INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WELFARE REFORM
MEETING THE POLICY CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
International conference on welfare reform
Meeting the policy challenges of change

Date
17-18 September, 2015

Venue
ANU Commons (cnr of Barry Drive and Marcus Clarke Street), Acton

Co-hosts
ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
Social Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, ANU

Welfare reform is an important and hotly debated issue around the world. Governments in a number of countries, including Australia, the UK and New Zealand are actively reviewing their welfare systems. This conference will bring together university academics, the community sector and policy makers to provide perspectives from Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Sweden on future directions for social security systems.
### Day 1
**Thursday 17 September**
8.30am - 6.30pm

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Podger, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Margaret Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Matthew Gray, The Australian National University</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Opening address</td>
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<td>The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, Federal Member for Cook, Minister for Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td>Overview of the Final Report, ‘A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes’</td>
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<td>Patrick McClure, Chair, Reference Group on Welfare Reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Workforce participation (young people and childcare)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong></td>
<td>Bruce Chapman, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Jeff Borland, University of Melbourne</td>
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<td>Agnieszka Nelson, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Patterns of exit amongst young income support recipients</td>
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<td>Xiaodong Gong, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra</td>
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<td>Child care assistance: Are subsidies or tax credits better?</td>
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<td>Sally Sinclair, National Employment Service Association</td>
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<td>Kelly Hand, Australian Institute of Family Studies</td>
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<td>Boyd Hunter, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Robert Hudson, Brotherhood of St Laurence</td>
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<td>11.30am</td>
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<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Data and research needs</td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong></td>
<td>Matthew Gray, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>David Kalisch, Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>Toni Makkai, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Darren Pennay, The Australian National University</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.45pm</td>
<td>Workforce participation (welfare policies and single parents)</td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong></td>
<td>Nicholas Biddle, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>Ben Phillips, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra</td>
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<td>Welfare policies: some labour market and economic perspectives</td>
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<td>Rob Bray, The Australian National University</td>
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<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
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2 International conference on welfare reform: Meeting the policy challenges of change

International conference on welfare reform: Meeting the policy challenges of change 3
Public Lecture

Justifying conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change in UK

Welfare conditionality is about linking welfare rights to ‘responsible’ behaviour. Within and beyond the UK, the use of conditional welfare arrangements that combine elements of sanction and support which aim to ‘correct’ the ‘problematic’ behaviour of certain recipients of welfare is now well established and is currently embedded in a broad range of policy arenas including unemployment and disability benefit systems.

Professor Peter Dwyer is one of the leading thinkers on welfare conditionality in the UK. He will offer some early findings from the five year ESRC funded ‘Welfare Conditionality—Sanctions, Support and Behaviours Change’ project. The lecture will set out the extent to which welfare conditionality has become a key component of the UK welfare state and then explore the ways in which key informants seek to justify or oppose its use in a range of welfare settings.

This lecture will be chaired by Dr John Hewson.

Dr Hewson is the Chair of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, at The Australian National University. He is also a member of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Board.

Day 2

Friday 18 September

9am - 4pm

9am

Keynote address
The Hon. Jenny Macklin, MP. Member for Jagajaga, Shadow Minister for Families and Payments and Disability Reform

9.30am

Behaviour change
Chair: Simon Jackman, The Australian National University
How tight are the screws? Conditions and sanctions for the unemployed in OECD countries, 1980-2012
Carlo Knotz, University of Lund, Sweden

Homelessness
Alasdair Stewart, University of Glasgow, Scotland

New conditionality in Australia
Matthew Gray, The Australian National University

Income management in the APY lands; lessons for income support policy
Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales

Panel
Nicholas Biddle, The Australian National University

11.15am

Morning tea

11.30am

Payment structure and adequacy
Chair: Paul McBride, Commonwealth Department of Social Services
Adequacy of social security benefits for working age households: a comparative assessment
Peter Whiteford, The Australian National University

Why the present payment structure for working age payments is flawed and tinkering with the categories won’t fix it
Peter Davidson, Australian Council of Social Service

Means testing pensions and taxing savings over the lifecourse
Miranda Stewart, The Australian National University

Day 1 (continued)

4.15pm

Reflection
Macro outcome of reforms across the whole welfare portfolio
Bob Gregory, The Australian National University

5pm

Break

5.30pm

PUBLIC LECTURE

Justifying conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change in UK

Welfare conditionality is about linking welfare rights to ‘responsible’ behaviour. Within and beyond the UK, the use of conditional welfare arrangements that combine elements of sanction and support which aim to ‘correct’ the ‘problematic’ behaviour of certain recipients of welfare is now well established and is currently embedded in a broad range of policy arenas including unemployment and disability benefit systems.

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6.30pm

Reception
Day 2
(continued)

12.15pm  Payment structure and adequacy - continued
Chair: Paul McBride, Commonwealth Department of Social Services
Universal Credit in the UK: claimants’ early experiences and expectations
Peter Dwyer, University of York, United Kingdom
Logic, evidence and politics: the structure and adequacy of social security payments
Andrew Podger, The Australian National University
Panel
Andrew Whitecross, Commonwealth Department of Social Services

1.30pm  Lunch

2.15pm  Investment approach to welfare
Chair: Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales
The investment approach to recent welfare reforms in New Zealand: lessons for Australia
Simon Chapple, University of Otago, New Zealand
Investing for a better outcome: an Australian investment approach
Serena Wilson, Commonwealth Department of Social Services
Panel
John Hewson, The Australian National University
Alan Hayes, Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle

3.30pm  Closing address
Matthew Gray, The Australian National University
Paul Pickering, The Australian National University

3.45pm  Afternoon tea

4pm  Conference close

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Member for Cook, Minister for Social Services
Minister Morrison was appointed Minister for Social Services on December 23, 2014 and is responsible for driving the Abbott Government’s welfare reform strategy that is designed to increase the economic participation of Australians and to ensure the long term sustainability of Australia’s welfare safety net. Prior to serving as Minister for Social Services, Minister Morrison was the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection where he also served on the National Security Committee of Cabinet. Prior to entering politics, Mr Morrison worked as a CEO and senior executive in various industry bodies and government agencies, including Managing Director of Tourism Australia, State Director of the Liberal Party in NSW and National Policy and Research Manager for the Property Council of Australia. Minister Morrison holds an Honours degree in Applied Economic Geography from the University of NSW.

The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP
Member for Jagajaga, Shadow Minister for Families and Payments and Disability Reform
In 2007 under the Rudd Labor government, Jenny was appointed the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Jenny oversaw the historic apologies to the Stolen Generations and the Forgotten Generation and was responsible for the most significant reforms to Australia’s pension system in its history. These delivered pension increases, a new pension supplement, a pension Work Bonus and a new indexation system. In 2011 Jenny added Disability Reform to her portfolio and oversaw the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in 2013. Prior to entering Parliament Jenny was the Director of two major strategic reviews reporting to the then Deputy Prime Minister, Brian Howe. She also worked as an adviser to the Victorian Minister for Health and as an economics research specialist. Jenny holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.
PARTICIPANT PROFILES

Kate Beaumont
President, National Welfare Rights Network
Kate Beaumont is the current President of the National Welfare Rights Network and has been a Committee Member or Office Bearer of the Network since its inception in 2002. She has been employed as the Executive Officer of Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service since 2001. She has previously worked for 19 years in Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia as an officer of the Department of Social Security and Centrelink and holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Curtin University of Technology.
Ms Beaumont is a former Board Member of the Employment Law Centre, Midland Debt Legal Advisory Service and the Street Law Centre of WA. She is also the former Chairperson and current Deputy Chairperson of Tenancy WA. She is a Commissioner on the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia.

Nicholas Biddle
Deputy Director, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
Dr Nicholas Biddle is a quantitative social scientist and a Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at the Australian National University (ANU). He is also Graduate Convenor and Honours Co-ordinator for CAEPR and a member of the College of Arts and Social Sciences’ Research Committee.

Jeff Borland
Truby Williams Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne
Professor Jeff Borland is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and in 2010 he was Visiting Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University. His main research interests are analysis of the operation of labour markets in Australia, program and policy evaluation and design, Australian economic history, and applications of microeconomic theory. He also publishes a monthly Labour Market Snapshot.

Rob Bray
Research Fellow, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
Rob Bray PSM, is a Research Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Prior to joining the ANU in 2010 he had a long career in the Australian Public Service in a range of social policy and related portfolios. At the ANU he has undertaken policy and program evaluations in addition to research focused on the interaction of economic and social policy, the Australian minimum wage and income distribution. Major consultancy projects that he has been involved with include the evaluation of income management in the Northern Territory, the experience of young carers, aspects of the NDIS, and service delivery including employment services.
Bruce Chapman
Director, Policy Impact, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Bruce Chapman is an economist and has worked at the Australian National University since 1984. He has extensive experience in public policy, including: the motivation and design of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (the first national income contingent loan scheme using the income tax system for collection) in 1989; engagement with the empirical and conceptual basis related to long-term unemployment leading to the Working Nation program in 1994; as a senior economic advisor to Prime Minister Paul Keating, 1994-96; as a higher education financing consultant to the World Bank and the governments of Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, Canada, the UK, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malaysia, Colombia, the US, Chile and China, 1996-2013; and as a consultant to the Australian Government’s Base Funding Review, 2011.

Simon Chapple
Senior Research Fellow, University of Otago, New Zealand

Simon Chapple is a Senior Research Fellow for the Dunedin Multi-disciplinary Health and Development Study, a longitudinal study of 1000 children born in Dunedin in 1972/3 and followed to age 38 (so far). He has worked as a senior public servant, both in New Zealand and for the OECD in Paris, in roles with a labour market and social policy focus. He recently co-authored a book on child poverty in New Zealand. His research interests include child and life course well-being, tax-benefit policies, and Maori population dynamics. He has economics degrees from Auckland, Cambridge and Victoria universities.

Peter Davidson
Senior Advisor, Australian Council of Social Services

Peter Davidson works as Senior Adviser at the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the peak body for non government community organisations in Australia and national advocate for people affected by poverty. Peter’s publications in the social security field include detailed analysis and reform proposals for payments for people of working age, family payments, and retirement incomes and superannuation. Along with Professor Peter Whiteford, he prepared a report on ‘activation’ policies (social security and employment assistance for unemployed people) in Australia for the OECD in 2011. Peter is currently undertaking a PhD in social policy at the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia. He blogs on social and taxation policy at www.pagdavidson.wordpress.com

Peter Dwyer
Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social Policy, University of York, United Kingdom

Professor Dwyer’s research focuses on issues related to social citizenship, inclusion/exclusion and welfare and international migration. He has previously held senior posts at the universities of Leeds and Salford and Nottingham Trent University. He currently leads a large, collaborative, ESRC funded project on welfare conditionality (see www.welfareconditionality.ac.uk) that includes partners in six English and Scottish universities. Central to this work is a desire to inform policy and practice through the establishment of an original and comprehensive evidence base on the efficacy and ethicality of conditionality across a range of social policy fields and diverse groups of welfare service users.
Xiaodong Gong

Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at IGPA, University of Canberra

Xiaodong has published in international and Australian journals such as Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, The Economic Record and many other reputable journals. His work includes modelling labour supply, tax and transfer policy, childcare, labour mobility, child development and education, and household consumption. Prior to joining NATSEM, Xiaodong has worked at the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) in Germany, the Australian National University, and the Australian Treasury. He is adjunct to the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University and a Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) Germany.

Matthew Gray

Director, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Matthew is Professor of Public Policy at the Australian National University. Previous appointments include Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. He has published research on a wide range of social and economic policy issues and has undertaken major evaluations of government policies and programs including the family law system, income management, service delivery models and place-based interventions. From 2005 to 2010 he was responsible for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

Bob Gregory

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Gregory is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics. Professor Gregory has been closely involved in Australian economic policy development. He was a member of the Board of Management at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Through 1990 to 1993 he was principal consultant in a series of Aged Care Reviews for the Department of Community Services and Health. In 1998, he was a member of the committee that recommended the introduction of student income contingent loans, collected by the Australian Tax Office. The scheme has been adopted by a number of other countries in addition to Australia. In 1996 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal. He has been President of the Economic Society of Australia and has been awarded the Economic Society Medal.

Xiaodong Gong

Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at IGPA, University of Canberra

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Mathew Gray

Director, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Matthew is Professor of Public Policy at the Australian National University. Previous appointments include Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. He has published research on a wide range of social and economic policy issues and has undertaken major evaluations of government policies and programs including the family law system, income management, service delivery models and place-based interventions. From 2005 to 2010 he was responsible for the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

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Kelly Hand

Senior Research Fellow, Australian Institute of Family Studies

Kelly Hand is a Senior Research Fellow and Manager of Evaluations and Qualitative Research at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Kelly primarily focuses her research on families and employment and service provision to families, particularly those in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. This includes a strong focus on the relationship between child care provision and parents’ participation in education and employment. Most recently Kelly explored these issues in depth while managing the Evaluation of the Child Care Flexibility Trials.
Margaret Harding
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The Australian National University

Professor Margaret Harding was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the ANU in June 2012. She is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies and systems to maintain and enhance achievements and overall research performance of the ANU. She is a Director on the Boards of ANU Enterprise, Australian Scientific Instruments, National Computational Infrastructure and an alternate Director on the Board of ANU Connect Ventures. Professor Harding held the positions of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), and inaugural Dean of Graduate Research at UNSW. She has been a director on the Boards of the UNSW Foundation, Neuroscience Research Australia, an alternate Director on the Board of Bionic Vision Australia.

Alan Hayes
Director, Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle

Alan recently took up the Inaugural Distinguished Chair of Family Studies, and Director of the Family Action Centre, in the Faculty of Health and Medicine at the University of Newcastle, having previously been Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. With a longstanding interest in prevention and early intervention that has particularly focused on disadvantage, his current work explores the better targeting of investments in community support for families with complex needs, especially through collective impact approaches. Professor Hayes was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday 2012 Honours List, for service to the social sciences through the Australian Institute of Family Studies, as a contributor to policy research, an academic and author.

John Hewson
Chair, Tax and Transfer Policy Unit, Crawford School, ANU College of Asia and Pacific

Dr Hewson was leader of the Liberal Party of Australia between 1990 and 1994. Since then he has run his own investment banking business and served on the boards of several businesses and charities including General Security Australia Insurance Brokers, Osteoporosis Australia and the Arthritis Research Taskforce. Dr Hewson is also a member of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Board.

Robert Hudson
Group General Manager, Brotherhood of St. Laurence

Rob Hudson is trained in Social Work and Law and has worked in the community sector and in government for 30 years. Rob is currently the Group General Manager of Programs and Policy at the Brotherhood of St. Laurence where he is responsible for the oversight of policy development and Program areas across the organisation (Children, Youth and Families, Refugees, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Work and Learning, and Retirement, Ageing and Financial Inclusion). Rob is responsible for bringing together skills, knowledge and experience of key ‘cross cutting’ areas of organisational development and to create a culture of learning, to bring together service delivery, research and policy. This includes the development of outcome measurement and evaluation frameworks and new initiatives in partnership with other organisations.
Boyd Hunter
Senior Fellow, Centre for Research on Aboriginal Economic Research, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Dr Boyd Hunter specialises in labour market analysis, social economics and poverty research. He has over 160 distinct scholarly publications that have received over 3,000 citations (source, Google Scholar). Boyd is among a handful of Australian academics whose research was cited across all the major social science disciplines identified in the 2003 Cambridge Handbook of Social Sciences in Australia (edited by McAllister, Dowrick & Hassan). His contribution to the profession is exemplified by active participation on publication of scholarly journals — he has been Editor or Managing Editor of the Australian Journal of Labour Economics since 2008 and is currently coeditor of the Australian Journal of Social Issues.

Simon Jackman
School of Politics and International Relations, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Jackman’s teaching and research centers on public opinion, election campaigns, political participation, and electoral systems with special emphasis on American and Australian politics. Since 2009, he has served as one of the Principal Investigators of the American National Election Studies (ANES), the world’s longest running and most authoritative survey of political behavior and attitudes. Prior to his stewardship of ANES, Jackman directed a number of large, on-line survey projects in the 2008 U.S. presidential election cycle. His current research projects focus on web-based survey research, political and scientific consequences of under-representing unlisted or hard-to-reach populations in social research, predictive models of political behaviour, and methods for large scale, automated coding and political speech analysis.

David W Kalisch
Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics

As Agency Head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Mr Kalisch is accountable for the functions and operations of the Bureau. Mr Kalisch is an economist with public sector experience in research and analysis, policy development and service delivery. He has an interest in labour markets, macroeconomics, retirement incomes, welfare to work strategies and health policy. Mr Kalisch was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for four years, a Commissioner at the Productivity Commission and a Deputy Secretary in the Commonwealth Department of Health. He has had two appointments at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, and was a member of the Australian Delegation to the OECD.

Ilan Katz
Director, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Professor Ilan Katz joined the Social Policy Research Centre in January 2005, becoming Director in 2007- 2011. He started his career as a social worker and manager in several local authorities and NGOs in the UK. He was Head of Practice Development and Research at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. After spending some time as a civil servant in the Department for Education and Skills, he returned to research. His research interests include evaluation of complex policies and programs, child protection, Indigenous social policy, early intervention, disability, children and communities, comparative child welfare systems, adoption, migration, race and ethnicity.
Toni Makkai is Emeritus Professor at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. She is a quantitative social scientist who has worked extensively in key policy arenas including drugs and crime, crime statistics, victimisation, aged care and regulation, politics and immigrants, and professional socialisation. She has published widely across these areas and has been involved in the collection of major datasets many of which are available through the Australian Data Archive for secondary analysis.

Carlo is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Political Science at Lund University. He holds a BA in political science from University of Mannheim, and completed a double-degree master’s program in political science at the University of Konstanz and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Carlo’s main interest lies in the role of political institutions for reforms of unemployment benefit systems and the political economy of post-industrial labor markets.

Paul McBride has a Bachelor of Commerce at ANU and a Master of Law in taxation. In 2012 Paul joined the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as Group Manager of the Social Policy Group which was responsible for the aged pension, international social security agreement, and cross departmental responsibility for modelling, research, evaluation and strategic policy. From late 2012, he moved to head up the welfare reform taskforce in the new Department of Social Services, culminating in the release of the ‘McClure Report - A new system for better employment and social outcomes’. Paul is now Group Manager of the Social Security Policy Group, with responsibility for social security payments policy.

Patrick McClure was CEO of Mission Australia from 1997-2006. During that period the organisation was transformed from a state-based entity to a highly successful international organisation with revenue of $300 million and 3,000 staff providing employment, training, housing, youth and family services. He recently chaired the Australian Government’s Reference Group on Welfare Reform in 2014-15. The Final Report ‘A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes’ was launched on February 25, 2015 with Minister Scott Morrison. He is Director, Governance and Strategy Director at the Institute of Strategic Management since 2009. He is also a Non-Executive Director of the Kincare Group, and a Member of the NSW Government Social Impact Investment Expert Advisory Group. He has a Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Arts (Public Policy) and Diploma of Theology.
Agnieszka Nelson

Sir Roland Wilson Scholar, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Agnieszka’s thesis—a quantitative enquiry into the impact of welfare conditionality on youth disengaged from education, training and the labour market—seeks to understand the effectiveness of recent welfare reform initiatives in Australia. Specifically, she is using survival analysis and government longitudinal administrative data to examine the effects of recent policy initiatives on welfare exits among different treatment and comparison groups. Before joining ANU, Agnieszka was employed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) as director of evaluations where she led a team of researchers managing major social policy evaluations. She has previously held a senior research officer position at the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM).

Ann Nevile

Senior Lecturer, Crawford School, ANU College of Asia and the Pacifi

Dr Ann Nevile researches and teaches social policy at the Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University. A major focus of Dr Nevile’s research is the impact of funding and performance frameworks on third sector service delivery agencies and their clients, most recently in the area of disability employment where she has been Lead Chief Investigator and sole Chief Investigator in two Australian Research Council funded Linkage projects.

Darren Pennay

CEO, Social Research Centre

Darren is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Research Centre, an Adjunct Professor with the University of Queensland’s Institute for Social Research and an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods. His specific interests include large-scale survey design, longitudinal surveys, community attitudes research, health research and survey methodology. He is a full member of the Australian Market and Social Research Society and accredited Qualified Practicing Market Researcher. He is also a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research, the World Association of Public Opinion Research and the European Survey Research Association. Darren has played a leading role in the introduction of dual-frame telephone surveys to Australia and is a leading proponent of the Total Survey Error approach to survey research.

Ben Phillips

Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra

Ben has a wide range of experience in both the public and private sector over the past 15 years in the field of economics and statistics. Most recently, Ben managed the distributional impacts on Australian households of the Federal Government’s carbon price package project. Prior to working with NATSEM, Ben was a senior economist with the Housing Industry Association where he was responsible for housing and economic forecasting within the Economics Group. Ben also played an integral role in developing housing policy and analysis for housing affordability. He presented widely to conferences, industry groups and had a large media presence. Ben has also worked as a methodologist with the Australia Bureau of Statistics and an economic forecaster with the Bureau of Tourism Research.
Andrew Podger

Professor of Public Policy, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Andrew Podger is honorary Professor of Public Policy at ANU, Adjunct Professor at Xi’an Jiao-tong University in China and Visiting Professor at Zhejiang University in China. He was Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care from 1996 to 2002, and previously headed the Departments of Housing and Regional Development and Administrative Services. He was Public Service Commissioner from 2002 to 2004. Since retiring from the APS, Andrew Podger has advised governments in Australia and Asia on various aspects of public administration, particularly on social policies and public sector management.

William Sanders

Senior Fellow, Centre for Research on Aboriginal Economic Research, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

In the 1980s Will Sanders completed a PhD on the inclusion of Aboriginal Australians in the social security system during the 1960s and 1970s. He returned to these issues in the late 1990s with a study of unemployment payment ‘breach rates’ among Indigenous identifiers and others. Will currently has a research project on the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme introduced in 2013, which has effectively become compulsory ‘work for the dole’ for 35,000 job seekers in remote Australia. Will is interested in how computer network technologies are rapidly changing the nature of delivery and knowledge within the social security system.

Paul Pickering

Dean, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Paul Pickering was appointed interim Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences in June 2015. He is Director at the Research School of Humanities and the Arts. Paul is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a member of the Board of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, co-editor of the Enlightenment World Series, Editor of Humanities Research and History Editor of Cogent: Humanities. In 2012 he was the recipient of the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Supervision. Paul’s most recent books are Feargus O’Connor: A Political Life (2008) and Historical Reenactment: From Realism to the Affective Turn (2010). His articles have been published by leading journals, both in Australian and overseas. In 2015 he was a Visiting Research Professor at St. Andrews University and in 2016 will be Professeur invité à l’Université Paris-Sorbonne.

Tamati Shepherd

A/g Executive Director, Commonwealth Department of Human Services

Tam Shepherd is the acting Executive Director of the Welfare Payment Infrastructure Transformation (WPIT) Programme. In this role Tam has responsibility for leading the Department of Human Services’ WPIT Programme in delivering the replacement of the ageing Centrelink ICT System. His background in transformation agendas covers Commonwealth and state governments, private industry and boards of professional bodies. During his career Tam has held senior positions in the New Zealand, Australian and Queensland governments driving transformation agendas in the welfare and health areas. In the private sector Tam had a lead role at Cisco helping clients like Australia Post, ANZ bank, Victorian and Queensland Governments develop their digital agendas. Tam has an academic background in law and political science.
Sally Sinclair
CEO, National Employment Services Association

Sally Sinclair is the CEO of the National Employment Services Association, the peak body for the Australian employment and related services industry. For over three decades, Sally has been instrumental in informing key stakeholders domestically and internationally on addressing employment and inclusion challenges including strengthening the integration of employment, education and training, and increasing employment of disadvantaged job seekers.

Amongst her expert Government advisory and industry roles, Sally has been a member of the Australian Government’s Welfare Reform Reference Group, the G20 Civil Society 20 (C20) Steering Committee, and Chair of the C20 Inclusive Growth and Employment Working Group. Sally is currently Vice-Chair of the OECD LEED Programme’s Forum on Partnerships and Local Development.

Alasdair Stewart
Research Assistant, Urban Studies Department, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Alasdair is a Research Assistant on the Welfare Conditionality research project and is based in the Urban Studies department at the University of Glasgow. He has a strong background in qualitative research, with experience conducting interviews and focus groups with vulnerable groups as well as front-line workers and policy officers from a broad range of statutory and voluntary organisations. He recently finished a PhD in Housing, ‘Managing a Tenancy: Young people’s pathways into and sustaining independent tenancies from homelessness’, at the University of Stirling joint funded by the ESRC and Homeless Action Scotland.

Miranda Stewart
Director, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Professor Stewart is a leading international expert on tax law and policy, with more than 20 years’ experience working at the leading edge of policy research, design and development. She joined ANU from the University of Melbourne, where she was a Director of Tax Studies for many years. She has previously worked at New York University School of Law in the United States, in major Australian law firms advising business on tax law, and at the Australian Taxation Office advising on business tax law and policy and has consulted for government on various tax and transfer policy issues.

Andrew Whitecross
Branch Manager, Rates and Means Testing, Commonwealth Department of Social Services

Andrew Whitecross is the Branch Manager, in the Social Security Policy Group at the Department of Social Services (DSS). He is responsible for providing policy analysis and advice to Government on social security rates and means testing issues. Andrew brings a wealth of knowledge of social security policy and its impacts on social and economic outcomes, and has previously worked on some of the major policy reviews including the recent McClure Review, Family Payment Reforms, the 2009 Review of Australia’s Future Tax System, the 2008-09 Pension Review, the 2002-03 Working Age Taskforce, the 1998 Rent Assistance Review, the 1991 Investment Income Review, the 1988 Social Security Review, and the 1985 Tax Task Force. From 2003 to 2008, Andrew led the department’s social research program, including the major longitudinal social surveys.
Peter Whiteford

Social Policy Institute, Crawford School, ANU
College of Asia and the Pacific

Peter Whiteford is a Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. He has previously worked at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and in the Social Policy Research Unit in the University of York in the United Kingdom, as well as in the Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

His research interests include analysis of income inequality and welfare state redistribution, as well as child poverty, family assistance policies, and welfare reform. He has published extensively on various aspects of the Australian system of income support. He is an Associate Investigator with the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR).

Serena Wilson

Deputy Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Social Services

Serena Wilson has been deputy secretary in Department of Social Services since its formation in September 2013 and prior to that in the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs from March 2009. Serena is responsible for the policy and management of individual social security payments, the social security system as a whole, including the review of Australia’s welfare system and the Department’s Policy.

In recent years, Serena has worked on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, disability and carer programs and policy, pension reform, age pension and international agreements, research and evaluation, strategic policy and the Tax-Transfer Taskforce. Serena was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2014 for services to public administration in social policy, including her work to establish the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
Registration
Registration will be open from 8:30am on both days of the conference.

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