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One Hundred Up!

BY PETER SAUNDERS
AND LYNN SITSKY

In May this year the Centre released the report *Community Support Services and Their Users: The First Eighteen Months* by Michael Fine. This was the hundredth report in the SPRC Reports and Proceedings series which started in September 1980. The occasion provides an opportunity to present a broad overview of the first hundred reports in the series.

The first formal announcement of the R&P series (as they quickly came to be known) appeared in the Centre's second Newsletter released in February 1981. There it was noted that 'titles in this series will present both work in progress and

as the main vehicle for publishing the Centre's own research, and the proceedings of seminars and conferences with which the Centre is involved.

Over the last twelve years, the broad structure of the R&P series has remained largely intact. Changes introduced over the period have been the implementation of charging in 1981 (see further below), the introduction of a separate SPRC Research Resource series in 1987, the use of coloured covers to distinguish between Reports (tan) and Proceedings (blue) in 1990, and changes to style and formatting introduced with R&P 96, *Social Policy in Australia: Options for the 1990s, Volume 1* in December 1991.

These changes have not fundamentally altered what has proved to be an extremely resilient series, one which continues to set high standards of research and presentational style. Few researchers or analysts working in the field of social policy - whether in the tertiary sector or in government - could admit to not having at least one report in the series on their bookshelves.

As with all other Centre publications, the views expressed in each report are those of the author(s) rather than representing any official position of the Centre itself. However, each report is subject to peer review and critical assessment prior to publication to ensure that appropriate standards of research quality are maintained. Before acceptance for publication, each Report is independently assessed by two experts, one of whom is normally from outside the Centre. Papers contained in each Proceedings are generally assessed by

the person in the Centre who has editorial responsibility for that volume.

The first hundred reports in the series total just over 10,000 pages and represent a significant addition to the social and public policy literature of this country. Topics addressed cover a very wide range of social policy issues, including mainstream issues like unemployment,

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poverty, community care and income support, but also a great range of more specific subjects like Aboriginal child welfare law, indebtedness, workers' compensation, neighbourhood houses and microsimulation models.

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final reports on research undertaken at the Centre, reports of contracted research, and the proceedings and papers from some of the seminars and conferences held under the auspices of the Centre'.

This description of the role of the R&P series still applies today. It serves

Seventy Reports have been released over the period (including two bibliographies on unemployment produced before the Research Resource Series was introduced) and thirty Proceedings.

A more detailed study of individual Reports shows how enduring some of the research themes at the Centre have been. For example, some of the social data issues raised in R&P No. 1, *Data for Decision Making*, have re-emerged, albeit in a somewhat different form, in No. 87,

Australian Home Help Policies for Elderly People, 50, *Family Care of Elderly People: Policy Issues*, 59, *Community Care of the Aged: A Working Model of a Needs-Based Assessment Unit* and 100, *Community Support Services and Their Users*. This is an area of policy that has changed markedly since 1980 and hopefully research conducted at the Centre has helped identify the critical policy issues and ways of addressing them.

The costs borne by people with disabilities has been another recurring theme, first appearing in No. 13, *Extra Costs of Disablement: Background for an Australian Study*, and again, more recently in Reports 66, *Accommodation and Employment Policies and Services for People with Disabilities*, 68, *The Extra Costs Borne by Families Who Have a Child with a Disability*, 76, *Support and Services for People with Disabilities*, and 86, *The Extra Costs of Participation in Work, Education or Training for People with Disabilities: An Exploratory Study*.

Research into the circumstances of sole parent families began in No. 16, *Widowhood and Social Welfare Policy in Australia* and continued in No. 40, *Social Policies for Single Parent Families in Australia: An Analysis and a Comparison with Sweden* and No. 89, *Sole Parents and Public Policy*. The more general issue of the living costs of families was raised in Report 43, *Measuring the Costs of Living of Australian Families*, while Report 95, *The Costs of Sole Parenthood* bring these two strands of research together. Finally, important research on the distribution of the benefits of welfare state programs, first published in No. 45, *Who Benefits?: The Australian Welfare State and Redistribution* was followed up and extended in No. 67, *Redistribution and the Welfare State: Estimating the Effects of Government Benefits and Taxes on Household Incomes*.

A glance through the authorship of past Reports is further testimony to the important role that the Centre has played in developing the research and analytical qualities of many people who have made important contributions to the development of social policy in Australia. The authors of the Reports mentioned above include Bettina Cass, Adam Graycar, Ann Harding, Robert Horn, Ian Manning, Marie Ann O'Loughlin, Linda Rosenman, Chris Rossiter and Joan

Table 1: Timing of SPRC Reports and Proceedings

Years of Release	Reports	Proceedings	Total
1980 - 82	24	4	28
1983 - 85	21	5	26
1986 - 88	14	7	21
1989 - 92	11	14	25
Total	70	30	100

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the publications in each of these two main series over the period since 1980. The flow of reports has proved to be fairly steady over time, averaging around eight a year. 1984 was the year in which most reports (sixteen) were released; it was followed by a year in which the fewest number (three) were released.

Over time, there has been a tendency for the number of Proceedings to increase relative to the number of Reports. This reflects two factors: First, the greater involvement of the Centre in the organisation of seminars and conferences, specifically the Social Policy Conference; and second, the introduction of the SPRC Discussion Papers series which also contains results from the Centre's own research projects.

The seventy Reports released have been written by sixty-six different authors or co-authors, twenty-six of whom have been involved in the authorship of more than one Report.

The focus of the Reports has been largely Australian, although some describe the situation in other countries or are comparative studies. Other countries examined include Canada, Denmark, Italy, West Germany, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Tax Benefit Models and Microsimulation Methods and No. 94, *Benchmarks and Other Approaches to Planning Community Support Services: A Review of International Experience*. Similarly, the conceptual issues surrounding poverty measurement discussed in No. 2, *The Poverty Line: Methodology and Measurement* have re-emerged in No. 99, *Perceptions of Poverty, Income Adequacy and Living Standards in Aus-*

A detailed study of individual Reports shows how enduring some of the research themes at the Centre have been

tralia and complemented the research on poverty measurement contained in Nos. 56, *Poverty, Before and After Paying for Housing*, 72, *Poverty and the Workforce* and 69, *Ending Child Poverty: An Assessment of the Government's Family Package*.

A stream of work on the welfare of the aged, particularly those living at home, is also evident throughout the Reports, beginning with No. 5, *The Aged and the State: A Working Paper* and continuing with Nos. 35, *Options for Independence:*

Vipond, all of whom have had a past association with the Centre.

There are many other authors who are still at the Centre and continue to advance our goal of undertaking and producing high quality and relevant social research that is useful to expert policy analysts and at the same time accessible to as broad an audience as possible.

Of the thirty **Proceedings** published, eighteen are derived from seminars organised solely or jointly by the Centre. A further three volumes contain papers presented by Centre staff to external conferences. The remaining nine volumes of **Proceedings** contain a total of ninety-one papers presented to the 1989 and 1991 Social Policy Conferences. In total, one hundred and ninety-one different people are represented as giving papers at seminars or conferences released in the **Proceedings** volumes.

The main topics covered in each of the first hundred **Reports and Proceedings** are summarised in Table 2. The numbers here exceed one hundred because many **R&Ps** cover more than a single topic and thus appear more than once.

Aside from the last category which contains many individual topics, the four areas on which most has been published in the series are family policy, labour market issues, social security and taxation and aged and disability issues. All four of these topics have been at the forefront of social policy debates in Australia throughout the 1980s.

When first released, **R&Ps** were available free of charge. Charging was introduced in October 1981, with the price varying between \$2.50 and \$4 depending on the length of the report. The proceeds from sales revenue went towards covering the costs of production as well as pack-

ing and postage.

Currently, the price of **R&Ps** varies between \$4 and \$9, according to when they were first released. The price of current releases is \$9, while five **Reports** are still available free of charge. In addition to selling individual **Reports**, there exists a subscription to **SPRC** publications as well as a small free list. Enquiries about subscriptions should be directed to the Publications Officer, Julia Martin.

In 1991, over 1200 complimentary **R&Ps** were distributed and just over 1000 were sold, raising total revenue of over \$6,100. Subscription series sales raised a further \$2,800 in 1991. This revenue does not cover the costs of producing and distributing the reports, the costs involved in conducting the research itself, or in running the Centre's Publications Section. The price of the **R&P** series has always been set as far as possible so as to maximise its availability to potential readers.

The volume of published work in the **SPRC Reports and Proceedings** series represents a major output by the Centre. **R&Ps** are used by researchers, government policy analysts, and appear on reading lists in a wide range of tertiary

institutions. In addition to the authors and editors, they represent the efforts of a wide range of people, including successive Publication Officers, Secretaries, and the University's Printing Service.

The material they contain has greatly expanded Australia's stock of knowledge on important social policy issues, contrib-

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uted to a more informed debate of these issues and, hopefully, improved the quality and effectiveness of Australian social policies. The Centre is already well-advanced towards its second century of publications in the series, and we hope to report on this in due course!

Table 2: Topics Covered in SPRC Reports and Proceedings

Topic	Reports	Proceedings	Total
Aged, disability issues	20	13	33
Community services and housing	13	17	30
Evaluation, research and comparative studies	15	8	23
Family policies and issues	24	18	42
Income distribution, living standards & poverty	16	13	29
Labour market issues	25	12	37
Non-government sector	10	2	12
Social security and taxation	16	18	34
Welfare State and other	19	33	52



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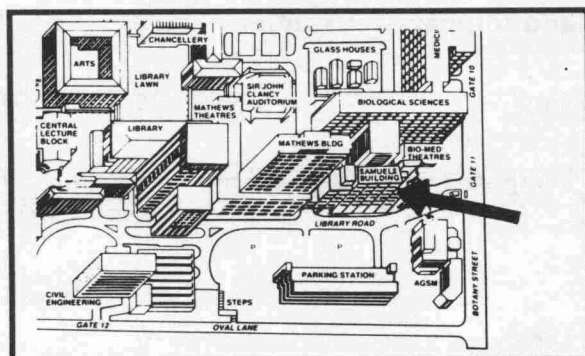
Lynda Pawley

The Social Policy Research Centre (originally the Social Welfare Research Centre) was established in January 1980 under an agreement between the University of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government.

The Centre is operated by the University as an independent unit of the University. The Director of the Centre is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director receives assistance in formulating the Centre's research agenda from a Board of Management, and in periodic consultation with the community.

The Centre undertakes and sponsors research on important aspects of social policy and social welfare; it arranges seminars and conferences, publishes the results of its research in reports, journal articles and books, and provides opportunities for postgraduate studies in social policy. Current research areas cover poverty, inequality, and standards of living; social security, taxation and the labour market; the welfare state; and community support services for the frail elderly and younger people with disabilities.

The views expressed in this Newsletter, as in any of the Centre's publications, do not represent any official position of the Centre. The Newsletter and all other SPRC publications present the views and research findings of the individual authors with the aim of promoting the development of ideas and discussion about major concerns in social policy and social welfare.



The Social Policy Research Centre is located on Level Three of the Samuels Building. Enter by Gate 11, off Botany Street, Kensington Campus. We are opposite the Australian Graduate School of Management and the University Parking Station.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

S O C I A L P O L I C Y R E S E A R C H C E N T R E

Many of you will know that the Centre's roles, activities and funding are specified in an Agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the University of New South Wales. The Agreement operates for a five year-period, the current period extending until the end of 1994. At least two years before each Agreement expires, the parties are required to confer on the issue of a further extension period and, if so, what form such extension should take.

Some months ago, the Minister for Social Security, Dr. Neal Blewett and the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University, Professor John Niland, both agreed with proposals put to them by Professor John Lawrence, Chairperson of the SPRC Management Board regarding the form of an appropriate Agreement review process. One aspect of the agreed arrangements is that a committee be established to assess the quality and input on Australian policy making of the research work of the Centre and the fulfilment of its charter as set out in the Agreement.

The Research Review Committee is chaired by Professor Peter Baume from the School of Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales. Its other members are Professor Max Neutze, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the Australian National University and Professor Jan Carter from the Department of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Melbourne. The Research Review Committee is meeting shortly and is planning to complete its assessment by the end of the year.

In addition, separate negotiations have begun between a group from the University (comprising myself, Professor Fell - the Deputy Vice-Chancellor who oversees the operation of the Centre - and Professor Lawrence) and one from the Commonwealth Government which includes members from the Departments of Social Security and Health Housing and Community Services) to review the existing Agreement provisions and, where necessary to recommend any changes to the Minister for Social Security and the Vice-Chancellor.

At this stage, all is on track for both stages of the Review to be completed in time for a new Agreement to be drawn up in 1993 to come into effect from the beginning of 1995. It is important that the review process is completed in sufficient time for decisions to be made which minimise uncertainty amongst Centre staff and avoid the disruption which can occur.

The Centre currently has a very strong team of researchers and support staff - stronger, in my view, than ever before - and their productivity has been surpassing even past efforts. It takes time to build such a team and to get them working together effectively with a unity of purpose towards pre-determined goals. The work of the Centre has, in the last few years, been bearing the fruits of the past efforts of many people.

I believe that the breadth and quality of our contributions to social policy research in this country are justifying the confidence which successive Commonwealth Governments stretching back to the late 1970s have entrusted in the Centre. I hope that the current review will re-affirm the importance of the Centre's work and express confidence in how we are performing by extending the Agreement to the turn of the century. I will keep readers fully informed of all developments.

CONFERENCE

Like the regular Reviews of our Agreement, the bi-annual Social Policy Conference seems to come upon us with alarming rapidity. We have been planning the 1993 Conference for over a year already and the main elements are all set in place. The basic structure of the Conference is spelt out in the Call for Papers which appears on page

ten of this Newsletter. The Conference theme, **Theory and Practice in Australian Social Policy: Rethinking the Fundamentals** was chosen so as to give emphasis to the need to consider fundamental issues in social policy in the context of prospective economic, social, demographic and ideological changes.

The plenary sessions unpack the broader theme in to more specific issues lying at the heart of current theoretical, empirical, conceptual and practical issues in social policy. We have tried this time to organise the Conference so as to permit more discussion of the papers than has been possible in the past. This has meant introducing for the first time restrictions on the number of papers to be presented, but we feel this is justified because it will allow more time for discussion and debate of the issues raised in the formal presentations. I am sure that next year's Conference will prove to be at least as successful as its predecessors.

Those wishing to submit papers should follow the procedures outlined on page ten. Others who wish to attend should ensure that the dates (July 14-16) are written in their diaries - it promises to be an occasion not to be missed!

While on that optimistic note, let me finish by extending Christmas greetings to you all from myself and all of my colleagues at the Centre.

Peter Saunders
Director

FROM THE PROJECTS

S O C I A L P O L I C Y R E S E A R C H C E N T R E

International Comparisons of Poverty, the Labour Market and Income Support

BRUCE BRADBURY

For people of work-force age (with a given number of dependants), there are three main factors that influence the likelihood of their families being in poverty.

The first of these is the performance of the labour market, with respect to both unemployment and the wages paid to low wage workers. Second is the pattern of labour force participation among family members, particularly among married women, whilst third is the performance of income support policy. The goals of this current SPRC project, *International Comparisons of Poverty, the Labour Market and Income Support* are to examine the interactions and trade-offs between these factors in a number of developed countries, and to consider the relative effectiveness of the Australian system for preventing poverty among families with workforce-age members.

The Australian welfare state is in many important respects different to that of

most wealthy capitalist countries. Benefits are primarily flat-rate, non-contributory, means tested and at a relatively low level, compared to the contributory insurance based schemes of other countries.

This disparity is paralleled by the unusual features of the Australian labour market. The Australian arbitration system of wage fixation is almost unique, and it has been argued that this system has led to a substantially reduced degree of earning inequality compared to other countries, particularly at the lower end of the earnings distribution.

In his book *The Working Class and Welfare* (1985), Francis Castles argued that these patterns are not independent. He describes the Australian (and New Zealand) welfare states as 'wage earners' welfare states' - where the labour movement has sought redistribution through the wage (and industrial protection) system rather than through the social wage activities of the welfare state. As a consequence, there has been little political pressure to make income support for those not in employment more than residual.

To examine these patterns, the SPRC is using data from the *Luxembourg Income Study* (LIS). Under this study, unit record income survey (or administrative) data has been collected from a large number of countries and assembled in a common database. The database includes data from most OECD members (some for several years). Data from Eastern European countries is now being

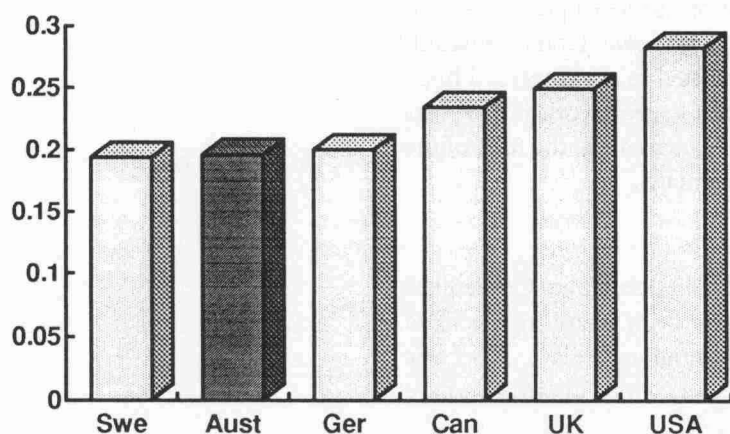
**For this population group
(of the mid-1980s) the
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distributed in Australia**

added. These income surveys have been processed to obtain definitions as comparable as possible.

To access this data, users send computer programs (written in SPSS) via electronic mail to the LIS computer, which then processes the data and mails back the results (after appropriate checking to ensure no confidential information is being divulged). Funding for the LIS project comes mainly from the LIS member countries, with the ABS and the SPRC contributing Australia's share. Access to the data is available to all researchers in the member countries.

Since there are a number of important concerns raised in the project described here, research is proceeding in stages. The first stage of the project, now underway, is an examination of the extent to which the oft-made claim for wage equality in Australia is vindicated. This research is focused upon full-year, full-

**Gini coefficients of earnings for males aged 25-54
employed full-year/full-time**



time employed males, aged 25-54. This group was chosen because it represents the core of the 'traditional' labour force - the group for which we might most expect the goal of the 'wage earners' welfare state' to be most successful (the full-year timespan has been chosen because the LIS data is generally on an annual basis). Some preliminary results from this analysis are shown in the figure opposite.

The Gini coefficient of inequality (see SPRC Newsletter No. 46) is calculated here for six countries in the mid-1980s. For this population group at least, the common wisdom seems correct - gross wages are relatively equally distributed in Australia, particularly when compared with other English-speaking countries. However, Sweden and (West) Germany also have low inequality. (It should be noted that data truncation means that the Gini coefficient for the US is significantly underestimated in this figure, and the current income basis of the UK survey probably indicates a slight overestimation)

It should be noted that these figures refer to gross wages. More relevant for living standards is net (after-tax) wages, whilst more relevant to employer costs (and hence some explanations for different patterns of inequality) are gross wages plus on-costs. Examination of these issues is currently underway with a more detailed study of the contribution of income taxes as well as employer and employee social security contributions.

From here, the next stage of the project will be to broaden the focus to family rather than personal incomes, and to include families with the full variation of labour market attachment. Rather than considering the whole income distribution, it is envisaged that the focus will be initially restricted to estimating the number of families below different poverty lines. Questions which we will be asking in this further research include: how much poverty is there among low-wage families? what is the impact of married women's labour force participation on family incomes and poverty? and how do the problems of low wages, high unemployment, and low transfers to the unemployed 'trade-off' in the different countries?

Study of Casual Academic Employees at UNSW

SARA GRAHAM

An SPRC research team comprising Michael Fine, Sara Graham, Marina Paxman and Russell Ross recently completed a study of the characteristics and working conditions of casual academic employees at the University of New South Wales. The report of the study was published by the Centre in October this year.

The impetus for this study came from the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee of the University of New South Wales. There was concern about the variety of ways in which staff of the University were employed on a casual basis, and that this could disadvantage teaching and research tasks. A specific concern was whether women, employees from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with disabilities were especially disadvantaged.

To address the concerns of the Committee, the research team undertook a survey of casual academic employees. Altogether 364 people, representing about three-quarters of all casual academics employed by the University in the week of the survey, responded to the questionnaire.

The report provides a detailed account of the results of the survey. In addition to providing a profile of the characteristics of casual academic employees, it deals with issues such as the paid and unpaid activities of casual staff, rates of pay, modes of recruitment and renewal of contract, as well as training. It also investigated attitudes towards the work environment and areas of discrimination such as gender, ethnicity and disability.

There were many areas in which casual academic employees expressed satisfaction.

However, in their conclusions the researchers found a definitive feature of casual academic employment in the University: namely the highly personalised nature of such appointments.

Considered as a process, it appeared that personal and discretionary elements dominated at all stages of casual academic employment. Recruitment tended to be by word of mouth or personal contact, the instruction of employees was at best informal, and typically, there were no clear statements of correct procedure or job content provided, which meant that there was no standard by which employees could assess whether what they were asked to do was appropriate. Thus, people in the same occupational categories were carrying out a considerable variety of tasks and at varying rates of pay for the same task.

Reports of actual discrimination were few, but the researchers noted that it was important to recognise the individual character of such experiences. Their lack of statistical significance does not diminish the impact on those affected.

Though limited to one university at one point in time, it is expected that this study will be of interest beyond the University of New South Wales. We hope that it will make a contribution to the discussion of employment policy across the tertiary education sector.

The report of the study is available from the Social Policy Research Centre, and can be ordered using the form on page nine of this Newsletter.

Note to Readers



The Wards of State Leaving Care project, described in Newsletter 46's 'From The Projects', has been commissioned and funded by the Department of Community Services, New South Wales.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

S O C I A L P O L I C Y R E S E A R C H C E N T R E

The Impact of Family Assistance Changes on Patterns of Unemployment Benefit Receipt

SPRC Discussion Paper No.33

BRUCE BRADBURY

The last decade in Australia has seen a major expansion of income support to low income non-pensioner/beneficiary families with children.

One of the major goals of this increased support has been to increase the relative financial attractiveness of low wage employment for people with dependent children, and to thus encourage those unemployed with larger families to increase their job search effort.

This paper examines this objective by first describing the changes in effective unemployment benefit replacement rates over the 1980s, and then testing whether these changes have been associated with any changes in the relative unemployment rates of men with different numbers of children.

The main conclusion is that these changes have not had any discernible behavioural impact. This may be due to either a small degree of response to financial incentives, or possibly to a lack of knowledge of the income support payments available.

Recent Trends in the Size and Growth of Government in OECD Countries

SPRC Discussion Paper No.34

PETER SAUNDERS

Developments in the size of government in OECD countries over the last two decades have

differed markedly from the generally steady rise in the relative size of the government sector during the 1950s and 1960s. This paper discusses the nature and limitations of measures of the size of government before proceeding to examine trends in the size of government in OECD countries throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

After examining aggregate trends, the paper looks at how the structure of government has changed. The findings for different countries are compared and contrasted and the patterns and trends related to social, economic and political factors. The analysis reveals that overall differences in government outlays between countries can largely be explained by differences in the level of spending on transfer payments.

Noncash Income, Living Standards, Inequality and Poverty: Evidence from the Luxembourg Income Study

SPRC Discussion Paper No.35

PETER SAUNDERS, TIMOTHY M. SMEEDING, JOHN CODER, STEPHEN JENKINS, JOHAN FRITZELL, ALDI J.M. HAGENAARS, RICHARD HAUSER AND MICHAEL WOLFSON

This paper, conducted in conjunction with, and under the auspices of, the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), estimates the value of noncash benefits for seven countries (including Australia) using identical methods, and as far as practical, the same sources.

The estimates are then added to comparative measures of cash income produced as part of the LIS data base. The impact of noncash income on the relative living standards of different family types is then analysed, on the distribution of income and on the size and structure of relative poverty in each country. Sensitiv-

ity analysis is also undertaken in which the level of the poverty line is varied and its impact on poverty rates across families and across countries is ascertained.

The main finding is that the impact of noncash income is best viewed in a life-cycle context, being the greatest for families with children and for the elderly. The main groups whose relative position is worsened by the inclusion of noncash income are non-elderly single people and non-aged families without children.

The Mixed Economy of Support for the Aged in Australia: Lessons for Privatisation

SPRC Discussion Paper No.36

PETER SAUNDERS AND MICHAEL FINE

This paper describes and analyses aspects of Australian income support and service arrangements for the aged in the context of broader issues relating to privatisation.

Much of the welfare privatisation debate is overly simplistic and does not recognise the important role which the non-government sector already plays in both aspects of support for the aged. Analysis of income data shows, for example, that transfer income currently accounts for less than half of the income of the aged.

The trend towards superannuation is apparent in the data, although some doubts are raised about the impact of superannuation expansion on the costs of retirement income support of population ageing.

In the area of community services, the paper describes the development of policy over the last few decades in order to illustrate the complexity of existing

arrangements. The switch from institutional to community care is identified as a major trend, particularly during the 1980s, and there is an analysis of some of the implications of this development for privatisation.

The Evaluation of Community Options in New South Wales

SPRC Reports and Proceedings No.103

**SARA GRAHAM, RUSSELL ROSS
AND TONI PAYNE
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
GEORGE MATHESON**

In 1986 the Federal Government initiated the Community Options Program, an innovative approach to providing care for dependent aged people and people with disabilities according to their individual needs.

The Centre took part in the national evaluation of the program by assessing its performance in New South Wales. This was done in two stages. Stage one looked at fourteen Community Options projects between January and April 1991. Stage two studied five of the fourteen projects between June and mid-July 1991.

After setting out the broad aims and research methodology, this report provides a description of some of the characteristics of the clients; a description of the service packages and their costs; an account of some of the factors which aid and impede the objectives of the Program; and an account of the reactions of clients and service providers. There is a final section which summarises the findings and issues that emerged.

New Publications List

In the new-format Publications List released this September, we hope that the 16 000-plus pages of research so far published by the SPRC have been made easier to access.

The List now has an order code for each publication, making ordering simpler and faster. The List also includes the contents of all the Conference volumes.

Finally, a postal charges table allows you to calculate postal charges for orders over 500 grams, both within Australia and overseas.

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

The following SPRC publications are now available:

SPRC REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS

No.103 Sara Graham, Russell Ross and Toni Payne with the assistance of George Matheson, **The Evaluation of Community Options in New South Wales**, October 1992, 244pp. \$9 RP103

DISCUSSION PAPERS

No. 34 Peter Saunders, **Recent Trends in the Size and Growth of Government in OECD Countries**, September 1992, 26 pp. Free DP34

No 35 Peter Saunders, Timothy M. Smeeding, John Coder et al, **Noncash Income, Living Standards, Inequality and Poverty: Evidence from the Luxembourg Income Study**, November 1992, 40pp. Free DP35

No 36 Peter Saunders and Michael Fine, **The Mixed Economy of Support for the Aged in Australia: Lessons for Privatisation**, November 1992, 33pp. Free DP36

MONOGRAPH

Michael Fine, Sara Graham and Marina Paxman, **Survey of the Working Conditions of Casual Academic Employees at the University of New South Wales**, October 1992, 94pp. \$9 CW1

NEW PUBLICATIONS LIST: SEPTEMBER 1992

I wish to receive a copy (please tick box and complete form below) ☐

BACK IN PRINT

Discussion Paper No. 30 Peter Saunders and George Matheson, **An Ever-Rising Tide? Poverty in Australia in the Eighties**, May 1991, 29pp. Free. DP30

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To: Julia Martin
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Social Policy Research Centre
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Call for Papers

1993 Social Policy Conference

The 1993 National Social Policy Conference theme is **Theory and Practice in Australian Social Policy: Rethinking the Fundamentals**.

The Conference will look at the fundamental purposes, frameworks and tools of Australian social policy, and aim to put these in the context of the far-reaching changes taking place in Australian society, culture and economic development.

We invite researchers and other members of the social policy community to contact us about papers they would like to present at the Conference.

Conference discussion will focus on the five following social policy areas: Social Policy and the Economy; Ideas, Ideology and the Welfare State; Family, Community and the State in Social Care; Inequality; and Work and Welfare. These

papers may present the results of research, discuss conceptual approaches or raise new issues for discussion. The five main areas are as follows:

1 Social Policy and the Economy

Significant changes are taking place in national economies due to an increasingly far-reaching international economy. These changes challenge the present role of social policy. Should social policy be aimed at fostering economic adaptation? How far should it be concerned with compensating the losers? How far should national governments pursue social policies aimed at redistributing resources towards the poor and persons not in the labour force?

Professor David Piachaud, of the De-

partment of Social Science and Administration at the London School of Economics and Political Science will present the plenary paper for this stream. Professor Piachaud has written widely on incomes, poverty and the political economy of social services.

2 Ideas, Ideology and the Welfare State

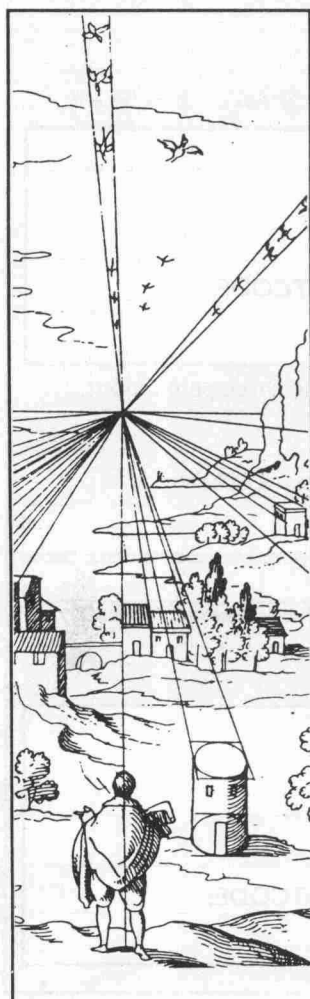
In an economy giving a greater role to market forces, the traditional orientation of social policy towards social equality is also under challenge. This change raises new questions about the moral, social and political purposes of the welfare state, particularly the nature and meaning of human needs, the boundaries between public and private responsibility and the role of government in direct service provision.

The plenary address in this stream will be given by Peter Taylor-Gooby, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Kent at Canterbury. His work on public opinion and political support for the activities of the welfare state is well-known. Professor Taylor-Gooby will be the Centre's 1993 Visiting Fellow, spending about a month in Sydney.

3 Family, Community and the State in Social Care.

The focus on the boundaries between public and private provision of social services is shifting. It is now a more complex discussion of how the many and various providers of social care can best be interrelated. Families, non-government organizations, market and public sectors now form a new 'mixed economy of welfare'.

Neil Gilbert, Professor of Social Welfare and Social Services at the University of California, Berkeley, will present the plenary address in this stream. Professor Gilbert is the author of, among other titles, *The Enabling State* (Oxford University Press, 1989).



Theory and Practice in Australian Social Policy: Rethinking the Fundamentals

University of New South Wales
July 14 - 16, 1993

4 Inequality

There is mounting evidence of increasing economic inequality in Australia, as there is in comparable countries. At the same time there is a growing awareness that inequality has not only economic but social dimensions, based on gender, race, ethnicity and disability. Questions concerning both the meaning and the limits of equality as a policy goal are of vital significance in contemporary social policy.

Jan Carter, Professor of Social Work at Melbourne University will be the plenary speaker in this Conference stream. Professor Carter was previously Director of Research at the Brotherhood of St Laurence and has written extensively on Australian social welfare.

5 Work and Welfare

One of most significant dimensions of economic change is the form and scope of employment. It affects distributions of opportunity and income among groups of workers differing in age, sex,

education and skills. This conference stream will discuss the role and impact of social policy in the changing formal and informal labour markets.

The plenary address in this stream will be presented by Bob Gregory, Professor of Economics in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Professor Gregory is Australia's pre-eminent labour market economist.

1993 is the International Year of Indigenous Peoples, and we invite papers contributing to discussion of the needs, values and policy concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sessions on these topics will be presented in co-operation with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University.

The Conference will have an open stream covering a diverse range of social policy subjects, and we welcome papers in this section. There will also be an opportunity for participants to organise themselves into smaller sessions or working

groups to discuss specific topics during the Conference.

Acceptance of papers for presentation at the Conference is competitive, and selection is the responsibility of the Social Policy Research Centre. Selection criteria include academic quality and contribution to the main areas of Conference discussion. We welcome papers presenting all points of view.

If you wish to offer a paper, please send us the title, an abstract of no more than 200 words, and an indication of the conference theme to which your paper is most relevant.

The closing date for submission of papers to the Conference is 31 March 1993.

Please send your submission to 1993 Social Policy Conference Papers, SPRC, University of NSW, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033, Australia.

Information about when and how to enrol for the Conference will be provided in the next issue of the SPRC Newsletter.

SOCIAL INDICATORS 5

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Catalogue No. 4101, Canberra, 1992. 383 pp. \$55

Reviewed by Robert V. Horn

In the last SPRC Newsletter (No. 46, September 1992), Phil Raskall reminded us of the social research by early Australian statisticians with the income and wealth estimates of Timothy Coghlan in New South Wales in the 1880s. Other social researchers of the time included Coghlan's colleagues H. Hayter (Victoria) and R. M. Johnston (Tasmania), who also contributed to 'the Golden Age' described in that article.

In recent times, the social indicator movement, initiated in the USA in the 1960s, led to an early response in statistical publications under that (or corresponding names) in many countries. The first volume of Australian Social

Indicators, in 1976, was early entrant in that movement.

In Social Indicators 1, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) brought together published and some unpublished 'statistics relevant to social questions in Australia', mainly in the areas of population, health, education, employment, income, social security, housing, justice and aboriginal concerns.

Four issues later, the size of this publication has quadrupled, drawing on the more detailed information collected in the same areas (except for Justice, for which national collections beyond the present State-level data are on hold for a future issue). There is also the welcome appearance of information on leisure and culture from recent surveys, as well as on the environment, for which ABS recently published a separate, more extensive volume (Cat. No. 41400, 1992). The tables and graphs therein are accompanied by useful descriptive comments.

The publication is directed to the casual seeker of information, and can also

serve as an introduction to further research through its survey of available statistics. Most of the information is as up-to-date as possible, reaching into current concerns such as early retirement, underemployment and health risks. Only in some instances it shows signs of ageing, such as in the comments on Equivalent and Low income, which still rest on the Henderson scales of 1974.

However, as Timothy Coghlan's rhetoric showed, a bit of history does not deter contemporary work in this area, and can in fact provide valuable insight.

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THE DIARY OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY

DIANA ENCEL

The tenth volume of the *Diary of Social Legislation and Policy* appeared this year. To mark the occasion, the SPRC is offering the set of this useful research resource for \$25.00, post free.

The Diary evolved from two volumes of *Public Expenditure and Social Policy in Australia* published in 1978 and 1980. These volumes included 'diaries' prepared by Helen Ferber of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (IAESR) which recorded changes made in government social policy and legislation during the years 1972 to 1978.

The diaries quickly became highly useful works of reference. Their favourable reception prompted the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) and the Social Policy Research Centre (then the Social Welfare Research Centre, or SWRC) to join with the IAESR in preparing as separate annual volumes, in the same style and sequence, a *Diary of Social Legislation and Policy* for subsequent years.

The first of these appeared in 1981, edited by Mari Davis (AIFS), Margaret McAllister (SWRC), and Ian Manning (IAESR). The areas covered dealt with 'Social security and welfare', 'Employment, unemployment and training', 'Family law', 'Immigration', 'Housing' and 'Health', all for the year 1980, except in the area of immigration which covered 1979 as well. The 1981 *Diary* (1982) with the same editors, covered similar areas, included a section on 'Social security and welfare' for 1979 and added sections covering some state policy areas.

Helen Ferber herself was the editor for 1982, with the previous editors acting as coordinators from each of the three sponsoring bodies. As well as including a section on 'Health' for 1979, a new section was added, dealing with 'State adoption legislation and policy events'. The *Diary* remained basically the same over the next two years with small changes

in content (such as a section on 'Legislation and policy on reproduction technology' for 1984) under the editorship of Ian Manning, Kiera O'Neill and Mari Davis. No diary for 1985 was published, but in 1989 a *Diary* covering 1985 and 1986 appeared, now sponsored by the National Institute of Economic Industry Research (NIEIR) along with AIFS and SWRC, edited by Anthony King and Mari Davis. This *Diary* did not include material from the state policy areas, but added 'Education' and 'Community Services' (replacing 'welfare') to the basic areas covered.

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The next issue, covering the years 1987 and 1988 appeared in 1990 (edited by Anthony King, NIEIR, with help from Deborah Whithear and Allyson Griffiths, both AIFS). The 1989 *Diary* also appeared in 1990, edited by Deborah Whithear, bringing the series up to date; the 1990 and 1991 issues each appeared in the middle of the year following. All entries were prepared by individual contributions from the three sponsoring bodies, except for the sections on 'Immigration' which, since 1989, have been prepared by contributions from the Bureau of Immigration Research.

Data selected for inclusion in the diaries come from a number of Government portfolios. Some areas, such as

health and housing have been the responsibility of ministries which have changed name over the period since 1980, one of the most recent changes being that from Community Services and Health to Health, Housing and Community Services; similarly, other portfolios have had changes: Employment and Youth Affairs disappeared and Employment, Education and Training was created. The diaries have followed the pattern of presenting data under headings which relate to policy areas, rather than the portfolios which are responsible for them.

In 1990 a new section covered superannuation, which has become an important element in Government policies affecting income support for elderly Australians. This section has since been subsumed into the section on 'Social Security'.

The primary sources of information used in the compilation of the diaries are departmental or ministerial press releases, annual reports, budget papers and budget-related papers. The later diaries include a list of some of the other publications consulted, making them a ready reference for researchers and workers in government and service organisations to the primary documents important in policy development. They can also be used as an account of policy changes and major legislation announced and brought into effect during each year.

There are now ten issues of the *Diary of Social Legislation and Policy*, covering the years 1980 to 1991. The early numbers are available free; the cost of those which cover the years 1987 to 1991 vary, but total \$29.85. The SPRC is offering the whole set for \$25.00, post free. To order a set, fill out the order form on page nine of this *Newsletter* and use the order code 'LP8791'.

REFERENCE

Scotton, R. B. and H. Ferber, eds (1978 and 1980), *Public Expenditures and Social Policy in Australia*, Longman Cheshire, Melbourne.