



Social Policy Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Contents

1. The Centre	1
2. Director’s Report	2
Staffing	2
Higher Degree Research Program	2
Events Program	2
Staff Achievements	3
3. SPRC Management Board	4
Executive Staff	4
4. SPRC Staff	5
Research Staff	5
Support Staff	6
Visitors and Conjoint Appointments	8
5. Research Program	9
Poverty, social inequality and social exclusion	9
Employment, family and the care of dependent others	9
Community services outcomes and evaluation	10
The organisation and delivery of human services	12
Comparative social policy	13
Australian Research Council Grants awarded during 2011	14
Collaborative Research Network	14
Indigenous Research Program	15
6. Higher Degree Research Program	16
Annual Workshop for SPRC Higher Degree Research Students	19
7. Intern Program	20
8. Dissemination	21
SPRC Newsletter	21
SPRC Research Report Series	21
Other Reports	22
Occasional Papers	22
Books	22
Book Chapters	23
Journal Articles	23
Refereed Conference papers	27
Other Publications	27

SPRC Seminar Series	28
9. In-kind contributions from Industry Partners on ARC Linkage Grants	30
10. Statement of Financial Performance 2011	32

1. The Centre

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC or the Centre) conducts research, provides higher-degree research training, and fosters discussion of the nature and consequences of social policy and of the social needs and processes which give rise to it. The SPRC undertakes research across a wide range of social policy topics,

2. Director's Report

Staffing

While the SPRC made a number of new appointments, there was also a considerable reduction in the number of staff in 2011. In addition, the University recognised the achievements of a number of staff through promotion.

Departures

David Abelló
 Duncan Aldridge
 Sharni Chan
 Lucy Day
 Robyn Edwards
 Roxanne Lawson
 Jane Lloyd
 Sarah Maddison
 Silvia Mendolia
 Killian Mullan
 Marianne Rajkovic
 Melissa Roughley
 Juanita Vargas
 Karina Wilmott

New Appointments

Rosemary Kayess
 Ariella Meltzer
 Margaret Raven
 Fiona Williams
 Karina Wilmott

Promotions

Lyn Craig
 Xiaoyuan Shang
 Jen Skattebol

Higher Degree Research Program

The SPRC provides interdisciplinary PhD training in social policy in a stimulating and supportive environment. The SPRC offers a unique opportunity for higher degree by research study at PhD and Masters by Research in areas that explore and extend the theory and practice of social policy in Australia and internationally. In 2011 the centre had 26 higher degree research students.

Events Program

The SPRC hosted the 12th Australian Social Policy Conference, Social Policy in a Complex World, from 6-8 July 2011. The Conference program included the Second Chinese Social Policy Conference and for the first time a Higher Degree Research Workshop.

The Conference was officially opened by Professor James Donald, Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and Commissioner Alison McClelland, of the Australian Government Productivity Commission. The plenary speakers were **Professor Paula England**, Professor of Sociology, Stanford University USA; **Professor Bea Cantillon**, Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium; and

The SPRC is looking forward to the next Australian Social Policy Conference to be held in 2013.

In addition to the conference, the Centre once again ran a successful seminar program. There were 14 seminars during the year, a number of which were collaborations. The 2011 Seminar Program was jointly organised by Roger Patulny and Melissa Wong.

In April 2011 the Centre hosted a workshop on “The Wellbeing of Children in Australia” that brought together Australian and international experts working on these issues with policy makers and advocacy groups. The workshop presented results from two Australian Research Council funded projects at the University of New South Wales, the first on ‘Comparing the living standards of children and older people within and between nations’, and the second on ‘Supporting families: Horizontal and vertical equity in the Australian tax-benefit system in historical and comparative perspectives’.

In October 2011, the Centre co-hosted a workshop on “Emotions in social life: New advances in sociological and policy research”. This one-day workshop was co-hosted with the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney. The workshop brought together leading Australian researchers to present and discuss their research on the interconnections between emotionality, social theory and policy, and was successful in improving the visibility of sociological research on emotions within Australia.

Staff Achievements

Professor Deborah Brennan was appointed to the NSW Government Review of funding for early childhood education.

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3. SPRC Management Board

At December 2011

Professor James Donald, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW (Chair)

Professor Ilan Katz, Director, SPRC, UNSW

Dr kylie valentine, Deputy Director, SPRC, UNSW

Ms Melissa Roughley, Faculty General Manager, FASS, UNSW

Ms Urania Stamios, Senior Management Accountant, FASS, UNSW

Dr Kristy Muir, Associate Dean (Research), FASS and Senior Research Fellow
SPRC

Mr Warwick Dawson, Director, Research Partnerships

Mr David Cami, Administration Coordinator, SPRC, UNSW (Attendee)

Meeting Dates: 9 March, 18 May, 22 July, and 20 September

Executive Staff

Professor and Director

Ilan Katz (BA Witwatersrand, PhD Brunel)

ARC QEII Fellow and Deputy Director

ARC Post Doctoral Fellow and Research Fellow

Roger Patulny (BA/Econ ANU, PhD UNSW)

UNSW Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Fellow

Natasha Cortis (BEc (SocSc) Hons PhD Syd, GradCert PubAdmin Canb)

Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Fellow

Marilyn McHugh (BSW Syd, PhD UNSW)

Research Fellows

Andrew Griffiths (BA USyd, MA in International Studies UTS)

Fiona Hilferty (BEd Hons, PhD Syd)

Shannon McDermott (BA Boston College MPS PhD, UNSW)

Margaret Raven (Bsc Hons, UWA)

Jen Skattebol (B Ed, Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood), PhD, UWS)

Cathy Thomson (BA Syd., MA UNSW, and PhD candidate)

Research Associates

Megan Blaxland (BSocSc Hons UNSW, PhD Syd)

Megan Bedford (BSocSc Hons UNSW)

Saul Flaxman (BSocSC Hons, UNSW)

Sandra Gendera (MA Vienna)

Myra Hamilton (BA Hons Syd)

Philip Hayes (BA NUI Galway, Msc Economics NUI Galway)

Silvia Mendolia Laurea (BA Hons, Economics) University of Turin (Italy), MSc (Economics) UCL (UK)

Abigail Powell (BA Hons, Sheffield, MA Nottingham, PhD, Loughborough)

Christiane Purcal (MA PhD Olden)

Pooja Sawrikar (BPsych PhD Syd)

Denise Thompson (BA Hons, PhD UNSW)

Melissa Wong (BEcon Syd, MCom, PhD UNSW)

Anna Zhu (BEcon UNSW, and PhD candidate)

Senior Research Officer

Christine Eastman (BA Comm Social Inquiry, UTS, GC Comm UTS)

Research Officers

David Abello BASocSc UTS

BJ Newton (BA Hons UNSW)

Ioana Oprea (BEc, MA IPE Tsukuba, Japan, and PhD candidate)

Casual Researchers

Elizabeth Adamson (MSc Policy Studies, Edinburgh, BA Hons, Queens, Canada)

Jane Bullen (BA Hons, ANU, PhD UTS)

Ariella Meltzer (BSocSci Hons)

Support Staff

Acting Centre Manager and Administration Coordinator

David Cami (BSocWk Brussels, Diploma Ed Ghent)

Project Coordinator

Marie Delaney (MA Women's Studies UNSW, Certificate Marketing Macq.GSM)

Analysis and Reporting Manager

Roxanne Lawson (Assoc Dip (Bus Admin), OAC)

Research Support Coordinator

Catherine Keast (BSc Social Psychology, Hons, University of Kent)

Research Proposal Coordinator

Carol Sullivan (BA Visual CSA, MLITT Women's Studies ANU)

Administration Officer

Lisa McElhinney

Administration Assistant / Receptionist

Rebecca Sinclair

Communications Officer

Juanita Vargas (BA, Media Macq)

Care to work? Expanding choice and access to workforce participation for mature-aged women carers

Bettina Cass

Principal funder: UNSW

What does a jobless family cost the government?

Peter Whiteford

Principal funder: PM&C

Understanding the barriers to 13 and 26 week employment outcomes

Peter Whiteford, Myra Hamilton

Principal funder: Campbell Page

Long-term unemployed and jobless people: a literature review and pilot study

Deb Brennan

Principal funder: Campbell Page

Employment requirements of Australia's major industries

Trish Hill

Principal funder: Campbell Page

The direct costs of children

Bruce Bradbury

Principal funder: FaHCSIA

Community services outcomes and evaluation

Evaluation of the Time Out House Initiative (TOHI)

Karen Fisher, Sandra Gendera, Kristy Muir (Advisor), Sally Robinson, Natalie Clements, Lesley Chenoweth, Donna McAuliffe (Griffith University)

Principal funder: Queensland Alliance

Evaluation of the Elizabeth Street Common Ground Supportive Housing Project

Kristy Muir, Shannon McDermott, Marie Delaney, Pooja Sawrikar, Jane Bullen, Ioana Oprea, Tony Eardley (Advisor)

Principal funder: DHS (Victoria)

Evaluation of the program to expand the residential determination program to place children and vulnerable families in community-based detention

Ilan Katz, Sandra Gendera and Christine Eastman

Principal funder: DIAC

Evaluation of New Income Management in the Northern Territory

Ilan Katz, Bruce Bradbury, Christine Eastman and Marie Delaney

Principal funder: FaHCSIA, SPREP

beyondblue research impact evaluation

Deborah Brennan, Abigail Powell, Jane Bullen and kylie valentine

Principal funder: beyondblue

Protecting Australia's children research audit

Myfanwy McDonald, Daryl Higgins (AIFS), kylie valentine (SPRC) and Alister Lamont (AIFS)

Principal Funder: FaHCSIA

Review of the Interagency Plan Performance Framework

Sarah Maddison, Andrew Griffiths, kylie valentine, Jane Lloyd

Principal funder: Aboriginal Affairs NSW

Proposal to develop a methodology and data collection instrument to map the Australian Government's investment in the successful development of all young Australians

Gerry Redmond and Ilan Katz

Principal funder: DEEWR, Office for Youth

Evaluation capacity development for the Aboriginal child disability and family support research

Karen Fisher, Marianne Rajkovic, Darryl Cronin and Ariella Meltzer

Principal funder: Northcott Disability Services

Disability supported accommodation analysis

Karen Fisher

Principal funder: NSW Treasury

Evaluation of the Michael Intensive Supported Housing Accord

Tony Eardley

Principal funder: University of Western Australia

Advisory services for Stage 1 of the NSW Out-of-home Care Study

Ilan Katz

Principal funder: AIFS

Assistance in Developing an evaluation framework for the introduction of domestic violence clauses into industrial awards and agreements

kylie valentine

Principal funder: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House

Common Approach to Assessment Referral and Support Project (CAARS II)

Ilan Katz, Fiona Hilferty

Principal funder: ARACY

Assistance in Developing an evaluation framework for the introduction of domestic violence clauses into industrial awards and agreements

kylie valentine

Principal funder: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House

Common Approach to Assessment Referral and Support Project (CAARS II)

Ilan Katz, Fiona Hilferty

Principal funder: ARACY

Evaluation of drug and alcohol programs for offenders or people at risk of offending in support of the National Indigenous Law and Justice framework

Ilan Katz, kylie valentine

Led by the Australian Institute of Criminology

The organisation and delivery of human services

Advisory services for stage 1 of the NSW out-of-home care study

Ilan Katz

Principal funder: FACS (NSW)

Workforce indicators suitable for use in the ageing, disability and home care sectors in NSW

Fiona Hilferty and Natasha Cortis

Principal funder: ADHC

Review of multi-agency child welfare initiatives

kylie valentine and Fiona Hilferty

Principal funder: NSW Ombudsman

Preventing child abuse and neglect through a common approach to assessment, referral and support, stage 2

Ilan Katz and Fiona Hilferty

Principal funder: ARACY

Research into maximising life choices of people with spinal cord injury

Marie Delaney, Rosemary Kayess, Saul Flaxman, Denise Thompson and Karen Fisher

Principal funder: SCIA

A literature review about the role of assistive technology in supporting people with a physical disability and

Comparative social policy

Australian Research Council Grants awarded during 2011

During 2011 SPRC staff prepared applications to the Australian Research Council for seven grants. The outcomes of three applications remain unknown and the successful applications listed below will commence in 2012.

We can't afford not to: supporting young people within their families and communities from early adolescence to early adulthood

Kristy Muir and Lyn Craig

Partners: The Foundation for Young Australians; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Collaborative Research Network

Indigenous Research Program

In 2011 the Indigenous Research Program continued to focus on 'big picture' projects concerning the reconciliation dialogue process and the use of evidence in

6. Higher Degree Research Program

During 2011 there were 26 students in the Centre's research program. Students are

Angelica Hannan – PhD

Gender, migration and social policy

Supervisors:

Marianne Rajkovic - Masters by Research

Parents and carers of children with autism

Supervisors: kylie valentine and Deborah Brennan (joint supervisors)

Vicky Saunders – PhD

Refugee children and resettlement

Supervisors: Ilan Katz (supervisor) and Jen Skattebol (co-supervisor)

Alec Sewell – PhD

A qualitative study of integration in human services to meet complex needs

Supervisors: Leanne Dowse (School of Social Sciences, UNSW) and Tony Eardley (joint supervisors)

Ciara Smyth – PhD

A study of the dual-earner/dual-carer family model in households with pre-school children. New title - Exploring parental responsibility for children's cognitive development

Supervisors: Lyn Craig (supervisor) and George Argyrous (ASB, UNSW) (co-supervisor)

Zimin Tan – PhD

The establishment of the child protection system suitable for China

Supervisors: Ilan Katz (supervisor) and Xiaoyuan Shang (co-supervisor)

Cathy Thomson – PhD

Carers and the costs of care in an ageing society

Supervisors: Peter Saunders and Trish Hill (joint supervisors)

Inara Walden – PhD

Community engagement in Indigenous policy making

Supervisors: Trish Hill and Jen Skattebol (joint supervisors)

Anne Wills – PhD

Women caring for an adult child with disability: implications for retirement incomes

Supervisors: Deborah Brennan (supervisor) and Karen Fisher (co-supervisor)

7. Intern Program

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

During 2011, SPRC supported the interns listed below:

John Birrell, Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws, Australian National University (Aurora Project intern)

Michaela Epstein, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science, University of New South Wales (Aurora Project intern)

Krishna Dermawan, Bachelor of Commerce, University of New South Wales

Lauren Hislop, Bachelor of Social Science, University of Newcastle

Lydia Jebakumar, Bachelor of International and Global Studies, Sydney University (Aurora Project intern)

Isabella Partridge, Bachelor of Arts, University of Sydney

Georgia Van Toorn, Bachelor of Social Science and Policy Studies, University of New South Wales

Katy Woods, Juris Doctor, University of Melbourne (Aurora Project intern)

Book Chapters

Bach, M., Chiriacescu, D., Cote, A., Cuk, V., Devlieger, P., Fisher, K.R., Heller, T., Knapp, M., Parker, S., Quinn, G., Posarac, A., Schneider, M., Shakespeare, T. & Noonan, P. 2011, 'Assistance and support' in *World Report on Disability 2011*, (pp. 135-166), World Health Organisation Press, Geneva.

Dodson, P., & Cronin, D. 2011, 'An Australian dialogue: decolonising the country', in *Unsettling the settler state: creativity and resistance in Indigenous settler-state governance* Federation Press, Sydney.

Fisher, K.R., Shang, X., & Xie, J. 2011, 'Support for social participation of children and young people with disability in China' in *China's Changing Welfare Mix, Local Perspectives* (1, pp. 193-210), Routledge, London and New York.

Gendera, S. 2011, 'Gaining an insight into Central European transnational care spaces: migrant live-in care workers in Austria', in *Foggy social structures: irregular migration, European labour markets and the welfare state* (pp. 91-115), Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam.

Jeffries, S, Maddison, S., & Jeffries, S. 2011, 'Murdi Paaki: Challenge, continuity and change', in *Unsettling the settler state: creativity and resistance in Indigenous settler-state governance* (1, pp. 116-130), Federation Press, Sydney.

Maddison, S., & Brigg, M. 2011, 'Unsettling governance: from bark petition to YouTube', in *Unsettling the settler state: Creativity and resistance in Indigenous settler-state governance* (1, pp. 1-14), Federation Press, Sydney.

Williams, F. 2011, 'Towards a transnational analysis of the political economy of care', in *Feminist Ethics and Social Policy: Towards a New Global Political Economy of Care* (pp. 21-38), UBC Press, Vancouver.

valentine, k. 2011, 'Pharmacotherapy as social policy, or, the private and public worlds of welfare capitalism' in *The drug effect: health, crime and society* (pp. 137-152), Cambridge University Press, Melbourne.

Journal Articles

Brennan, D.J., & Mahon, R. 2011, 'State structures and the politics of childcare', *Politics and Gender*, 7, pp. 286-293.

Cortis, N., Hilferty, F., & Chan, S.E. 2011, 'Will they stay or will they go? Retaining managers in voluntary sector community services', *Voluntary Sector Review*, 2, pp. 277-295.

Craig, L. & Mullan, K. 2011, 'How mothers and fathers share childcare: a cross-national time-use comparison', *American Sociological Review*, 76, pp. 834-861.

Craig, L. & Siminski, P. 2011, 'If men do more housework, do their wives have more babies?' *Social Indicators Research*, 101, pp. 255-258.

Craig, L. & Powell, A. 2011, 'Nonstandard work schedules, work-family balance and the gendered division of childcare', *Work Employment and Society*, 25, pp. 274-291.

Davidson, P. 2011, 'Did Work First work? The role of employment assistance programs in reducing long term unemployment in Australia (1990-2008)', *Australian Bulletin of Labour*, 37, pp. 51-96.

Deeming, C. 2011, 'Determining minimum standards of living and household budgets: Methodological issues', *Journal of Sociology*, 47, pp. 17-34.

Deeming, C. 2011, 'Food and nutrition security at risk in later life: Evidence from the United Kingdom Expenditure & Food Survey', *Journal of Social Policy*, 40, pp. 471-492.

Edwards, B., Gray, M., Wise, S., Hayes, A., et al. 2011, 'Early impacts of Communities for Children on children and families: findings from a quasi-experimental cohort study', *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 65, pp. 909-914.

Fisher, K.R., Shang, X., & Li, Z. 2011, 'Absent role of the state: analysis of social support to older people with disability in rural China', *Social Policy and Administration*, 45, pp. 633-648.

Fisher, K.R., Li, J., & Fan, L. 2011, 'Barriers to the supply of non-government disability services in China', *Journal of Social Policy*, 41, pp. 161-182.

Fisher, K.R., Shang, X., & Blaxland, M. 2011, 'Review Article: human rights based social policies challenges for China', *Social Policy and Society*, 10, pp. 71-77.

Griffiths, A. 2011, 'The components of best-practice indigenous education: A comparative review', *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 40, pp. 69-80.

Head, B. & Redmond, G. 2011, 'Making prevention work in human services for children and youth', *Drawing Board-An Australian Review of Public Affairs*, 10, pp. article 2.

Heidari, S., Eckert, M., Kippax, S., Abdool Karim, Q., Sow, P.S. & Wainberg, M.A. 2011, 'Time for gender mainstreaming in editorial policies', *Journal of International AIDS Society*, [editorial] 14: p.11.

Hill, T., Thomson, C.M. & Cass, B. 2011, 'The costs of caring and the living standards of carers', *Social Policy Research Paper*, 43, pp. 1-77.

Hill, T., Thomson, C.M. & Cass, B. 2011, 'Young carers: location, education and employment disadvantage', *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, 14, pp. 173-198.

Holt, M., Bryant, J., Newman, C.E., Paquette, D., Mao, L., Kidd, M. R., Saltman, D. C. & Kippax, S. C. 2012, 'Patterns of alcohol and other drug use associated with major depression among gay men attending general medical practices in Australia', *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 10, pp. 141-151.

Holt, M., Rawstone, P., Worth, H., Bittman, M., Wilkinson, J. & Kippax, S. 2011, 'Predictors of HIV disclosure among untested, HIV-negative and HIV-positive Australian men who had anal intercourse with their most recent casual male sex partner'. *AIDS & Behavior*, 15, pp. 1128-1139.

Kippax, S.C., Holt, M. & Friedman, S.R. 2011, 'Bridging the social and the biomedical: engaging the social and political sciences in HIV research', *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 14, pp. S1.

Kippax, S.C., Reis, E.J. & de Wit, J. 2011, 'Two sides to the HIV prevention coin: efficacy and effectiveness', *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 23, pp. 393-396.

Korner, H., Newman, C.E., Mao, L., Kidd, M.R., Saltman, D. & Kippax, S.C. 2011, 'Discourses of depression of Australian general practitioners working with gay men'. *Qualitative Health Research*, 21, pp. 1051 - 1064.

Korner, H., Newman, C.E., Mao, L., Kidd, M.R., Saltman, D., & Kippax, S.C. 2011, 'The black dog just came and sat on my face and built a kennel: Gay men making sense of depression'. *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*, 15 (4), pp. 417-436.

Laragy, C.

Refereed Conference Papers

Craig, L., & Powell, A. 2011, 'Strategies for juggling work and family time in dual-earner households: how effective are they?', Society of Heterodox Economics, Sydney, Dec 5-6.

Patulny, R.V .2011, 'The social penalty of work/family balance. Comparing Australian men and women's social contact with ex-household friends and family', 2011 Australian Sociological Association Conference, Newcastle, 29

SPRC Seminar Series

9. In-kind contributions from Industry Partners on ARC Linkage Grants

Principal funder	Principal funder	In-kind partner contributions
Carers Social Inclusion: new frameworks, evidence and policy lessons	Australian Research Council	Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW (\$10,000); Carers Australia Inc. (\$17,000); Department for Families and Communities SA (\$8,664); Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (\$4200); Health Administration Corporation (\$2,900); NSW Department of Health; Social Inclusion Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet SA (\$5,000); University of Leeds (\$16,774)
Families at the Centre:Negotiating Australia's mixed market in early education and care - LP100200297	Australian Research Council	Mission Australia (\$18,586); Brotherhood of St Laurence (\$13,620); Lady Gowrie Child Centre Sydney (\$20,000); Lady Gowrie Child Centre Inc Adelaide (\$11,000); The Gowrie (Qld) Inc (\$10,000); Early Childhood Australia Inc (\$20,000); the University of Leeds (\$6,110)
Social disadvantage and economic recession: promoting inclusion and combating deprivation	Australian Research Council	Anglicare Victoria (\$7,544), ACOSS (\$5,740), Benvolent Society (\$8,060), Mission Australia (\$8,780), Social Inclusion Unit dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet (\$9,160), Social Inclusion Unit SA (\$8,974), Social Inclusion Tas (\$7,436), St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia Inc (\$7,000), UNSW (\$160,624)

Supporting families: Horizontal and vertical equity in the Australian tax benefit system in historical and comparative perspectives	Australian Research Council FaHCSIA (\$32,200), ACOSS (\$2,145), Uni of Essex (\$59,440), Institute of Policy Studies (\$9,592), Caledon Institute of Social Policy (Canada) (\$14,955)
Supporting families: Horizontal and vertical equity in the Australian tax benefit system in historical and comparative perspectives	Australian Research Council FaHCSIA (\$32,200), ACOSS (\$2,145), Uni of Essex (\$59,440), Institute of Policy Studies (\$9,592), Caledon Institute of Social Policy (Canada) (\$14,955)
Transition to adulthood of young people with disabilities from state care in China (LP100100533)	Australian Research Council Right to Play China (\$90,000)
Where's the evidence? Understanding the use of evidence in Indigenous policy (LP100100732)	Australian Research Council Australian Human Rights Commission (\$41,973); Lingiari Foundation (\$73,792)

