be relatively submerged in Australian disability services policy development, and discusses the implications for workers and service quality. The paper contributes to understanding of challenges in pursuing professionalisation in the disability field and discusses strategies for overcoming them.

Katherine Curchin

Australian National University

Monday 3:30–5:00, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

The 'real economy' and the 'hybrid economy': Rival visions of Indigenous economic development and cultural survival

In the contemporary debate on how to address the poverty and disadvantage of Indigenous Australians living in remote regions, Noel Pearson and Jon Altman are two of the central intellectual figures. Pearson, an Aboriginal leader from Cape York Peninsula, advocates for greater integration of Indigenous people into what he calls 'the real economy'. Meanwhile Altman, an anthropologist with a background in economics, has been suspicious of efforts to encourage Indigenous Australians to integrate into the mainstream labour force. He has produced an alternative model of development—the 'hybrid economy' model—which he suggests is more in keeping with the aspirations of many Aboriginal people.

This paper compares Pearson and Altman's rival visions of Indigenous economic development. It argues that among the most important contrasts in their thinking are differences in how Pearson and Altman conceptualise cultural difference, cultural change and cultural survival. Though both men are advocates for Indigenous self-determination they possess different ways of thinking about Indigenous choice and aspiration. Together these difference leads them to focus on different threats to Indigenous autonomy and cultural survival, resulting in different positions on such policy issues as welfare reform, education, home ownership and urban migration.

D

Sharon Dane, Claire Mason, Beth McInally

CSIRO

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Assessing the impact of internet use from a capability perspective

In this exploratory study, we tested whether capability measures could be used to capture the social impact of internet use and next generation broadband. An online survey was administered to 226 panel participants (18–84 yrs) living in

regional communities across Australia. Participants reported the frequency with which they carried out various activities over the internet, such as seeking information, communication and social networking, entertainment and leisure and buying and using services. We found that greater use of the internet was associated with enhanced capability. Specifically, participants who relied heavily on the internet as a means of obtaining information were more likely to report high capability for health and education. More frequent use of social networking (via video communication, chatrooms and forums) was associated with greater capability for participation, influence and voice. Interestingly, participants reporting low capability in the domain of standard of living showed a different pattern of internet use compared with participants who reported high capability in the domain of standard of living. These effects will be explored further in our longitudinal program of research.

Peter Davidson^{1,2}

1 Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

2 Australian Council of Social Services

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Out of the labyrinth: Simplifying benefits for people of working age

Since Friedman's Negative Income Tax and Henderson's Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme in the 1970s, the idea of a single benefit payment for people of working age has appealed to theorists, advocates, and at times also to policy makers.

Since 2009, when pensions for people with disabilities and carers were raised and allowances for unemployed people students and single parents were not, Australia seems further from this ideal than ever. The gap between single pension and allowance rates has grown from \$50 to \$150 per week. Every few years there is a contest over policies to divert sole parents and people with disabilities from higher to lower payments.

This presentation describes previous proposals to simplify benefits in Australia and New Zealand and the Universal Credit scheme now being introduced in the UK. It explores the reasons for the division of income support payments into pensions and benefits, the pressures for change, and a possible pathway out of the labyrinth.

F

Karen Fisher, Ariella Meltzer

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Exploring inclusive research with people with younger onset dementia

Inclusive practice is becoming increasingly common in disability research. Inclusive methods facilitate the participation of a range of people with disability and include them in advising, planning and conducting research. While inclusive methods are common with people with intellectual disability, the inclusion of people with other cognitive conditions has less often been explored. For example, inclusive practice has been highlighted as relevant and important for people with dementia, but less work has been done on the questions, challenges or methodological considerations involved in this.

Drawing on a partnership study between Alzheimer's Australia NSW and the Social Policy Research Centre, this presentation explores questions of including people with younger onset dementia in action research. Questions include how to respectfully communicate in and self-select for research in the context of progressive cognitive impairment; the complexities of enabling voice in both interviews and written surveys; and how to include people with younger onset dementia in research advisory structures across the life of a long study. For each question, the experience in this project is described and then the learnings drawn out for future research. These experiences and learnings have implications for both the development of inclusive practice and for new approaches within research with people with dementia.

Matthew Fisher, Fran Baum, Colin MacDougall, Laren Newman, Dennis McDermott

Flinders University

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Australian health policy and social determinants of health and equity: A review of policy content

This paper will report on findings from current research to assess, and develop theoretical insights on, uptake of evidence on social determinants of health (SDH) and health inequalities in current Australian governments' health policies.

Abundant evidence shows that social factors play a significant role in determining Australia's health

outcomes. Rates of chronic disease and risk factors such as smoking are inversely related to socioeconomic status, and highest within disadvantaged groups. The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health called on health departments to lead policy change to address SDH and health inequities, and promote change in other sectors. This paper will draw on our research findings to assess how well Australian health policy meets that challenge.

Our research suggests that the report card is mixed. Current health policy recognises evidence on SDH and health inequalities, proposes action on some factors within the health sector, and employs mechanisms to build action across portfolios. However, in many policies, while SDH are acknowledged, intended actions remain focused on illness treatment and individual 'lifestyle'. Policies promoting cross-sectoral activity rarely address areas such as taxation or welfare, which influence health inequalities across the whole population.

Implications of these findings for social policy will be explored.

Solange Frost

Council of Social Service of New South Wales

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Medicare Locals and the not-for-profit community sector in NSW

Since Medicare Locals were established by the Commonwealth Government in 2011–2012, not-for-profit community sector organisations (CSOs) have raised concerns about their role and relationship with the community sector. Medicare Locals were established to improve the coordination and integration primary healthcare at the local level. To do this effectively they need to be actively engaged with local service providers as well as consumers.

CSOs have reported wide variations in the nature and extent of Medicare Locals' engagement and possible 'scope creep'. Some variation is expected given Medicare Locals are new and emerging organisations at different stages of development. In response, the Council of Social Service of NSW undertook a survey of CSOs from March to April 2013 to develop a more informed understanding of the nature and extent of the sector's engagement with Medicare Locals.

This presentation will outline the results from the survey and discuss the implications for public health, service coordination and integration, and the NFP community sector.

G

Brian Gleeson

Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services,
Australian Government

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Place-based approaches in the remote Indigenous context: Early lessons from the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on remote service delivery

In December 2008, the Australian, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian governments signed up to a new approach to service delivery in 29 remote Indigenous communities. The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery seeks to Close the Gap and improve wellbeing in remote Indigenous communities by building stronger communities, improving service systems, improving community engagement, and new ways of governments working together.

The Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services will share some key lessons for place based approaches that are emerging from the implementation of the National Partnership. These include the limitations and opportunities of place vs region particularly for remote Indigenous communities, the need to build the capacity of local governance mechanisms and Indigenous organisations, areas where structural reform is critical and the value of having government officers permanently on the ground with a core focus to coordinate services and to provide a conduit between the community and government.

The presentation will discuss the key lessons as well as provide practical case studies to demonstrate the points made.

Phillip Gould

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Revealing hidden disadvantage: A household level index for Australia

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been producing area level socio-economic indexes since the 1970s. From 1986, these indexes have been collectively called SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas). SEIFA provides powerful information to identify disadvantaged areas. However, its area-level nature means it is unable to identify specific households as disadvantaged. This limits

analyses where there is interest in the diversity of households in an area, rather than just an average of all households. For example, a researcher may be interested in identifying disadvantaged households located in advantaged areas.

Recently, the ABS has begun development of an experimental household level socio-economic index. This index gives each household in Australia a ranking based on information collected in the Census. Households are ranked from most disadvantaged to most advantaged.

This paper presents some of the challenges associated with constructing the experimental household level index: variable selection, dealing with missing data, determining weights. It then discusses the way in which researchers could access the data, and the benefits that such a fine-level index would have for investigating disadvantage. In addition to unveiling the diversity of households within areas, the household index would be useful in many demographic analyses, not necessarily linked to geography.

H

Daphne Habibis

University of Tasmania

Monday 3:30–5:00, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Welfare conditionality and Aboriginal lifeworlds: The emergence of recognition as a policy principle

This paper is based on research undertaken as part of an AHURI funded investigation into how housing conditionality can be used to promote positive outcomes for Aboriginal people. Through documentary analysis it provides insights into how housing access and tenancy sustainment are influenced by the alignment between different forms of conditionality and Indigenous cultural norms and lifestyles.

Our analysis of Aboriginal housing in five different locations in NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory shows how different forms of housing conditionality have intersected with Aboriginal lifeworlds and Aboriginal governance organisations to produce a range of positive and negative housing outcomes. We identify four kinds of conditionality with critical differentiating variables the extent to which principles of cultural recognition operate within white modes of engagement and whether there is some transfer of governance responsibility to Aboriginal people.

Our analysis reveals a consistent narrative of Aboriginal people exercising their own forms of agency through refusal to deny the legitimacy of their own cultural co-ordinates. The idea of adaptive conditionality is developed as an approach in which state and Aboriginal governance organisations work with community members to produce a shared terrain in which a flexible and incremental approach to problem solving is applied.

Kirsten Hanna, Michael Fletcher, Danae Anderson

Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Is income management for young New Zealand beneficiaries justified?

In 2012, the New Zealand government introduced a series of reforms to the benefit system, including the introduction of the Youth Service, comprising two new benefits for young beneficiaries. The Youth Service aims to reduce teenage beneficiaries' risk of long-term benefit receipt and improve outcomes. To this end, it makes benefit receipt dependent upon young people undertaking a range of activities to improve their educational, budgeting, parenting, and life skills. It also places them under compulsory income management, which is new to New Zealand's social security system. This paper considers the rationale and justification for the introduction of income management for young beneficiaries in New Zealand, comparing the scheme with Australia's New Income Management measures. We conclude that the imposition of compulsory income management on young New Zealand beneficiaries is intended primarily to deter the uptake of youth benefits, is even more restrictive than its Australian counterparts and is likely to produce a host of negative consequences for young people.

Nanditha Hettitantri

Macquarie University

Monday 1:00–3:00, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Child friendliness in post conflict contexts: A case study of the experiences and perceptions of young children in post conflict Sri Lanka

Despite a large number of studies on the topic, the current body of research about post-conflict contexts rarely addresses how young children perceive and experience life within post conflict contexts. This gap constrains the efficacy of policy and resource allocation aimed at enhancing life experiences for young children. Taking post conflict Sri Lanka

(4 years after the end of the conflict) as a case study, this research is designed to address this gap. While government, non-government and private sector service providers in Sri Lanka, (as in many post conflict contexts in the world), have identified positive social and physical environments as a goal for communities and children, the child friendliness of the environments have not been clearly delineated. This research investigates the concept of 'child friendliness', by addressing the experiences and perceptions of young children in the post-conflict context in Sri Lanka. The findings from the study will be used to identify the processes and components which need to be taken into account when developing sustainable (and child friendly) environments in post conflict contexts, in Sri Lanka and beyond.

(Based on PhD research supervised by Professor Jacqueline Hayden, Dr Fay Hadley and Dr Kathy Cologon).

Cosmo Howard¹, Michelle Brady²

1 Griffith University

2 University of Queensland

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Single mothers and mainstream employment services: De-gendering, individualization and re-gendering

In the period since the 2005 Welfare to Work reforms, some single parents have been required to take part in intensive employment programs through the Job Network (now Job Services Australia). This paper presents findings from a two-phase interview study with providers of employment services, exploring their experiences serving single mothers. We conducted the research in Perth because its economy creates special challenges for finding flexible employment for women. Our first interviews took place in 2007 when single parents were just starting to interact with the Job Network in small numbers. We found most employment services had not developed specific approaches to serving mothers, but suggested parents would benefit from the same services as mainstream unemployed, and that 'individualized service' would effectively address the systematically different needs of mothers. In the second stage of our study in 2013, the number of parents using employment services has grown significantly, and we outline how the de-gendered and individualized model has had to confront issues of caring and gendered responsibilities in this larger cohort. We suggest that individualized service needs to be systematically informed by the structural needs of single parents to reconcile tensions between work and caring obligations.

Deirdre Howard-Wagner

The University of Sydney

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Aboriginal success in overcoming disadvantage and promoting well-being: an in-depth case study of Koori success in an urban locality and its greater region

Achieving first peoples' empowerment and autonomy through social policy is a national challenge for Australia, its governments and its first peoples. The current model adopted by Australia—Closing the Gap—represents a conceptual shift away from first peoples empowerment as a participatory and multi-dimensional process that focuses on achieving basic capabilities, as well as first peoples rights and participation in key social, economic, political, and cultural domains. The paper begins by discussing the limitations of the current social policy in this regard.

The paper then turns to Koori stories about gaps and success to illustrate the cultural complexities of addressing first peoples disadvantage. It considers the importance of empowerment and autonomy to success and the role of social policy in facilitating first peoples' empowerment and autonomy. It also explores the importance of allowing for the emergence of culturally appropriate services and programs. It then considers empowerment and autonomy in the context of the role that local Kooris in identified social policy and social service positions play in facilitating and assisting Kooris in the Newcastle and greater Hunter and Central Coast region in overcoming disadvantage and promoting well-being, which it is argued has been a critical factor in moving toward closing the gap in this locality.

Boyd Hunter, Monica Howlett, Matthew Gray

Australian National University

Monday 3:30–5:00, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

The mining boom and Indigenous communities

Until the global financial crisis dampened Australian growth in late 2008, Indigenous employment increased in both absolute and relative terms for over a decade. The effect of the international economic contraction has been mitigated by Australia's booming mining sector arising largely from growing Chinese demand for resources. Given that a substantial number of mining operations are on or near Indigenous communities, the increase in mining investment since 2006 may have disproportionately

affected such communities. Langton (2010) describes a resource curse on local Indigenous populations in the Pilbara and Kalgoorlie regions of Western Australia. Intuitively anyone who does not work is disadvantaged in important ways: their income is much lower, yet they must pay the same prices for housing, food and services that may have been inflated as a result of large scale mining activities in a particular area.

This presentation examines the local change in Indigenous employment, income and housing payments to identify any localised 'resource curse' for Indigenous communities and the Australian population at large. The paper draws upon data from recent censuses and information on the geographic location of mines and mining investment to identify some potentially important effects of the mining boom on Indigenous community.

Jan Idle

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Talking community

Community is an often used term that has made its way into government department titles and national goal strategies in Australia though its meaning can be complex and contested. This paper discusses recent fieldwork that investigates children's experience of community in primary school.

The fieldwork entailed facilitating Research Skills Workshops for students from an inner city (Sydney) primary school from years 5 and 6 (aged 10 to 12 years), and post-workshop individual interviews. Working in small groups the students conducted research into an area of interest based on their school. The six workshops took place once a week, over one school term and the aim was to observe and record how students make and experience community in that context.

The process of collaborative learning and understanding of place became key elements in the skills workshops. These influence, and have implications for, how we might think about conducting research with children and their experience of community, which will be discussed through the preliminary findings of the fieldwork.

J

Bridget Jenkins, Lyn Craig

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Grandparent child care in Australia: Exploring the time outcomes of providing care while parents work

Grandparents are the most popular form of child care in Australia today. In 2011, 937,000 Australian children were in grandparent care, far outstripping other forms of child care such as long day care, and before and after school care. Yet despite this, research into grandparents as child care providers has been scarce in the Australian context. Little is known about a number of salient issues, including the demographic characteristics of grandparent child care providers, the relationship between grandparent child care patterns and the formal child care market, and the reasons behind the popularity of grandparent child care for young children.

Using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Time Use Survey, this paper seeks to address some of these gaps in the knowledge. This paper will explore some of the demographic characteristics of grandparent caregivers, including the age and gender of intergenerational child care providers. It will also examine data about the nature of grandparent child care provision, focusing on time and duration, child care tasks, and the age of grandchildren in care.

K

Rick Kane

WISE Employment

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

SMEs attitudes to employing people who have a mental illness

WISE Employment commissioned McNair Ingenuity Research to conduct a national study with small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to gauge their attitudes towards employing people who have a mental illness and their readiness to do so. The SME Readiness to Employ People with a Mental Illness Report (2012) consisted of 254 interviews (in-depth interviews, telephone and online surveys) with CEOs, GMs and other managers, from a range of industries, involved in making decisions about employing new staff.

With one in five Australians affected by mental illness in any given year, this research highlights how many Australian workers can be impacted by the misconceptions or stigma on mental illness. The single most influential factor positively affecting the likelihood of SMEs to consider employing people who have a mental illness was whether they had already done so in the past; those that had were more likely to consider it again in the future.

Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

The social construction of asylum seekers by stakeholders in immigration detention and the implications for policy and practice

This presentation emerges from two recently completed projects for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on detention of irregular maritime arrivals (separate presentations will be made on these projects). Across both projects over 100 service providers and other key stakeholders were interviewed about their practice and views of aspects of detention of asylum seekers. There was a great diversity of views about clients, but these tended to fall along two dimensions: active vs passive and positive vs negative. For example active good stereotypes portrayed asylum seekers as heroes who had overcome enormous odds to come to Australia and who were determined to contribute to Australian society. On the other hand, active/bad stereotypes saw asylum seekers as queue jumpers and potential people smugglers who exploited Australia's generosity to improve their economic situation.

This paper will explore how these assumptions about refugees have coloured policy and practice in this area, and will contrast these views with the findings of the research with asylum seekers themselves. Links will also be made with other areas of social policy such as Indigenous policy and disability, to indicate how a more nuanced understanding could improve policy development with vulnerable populations.

Kim Kiely, Peter Butterworth

Centre for Research on Ageing Health and Wellbeing,
Australian National University

Monday 3:30–5:00, Tyree Room, First Floor

Understanding the dynamics of welfare receipt and mental health in Australia

Health inequalities in psychological wellbeing follow a social gradient whereby increased levels of

psychological distress are disproportionately found in socially disadvantaged populations. For example, common mental disorders are more prevalent among welfare recipients relative to the broader Australian community, with increased risk particularly pronounced for recipients of Disability pensions, Newstart allowance and Parenting Payments for Single Parents.

This presentation will report on a programme of work that uses longitudinal data from the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey to investigate the dynamics of welfare receipt and mental health, examining the extent to which the association reflects underlying vulnerabilities or can be attributed to processes of health selection and social causation. Mixed effects models examined the effects of income support transitions on mental health, and tested if socioeconomic position, marital status, lifestyle, physical functioning and financial status explained the association. Multiple-spell survival analyses examined if mental health problems independently predicted increased risk of entry and re-entry to income support.

Results were consistent with health selection explanations, identifying poor mental health as an antecedent of welfare receipt. Financial hardship also explained a substantial portion of the poorer mental health of Newstart recipients, reinforcing current debates about payment adequacy.

Meredith Kiraly

Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Kinship care: Will it all end in tears?

Kinship care as a statutory child protection response has grown dramatically in Australia and internationally in the last decade. In Australia it now provides the largest component of out of home care, accommodating some 18,500 children, nearly half of all children in statutory care. Policy and practice has struggled to keep pace with this rapid social change.

Kinship care has significant advantages in terms of maintaining close family relationships, providing familiarity, security and continuity of care. These benefits accrue to children despite evidence that kinship carers are older, financially poorer and in poorer health than foster carers, caring for larger numbers of children and for longer periods of time. Evidence is emerging about some kinship

arrangements providing inadequate basic care, and ageing carers in considerable distress. Federal and State Governments are responding by developing policy and funding support programs; however, the current climate of fiscal restraint militates against a commensurate response. Frequent alerts to the risks of statutory kinship care in the absence of appropriate support and regulation are heard from advocacy groups. This paper will detail the benefits and risks in kinship care for vulnerable children, and explore possible future scenarios.

L

Liana Leach, Sarah Olesen

Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, Australian National University

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

New fatherhood and mental health in Australia

Background and aims: Improving Australian's mental health is a major challenge for the Australian government. Knowledge about which life events may prove risky for families' mental health is necessary to develop sound policy and programs. We still know little about the psychological impact of new fatherhood. In this prospective longitudinal study funded by beyondblue we investigate whether Australian men who become 'expecting' and/or a new fathers experience an increase in psychological distress.

Methods: Ten waves of data from the nationally representative Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey were analysed in which 224 men became expecting fathers, 285 men became new fathers. Psychological distress in men was measured (using the SF-36) before and during partner's pregnancy, and during the first year postpartum.

Results: Longitudinal mixed-models showed there was no significant increase in psychological distress as a function of expectant or new fatherhood.

Conclusions: This is the first Australian study to assess change in psychological distress in association with expecting and new fatherhood which utilises a representative sample and includes baseline (pre-transition) data. The findings suggest that prevention and intervention strategies should shift to those men who are most likely to experience increased anxiety and depression in expecting/new fatherhood.

M

Deborah Macourt

Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Youth and the law: It's not all about juvenile justice and child welfare

With 20,716 respondents across Australia, the LAW Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of a broad range of legal needs on a representative sample of the population. The Survey reveals that 15–17 year olds experience a wide range of legal problems and a distinct pattern of legal need that extends well beyond the spheres of criminal justice and child welfare.

Almost one-half of 15–17 year olds experienced a legal problem in a one-year period and this experience was exacerbated by social and economic disadvantage. The influence of factors such as homelessness, mental illness, disability, school and family were examined. For some young people the impact of their legal problems could be severe bringing about stress-related illness, relationship breakdown, moving home, or financial strain. Young women were particularly vulnerable. In addition, young people had a disinclination to act upon their legal problems and a poor awareness of free legal services.

As legal problems can 'beget problems' producing vicious cycles of vulnerability, the LAW Survey indicates that addressing this contemporary challenge requires a recognition of the full range of legal problems experienced by young people, specific policy responses to meet their needs and tailored targeted intensive assistance for particularly vulnerable youth.

Claire Mason, Anneliese Spinks, Stefan Hajkowicz, Liz Hobman

CSIRO

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Exploring the contribution of frontline welfare service delivery to capability development in Australia

This study explores how interactions between frontline welfare service delivery employees and recipients are seen to affect welfare recipients' capabilities. Seventeen employees and 52 welfare recipients from the Australian Department of Human Services were interviewed regarding their service delivery experiences. Interviews were transcribed and participants' descriptions of the outcomes achieved

from welfare service delivery interactions were analysed to determine the major themes. Burchardt and Vizard's (2007) capability list captured many of the effects described by participants, particularly the capability domains labelled 'Individual, family and social life', 'Education and learning', 'Standard of living', 'Health' and 'Productive and valued activities'. Other outcomes were described by participants that might represent early indicators of positive or negative impact. Our findings suggest that welfare service delivery can both promote and impair capability development for welfare recipients.

Marilyn McHugh¹, Anita Pell²

¹ Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

² Berry Street, Victoria

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Reforming foster care: Presenting a convincing argument to government

Nationally and internationally the provision of foster care for children at risk of significant harm (e.g. abuse & neglect) is a major policy issue. Recruiting volunteer carers for the ever-increasing numbers of children and young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours requiring out-of-home care (OOHC) is highly problematic. In Australia most jurisdictions have implemented small, costly specialist fostering programs (some with a therapeutic/treatment focus) in response to some children with high and complex needs. Experienced and specially trained foster carers provide a more professional service in these programs and receive higher fostering rates (i.e. carer allowances). The need for a therapeutic care approach for all children and young people living in OOHC has been highlighted at both the state and federal level.

This presentation will discuss what a new integrated model of carer support, education and payment would look like and discusses the benefits to all those involved: children/young people, carers, workers and birth parents. The benefits to government will also be discussed.

Rosalie McLachlan, Geoff Gilfillan, Jenny Gordon

Productivity Commission, Australian Government

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Deep and persistent disadvantage in Australia

Headline statistics on Australia's most disadvantaged people frequently appear in the media, but little

attention is given to explaining what judgements lie behind these statistics, or how much of the story they tell. A lack of understanding about disadvantage can contribute to misplaced community concerns. It can also be an impediment to good public policy.

The Staff Working Paper by Rosalie McLachlan, Geoff Gilfillan and Jenny Gordon sought to find answers to questions such as:

What does it mean to be disadvantaged?

How many Australians are disadvantaged and who are they?

What factors influence a person's risk of experiencing disadvantage?

What are the costs of disadvantage and who bears them?

The authors found that there is no single agreed way to define and measure disadvantage. Nonetheless, it is clear that disadvantage is about 'impoverished lives' rather than just low income.

Strong economic and income growth has played a critical role in improving living standards and employment opportunities, but some people continue to experience deep and persistent disadvantage. Many Australians experience disadvantage at some point in their lives. Fewer experience deep disadvantage. Most people who become disadvantaged are able to move out of it relatively quickly, but a small group remain disadvantaged for extended periods of time.

Of particular policy relevance, the authors found that:

- a child's early years are fundamental to shaping their life chances
- education is a foundation capability—it improves a person's employment prospects and earning capacity, and can lead to better health, improved life satisfaction and higher levels of social engagement
- employment is the route out of disadvantage for most people of working age.

Philip Mendes, Pamela Snow

Monash University

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Young people with a disability transitioning from out of home care in Victoria

Young people transitioning from out-of-home care are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

in society. Only a small number of Australian studies have specifically examined the needs of care leavers with a disability. This study involves consultations with 10 key agencies involved in out-of-home care and leaving care practice and policy to examine the current experiences of, and support services available, to young people with a disability transitioning from out-of-home care in Victoria. A qualitative, exploratory design was used to understand the perspectives and experiences of a range of stakeholders.

The key recommendations emanating from our findings are: 1) We need reliable and accessible data on the number of young people with a disability in and leaving OHC to facilitate effective leaving care planning for this group, 2) Assessments should be available and funded on a needs basis, 3) Funding for transition services including accommodation needs to reflect the real ongoing needs of care leavers, and the real costs of providing support, 4) There needs to be greater collaboration and joint planning between child protection and adult disability services for this cohort of young people, and 5) We need some reliable data on outcomes for young people with a disability leaving care.

Alan Morris¹, Shaun Wilson²

1 Centre for Local Government, University of Technology Sydney

2 School of Social Sciences UNSW

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Struggling on Newstart: The experience of a "neoliberal" form of employment assistance

The low level of the Newstart (unemployment benefit) payment has become a major concern in Australia. Despite this disquiet there have been little examination of the implications of living on Newstart. In this article, through the use of a survey and in-depth interviews, we examine the everyday lives of Newstart recipients in the Sydney area. The article illustrates that for most Newstart recipients the most basic items are difficult to purchase. Housing is a major issue. Many of the interviewees are living in inadequate and often unsafe surroundings due to an inability to afford satisfactory accommodation. For some interviewees their lack of disposal income had severe health implications. Social isolation was a common phenomenon and many of the interviewees found that the low payment made finding employment a lot more challenging.

N

Yuvisthi Naidoo

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Monday 1:00–3:00, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Towards a multi-dimensional framework to understand the living standards of older people: A case study of older Australians

The standard of living of older people is a critical policy matter for most OECD countries facing an ageing population. This paper examines the different approaches to how the standard of living is understood and measured. The conventional reliance on income is shown to be an inadequate measure of the actual living conditions of older people, and as a guide to informing ageing and social policy research. The economic living standards of older Australians is examined using a continuum of four economic resource measures beginning with the narrowest focus on disposable income, expanding to 'full income' by including the value of non-cash benefits and services arising from the receipt of public goods and/or services from home ownership and finally the inclusion of wealth in the form of two derived 'potential consumption' measures. The paper goes on to argue that a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the living standards of older people demands the inclusion of both economic and non-economic dimensions. Drawing on conceptual frameworks from sociological traditions, a multidimensional indicator framework that is pertinent to older people is presented.

Geoff Neideck

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Housing and homelessness

In 2011, there were 7.8 million households, up from 7.1 million in 2006. While the number of households continues to rise, the size of those households is falling. Australia's growing and ageing population, and changes in household composition, directly affect the demand for housing. As at 30 June 2012 around 411,300 households were in social housing, and a further 224,200 applicants were awaiting allocation or transfer. While the bulk of social housing stock is in public rental housing (78%), the number of public rental dwellings is declining. This decrease has been offset by an increase in community housing. The increasing contribution of the community

sector reflects housing policy at both the Australian Government and state and territory government levels.

With demand outstripping supply in both private and public housing, the biggest impact is felt by those on the lowest incomes and an increasing proportion of lower income households are considered to be in housing stress.

In 2011–2012 over a quarter of people who accessed specialist homelessness services reported 'housing crisis' as a reason for seeking assistance. Specialist homelessness services provide support to people who are currently experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk. On Census night in 2011 an estimated 105,000 people were homeless; 6% were sleeping rough or living in improvised dwellings and 39% were living in severely crowded dwellings.

This presentation will provide an overview of housing trends including housing affordability and trends in home ownership and renting. It will also draw upon ABS Census data and AIHW's Specialist Homelessness Services Collection to explore what we know about people who are experiencing homelessness, who does (and does not) receive assistance, and what kinds of outcomes (housing and other outcomes) can be achieved for clients.

Jan Nicholson¹, Lyndall Strazdins², Jude Brown³, Michael Bittman⁴

1 The Parenting Research Centre

2 Australian National University

3 University of New England²

4 The University of Sydney

Monday 3:30–5:00, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

How parents' income, time and job quality affect children's health and development

Background: Research consistently demonstrates links between family socioeconomic circumstances and children's health and development. Aims: Using data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children this paper describes the transmission of socioeconomic disadvantage from parents to children in the early years of children's lives and illustrates how parents' jobs operate as another source of social inequality impacting on parents' and children's wellbeing. Results: confirm that income, the hours that parents work and the quality of parents' jobs impact on family life and children's healthy development. Job combinations that include long hours across both mothers and fathers and poorer quality jobs are associated with reduced time in

developmentally important activities with children, elevated rates of parental mental health problems, and socio-emotional difficulties for children. These effects are greater within low income families. Conclusion: Findings highlight the need for social and economic policies to move beyond simplistic notions of promoting parental workforce participation as a way of reducing the adverse effects of social disadvantage.

P

Trevor Parmenter^{1,2}, Rafat Hussain², Matthew Janicki^{2,3}, Patricia O'Brien⁴, Marie Knox⁴, Stuart Wark², Meaghan Edwards^{1,4}, Miranda Cannon², Chez Leaggatt-Cook⁵

1 Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney

2 University of New England

3 University of Illinois, Chicago, University of New England

4 Centre for Disability Studies, The University of Sydney

5 Endeavour Foundation

Monday 1:00–3:00, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Theories of ageing: Do people with lifelong cognitive impairments fit in?

Theories of successful ageing emerged in the early 1960s, prompted by the need for the nascent discipline of gerontology to be grounded in a theory base. Over successive decades various theories have been proposed, none of which has specifically addressed the ageing of people with lifelong disabilities, specifically those with cognitive or intellectual disabilities. It is now established that the adult life expectancy of this population approximates that of the general population, owing to enhanced access to health care, better nutrition, and improved life style. Difficulties encountered by this population include the lack of clear transition markers throughout their adult life. The lack of inter-sectorial collaboration between ageing and disability support services, exemplified by the two Australian Productivity Commission Reports, has resulted in an isolation of people with lifelong disabilities from mainstream gerontological developments. Recent theories of ageing, which incorporate psychosocial concepts, need to be refined in the context of people with cognitive impairments. We argue that such adults can experience an enhanced lifestyle in older age as witnessed by data gathered from them, indicating their understanding of their ageing. We note that this understanding has implications for the development of a more inclusive theory of successful and positive ageing.

Hal Pawson, Ilan Wiesel, Vivienne Milligan

City Futures Research Centre UNSW

Monday 1:00–3:00, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

What scope for tenant choice in reshaping Australia's social housing?

Stigmatised, neglected and starved of resources, Australia's public housing is trapped in a spiral of decline. Among policymakers and industry experts, large scale transfers into the hands of not-for-profit organisations are increasingly seen as the only hope of salvation. In part, this is inspired by awareness of the incremental program which, over the past 25 years, has seen UK council housing having been largely made over into housing association ownership with tenants in situ. In Australia, however, public housing transfer programs enacted to date have been relatively small in scale and experimental in character. Also, while forms of 'tenant choice' have been incorporated in such initiatives, these have differed considerably from those standard in the UK transfer model.

Considerations on how resident choices (individual or collective) might be accommodated within tenanted housing transfers have significant ideological, legal and managerial implications. Based on interviews with public housing and community housing staff involved in transfer programs so far undertaken by Australia's states and territories, and drawing on focus groups with tenants affected, this paper outlines how tenant choice has been designed into such programs. We question the extent to which genuine choice has, in fact, been offered, and consider the ethics and feasibility of incorporating 'choice mechanisms' in the larger scale transfer programs which look likely to emerge in future.

Abigail Powell, Ilan Katz, Sandra Gendera

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Wednesday 9/18/2013 1:30–3:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Wellbeing in immigration detention

For as long as immigration detention has been a feature of the Australian landscape, it has been subject to criticism and scrutiny, yet there is little research in this area. Much of what is known empirically is from the media and inquiries by various agencies, often prompted by particular crises. This paper seeks to address this gap by exploring issues that impact on the wellbeing of people held in Australian detention, with a particular focus on asylum seekers known as Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) or 'boat people'. The research was funded

by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to provide a better understanding of the experiences IMAs detained in immigration detention facilities. The main research method was qualitative interviews, which were conducted at 11 facilities, with 346 stakeholders, including IMAs, DIAC staff, and Serco and IHMS (service providers). The findings support previous research showing that time in detention, status resolution and opportunities for meaningful activities significantly impact on wellbeing. However, it also highlights the importance of consistent messaging to IMAs; the impact of loss of agency and institutionalisation which often results in apathy and disempowerment; and the affects of organisational culture, which varied substantially between facilities.

Jan Priebe, Fiona Howell

TNP2K, Indonesia

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

The demographic structure of old-age poverty in Indonesia and its implications for providing social assistance targeting poor elderly

Indonesia harbors an elderly population (60 years and above) of about 18 million which is predicted to increase to more than 60 million by 2050. Given the absence of any significant pension system in the country old-age poverty is widespread and estimated to range between 3 to 5 million elderly individuals in 2012.

Using multiple rounds of Indonesia's large scale socio-economic household survey, Susenas, our analysis reveals that old-age poverty is systematically underestimated towards other population sub-groups such as families with children. Further we show that despite the popular conception of old-age poverty being related to neglect such a policy, as implemented with ASLUT (Indonesia's only social assistance program targeting elderly), leaves out more than 97% of poor elderly in the country and therefore cannot contribute to fighting old-age poverty in any significant manner. In a second step, we investigate the potential contribution of ASLUT to combat old-age poverty using a special survey on 2,200 elderly individuals of ASLUT and non-ASLUT beneficiaries. The results suggest that ASLUT helps poor elderly to escape poverty. However, the programme is currently far too narrowly targeted and underfunded to lead to significant reductions in nationwide old-age poverty rates.

R

Ioana Ramia

ARTD Consultants

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Highly educated, well paid and less happy? Income, higher education and subjective well-being in Australia

The impact of income on happiness, or subjective well-being (SWB), has long been debated in the literature. Scholars of wellbeing often associate higher individual educational achievement with better job outcomes and higher income and overall material satisfaction. However, in developed countries the relationship between higher educational achievement and subjective wellbeing is often identified as either nil or negative, with non-tertiary educated individuals being happier or more satisfied with their lives than the tertiary educated.

Accounting for differences in well-being which result from variations in educational achievement, this paper explores the relationship between income and SWB in Australia. The analysis draws on data from the 2010 Household Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) Survey. It finds that the impact of income on SWB differs for the tertiary educated and the non-tertiary educated, but results vary with the measure of income used, i.e. individual income or household income.

Margot Rawsthorne¹, Alison de Pree²

¹ The University of Sydney

² Glebe Community Development Project, The University of Sydney

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Place based services: A case study of the opportunities and challenges

Working collaboratively, be it in the form of coalitions, partnerships or networks, has become one 'the most defining approaches to social problems solving over the last decade' (Chavis, 2001, p. 309). The complexity and interrelatedness of individual, community and environmental problems has demanded newer forms of working (Bright, 2001, p.1). This paper draws on empirical research and practice experiences in Glebe, a diverse inner city suburb of Sydney. The empirical research includes an on-line survey, focus groups and individual interviews with human service providers in the area.

The practice experiences arise from work to enhance collaboration in the Glebe area for the past 8 years by the Glebe Community Development Project (CDP). Improving collaboration across government, non-government, community and business has been an intentional priority for the Glebe CDP. The empirical research and the practice experience suggest a significant gap between rhetoric of collaboration and the practice of agencies on the ground. The paper argues that this gap has implications for current state and local government moves to place-based provision of human services. The paper will conclude with specific recommendations to ensure the opportunities of place-based provision are realized.

Hamish Robertson¹, Nick Nicholas², Joanne Travaglia³, Andrew Georgiou¹, Julie Johnson¹

¹ Australian Institute of Health Innovation UNSW

² The Demographer's Workshop

³ School of Public Health and Community Medicine UNSW

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Zones of Vulnerability II: A virtual spatial model for ageing policy analysis

In 2011 we presented a conceptual paper on the spatial modelling of population vulnerability associated with ageing and exposure to man-made environmental hazards in metropolitan Sydney. Since then we have produced a virtual spatial model with a focus on population ageing in Australia. The objective is to contribute a scalable spatial dimension to current policy debates about population ageing and its likely social, systemic and economic impacts.

In this model, we include current and projected population data as well as dementia prevalence estimates to analyse the implications of ageing in place and the need for policy shifts to address the resultant service and support issues. The model includes the location of a range of formal service providers including health (hospitals, GPs, social care (Meals on Wheels) and emergency services (police, SES). This permits a cross-portfolio approach not currently utilised in policy advocacy settings.

Activists and advocates often lack the tools and time to adequately critique government and industry initiatives and communities can't always visualise what the local impacts of planned interventions are likely to be. This model shows how we can enhance responses to the complex emergent problems associated with population ageing using a spatial modelling environment.

S

Kylie Sait

Alzheimer's Australia NSW

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Living alone with dementia: Challenges for policy and service delivery

The increasing trend of single person households, coupled with growing numbers of people with dementia, suggests that the number of people living alone with dementia is set to rise. However there is often an underlying assumption in dementia and aged care policy of the presence and support of a co-resident carer, which is reflected in the design and delivery of services. The reforms to the Australian aged care system outlined in Living Longer Living Better emphasise community care in the home to enable people with dementia to live at home for as long as possible. Supporting people living alone with dementia is therefore a significant challenge for policy makers and providers of aged, community and health care services.

In recognition of this dilemma, Alzheimer's Australia NSW conducted a research project about living alone with dementia. We reviewed the literature, surveyed case managers and interviewed people living alone with dementia. The research findings were published in a discussion paper released in June 2013. This presentation will outline the key findings and recommendations made by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, and importantly, highlight the challenges and implications for policy makers and service providers supporting people living alone with dementia.

Robyn Seth-Purdie¹, Nicholas Biddle²

¹ Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Griffith University

² Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

Monday 1:00–3:00, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

Developmental outcomes, early childhood risk factors and participation in early childhood education

Early childhood risk factors, particularly as they accumulate, increase developmental vulnerability, impair human capital formation and lead to an increased burden of social problems over a lifetime. Environmentally mediated differences in development have been detected at very young ages, with the highest incidence of developmental vulnerability

found amongst the most disadvantaged families. Early childhood education (ECE), of sufficient quality and duration, is an intervention that can reduce inequality by mitigating the effects of higher risk burden.

This research was designed to shed light on the relationship between risk burden, participation in ECE and development outcomes.

Analysis of data from LSAC Waves 3 and 4, revealed that children with the highest risk burden were the least likely to participate in pre-school education, participation in ECE did not mitigate the effect of risk burden on development outcomes and participation in LDC was actually associated with poorer outcomes, and the poorer outcomes for disadvantaged groups, such as Indigenous children, disappeared when risk burden was controlled. Boys had significantly poorer outcomes than girls.

The implications for public policy are discussed.

Catharine Simmons

Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Imagining policy change: Is current education policy matching children and young people's needs?

School is a major socialisation institution in children's lives, yet children and young people are generally not consulted about the education policies that shape school life. This paper reports the findings from one component of a current ARC project that is investigating 'wellbeing' in schools. Students (from Year 1 to Year 12) were asked to imagine, draw and/or describe their ideal school for wellbeing.

The findings suggest that mutual respectful relationships with teachers and peers are vitally important for students' improved wellbeing. Of particular relevance across all age groups is the importance students place on participation in decision making as integral to their wellbeing at school. The findings of the study raise significant questions about the extent to which current educational policies include and act upon the voices of children and young people. The paper concludes by offering examples of successful international participation initiatives that involve students in decision making in school policy and the related positive outcomes these initiatives have for students.

Louisa Smith

The University of Sydney

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Right to work: Young adults with intellectual disabilities and difficulties transitioning to work

Abstract: Article 27 of The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [The Convention] commits to a labour market that is 'open, inclusive and accessible' to people with disabilities. Despite this only 15% of people with intellectual disabilities are employed in open employment in Australia. With the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) these issues around access to and support for employment which upholds the rights of persons with disabilities becomes central. The Transition Project, a longitudinal study based on life history interviews with 19–26 year old Australians with long-term disabilities, interviewed fourteen young people with intellectual disabilities. Two abbreviated case studies from the study will be presented, focusing particularly on how the participants experienced their access to employment. Neither participant experienced anything close to a recognition of the rights stipulated in Article 27. This paper aims to identify the main areas in which their rights were not upheld and how this intersects with geographical location, class, family and gender.

Bruce Smyth, Richard Chisholm, Bryan Rodgers, Vu Son

Australian National University

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Tyree Room, First Floor

Has the prevalence and demography of shared-time parenting changed following the family law reforms of 2006?

In many countries, shared-time parenting—where children spend equal or near-equal amounts of time with each parent—is emerging as a new family form following separation or divorce. In 2006, Australia introduced significant legislative reforms that encouraged shared-time parenting and made mediation mandatory in most cases. Soon after the reforms, a spike in shared-time arrangements occurred in high conflict cases decided by a judge, pointing to a possible shift in the demography of shared time families towards more conflicted arrangements. This paper examines recent data on the prevalence and demography of shared-time arrangements in Australia in the context of legislative

and policy shifts encouraging such arrangements. Three new sources of Australian data are drawn on: (a) administrative data from the Child Support Agency; (b) administrative data from the Family Court of Australia; and (c) survey data from three cohorts of recently separated parents registered with the Child Support Agency. The latter survey data are from a large, ARC-funded, longitudinal study of the impacts of the new Australian Child Support Scheme.

Karen Soldatic

School of Social Sciences UNSW

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Disability rights, welfare reform and global fiscal austerity

The global ascension of disability human rights has emerged with the onset of global fiscal austerity. Across nearly all Western Liberal Democracies, governments have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whilst simultaneously, undertaking broad base disability welfare retrenchment that target disability social security regimes. Australia, the UK and Canada, in particular, have progressively implemented more restrictive disability social security eligibility criteria and in turn, many people with disabilities who previously qualified for disability social security no longer qualify. Thus, despite the normalisation of disability rights at the global scale, within the national scale, many people with disabilities are no longer defined as ‘disabled’ and are being shifted onto more precarious social security payments with fewer entitlements. This paper seeks to explore this growing global contradiction drawing upon disability social policy examples from the UK and Australia. It will discuss the tension that exists between the frames of ‘citizenship rights’ and ‘disability human rights’ and how these competing political frames, between the scale of the global and the national, undermine the realisation of ‘rights’ within national disability welfare regimes.

Wendy Stone

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Swinburne University of Technology

Wednesday 11:00–12:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Long-term renting in the Australian private rental sector: incidence, nature and outcomes

The private rental sector is the problem housing tenure of Australia. It is characterised by major affordability problems, lack of tenant security,

tenant-landlord disputation, and low end supply shortfalls. Yet there are still major knowledge gaps about the sector which inhibit policy debate. One of these concerns the extent, nature and experience of households who rent in the private sector long-term, for 10 years or more.

This paper addresses this significant knowledge gap. Reporting on recently completed research funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, the paper uses ABS Survey of Income and Housing data to analyse the extent of long-term private renting in Australia, including a demographic account of long-term renters, examination of their housing circumstances and an estimation of the extent of increase in long-term renting in the last 30 years. Longitudinal analysis of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) data explores the economic, social and health outcomes associated with long-term renting for particular population sub-groups. Policy implications of the research are discussed, focusing on the protracted need for housing support for increasing numbers of private tenants as they age, the acute support needs of others and deepening housing inequalities.

T

Jude Teicke, Saul Flaxman, Tomas Sitek

The Benevolent Society

Monday 1:00–3:00, Gonski Room, Ground Floor

Living at home, living better? Implications from an evaluation for Living Longer Living Better aged care reforms

The Australian Government’s recently announced Living Longer Living Better aged care reforms will work towards expanding the support and care options available for people to stay in their own homes and communities. The reforms focus on expanding the availability of home care programs giving people more choice and control, and making access to services easier.

Despite anecdotal observations that community aged care services have a positive impact on clients’ wellbeing, there is little empirical evidence of this. The Benevolent Society sought to address this evidence gap by conducting a mixed methods longitudinal evaluation investigating the impact of their community care programs on client and carer wellbeing.

This paper will present the final results from the evaluation examining particular aspects of wellbeing

such as autonomy and control, psychological distress, and social isolation.

The results focus on the prevalence of psychological distress and social isolation among clients, and the relationship between different elements of wellbeing. Results from qualitative interviews with clients are also reported, providing insights into the mechanisms through which Community Care services and external factors impact on wellbeing and discussed in the context of the aged care reforms.

Matthew Toohey

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling,
University of Canberra

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Is it worth working yet?

In recent decades, policy makers have altered the settings of the tax and transfer payment systems in an effort to encourage workforce participation, particularly among women with children. To give a recent example, one of the Henry Tax Review's objectives was to ensure that there are appropriate incentives for workforce participation (Australian Treasury, 2010).

This paper analyses the impact of child care subsidies, personal income tax, income support payments and family assistance payments in 2013 on the financial incentives for women with children to increase their participation in paid work. The results for 2013 are compared with the results of similar studies for 1997 (Beer, 1998) and for 2003 (Toohey and Beer, 2004). The paper also examines the effect of relaxing the gendered assumptions about the distribution of market and non-market labour between members of a couple that are inherent in the earlier studies.

V

kylie valentine¹, Jan Breckinridge², Jennifer Hamer², BJ Newton¹, Christine Eastman¹

1 Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

2 Centre for Gender-Related Violence Studies UNSW

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Integration and partnerships: Promising strategies in NSW human service delivery

Improving service integration and collaboration is a priority in many areas of human services delivery, but has proved difficult to achieve. One promising

strategy towards better service partnerships is the use of partnership models which include access to brokerage funding. The benefits of brokerage appear to come not only from the capacity to purchase services and goods, but also from the practices associated with assessing and reviewing brokerage applications.

This paper will discuss the emerging use of brokerage and partnership groups in service delivery in NSW, illustrated with findings from two recent evaluations involving government and non government organisations.

Jenny van der Arend, Jenny Bell

Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland

Wednesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 2, Ground Floor

Bridging the research-policy gap: How better connections between academics and social policy makers can create greater capacity for evidence-based policy making

Evidence-based policy (EBP) has become a prominent focus for public policy making in Australia and internationally in recent years. EBP highlights the systematic problem-solving of issues drawing on a variety of evidence, including academic research. Better connections between academics and social policy makers have long been considered important to improving the policy use of academic social research. Efforts to enhance connections have involved both measures to create and strengthen direct linkages between academics and social policy makers, and knowledge brokering strategies by third parties aimed at facilitating research transfer and uptake.

This paper will present results from large scale surveys and in-depth interviews with social policy makers and academics undertaken as part of an ARC Linkage funded project on evidence-based social policy making in Australia. Factors and processes that hinder and facilitate the creation of effective direct linkages between academics and social policy makers will be canvassed, and implications considered. Preliminary outcomes of case study research activities exploring the role of knowledge brokering in bridging the research-policy gap in Australia will be outlined. The paper will conclude by suggesting how more effective connections between academics and social policy makers can create greater capacity for evidence-based policy making.

W

Inara Walden

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 11:00–12:30, Ronald Lu Room, Lower Ground Floor

'Talking back' to policy in Australia

Aboriginal communities are expressing a strong view that policies designed to improve socio-economic outcomes should not only, or mainly, focus on gaps and deficiencies, but also build on community strengths. Other commentators (Pholi, Black & Richards 2009; Altman 2009) agree that the comparative statistical design of Australia's Closing the Gap policy establishes a deficit model that risks undermining Indigenous people. In addition, the policy inherently excludes initiatives that support Indigenous-specific priorities, such as strengthening knowledge of culture or connection to country, as outcomes in these areas are not readily measured against outcomes for non-Indigenous Australians.

My research takes a case study approach to investigate how a geographically remote Aboriginal community in north western New South Wales is navigating a complex policy environment to work with governments on improving service delivery. I trace the strategies, processes and frustrations that challenge the community as it fights for a strong say and hand in both defining policy problems and designing culturally and locally appropriate responses.

Melissa Wong

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, HK Alumni Room, Lower Ground Floor

Carers and social inclusion: How do carers care within the social inclusion framework in Australia?

Informal carers provide crucial support for, and foster the social connectedness of, people with disability, chronic illness, and frailty due to ageing. However, previous studies have also shown that the informal caring role creates barriers to both economic and social participation. Although the Australian Government has acknowledged the complexity and contradictory nature of care and work in its Social Inclusion Agenda, research and reports to date have

not explored the extent to which informal carers are excluded from participation. This paper aims to describe the levels of social inclusion of informal carers within the Social Inclusion policy framework in Australia. It will map dimensions of social inclusion based on the latest Social Inclusion Unit's publication 'How Australia is Faring' using data from the 2006 and 2011 Census. The methodology used to produce these estimates will be described and the measures of social inclusion of informal carers over the two Census periods will be examined.

Z

Anna Zhu, Bruce Bradbury

Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

Tuesday 1:30–3:30, Gallery 1, Ground Floor

Spending longer out of the workforce: Does it matter for mothers with young children?

This paper examines the impact of variations in the amount of time that partnered mothers spend out of the workforce prior to their child commencing school in Australia. Any such impacts are particularly relevant to policy decisions about when to commence schooling and whether to subsidise additional child care places for pre-school children. Exogenous variations in workforce absence due to school entry age thresholds are used to test for the existence of any longer-term impacts on mothers' employment. This school entry cut-off rule means that children whose birthdates are one day apart, but lie on either side of the cut-off date, can begin school one year apart. We call children who are eligible to begin school early: early entrant children and those who must wait an additional year to start school: late entrant children. If the length of time out of the workforce has a persistent effect on mother's employment opportunities, this should appear as an ongoing gap in employment rates between mothers with early and late entrant children (controlling for child age). Overall, we find no such ongoing gap. Our main results are based on Australian administrative data on a sample of around 13,500 partnered mothers receiving family payments between 2001 and 2006.