

## SPRC Newsletter No 72 - February 1999

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## NEW SPRC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR 1999-2001

### INTRODUCTION

The research agenda of the Social Policy Research Centre is a fundamental part of its entire operation as it identifies the issues that are seen as important and assigns priorities in the Centre's research activity. Under its Agreement, the Centre is required to develop a new research agenda on a regular basis (generally every three years) for consideration by the Management Board. The agenda covers the research that the Centre proposes to undertake from its core funds and also shapes the areas of research for seeking external funding.

Given the many rapid changes currently being experienced by Australian society, there is clearly a need for regular review of research in order to ensure that it continues to be effective in highlighting key issues that influence the course of social development and for the policy responses within that evolving context. The triennial cycle adopted by the SPRC has helped to ensure that its research remains abreast of international developments whilst at the same time continuing to be relevant to Australia's social policy concerns. It achieves an appropriate balance between the kind of

stability that is an essential element of any longer term program of research, while providing the opportunity to ensure that what is being studied remains relevant and at the leading edge of social policy research.

The research agenda described below is the result of prolonged effort on the part of many of the Centre's staff throughout 1998, with very valuable input from the members of the Management Board. The process of deciding on the final agenda also benefited from the suggestions received from a number of community organisations who responded to a request to comment on an initial version of the agenda. The Centre and its researchers would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed to the new agenda, particularly the Board members but also the many others who took the time and effort to provide us with their ideas.

It is important that a Centre like the SPRC makes the effort to publicise the research that it is planning to undertake in the future. This reflects our belief that, having funded much of our operation, the general public has a right to know how we are planning to use those funds. Other organisations and individuals will

hopefully also benefit from knowing our research plans - partly so as to avoid unnecessary duplication but also because they may be prompted to explore similar issues from a different perspective or build on what we are doing in various ways.

The agenda described below relates primarily to the program of research comprising projects that are developed for approval by the Centre's Management Board. It is, however, important to recognise that this is not the only research conducted within the Centre. The current Agreement also makes provision for an annual program of research commissioned by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS, formerly the Department of Social Security). In addition to this, the Centre undertakes research on contract to external bodies and agencies. Although the FaCS-commissioned projects are central to the research charter of the Centre, the agenda provides a framework that helps to guide what kinds of externally funded research the Centre is willing to undertake.

Finally, it needs to be emphasised that the agenda represents no more than a plan of

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*"The agenda covers the research that the Centre proposes to undertake from its core funds and also shapes the areas of research for seeking external funding."*

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### FEATURE

The feature article provides a summary of the SPRC's 1999-2001 Research Agenda, which represents the blueprint for the Centre's activities into the new millennium.

EDITOR ♦ SHARON HANCOCK

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# STAFF AND VISITORS UPDATE

NATALIE BARNES, SPRC Research Scholar, has left the Centre to take up a position in the Household Income Unit at the Commonwealth Treasury.

BRUCE BRADBURY has returned to the Centre following 11 months working for UNICEF International Child Development Centre in Florence. Whilst there he studied cross-national patterns in child poverty.

TIINA MÄKINEN from the University of Turku is visiting the Centre for a year with support of scholarships from the Academy of Finland and the Emil Aaltonen Foundation. At the Centre she will be working on her licentiate dissertation on early retirement and the labour market.

JO PENTY has joined the Centre until the end of July 1999 as Conference Organiser for the 1999 National Social Policy Conference. She runs an events management consultancy.

MELANIE HENWOOD, an independent health and social care analyst from the UK, will be visiting the Centre from early March until May. Much of her recent work has been commissioned by the UK Department of Health and she maintains research links with the Nuffield Institute of Health at the University of Leeds.

PROFESSOR PETER KEMP will be visiting the Centre for a month from early March. Currently a professor of housing in the Department of Urban Affairs at the University of Glasgow, his main research interests are the housing aspects of social security, private rental housing and the future of welfare.

## THE SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

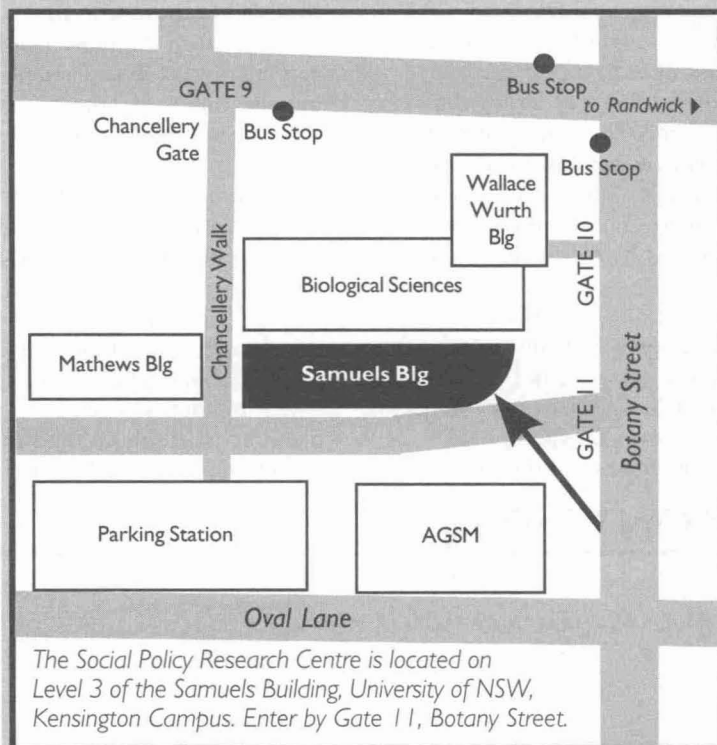
was established in January 1980 (originally as the Social Welfare Research Centre) under an agreement between the University of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government.

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

The SPRC 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.

The Centre's current research agenda covers social policy issues associated with changes in employment, income support and the labour market; changes in households and families; poverty, needs and economic inequality; and the restructuring of forms of social support.

*The views expressed in this Newsletter, as in any of the Centre's publications, do not represent any official position of the Centre. The SPRC 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.*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY PETER SAUNDERS

Shortly after leading the Coalition to victory at last year's federal election, the Prime Minister announced a restructuring of the major social policy portfolios 'to provide a clearer focus for their activities'. Amongst the changes was the establishment of the new Department of Family and Community Services to replace the former Department of Social Security (DSS), but with a number of additional responsibilities. Formation of the new Department reflects the Government's emphasis on achieving an integrated policy approach involving partnerships with the community and business sector designed to encourage capacity-building and self-provision.

I was, however, somewhat saddened to hear of the demise of the name DSS. Firstly, I think that the Australian social security system, though not without its faults, is an important social institution of which we as a nation have every right to be proud. Its basic design and structure is unique among industrial countries and many aspects of it have prompted others to re-consider and reform their own systems in ways which mirror ours. Notions of means testing and targeting may have seemed out of place in the 1950s and 1960s, but they have assumed a central position in debates over social security policies in the 1980s and 1990s and Australian expertise and hands-on experience has served us well in tailoring the social security system to the demands of fiscal stringency.

It is also important to acknowledge that the term 'social security' refers to both the means of income support policy and to its goal. Although the term has come to be used primarily to describe a system of public transfers to groups in need because of reduced earnings capacity (and is defined in these terms in official conventions of the International Labour Office, ILO), social security also encapsulates what the system is

trying to achieve for the citizens of a country. In a world in which the perception at least is of increased *economic insecurity* this emphasis on the provision of *social security* seems even more appropriate.

These reflections prompted me to look back to the time when the Department of Social Security itself was formed by an amalgamation of the former Department of Social Services and the Health Insurance and Benefits Division of the Department of Health. The changes are described in the First (1972-73) Annual Report of the Director-General of the new Department, published the following year.

The Introduction to that report notes that, in meeting the needs of the four million or so people then in receipt of DSS pensions, benefits or allowances: '...the Department must use sophisticated and highly automated techniques which provide speedy processing of information. But the processes which handle the high volume servicing of clients must be supplemented with systems and attitudes suitable for providing help on an individual basis for people who approach the Department seeking something in addition to the regular and reliable payment of a pension, benefit or allowance. The challenge is to provide for the diverse needs of clients without sacrificing speed and efficiency on the one hand or humanity and compassion on the other.'

Although the tone and wording may seem somewhat dated in places, the ideas and ideals that they represent remain central to the goal of a Department responsible for the design and attainment of social security, whatever its name.

A glance through the rest of the 1972-73 DSS Annual Report gives an interesting insight into what was happening in Australia at the time, and provides some fascinating comparisons with today. It was, of course, a period of frenetic change in social policy. The report makes

reference to three major Inquiries that were commencing - into Poverty, National Superannuation, and Rehabilitation and Compensation, and also refers to the Department's involvement with the work of bodies such as the Social Welfare Commission, the Working Party on Social Welfare Manpower and the Working Party on Homeless Men and Women.

The report was, of course, released just before the world economy was plunged into political crisis and economic recession by the oil shock which hit in 1973. Unemployment rose very rapidly and has stayed at unacceptable levels ever since - despite a significant and sustained improvement in economic performance. The extent of the economic and social changes experienced since the early 1970s are no better illustrated than by the growth in the numbers receiving unemployment assistance. According to the 1972-73 report, the average number of people in receipt of unemployment benefit during that year was just below 40 000. The latest (and last) DSS Annual Report puts the number receiving Newstart Allowance in June 1998 at 778 000 - an almost 20-fold increase.

There can be no doubt that the current level of unemployment is the greatest challenge facing our economic and social policies. The fact that the economy is performing so well but with such little impact on the level of unemployment makes the task more difficult, but also all the more urgent. Unless ways can be found to reduce unemployment, the growing gap between those with and without jobs will threaten the very basis of our social fabric. We know that finding solutions will not be easy, nor is it likely to be cheap. The social security system has a role to play in both contributing to a climate that promotes employment and is favourable to paid work, but also in providing adequate and secure financial assistance to those unable to find a job.

"In a world in which, the perception at least, is of increased economic insecurity, this emphasis on the provision of social security seems even more appropriate."



# NEW SPRC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR 1999-2001

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activity - no matter how well-thought out and systematically developed it is. Circumstances can change, sometimes very rapidly, and there must always be scope to revise any plan in the light of these and other changes. It also needs to be emphasised that the agenda is very ambitious. Some of the projects described below will obviously be of continuing interest beyond the three-year period, while others address issues that may be less important in several years time. For these reasons, it is not expected that the agenda will be completed within three years, nor that it ever could be. But neither should the agenda be seen as a 'wish list' that can never be practically completed. We plan to make significant progress over the coming triennium in many of the areas highlighted here, but we also know from past experience that new issues will also emerge over the period, while some current priorities may fade in importance with the passage of time. No sensible research agenda can ignore the implications of these developments, and nor will ours.

## THE ROLE AND AMBIT OF THE RESEARCH AGENDA

As noted, the research agenda plays a vital role in the development and management of the Centre, outlining in broad terms both a program of activity and a framework for allocating and accounting for resources. It is a primary tool for setting directions and defining priorities within the Centre's broad charter, and for maintaining balance and overall coherence in the research and other activities of the Centre over a period of time.

The research agenda plays a primary role in framing the program of research funded under the general provisions of the Agreement. In this, it sets out agreed directions and parameters

of development, and foreshadows a range of individual projects through which that program will be realised. More generally, the research agenda also influences the kinds of expertise and experience sought when recruiting new staff, and plays a part in shaping the Centre's conduct of its other functions in providing opportunities for post-graduate research, fostering the discussion of social policy and policy research through seminars and conferences, and arranging for the publication of research conducted in the Centre.

Over the last few years, the Centre has expanded, particularly in the areas of labour markets, distributional analysis and community services. This growth has consolidated areas of strength in the SPRC program, but also partly reflects the nature of recent external research grants received. The proposals outlined below reflect these changes and assume that the current staff profile of the Centre will remain broadly unchanged over the next three years.

As already remarked, the triennial research agenda refers most directly to the program of research conducted under the Agreement and funded from the general grant it provides, and consisting of projects approved by the Management Board. It is planning for this program that is described here, and those projects which are proposed for inclusion as part of this program in the coming three years are designated as 'Agenda Projects'. These comprise both projects presently in progress and being carried forward into the new agenda, and new projects proposed for further development and, if granted, for approval by the Board.

Because of the inherent complementarities between agenda research and that conducted on contract and commission, a number of potential projects are identified which, if conducted, would extend the coverage of the research agenda and for which outside

funding could be sought. Some of these might be appropriate subjects for commissioned research, and contract funding may become available for others. These projects by which the research agenda might be extended in this way are listed under the heading of 'Further Projects'. Although many of these projects relate closely to the Centre's main research interests as reflected in the 'Agenda Projects', the fact that they are listed as 'Further Projects' should not be taken to imply that they are considered to be of secondary importance.

## PROPOSALS

### OVERALL RESEARCH THEME

The 1995-97 research agenda took as its main organising theme the idea of *social change*, focusing most centrally on the consequences of contemporary transformations in Australian economic and personal life for social inequality, needs and policy approaches. These are long-term changes with profound consequences, and they can be expected to continue to shape the challenges to social policy for some time to come.

One of the central threads of contemporary change is in employment and earned incomes, reflecting the transition from the nationally based manufacturing economy of the postwar period towards a post-industrial service economy. This transition is reshaping the structure and distribution of work, most centrally education and skill requirements, hours and stability of employment, and income levels and career prospects. Australian economic activity is enmeshed in an increasingly international division of labour, operating within a more open and competitive world trading system. Globalisation of product and financial markets is inhibiting the scope of national governments to pursue long-term economic and

social policy goals and, in conjunction with technological change, is creating increased economic insecurity that has implications for social policy. Australia's closer engagement with the countries of Asia and the Pacific has brought new economic opportunities, but, with the economic problems of some countries of the region, also greater vulnerabilities. The social policy implications of these regional relationships have had little exploration.

Changes in other areas of Australian social life are equally important. Although family patterns remain very diverse, the dual-earner household is increasingly the norm, and sole parenthood an increasingly common experience. The population is ageing, and while this remains far less advanced than in many other countries, its policy implications are nonetheless significant. The middle-ageing of the baby boom generation, and the contrasting life experience of the younger groups who have grown up in the decline of full employment, seem to be being felt in differences of attitudes and values between generations. The consensus that long underpinned Australian acceptance of immigration and cultural diversity has weakened, and gaps in economic security and social expectations between country and city have become more apparent.

In the last decade there has been increasing recognition that social policy interventions are more complex than indicated in the two-dimensional terms of state and market and the alteration of market outcomes to accommodate social needs. The key policy question that needs to be answered in many areas is a simple one: what policies work, and at what cost? Research can provide part of the answer by exploring and analysing the impact of policies introduced in Australia and overseas, but also by providing a better understanding of what the key issues are and by

estimating the parameters that help to determine the success or otherwise of policies. In order to identify what policies work, it is necessary to analyse and understand the issues they are addressing and how circumstances and behaviour will change in response to policy.

Many human needs are met from sources other than government and the economy. Social policies also address the family and family structure, both as an object of policy intervention and as implicated in the pursuit of more general goals such as redistributive equity and social care. Most recently, attention has been paid to voluntary or non-government associations, including churches, non-government welfare organisations and mutual aid societies, as both means and objects of social policy. The balances and linkages between market, state, family and community in the provision of social support have been changing, calling for review and reconsideration of social needs and the ways policies affect the relations between sectors in meeting them.

Some of the changes with most immediate implications for social policy are in ideas about government and the role which the state should play, with markets and deregulation of controls gaining greater place. The renewal of social and urban infrastructure is increasingly reliant on private rather than public investment. Tax and welfare reform look set to feature prominently on the short-to medium-term policy agenda, with major implications for equity and incentives. The social policy implications of these changes are most evident in a shift of emphasis within government on the nature, role and delivery of welfare in its broadest sense. Fiscal constraints are still tight and a greater emphasis is being placed on the need to introduce competition into areas of public welfare, or at least to make these increasingly contestable within a more open

competitive framework. Changes in the global economy and the need to improve productivity are also generating their own challenges to social policies.

The relevance of these issues for the forces shaping social policy development remains fundamental, and *it is therefore proposed to keep the notion of social change as the main overarching theme of the core research agenda for the next three years*. This reflects the view that the current agenda identifies key contemporary social policy research concerns, and although there may have been some switch in emphasis at the policy level in recent years, the underlying research issues remain broadly unchanged. In conjunction with the evolving external policy environment, two other changes have significance for the planned program of SPRC research. The first of these is the availability of new data sources that are beginning to allow new and important issues to be researched. Of significance in this context is the development of longitudinal data for Australia and the greater access to administrative data. Both provide the possibility of more thorough study of the dynamics of income and benefit receipt and the factors underlying them. The importance of longitudinal study was a notable theme of comments received as part of the consultation on the work of the Centre. In addition, the move by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to produce income distribution statistics on an annual basis provides an opportunity to shed greater light on the causes of poverty and distributional change, specifically the role played by cyclical changes in the economy as compared with changes in family structure and the benefit system.

Finally, the process of consultation on the work of the Centre called attention to two further areas as important for social policy research in the next few years. One is the rural and

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regional variation in needs and policy outcomes. This was mentioned with respect to both living standards and service delivery issues. The other concerns the specific needs and circumstances of immigrant populations, especially from countries outside the Anglophone world. The closure of the Bureau of Immigration, Population and Multicultural Research was noted in this regard.

## SUB-THEMES AND RESEARCH AREAS

Staff discussion of the theme of social change and its continuation in existing and new projects identified four broad sub-themes as a workable basis for organising and managing research in the Centre. These are:

1. Work, Income Support and the Changing Labour Market
2. Changes in Households and Families
3. Poverty, Needs and Economic Inequality
4. Restructuring Social Support

The main issues to be addressed in each of the four areas are described below, along with an indication of some of the projects included in each area.

(Information regarding how to access more detailed information about each area or the agenda as a whole is provided later).

## 1 WORK, INCOME SUPPORT AND THE CHANGING LABOUR MARKET

This stream of research focuses on changes in the nature of work and the Australian labour market, and the impact of (monetary and non-monetary) income support on behaviour, with regard to labour force participation and/or dependence on forms of income support. It is clear that the upward trend in labour force participation is set to continue, making the task of providing sufficient

employment all the more challenging. The single greatest priority is to reduce the level of unemployment in general, and long-term unemployment in particular. Achieving this will require a range of general policies aimed at influencing both the demand and supply sides of the labour market, combined with a package of specific programs for groups facing particular labour market difficulties. Getting the interface between work and welfare right will continue to present a series of challenges to social and labour market policy development.

Some projects in this area study this at different stages of the life course: for example, at the start and end of the working life, at child-rearing age, or when caring for elderly or disabled relatives. Others focus on the labour market prospects and difficulties of specific groups, such as people with a disability. Others again consider the in- and out-flow from income support in a more general sense: that is, the factors that influence whether someone decides to take up income support, the effect of penalties on out-flow and (repeated) in- and out-flow over the life course.

Included among the projects in this area are: *Working but Poor: A Comparative Study of Low Incomes in Work* - which will continue to monitor changes in poverty among those in work and explore alternative policies for addressing their situation; *The Impact of Changes to Child Care Funding on Female Workforce Participation* - which will utilise a range of data sources to explore the impact of changes in child care funding on the living standards and labour force activity of families with children; *Exploring Income Support Dynamics* - which will analyse new longitudinal data to better understand the determinants of work and income support patterns; *Time Pressure, Equity and Welfare* - which will analyse how trends in time use behaviour are affecting the amount of 'free time' available and thus influencing changes in living standards;

*Assessing the Impact of the New Contestable Market in Employment Services* - which will investigate how well the Job Network is meeting the needs and expectations of job seekers; and *Career Jobs and Dead-end Jobs: Who Gets Them in the 1990s?* - which will use longitudinal data to assess the medium-term career outcomes of those who enter the labour market via 'dead-end' jobs.

## 2 CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

There is a tradition in the literature which acknowledges that welfare is an outcome of the operation of three major social institutions: the market, the state and the family (or household). Moreover, most of those who research comparative welfare systems agree that what distinguishes these systems is the particular mix of these institutions on which policy relies for the delivery of welfare. However, most research concentrates on the interactions between markets (income) and the state (transfers), with very little systematic work done on the contribution of families or households. Often, this is because much of the welfare that is created at home is produced by unpaid work. Since this work leaves no cash trail, it is invisible to conventional economic statistics such as gross domestic product, average weekly earnings, or employment statistics. However, these activities do leave a trace in terms of time spent. Recently, the United Nations has sponsored a serious attempt to measure the value of this unpaid household economy, based on the measurement of time inputs. It has been estimated that the dollar value of this 'time economy' is equivalent to the size of the entire cash economy (as measured by GDP).

Since much of the value of what is produced in the 'time economy' takes the form of activities performed on behalf of others - care - it is likely that the



total dollar value of transfers, in cash and kind (care) within households is greater than the total value of state transfers. In other words, the household sector of the economy is probably the most important element in the welfare system; private redistribution within and between households may exceed public redistribution engineered by and through the state.

It is clear that the balance between states, markets and families in welfare provision is shifting. A revolution in women's social status has been associated with their mass entry into the paid work force. This is happening at the very time when a combination of declining fertility and increasing longevity are producing an age structure which is likely to make unparalleled demands on the welfare system both public and private, particularly where individuals are unable to care for themselves (especially in the taken-for-granted areas of feeding and personal hygiene). The costs in terms of time and money in caring for such individuals are both massive and largely understudied.

One of the most important questions for welfare research at the end of this century concerns the effects of this shifting balance, and the costs to individuals and the community, of new forms of welfare provision. There needs to be a factually grounded understanding of the demands on the household economy and the capacity of markets and state to substitute for, or at least support and facilitate, household productive activities. It is important to have a firm grasp of the nature and extent of informal (unpaid) care and the social consequences of this mode of providing care.

In exploring these issues, some of the research findings that have emerged from the budget standards research may also be utilised, specifically those that attempt to quantify aspects of the operation and functioning of modern Australian households. Thus, the budget standards that have been derived provide the

basis for estimating the financial costs of engaging in leisure activity within the home, as well as the cost of participating in a range of social activities outside of the home (sporting events, spectator sports, cultural events, and so on).

Included among the projects in this area are: *State Support for Parents in the Home and Workplace* - which will examine issues surrounding the treatment by the tax and social security systems of child carers who remain 'at home'; *Changing Boundaries Between Family and Market* - which will explore how the phenomena of 'domestic outsourcing' is affecting the conventional boundaries between the market and domestic sectors; *Caregiving and Time Use* - which will utilise time use data to gain a better understanding of the time allocations of caregivers; and *The Impact of Demographic Change and Residential Patterns on the Provision of Informal Care* - which will explore future trends in the provision of informal care in the light of changes in demographic structure and living arrangements.

## **3 POVERTY, NEEDS AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**

It is well known that inequality increased dramatically in Australia during the 1980s. This increase has been widely measured and discussed, but many research issues remain outstanding. First, more recent evidence has tentatively suggested that the growth in inequality had tailed off, or even begun to decline, by the beginning of the 1990s. It is important to examine the extent of this decline, and the factors associated with it. Second, the growth in inequality during the 1980s was accompanied by considerable deregulation in the labour market, and took place against a background of high long-term unemployment and increasingly prevalent short-term, contract and part-time work. Poverty was no longer a phenomenon that was associated only with joblessness or welfare

dependency, but also, more recently, with low-paid work.

Third, there is the whole question of the impact of redistributive policies introduced since the mid-1980s, including the increased targeting of social security and related benefits and the stronger linking of social security receipt to active participation in the labour market under the 'active society' reforms.

The growth in income inequality during the 1980s was not a purely Australian phenomenon: it occurred in all industrialised countries and can perhaps be seen as one manifestation of an increasingly global economy. It is important to examine and compare the social policy implications of globalisation in Australia, its near neighbours and other industrialised countries - partly because such comparative research is inherently valuable as both a descriptor and explanator of national differences in economic structure, culture and policy regime. The Centre's ongoing involvement with the Luxembourg Income Study will provide the basis for much of its comparative distributional research, although this will also need to be supplemented by other forms of data in order to expand the scope of such comparative work.

Does income inequality in different countries manifest itself in other ways, for example through lower life expectancy, greater illiteracy or more crime? How do trends in inequality and poverty compare in Australia and South-East Asian countries and what implications do these have for the kind of social security policies that can work in the countries of Asia? What are the differences in social policy responses to poverty in these countries? How is the role of women in the labour market affected by social policies, and what are the implications for the welfare of families with children? What lessons can be drawn from

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## FORUM SESSIONS

These sessions have been one of the highlights of recent Conferences. They are designed to provide opportunities for active exchange of argument and opinion about topics on the contemporary policy agenda. For each forum we are inviting a number of speakers to open discussions with short presentations aimed at stimulating contributions and debate from the audience.

Current proposals for Forum Sessions include the following:

- Dangerous liaisons? Policy researchers meet the media
- Conflicting accounts: must increasing support for older people mean less help for the young?
- Strengthening families: what role for the state?
- Building a future that works: solutions to unemployment
- Stuck in the nest: causes and consequences of young people's prolonged dependency
- Social policy in the next millennium: policy utopias and dystopias

## CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS

The presentation of papers discussing social need, findings from new research, and the appropriateness and effectiveness of current policies and programs is always the heart of the National Social Policy Conference. As in previous years, there will be six concurrent streams of papers. The aim, as always, will be to include the widest possible range of contributed papers, while allowing plenty of time for comment and discussion from the floor.

# SOCIAL POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JUSTICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

21-23 JULY 1999  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**JILL ROE**  
**Professor of History**  
**Macquarie University**

*Social Policy and the End of the Cold War in Australia: Where Do We Stand?*

Social policy has been a key focus of Jill Roe's wide-ranging contribution to the modern history of Australia. Her writings have helped to shape contemporary understanding of key periods of Australia's twentieth century experience, including Federation, the depression of the 1930s, and the present day. The part women have played in forming this tradition has been a further theme of her research. Her Keynote Address to the 1999 National Social Policy Conference will reflect on Australia's unique social policy tradition at the start of a new century.

## PLENARY ADDRESSES

**PETER TOWNSEND**  
**Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, University of Bristol and**  
**Visiting Professor of International Social Policy, London School of**  
**Economics**

*Poverty, Social Exclusion and Social Polarisation: The Need to Construct an International Welfare State*

Peter Townsend has set the terms for British social policy debates for more than a generation. He has written extensively on poverty, health, social policy and old age. His recent work in these areas has concerned the definition and measurement of a subjective poverty line, advice to the UK Government's Pension Review, and a review of the impact of poverty on health. During the 1990s he has extended the themes of his work to international levels, addressing issues such as international poverty, social polarisation and the deepening hierarchy of power. His conference paper will take up the case for an international welfare state.

**ANNE-MARIE GUILLEMARD**  
**Professor of Sociology**  
**University of Paris V (René Descartes)**

*Work or Retirement at Career's End? A New Challenge for Company Strategies and Public Policies*

Anne-Marie Guillemard is widely known for her research and writing on work, retirement and the changing life course, and for her national and cross-national research on ageing and social policy. She advised the French Government on ageing and retirement policies during the 1980s, and in the 1990s has been the Co-ordinator of the European Commission's Observatory on Ageing Policies. She is to be the Social Policy Research Centre's Visiting Fellow for 1999. Her address to the conference will put policy choices about work and retirement in an ageing society in cross-national perspective.

# CONFERENCE THEME

At century's end Australians face a global environment fraught with uncertainty. Changes in taxation, employment and the financial relationships between the Commonwealth and the States are on the domestic agenda. The conference theme invites reflection on the policies, the means to fund them, and the kinds of delivery mechanisms that will most effectively contribute to the well-being of all Australians in the next century.

In Australia as elsewhere, there is active policy experimentation with new ways of combining public and private arrangements for social care. Contemporary social policy puts strong emphasis on markets and the economy as the primary sources of income, opportunity and well-being. There is active debate about the social correlates of these policy trends – the justice of reward for effort and achievement, the responsibility of governments to address the vulnerabilities of contemporary employment and family life, and the potential for social exclusion.

The Australian welfare system has long understood justice and responsibility in terms of targeting: this identifies fairness with assistance for those whose need is greatest, and responsibility with efficient use of scarce public resources. Over the last decade targeting has been extended and intensified. In the same period, demographic changes and uncertainties in employment and family life have caused growing numbers of individuals and families to have to depend on the welfare safety net.

There is also increasing emphasis on the responsibilities incumbent on citizens, and widespread public support for the idea that welfare entails duties as well as rights. This has taken a number of forms. In social security, spousal dependency has been replaced with responsibility for the care of children or dependent others as a ground for support. Youth and employment policies stress the obligation of claimants to make themselves employable, particularly in the light of the widespread popularity of 'work for the dole'. This is an appropriate time to reflect on the new ethos of mutual obligation. Does it offer new legitimacy for claims to social support at a time of anti-welfare backlash, or does it encourage the erosion of established social rights of citizenship?

1999 is the International Year of Older People. The conference will provide an opportune time to reflect on issues of justice and responsibility in social policy as they affect older people.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The presentation of original papers across the range of social policy fields is always central to the success of the National Social Policy Conference. We are now inviting offers of papers from researchers, teachers and practitioners of Australian social policy. Papers may present the results of research, discuss conceptual approaches to social policy and policy research, describe work in progress, or raise new issues for social policy debate.

As in recent years, conference discussion will be organised in five thematic strands. As before, there will also be an Open section for papers on other subjects of interest and importance.

### 1 WORK AND WELFARE

Secure income from wages, long the cornerstone of Australian social policy, has become more uncertain. Unemployment remains high, and many jobs are insecure and/or less than full time. The consequences of labour market changes have been different for men and women, older and younger workers, people in capital cities and regional areas, and long-resident and newly arrived workers. There have been profound changes in policy, including labour market deregulation, the instigation of a competitive market in employment services, the terms of eligibility for unemployment assistance, and retirement income. The conference will provide an opportunity to reflect both on those policies which would reduce unemployment, and those which will promote a just and responsible welfare system capable of adapting to the emerging patterns of employment and earnings throughout the life course.

### 2 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

For two decades incomes in Australia have been growing more unequal, but some evidence suggests that the growth of inequality may have slowed. At issue in the assessment of these trends are developments in both earned

*continued on page 10*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Plan now to attend the 1999 National Social Policy Conference. This year's conference will feature one of Australia's most distinguished historians, and in addition will bring to Australia two of Europe's leading social policy scholars. There will be Forum Sessions, and six streams of contributed papers. The Conference will also provide a timely occasion for discussion of the issues affecting older Australians in the context of 1999 as the International Year of Older People.

### DATES

21-23 July 1999

### PLACE

University of New South Wales, Sydney

### TIME

This year the Conference will start at mid-morning, on Wednesday, 21 July, and conclude at mid-afternoon on Friday, 23 July.

### COST OF REGISTRATION

Includes lunch each conference day and attendance at the Conference Reception.

Early Bird.....	\$220.00
(Registration by 12 June, 1999)	
Standard.....	\$280.00
Concession.....	\$125.00
(Student/unwaged)	
One Day Only.....	\$125.00

### CONFERENCE DINNER

22 July 1999, price and venue to be announced.

### ACCOMMODATION

Basic on-campus accommodation will be available.

### CONFERENCE WEBSITE

For more information on the Conference, see the Conference Website at [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au).

## SELECTION OF PAPERS

Acceptance of papers for presentation at the conference is necessarily competitive. Selection is the responsibility of the SPRC, and will be based on the abstracts submitted.

Criteria for selection will include academic quality, originality and relevance to current issues and debates in social policy. We welcome papers presenting all points of view.

After the conference we will, as usual, be publishing a collection of selected conference papers. Selection of papers for publication will be based on the full written paper and a peer review process as required for DEETYA recognition as an E1-category publication.

If you wish to offer a paper, please send us the title and an abstract of no more than 200 words. Please specify which thematic strand you feel your paper falls into. We reserve the right to place it elsewhere, where appropriate, in the interests of balance.

## SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

Please send your submission to:  
1999 NATIONAL SOCIAL  
POLICY CONFERENCE  
SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH  
CENTRE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NSW  
SYDNEY 2052

Or fax to: (02) 9385 1049  
Or email to:  
conferenceorg@unsw.edu.au

**CLOSING DATE:  
12 MARCH 1999**

# SOCIAL POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JUSTICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

income and in social security and taxation arrangements. At the same time, discussion of the emergence of 'working poverty' suggests that paid employment alone may no longer be a guarantee against poverty in Australian society. The prospect of a consumption tax has raised issues about the measurement of patterns of inequality in living standards in the context of compensating the 'losers' from tax reform. At the turn of the century Australia also faces important policy questions concerning social and economic deprivation among indigenous Australians, relativities of opportunity and well-being between urban and rural and regional Australia, and inequalities associated with immigration and cultural diversity.

## 3 THE LIFE COURSE, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL POLICY

The ageing of the Australian population, though moderate compared to many other countries, is raising questions about the appropriate social and fiscal relations between generations, including in the areas of superannuation and the funding of nursing home care. These concern both the distribution of opportunities to contribute, on both paid and unpaid bases, and the sustainability of present social policy arrangements. Similar questions concern young people and their access to education, employment and independence in adulthood. Policies for families with children confront a combination of increasing investment in children, changing patterns of family formation and dissolution, and the need of families for two incomes. Sole parents in Australia continue to be over-represented among the poor, while recently the situation of all parents has emerged as a vital policy issue.

## 4 FUNDING AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES

The last decade has seen a shift away from direct state provision. Increasingly, the state acts as purchaser, contractor or regulator of services provided by voluntary sector and private providers. There is also growing emphasis on the user pays funding principle, and experimentation with brokerage and other co-ordination mechanisms. Market-based principles of competition and managerial techniques are also spreading within the public sector itself, so that community sector, private and corporatised public bodies compete against each other in tendering for service contracts. The conference sessions on this topic will provide opportunities for discussion of the influence of these new modes of provision on outcomes, in terms of user access, quality of service delivery, regional variation and the likely impacts on social capital, or the capacity for community-based self-help.

## 5 RESTRUCTURING SOCIAL SUPPORT

There is lively debate about whether re-organisation of the public, private and voluntary sectors represents a retrenchment of the welfare state or its restructuring. While some of the developments occurring in Australia are unique to this country, many reflect wider trends to renew and realign welfare state institutions in the context of globalisation. Some theorists believe these developments signal a shift from the redistributive welfare state of the postwar period to a new form of regulatory welfare state. Do such changes portend a new role for the state as the guiding authority in public/private partnerships in social care? How are justice and responsibility to be understood in such a new policy framework? Comparative discussions point to important variations among the welfare states of different countries, including in the treatment of gender in their social policy frameworks.

## 6 OPEN

The conference will have an 'Open' section providing for discussion of topics not included in any of the areas described above, and we welcome papers for this section.



# NEW SPRC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR 1999-2001

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 7

such cross-national comparisons about the success of the various policies that have been introduced at the national level?

It is arguable that there is considerable scope to widen the methodological debate on poverty measurement in Australia. How is the profile of poverty changed if expenditure is used as a measure of resources rather than income? Which is the better indicator on which to assess changes in inequality and poverty, on both theoretical and practical grounds? How do people define the concept of poverty themselves? Who do they think is poor, and for what reason? What form should government assistance to the poor take?

These issues have been reflected in the social policy studies conducted as part of past SPRC research agenda. As inequality is likely to remain an important issue, it will continue to be an important part of the SPRC research agenda for the coming years.

Included among the projects in this area are: *The Concept, Measurement and Causes of Poverty* - what is happening to poverty in Australia, and what are the causes and consequences of poverty?; *Monitoring Income Distribution and Redistribution in Australia* - how is the inequality profile changing in this and other countries and what impact are different social policies having on the distribution of resources? *Attitudes to Inequality, Work and Social Policies* - which will involve a large national survey designed to illuminate issues surrounding the nature and impact of values and attitudes towards social problems and policies in Australia in the 1990s; *Proposed Research on Budget Standards* - how can budget standards best inform social analysis and policy development and where is more work required to build on that already undertaken?; *Researching Equivalence Scales* - how can research on budget standards and time use be used most effectively to inform research on equivalence scale issues?; and *Women, Work and*

*Welfare: Welfare State Programs, Female Labour Force Participation and Inequality in Industrialised Countries* - which will explore how the welfare state has affected women's labour force involvement and the standard of living of families in different industrial countries.

## 4 RESTRUCTURING SOCIAL SUPPORT

The last decade has seen the emergence of a range of important initiatives in social policy involving fundamental changes to the way that social support is provided to those who are unable to provide for or care for themselves. Change is most evident in what have been the principal institutions of state welfare: the organisation and finance of services and the payment of social security benefits. But changes in these key institutions for welfare delivery form only part of a broader picture of welfare restructuring. Fundamental transformations are also taking place in the relations of welfare, especially in the relationship between state, community and households, in interactions between the labour market and the social security system, and in the relationship between the public, private and voluntary sectors. While some of the developments occurring in Australia are without international precedent, many are part of a larger global picture of renewal and realignment as attempts are made to enhance performance and, in some cases, to completely redirect the effort of existing institutions.

One of the major sub-themes of the restructuring currently under way in Australia is the shift away from the direct provision of social welfare by the state. Until recently, the state was regarded as the natural provider of certain types of services and benefits. In some instances, the state also sought to foster community responsibility, acting in partnership with non-

governmental and private bodies. Now, the state is increasingly becoming a purchaser, contractor or regulator of services provided by voluntary sector and private providers, and there is growing emphasis on the 'user pays' principle as a means of funding.

Market-based principles of competition and managerial techniques are also spreading within the public sector itself. In some instances, attempts have been or are being made to create 'quasi-markets' by issuing contracts for services based on competition between tenderers, in which community sector, private and corporatised public bodies compete against each other. As a consequence, the role of the state is changing away from that of a funder/provider to that of a purchaser of services, setter of performance standards and regulator of service contracts. There are also signs that operating within these quasi-markets is leading some traditional non-profit bodies to behave more like commercial agencies, with the result that the boundaries between public and private are becoming increasingly blurred.

These and other developments are not taking place in exactly the same way or at the same speed in all areas of social welfare. There are neither good data on the outcomes of many of the changes, nor on their longer term impacts. A program of studies, some of which would be primarily intended to document and monitor the changes taking place, others of which would be more deliberately evaluative in character, would be of considerable value in the present circumstances in helping to identify the key principles involved, the extent to which models and methods of application vary across sectors, and variations in outcomes in terms of user access, quality of service delivery, regional variation and the likely impacts on social capital, or the capacity for community-based self-help.

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# NEW SPRC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR 1999-2001

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 11

Other studies may be of a more fundamental nature, involving literature reviews, data analyses or reviews of performance measures.

This area of research also provides an opportunity for theoretical research on citizenship and social policy in an era of restructuring. While there are common factors giving impetus to welfare state restructuring across countries, there has been a good deal of variation in outcomes in terms of the retrenchment of some forms of provision and the expansion of others. Some of the sources of such variation have been identified with distinctive trajectories of change among 'liberal', 'corporatist', and 'social democratic' types of social policy regime, but this discussion is little developed and has largely neglected the important dimension of gender and gender politics. More recent discussion points to significant differences between the politics of welfare state expansion and those of retrenchment, where policies and programs have constituencies capable of mobilising to defend what they have come to view as rights and entitlements.

To date, most comparative study has focused on cash payments such as income support and allied entitlements, with relatively little attention devoted to services and service delivery. As already noted, these latter and the reconfiguration of public and private provision are currently at the forefront of welfare state restructuring, with repercussions for both the citizens, clients or customers who use them and the citizens, employees or volunteers who staff them. It is proposed to continue the line of work developed in the previous research agenda under the theme of Citizenship and the Mixed Economy of Welfare, applying comparative and historical perspectives.

Included among the projects in this area are: *Changes in the Organisation, Finance and Control of Key Services* - which will compare the impacts of reforms to service

provision in the fields of employment services and aged care in order to see what general lessons can be drawn; *Gender and the Restructuring of Welfare States* - using a comparative framework, this project will explore how gender relations have been affected by welfare state restructuring in different countries; *Funding of Long-Term Care* - what alternative funding options are available and what are Australian attitudes towards each of them?; *Sustainable Disability Policy Development? From Charity to Individual Responsibility* - focusing on disability policy, this project will explore how the policy paradigm has changed and with what outcomes for the clients of disability services; and *Information, Access and Coordination of Services* - which will explore the cost-effectiveness of information, assessment and brokerage services, initially by reviewing the available Australian and overseas literature.

## OVERVIEW

The above descriptions cover only a truncated list of the projects that form the new research agenda. In total, the new agenda contains 31 projects (of which 12 are identified as suitable for external funding). Of the total, eight projects are already being undertaken, while a further three represent the current interests of key staff (e.g. in the areas of budget standards, gender issues and equivalence scales) and three of those listed as having the potential for external funding have already attracted such funding since the agenda was developed. This leaves 17 new projects, covering topics as diverse as income dynamics, income support for indigenous Australians, the costs of caregiving, demographic change and the provision of informal care, the impact of the welfare state on the economic status of women, the funding of long-term care and the role of information and coordination services.

It is difficult to find any of the major issues currently confronting development of Australian social policy not featured somewhere in the list. Of course, listing the projects like this provides little information about how the issues are conceived or how it is proposed to conduct the research. Those who wish to find out more about the details of each project are invited to contact the Centre's Publications and Information Officer, who will provide a longer document that goes into more detail than is possible here. That document can also be accessed on the Centre's web page at: [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au).

It is also possible to contact staff of the Centre who have responsibility for developing and managing the program of research in each of the four main areas. These are: for area 1, Dr Tony Eardley; area 2, Mr Michael Bittman; area 3, Dr Bruce Bradbury; and area 4, Dr Michael Fine, all of whom have their contact numbers listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Alternatively, you are invited to contact either the Director, Professor Peter Saunders, or the Deputy Director, Dr Sheila Shaver, with questions on any aspect of the agenda.

Developing a new research agenda provides a unique opportunity for systematic review of current research and identification of areas where it is lacking or needs further strengthening. The SPRC is in the fortunate position of being able to engage in such an exercise on a regular basis and to receive the very valuable input of a broad range of social policy experts. We hope very much that the research agenda described here reflects the high level of expertise, both within and outside of the Centre, that has gone into its development. Having identified the key issues, we must now press on with the task of undertaking the research. We hope that in three years time, the fruits of the developmental effort put in last year will add to our understanding of social issues and how best to address them.

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

## **WORKING BUT POOR? LOW PAY AND POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA**

**SPRC Discussion Paper No. 91**

*Tony Eardley*

There is talk of a new phenomenon of 'working poverty' in Australia, whereby the levels and concentration of low pay are pushing incomes below the poverty line even where family members are in paid employment.

This paper examines the growth of working poverty in Australia from the beginning of the 1980s to the mid-1990s. The analysis shows that low hourly pay does not in itself equal poverty: the biggest increase in family poverty has been among employees not in low pay. Yet the proportion of low-paid workers who are also in poor families has grown to about one in five. It is not only a question of part-time or casual work. Poverty has also been increasing among those in full-time work.

The paper also discusses the policy implications of these findings.

## **EXTENSION AMIDST RETRENCHMENT GENDER AND WELFARE STATE RESTRUCTURING IN AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN**

**SPRC Discussion Paper No. 92**

*Sheila Shaver*

European, North American and Australasian welfare states are not being retrenched as much as restructured. Gender relations and changes in the social construction of individuals and families form a

key dimension of this restructuring. Significantly, social changes associated with gender have worked to extend and reshape welfare states, to respond to new claims and political constituencies, while other forces have sought to contract them. How secure are women's welfare state gains likely to be in an era of retrenchment and reform? This paper compares the restructuring of the gender models of the Australian and Swedish welfare states in the 1980s and 1990s.

## **USING BUDGET STANDARDS TO ASSESS THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES**

**SPRC Discussion Paper No. 93**

*Peter Saunders*

This paper describes the methods used by the Budget Standards Unit at the Social Policy Research Centre to develop a set of indicative budget standards for a range of Australian households. Some of the results from the project are then compared with estimates of actual household expenditures derived from the Household Expenditure Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The sensitivity of budget standards to some of the key assumptions and judgements made in developing them is illustrated in two examples: housing costs and spatial variations in prices. The paper concludes that one important contribution that budget standards research can make to discussion of the adequacy of household incomes is in providing a transparent framework for selecting items needed to maintain a particular standard of living and translating them through prices into the budgets required to purchase them.

## **LATER LIFE, GENDER AND ETHNICITY CHANGING THEORY FOR SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH**

**SPRC Discussion Paper No. 94**

*Gail Wilson*

This paper considers how developments in theories of gender and ethnicity might contribute to policy research on aspects of ageing. It argues that existing research relies too much on chronological age as the key descriptor for 'old' people, and thus provides an inadequate knowledge base for emancipatory policy, practice and theory building. The paper examines the range of discourses commonly brought to discussions of ageing and later life, which tend often to disempower certain groups, including older women and older people of other cultures. It also explores the ways in which older men and women resist these exercises of power over them by refusing to conform to stereotypes of behaviour or identity. The paper concludes by arguing that research on older people needs to draw on developments in other branches of social science, and calls for greater participation in research by older people.

## **SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND FAMILY WELFARE THE MONEY AND TIME COSTS OF LEISURE**

**SPRC Discussion Paper No. 95**

*Michael Bittman*

The concept of social exclusion has become the central organising

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# ARC GRANTS FOR THE CENTRE

The Social Policy Research Centre has had considerable success in the 1998 round of Australian Research Council grants, with staff being awarded one Large Grant (LG), one Strategic Partnerships with Industry - Research and Training (SPIRT) Grant and two Small Grants (SG). The projects receiving awards are as follows.

*A Time Squeeze? Changes in Working Hours and in Time Spent in Family Responsibilities and Housework (LG)*

Chief Investigator: Mr Michael Bittman

Total funding over three years: \$98 469

Using four time use surveys covering the period between 1974 and 1997, this study will explore whether the growth of non-standard working hours and forms of employment, together with women's greater attachment to the labour market, have produced a society with declining leisure.

*Assessing the Impact of the New Contestable Market in Employment Services (SPIRT)*

Chief Investigator: Dr Tony Eardley

Total funding over two years : \$194 000 (including industry partners' contributions in cash and kind)

In collaboration with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Job Futures Ltd., this study will examine how employment service providers within the new Job Network adapt to operating within a quasi-market, how this affects job seekers' access and outcomes, and whether employers' needs are better met.

*Casual Jobs in the 1990s: How Do they Affect Career Prospects? (SG)*

Chief Investigators: Ms Jenny Chalmers and Dr Guyonne Kalb

Total funding over one year: \$19 849

Based on analysis of the ABS Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns (SEUP) data set, this project will estimate individuals' probabilities of working in casual or insecure employment and of spending long periods in such work. Further, it will examine whether being in casual employment affects future career prospects.

*Cross-national Comparisons of Child Poverty Patterns and Dynamics (SG)*

Chief Investigator: Dr Bruce Bradbury

Total funding over one year: \$19 483

This project will analyse child poverty rates and movements in and out of poverty, using data from 25 industrialised countries. Data from the Luxembourg Income Study and a number of longitudinal surveys of family living standards will be utilised.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

concept in social policy research, especially in Europe. The term 'social exclusion' has displaced many of the terms formerly in use, such as 'inequality', 'deprivation' and 'poverty'. Social exclusion is a multi-dimensional concept, and draws our attention to how people can be 'shut out of society' by their inability to participate in customary leisure activities. An analysis

of the most recent Household Expenditure Survey shows the consumption of leisure goods and services is powerfully determined by income. However, analysis of the most recent Time Use Survey shows that access to time for leisure participation is most powerfully determined by hours of employment, family responsibilities and gender. After controlling for working

hours, household income has no significant effect on available leisure time. A leisure-time poverty line, based on half-median leisure time, is used to show which groups are most excluded from leisure by time constraints. The paper considers a range of policies to alleviate social exclusion from leisure participation.

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## THE INCREASING FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR PARENTS

### SPRC Discussion Paper No. 96

Judy Schneider

It is commonly mentioned in the youth policy literature that the financial dependency of young people on their parents is increasing and that this is likely to have an adverse effect on the

well-being of young people, their families and the community in general. To date, however, evaluation of the extent to which financial dependency has increased, for whom and when, has been fragmented and limited by data used. This paper aims to address this deficit by measuring the increase in financial dependency of young people in Australia using available published information from 1943 onwards and confidentialised unit record file information from the Income Distribution Surveys conducted by the Australian

Bureau of Statistics between 1980 and 1996. The main findings are that dependency has increased substantially since the late 1960s and changes over the last 14 years have been particularly great for young people aged 15 to 20 years. Changes for this group are largely the result of increased participation in education and lower employee incomes. Further changes may occur as a consequence of changes to remuneration for young people which is currently under review by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

## PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Please mark all boxes to indicate which publications you are ordering

### SPRC DISCUSSION PAPERS (FREE)

- ☐ No. 91 Tony Eardley, Working But Poor? Low Pay and Poverty in Australia
- ☐ No. 92 Sheila Shaver, Extension Amidst Retrenchment: Gender and Welfare State Restructuring in Australia and Sweden
- ☐ No. 93 Peter Saunders, Using Budget Standards to Assess the Well-being of Families
- ☐ No. 94 Gail Wilson, Later Life, Gender and Ethnicity: Changing Theory for Social Policy Research
- ☐ No. 95 Michael Bittman, Social Participation and Family Welfare: The Money and Time Costs of Leisure

- ☐ No. 96 Judy Schneider, The Increasing Financial Dependency of Young People on Their Parents

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# SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

# 1999

# SESSION ONE

# SEMINAR PROGRAM

Seminars are held at the SPRC, 3rd Floor, Samuels Building, University of New South Wales (adjacent to Gate 11, Botany Street, Randwick). The times and dates of the seminars are subject to change. If you wish to confirm details before attending a seminar, contact Jenny Chalmers or Cathy Thomson on 02 9385 3833.

**TUESDAY 2 MARCH, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Gary Moore**  
Director  
Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)  
*Social development policies and the NSW election*

**TUESDAY 9 MARCH, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Dr Uwe Becker**  
Department of Political Science  
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*The Dutch 'Delta Model': rising employment in a still generous welfare system*

**TUESDAY 16 MARCH, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Professor Peter Kemp**  
Department of Urban Studies  
University of Glasgow, Scotland  
*Housing benefit and welfare reform in the UK*

**TUESDAY 23 MARCH, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Professor John Piggott and Suzanne Doyle**  
School of Economics  
University of New South Wales  
*Mandating annuities*

**TUESDAY 30 MARCH, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Dr Sheila Shaver**  
Social Policy Research Centre  
University of New South Wales  
*Right ideas: social citizenship in retirement income*

**TUESDAY 13 APRIL, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Melanie Henwood**  
Independent Health and Social Care Analyst,  
United Kingdom  
*The future of long-term care in the UK*

**TUESDAY 20 APRIL, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Dr Bruce Bradbury**  
Social Policy Research Centre  
University of New South Wales  
*Child poverty across industrialised nations*

**TUESDAY 27 APRIL, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Associate Professor Stephen Bell**  
School of Government  
University of Tasmania  
*Unemployment and the politics of redistribution*

**TUESDAY 4 MAY, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Jocelyn Pech, Helen Boden and Frances McCoull**  
Department of Family and Community Services  
*Transgenerational income support dependence: work in progress*

**TUESDAY 11 MAY, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Associate Professor Richard Taylor**  
Department of Public Health and Community Medicine  
University of Sydney  
*Socioeconomic status, work and health*

**TUESDAY 25 MAY, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Dr Katja Forssen**  
Department of Social Policy  
University of Turku, Finland  
*Family policy as a divider of welfare states: a study on the development of family policy in the Nordic and liberal welfare states*

**THURSDAY 27 MAY, 12.30-2.00PM**

**Dr Veli-Matti Ritakallio**  
Department of Social Policy  
University of Turku, Finland  
*Owner occupancy, housing costs and subsistence over the life course - comparing two home-owning societies (Australia and Finland)*

**SPRC**  
Social Policy Research Centre