Social policy has a significant impact on the lives of the whole population, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The development of effective and equitable policy is dependent on the application of rigorous applied research by policy makers and advocates.
Social Policy Research Centre
Annual Report 2012
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who we are

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) is a specialist research centre based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW. We undertake cutting edge research on all aspects of social policy, provide multi-disciplinary postgraduate research training in a stimulating and supportive environment, and foster intellectual discussion on the nature and consequences of social policy and on the social needs and processes which give rise to it.

Our research, which utilises a variety of approaches, extends across a wide range of social policy topics which are organised into six research programs:

- care
- disability and mental health
- households, families and communities
- Indigenous policy and participation
- inequality, poverty and social ex/inclusion, and
- social policy administration and organisation.

Since our establishment in 1980, the scope and reputation of the centre has grown and today it currently attracts funding from a range of sources including commonwealth and state government departments; research funding bodies such as the Australian Research Council; international funding agencies; and a variety of Australian and international non-government organisations. Financial and in-kind support is also provided by the University of New South Wales.

We also cultivate a culture that supports excellence and innovation, attracting and keeping the best people.
It was a challenging year for SPRC in 2012, but also an exciting and successful one. Our research program areas were strengthened by the awarding of 32 new research projects, funded by a broad range of agencies, including the Australian Research Council, several commonwealth and state government departments, and a number of non-government organisations and foundations. The diversity in our funding sources affirms the centre’s high standing and the value placed on its work by our key stakeholders. This report details these projects, our publications, and our achievements.

Among the research projects commenced in 2012 are four prestigious Australian Research Council Linkage Projects, two of which investigate the wellbeing of children and young people.

We can’t afford not to: supporting young people within their families and communities from early adolescence to early adulthood (Chief Investigators Lyn Craig and Kristy Muir) will find out from young people themselves, in real time and in real context, how we can best support them within their families and communities to remain fully engaged economically and socially. It will follow young people and their families for three consecutive years.

Are the kids alright? Understanding the wellbeing of Australian children in their middle years (Chief Investigators Peter Saunders, Jen Skattebol and Gerry Redmond) will produce the first comprehensive national stocktake of wellbeing among Australian children in their middle years, with a special focus on children who experience disadvantage.

Accountability and user participation in Chinese child welfare (Chief Investigators Xiaoyuan Shang and Karen Fisher) will study democratic and managerial accountability in the context of non-government organisations in transition countries.

A new healthy living minimum income standard for low-paid and unemployed Australians (Chief Investigator Peter Saunders) will build on previous Australian and recent international research to develop a set of budget standards for low-paid and unemployed Australians and their families.
Commissioned research projects commenced in 2012 include the development of a renewed National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing (2004–2009); the post-implementation review of the disability Specialist Supported Living Services in NSW; and evaluations of Camperdown Common Ground Project in NSW and the Youth Housing and Reintegration Service and Supervised Community Accommodation Initiatives in Queensland.

We have also developed a strong relationship with the Australian Institute for Population Ageing Research within the UNSW Australian School of Business. The institute is an umbrella organisation for global research initiatives focussed on demographic transition of health, labour, economic, financial and technology-related issues.

At the end of 2011 Professor Ilan Katz stood down from his position as Director of SPRC, a role he had filled with distinction since 2005. Ilan’s leadership over this period resulted in many achievements for SPRC, and we acknowledge and thank him for this and wish him well as he now concentrates more exclusively on his research. Professor Peter Whiteford filled the position of Acting Director until June 2012, when he took up a prestigious position at the Australian National University, and at the time of going to press a new Director is being recruited.

In the past year, SPRC said farewell to Darryl Cronin, Marie Delaney, Saul Flaxman, Ioana Oprea Ramia, Shannon McDermott, Roger Patulny, Gerry Redmond, Rebecca Sinclair, and Peter Whiteford. Although they are no longer working with us, we hope to maintain relationships with our former colleagues, and this has been formalised with the appointment of Roger, Gerry and Peter as adjunct staff. We welcomed Tahnee Dotti to the research support team, and congratulate Kristy Muir, Myra Hamilton and Melissa Wong on their promotions.

In 2012 Professor Bettina Cass retired and was appointed Emeritus Professor. SPRC and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences celebrated Bettina’s achievements and contributions with a symposium in December. Speakers included Professor Brian Howe from the University of Melbourne, who talked about Bettina’s contribution to the Social Security Review, and Ms Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy at the Smith Family.

As always, our thanks go to the multitude of collaborators, critical friends, partners, supporters and peers outside the centre who have contributed to our work during the year. Thanks and congratulations are also due to our research and support staff, for their commitment and hard work over the last 12 months and their role in ensuring a positive future for SPRC.

The excellence of our staff was recognised in the following awards and other measures of esteem:

**Awards**

Professor Patrick Dodson was awarded an honorary D.Lit in August from the University of New South Wales.

**Appointments**

Professor Deborah Brennan was appointed a member of the NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation Advisory Council.

Professor Peter Saunders was appointed to the ABS 2014 General Social Survey Reference Group and to the Australian Social Inclusion Board’s Measurement and Reporting Working Group.

Professor Saunders was also re-elected President of the Australian Social Policy Association.

**Achievements**

Professor Fiona Williams OBE received a Special Achievement Award from the UK Social Policy Association at the annual awards night in July.

Professor Deborah Brennan was appointed a member of the NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation Advisory Council.

Professor Peter Saunders was appointed to the ABS 2014 General Social Survey Reference Group and to the Australian Social Inclusion Board’s Measurement and Reporting Working Group.

Professor Saunders was also re-elected President of the Australian Social Policy Association.

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kylie valentine

Acting Director

April 2013
governance & leadership

Management Board

Members
Professor James Donald, Dean
Dr kylie valentine, Acting Director, SPRC
Ms Melissa Roughley, Faculty General Manager
Ms Urania Stamios, Faculty Finance Manager
Dr Kristy Muir, Associate Dean (Research) and Senior Research Fellow, SPRC
Mr Warwick Dawson, Director, Research Partnerships

Attendee
Mr David Cami, Centre Manager, SPRC

Executive team

Senior Research Fellow and Acting Director
kylie valentine, BA, PhD

Scientia Professor
Peter Saunders, BSc, DipEc, PhD, FASSA

Centre Manager
David Cami, BSocWk, DipEd

Members of the Management Board represent a diverse and rich breadth of experience and ensure the centre pursues its objectives in line with its terms of reference through proactive mentoring of the senior executive staff and by overseeing our performance.

Members and attendees are drawn from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
Our multi-disciplinary staffing profile includes economists, sociologists, political scientists, social policy experts, historians, psychologists, educationalists, public health experts and statisticians among others.

**Academic staff**

**Scientia Professor**
Peter Saunders, BSc, DipEc, PhD, FASSA

**Professors**
Deborah Brennan, BA, MA, PhD, FASSA
Ilan Katz, BA, PhD
Fiona Williams, OBE, BSc(Hons), PhD, AcSS, FRSA

**Emeritus Professors**
Bettina Cass, AO, BA, PhD, FASSA
Susan Kippax, BA(Hons), PhD

**ARC QEII Fellow and Associate Professor**
Lyn Craig, DipSocWk, DipBusSt, BA, BSocSc, PhD

**Associate Professors**
Karen Fisher, BA LLB, MEc, PhD
Xiaoyuan Shang, BA, MA, PhD

**Associate Dean (Research) and Senior Research Fellow**
Kristy Muir, BA, PhD

**Senior Research Fellows**
Bruce Bradbury, BSocSc, MCom, PhD
Tony Eardley, BA, DipSocAdmin, DPhil
Trish Hill, BA, PhD
Rosemary Kayess, LLB, BSocSc(Hons)
kylie valentine, BA, PhD

**UNSW Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Fellow**
Natasha Cortis, BEc(Hons), GradCertPA, PhD

**Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Fellow**
Marilyn McHugh, BSW, PhD

**Research Fellows**
Fiona Hillerty, BEd(Hons), PhD
Abigail Powell, BA(Hons), MA, PhD
Jen Skattebol, BEd, GradDipECTeach, PhD
Cathy Thomson, BA, MA
Andrew Griffiths, BA, MA International Studies
Margaret Raven, BSc(Hons)

**Research Associates**
Elizabeth Adamson, BA(Hons), MSc Policy Studies
Megan Bedford, BSocSc(Hons)
Megan Blaxland, BSocSc(Hons), PhD
Sandra Gendera, MA
Myra Hamilton, BA(Hons)
Philip Hayes, BA, MEconSc
Christiane Purcal, MA, PhD
Pooja Savrikar, BPych, PhD
Melissa Wong, BEcon, MCom, PhD
Anna Zhu, BEcon

**Senior Research Officer**
Christine Eastman, BA Comm Social Inquiry, GradCertCommM
Research Officers
Shona Bates, BSc, MSc
Judith Brown, BSc, DipEd, GradDipPsych, BA(Hons), MAppStats
Jane Bullen, BA(Hons), PhD
Tamara Burnstock, BA AFTRS, GradDipPsychSc, MRes
Sharni Chan, BA(Hons)
Bridget Jenkins, BA(Hons)
Deborah Lutz, BA, MSpEd
Ariella Meltzer, BScSci(Hons)
Daniel Nethery, BA BSc, MSc
BJ Newton, BA(Hons)
Victoria Plows, MA(Hons), MSc, PhD
Denise Thompson, BA(Hons), PhD

Professional staff

Centre Manager
David Cami, BSocWk, DipEd

Administration Officer, Human Resources
Lisa McElhinney

Administration Assistant/Receptionist
Tahnee Dotti

Research Projects Coordinator
Catherine Keast, BSc(Hons)

Research Proposal Coordinator
Carol Sullivan, BA, MLITT Women’s Studies

Visiting appointments

Ching Choi Senior Visiting Fellow-
BA Sociology, MA Sociology, PhD Demography

Patrick Dodson Honorary Professor

Gerard Goggin Adjunct Professor
BA(Hons), PhD

Anne Graham Conjoint Professor
DipT, BEd, MEd(T&D), PhD

Sara Graham Senior Conjoint Lecturer
BSc, PhD

Astghik Mavisakalyan Adjunct Lecturer
Red Diploma, Yerevan, MA, PhD

Roger Patulny Adjunct Lecturer
BA/BEc, PhD

Gaby Ramia Senior Visiting Fellow
BCom, MCom, PhD, MCom

Gerry Redmond Adjunct Associate Professor
BScSci, GradDipComp, MA

Sheila Shaver Honorary Professor
AB, PhD, FASSA

Kuriko Watanabe Visiting Fellow
BA, MA, PhD

Peter Whiteford Adjunct Professor
BA(Hons), Litt. B., DPhil

Carsten Wergin Visiting Fellow
BA(Hons), MA, DPhil

Ian Watson Senior Adjunct Lecturer
BA(Hons), DipEd, MEd, PhD

Xiaoqing Xie Senior Visiting Fellow
BA, MBA, PhD
Our research program covers six key areas:

Care
Disability and Mental Health
Households, families and communities
Indigenous policy and participation
Inequality, poverty and social ex/inclusion
Social policy administration and organisation

Outlines of projects current in 2012 are listed on the following pages by research area.

Care

This area examines the provision of care and the wellbeing of carers, care services and systems and the workforce that delivers these services. Research draws upon a social care framework which brings attention to care relationships; labour and tasks of care; the distribution of care between family, community, market and state; and the impact, benefits and costs of care.

Advisory services for Stage 1 of the NSW Out-of-Home Care study
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Advisory services for Stage 2 of the NSW Out-of-Home Care study
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Care to work? Expanding choice and access to workforce participation for mature-aged women carers
Bettina Cass
Principal funder: HC Coombs Policy Forum

Carers social inclusion: new frameworks, evidence and policy lessons
Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Research Council
Developmental work on the Foster Care Integrated Funding model
kylie valentine, Marilyn McHugh
Principal funder: Berry Street

Families at the centre: negotiating Australia’s mixed market in early education and care
Christiane Purcal, Deborah Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson, Jennifer Skattebol, Megan Blaxland, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Foster and kinship care in Australia: ensuring placement stability
Marilyn McHugh
Principal funder: University of New South Wales

Grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren: a national, state and territory analysis of grandparent-headed families
Bettina Cass, Christiane Purcal, Deb Brennan, kylie valentine, Marilyn McHugh, Megan Blaxland, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Review of the need for two care workers in a community setting
Ariella Meltzer, Denise Thompson, Jennifer Skattebol, Karen Fisher, kylie valentine, Rosemary Kayess
Principal funder: Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Valuing unpaid caring work in order to address women’s unequal participation in the workplace and the gender gap in retirement savings
Cathy Thomson, Lyn Craig, Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill, Bettina Cass
Principal funder: Australian Human Rights Commission

Disability and mental health

This area promotes the social perspective of disability and mental health in research to maximise Australia’s capacity to ensure an equitable, participatory and accessible society. We contribute to the capacity of disability and mental health organisations to engage in public policy processes on the basis of credible research and policy positions developed according to their priorities and perspectives.

Advisory services on the ADHC Diagnosis Support Models project
kylie valentine
Principal funder: ARTD Consultants

Beyondblue research impact evaluation
Abigail Powell, Deborah Brennan, Ioana Oprea, Jane Bullen, kylie valentine, Marie Delaney, Saul Flaxman
Principal funder: Beyond Blue Ltd

Easy and standard read quality assurance information for disability advocacy services
Ariella Meltzer, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Evaluating the outcomes of a self-directed support pilot for children with a physical disability
Christine Eastman, Ioana Oprea, Karen Fisher, Kristy Muir, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Department of Community Care Services and Multicultural Affairs Queensland

Evaluation of capacity development for the Macarthur Youth Mental Health and Housing Project
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal
Principal funder: Neami Limited
Evaluation of Elizabeth Street Common Ground Supportive Housing project
Ilan Katz, Ioana Oprea, Jane Bullen, Kristy Muir, Pooja Sawrikar, Shannon McDermott
Principal funder: Victorian Department of Human Services

Evaluation of the Time Out House Initiative
Karen Fisher, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Queensland Alliance

Individual funding: building community capacity through action research
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal, Ariella Meltzer, Deb Brennan, Rosemary Kayess, Njila Bevan, Sally Robinson
Principal funder: National Disability Research and Development Grant

MH-Kids, mental health and drug and alcohol programs: Evaluation of Assertive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Christine Eastman, Fiona Hilferty, Ilan Katz
Principal funder: NSW Department of Health

National Youth Affairs Research Scheme: body image and disadvantaged/vulnerable youth
Jennifer Skattebol, Kylie Valentine, Megan Bedford, Saul Flaxman
Principal funder: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Outcomes of the The Inner City Youth at Risk Project
Christine Eastman, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: SESLHD, NSW Health

Research into maximising life choices of people with spinal cord injury
Denise Thompson, Karen Fisher, Rosemary Kayess, Shona Bates
Principal funder: Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

Service and support requirements for people with younger onset dementia and their families
Ariella Meltzer, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Alzheimer’s Australia NSW

Social support for older people with disability in China
Peter Saunders, Xiaoyuan Shang
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Space, place and relationships: understanding connectedness and belonging for young people with cognitive disability in regional communities
Sally Robinson, Karen Fisher, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: National Disability Research and Development Grant

Specialist supported living services—post-implementation review
Karen Fisher, Sandra Gendera, Deborah Lutz, Friederike Gadow, Ariella Meltzer, Rosemary Kayess, Sally Robinson, Robert Strike
Principal funder: Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services

Supported Accommodation Evaluation Framework
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal, Ariella Meltzer, Rosemary Kayess, Deborah Lutz, Anna Jones, Christine Eastman, Philip Hayes, Sally Robinson, Robert Strike
Principal funder: Ageing, Disability and Home Care (Department of Family and Community Services)

Transition to adulthood of young people with disabilities from state care in China
Karen Fisher, Xiaoyuan Shang
Principal funder: Australian Research Council
Households, families and communities

This area studies the policies designed to improve the wellbeing and outcomes for families, households and communities. We investigate social practices and decisions relating to work, family, and care for children, and the intersections of gender and ethnicity across these. We also investigate the programs and institutions that mediate these everyday practices.

Advice to the NSW Child Death Review Team on measuring socioeconomic status, and geographic analysis and reporting of child mortality
Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: NSW Ombudsman

Advisory services for Phase 2 of the Stronger Families in Australia study
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Are the kids alright? Understanding the wellbeing of Australian children in their middle years
Jennifer Skattebol, Myra Hamilton, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Baseline data for evaluating the new Income Management Scheme
Bruce Bradbury, Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz, Marie Delaney, Peter Whiteford
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Building stronger communities: final evaluation
Principal funder: Roger Patulny, Saul Flaxman, Tony Eardley
Housing NSW

Common approach to Assessment, Referral and Support project
BJ Newton, Fiona Hillerty, Ilan Katz, Megan Bedford
Principal funder: Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

Employment requirements of Australia’s major industries
Deborah Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson, Fiona Hillerty, Ilan Katz, Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Campbell Page

Evaluation of the expansion of community detention
Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Evaluation of the Michael’s Intensive Supported Housing Accord
Tony Eardley
Principal funder: University of Western Australia

Evaluation on the New Income Management model in the Northern Territory
Bruce Bradbury, Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz, Megan Bedford, Shona Bates
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Experience of irregular maritime arrivals detained in immigration detention facilities
Abigail Powell, Ilan Katz, Megan Bedford, Sandra Gendera, Saul Flaxman
Principal funder: Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Extended evaluation of long-term accommodation and support for women and children, experiencing domestic and family violence, provided by the NSW Homelessness Action Plan
BJ Newton, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Housing NSW

BJ Newton, Fiona Hillerty, Ilan Katz, Kristy Muir, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Linking schools with early years
BJ Newton, Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
Redesigning schools and school leadership: an 
Australian comparative case study  
Jen Skattebol  
Principal funder: The University of Sydney  

The direct costs of children  
Bruce Bradbury  
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  

The time of our lives: time equity and the balancing of market and non-market production in the modern Australian population  
Abigail Powell, Lyn Craig, Myra Hamilton  
Principal funder: Australian Research Council  

Trends in time: work, family and social policy in Australia 1992-2006  
Abigail Powell, Lyn Craig, Natasha Cortis  
Principal funder: Australian Research Council  

Understanding the barriers to 13- and 26-week employment outcomes  
Jane Bullen, Myra Hamilton, Natasha Cortis, Peter Whiteford  
Principal funder: Campbell Page  

We can’t afford not to: supporting young people within their families and communities from early adolescence to early adulthood  
Kristy Muir, Lyn Craig, Abigail Powell, Ariella Meltzer, Andrew Griffiths, Sandra Gendera, Vicky Plows  
Principal funder: Australian Research Council  

We can’t afford not to: supporting young people within their families and communities from early adolescence to early adulthood  
Lyn Craig, Kristy Muir  
Principal funder: Australian Research Council  

Are the kids alright? Understanding the wellbeing of Australian children in their middle years  
Peter Saunders, Jen Skattebol, Gerry Redmond  
Principal funder: Australian Research Council  

Indigenous policy and participation  
This research studies the effects of policies on Indigenous communities, and the ways that Indigenous peoples’ perspectives and experiences are included in the design, delivery and evaluation of policies.  

Development of a renewed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing framework  
Andrew Griffiths, Darryl Cronin, Ilan Katz, Margaret Raven, Marie Delaney  
Principal funder: Department of Health and Ageing  

Evaluation capacity development for the Aboriginal child and family disability therapy research project  
BJ Newton, Christiane Purcal, Christine Eastman, Karen Fisher, Kylie Valentine, Margaret Raven, Rosemary Kayess  
Principal funder: Northcott Disability Services  

Evaluation of drug and alcohol programs for offenders or people at risk of offending in support of the National Indigenous Law and Justice framework  
Ilan Katz, Kylie Valentine  
Principal funder: Australian Institute of Criminology  

Progress review and outcomes evaluation of the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial  
Andrew Griffiths, Bruce Bradbury, Ilan Katz, Margaret Raven  
Principal funder: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Inequality, poverty and social ex/inclusion

Projects in this area investigate the extent and impact of inequality and poverty, and the effects of policies to address these issues. Research includes the lived experience of poverty and how poverty, deprivation and disadvantage are conceptualised and measured.

A new healthy living minimum income standard for low-paid and unemployed Australians
Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Accountability and user participation in Chinese child welfare non-governmental organisations
Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Analysis of poverty in Australia
Bruce Bradbury, Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Council of Social Service

Best practice in placement of jobseekers with mental health difficulties
BJ Newton, Carol Sullivan, Deb Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson, Fiona Hilferty, Ilan Katz, Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Campbell Page

Children’s economic wellbeing across the life course: influences of education, institutional change and family background
Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research

Comparing the living standards of children and older people within and between nations
Bruce Bradbury, Gerry Redmond, Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Developing final indicators of social disadvantage and integration of the indicators within the Legal Aid means test
Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales

Evaluation of the agency service provision outputs for the Aboriginal Capacity Building Out-of-Home Care/Family Preservation Model
Marilyn McHugh
Principal funder: Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (NSW)

Gender and intra-household entitlements: a cross-national longitudinal analysis
Trish Hill
Principal funder: Open University

GINI country reports
Peter Saunders, Peter Whiteford
Principal funder: University of Amsterdam

Inequality in child development and public policy in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and United States
Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Russell Sage Foundation

Intergenerational homelessness and use of the Supported Accommodation Assistance program
Ariella Meltzer, Denise Thompson, Karen Fisher, Tony Eardley
Principal funder: Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat (NSW)
Intergenerational mobility: new evidence from LSAY and HILDA data
Bruce Bradbury, Ilan Katz, Melissa Wong, Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Long-term unemployed and jobless people: a literature review and pilot study
Deborah Brennan, Denise Thompson, Elizabeth Adamson, Fiona Hilferty, Ilan Katz, Jennifer Skattebol, Myra Hamilton, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Campbell Page

Social disadvantage and economic recession: promoting inclusion and combating deprivation
Melissa Wong, Peter Saunders
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Supporting families: horizontal and vertical equity in the Australian tax benefit system in historical and comparative perspectives
Philip Hayes, Gerry Redmond
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

The mining boom and disadvantaged families in Australia
Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Academy of Social Sciences

The role of community housing in meeting the housing and support needs of homeless people
Jane Bullen, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Ltd

UNICEF global study on child poverty and disparities: Kiribati
Christine Eastman, Elizabeth Adamson, Peter Saunders, Peter Whiteford
Principal funder: UNICEF

Social policy administration and organisation

SPRC research investigates the design and delivery of systems to improve well-being and social outcomes, and their outcomes. We conduct evaluations on the implementation and effectiveness of services, programs and policies.

Collaborative Research Network: policy and planning research for sustainable regions
Deborah Brennan
Principal funder: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

Evaluation of the Youth Housing and Reintegration Service and Supervised Community Accommodation
Andrew Griffiths, Darryl Cronin, Denise Thompson, Ioana Oprea, Jane Bullen, Jennifer Skattebol, Margaret Raven
Principal funder: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland

Evaluation of the Camperdown Common Ground Project under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan
Deborah Lutz, Jane Bullen, Kristy Muir, Pooja Sawrikar, Shannon McDermott
Principal funder: Housing NSW

Qualitative analysis of self-evaluations by services under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan
Christine Eastman, Sharni Chan, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Housing NSW

Researching the effectiveness of outcomes of The Smith Family’s Impact—Make your Mark! program
Jen Skattebol
Principal funder: The Smith Family

Safe at home, safe at work: monitoring the implementation and impact of domestic violence clauses in industrial agreements
kylie valentine, Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse

Workforce implications of individual funding
Natasha Cortis, Sharni Chan
Principal funder: United Voice
SPRC provides interdisciplinary postgraduate training in social policy in a stimulating and supportive environment offering a unique opportunity for postgraduate research at PhD and Masters by Research level.

During 2012 there were 24 students enrolled in our research program. We offer students a unique opportunity to further their studies in areas that explore and extend the theory and practice of social policy in Australia and internationally. Postgraduate research students enjoy a rich, collegial research culture and the benefit of studying within a centre recognised for its excellence in social policy research and engagement with other academics and government and non-government policy-makers and service providers, forging effective knowledge-creation partnerships.

To further enhance the postgraduate research experience, a seminar series for postgraduate students was established in 2009 as well as an annual two-day workshop. These enable students to share their research with other students and researchers at SPRC.

A list of all postgraduate candidates in 2012 appears on the following pages.
Master of Arts by Research candidates

Tammy Burnstock
Volunteer home visiting: what role does it play in an integrated early intervention strategy for parents with young children?
Bettina Cass (supervisor) and Natasha Cortis (co-supervisor)
Tammy graduated in 2012.

Marianne Rajkovic
Parents and carers of children with autism
kylie valentine and Deborah Brennan (joint supervisors)

PhD candidates

Elizabeth Adamson
Early childhood education and care policies addressing low-income families in Australia, the UK and Canada
Deborah Brennan (supervisor) and Fiona Williams (co-supervisor)

Timothy Broady
Parental bonding and empowerment in foster care
Ilan Katz (supervisor) and Marilyn McHugh (co-supervisor)

Sherman Chan
Financial exclusion: indicators and consequences
Peter Saunders (supervisor) and Bruce Bradbury (co-supervisor)

Darryl Cronin
Dialogue, freedom and reconciliation
Paul Patton (supervisor) and Kylie Cripps (co-supervisor)

Bob Davidson
The changing structure of markets in government-funded human services programs
Peter Saunders and Deb Brennan (joint supervisors)

Peter Davidson
Why some countries are more unemployed than others: a comparison of employment participation policies in four countries
Peter Saunders and Peter Whiteford (joint supervisors)

Sandra Gendera
A gender perspective on social investment policy in the south
Lyn Craig (supervisor) and kylie valentine (co-supervisor)
Wendy Hermeston
Looking after the grannies: kinship care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in New South Wales
Bettina Cass (supervisor) and Deborah Brennan (co-supervisor)

Jan Idle
Making community: participant experiences of the YWCA In-School Mentoring program
Jen Skattebol and Kylie Valentine (joint supervisors), Ilan Katz (co-supervisor)

K. M. Kabirul Islam
Food security and social safety-net programs: a study of Bangladeshi rural poor households
Peter Whiteford (supervisor) and Jen Skattebol (co-supervisor)

Bridget Jenkins
Grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren
Deborah Brennan (supervisor) and Kylie Valentine (co-supervisor)

Ariella Meltzer
Experiences of disability and care for siblings with and without disabilities during the transition to adulthood
Kristy Muir and Leanne Dowse (joint-supervisors)

Timothy Murton
Peter Whiteford and Binh Tran-Nam (joint supervisors)

Yuvisthi Naidoo
Living standards of the elderly: cross-national comparisons
Peter Saunders and Bruce Bradbury (joint supervisors)

BJ Newton
The contribution of intergenerational cycles of trauma and social disadvantage to child neglect in Indigenous families and communities
Ilan Katz and Fiona Hilferty (joint supervisors)

Emma Partridge
Understanding the use of evidence in Indigenous policy
Ilan Katz and Karen Fisher (joint supervisors)

Alec Sewell
A qualitative study of integration in human services to meet complex needs
Leanne Dowse and Tony Eardley (joint supervisors)

Ciara Smyth
Exploring parental responsibility for children’s cognitive development
Lyn Craig (supervisor) and George Argyrous (co-supervisor)

Zimin Tan
The establishment of the child protection system suitable for China.
Ilan Katz (supervisor) and Xiaoyuan Shang (co-supervisor)

Cathy Thomson
Carers and the costs of care in an ageing society
Peter Saunders and Trish Hill (joint supervisors)

Inara Walden
Community engagement in Indigenous policy making
Trish Hill and Jen Skattebol (joint supervisors)
‘What a fantastic experience it has been to undertake my PhD at SPRC ... the monthly seminars and annual workshops were extremely valuable for me, not only in helping me develop and refine my ideas, but also in fostering a strong student community at SPRC.’
(Bridget Jenkins, PhD student)

Student seminar series

March  B J Newton  Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities
        Cathy Thomson  Carers and the costs of care in an ageing society

April  Ciara Smyth  Exploring parental responsibility for children’s cognitive development
        Bob Davidson  Community aged care: markets and the incentives for service providers

May  Peter Davidson  Why some countries are more unemployed than others: a comparison of employment participation policies in four countries

June  Emma Partridge  Understanding the use of evidence in Indigenous policy
        Liz Adamson  Early Childhood education and care policies addressing low-income families in Australia, the UK and Canada

July  Yuvisthi Naidoo  Living standards of the elderly: cross-national comparisons

August  Helen Hodgson  A comparative analysis of the Australian and UK family tax transfer system
        Zimin Tan,  The establishment of the child protection system suitable for China

September  Inara Walden  Community engagement in Indigenous policy making

October  Jan Idle  Making community: participant experiences of the YWCA in-school mentoring program

Annual student workshop

In addition to the seminar series, the annual workshop for our postgraduate research students was held 26–27 November 2012.

The workshop featured presentations from current and commencing students over two days, and the workshop program follows.

Day 1

Indigenous social policy formation
Discussant: Margaret Raven

Emma Partridge  How has this representation of the ‘problem’ come about? A genealogy of the discourses in the policies of the Northern Territory Intervention

Inara Walden, Beyond ‘lip-service consultation’: enabling community-engagement processes in Indigenous policy making

Exclusion and disadvantage
Discussant: Melissa Wong

Sherman Chan  A snapshot of financial exclusion in Australia

Peter Davidson  Was the New Deal a big deal? Activation policies and work experience programs for long-term unemployed people in the United Kingdom: 1990–2007

Yuvisthi Naidoo, Economic living standards approach – A case study of older Australians

Exclusion and disadvantage
Discussant: Trish Hill

Anna Zhu  Welfare exits and entry after marital separation among Australian mothers

K. M. Kabirul Islam  Food security and social safety net programs: a study of Bangladeshi rural poor households
Children
Discussant: Kylie Valentine
Julia Truscott (SCU) Nature-based play at Australian early childhood settings
Ariella Meltzer Distinct or similar? Bridging the experiences of young people with disabilities and their siblings without disabilities
Kate Neale (SCU) Children’s ethical consumption: exploring ethical considerations within children’s consumption choices

Day 2

Child care and schools
Discussant: Fiona Hilferty
Elizabeth Adamson In-home child care in liberal welfare states: preliminary findings from fieldwork.
Hhuynh Thi Nhan Hieu (SCU) Teachers’ perceptions of child-centred education and its potential in supporting Jrai ethnic minority primary students in Gia Lai, Vietnam

Child protection and care
Discussant: Bettina Cass
Timothy Broady Satisfaction with foster care vs Satisfaction with parenting: the influence of bonding and empowerment
Cathy Thomson Beyond the financial costs of caring

Conceptual frameworks
Discussant: Sara Graham
B J Newton Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities
Alexander Sewell What makes needs complex? A framework for complexity

Young people
Discussant: Deb Brennan
Jan Idle Children and Community
Greg Griffiths (SCU) Boys and disengagement in NSW primary schools: what do we know and where are we going?

SPRC offers a unique opportunity for postgraduate study at PhD and MA level in a wide range of disciplines that bear on the theory and practice of social policy.
Visitors to the centre

Our engagement with scholars around the world is central to our work. This year we welcomed a number of visitors from Australia as well as Canada, UK, Iran, and Japan.

Kenia Parsons
PhD Candidate, Dept of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science (10 January 2011 and current)

Rianne Mahon
Professor, School of Public Administration, Carleton University (1–28 February 2012)

Miki Murata
Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Otemon Gakuin University, Osaka, Japan (2 April 2011 to 31 March 2012)

Minako Sakai
Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra (2 February 2011 to 31 March 2012)

Zahra Ghorbani
PhD Candidate, Community Oral Health, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (5 March to 30 April 2012)

Rebecca Coley
Professor, Boston College, MA (30 July to 19 August 2012)

Kyungee Lee
Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Michigan State University (23 July to 10 November 2012)

Intern program

Congruent with the centre’s strategic objective of building capacity for the next generation of social policy researchers, we established an internship program. It enables senior undergraduate and postgraduate students from Australia and overseas to undertake unpaid placements in a leading multi-disciplinary policy research environment. Interns have unique opportunities to gain an understanding of social policy in a dynamic and high profile research environment, to gain practical experience in research and evaluation, and to develop their research and analytical skills.

During 2012 we hosted the following interns:

Tashi James
Danika Koop
Ding Guangquan
Samantha Cooper

We also hosted the following AURORA interns through the Nura Gili Centre for Indigenous Programs at UNSW:

Katherine Lanham
Sinead Reilly.
Australian Social Policy Conference

This biennial conference is hosted by SPRC for social policy researchers, educators, practitioners and policy-makers and aims to showcase current research in social policy, promote debate, and increase understanding of social policy in Australia as well as productive collaborations between those working and researching in social policy locally, in the Asia-Pacific region and internationally. The next conference will be held 16–18 September 2013 at UNSW.

Newsletters

SPRC publishes a regular digital newsletter containing articles about current issues in social policy, reports from research in progress in the centre, information about forthcoming and recent seminars and conferences, and other information of interest to the social policy community.

Newsletters are available through our website (https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/research/publications/newsletter/). The newsletters published during 2012 were edited by Christiane Purcal, Cathy Thomson and Lisa McElhinney.

Issue 110
Lead article by Peter Whiteford,
Falling behind: Australia’s meagre unemployment benefits

Issue 111
Lead article by Jen Skattebol and Peter Saunders,
“If anything bad happens”: Young people’s experiences of economic adversity
Seminar series

In 2012, we once again ran a successful seminar program. The seminar series was jointly organised by Melissa Wong and Philip Hayes of SPRC, and we thank them both for their contributions. There were 14 seminars held during the year. Presentations were by SPRC staff and prominent social policy researchers from Australia and overseas.

The audience includes social policy professionals from UNSW, other universities, government and non-government organisations as well as representatives from funding bodies.

February 14  Social investment according to the OECD/DELSA: a discourse in the making
    Rianne Mahon (Balsillie School of International Affairs and Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada)

February 28–29  Songlines vs. pipelines? Mining and tourism industries in remote Australia
    Dr Carsten Wergin (SPRC, UNSW; MLU Germany)
    Professor Stephen Muecke (School of Arts and Media, UNSW)

March 13  Care as a social good: the European Social Platform’s recommendations on care
    Professor Fiona Williams (SPRC, UNSW)

May 1  Does geographical location influence the participation rate of the rural poor in cash transfer programmes? The case of Bolsa Família programme in Brazil
    Kenia Parsons (Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science)

May 15  Trends and outcomes in foster and residential care in the UK
    Professor Malcolm Hill (University of Strathclyde, Scotland)

June 19  Inequality and redistribution in the Australian welfare state, 1981–82 to 2007–08
    Professor Peter Whiteford (SPRC, UNSW)

July 31  Income inequality and income mobility
    Roger Wilkins (Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research)
August 28
A lonely society? Loneliness and liquid modernity in Australia
Professor Adrian Franklin (School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania)

September 11
Alcohol restrictions in the Kimberley—Findings of two year evaluations of alcohol restrictions in Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek: Why Kimberley restrictions have been largely successful
Steve Kinnane (University of Notre Dame)

October 9
In the shadow of the welfare state: the role of pay-day lending in poverty survival in Australia
Professor Greg Marston (Queensland University of Technology)

October 23
How to fix the (w)hole in the heart of Australia? Aboriginal sustainability, resilience and solutions
Dr Victoria Grieves (The University of Sydney)

November 6
Head Start impact on children’s health
Associate Professor Kyunghee Lee (Michigan State University)

November 30
Measuring the kind of Australia we want: a national collaborative research program to support an Australian National Development Index
Adjunct Professor Mike Salviris (RMIT University, Melbourne)

December 11
The comparative evolution of social protection: Industrial relations and social policy in Australia and New Zealand since 1890
Associate Professor Gaby Ramia (Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney)
Publications

Research report series

These longer reports are usually the final output from commissioned research projects undertaken by SPRC and are available for download from our website (https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/research/publications/sprc-report-series/).


Monographs


Book chapters


Journal articles


**Refereed conference papers**

### Income and Expenditure

#### Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012 $000s</th>
<th>2011 $000s</th>
<th>2010 $000s</th>
<th>2009 $000s</th>
<th>2008 $000s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Funds</td>
<td>4,927</td>
<td>4,881</td>
<td>4,175</td>
<td>6,012</td>
<td>4,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate Funds</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW Contribution</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>6,886</td>
<td>8,845</td>
<td>5,212</td>
<td>7,262</td>
<td>5,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>4,632</td>
<td>5,226</td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td>5,722</td>
<td>4,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,810</td>
<td>1,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>6,139</td>
<td>6,678</td>
<td>6,772</td>
<td>7,904</td>
<td>6,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating result</strong></td>
<td>747</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>(1,561)</td>
<td>(642)</td>
<td>(658)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus (deficit) bfwd from prior year</strong></td>
<td>106</td>
<td>(1,942)</td>
<td>(382)</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Correction of prior year Accumulated Fund</strong></td>
<td>197</td>
<td>(118)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjusted brought forward</strong></td>
<td>302</td>
<td>(1,865)</td>
<td>(304)</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated funds surplus (deficit)</strong></td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>(1,865)</td>
<td>(304)</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- General funds are allocated at the beginning of the financial year and may not be carried forward.
- A correcting entry is an adjustment to cash balance back to general ledger for commercial and restricted funds.