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.
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The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) is a specialist research centre based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW Australia. 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 areas:

- 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 our centre has grown and today we currently attract funding from a range of sources including Australian 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 UNSW.

We also cultivate a culture that supports excellence and innovation, attracting and keeping the best people.
In 2013 our research was strengthened by the awarding of 44 new research projects, funded by a broad range of agencies, including the Australian Research Council, several Australian 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 our work by key stakeholders. This report details these projects, our publications, and our achievements.

One of the most important planned changes in Australian social policy in decades is the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which will see shifts in the relationships between people with disability, governments and markets. This is an exciting time for disability policy, with important implications for all aspects of social policy and our research will continue to contribute to these changes. In 2013 we participated in a number of successful proposals for disability research, in collaboration with colleagues from within the faculty and the university. These include the NHMRC Partnerships Project, *Improving the Mental Health Outcomes of People with Intellectual Disability*, the UNSW Chair in Intellectual Disability and Behaviour Support, and evaluations of both the national youth mental health program *headspace* and the *NSW Supported Accommodation Evaluation Framework*.

We continued our strong research relationships with government departments, who commissioned us to conduct evaluations and other research, including an evaluation of the NSW child welfare reform policy *Keep Them Safe*. SPRC is leading a consortium of researchers on this evaluation, which is the largest human services evaluation ever undertaken in New South Wales.

Our researchers were also successful in applications for Australian Research Council grants:

Abigail Powell’s Discovery Early Career Researcher Grant to study flexible work arrangements and a Linkage Grant to study gender diversity in the Australian construction industry; Ilan Katz’s Linkage Grant to study community-level effects on children’s developmental outcomes.
Individually researchers were recognised for their contributions to scholarship, to policy, and to communities:

**Awards**

Our researchers won three of the inaugural Dean’s Research Awards: Abigail Powell (achievements by an Early Career Researcher), Lyn Craig (scholarly impact) and the headspace research team (social impact).

**Fellowships**


**Achievements**

Dr Natasha Cortis received the best research article award in the Australian Social Work journal. Professor Peter Saunders was honoured by having a prize for the best article published annually named after him.

(led by The University of Melbourne); Bruce Bradbury’s Discovery Grant to study unequal child outcomes in Australia, Canada, UK and US; and Deb Brennan and Jen Skattebol’s Linkage Grant to study what works to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged young people (led by The University of Queensland).

As is detailed later in this report, we were privileged to host another successful Australian Social Policy Conference in 2013, and to work with our postgraduate research students—congratulations to Helen Hodgson, Bridget Jenkins, Ciara Smyth and Anna Zhu, in graduating with their degrees.

In early 2014 SPRC gained a new director, Professor Kelley Johnson, an Australian scholar who since 2007 has been Director of the Nora Fry Research Centre, as well as Head of School of Applied Community and Health Studies at the University of Bristol. Kelley has an international reputation for scholarship in the field of intellectual disability, and she has pioneered inclusive research that involves people with disability in research about them. We look forward to strengthening our existing partnerships and building new ones under her leadership.

As always, 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.

kylie Valentine
Acting Director
June 2014
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.

Steering Committee

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

Professor
Peter Saunders, BSc, DipEc, PhD, FASSA

Centre Manager
David Cami, BSocWk, DipEd
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

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

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

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

Associate Professors
Karen Fisher, BA LLB, MCom, PhD
Xiaoyuan Shang, BA, MA, PhD

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

Senior Research Fellows
Bruce Bradbury, BSocSci, MCom, PhD
Trish Hill, BA, PhD
Rosemary Kayess, LLB, BSc(Hons)
kylie valentine, BA, PhD

Research Fellows
Natasha Cortis, BEc(SocSci)(Hons), PhD
Andrew Griffiths, BA, MA International Studies
Myra Hamilton, BA(Hons)
Fiona Hilferty, BEd(Hons), PhD
Abigail Powell, BA(Hons), MA, PhD
Margaret Raven, BSc(Hons)
Jen Skattebol, BEd, GradDipECTeach, PhD
Cathy Thomson, BA, MA
Melissa Wong, BEcon, MCom, PhD

Research Associates
Elizabeth Adamson, BA(Hons), MSc Policy Studies
Megan Bedford, BSocSci(Hons)
Megan Blaxland, BSocSci(Hons), PhD
Sandra Gendera, MA
Philip Hayes, BA, MEconSc
B J Newton, BA(Hons)
Christiane Purcal, MA, PhD
Pooja Sawrikar, BPsysch, PhD
Anna Zhu, BEcon

Senior Research Officer
Christine Eastman, BA Comm, 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)
Samantha Cooper
Kirk Dodd, BA(Hons)
Bridget Jenkins, BA(Hons)
Anna Jones, BAppSc, MPH
Deborah Lutz, BA, MSpEd
Ariella Melitzer, BSocSci(Hons)
Daniel Nethery, BA BSc, MSc
Charlotte Smedley, Dip OT, CQSW, MSc, PhD
Ciara Smyth, BA(Hons), MSc
Professional staff

Centre Manager
David Cami, BSocWk, DipEd

Research Centres Accountant
Anthony Tao, BCom, MBus *

Administration Officer, Human Resources
Lisa McElhinney

Administrative Assistant/Events
Ann Whitelelaw

Administrative Assistant/Finance
Tahnee Dotti

Executive Assistant
Janice Knapman

Publications Officer
Judi Rainbow

Research Projects Coordinator
Catherine Keast, BSc(Hons)

Research Proposal Coordinator
Carol Sullivan, BA, MLITT *

Research Proposal Coordinator
Pip Hoskins, MIR, BA *

Visiting appointments

Ke-Mei Chen Visiting Fellow
MA, BA

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

Patrick Dodson Honorary Professor

Tony Eardley Honorary Senior Lecturer
BA, DipSocAdmin, DPhil

Gerard Goggin Adjunct Professor
BA(Hons), PhD

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

Sara Graham Senior Conjoint Lecturer
BSc, PhD

Marilyn McHugh Honorary Lecturer
BSW, 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
BSocSc, GradDipComp, MA, PhD

Sheila Shaver Honorary Professor
AB, PhD, FASSA

Jean-Pierre Tabin Professorial Visiting Fellow
PhD, MA, BA

Kuriko Watanabe Visiting Fellow
PhD, MA, BA

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

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

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

Xiaoqing Xie Senior Visiting Fellow
BA, MBA, PhD

Ling Zhong Adjunct Associate Professor
PhD, MA, BA

* part year
research program

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

Becoming and being an integrated organisation
Deb Brennan, Kylie Valentine, Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: SDN Children’s Services

Carers and social inclusion: new frameworks, evidence and policy lessons
Trish Hill, Bettina Cass, Susan Green, Cathy Thomson, Melissa Wong, Margaret Raven
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

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

Gender, migration and the work of care: comparative perspectives
Deb Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson, Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada

Projected downstream savings: foster care integrated funding model
Marilyn McHugh, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: Berry Street

Review of government financing of early childhood education and care
Deb Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson
Principal funder: Goodstart
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
kylie valentine
Principal funder: ARTD Consultants

Arthritis and disability
Rosemary Kayess, Shona Bates, Anna Jones, Charlotte Smedley, Melissa Wong, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Arthritis Australia

Assertive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services evaluation
Ilan Katz, Christine Eastman, Anna Jones
Principal funder: NSW Department of Health

Best practice guide for disability support providers employing support workers within the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Karen Fisher
Principal funder: NDIS Practical Design Fund via RMIT University

Capacity development evaluation for the Macarthur Youth Mental Health and Housing Project
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal
Principal funder: Neami Limited

Evaluation of outcomes for people nominated to the Integrated Services Program
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal, Sandra Gendera, Fred Zmudzki
Principal funder: Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Department of Family and Community Services

Evaluation of the Time Out Housing initiative
Karen Fisher, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Queensland Alliance

Families thriving in adversity: a positive deviance study of safe communities for children
kylie valentine, Christine Eastman, Ciara Smyth, Trish Hill
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Family agency and capacity among families with children with a disability
kylie valentine, Pooja Sawrikar
Principal funder: Mid Coast Communities

Headspace program evaluation
Kristy Muir, Andrew Griffiths, Bridget Jenkins, Fiona Hliferty, Ilan Katz, Philip Hayes, Sandra Gendera, Melissa Wong
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Health

Individual funding: building community capacity through action research
Karen Fisher, Christiane Purcal, Ariella Meltzer, Rosemary Kayess, Sam Cooper
Principal funder: National Disability Research and Development Grant

My Choice Matters evaluation
Rosemary Kayess, Shona Bates, Andrew Griffiths, Ariella Meltzer, Charlotte Smedley, Deborah Lutz, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Services Our Way: southern region program evaluation
Rosemary Kayess, Trish Hill, Charlotte Smedley, Deborah Lutz, Margaret Raven, Shona Bates, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Department of Family and Community Services

Social support for older people with disability in China
Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Australian Research Council
Space, place and relationships: understanding connectedness and belonging for young people with cognitive disability in regional communities
Karen Fisher, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: National Disability Research and Development Grant via Southern Cross University

Supported accommodation evaluation framework
Karen Fisher, Anna Jones, Ariella Meltzer, Christiane Purcal, Trish Hill, Christine Eastman, Deborah Lutz, Philip Hayes, Rosemary Kayess
Principal funder: Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Department of Family and Community Services

Young people with disabilities in China transitioning from state care to adulthood
Xiaoyuan Shang, Karen Fisher
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

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

Collaborative research network: policy and planning research for sustainable regions
Deb Brennan, Kylie Valentine, Karen Fisher, Bettina Cass, Elizabeth Adamson
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

Direct costs of children
Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Human Services

Early childhood education and care for vulnerable children and families
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

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

Inner City Youth at Risk: report on the model
Kylie Valentine, Jane Bullen
Principal funder: South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

Intergenerational mobility: new evidence from LSAY and HILDA data
Gerry Redmond, Bruce Bradbury, Ilan Katz, Melissa Wong
Principal funder: National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Keep Them Safe evaluation
Ilan Katz, Kylie Valentine, Ciara Smyth, Gianfranco Giuntoli, Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

A review of child protection system typologies
Ilan Katz, Ciara Smyth
Principal funder: The University of Melbourne

Advisory services for Phase 2 of the Stronger Families in Australia study
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Australian Institute of Family Studies
Kids in Communities: national investigation of community level effects on children's developmental outcomes
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Learning catalysts: improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children
Deb Brennan, Jen Skattebol
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Linking schools with early years
kylie valentine, B J Newton, Christine Eastman, Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Long-term accommodation and support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence: extended evaluation of NSW Homelessness Action Plan
kylie valentine, B J Newton
Principal funder: Housing NSW

National framework for protecting Australia's children: evaluation plan
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: The University of Melbourne

Promoting work–life balance: Do flexible work arrangements really work for employees in Australia?
Abigail Powell
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Risks to stability in foster and kinship care in NSW: an exploratory study
Marilyn McHugh
Principal funder: UNSW Australia

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

Schools and vulnerable children and families
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Streamlining services for children aged 0–4 years in Victoria
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Parenting Research Centre

Sustained support for vulnerable families
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Systems leadership for children's services
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: The Colebrooke Centre, United Kingdom

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

Lyn Craig, Abigail Powell
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
Kristy Muir, Abigail Powell, Andrew Griffiths, Ariella Meltzer, Bridget Jenkins, Lyn Craig, Sandra Gendera
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Working with families with complex needs: best practice background paper
Megan Bedford, Ilan Katz
Principal funder: NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
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.

Cape York welfare reform trial: progress review and outcomes evaluation
Ilan Katz, Andrew Griffiths, Bruce Bradbury, Margaret Raven
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Contribution of intergenerational cycles of trauma and social disadvantage to child neglect in Indigenous families and communities
B J Newton
Principal funder: National Health and Medical Research Council

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

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

Development of evaluation capacity for Aboriginal child and family disability therapy research
Karen Fisher, B J Newton, Christiane Purcal, Christine Eastman, kylie valentine, Margaret Raven, Rosemary Kayess, Melissa Wong
Principal funder: Northcott
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
Peter Saunders, Melissa Wong, Megan Bedford, B J Newton, Marilyn McHugh
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Australia’s progress in the 21st century: literature review
Peter Saunders, Ching Choi, Ilan Katz, Melissa Wong
Principal funder: Australian Council of Learned Academies

Building gender diversity in the Australian construction industry
Abigail Powell
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

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
Peter Saunders, Bruce Bradbury, Gerry Redmond, Melissa Wong, Anna Zhu
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

Elizabeth St Common Ground supportive housing evaluation
Ilan Katz, Ioana Oprea, Jane Bullen, Kristy Muir, Pooja Sawrkar, Shannon McDermott, Kylie Valentine
Principal funder: Victorian Department of Human Services

Evaluation of the Lebanese Muslim Association social inclusion projects
Ilan Katz
Principal funder: Lebanese Muslim Association; Australian Government Australian Government Department of Social Services

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

Growing unequal: diverging childhood outcomes in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and United States
Bruce Bradbury, Anna Zhu
Principal funder: Australian Research Council

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

Michael's Intensive Supported Housing Accord evaluation
Tony Eardley, Bruce Bradbury
Principal funder: University of Western Australia

Start Safely: evaluation of rental subsidy
Kylie Valentine, Andrew Griffiths
Principal funder: Housing NSW

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

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

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

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

Data mapping for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Ilan Katz, Anna Jones, Ching Choi
Principal funder: University of South Australia

Evaluation of new income management in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands
Ilan Katz, Shona Bates
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Human Services

Evaluation of new income management in the Northern Territory
Ilan Katz, Bruce Bradbury, Christine Eastman, Shona Bates
Principal funder: Australian Government Department of Social Services

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

Evaluation of the National Compact between the Australian Government and the non-for-profit sector
Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: Centre for Social Impact UNSW

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

Independent evaluation of the Camperdown Common Ground Project under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan
Andrew Griffiths, Deborah Lutz, Jane Bullen, Kristy Muir, Pooja Sawrikar, Shannon McDermott, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Housing NSW

Outreach Sweeps and Inner City Youth At Risk
kylie valentine, Christine Eastman, Natasha Cortis
Principal funder: South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

Qualitative analysis of self-evaluations by services under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan
kylie valentine, Andrew Griffiths
Principal funder: Housing NSW, Department of Family and Community Services

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: implementation and impact of domestic violence clauses in industrial agreements
Natasha Cortis, kylie valentine
Principal funder: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

State of the Community Service Sector in New South Wales
Natasha Cortis, Megan Blaxland
Principal funder: Council of Social Service of NSW

Workforce implications of consumer-centred funding in disability and community aged-care
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 2013 there were 25 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. In 2013, at the request of students, the seminar format was redesigned to include presentations from students on work in progress and from former students and staff on topics of interest to postgraduate students. These seminars enable students to share their research and explore issues with other students and to gain insights from former postgraduate students and experienced researchers at SPRC.

A list of all postgraduate candidates in 2013 appears on the following pages.
Master of Arts by Research

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

PhD

Elizabeth Adamson
Early childhood education and care in liberal countries: situating in-home child care within policy and cultural discourses
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
A quantitative study of financial exclusion in Australia
Peter Saunders (supervisor) and Bruce Bradbury (co-supervisor)

Darryl Cronin
Dialogue and Indigenous policy
Paul Patton (supervisor) and Kylie Cripps (co-supervisor)

Robert Davidson
Contestability and human services: a case study of community aged-care
Peter Saunders and Deborah 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)

Qian Fang
China’s NGO accountability analysis: child welfare NGOs
Xiaoyuan Shang (supervisor) and Peter Saunders (co-supervisor)

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
Talking and listening: experiences of primary school
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 and kylie valentine (joint supervisors)
Bridget graduated in 2013.
Grandmother care and family power in Australia: incorporating the complexities and contradictions of care work
Quanchai Kerddaen
Disability, income security and social protection: understanding the experiences of visually impaired street musicians in the Bangkok metropolitan regions
Karen Fisher and Ilan Katz (joint supervisors)

Ariella Meltzer
Siblings, young people and relational experiences of disability
Kristy Muir and Leanne Dowse (joint supervisors)

Timothy Murton
Linking social security reform to economic growth: a comparative study of China and Vietnam
Peter Whiteford and Binh Tran-Nam (joint supervisors)

Yuvisthi Naidoo
The living standards and wellbeing of older Australians
Peter Saunders and Bruce Bradbury (joint supervisors)

B J Newton
Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities
Ilan Katz and Fiona Hilferty (joint supervisors)

Emma Partridge
Representations of problems 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
Establishing a suitable child protection system 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
Participation in Indigenous policy making
Jen Skattebol and Eileen Baidry (joint supervisors) and Trish Hill (co-supervisor)

Jie Wang
Does Chinese education for all round development boost social reproduction more than examination-oriented education?
Deborah Brennan and Ilan Katz (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

April
Bridget Jenkins
Finishing up: reflection on the last six months of my PhD

Liz Adamson
Work in progress: Early childhood education and care in liberal countries: situating in-home child care within policy and cultural discourses

May
Ciara Smyth
Using Nvivo

B J Newton
Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities. Beginning qualitative analysis using Nvivo

June
Jen Skattebol
Ethics in research with children and young people

Jan Idle
A science survey and a bomb shelter: doing research with primary school students

July
Christine Eastman
The (messy) business of storing and reporting your analysis results

Kenia Parsons
Do cash transfers reach the rural poor in isolated areas? An analysis of the targeting and implementation of the Brazilian Family Grant Program in rural poor municipalities

August
kylie valentine
Publishing your thesis as journal articles or a book

Alex Sewell
Complex needs at the intersection of human and justice services

September
Fiona Hilferty
Making research relevant to policy makers

Inara Walden
Indigenous engagement: talking back to policy

Annual student workshop

In addition to the workshop series, the annual workshop for our postgraduate research students was held 25–26 November 2013.

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

Day 1

Young people, siblings and complex needs
Discussant: Lyn Craig

Jan Idle  Young people talk about community, place and the inner-city

Ariella Meltzer  ‘We’re going to Pink in July’: understanding and working with siblings’ relational use of disability services and supports

Alec Sewell  Complex needs at the intersection of human and justice services

Perspectives on child protection and wellbeing and Indigenous community processes
Discussant: kylie valentine

Zimin Chan  Confucianism and Maoism in the Chinese child protection system

B J Newton  Child safety and wellbeing from an Aboriginal worldview: understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities. Preliminary findings

Inara Walden  Participating or engaging? A case study of Indigenous community involvement in policy making

Exclusion and poverty
Discussant: Melissa Wong

Sherman Chan  Financial exclusion in Australia: an empirical study of access to credit
Sunny Chen  The multilevel logistic analysis of the contributory factors of poverty in Taiwan

New postgraduate research plans
Qian Fang  China’s NGO accountability analysis: The example of child welfare NGOs
Jie Wang  Adult children’s cognition of early parenting behaviour, and the motivation, meaning of support, and current support for their elderly parents in China

Day 2

Care of children
Discussant: Jen Skattebol
Elizabeth Adamson  Pressures, actors and ideology: in-home child care in historical context (early findings)
Tim Broady  Parental bonding and empowerment in foster care: implications for role identity and satisfaction

Welfare systems: conditionality and activation
Discussant: Sheila Shaver
Kenia Parsons  The influence of remoteness on the implementation of conditional cash transfers: a qualitative analysis of the Bolsa Familia programme
Peter Davidson  ‘Comparing activation policies in four countries: modelling and coding data from interviews with policy makers, service providers and experts’ OR ‘I have to start somewhere’

Wellbeing: older Australians and food security
Discussant: Bettina Cass
Yuvisthi Naidoo  Developing a multidimensional wellbeing indicator framework for older Australians
Kabirul Islam  Food security and social safety net programs in Bangladesh

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.
engagement

Social policy research plays a vital role in our society. At SPRC we are continually looking for opportunities to raise awareness and initiate dialogue about current issues in social policy by hosting seminars, workshops and our biennial conference, and by collaborative activities with our research partners, researched populations and stakeholders. Equally important is engagement with international scholars by welcoming them to spend time at the Centre. These activities rely heavily on technology and at SPRC we ensure that the latest communication technology is employed to facilitate these activities.

Australian Social Policy Conference

SPRC hosts the biennial Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC) 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 14th ASPC was held in September 2013 with the theme *Contemporary Challenges in Social Policy*. This is the first time the conference has been held in September, which is a better time of year for many academics than July. Coincidentally the conference was held in the week following the general election, providing an added urgency to the theme of the conference.

As usual there were three keynote speakers: Janet Gornick (Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Graduate Center, City University of New York) provided a cross national comparison of work-family reconciliation policy and gender equality; Sue Richardson (Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and Principal Research Fellow, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University) discussed worrying trends in relation to the role of men in the labour market; and Joakim Palme (Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden) provided a sobering but ultimately upbeat analysis of the inter-generational issues confronting social policy in an ageing society.
Over 100 papers were presented, covering the most pressing challenges for contemporary social policy—poverty and disadvantage, climate change, disability support, welfare reform, Indigenous social policy, care and gender equality.

This was the third ASPC at which a Chinese Social Policy workshop was held. Around 14 papers were presented, including two keynote presentations. Jude Howell (Professor of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Sciences) discussed civil society, corporatism and capitalism in China; and Hongmin Cao (Foreign Fund Project Management Center, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development of People’s Republic of China) presented on China’s poverty reduction: How it happened, is it sustainable?

Three forums were organised and hosted by the Australian Social Policy Association:

- Indicators, indices and improvement: Will better measures of wellbeing increase wellbeing?
- Never-deserving citizens or ending the entitlement culture: The debate about the merits of conditionality in income support policy
- Got a problem, fix it yourself! Local autonomy and devolution or centralisation? A dilemma for public policy

We welcomed over 300 delegates to the conference: academics, policy makers, state and federal public servants, NGO managers and community representatives. Feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive, and the high quality of the keynotes and contributed papers was commented on by a number of participants.

As usual SPRC staff played a significant role in the conference: presenting papers, chairing sessions and generally being helpful and supportive. Our research support staff were particularly effective in managing the logistics, and the conference organisation was remarkable. We are looking forward to building on this for an even better 15th ASPC in 2015.
SPRC Seminar series

In 2013, we once again ran a successful seminar program which was jointly organised by Melissa Wong and Philip Hayes, and we thank them both for their contributions. There were 17 seminars held during the year and presentations were made by SPRC staff and prominent social policy researchers from Australia and overseas.

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

February 26
Employers and work-care reconciliation in the UK
Professor Sue Yeandle, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

March 5
Unequal growth: The experience of urban China
Professor Björn Anders Gustafsson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

March 12
Residential segregation from generation to generation?
Intergenerational transmission of context in Sweden
Professor Björn Anders Gustafsson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

March 19
Defining and measuring research impact: what it means for your research
Professor Fiona Williams, University of Leeds, UK

April 16
Missing something: Can the carbon markets deliver a social good?
Dr J Mark Dangerfield, Alloporus Environmental

April 30
The early development of children's numeracy skills
Dr Galina Daraganova, Australian Institute of Family Studies

May 8
Neurodiversity in the transport and travel industry
Dr Kate Sang, Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom

May 21
Policy success without fanfare: the non-extinction of the continental Aboriginal population
Professor Timothy Rowse, University of Western Sydney

June 18
Australian local governments and planning for religious diversity: the refusal of a Hindu temple in Sydney
Dr Laura Beth Bugg, The University of Sydney

July 16
Dreamings, songlines, and the 'cult of heritage': tourism, development and Aboriginal culture in West Kimberley
Dr Carsten Wergin, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia

July 30
Extreme weather and social impact on older people and people with a disability
Professor Deborah Black and Dr Leigh Wilson, The University of Sydney

August 13
Driver licensing and road safety in remote areas and Aboriginal communities: implications for social policy
A/Prof Teresa Senserrick, Transport and Road Safety Research Group, UNSW Australia

August 27
Who co-parents? A study of the determinants of shared versus sole physical custody arrangements in The Netherlands.
Dr. Anne-Rigt Poortman, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

October 8
Decommodification revisited: the case of workplace accident victims
Professor Jean-Pierre Tabin, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

October 22
Knowledge begets knowledge: social exclusion, early childhood education and the importance of knowledge networks
Dr Jen Skattebol, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia

November 11
Measuring economic insecurity in rich and poor nations
Professor Lars Osberg, Dalhousie University, Canada

November 27
The virtuous circle of the welfare state: Is it valid anymore?
Professor Jouko Kajanoja, University of Helsinki, Finland
SPRC e-newsletter

To further extend dissemination of SPRC research and events, we have now moved to digital publishing of our regular newsletter. The e-newsletter contains articles about current issues in social policy; reports from research in progress in the centre; information about forthcoming and recent seminars, workshops and conferences; postgraduate students; new projects; and other information of interest to the social policy community. The 2013 e-newsletters were edited by Christiane Purcal, Cathy Thomson and Abigail Powell.

While newsletters are available through our website, you can subscribe here to automatically receive them and keep abreast of our current research.

SPRC website

The new SPRC website was launched mid-year and is central to our marketing strategy. It serves as a point-of-entry for sector partners, national and international, colleagues, potential postgraduate students and the wider audience to learn about our research activities and priorities, access our reports and view our seminar, workshop and conference activities.

Workshops

Three workshops were held during 2013.
Accountability of child welfare non-government organisations in China
13 September 2013
Characteristics of child welfare systems relevant to Asia and Asians in Australia
17 October 2013
Social inclusion and child poverty in Australia and Japan
19 September 2013
We have deep links with researchers and networks in other countries and engage broadly with other disciplines and research units both within UNSW and beyond.

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 the UK as well as Sweden, Scotland, and Colombia.

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

Professor Sue Yeandle
Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, United Kingdom (25 February 2012 to 8 March 2013)

Professor Bjorn Gustafsson
Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg, Sweden (1-31 March 2013)

Dr Kate Sang
School of Management and Languages, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland (6 March 2013 to 6 June 2013)

Mr Giovanni Jimenez
PhD Candidate, University of Manizales, Colombia, South America (17 June to 16 August 2013)
dissemination

Books


Book chapters


Journal articles


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**


income and expenditure

Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash statement adjusted for debtors</th>
<th>2013 $000s</th>
<th>2012 $000s</th>
<th>2011 $000s</th>
<th>2010 $000s</th>
<th>2009 $000s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Funds</td>
<td>6,441</td>
<td>4,927</td>
<td>4,881</td>
<td>4,175</td>
<td>6,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate Funds</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW Contribution</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>7,621</td>
<td>6,886</td>
<td>8,845</td>
<td>5,212</td>
<td>7,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>4,182</td>
<td>4,632</td>
<td>5,226</td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td>5,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>5,432</td>
<td>6,139</td>
<td>6,678</td>
<td>6,772</td>
<td>7,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating result</td>
<td>2,189</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>(1,561)</td>
<td>(642)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (deficit) bfwd from prior year</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>(1,942)</td>
<td>(382)</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correction of prior year Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>(118)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted brought forward</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>(1,865)</td>
<td>(304)</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds surplus (deficit)</td>
<td>3,301</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>(1,865)</td>
<td>(304)</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.