

Annual Report 2022



Growing With Purpose

Our Partners

Australian Universities

The University of Queensland
The University of Western Australia
The University of Melbourne
The University of Sydney

National Partners

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
NSW Department of Customer Service
Anglicare WA
The Benevolent Society
Australian Government Department of Social Services
Brotherhood of St. Laurence
Goodstart Early Learning
National Growth Areas Alliance
Minderoo Foundation

International Partners

Auckland University of Technology
Boston College
University College Dublin
University of Essex
University of Pennsylvania
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Australian Government

Australian Research Council



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live across Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continued connections to land, sea and community.

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...we are committed to pursuing a clearly defined strategy of growth, balanced with consolidation of focus, to ensure that we make headway in key areas rather than trying to do everything...

– Professor Janeen Baxter, Centre Director

Our Centre

About Us



Our vision is to deliver transformative research and translation to break the cycle of deep and persistent disadvantage and improve outcomes for all Australians.

image: Centre members at the national research retreat at the Blue Mountains, September 2022.

Director's Report



Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report. It was a busy and productive year for the Life Course Centre as we emerged from the uncertainty and constraints of the COVID lockdowns, enjoyed some face-to-face meetings and got on with the job of progressing our expanded Centre and advancing our new research agenda.

The second year of our new seven-year Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence funding term was one of strategic growth that showcased the collective breadth of our collaborations, the depth of our scientific expertise and the agility of our structures to pursue new directions.

It was also a year with challenges and disruptions. One of our milestone events was the official launch of our new Centre in March, which was held amidst the ongoing impact of COVID as well as major floods in Brisbane and northern New South Wales. Much pre-planning had gone into organising a hybrid face-to-face and online launch event, but Brisbane flooding saw a last-minute switch to a fully online launch.

'The launch was nevertheless an enjoyable and rewarding occasion, showcasing our flexibility for responding quickly to unexpected circumstances, developing new video material of our members, and an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our new round of funding to tackle the enduring complexities of deep and persistent disadvantage. I am grateful for the thoughtful words at the launch, and ongoing support of our Centre from The University of Queensland Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Deborah Terry, and Australian Research Council Chief Executive Officer, Judi Zielke PSM. It was also pleasing to see Centre partners, both in Australia and overseas, join us online for the launch.

Our key partner event for the year was a joint forum with the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) in Canberra in June. This forum enabled us to present research for feedback, learn about DSS priorities, and develop a shared research agenda for the coming years. We have a number of collaborative projects underway, and we look forward to working closely with DSS to develop our agenda for a Data for Policy summit to be held in Canberra in August 2023.

Thankfully, our national research retreat in September was able to go ahead as an in-person event as planned. Whilst we have all become proficient in connecting online, it was wonderful to host our first face-to-face national gathering for three years and the first for our new Centre. The two-day retreat in New South Wales brought together more than 120 researchers nationally to share research updates, ideas, and strengthen cross-nodal and multi-disciplinary collaborations. It provided much awaited opportunities for building strong relationships across nodes, a framework that is essential for our successful research collaborations.

Highlights of the retreat included brainstorming the big research challenges envisaged by our early career researchers and providing them with the opportunity to present their research ideas and agendas. The retreat was also followed by an early career researcher day facilitated by our capacity building portfolio with an emphasis on how to secure funding.

As Centre Director, I was also pleased to undertake some in-person visits to the nodes in 2022. These visits are invaluable for understanding the research context and broader networks in each node and first-hand knowledge of how each node operates on a day-to-day basis. In October, we hosted

While our new Centre is a much bigger collaboration than in the previous one, our strategy is just as important as our size.

our Chief Investigator Planning Days at The University of Queensland. For this event, we brought some of our Emeritus Chief Investigators to the meetings to provide their reflections on our activities and research as critical friends. The Centre is constantly evolving and renewing and in 2022 we farewelled two Chief Investigators (Professors Donna Cross and Brendan Gleeson) and added three new Chief Investigators (Professor Mark Stevenson and Associate Professors Francis Mitrou and Wojtek Tomaszewski). This renewal is essential for our long-term goals and succession plans.

Other highlights of 2022 included a very successful and fun two-day professional development school for our Higher Degree Research students in November, with sessions on research communication, project management, securing funding and research translation.

There is a wealth of important research questions and opportunities that we could tackle in order to understand deep and persistent disadvantage over the life course. But we are committed to pursuing a clearly defined strategy of growth, balanced with consolidation of focus, to ensure that we make headway in key areas rather than trying to do everything.

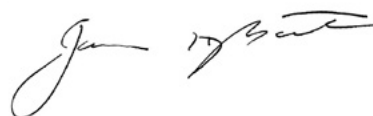
In 2022, our agile research funding scheme has provided support for three new strategic partner-engaged, cross-nodal, multi-disciplinary projects in each of our three research programs. In our People program, we funded a new project that aims to reduce harmful gambling practices; in our Places program, we funded a new project to develop an index of social service availability across locations; and in our Opportunities program, we funded a new project using data from the Multi Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) for analyses of educational pathways. These

new research projects will expand our focus, build new collaborations and provide important opportunities for impact to improve the lives of disadvantaged Australians. Importantly, they have all been designed in close collaboration with government and industry partners, providing a clear pathway to knowledge transfer and translation.

We are already well advanced with our forward planning for 2023 which will include visits from some of our key international partners as well as our Data for Policy summit. We hope that 2023 will be a year of consolidation of our new projects and an opportunity to collaborate more closely with our international colleagues as global travel returns. While online connections have been very productive, there is a lot of value to be gained from meeting face-to-face and having opportunities for unexpected synergies and networks to occur by chance. The strength of a Centre of Excellence is its people and the outreach enabled by working across multiple nodes and institutions, and we plan to further capitalise on this as we develop our activities for 2023.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2022 Annual Report and I look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of the Life Course Centre.

Please stay safe and connected.



Professor Janeen Baxter
Centre Director

Centre Launch

The Life Course Centre was officially launched by Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer, Judi Zielke PSM on 1 March 2022. Our launch was held in challenging circumstances, given COVID travel restrictions and east coast flooding, but we successfully pivoted to an online event that connected Centre members from our four Australian university nodes as well as key partners and stakeholders nationally and internationally.

Ms Zielke said the Life Course Centre is receiving \$32 million in ARC funding over seven years to conduct world-leading research to investigate new ways of tackling social and economic disadvantage and better support Australian children and families. She said the Centre's research will generate valuable new knowledge on key institutions, such as families, education and employment, and will also focus on specific places to ensure opportunities are equally shared.

Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Queensland (UQ), Professor Deborah Terry AO also addressed our Centre launch. She said UQ is very proud to host the Life Course Centre and its research focus on addressing the impacts of deep disadvantage on individual's life prospects. She said strategies to address disadvantage must be informed by research, and the Life Course Centre is a leader in its field, influencing policy and practice and enhancing opportunities.

Our launch also included addresses by Centre Director Professor Janeen Baxter, Centre Deputy Director Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, UQ Institute for Social Science Research Director Professor Mark Western, and a video featuring Life Course Centre researchers, students and staff from across the country.

"Centre researchers will bring together innovative new data sources to track trajectories and pathways across the whole life course journey."

Judi Zielke PSM
ARC Chief Executive Officer



"The key phrase in the Centre's formal name 'over the life course' signals its innovative whole-of-life view of the nature and triggers of disadvantage."

Professor Deborah Terry AO
UQ Vice-Chancellor



New Chief Investigators

In 2022 the Life Course Centre welcomed three new Chief Investigators. These new appointments were approved by the Centre's Executive Committee and by the Australian Research Council.

Chief Investigator Associate Professor Francis Mitrou leads population health themed research at the Telethon Kids Institute and The University of Western Australia, encompassing topics such as Indigenous life course outcomes, child and adolescent mental health, program evaluation and survey design. Francis is our UWA node leader and plays a leading role in our ongoing Data for Policy agenda to access, link and analyse Australian Government data to inform research and policy.

Francis filled a Chief Investigator vacancy created by the retirement of Professor Donna Cross, who was instrumental in the development of our new Centre, securing our partnership with Minderoo and leader of work on the Early Years Initiative in Western Australia.

Chief Investigator Professor Mark Stevenson is an epidemiologist and Professor of Urban Transport and Public Health at the University of Melbourne. He is internationally recognised in the field of transport safety and public health and leads a cross-disciplinary team exploring how the effects of urban design and transportation influence the health of residents in cities. Mark leads our Places research program.

Mark replaced Chief Investigator Professor Brendan Gleeson, who also played an important role in the development of our new Centre and successful 2020 bid and conceptualised our new Places research program.

Chief Investigator Associate Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski leads a research team at The University of Queensland Institute for Social Science Research focussed on educational pathways and disadvantage. He has strong links with the Australian Government Department of Education and the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) and works closely with Francis on our Data for Policy agenda. Wojtek is Deputy Leader of our Opportunities research program.

We are proud that both Francis and Wojtek have progressed their careers within the Life Course Centre over a number of years and their appointments as Chief Investigators reflect our focus on capacity building and developing the next generation of life course research leaders.

We acknowledge and thank both Donna and Brendan for their valuable contributions to the Life Course Centre. We also congratulate Donna on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2022 in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list for her service to youth mental health and wellbeing.



Francis Mitrou



Mark Stevenson



Wojtek Tomaszewski

Activity Plan

The focus for the Centre in 2023 is consolidation of our existing strengths. This follows on from a period of innovation in 2022, in which we encouraged new research ideas and initiatives, in recognition of the major changes since the Centre's proposal was written in 2018.

The Centre's current strategic plan is intended to last until mid-2023. This gives us the opportunity to evaluate the Centre's progress to date and refine our strategy in the lead-up to the mid-term review: Preparation for the mid-term review will be a key focus of 2023.

Leadership and Governance

The focus of the Executive Committee in 2023 is the performance of the research program and the delivery of key portfolio objectives. This includes scrutiny of the Centre's overall budget to ensure that Centre funding is being used optimally, and forward planning to ensure that the Centre's mid-career researchers are well supported and that the Centre has strong succession plans. This will include bringing new people into leadership positions.

- 1. New Chief Investigators.** In 2022 we welcomed three new Chief Investigators. Two of these replaced retiring Chief Investigators, and one is an additional Chief Investigator to bolster the Centre's traditional strength in sociology. The Executive Committee has provided additional funding for the new Chief Investigators and will be monitoring the establishment of new research programs and the continuation of the programs established by the retired Chief Investigators.
- 2. Advisory Committee.** The Advisory Committee will be focusing on our Data for Policy Summit in the first part of 2023. The committee is providing invaluable advice from a broad range of academic, government and non-government perspectives about the data needs and challenges to be discussed in the Summit. In the second part of 2023, the committee will be guiding the strategic planning process and supporting the mid-term review.
- 3. Succession planning.** The Centre will continue to make leadership roles available to younger academics, including both Chief Investigators at an earlier stage of their career, and mid-career academics who will be future research leaders. A new Places Program Leader was appointed in 2022, and there will be a change to the Opportunities Program Leadership in 2023. The Sydney Node is undertaking a change in leadership that will expand the leadership pool by separating the Deputy Director and Sydney Node Director positions. With the addition of a new Portfolio in Indigenous Research, the Executive and Research Committees will be enhanced with new members.

Research

The Research Committee has a strong focus on support for the core research program and consolidation of existing research strengths. To support this, the committee has taken on responsibility for the support of research collaboration from the discontinued Research Linkages Committee.

1. Supporting core and flagship research.

The Chief Investigators have reviewed all of the Centre's core research areas, defined as the projects outlined in the Centre Program, and new projects closely aligned with these. The committee will receive regular reports on progress of the core research and will direct resources towards these areas as required.

2. Areas of nascent strength.

The Chief Investigators identified the following areas as ones where the Centre has significant research activity and where improved academic and policy impact can be achieved through consolidation of effort. The committee will support these areas through the establishment of research networks, funding workshops and other collaborative endeavours, and funding larger scale projects where appropriate.

- a. Parenting
- b. Housing and homelessness
- c. Domestic and family violence and separation
- d. Disability
- e. Migrants
- f. Indigenous disadvantage

3. National and international engagement.

Due to COVID-19, the Centre has not been able to host our usual range of international visitors, or run as many national events. In 2023, the Research Committee will support various forms of collaboration, including workshops and visitors.

4. Interim and final reporting for research projects.

The emphasis in 2021-22 was on finalising the Centre's system for recording and approving research projects. In 2023, this will be extended to interim project reports and final project reports, which will also include collaboration with the Knowledge Transfer Portfolio to maximise research impact.

Data for Policy Summit

The Life Course Centre has been running Data for Policy events since 2015. The Summit in August 2023 will be the most ambitious yet, including extending the discussion beyond government administrative data to include non-government data.

1. Partner and stakeholder engagement.

The Summit will include all of our Australian partners, as well as a broad range of stakeholders. Engagement will start with an inclusive planning process.

2. Delivery of event.

The event will require extensive planning and logistics, and will be a major focus for Centre operational staff in the first half of the year.

3. Next steps.

The Data for Policy Summit will be immediately followed by a Partner Summit at which partners can reflect on the issues raised and formulate future initiatives with the Centre to address these.

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Portfolio focuses on training and mentoring for students and ECRs. The committee is highly representative, with student and ECR members playing a strong role.

- 1. Diverse advisory teams.** In 2023, the Portfolio will have an initiative to encourage diverse advisory teams by enabling students to connect with advisors from other disciplines and nodes.
- 2. ECR School.** In 2022 the Portfolio held a highly successful Student School in Brisbane, as well as a smaller-scale ECR Day following the Centre's Retreat. In 2023, ECRs will be the focus of the two-day School, which will include professional development sessions and mentoring circles.
- 3. Mentoring programs.** The Portfolio will continue its successful individual mentoring program, which includes longer-term mentoring relationships, and shorter-scale, focussed relationships. In addition, there will be the opportunity to engage with international visitors through both group mentoring and one-on-one sessions.
- 4. Workshops and training.** The Portfolio will continue to organise training in specific skills. This will include training in project management, grant writing and industry engagement.
- 5. Award rounds.** The Capacity Building Award will continue to provide support for conference attendance, specialised training and other capacity building activities for students and ECRs, through a competitive grant scheme.
- 6. Cultural competency training.** In collaboration with the new Indigenous Research Portfolio, the Capacity Building Portfolio will offer node-specific cultural competency training, to be delivered by First Nations trainers. The training is being offered in each node in order to focus on the specific culture and circumstances of the nations on the lands where we are situated.

Knowledge Transfer

The Knowledge Transfer Portfolio has the goal of identifying and promoting innovative ways to ensure the Centre's research is translated for policy and practice, including embedding the voice of individuals and families experiencing disadvantage, government, non-government organisations and businesses/private industry in all stages of the research process. The Portfolio's initial stage will end in mid-2023, in line with the Centre's current strategic plan.

- 1. Delivery of Knowledge Transfer Strategy for the Centre.** This document was completed in June 2021, outlining the Centre's knowledge transfer strategy for the remainder of the funding period.
- 2. Delivery of best practice guides and training.** These will give practical support for the implementation of the strategy for Centre projects.
- 3. Knowledge Transfer flagship projects.** In line with the Research Committee's strategy of consolidating research strengths in 2023, the Knowledge Transfer Portfolio will provide guidance to flagship projects in knowledge transfer best practice.
- 4. Community involvement program - establishment and implementation.** This program will support the community to be an integral part of the research undertaken within the Centre. A framework will be developed to provide guidance and support. This includes training in community involvement in research for Centre members and establishment of a Centre level Community Reference Group.
- 5. Award round.** The Knowledge Transfer Innovation Award will be available again in 2023, providing support for EMCRs to undertake Knowledge Transfer activities in their research, through a competitive grant scheme.
- 6. Cross-Portfolio training activities.** In collaboration with the Capacity Building Portfolio, the Knowledge Transfer Portfolio will facilitate training for Centre researchers in knowledge transfer best practice, community involvement, and stakeholder engagement.

Indigenous Research

Indigenous researchers have developed many tools and guides to support non-Indigenous researchers in best practice in research that includes Indigenous people. The purpose of the new Portfolio is to embed this best practice within the Centre.

- 1. Establishment of Portfolio Terms of Reference and budget.** Executive will consider the proposal early in its first meeting in 2023.
- 2. Embedding best practice.** The portfolio will consider how to promote the established best practice principles within the Centre. This could include workshops, training and mentoring.
- 3. Supporting flagship projects.** There are already several projects within the Centre that are dealing directly with Indigenous research, including projects led by Indigenous researchers and projects with Indigenous reference groups. The Portfolio will directly support these projects to ensure that the Centre can deliver excellence in Indigenous research.

Operations

A major focus for the operational staff in 2023 will be preparation for the mid-term review, which will be largely achieved through delivery of the activities outlined above.

- 1. Communications and engagement strategy.** In 2023, the communications and engagement strategy will be to seek maximal impact for Centre communications through a focus on targeted areas. This includes research on the Early Years, which is a major policy focus for the Federal Government, as well as support for and promotion of our Data for Policy work. We will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with advocacy groups, as with our long-standing collaboration with Anti-Poverty Week.
- 2. Event schedule.** There are a large number of events planned for 2023, including the Data for Policy Summit, large- and small-scale workshops, and an international visitor program.
- 3. Continuous improvement in reporting capability.** The Centre operations team has invested considerable resources in the Centre's database and reporting system, Life Course Central. This will continue in 2023, and will include embedding knowledge transfer and research impact tracking.
- 4. Research project management.** As well as expanding the research management system to include interim and final project reporting, we will extend support in applying the FAIR principles of data management, and continue to promote new ways to improve open research and open access.

Governance

Advisory Committee

The Centre's Advisory Committee provides strategic guidance and advocacy for the Centre to ensure its work is grounded in real-world context and has a public voice. It has an independent Chair and includes representation from government and non-government organisations.

Congratulations to our Advisory Committee Chair Emeritus Professor Peter Saunders on his recognition as an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his service to tertiary education through social policy research and development.

CHAIR

Emeritus Professor Peter Saunders AO

University of New South Wales

Ms Marilyn Chilvers

Executive Director, Strategy, Customer, Delivery and Transformation,
NSW Government Department of Customer Service

Professor Greg Duncan

Distinguished Professor, University of California, Irvine

Dr Shae Garwood

Manager, Research, Advocacy & Prevention, Innovation & Strategy,
Anglicare, WA

Ms Elizabeth Hefren-Webb

Deputy Secretary, Australian Government Department
of Social Services

Ms Myra Geddes

Social Impact General Manager, Goodstart Early Learning

Ms Toni Wren

Executive Director, Anti-Poverty Week

Professor Shelley Mallett

Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne
Director, Research and Policy Centre, Brotherhood of St. Laurence

Professor Janeen Baxter

Centre Director, Life Course Centre



Executive Committee

CHAIR

CENTRE DIRECTOR

Janeen Baxter (UQ)

Overall executive responsibility for Centre performance and success.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Deborah Cobb-Clark (Syd)

As well as supporting and advising the Director, the Deputy Director is the Chair of the Research Committee.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Lucy Mills (UQ)

Coordinates and manages the Centre's operations, including planning, reporting, contract management and budgets.

NODE DIRECTORS

- **Francis Mitrou (UWA-TKI)**
- **Guyonne Kalb (Melb)**
- **Simon Smith (UQ)**
- **Deborah Cobb-Clark (Syd)**

Effective functioning of each node, and also representing the interests of the node within the Centre.

PORTFOLIO LEADERS

- **Hayley Christian (UWA-TKI)**
Knowledge Transfer Portfolio
- **Cameron Parsell (UQ)**
Capacity Building Portfolio

Operating across the entire Centre, the Portfolio Leaders have special responsibility for achieving some of the key broader objectives of a Centre of Excellence.

Research Committee

CHAIR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Deborah Cobb-Clark (Syd)

CENTRE DIRECTOR

Janeen Baxter (UQ)

PROGRAM LEADERS

Program 1: People

- **Nick Glozier (Syd)**
- **Deputy: Agnieszka Tymula (Syd)**

Program 2: Places

- **Mark Stevenson (Melb)**
- **Deputy: Sangeetha Chandrashekeran (Melb)**

Program 3: Opportunities

- **Janeen Baxter (UQ)**
- **Deputy: Wojtek Tomaszewski (UQ)**

The Program Leaders provide intellectual guidance for the three Research Programs and the Centre's research as a whole, and each of them is an internationally recognised leader in the area their Program covers.

APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

- **Karen Thorpe (UQ)**
- **Azhar Potia (UQ)**
- **Hayley Christian (UWA-TKI)**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Lucy Mills (UQ)

Sub-Committees

The Executive Committee can appoint sub-committees to deal with strategic and targeted areas. This can include:

- **Capacity Building Portfolio Committee**
- **Knowledge Transfer Portfolio Committee**
- **Indigenous Life Course Portfolio Committee**
- **Conference and Research Retreat Organising Committees**

The Centre's sub-committees, and the opportunity to serve on the Research Committee, are a critical component of the Centre's succession planning. They provide an opportunity for early- and mid-career researchers to gain experience in strategy, planning and decision making in a major collaborative endeavour, and ensure that talented researchers are working directly with the Centre's Chief Investigators from all nodes and disciplines.

image: Pictured from left to right at the Chief Investigator Planning Days at UQ in November 2022 are Steve Zubrick (Emeritus Chief Investigator), Janeen Baxter, Nick Glozier, Deborah Cobb-Clark, Lucy Mills (Chief Operating Officer), Agnieszka Tymula, Guyonne Kalb, Francis Mitrou, Cameron Parsell, Hayley Christian, Wojtek Tomaszewski and Karen Thorpe.

...we collectively turned our attention to the big issues that we can only really seek to address together. These are the complex problems that require multidisciplinary collaborations and solutions, and that an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence is uniquely placed to progress....

— Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, Centre Deputy Director

Our Research

Deputy Director's Research Report

In 2022, the Life Course Centre continued to progress its new research programs and projects, bring people together to strengthen collaborations, tackle big research questions, and explore new directions.

The second year of our new Centre saw us all finally be able to gather in-person for our national research retreat held over two days in September in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. This was a highly successful event and the result of a lot of hard work and pre-planning in organising the attendance of more than 120 of our Centre members from across four states. I want to thank everyone involved for their valuable contributions and enthusiastic participation.

It was wonderful to see the expanded Life Course Centre community gather in-person for the first time, to see everyone off-screen and connecting face-to-face, something that was not possible in recent years due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The number one goal for the retreat was to get people to know each other and to share their research and their ideas. The focus of the retreat was not on formal presentations, but rather on open discussions, meeting new people, finding out what they are working on, and building those vital cross-disciplinary and cross-nodal connections.

Our retreat featured a total of 15 break-out discussions on a diversity of topics across our three research programs – People, Places and Opportunities. Topics in these sessions ranged from mental health, decision making, parenting and sleep to neighbourhoods, housing, schools and families and more. There was a great response from our early career researchers to our call-out for academic 'match-making posters' with over 25 posters on display throughout the retreat, showcasing the breadth of research underway across the Centre and also the many opportunities for collaborations. There was also a lively 'blue sky ideas' session where researchers presented short pitches on innovative new project ideas, some of which were developed during the retreat.



One of the most valuable and rewarding aspects of the retreat was when we collectively turned our attention to the big issues that we can only really seek to address together. These are the complex problems that require multidisciplinary collaborations and solutions, and that an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence is uniquely placed to progress. Over the course of the retreat, attendees were asked to vote on a list of high-level challenges envisaged by our early career researchers. The top four challenges were then progressed to workshopping, discussion and presentation of priority issues, ideas, and potential steps forward that we can take.

Following the retreat, our Chief Investigator Planning Days were held over two days in October in Brisbane and this provided a valuable opportunity for our research leaders to come together to assess and consolidate the progress of research projects, and identify gaps and areas for improvement. It was pleasing to see our agile research funding scheme fund three new projects in 2022 spread across each of our three research programs. Importantly, these projects all feature new innovations and high levels of multi-disciplinary, cross-nodal and partner collaborations.

On the following pages, you will find some key highlights of activities across our People, Places and Opportunities research programs in 2022. After the COVID restrictions of recent years, it was great to see our researchers get back to more in-person workshops and conferences in 2022 to showcase and, in many cases, receive recognition of their research. It was also notable that our researchers continue to deeply investigate what we can learn from the experiences of, and responses to, COVID-19 on research topics spanning all three of our programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah A Cobb-Clark'.

Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark
Centre Deputy Director

2022 Research Outputs

Publicly funded research should benefit the public. We are committed to ensuring Life Course Centre research reaches the widest possible audiences, including media, policymakers, practitioners and communities, where there is the greatest potential for impact. This strong translation focus can be seen in our non-academic publishing outputs. While we continue to publish a high quantity and quality of academic outputs, we are greatly exceeding our targets in translation materials.

TOTAL RESEARCH OUTPUTS

156

103
JOURNAL
ARTICLES

2
BOOKS

5
BOOK
CHAPTERS

14
CONFERENCE
PUBLICATIONS

32
WORKING
PAPERS

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND PROFILING

65

INCLUDING

10
IN THE
CONVERSATION

7
IN THE
POWER TO
PERSUADE

POSITION PAPERS, REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

23

INCLUDING Reserve Bank
of Australia, The Treasury, WA
Commissioner for Children & Young
People, Queensland Youth Strategy

Research Retreat

BIG CHALLENGES

Making our institutions
'fit for purpose'

Restoring social
and economic
opportunity

Partnering to advance
First Nations perspectives

Ensuring the best
human development
for children and
young people

BLUE SKY IDEAS

Using big data

Fixing housing

Mapping
disadvantage

Leveraging
citizen science

Helping
international
students

Building
neighbourhood
batteries

Managing
early childhood
behaviours

Supporting
migrant and
refugee families

Stopping stress passed
from parents to children

People

In our People research program, we look at individual characteristics and how they can prevent people from making the most of life opportunities. This includes investigating the two-way relationship between disadvantage and factors such as mental health, sleep, and decision making.



Program leaders



Nick Glozier (Syd)



Deputy: **Agnieszka Tymula** (Syd)

Program highlights

- Online gambling
- Sleep health
- Mental health
- Financial distress and the pandemic

People workshop



A workshop for our People research program (pictured right) was held in Sydney in December to share updates on research currently underway and examine potential new directions. The workshop, moderated by Professor Nick Glozier, Chief Investigator and People research program leader, was hosted by the University of Sydney and attracted researchers from three of our nodes. It featured presentations on the cognitive science of disadvantage, financial choices through the life course, and the social determinants of sleep as well as smaller break-out discussions, where interstate participants could also join and participate online.



NEW PROJECT:

Online gambling



A new multidisciplinary People research program project, funded in 2022, and bringing together psychology, addiction, economics, digital interventions and data science, aims to reduce harmful online gambling practices. Specifically, the project will address how to best communicate with online gamblers at high-risk times to prevent harms such as financial stress, job loss, relationship breakdown and poor physical and mental health.

Gambling is a major public policy problem in Australia and is closely intertwined with disadvantage. Problem gambling is more prevalent among vulnerable populations who are unemployed or on welfare, and online gamblers are up to three times more likely to experience gambling-related harms. Our new project, led by Professor Sally Gainsbury, Associate Investigator (pictured above, third from right, with the research team), will investigate a range of underlying factors including self-control, impulsivity, decision-making, sleep, mental health and the geographic concentration of online gamblers. It will also work with industry partners to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives such as bank spending locks and messages sent to gamblers.

Sleep health



Our researchers are progressing a range of studies investigating poor sleep health and its determinants across key groups in Australian society. This research also aims to better understand sleep in vulnerable populations, the associated social, economic and health costs, and the targeted interventions that can make a difference.

Research published in 2022 includes a study into young drivers (aged 18–25), who as a group are over-represented in car crashes in Australia. It examined 30 chronically sleep-restricted young drivers in simulated conditions, testing the alerting effects of bright light and caffeine. It found that bright light was a potential countermeasure for driver sleepiness, either replacing or in conjunction with caffeine, that could provide on-road benefits to reduce severe injuries and fatal sleepiness-related crashes. Other 2022 studies explored sleep health and supports for women following cancer treatment, and for young First Nations people in remote communities and trials of digital sleep interventions.

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Schokman A., Glozier, N., Aji, M., Bin, Y.S., Kairaitis, K., & Cheung, JMY. (2022) How patient centric is health policy development? The case of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Sleep Health Awareness in Australia. *Australian Health Review*. doi. org/10.1071/AH21156



Life Course Centre researchers were well represented at the Sleep Down Under conference, hosted by the Australasian Sleep Association, in Brisbane in November. Dr Kalina Rossa (pictured middle front with team at the conference dinner), Research Fellow, was awarded a best poster prize for research she is leading with a UQ team on how sleep can support recovery from drug and alcohol abuse and mental health problems. Aaron Schokman, presented posters from his PhD research on the needs, treatment options and preferred outcomes of narcolepsy patients (of which he has lived experience) and their families. Aaron also published on patient pathways to policy development through an analysis of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Sleep Health Awareness.

Mental health



Young people experiencing psychosis are a very vulnerable group and their service transitions and continuity of care were the focus of an innovative qualitative study published by our researchers in 2022. Led by Dr Alyssa Milton, Research Fellow, this study investigated the experiences of 27 young people, and 12 support people, in early intervention psychosis services in Australia. It highlighted the importance of critical transition points, including in and out of hospital, and areas for improvement in service accessibility and flexibility, enhancing continuity and consistency of care, informed and supportive handovers, and collaborative planning with other services and young people themselves.

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Life Course Centre researchers were well represented at Australia's Annual Society for Mental Health Research conference in Hobart in March. Alyssa Milton (pictured right) presented on her early intervention psychosis services study and was awarded a collaborative pitch award to build infrastructure to support research collaboration on schizophrenia interventions. Nicollette Thornton, Centre student, won a best poster award at the conference for her PhD research on ketamine for treatment resistant depression, while Dr Isabella Choi (pictured left), Research Fellow, won a clinician early career researcher award for her research on optimising eHealth mental health interventions.

COVID and mental health



Did the Australian Government's Coronavirus Supplement protect mental health?

Our research shows mental distress decreased when the supplement was paid, with the association indirect rather than direct i.e. it reduced mental distress by reducing financial stress.

Mental distress and financial stress were no longer protected once the supplement was stopped, which suggests that permanent higher levels of income support are needed for long-term sustained improvements in mental health. Other Centre research on the impact of COVID lockdowns in Australia in 2020 and 2021 on mental health showed lockdowns were associated with rises in mental distress, but the effects were not permanent and distress levels declined even after very long lockdowns.

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Places

In our Places research program, we look at how disadvantage is experienced in place. We need to understand the local community context, circumstances and built environments and how they contribute to, and can be optimised to provide pathways out of, disadvantage.



Program leaders



Mark Stevenson
(Melb)



Deputy: **Sangeetha Chandrashekeran**
(Melb)

Program highlights

- Urban access
- Energy poverty
- Housing and the pandemic
- Neighbourhood design

Places workshop



A workshop for our Places research program (pictured) was held in Perth in November to showcase current work and to further progress research collaborations. Hosted by the Telethon Kids Institute, and moderated by Professor Mark Stevenson, Chief Investigator and Places research program leader, the workshop attracted Centre researchers from two of our nodes as well as international visitor Professor Jasper Schipperijn, Associate Investigator, University of Southern Denmark. There were discussions on data, understanding 'place' and its relationship with disadvantage, and brainstorming future collaborations.



NEW PROJECT:

Urban access



A new Places research program project, funded in 2022, aims to develop a new tool to assess urban access to transport, education and health services and assist in the planning and delivery of social services in rapid urban growth areas.

Rapid urbanisation presents challenges for the equitable delivery of services to disadvantaged populations, including access to public transport, education and health. Our new project, led by Professor Mark Stevenson, Chief Investigator, aims to provide an effective measure of how where you live affects your access to such services. Bringing together multi-disciplinary research teams, the project will focus on disadvantaged populations in large metropolitan areas and their access to important social services across the life course. It will then apply analytical methods, not previously used to capture social service access, to develop applications for social services planning.



Energy poverty in the climate crisis

Addressing energy poverty is an important and urgent public policy challenge in Australia. As the transition to clean renewable energy unfolds, our researchers have begun exploring the issue of energy poverty – when a household cannot afford the essential electricity services needed for a decent standard of living.

This research highlights the need for a concerted effort to address energy poverty in Australia, particularly among low-income households that spend a larger portion of income on energy than higher income groups and are disproportionately affected by rising energy costs. A 2022 report, led by Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Senior Research Fellow, compared approaches to energy affordability in the EU and Australia. In contrast to the EU, Australia currently has no overarching framework for the energy transition that includes principles on equity and leaving no one behind. Nor is there a coherent definition, criteria for measurement, and independent institutions to report on energy poverty. Australia is advanced in household-scale renewable energy deployment, including solar panels and smart meters, and has valuable insights about emerging consumer protection, cost reallocation and market participation challenges.

In 2022, Sangeetha published in *The Conversation* and in a special policy forum on energy poverty in *The Australian Economic Review*, introduced by Dr Barbara Broadway, Melbourne. Sangeetha also moderated a public lecture in July on Australia's energy markets, hosted by the Melbourne Energy Institute, and was a panellist on a webinar in December on energy stress, hosted by our partner, the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

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COVID and housing

The economic impacts of COVID, together with rising housing and living costs, have seen more Australians in housing stress or homeless. Our researchers have used the experiences of COVID to investigate media representations of social housing and found that media coverage has switched from negative pre-COVID to positive post-COVID. While this support is promising it is still largely based on the 'deservingness' of tenants, when social housing should be available to all in need, not just those deemed by the media as deserving.

Separate research examined the increasing time that young Australian adults are spending in the parental home. It identified a range of factors delaying the moving-out-of-home transition, including more time in education, rising housing costs and declining fertility. It also showed disparities in young adults' housing outcomes based on parental socio-economic status and parent-child conflict.

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Neighbourhood 'superblocks' for kids



Decades of prioritising cars in Australian neighbourhoods have created a serious safety issue, which parents report as a major barrier to letting their kids play, walk and ride on their local streets. This, in turn, has negative impacts on children's outdoor physical activity levels and overall health.

Life Course Centre researchers have tackled this problem by re-imagining car-centric streets to illustrate the benefits of giving public space back to children and families. Neighbourhood 'superblocks' for kids cover several blocks reserved for use by local residents, walkers and cyclists who simply want to use the street space. They allow low-speed access for residents' cars but exclude through-traffic. The concept, pioneered overseas in cities such as Barcelona, is proposed as a low-cost solution to increasing both street safety and kids' physical activity. This research also stresses the importance of listening to local voices, including children, when designing neighbourhoods.

Separate research published in 2022 showed that parents' perceptions of neighbourhood built-environments not only influence their children's physical activity but also their socio-emotional development through interaction and play. Our researchers also examined the need to increase optimal physical activity levels in Australian children and adolescents, particularly young females, in order to reap the full health and developmental benefits, and highlighted the benefits of dog ownership, dog walking and dog play in boosting physical activity in pre-school aged children.

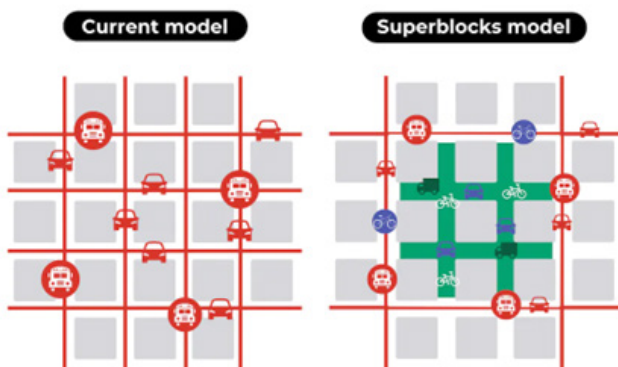
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The superblocks model explained

Comparison between the current model and superblocks model of urban mobility planning.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Public transport network | Private vehicle passing |
| Bicycles main network (bike path) | Residents' vehicles |
| Free passage for bicycles | Urban services and emergency |
| Basic traffic network | Pedestrians priority |



THE CONVERSATION

Opportunities

In our Opportunities research program, we look at key institutions such as families, education, employment and welfare as priorities for addressing disadvantage. We need to understand these social structures intimately to break down built-in constraints and unlock life opportunities.



Program leaders



Janeen Baxter (UQ)

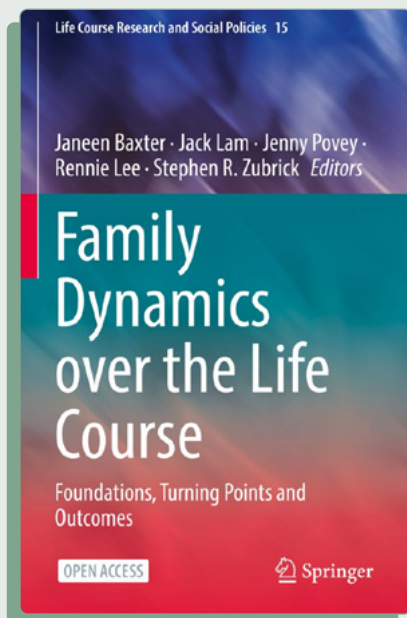


Deputy: **Wojtek Tomaszewski** (UQ).

Program highlights

- Family dynamics
- Education
- Early learning
- Gender and the pandemic

Family dynamics over the life course



How families and other social institutions interact to shape life course pathways and opportunities is the focus of a new book published by Life Course Centre researchers in 2022. The book is edited by Professor Janeen Baxter, Centre Director and Opportunities research program leader, in conjunction with Dr Jack Lam, Research Fellow; Associate Professor Jenny Povey, Associate Investigator; Dr Rennie Lee, Research Fellow; and Emeritus Professor Steve Zubrick, Emeritus Centre Chief Investigator and former Deputy Director. It also features contributions from a wide cross-section of our researchers nationally and internationally.

It examines critical life course stages, from early childhood, adolescence and emerging adulthood to parenting, relationships and ageing as well as the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage and the experiences of specific groups including Indigenous children, migrants and refugees. It also explores opportunities to address disadvantage through key institutions such as education and employment. The book uses recent, high-quality Australian data and provides important implications for evidence-informed policymaking to ensure greater equality of opportunities for all Australians.

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NEW PROJECT:

Educational pathways



A new Opportunities research program project, funded in 2022, will investigate the impact of social disadvantage, including intergenerational factors, on educational pathways, transitions and employment outcomes.

Led by Dr Tomasz Zajac (pictured at left), Research Fellow, this multi-disciplinary cross-nodal project will produce valuable new knowledge to inform targeted education policies to improve life opportunities. It features partnerships with the Australian Government Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and other agencies, and will utilise new data from the Multi Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). This project extends our body of research on educational equity, strengthens our data connections with government, and will contribute to a new data asset and analytic capacity for future project extensions, such as when new data on post-graduation outcomes becomes available.





Supporting single mothers

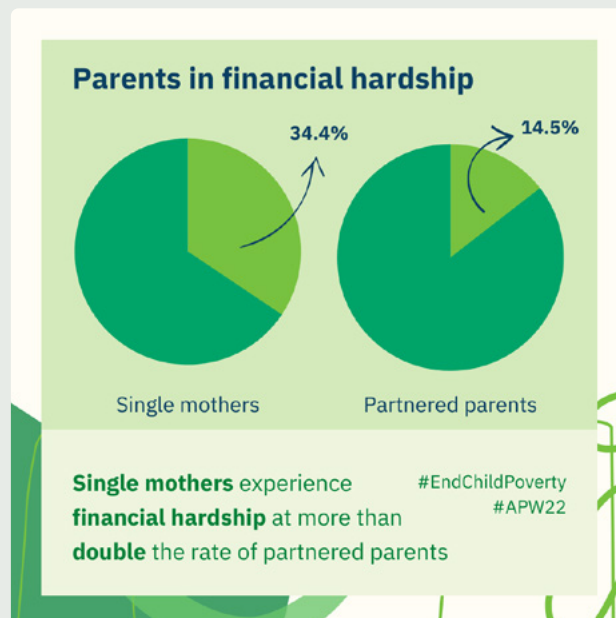
What happens when families don't work?

This question was at the heart of a body of Life Course Centre research in 2022 that examined the financial impact of a relationship breakdown on women.

Our research showed that when a relationship breaks down, women are at a much higher risk than men of falling into poverty, particularly if they have children to care for. Indeed, the risk of financial hardship more than doubles for women after a relationship breakdown and is especially felt by women with children. Our research also highlighted the interplay between income support and childcare for single mothers, where the loss of support payments and extra costs of childcare can erode income gained from having a job. This means that employment can be unattainable for the group that needs it most – women plunged into poverty by a family breakdown.

Supporting women to escape this poverty trap requires more targeted policies in the areas of income support, tax and transfer, employment and childcare. But another key finding from our research is that a woman's best defence against falling into poverty after a relationship split is having a stable job and income before the breakup. The least vulnerable group of women post-breakup were those who already had a job, while the most vulnerable were those without a job. We must therefore support all mothers to better combine family and work and protect their financial independence.

Women lose wealth after a relationship breakdown, but they also have a large drop in earnings, relative to men, at the birth of their first child. Our research shows this earnings gap is still present 10 years after a first birth. Over a life course, mothers earn less than fathers and this disparity is brought into even sharper focus if mothers experience a relationship breakdown.



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- Watson, N., & Baxter, J. (2022). Income, wealth and the marital dissolution process: Examining the impact of non-response and sample design issues for women and men. *Life Course Centre Working Paper Series*, 2022-23.

COVID and gender



Our research highlights that single mothers in Australia are at a significantly greater risk of financial hardship than partnered mothers and fathers, and this has been the case for the past 20 years. But our analysis did identify a small decrease in the proportion of single mothers in financial hardship in 2020, which could be attributed to the Australian Government's Coronavirus Supplement income support payment and its positive impact on the financial position of single mothers.

Separate research examined the uneven economic impacts of COVID in Australia by gender, comparing labour force outcomes before (2019) and during the pandemic (2021). It found that the start of the pandemic had an immediate negative impact on women's employment. However, women's labour force outcomes had generally recovered by the end of the period examined.

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Campbell, A., Baxter, J. (2022). If we want Australian children to grow up free from poverty, we must support those raising them – especially sole parents. *The Power to Persuade*. 18 October, 2022.

Mooi-Reci, I., Trinh, T.-A., & Wooden, M. (2022). The impact of the pandemic on gender inequality in the Australian labor market. *Socius*, 8. doi.org/10.1177/23780231221096575

Quality matters for early learning



Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) was a key public policy focal point in Australia in 2022 with governments, at both the federal and state levels, initiating reforms to improve access and affordability. While this is welcome for better enabling parental workforce participation, especially for mothers, our researchers continue to stress the importance of also improving ECEC quality.

The first five years are crucial in shaping a child's life, including brain development, behaviour, learning, and health and wellbeing outcomes into adulthood. ECEC can be a great 'leveller' to set all children up for the best start in life, but only if the quality is high. Research published in 2022 tracked children across three years of ECEC to examine how instructional, organisational and emotional qualities of educator-child interactions are associated with children's rate of learning.

Our research found that the instructional and organisational aspects of ECEC interactions did not reliably predict child learning. However, changes in the emotional environment, including the educator-child relationship and regard for a child's perspective, did positively predict language development. This highlights that the emotional qualities of ECEC are an integral and powerful component of early learning. However, realising the promise of these gains depends on having a qualified, supported and thriving ECEC workforce.

REFERENCES

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Thorpe, K., Potia, A.H., Rankin, P.S., Staton, S., & Houen, S. (2022). 'Greatest transformation of early education in a generation'? Well, that depends on qualified, supported and thriving staff. *The Conversation*. June 21, 2022.



image: Karen Thorpe being interviewed by the ABC 730 program in August 2022 on the importance of high quality early childhood education and care for brain development in the first five years of life.

A long-term collaborative focus is the key to unlocking lasting impact for the Life Course Centre. Here we showcase some examples of our cumulative impact in advancing data infrastructure to better understand, and more effectively address, deep and persistent disadvantage in Australia.

Our Impact

Impact Stories

A long-term collaborative focus is the key to unlocking lasting impact for the Life Course Centre. Here we showcase some examples of our cumulative impact in advancing data infrastructure to better understand, and more effectively address, deep and persistent disadvantage in Australia.



Data Case Study 1 Improving Life Opportunities

Better data infrastructure empowers our researchers to produce better data-driven evidence on ways to prevent and disrupt disadvantage and improve life opportunities for all.

Through our sustained efforts and partnerships with key Australian Government data custodians and agencies, the Life Course Centre has successfully unlocked access to the responsible use of sensitive administrative data on disadvantaged Australian children and families, and their interactions over time with key social institutions such as education, welfare and employment.

These government records had previously been tightly held and not utilised for research purposes. By accessing, analysing and linking this data, we have been able to investigate associations and identify critical time-points in the life course at which interventions can be most meaningful. Access to this data has helped us to inform and influence policy debate and establish a policy discourse that looks at long-term impacts over multiple interactions – that is, a life course approach.

Data for Policy

We have played a leading role in shaping administrative data access in Australia through our ongoing Data for Policy initiative. Our focus on leveraging administrative data for research and policy can be traced back to the start of the Life Course Centre in 2014. Our first Centre launch in 2014 was held in conjunction with our first data workshop and we have since hosted

further workshops in Australia in 2015, 2016 and 2019 as well as an international workshop at Stanford University, California, in 2017.

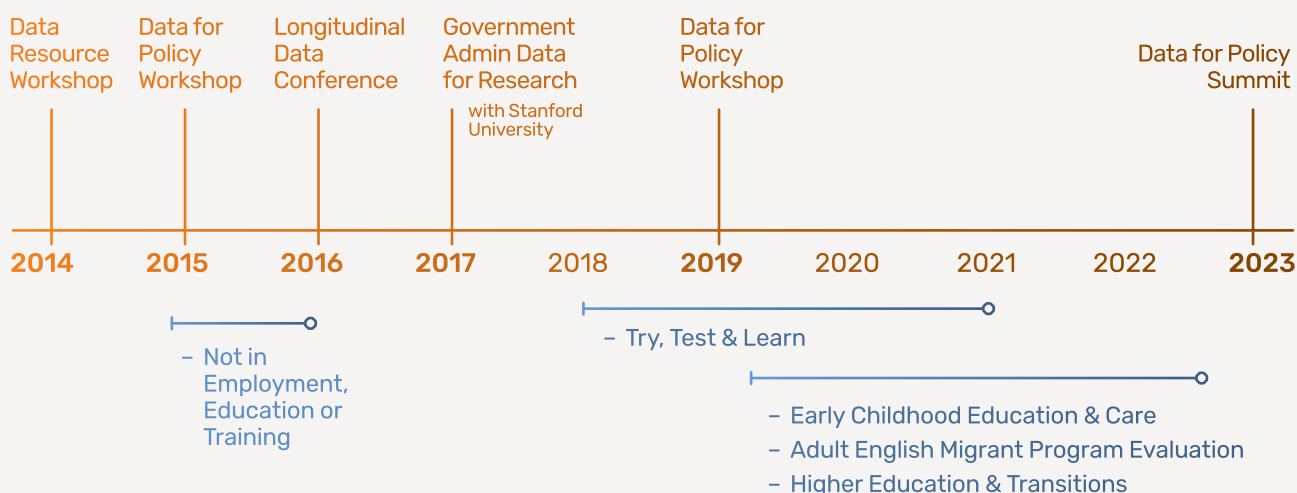
These workshops have been critical in bringing together researchers and government agencies to explore ways to collaborate and fully utilise administrative data to address disadvantage and maximise life opportunities via institutions such as education and employment. These efforts are ongoing, and we will host our next Data for Policy event in collaboration with our foundation partner, the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS), in Canberra in mid-2023.

We have also engaged closely with the Office of the National Data Commissioner (ONDC) since its establishment within the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2018. We were involved in all stages of the ONDC Data Sharing and Release Legislative Reforms, making submissions to the 2018 and 2019 consultations and on the Draft Bill in 2020, and it was pleasing to finally see the passing of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022, a world-class scheme for sharing government data backed by strong safeguards, by the Australian Parliament in March 2022.

Innovative data use

Our strong partnership approach with government has seen Centre researchers progress innovative projects to demonstrate the insights to be gained from unique analysis of linked administrative data.

The history of Data for Policy



This includes pioneering work across many policy areas, from analysis of transgenerational data sets on welfare receipt, tracking the wellbeing trajectories of young mothers and examining educational pathways and outcomes over the life course, to evaluations of programs in areas such as social housing, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

One showcase proof-of-concept example is a collaboration between the Life Course Centre, DSS and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that focussed on Australians who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). This is a major policy challenge for government and our study, which began in 2016 and was published in 2021, was the first of its kind to link DSS and ABS data. It showed NEETs comprise a much more diverse population than just young people, and NEETs policymaking should therefore cover all working-age people, with tailored supports at different stages of life.

Other research on reducing long-term welfare dependency includes evaluations of the effectiveness of social interventions funded by DSS through its Try, Test and Learn (TTL) fund. Our 2021 TTL evaluation report highlighted how priority investment and early intervention can enable at-risk groups to build skills and capacity to take opportunities to participate in the labour market and live independently of welfare. The key message for programs aimed at improving labour market outcomes was to have a range of supports targeting the various stages of transitioning to work.

Next Steps

Building on these strong foundations, the Life Course Centre's new flagship Longitudinal Study of Life Opportunities project will extend our evaluation of some TTL participants and link with the new ABS Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) that brings together health, education, income, taxation, welfare, employment and census data over time. By linking with MADIP, we will deliver more detailed assessments of the long-term impact of DSS social interventions, barriers to participation, and flow-on, indirect and fade-out effects.

While a lot of important progress has been made in advancing data infrastructure on disadvantaged Australian children and families, there are still challenges remaining and future directions required. High-quality data is essential to strong evaluations of what policies work, and this requires more joined-up, linked data that tracks interactions with key institutions and social services over time.

The Life Course Centre will continue to advance new initiatives and frontiers in this field, including incorporating and linking national, state, non-government, longitudinal and qualitative data, adding innovative new data sources such as geo-spatial, biometric and machine learning, and progressing new proof-of-concept projects and best practice communities.

Data Case Study 2

Helping To Close The Gap



The Life Course Centre has played a central role in laying the foundations for a landmark new study that will use more than 40 years of data to pinpoint crucial turning points in child development that could help to close the gap in Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes.

The study, one of the most significant of its kind in Australia to examine the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children under the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty, was awarded a prestigious Synergy Grant by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in November 2022.

This new five-year project, titled 'Improving Aboriginal health by understanding the influence of early life environments and contacts with health and social service systems over time and across generations', is the result of many years of work by Life Course Centre researchers on advancing data linkage infrastructure.

The multi-disciplinary project team is led by Associate Professor Francis Mitrou, Chief Investigator, TKI-UWA, and also includes colleague Emeritus Professor Steve Zubrick, former Chief Investigator and Deputy Director, and Professor Stefanie Schurer, Research Fellow, Sydney, along with several other collaborators and partners, including senior and junior Aboriginal researchers.

The new study will be conducted in close partnership with Aboriginal communities and will use data from the West Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey (WAACHS) of more than 5,000 Aboriginal children and their families collected between 2000–2002 and linked to administrative datasets from the Western Australia government, some stretching back more than 40 years.

It will focus on improving Aboriginal health by understanding the influence of early life environments and contacts with health and social service systems over time and across generations. "We know that those early years are really crucial to the development of children, physically, cognitively and emotionally," Francis said.

"We are in a unique position to use that rich data gathered through the WAACHS to pinpoint the areas that need the most focus and where policy changes could make a positive impact to Aboriginal life pathways and improve Closing the Gap indicators. We will do this work under the guidance and direction of strong Aboriginal governance and in partnership with Aboriginal communities."

The NHMRC Synergy grant builds on the strong foundations of the WAACHS linked data study, led by Francis and Steve, that investigated disparities in Aboriginal child health across

image: Pictured from left to right: Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Hayley Christian, Francis Mitrou and Brendan Kennedy (onscreen) discussing First Nations research partnerships at our national research retreat in September 2022.

"I want to thank the Life Course Centre for their support of this project in many ways over the years. In particular, an Infrastructure Grant from 2018 was instrumental in supporting this bid as it helped fund the critical data linkage component that underpins the work." – Francis Mitrou

multiple domains, including physical health, social and emotional wellbeing and education, and identified the need for effective planning and delivery of culturally and geographically appropriate services.

The WAACHS study also highlighted the importance of consulting and including Aboriginal people in the leadership, direction, development, implementation and accountability of strategies to improve Aboriginal health outcomes. The NHMRC study represents the next chapter in creating a bigger impact on shaping effective solutions that enable self-determination and sustainable change.

First Nations perspectives and partnerships

Partnering to advance First Nations perspectives was a key topic of discussion at the Life Course Centre National Research Retreat in 2022 and will be an important focus for the Centre moving forward in building and strengthening community collaborations and specialist capacities and skills.

There are a range of research projects across the Centre that have been designed, and are being undertaken, in close partnership with First Nations groups, from working with Tati Tati traditional owners in regional Victoria, including Research Fellows Brendan Kennedy and Melissa Kennedy, on Indigenous water rights, to partnerships on Indigenous literacy, early

education and youth sleep health in regional Queensland communities.

Our sponsorship of the 'Reconciliation, Opportunities, Wellbeing of First Nations Peoples' workshop, organised by Professor Stefanie Schurer and held at the University of Sydney in February 2023, was an important initiative for bringing together researchers in this field. Researchers from three of our nodes attended and presented on the WAACHS and Tati Tati projects and other research, including youth wellbeing in the Northern Territory and truth telling on historical frontier violence.

This workshop featured keynotes from Indigenous academics Professor Pat Dudgeon, UWA, and Professor Gail Garvey, UQ, as well as sessions on Indigenous data access, use and sovereignty. We were also represented in panel discussions on data, evaluations and policymaking, alongside prominent Indigenous academic Professor Marcia Langton, University of Melbourne, at the 2022 Social and Economic Outlook conference.

An important paper published in our Life Course Centre Working Paper Series in 2022, 'Exploring and researching the Indigenous life course', was authored by Indigenous academic Professor Maggie Walter, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Aboriginal Research and Leadership, University of Tasmania, and highlights the need for new approaches to, and data on, Indigenous life course journeys.



image: Sangeetha Chandrashekeran and Brendan Kennedy presenting on the Tati Tati water rights project at our sponsored workshop on 'Reconciliation, Opportunities, Wellbeing of First Nations Peoples' in Sydney.

Partnerships

Working closely with partners creates crucial pathways to impact for the Life Course Centre. Here are some examples of our activities with established and emerging partners in 2022.

Department of Social Services Forum

Our showpiece partner event in 2022 was a Life Course Centre and Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) joint forum held in Canberra in June.

Our partnership with DSS has been ongoing since the establishment of the first Life Course Centre in 2014, and collaborations between our Chief Investigators and DSS stretch back more than 20 years. This relationship is based on a shared commitment to improving the lives of Australian children and families, and we continue to seek new strategic opportunities to work together.

In line with this, the 2022 forum aimed to develop a shared research agenda moving forward. A total of 16 Life Course Centre researchers from all four of our Australian university nodes attended to meet with DSS staff, showcase research for feedback and plan ways to maximise collaborations.

Our researchers presented on a range of topics, spanning intergenerational disadvantage, place-based approaches, and the wellbeing of children and young people; while DSS staff outlined their policy priorities to support disadvantaged groups, including Indigenous Australians and people with disabilities, and address pressing issues such as domestic and family violence and child safety.

Following wide-ranging discussions on the intersectionality of disadvantage, including children and families with multiple and complex needs, the following key topics were identified and agreed for our researchers to investigate further as part of our shared research agenda:

- Disability (including Indigenous disability)
- Women's and children's safety
- Childcare and the early years strategy
- Closing the gap.

Data was a key area of convergence between DSS and Life Course Centre representatives at the forum, especially accessing, coordinating and linking administrative data to inform research and evidence-informed policy making.

Our partnership with DSS is also built on a shared commitment to transferring knowledge from research projects to relevant policy channels, and to building capacity through joint training and development across both organisations.

This includes producing accessible and policy relevant publications, presenting to DSS, Centre-provided training in advanced research methods, DSS engagement in Centre seminars and events, and potential work placement opportunities.

Knowledge Transfer Video

As part of our focus on developing our knowledge transfer capabilities, several of our partners and other stakeholders were involved in a special video produced for our Knowledge Transfer Portfolio online launch event in May 2022. This video explored definitions, examples and benefits of knowledge transfer partnerships and featured presentations by:

- Dr Shae Garwood, Manager, Research, Advocacy & Prevention, Anglicare WA
- Professor Shelley Mallett, Director, Social Policy & Research Centre, Brotherhood of St. Laurence
- Toni Wren, Executive Director, Anti-Poverty Week
- Gavin Duffy, Executive Manager, Policy & Research, St Vincent De Paul, Victoria
- Dr Robert Mun, Executive Director, Engineering & Information Services, Australian Research Council

Emerging WHO Partnership

From a global perspective, an emerging partnership between the Life Course Centre and the World Health Organisation (WHO) began to develop in 2022. Our Director Professor Janeen Baxter presented to an online 'kick-off' meeting for WHO's new focus on healthy development and ageing over the life course, attended by 118 participants from all six WHO regions. The Life Course Centre and our life course approach were featured in a subsequent report, and we will continue to be involved in this ongoing WHO initiative.

Achievements

A selection of some highlight achievements from our research leaders, early and mid-career researchers and students in 2022.



Centre Students

Life Course Centre PhD student **Dure Sameen Jabran** (pictured left) progressed to the UQ Final of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition in 2022. This was a wonderful achievement by Sameen to be one of eight finalists in the showcase event, after winning the Institute for Social Science Research and the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty heats. Her 3MT presentation focussed on 'First Nations Sleep Coaches to help young people in community'.

Dr Gursimran Dhamrait, Life Course Centre student alumni, TKI-UWA, had her PhD thesis, which examined predictors of early childhood development and school readiness, awarded an honourable mention on The University of Western Australia Dean's List in 2022. This is a rare award that is only received by very few (top 5%) theses passed by UWA.

It was wonderful to see a number of Life Course Centre PhD students celebrate their graduations at UQ ceremonies in 2022. These included **Dr M Mamun Huda** and **Dr Tuhin Biswas** (pictured below left) in July and **Dr Macarena San Martin** and **Dr Tahmina Begum** in December (pictured below with Jenny Povey, Associate Investigator, UQ).





Centre Researchers

Early child development

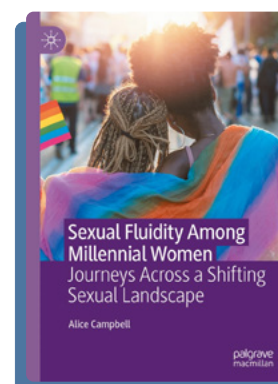
Professor Karen Thorpe (pictured right), Chief Investigator, UQ, was awarded a prestigious ARC Laureate Fellowship for her project '10,000 Hours: Time in early education and care for better life opportunity'. This study will track children over time to investigate what constitutes a quality early learning and care program and to identify strategies to address current social inequities. "An Australian child can spend 10,000 hours in early care and education programs before they start school and it's a critical period for their development," Karen said. "Ultimately, I hope this research will inform policy and practice that improves children's experiences in their early years, promotes development and learning when they enter school, and supports ongoing opportunities in their lives."



Also in the field of early child development, **Dr Sally Staton** (pictured right), Research Fellow, UQ, was awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to investigate child sleep in the context of family work lives. Sally's study will examine changes in sleep patterns as children transition between home and non-parental care to inform solutions to support healthy sleep development.



top image: Karen Thorpe with recent recipients of an ARC Laureate Fellowship and the Minister for Education The Hon. Jason Clare MP (front centre) In Canberra in December 2022.



Gender and families

Dr Alice Campbell (pictured above left), Research Fellow, UQ, won the 2022 Hugo G. Beigel Award from The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. This award recognises research excellence in sexual science and is awarded to an outstanding paper published in the prior year in *The Journal of Sex Research*. Alice's award-winning paper, 'Changes in sexual identity labels in a contemporary cohort of emerging adult women: Patterns, prevalence and a typology', was co-authored with Dr Francisco Perales and Professor Janeen Baxter. Alice also published the book, 'Sexual fluidity among millennial women – Journeys across a shifting sexual landscape' with Palgrave in 2022, which she launched at the 2022 Australian Sociological Association conference (pictured above right).

Also in the field of gender and family dynamics, **Professor Guyonne Kalb**, Chief Investigator, Melbourne, was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia for her research on micro-economics, labour and childcare, while **Professor Leah Ruppanner**, Associate Investigator, Melbourne, was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship to research the 'mental load' in families.

In the field of neuroeconomics, **Professor Agnieszka Tymula**, Chief Investigator, Sydney, became the President of the Society for Neuroeconomics (2022-2023) and joined the board of the journal, *Experimental Economics*. In 2022 she also gave the inaugural lecture at the Society for Experimental Finance women mentoring session on 'A new perspective on gender differences in risk attitudes'.

Places and health

In our Places research program, **Professor Mark Stevenson**, Chief Investigator, Melbourne, was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences for his road safety research. He was also awarded an NHMRC Partnership Project for a population-based intervention to reduce young driver crashes. Associate **Professor Hayley Christian**, Chief Investigator, TKI-UWA, was a finalist in the mid-career category of the 2022 WA Premier's Science Awards for promoting better child health outcomes through physical activity, while **Dr Matthew McLaughlin**, Research Fellow, TKI-UWA, won a TKI Aspire Award for professional development, enabling him to attend the Micromobility Conference and Asia-Pacific Society for Physical Activity Conference.

Data science

In the field of data science, **Dr Rocky Chen**, Research Fellow, UQ, was awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award on machine learning and personalised recommendation services. **Professor Helen Huang**, Chief Investigator, UQ, was awarded an ARC Discovery Project on responsible data management, while **Professor Xue Li**, Associate Investigator, UQ, was also awarded an ARC Discovery Project on prediction models based on short text and video data.

Communications

The Life Course Centre is committed to a strategic and agile approach to communications to maximise our profile, reach and impact.

In 2022, we continued to progress our coordinated suite of Life Course Centre communications channels, including our website, social media, newsletters, videos and podcasts, fact sheets, media releases, news items, blogs and feature articles, and targeted public policy submissions.

New communications initiatives in 2022 included the launch of new and improved Life Course Centre website, professional videos produced for our official Centre Launch and Knowledge Transfer Portfolio launch and extending the scope and reach of new and established communications partnerships.

The Power To Persuade



One of our communications highlights in 2022 was a new partnership with The Power To Persuade blog, an independent platform for social policy discussion supported by Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand.

After supplying one blog to the site in 2021, we were approached to enter a more substantial content partnership in 2022. This led to us having two dedicated weeks for publishing in May and October, which was coordinated by our communications team and generated strong levels of writing, pitching and engagement from Life Course Centre researchers nationally on topics ranging from gender, young people and adversity, single parents, data, migrants, poverty and mental health.

7
BLOG
ARTICLES

FROM **15**
AUTHORS
ACROSS **4**
UNIVERSITIES

2,500
UNIQUE
VISITORS

3,400
PAGE
VIEWS

Featured titles from the blog

For women, the road to 'unfreedom' is paved with violence
9 May 2022

How can we help young people to overcome adversity and look to the future?
11 May 2022

Tackling wicked problems from the inside out
12 May 2022

If we want Australian children to grow up free from poverty, we must support those raising them – especially sole parents
18 October 2022

Improving Census data on Australia's diversity will help to better identify and address poverty
19 October 2022

In Anti-Poverty Week here are 5 big ideas for Australia to halve child poverty by 2030
20 October 2022

Temporary COVID Supplement Payments Associated With Better Mental Health, But Permanent Boost Likely Required
21 October 2022



Anti-Poverty Week

Anti-Poverty Week in October is a major focal point for our communication activities and in 2022 this partnership continued to mature and delivered strong reach and impact. We joined the Anti-Poverty Week (16–20 October) campaign calling on Australian Parliamentarians to legislate a plan, with measurable targets and actions, to halve child poverty by 2030. To support this call, and drawing on our 2022 research retreat, we put forward five big ideas to reduce poverty:

- Free high-quality childcare for all
- Extended parental leave with a focus on fathers
- Affordable and secure housing for all
- Raising income support to a liveable level
- Educational opportunities from birth to university

As 2022 marked the 20th year of Australia dedicating a week to act on poverty, we undertook special research for Anti-Poverty Week on single parent families over the past 20 years. This research showed the risk of financial hardship for single mothers was more than double that of partnered mothers, and this has been the case for 20 years. We proposed six practical actions to address this:

- Raise the rate of income support for single parents
- Stop violence against women
- Increase access to affordable and high-quality childcare
- Address the problem of unpaid child support
- Fix the housing crisis
- Reform the tax and transfer system

Our research on single parent families was promoted via a joint Anti-Poverty Week media release and briefing that generated strong exposure, including ABC Radio National, ABC 730, The Guardian, The Monthly and Channel 10. It was also highlighted by Anti-Poverty Week Executive Director and member of our Advisory Committee Toni Wren at a Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) webinar that included The Hon. Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services, and Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner.

In Anti-Poverty Week, Chief Investigator Associate Professor Francis Mitrou presented at a 'Let's Work Together to Halve Child Poverty by 2030' event at Government House in WA alongside The Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth, and Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, WA Commissioner for Children and Young People.

In the lead-up to Anti-Poverty Week, our Deputy Director Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark presented the 2022 Keith Hancock Lecture, hosted by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the University of Sydney, on 'Staggered Starting Blocks: Intergenerational Disadvantage in Australia'.

The strength of a
Centre of Excellence
is its people and the
outreach enabled
by working across
multiple nodes and
institutions...

— Professor Janeen Baxter, Centre Director

Our Activities

National Research Retreat

The first in-person national research retreat for our new Centre, and our first face-to-face national gathering for three years, was held in the Blue Mountains, NSW, in September bringing together more than 120 Centre members from across our four Australia university nodes.



The two-day retreat began overlooking the stunning Blue Mountains with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony from Aunty Leonie Trindall, an elder of the Gundungurra People, the traditional owners of the land upon which we were meeting.

Day One included get-to-know-you activities and updates from the Centre Director and our Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer portfolios, followed by a panel discussion on developing research partnerships. We were particularly grateful to hear from Brendan Kennedy of the Tati Tati Nation on developing research partnerships with First Nations peoples. In the afternoon, there were smaller breakout sessions on specific research topics, ranging from schools, neighbourhoods and families, and different research methods and types of data including qualitative, administrative data and data science.





This retreat is the glue and the foundation of the Life Course Centre

– Janeen Baxter, Centre Director

Day Two began with a variety of social activities, including bushwalking, a high ropes course and a painting activity which produced some lovely artworks of the mountains. There were then smaller brainstorming sessions on topics such as mental health, decision making and sleep. The retreat concluded with interactive sessions on matchmaking of academic posters on display, tackling our 'big challenges' and pitching 'blue sky' ideas. Overall, the retreat was a huge success with many members commenting how much they benefitted from meeting new collaborators in person.



Seminars and Events

Our online Seminar Series, first introduced in 2020 as a new way of connecting during COVID-19, continues to be a successful engagement forum for the Centre. We also continue to identify strategic opportunities to support events that provide high-profile exposure.

Seminar Series

Our 2022 Seminar Series included presentations by Chief Investigators and Early Career Researchers and there was also a strong international flavour with overseas presenters including:



Mary-Alice Doyle
PhD candidate from the
London School of Economics
and Political Science

‘Compounding disadvantage:
health effects of an early-life
shock for Aboriginal children’



**Assistant Professor
Krzysztof (Chris)
Karbownik**
Emory University, Atlanta,
Georgia

‘Getting a second chance?
Prenatal health shocks and
infant health care’



Professor Richard Layte
Trinity College Dublin

‘How does social position shape
health and wealth across the
life-course?’



**Professor Jasper
Schipperijn**
University of Southern
Denmark

‘Promoting children’s physical
activity: International evidence’

Professor Schipperijn, a Life Course Centre Associate Investigator, also spent time visiting our TKI-UWA node in 2022 collaborating with our researchers focussed on children’s physical activity levels.

Supported Events

The Life Course Centre was proud to be a major sponsor of the 2022 Economic and Social Outlook Conference in Melbourne in November. A number of our researchers and students from across the country were in attendance and we had a strong presence at the event, including interactive screens for people to explore our research. The theme of this year's conference was 'Opening Doors of Opportunity' and there were many high-profile presentations and discussions from a range of research, business, media and government leaders, including Prime Minister The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP and The Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers MP and several other Australian Government Ministers.



We also supported the Labour Econometrics Workshop held at the University of Wollongong in August. This two-day event featured presentations from Australian and international economists, including several of our Centre members, and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury The Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP. Other sponsors included the Australian Government Department of Social Services, Department of Education, The Treasury and the Productivity Commission.



above image: Professor A. Abigail Payne, Chief Investigator, (Melb) addressing the Outlook conference.

Capacity Building

It was a very active and successful year for our Capacity Building Portfolio which is focussed on supporting and developing our Early Career Researchers and Higher Degree Research students to become the next generation of life course leaders.

Activities delivered by the Capacity Building Portfolio Committee in 2022 spanned in-person and online training and development, awards, networking, and one-on-one and group mentoring. In 2022, the committee also developed a Diverse Advisory Teams policy that was approved by the Centre Executive Committee. The implementation of this policy will be a key focus in 2023.

Capacity Building Portfolio Committee 2022:

- **Chair Cameron Parsell** (UQ)
- **Kate Gilkison** (Melb)
- **Alice Campbell** (UQ)
- **Abdullah Mamun** (UQ)
- **Charlotte Casey** (UQ)
- **Julia de Bruyn** (Melb)
- **Golnoush Rahimzadeh** (USyd)
- **Phoebe George** (TKI-UWA)
- **Lynne Millar** (TKI-UWA)
- **Emily Shaw** (USyd)
- **Lisa Pope** (UQ)

Centre School for HDR Students

A total of 38 Higher Degree Research (HDR) students from across our Australian university nodes attended a two-day Centre school at UQ's Customs House in Brisbane in November (pictured below). The program featured sessions covering grant funding, publishing, industry placements, project management, leadership, public speaking, and research for policy making. In the lead-up to the school, online sessions were also held on research communications and building an academic career.

ECR Training Day

A full day of training for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) was added onto our National Research Retreat in the Blue Mountains in September. There were 26 attendees from across our four nodes and the focus was advice and support for grant funding applications. Centre Director Professor Janeen Baxter and Chief Investigator and Capacity Building Portfolio Chair Professor Cameron Parsell shared their experiences and insights. There was also a group activity and prizes for the best research grant pitch.



2022 Capacity Building Awards

2 ROUNDS

25 APPLICANTS

\$55,000 AWARDED
IN TOTAL

22 SUCCESSFUL
APPLICATIONS
(11 ECRS, 11 HDRS)

Applications covered attending a conference/
training, presenting at a conference, delivering
training, or hiring a research assistant.

“My attendance at the Australian Institute of Family Studies 2022 conference was a great learning opportunity to see policy and research centred on supporting families and children.”

Dr Jon Sae-Koew (ECR, TKI-UWA)

“Overall, my takeaway from the Australian Conference of Economists was that thinking about wellbeing, inequality and intergenerational persistent disadvantage goes to the crux of the work we do as economists.”

Michelle Zhang (HDR, USyd)

“I will continue to maintain collaborations with the ISPAH society and its members as this has been a valuable scientific and advocacy output for my career.”

Dr Tepi Mclaughlin (ECR, TKI-UWA)



image: Tepi Mclaughlin (second from right) at the 2022 International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) congress in Abu Dhabi.

Knowledge Transfer

A lot of important foundational work was completed by our new Knowledge Transfer Portfolio in 2022 which has set a strong platform to embed knowledge transfer practices throughout our research processes and engagement with stakeholders.

The Knowledge Transfer Portfolio Committee demonstrated great agility and responsiveness in 2022, particularly in the delivery of Centre resources and guides, an online launch event, community involvement training workshops and an innovation award. It also took a very inclusive approach to involving and consulting Centre members through surveys, interviews, input and feedback.

What is Knowledge Transfer?

Following extensive feedback from Centre members (58 survey responses and 8 interviews) we have adopted the following definition of Knowledge Transfer:

Knowledge Transfer in the Life Course Centre is the two-way communication between researchers and people external to academia who can be impacted by the Centre's research.

This includes individuals and families experiencing disadvantage, government, non-government organisations, businesses/private industry. Knowledge is transferred and translated both ways, to inform and drive the Centre's research and the translation of its findings into policy and practice to break the cycle of deep and persistent disadvantage for Australian children and families.

Knowledge Transfer Portfolio Committee

Pictured left to right:

Portfolio Leader:

- **Hayley Christian** (UWA-TKI)

Deputy Leader:

- **Natasha Pearce** (UWA-TKI)

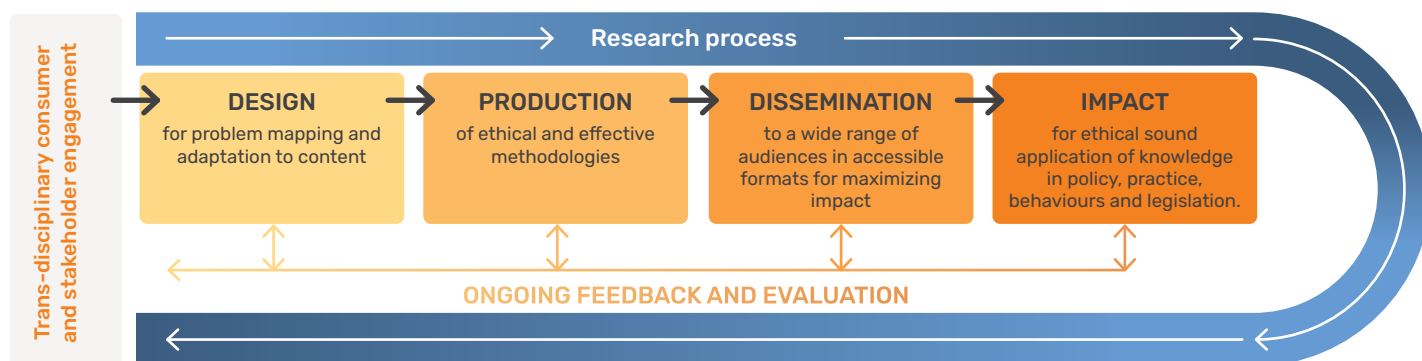
Committee members:

- **Sally Staton** (UQ)
- **Martin O'Flaherty** (UQ),
- **Sangeetha Chandrashekeran** (Melb)
- **Alyssa Milton** (Syd)
- **Daniel Pejic** (Melb)

Professional staff:

- **Narelle Mullan** (UWA-TKI)
- **Alana Papageorgiou** (UWA-TKI)
- **Matt MacDermott** (UQ)





Knowledge Transfer Launch Event

An online launch was held in May to raise awareness of, and provide information on, knowledge transfer to Centre members. The portfolio committee led by example by producing a video for the launch featuring a wide range of Centre researchers, partners and stakeholders talking about knowledge transfer examples and benefits. A short video on knowledge transfer was also provided by Dr Robert Mun, Australian Research Council Executive Director for Engineering and Information Sciences.

Community Involvement Training

Anne McKenzie AM, Community Engagement Consultant and Advisor with the Telethon Kids Institute, was appointed to provide tailored community involvement training for the Life Course Centre in 2022. To raise awareness of the training, Anne first presented to our seminar series in August, followed by online training workshops in October and December. Further training will be delivered in 2023. Anne's key message was "the community adds value to your research".

Knowledge Transfer Innovation Award

The Knowledge Transfer Innovation Award was launched in 2022 to support our early and mid-career researchers to undertake knowledge transfer activities in their research that includes stakeholder, consumer or community involvement. The winner of our first award was Dr Laetitia Coles (UQ) who will lead the 'Families in Focus: Embedding the voices of children with a disability and their families in research priorities' knowledge transfer plan. Further awards are planned for 2023.



diagram above: Community and stakeholder engagement in the research process from design to impact (adapted from Durham et al., 2014)

image above right: Dr Laetitia Coles, recipient of the Knowledge Transfer Innovation Award 2022

The second year of our new seven-year Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence funding term was one of strategic growth that showcased the collective breadth of our collaborations, the depth of our scientific expertise and the agility of our structures to pursue new directions.

Our Performance

Key Performance Indicators

Performance Measure	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Target 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1. Number of research outputs	110	156	160	180	200	210	225	235
Journal articles	58	103	145	160	180	185	200	210
Books	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	3
Book chapters	8	5	5	10	10	12	12	12
Conference publications	10	14	5–10	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15
Other (please specify)								
*Working papers / preprints	33	32	30–50	30–50	40–50	40–50	40–50	40–50
2. Quality of research outputs*								
Indexed journal articles in top quartile journals (%)	73.1%	76.6%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Indexed journal articles in top 10% journals (%)	36.5%	26.6%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Indexed publications in top 10% citation percentiles worldwide (%)			–	16%	17%	18%	19%	20%
3. Number of workshops/ conferences held/offered by the Centre	27	21	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20
4. Number of training courses held/ offered by the Centre	11	27	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20	15–20
5. Number of additional researchers working on Centre research								
Postdoctoral researchers	40	10	10–15	5	10	10	5	0
Honours students	11	10	5–10	5–10	5–10	5–10	5–10	5–10
PhD Students	59	12	12	10	10	8	0	0
Masters by research students	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	0
Masters by coursework students	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	0
Associate Investigators	19	7	3	7	8	5	3	0
Other researchers (non-postdoctoral and in-kind)	42	19	10–15	10	10	10	10	0
6. Number of postgraduate completions	9	8	8	8	8	10	10	10–15
7. Number of mentoring programs offered by the Centre	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5

* Calculated using Scival on 27 March 2023, using Scimago Journal Rank.

Key Performance Indicators *continued*

Performance Measure	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Target 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
8. Number of presentations/ briefings								
To the public	13	17	10–15	15–20	15–20	15–20	20–25	20–25
To government (parliamentarians and department/agencies at both State and Federal level)	32	92	40–50	40–50	40–50	40–50	40–50	40–50
To industry/business/end users	21	51	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25
To non-government organisations	20	30	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25	20–25
To professional organisations and bodies	6	29	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15
9. Number of new organisations collaborating with, or involved in, the Centre	15	18	10–20	10–20	10–20	10–20	5–10	0
10. Number of female research personnel								
Female	54%	53%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%
Centre-specific KPIs								
Position papers, reports and submissions to government	18	23	10–15	15–20	15–20	20–25	20–25	25–30
Publications and profiling of Centre research in non-academic outlets	42	65	30–40	40–50	40–50	40–50	50–60	50–60
Public awareness and outreach activities	46	48	40–50	50–60	50–60	50–60	60–70	60–70
Increasing participation in research: undergraduate researchers, community researchers and participants in equity initiatives	7	23	10	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15
Demonstrated influence on policy and practice	10	26	15	20	20	25	25	30
New research projects co-designed with partners	4	5	3	5	5	5	3	0
New funding associated with the Centre	\$12,632,419	\$5,582,909	\$2–5M	\$2–5M	\$2–5M	\$2–5M	\$2–5M	\$2–5M
New Interventions	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	0

The Life Course Centre has met or exceeded all of its Key Performance Indicators, except for the following:

- **Journal articles:** 103 published against a target of 145. This has also affected the total research outputs KPI, 156 against a target of 160. The journal articles KPI was set by putting a growth factor against the journal articles published under CE14. However, CE20 has a different disciplinary mix, a large number of complex projects with a long lead time and a matured and multifaceted strategy for knowledge translation and policy impact. It will be appropriate to re-examine this KPI in the context of the mid-term review.
- **Indexed journal articles in top 10% journals (%):** this has slipped well below the target set, at 26.6% against a target of 40%. The Chief Investigators will consider the appropriateness of the measure for the Centre, and either recommend a different measure or take action to meet the target.
- **Masters students:** These are not a priority area for the Centre, and while it is usual to have an occasional Masters student, there are no plans in place for recruitment. Masters by Coursework students are relevant only in Urban Planning, and only the occasional student from that space will be involved in Centre projects.

Income and Expenditure 2022

Consolidated	ARC	Institutional Co-Contributions	TOTAL 2022
INCOME	\$	\$	\$
ARC Centre of Excellence Grant			
Base Income	4,591,001		4,591,001
Indexation on Base Income	209,587		209,587
TOTAL ARC	4,800,588	0	4,800,588
Administering and Collaborating Organisation Contributions			
The University of Queensland		566,150	566,150
The University of Melbourne		201,000	201,000
The University of Western Australia		175,800	175,800
The University of Sydney		204,800	204,800
Total Admin & Collaborating Organisation contributions	0	1,147,750	1,147,750
Partner Organisation Contributions			
Goodstart Early Learning		70,000	70,000
Minderoo		20,000	20,000
Department of Social Services		300,000	300,000
Total Partner Organisation contributions	0	390,000	390,000
Other Income/ Return of funds			0
TOTAL INCOME	4,800,588	1,537,750	6,338,338
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	3,796,053	655,966	4,452,019
Scholarships	51,483	4,657	56,140
Travel and Visitor support	112,011	77,235	189,245
Equipment and Maintenance	16,804	9,265	26,069
Workshops and Conferences	90,713	194,886	285,599
Management and Administration	53,553	66,849	120,402
Education, Outreach and Communications	4,677	100,874	105,550
Other Expenditure	2,879	2,267	5,147
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,128,173	1,111,998	5,240,172
Annual Surplus/(Deficit)	672,415	425,751	1,098,166
FORECAST BROUGHT FORWARD FRM PREVIOUS YEAR	6,944,141	490,116	7,434,257
FORECAST TOTAL CARRYFORWARD TO NEXT YEAR	7,616,556	915,867	8,532,423

Statement of In-kind Support

Organisation	2022 Reporting Period
Administering Organisation	
The University of Queensland	\$1,367,441
Other Eligible Organisations	
The University of Melbourne	\$539,531
The University of Sydney	\$481,039
The University of Western Australia	\$328,706
Partner Organisations	
Anglicare WA	\$7,600
The Benevolent Society	\$25,000
Brotherhood of St. Laurence	\$10,000
National Growth Areas Alliance	\$14,750
University College Dublin	\$14,448
University of Pennsylvania, USA	\$12,000
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	\$150,000
Auckland University of Technology	\$23,652
Boston College	\$7,000
University of Essex, UK	\$16,879
Goodstart Early Learning Centre Ltd	\$120,000
Department of Social Services	\$140,000
University of Wisconsin, Madison	\$7,881
NSW Department of Customer Service	\$23,400
The Trustee for The Minderoo Foundation Trust As the Operator of a PBI (Minderoo Foundation)	\$86,500
TOTAL IN KIND	\$3,375,827

Who are we?

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course (Life Course Centre) was established in 2014 to tackle deep and persistent social disadvantage in Australia. The life course approach includes looking at critical life points (such as early childhood, schooling, transition to employment, marriage, parenthood, divorce, or retirement), to identify those periods at which life circumstances have the biggest and most lasting impact—positively and negatively. In 2019 we were awarded funding for an expanded Centre for another seven year period, starting in 2021.

Life Course Centre

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