



Australian Research Council
Centre of Excellence for Children
and Families over the Life Course

Annual Report 2025

A large, stylized number '5' graphic, colored orange and blue, positioned centrally on the cover. It is surrounded by various light blue icons representing education (books, pencil, question mark), health (heart, wheelchair, head with brain), and community (building, car, speech bubbles).

Building The Future

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

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.



Australian Government

Australian Research Council



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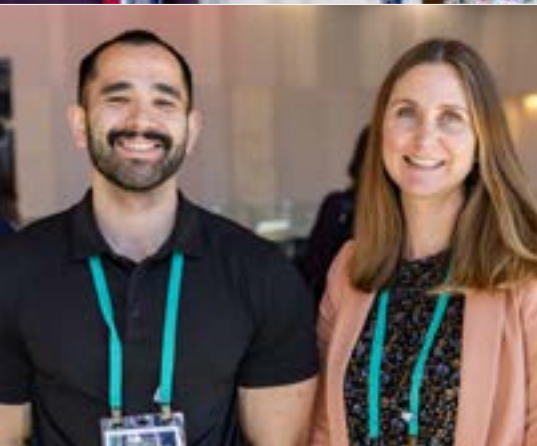
Our Centre

About Us

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course (Life Course Centre) is a national research centre investigating the critical factors underlying deep and persistent disadvantage to provide new knowledge and life-changing solutions for policy, service providers, and communities.

Our Centre is administered by the Institute for Social Science Research at The University of Queensland and is a collaboration with the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne and The University of Western Australia as well as leading international experts. We are also supported by key Australian government and non-government organisations, and community, business and philanthropic partners working at the front line of disadvantage.

Bringing together multiple research disciplines, methods, data, and collaborating partners, the Life Course Centre is uniquely positioned to track the trajectories and lived experiences of disadvantaged individuals across their lifetimes in more detail than ever before, to identify the interventions at specific stages of the life course that can make a real difference, and to inform the development of personalised and community-based solutions that can break the cycle of disadvantage.



About Us

Our Vision

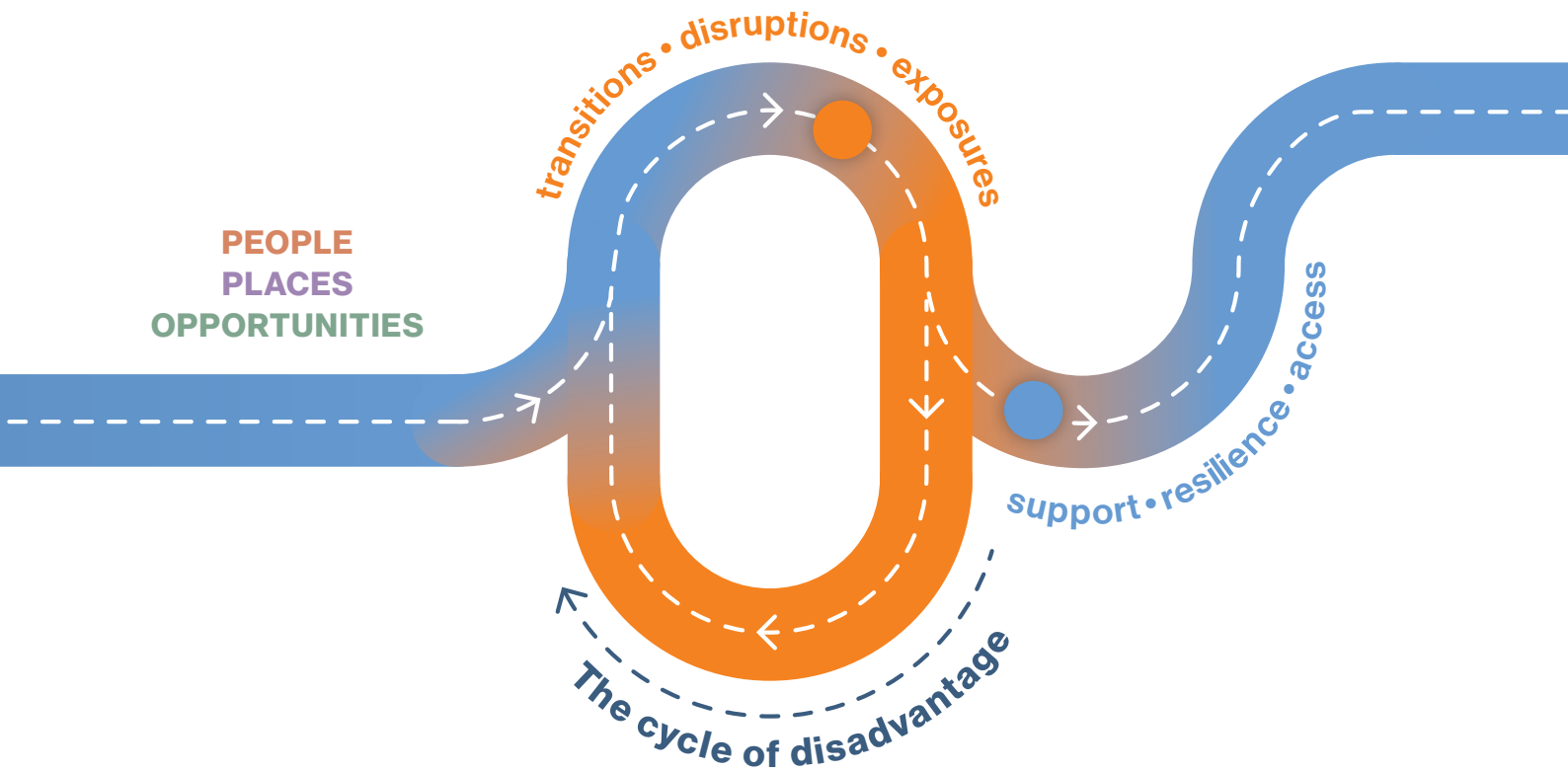
To deliver transformative research and translation to break the cycle of deep and persistent disadvantage and improve outcomes for all Australians.

Our Mission

To produce new knowledge, precision methods, transformative social interventions, enduring infrastructure, and new capacity that supports all Australians to achieve their potential over their life course.

Life Course Approach

The Life Course Centre is grounded in an innovative approach to identifying important life course influences, events and transitions, and developing strategic interventions to improve life opportunities and outcomes. Life course theory is a framework to understand how life pathways are shaped by interacting factors at key life stages such as early childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and parenthood. It allows investigation of how life course trajectories are influenced by factors such as intergenerational disadvantage and the institutional systems governing how we live and work. Our Centre is the first to apply life course theory to Australia's growing social and economic problem of deep and persistent disadvantage.



Director's Report

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report for the Life Course Centre. The Centre has had a fantastic year with many highlights, including our International Conference in Brisbane and another influential Data for Policy workshop in Canberra. As I reflect on these events and on our research, capacity building, and engagement outcomes, I feel immense pride and gratitude. It is humbling to work alongside such a high-achieving and collaborative group of researchers and partner organisations. I am confident that we have achieved our goal of creating a Centre that is greater than the sum of its individual parts, and that we are recognised as the 'go-to' centre in Australia for evidence and strategies to understand and address social disadvantage. Of course, there is always more to be done, and we have a full research and engagement agenda ahead, as outlined in the following pages.

Our International Life Course Conference in July was undoubtedly a standout moment in 2025. The energy was palpable as a diverse mix of researchers, government and non-government representatives, policymakers, and community members gathered in Brisbane. The scale of the two-day event and the calibre of the presentations and discussions were impressive. Seeing ideas sparked and new collaborations forged was incredibly exciting. Beyond its immediate success, the conference laid the foundations for the Centre's next major initiative – our Roadmap for the Future. The insights shared, the research highlighted, and the perspectives gathered during the conference have shaped this important strategic work and will guide our engagement and conversations with partners as we develop the roadmap.

Insights from our Data for Policy workshop in Canberra in October will also inform the roadmap process. This forum built on our longstanding engagement with government partners, aimed at unlocking and analysing insights into social disadvantage from administrative data records. This year's event focused on our non-government organisation (NGO) partners, who also collect a wealth of data that, when combined with government data, provide invaluable evidence for understanding pathways into and out of social disadvantage. The forum advanced our goal of developing a set of high-level principles and guidelines



for integrating NGO data into government datasets, while highlighting the challenges such as social license, governance, capacity, privacy issues, and resourcing. We look forward to continuing to develop these guidelines in consultation with our partners over the coming months.

2025 marked a new level of maturity and visibility for the Life Course Centre, both nationally and internationally. Our research was more visible, our impact more evident, and we were increasingly called upon as thought leaders for major new initiatives. This was reflected in the growing number of invitations our Chief Investigators and researchers received to lead and contribute to new projects. We were pleased to be invited to lead a project for the Australian Bureau of Statistic (ABS) to develop insights into sole-parent family outcomes using the new Life Course Data Asset. We are also excited about the development of a strong partnership with the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) to build resources for Australia's social science data infrastructure. Additionally, we were

Director's report

honoured to participate in the Academics and Think Tanks Productivity Roundtable, organised by the Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh – Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury. This national event informed discussions at the Federal Government's Economic Reform Roundtable.

Our international reputation continued to build in 2025. The strong attendance of overseas researchers at our own conference highlighted this expanding profile, as did our ongoing global collaborations, including our work with the World Health Organization on life course and healthy ageing research, and the growing importance and recognition of our work at international events such as the annual meetings of the Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies. Our researchers regularly strengthen our global reach by presenting their work at meetings in Europe, Asia, and North America, ensuring our insights contribute to conversations beyond Australia.

I am once again pleased to share a long list of achievements by our researchers in this Annual Report. Many secured additional competitive grants, while others were recognised with awards and honours for their contributions to research. These achievements reflect not only their individual excellence but also the strength and impact of the Centre's research.

All this activity makes 2025 feel like a year of acceleration. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved, and equally excited by what is next for the Life Course Centre. We certainly have no plans to slow down. The Roadmap for the Future project will be a significant undertaking for the Centre during the coming year, and together with our impactful research, capacity building, and engagement priorities, 2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to and supported the Centre in the last year. I hope you enjoy reading our 2025 Annual Report and celebrating what we have accomplished.

Professor Janeen Baxter

Director, Life Course Centre

International Conference

24-25 July 2025, Brisbane



Held in Brisbane, Australia, the conference brought together international experts, policy makers and community stakeholders, national and international partners and stakeholders, non-government organisations, members of the Life Course Centre Community, including researchers and students.

The event showcased Centre findings as well as new and emerging agendas and themes in life course and social science research. It provided an opportunity to hear from selected thought-leaders from around the world about new developments in data, methods, theory, research and policy.



International Conference

Building the future: International Life Course Conference

Through a decade of transformative, multi-disciplinary research and strategic collaborations, the Life Course Centre has cultivated deep, trusted relationships with researchers, policymakers, government and non-government organisations, and community members.

This foundation enables us to convene voices across sectors in a way that few can – bringing together the calibre of expertise needed to understand and break the cycle of deep and persistent disadvantage over the life course and across generations in Australia.

This was evident in July, when we hosted the International Life Course Conference: A roadmap for the future in Brisbane – a dynamic forum to continue our commitment to improve outcomes for Australians, advance the research and policy agenda, and stimulate collaborations with partners and stakeholders.

The two-day event attracted more than 200 attendees from across Australia and around the world. What made it truly distinctive was the diversity of voices and perspectives. Delegates included leading researchers, thought leaders, government representatives, business and community sector members, First Nations leaders, and those with lived experience.

A unique gathering of global thought leaders

The conference featured keynote addresses by Professor Patrick McGorry AO, Executive Director of Orygen and internationally renowned youth mental health researcher, and Professor Thomas Calma AO, one of Australia's most respected human rights and social justice campaigners.

Professor McGorry's address outlined pre-teen mental health trends, the greater need for prevention and understanding, and the urgent need for appropriate youth-specific care. Professor Calma delivered a powerful presentation drawing attention to the health concerns of our First Nations peoples, and the community driven initiatives tackling issues including mental health, disordered eating, smoking, and literacy.

These keynote presentations underscored the importance of early intervention, culturally responsive care, and the power of community-led solutions.



International Conference

Driving research, policy, and collaboration

Recognising the complexity of social and economic disadvantage, the conference included themes spanning the life course. Across 15 sessions, delegates explored topics including housing precarity, mental health and wellbeing, place and equity, gender equality, and education inequalities. Each session was designed to be broad and inclusive, drawing on insights from academics, international experts, industry and community leaders, early-career and mid-career researchers, and those with lived experience.

Importantly, this was far more than an academic conference. The program was firmly future-focused, exploring the big questions shaping the years ahead, including how we can build a better future for children and their families, the future directions in early childhood education and care, the evolving landscape of data infrastructure, disability research and policy over the next decade, and how to harness new technologies to enhance the understanding and targeting of social policy.

Elevating First Nations research

Among the many highlights was the Elevating First Nations Knowledges session which brought together First Nations and allied researchers to explore the ethical, methodological, and structural shifts needed to prioritise First Nations research in Australia. This session reflected the Centre's ongoing commitment to First Nations-led research and the strong representation of First Nations delegates at the conference.

It also reinforced the importance of embedding First Nations perspectives across all aspects of life course research. The Centre continues to build and invest in this space.



International Conference

A roadmap for impact

The conference concluded with a compelling plenary panel exploring how Australia can successfully navigate social, economic, environmental, and political turbulence in a globalised world. Panellists included Dr Ros Baxter from Goodstart Early Learning, Dr Nicole Bieske from Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Emi Hall from Foundations for Tomorrow, and Professor Jacqui True from the ARC Centre of Excellence for The Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW), each bringing distinct perspectives to the discussion.

This event also marked the starting point for the Centre's Roadmap for the Future project. Insights, priorities, and ideas gathered over the two days will help shape this strategic initiative, which we hope will help guide future research, policy, programs, and data infrastructure across government and community sectors – driving real-world impact for years to come.

By convening researchers, government and non-government organisations, and community members, the International Life Course Conference was a catalyst. We anticipate that the conversations sparked, connections made, and ideas shared will shape impactful research, policy and practice into the future.





Our Research

Deputy Director's Report

In 2025, the Centre's three research programs built on a strong foundation of work, delivering research with substantial depth and reach. Our publications, reports, and other high-quality outputs continued to produce evidence that informs policy and practice across complex social issues.

Alongside our research outputs, I am particularly proud of the Centre's continued investment in the next generation of research leaders. We launched our Seed Funding Scheme to support early-career researchers to build cross-nodal collaborations through research projects in 2024. The application process included teams participating in a 'Shark Tank' style pitch session at the Research Retreat that generated real energy and enthusiasm from the more than 200 Centre members in attendance. In 2025, those funded projects took shape and delivered on their intended outcomes. It has been especially rewarding to see our early-career researchers shine – leading projects, working across nodes, and strengthening collaboration across the Centre.

We were excited to offer the Seed Funding Scheme again in late 2025 and were delighted to receive a strong field of applications, reflecting both the scheme's popularity and the ability of our early-career researchers to take on ambitious, collaborative projects. I am pleased to share that 10 projects were awarded funding. I was impressed with the breadth of projects which included capturing lived experience, developing resources to support parents, promoting economic literacy, and addressing food and nutrition security. This investment in early-career researchers not only sustains the quality of our work but also provides opportunities to explore emerging issues and generate evidence that makes a difference in the lives of people and communities.

Building on our commitment to impactful research, our Working Paper Series continues to be a standout initiative for the Centre. It provides a highly accessible avenue for sharing emerging research and ideas, acting as a bridge between the timely delivery of research findings and formal peer-reviewed publications. By reaching a wider audience, the series sparks dialogue and engagement with both academic and non-academic communities. Its impact is clear with insights informing discussions and contributing to shaping policy and practice. In 2025, we published more than



30 Working Papers covering a diverse range of topics, including inequality, crisis accommodation, behavioural sleep intervention, and the declining wellbeing of sole parents in Australia.

We were again privileged to host esteemed visitors in 2025. Through our International Life Course Conference, we welcomed many leading and emerging researchers from around the world, who shared their insights across a wide range of disciplines. Beyond the conference, several of these thought leaders continued their engagement through webinars and meetings with our researchers, helping to foster valuable connections and transfer knowledge. We were also delighted to welcome visiting scholars Professor Laura Bernardi from the University of Lausanne to our University of Queensland node, Associate Professor Matthias Studer from the University of Geneva to our University of Queensland node, and Professor Thomas Dohmen from the University of Bonn to our University of Sydney node.

Collectively, our achievements in 2025 reflect a research program that is continuing to grow in influence and impact. Our outputs are strong, our funded projects make a difference, and our researchers are increasingly visible both domestically and internationally. Together, these elements demonstrate the Centre's ongoing commitment to producing research that generates meaningful change.

The following pages highlight some of the key activities and achievements across our People, Places, and Opportunities research programs in 2025.

Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark
Deputy Director, Life Course Centre

OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS: **PEOPLE** PLACES OPPORTUNITIES

PEOPLE

Our People research program examines the individual experiences of children and families in deep and persistent disadvantage, and the impact of factors such as decision-making, trauma, mental health, and sleep.

Portfolio leader: Professor Nick Glozier (USyd)

Deputy portfolio leader: A/Professor Alyssa Milton (USyd)



Improving the physical health of people living with mental illness

People living with mental illness, particularly those experiencing severe conditions such as schizophrenia, face significantly higher risks of poor physical health, and die 15–20 years younger than the general population. This has led to a growing need for research to identify ways to improve their physical health.

This project, led by Associate Professor Alyssa Milton (USyd), is addressing that need by developing a health tool co-designed with the people who will use it. It is bringing together consumers, peer workers, clinicians, case

managers, allied health professionals, and family members to create a world-first, peer-supported digital App (SiMPLiCiTY) to help people with schizophrenia spectrum disorders to manage their physical health. By exploring barriers to care and solutions, the research addresses critical health inequalities and strengthens support. Drawing on diverse perspectives ensures the tool will be practical, accessible, and responsive. The project has already produced research papers that advance knowledge of digital health interventions for people with schizophrenia.

Teasdale, S., Machaczek, K., Marx, W., Eaton, M., Chapman, J., Milton, A., Rosenbaum, S. et al. (2025). Implementing lifestyle interventions in mental health care: third report of the Lancet Psychiatry Physical Health Commission. *The Lancet Psychiatry* 12 (9) 700–722. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(25\)00170-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(25)00170-1)

Arnautovska, U., Trott, M., Jemimah Vitangcol, K., Milton, A., Brown, E., Warren, N., Leucht, S., Firth, J., Siskind, D. (2025) Efficacy of User Self-Led and Human-Supported Digital Health Interventions for People With Schizophrenia: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, Volume 51, Issue 5, September 2025, Pages 1402–1416, <https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbae143>

Arnautovska U, Ritchie G, Soole R, Menon A, Korman N, Milton A, Varnfield M, Kelly JT, Jansen PM, Baker A, Ireland D, Russell AW, Chapman J, Mulligan K, Hirani SP, Vitangcol KJ, McKeon G, Siskind D. A Novel Digital Intervention to Facilitate Diabetes Self-Management Among People with Schizophrenia and Related Disorders: Development and Acceptability Testing of SMART. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*. 2025; 21:1289–1305 <https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.S513272>

Tackling men's sport gambling

Young men aged 18–25 years are at an increased risk of developing gambling problems, particularly those experiencing poor mental health or disadvantage. Early exposure to gambling-related behaviours increases the likelihood of developing problem gambling habits, with significant financial and psychosocial consequences. This project, led by Dr Vincent Mancini (The Kids/UWA), is working with the wider community to identify factors that increase risk for problem sports gambling behaviour in Australian youth. Using these insights, it will co-design strategies to combat the normalisation of sports gambling behaviour and support better choices.

One study from this project explored what drives problem gambling in young Australian men using data from the Ten to Men cohort. It found that depression and frequent participation in sports and fantasy sports gambling were linked to higher gambling problems. Other factors, like alcohol use or adherence to masculine norms, had less impact. The findings highlight key risk factors and point to the need for targeted prevention and support strategies for young men.

Mancini, V.O., Brett, J.D., Heirene, R.M. et al. Predicting Problem Gambling in Young Men: The Impact of Sports Gambling Frequency and Internalizing Symptoms. *Journal of Gambling Studies* 41, 1119–1144 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-025-10403-0>

Mancini, V. O. (2025). Psychosocial predictors of problem gambling severity in males: findings from a longitudinal study of Australian men. *International Gambling Studies*, 25(1), 168–191. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2025.2459159>

Webinar: Embrace. Beating the Odds: Problem gambling in our youth. November 2025. <https://embrace.thekids.org.au/news-and-events/2025/november/watch-webinar-on-youth-gambling>

Sharper minds through better sleep

Sleep plays a fundamental role in health, wellbeing, and cognitive function, yet sleep difficulties are common among university students, often driven by stress, anxiety, and depression. In response, University of Queensland students developed the Sharper Minds program, which included the Better Sleep course to improve sleep knowledge and healthy sleep behaviours.

This Centre research project, led by Dr Kalina Rossa (UQ), builds on that foundation by adapting the Better Sleep course to effectively meet the needs of neurodivergent students. Neurodivergent

individuals often face systemic barriers that increase the risk of social and economic disadvantage, with sleep difficulties further compounding impacts on mental health, daily functioning, and quality of life. Our research will co-design the adapted course with neurodivergent students through focus groups, interviews, and workshops to ensure it is relevant, accessible, and meaningful. By taking a neurodiversity-affirming and inclusive approach, the project aims to improve sleep outcomes and mental wellbeing of neurodivergent students.

Dingle, G. A., Han, R., Huang, K., Alhadad, S.S.J., Beckman, E., Bentley, S. V., Edmed, S., Gomersall, S. R., Hides, L., Lorimer, N., Maccallum, F., McKimmie, B. M., Ng, N., Rossa, K., Smith, S. S., Walter, Z. C., Williams, E., Wright, O.R.L., Ranksale, T. (2025) Sharper minds: Feasibility and effectiveness of a mental health promotion package for university students targeting multiple health and self-care behaviours, *Journal of Affective Disorders*. 378, 271–280, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2025.03.011>

Mental health and wellbeing of fathers

Children's health and development are shaped by the wellbeing of the whole family, yet fathers' mental health has historically received less attention than mothers. Research at the Life Course Centre is addressing that gap by generating evidence on the mental health and wellbeing of fathers and father figures in diverse circumstances, from fly-in fly-out (FIFO) work, the perinatal journey, and having a baby in a neonatal intensive care unit.

The study that explored the experiences of FIFO fathers focused on work arrangements and the impacts on their mental health and family

relationships. The research by Centre members Dr Vincent Mancini, Dr Thom Nevill, and Briana Guerrini (The Kids/UWA), highlighted that FIFO work affects not only fathers but also partners and children, emphasising the importance of considering the family as a whole. The research identifies gaps and the need for tailored family-centred approaches. Insights from this research can guide policies and programs that better support fathers and their families.

V. O. Mancini, T. Nevill, B. Guerrini, and G. Tsuklis. (2025). Promoting the Health of Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO) Families: Considerations for the Health Promotion Community," Health Promotion Journal of Australia 36(4): e70118, <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.70118>

Mancini, V., Ambrosio Lomeli, Y., Nevill, T. P., Marsh, T. B., Kneebone, E., & Kothari, A. (2025). Screening Measures of Perinatal Mental Health and Wellbeing in Fathers: A Scoping Review. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 22(7), 1126. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22071126>

van Heerden, D., Mazzucchelli, T.G., Kirby, J.N., Brett, J. D., & Mancini, V. (2025). Fathers' Self-Compassion and Child Attachment Quality: Testing a Sequential Indirect Effect via Emotion Regulation Difficulties, Loneliness, and Psychological Distress in Two Paternal Samples. Mindfulness 16, 982–1001. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-025-02538-3>

S2E1: Dr Vincent Mancini - NICU Dads Project. (2025, December 17). Apple Podcasts. <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/s2e1-dr-vincent-mancini-nicu-dads-project/id1501788049?i=1000741755142>

2025, December 2. Breakfast. ABC Perth Listen. https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/perth-breakfast/breakfast/106081384?utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared

NEW PROJECT

Preventing tech-based abuse of girls and young women

A new People research program project, funded in 2025, aims to help prevent technology-based abuse of girls and young women in regional communities. Such abuse can impact a person's social, emotional, psychological, financial, and physical safety. Central to the project, led by Professor Francis Mitrou (The Kids/UWA), is the active involvement of boys and young men, recognising their critical role in shaping respectful online behaviours and developing effective, community-led solutions.

The first phase will gather the perspectives of boys, young men, and parents on technology-facilitated abuse, identify the resources young people need, and amplify their voices. These insights will inform the co-design, development, and testing of resources and content for communities in the second phase.

PLACES

Our Places research program explores the community-driven contexts of deep and persistent disadvantage, how it is experienced in place, and the ways to deliver thriving, healthy, and socially inclusive communities.

Program leader: Professor Mark Stevenson (Melb)

Deputy program leader: A/Professor Sangeetha Chandrashekeran (Melb)



Equitable electrification and transitions away from gas

To meet emissions reductions targets, governments across the world are considering when and how to move away from gas to non-fossil fuel energy sources, including in Victoria, Australia. Electrifying homes can help to lower household energy bills and emissions. However, the cost and effort required to convert from gas to electric appliances is challenging for many households, particularly those on low incomes and renters.

This research, led by Associate Professor Sangeetha Chandrashekeran (Melb), explores the views of households about moving from gas to electricity as home energy sources, the barriers they face and supports they would like, and the implications for policy to achieve equitable solutions. This research provides the numbers, stories, and lived experience of lower income and vulnerable households to inform policy, regulatory, and commercial decision-making.

Chandrashekeran, S. & Kaye, E. (2025) Customer Impacts of the Withdrawal of the Gas Service in Gippsland. Life Course Centre. <https://lifecoursecentre.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/LCC-Impacts-of-Gas-Service-Withdrawal-Gippsland-2025.pdf>

Understanding rental poverty in Australia

What drives rental poverty, and how can policy interventions reshape outcomes in Australia's system? This Centre project is investigating Australia's housing market dynamics, with a specific focus on rental poverty and social housing in the urban areas of Victoria. This study, led by Professor Mark Stevenson (Melb), uses an Agent-Based Model (ABM) to examine the complex interactions between various agents within the housing market, including renters, landlords, policymakers, and

social housing providers.

By integrating ABM and mixed-methods modelling, this project offers an innovative approach to analysing both the causes and consequences of rental poverty. The findings will provide evidence to support more effective housing and social policy interventions, help with strategies aimed at reducing housing stress, and improve access to secure and affordable housing.

Blackwood, F. (2025, November 8). Re-entering housing market after divorce hard for many due to loss of shared income. ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-11-08/home-ownership-difficulties-for-divorced-women/105981414>

Jones, K. (2025, July 15). Is the housing crisis preventing divorce? ABC Listen. <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/lifematters/is-the-housing-crisis-preventing-divorce/105530850>

Boosting children's wellbeing with blue and green spaces

How does the physical environment shape children's opportunity to be active and healthy? This research project, led by Professor Hayley Christian (The Kids/UWA), is examining how relationships between the built environment and non-communicable disease risk factors vary by socio-economic position and geographical location.

The latest study from this project used population-level data to identify distinct backyard and

neighbourhood environments, and their correlation to preschoolers' activity. It found that children with more backyard space and those who live closer to parks and water did between 13-26 minutes more active play each day than children from other neighbourhoods. The research provided strong evidence of how place matters in early childhood, underscoring the need for policymakers and planners to create neighbourhoods that support healthy childhoods across the socio-economic spectrum.

Christian, H., Adams, E., Trost, S., Schipperijn, J., Murray, K., Boruff, B., Nathan, A., Stratton, G., & Robinson, T. (2025). Home Yard and Neighbourhood Physical Environment Latent Class Profiles and Preschooler's Physical Activity Behaviour: Findings from the PLAYCE Study. *Environment and Behavior*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00139165251375176>

The National Tribune. (n.d.). Study Shows Blue And Green Spaces Boost Child Wellbeing. <https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/study-shows-blue-and-green-spaces-boost-child-wellbeing/>

How housing shapes inequality in Australia

Many households are struggling with rising costs that outpace their income and push them into affordability stress. Rising income inequality not only affects economic growth and sustainable development, but also health, wellbeing, social cohesion, and educational outcomes. This project, led by Professor Ilan Wiesel (Melb), uses data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey to explore how income varies across Australia's cities and over time, and how these affect different households. By identifying which households are most vulnerable

to affordability stress and why, it will provide insights on the relationship between housing, place, and the life course.

The latest research explored how housing shapes wealth inequality in Australia, focusing on the role of housing assets rather than income alone. It showed that property can both widen and narrow economic gaps. Using longitudinal data on housing tenure and assets, the study highlights how housing affects financial security over time. The findings offer evidence to guide policies aimed at fairer, more equitable housing outcomes.

Wiesel, I., Meekes, J., & Chandrashekeran, S. (2025). The role of housing in processes of wealth polarisation and depolarisation in Australia. *Housing Studies*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2025.2548820>

NEW RESEARCH

Yulendj Wurrung

A Place research program project, funded in 2025, initiates a culturally grounded, First Nations-led pathway for Boonwurrung language revitalisation through the reconstruction of foundational grammar. The project, led by N'arwee't Professor Carolyn Briggs AM, will develop innovative, culturally responsive strategies to address systemic disadvantage caused by the absence of foundational language resources, ultimately strengthening cultural identity, language literacy, educational equity, and connection to Country.

Drawing on archival records and contemporary community knowledge, the project will identify and analyse the remaining fragments of Boonwurrung grammar. In parallel, Wemba Wemba linguistic materials will be transcribed and examined to inform and enrich the reconstruction process, supported by the researcher's cultural authority and dual heritage in Boonwurrung and Wemba Wemba. The project will create a grammatical sketch of Boonwurrung to enable the construction of basic sentences and foundational language forms for use in education and community settings.

OPPORTUNITIES

Our Opportunities research program investigates how institutional structures shape experiences of deep and persistent disadvantage, and how system-wide approaches to reform have the power to unlock life opportunities.

Program leader: Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski (UQ)

Program deputy leader: Dr Tomasz Zajac (UQ)



Combatting diabetes among First Nations people

First Nations peoples experience a disproportionately higher burden of early onset type 2 diabetes, contributing to significant health disparities and a life expectancy gap. Young First Nations people with type 2 diabetes face higher risks of serious complications and a longer lifetime disease burden, affecting individuals, families, and communities. This project, led by Professor Abdullah Mamun (UQ), examines the impacts of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) among First Nations women and will identify effective strategies to prevent and manage GDM, as well as interventions to educate early-onset type 2 diabetes in First Nations children and young adults. Using systematic reviews and linked data,

the research aims to inform culturally appropriate prevention and care approaches.

The latest study examined existing programs in four countries – Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States – that focussed on interventions to prevent or manage type 2 diabetes. The findings revealed the importance of culturally relevant, community-connected strategies that build on Indigenous strengths and knowledge to support healthy lifestyles and early disease management. These insights will help guide future development and implementation of effective, culturally tailored diabetes prevention and care initiatives in Australia.

Kanmiki, E. W., Fatima, Y., Duong, T. L., Von Senden, R., Ushula, T. W., & Mamun, A. A. (2025). Interventions for Type 2 diabetes Prevention and Management among Indigenous Children and Youth: a Systematic review. *Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism*, 8(1), e70026. <https://doi.org/10.1002/edm2.70026>

Kanmiki, E. W. & Mamun, A. (2025). Addressing Type 2 diabetes in Indigenous youth. *Indigenous Business News*. <https://ibnews.com.au/addressing-type-2-diabetes-in-indigenous-youth/>

Kanmiki, E. W. & Mamun, A. A. (2025). Culturally relevant interventions crucial for addressing Type 2 diabetes in Indigenous youth. *News Medical*. <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20250225/Culturally-relevant-interventions-crucial-for-addressing-Type-2-diabetes-in-Indigenous-youth.aspx>

Time for active play

The first five years are crucial in shaping a child's lifelong health, including the development of healthy behaviours such as regular physical activity. As lifestyles become more sedentary in Australia, the Play Active project is investigating strategies to increase movement and help prevent childhood overweight and obesity.

Led by Professor Hayley Christian (The Kids/UWA), Play Active develops, implements, and evaluates evidence-based strategies to improve the physical health of children attending early childhood and education and care (ECEC), with a focus on co-designing approaches that respond to the needs of

services supporting a higher proportion of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. By actively involving educators, families, and policymakers, Play Active was successfully piloted in Perth ECEC centres before receiving government and non-government funding to scale nationally in 2024. The program now has the potential to benefit more than 80,000 children across 700 childcare centres Australia-wide. Recent research has focussed on assessing the impact of Play Active and its capacity to be delivered effectively at scale.

Christian, H., Nathan, A., Adams, E., Trost, S. G., & Schipperijn, J. (2025). Impact of the Play Active policy intervention on early childhood educator's sedentary behaviour-related practices, psychosocial influences and meeting policy recommendations: Results from a pragmatic cluster randomized trial. *Pediatric obesity*, 20(6), e70005. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijpo.70005>

Christian, H., McLaughlin, M., Nathan, A., Adams, E., Bauman, A., Naylor, P., Shilton, T., Maher, C., Trost, S. G., & Schipperijn, J. (2025). Scalability and scaling-up strategy of a physical activity policy intervention in Australian childcare centres, *Health Promotion International*, 40 (5), daaf145, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daaf145>

Christian H., Maher C., Trost SG., Schipperijn J., Murray K., Li I., Nathan A., Papageorgiou A., McLaughlin M., & Bauman A. (2025). Evaluating the scale-up of the Play Active programme for children's physical activity in early childhood education and care services: a national type III hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial protocol, *BMJ Open*; 15:e103968. <https://10.1136/bmjopen-2025-103968>

Understanding the Australian tax system

Taxes shape decisions across the life course, influencing education, employment, financial security, family planning, and homeownership. The tax system can impact broader issues such as wealth accumulation and intergenerational equity. Tax-related policies contribute to tax burdens affecting low-income versus high-income families differently and impacting overall economic mobility.

This Centre project, led by Dr Ana Gamarra Rondinel (Melb), examines the efficiency and redistribution of the Australian tax system through a life course lens, with a focus on addressing disadvantages in Australia. It will increase understanding and deliver findings that are relevant to a range of stakeholders including government and policymakers.

Rethinking the Laffer curve: What it tells us about modern tax reforms Austaxpolicy: Tax and Transfer Policy Blog. 12 November 2025

When a baby arrives: How taxes and transfers shape the child penalty in Australia

Austaxpolicy: Tax and Transfer Policy Blog. 25 September 2025

Justice in health

People experiencing housing instability often face a variety of legal issues that can both contribute to and result from their situation. These include debts, fines, criminal charges laid against or by them, protection from violence orders, and challenges navigating housing, social, and disability services. Managing these issues while unstably housed can exacerbate physical and mental health, which in turn makes resolving legal problems even more difficult.

This project, led by Dr Stefanie Plage (UQ), is using semi-structured and narrative interviews with health and social care providers, legal practitioners, and people experiencing housing instability to examine how integrated legal support can work alongside health and social care services. It aims to understand how this approach can help reduce these barriers and promote greater equity for people experiencing extreme social disadvantage.

Plage S., Olson R. E., Costa N., Mescouto, K., Suleman, S., Zulfiqar, A., Setchell, J., & Prasad-ildes. (2025) Justice in Health? Studying the Role of Legal Support in a Culturally Responsive Mental Health Service in Australia. *Qualitative Health Research*. 35(4-5):418-432. [doi:10.1177/10497323251315435](https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323251315435)

NEW PROJECT

Examining life trajectories and outcomes of single parents and their children

A new Opportunities research program project, funded in 2025, will examine the life trajectories and outcomes of individuals who become single parents during the early years of their first child's life. Single-parent households, particularly those headed by single mothers, are among the most economically disadvantaged groups in Australia. The project, led by Dr Tomasz Zajac (UQ), aims to understand how family structure dynamics – such as partnership formation and dissolution – shape parents' educational and employment trajectories, as well as children's developmental outcomes.

The study will utilise linked administrative data from the new Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Life Course Data Asset. The project will generate evidence-based insights of value to policymakers, educators, social service providers, and community organisations. The findings will inform the design of programs that more effectively support single parents' participation in education and employment, while improving developmental opportunities for their children.



Our Impact

IMPACT CASE STUDY 1

Data for Policy Portfolio

Driving change through data: a decade of impact

The Life Course Centre has been a driving force in strengthening how administrative data is linked, shared, and used for social science research in Australia. For more than a decade, our Data for Policy Portfolio has consistently worked to advance national conversations around the use of administrative data for research and evaluation purposes, shape and inform thinking on data integration, and foster connections among key national and international stakeholders in the space. This has enhanced an Australian administrative data landscape that uses integrated data responsibly for research to inform public policy and deliver meaningful outcomes for community to better tackle complex social challenges.

Bringing the right people together to help advance the agenda has been central to our approach. Since 2014, we have worked alongside government agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs), Centre partners, researchers, and thought leaders to collectively explore and guide the unlocking of administrative data to better understand the causes and life course consequences of deep and persistent disadvantage in Australia.

In 2025, we focussed on progressing to the portfolio's next priority – integrating NGO service data into national linked data systems for research and evaluation purposes. Currently, there are no easily accessible, plain-language principles or guidelines in place to support the relevant stakeholders through this process. As a result, we convened a workshop in Canberra for more than 80 representatives from government, NGOs, research institutes, philanthropy, consumers (including First Nations voices), and other stakeholder organisations to initiate the development of guidelines for integrating NGO program data for research and evaluation.

“Linking NGO and government data sets is a game changer for researchers and policy makers wanting to understand how to break the cycle of disadvantage.”

Professor Janeen Baxter, Life Course Centre Director

The two-day workshop in October explored ideas, obstacles, benefits, and priorities through a structured discussion agenda built around several core themes. Participants engaged in sessions featuring presentations and case studies by government and non-government organisations that delved into key issues including the Privacy Act, consent and legal mechanisms, funding, minimum data standards, and capacity building.

Each presentation included dedicated discussion time which fostered vital debate and sharing of valuable insights to support the development of the guidelines. During the workshop, several common priorities emerged in the discussions including the need for clear standards for linking data, adherence to data governance, custodianship and sovereignty principles, established processes for ethics, consent and privacy, and community engagement, and inclusion and access.

Participants highlighted several challenges to be addressed to enable the effective linking of NGO data, including appropriate training opportunities for service organisations, standardisation of measures, and resourcing for infrastructure required for data collection, linkage, and evaluation. It was also acknowledged that there is considerable diversity across the NGO sector including size, resourcing, levels of readiness, and relevance of data linkage for the purposes of evaluation.

IMPACT CASE STUDY 1

Data for Policy Portfolio

The absence of a clear and overarching legal framework for securely sharing NGO collected personal data with data integration authorities was identified as a major barrier to broader NGO data sharing. This issue impacts both NGOs and the government agencies who commission services via the NGO sector, as well as the integrating authorities. Stakeholders saw an opportunity for the Data for Policy Portfolio to broker conversations towards a national legal framework through mobilising our networks across government and the NGO sector.

The workshop provided the groundwork for the development of guidelines over the coming 18 months which will provide a set of practical instructions showing how NGO service data can be linked into the Australian Government's administrative data resources to enable high-quality research and impact evaluation. The guidelines will focus on quantitative research and the evaluation of programs using linked government and NGO data to measure the causal impact of programs on service users and communities.

“This will have many benefits. By enabling this linkage capability for Australian NGOs, it will also create a research and evaluation feedback loop to support continuous improvement in client outcomes and overall service delivery.”

Professor Francis Mitrou, Life Course Centre Data for Policy Portfolio leader

This new priority for our Data for Policy Portfolio gained momentum at the 2024 Life Course Centre International Workshop in Chicago. Delegates from both national and international contexts identified NGO data integration into government administrative data systems as a strategic priority for strengthening research and evaluation in Australia and, ultimately, improving outcomes for people living in social disadvantage. The Chicago workshop further highlighted the need to develop best practice guidelines for including NGO service data into government-funded, accessible, secure, linked data systems as one of its six key priority areas.

Over the years, our Data for Policy agenda has taken a leading role in unlocking, linking, and analysing sensitive administrative data on Australian children and families that was previously not used for research purposes. We have championed access to this data through a range of activities and major events with the support of our partners and friends, including Department of Social Services (DSS), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Our sustained efforts to advocate for the linking of administrative data was validated when the Federal Government announced that the 2023-24 Federal Budget would deliver a \$199.8 million package to target entrenched community disadvantage in Australia. In particular, the package committed \$16.4 million to a new Life Course Data Initiative to capture insights to improve understanding of how communities experience disadvantage, including through longitudinal data.

What makes this body of work so impactful is the cumulative effect of a decade of effort to improve access to administrative data. As we look to the next two years, the Life Course Centre remains committed to driving progress, strengthening partnerships, and supporting a system that uses data responsibly and effectively for public good. With a decade of achievements behind us, we are well placed to help shape the next chapter of data for policy in Australia.

Data Policy Portfolio

IMPACT:

lifecoursecentre.org.au/impact/data-for-policy/

DATA FOR POLICY WORKSHOP 2025:

lifecoursecentre.org.au/events/data-for-policy-workshop-2025/

THE ARC LIFE COURSE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DATA FOR POLICY WORKSHOP:

lifecoursecentre.org.au/events/the-arc-life-course-centre-international-data-for-policy-workshop

IMPACT CASE STUDY 2

International Reach

Extending our impact worldwide

The Life Course Centre's research is focused on investigating and understanding approaches to improve outcomes for Australians experiencing disadvantage. This expertise in tackling complex social challenges has gained international recognition, with our researchers shaping studies and projects around the world. This global engagement reflects the strength and relevance of our evidence, which is helping inform studies, policies, and practices in other countries.

World Health Organization

One clear example of this international engagement is our researchers' contribution to a global initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO). Commencing in 2023, the cross-national collaborative project Healthy Ageing over the Life Course aims to shift focus from late-life health to promote healthy ageing across the entire life course to ensure wellbeing and ability for all ages.

Centre members currently working with WHO on this project include Professor Janeen Baxter, Professor Abdullah Mamun, Professor Francis Mitrou, and Professor Hayley Christian. Working collaboratively with a network of international researchers, one output has been the report, *WHO Framework to implement a life course approach in practice*, released in July 2025. Developed over two years with insights from experts worldwide, the framework outlines core principles and practices for healthy ageing, providing guidance for countries to reorient their health systems and programs to support people at every life course stage.

Building on this work and its global momentum, the WHO Life Course Research Network has since been established, connecting life course centres across the globe to share knowledge, collaborate on research, and support the implementation of a life course approach to health and wellbeing. Our researchers have also written a collaborative paper with WHO colleagues that showcases the value of linked

administrative and longitudinal data for implementing life course approaches into policy. Furthermore, our Centre Director, Professor Janeen Baxter, is a principal editor on a 2026 special issue of the International Journal of Population Data Science (IJPDS) which will bring together international examples of leading research using linked data to examine health and wellbeing across the life course, highlighting innovative approaches to analysing outcomes across different stages of life. Further collaborations facilitated by the WHO Global Network are envisaged over the coming years.

Trans-Tasman research

Our Australian research expertise extended across the "ditch" through a collaboration with New Zealand colleagues investigating the impacts of disadvantage associated with health conditions. Funded by the New Zealand National Science Challenge scheme, the project drew on integrated administrative and survey data from New Zealand – one of the first countries to develop a population level linked administrative and survey data resource.

The study examined how partners and carers of individuals with chronic health conditions are affected across employment, income, and physical and mental health outcomes. Importantly, it tracked how these impacts may change over time and identified factors that may strengthen resilience for partners and carers.

One research paper from this collaboration examined the impacts of stroke and traumatic brain injury on couples' total income and partners' employment. The findings showed substantial negative effects on household income, with impacts differing by partners' education and prior earnings. The study highlighted that population-level averages can mask significant inequalities, and that couples' responses to major health events are shaped by their resources, circumstances, and the availability of state support.

IMPACT CASE STUDY 2

International Reach

Another research paper used the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) to provide the first population-level longitudinal evidence on the financial impact of raising an Autistic child in New Zealand. Using linked administrative data for more than 170,000 families, the research found that mothers of Autistic children experienced large and growing income losses, while fathers' earnings also declined. The findings underscore the need for policies and services to support families raising Autistic children to reduce inequalities.

Footprints in the Global South

Centre researchers have also applied their expertise in the Global South. This work includes a series of studies investigating healthcare in Ghana, highlighting barriers and the factors that enable more equitable health outcomes. These projects have generated evidence for a truly global understanding of health inequality.

Collectively, our international work demonstrates the Centre's ability to apply its research expertise beyond Australia, producing insights that inform both local and global responses to complex social challenges. Engagement in these international projects also strengthens our work at home, deepens understanding, and brings new insights to increase Australian research and capacity.

Global impact at a glance

World Health Organization's Framework to implement a life course approach in practice <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240112575>

Heterogeneous effects of stroke and traumatic brain injury on spouses' income and employment. Life Course Working Paper Series. <https://lifecoursecentre.org.au/working-papers/heterogeneous-effects-of-stroke-and-traumatic-brain-injury-on-spouses-income-and-employment-evidence-from-new-zealand>

Kanmiki EW, Mamun AA, Phillips JF, O'Flaherty M. Equity effect of a community-based primary healthcare program on the incidence of childhood morbidity in rural Northern Ghana. Primary Health Care Research & Development. 2025. doi: [10.1017/S1463423625000106](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1463423625000106)

Kanmiki EW, Mamun AA, Phillips JF, O'Flaherty MJ. Equity in maternal healthcare utilisation in Ghana: Do community-based primary health care programmes matter? Tropical Medicine & International Health. 2023. doi: [10.1111/tmi.13873](https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13873)

Recognition of Excellence

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of our researchers across every career stage and node of the Life Course Centre. During 2025, Centre members achieved notable success, including securing competitive grants aligned with the Centre's priorities, receiving awards for their research contributions, and reaching significant student milestones. The highlights below showcase some of the collective success of our Centre community.

Grants

Professor Abdullah Mamun, Chief Investigator, was awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Synergy Grant to address First Nations health challenges in collaboration with First Nations communities.

Associate Professor Sally Staton, Research Fellow, received an Australian Research Council (ARC) Mid-Career Industry Fellowship to explore how the places and spaces of early childhood education shape children's learning and development in partnership with the Department of Education, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership, and HKS Architects.

Dr Stefanie Plage, Research Fellow, secured an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) to help generate knowledge to improve end-of-life care for people experiencing homelessness in Australia.

Dr Rose-Marie Stambe, Centre Affiliate, was awarded an ARC Early-Career Industry Fellowship to co-design a Research Literacy and Coordinated Care Toolkit with Anglicare Southern Queensland and marginalised youth to build research literacy and promote evidence-based, coordinated care.

Dr Dean Wright, Research Fellow, **Professor Nick Glozier**, Chief Investigator, and Research Fellows **Dr Elizabeth Stratton** and **Dr Priya Vaughan** were awarded Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Mental Health Research grant to co-produce behaviour activation therapy as an adjunctive treatment to ketamine for people with treatment-resistant depression.

Other funding

Professor Francis Mitrou, Chief Investigator, and **Dr Vincent Mancini**, Research Fellow, received a grant from the eSafety Commissioner to investigate reducing technology-based abuse of girls and young women in regional communities.

Dr Sandra Buchler, Research Fellow, received the Mary Wing Ming Lee Family Dynamics Fellowship to investigate single mother's financial security, shared-care arrangements, and the trajectories of single parents after their children leave home.

Awards and Honours

Professor Alina Morawska, Chief Investigator, was recognised as the leading researcher in the field of Family Studies in The Australian's 2026 Research Magazine.

Professor Agnieszka Tymula, Chief Investigator, received the Economic Society of Australia's 2025 Young Economist Award.

Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski, Chief Investigator, and his team were awarded the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACSES) Award for Innovation and Excellence in Impact on Higher Education Policy and Practice – Evidence and Research-based Approaches.

Brendan Kennedy and Associate Professor Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Research Fellows, won the Best Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Award from the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) Global Research Centre.

Dr Vanda Nissen, Research Fellow, received the Colleen Mills Award at the AANZCA Conference for her presentation on Uncertainty in Emergency Departments.

Dr Ana Gamarra Rondinel, Research Fellow, was appointed to the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) Expert Panel.

Recognition of Excellence

University research awards

Associate Professor Alyssa Milton, Research Fellow
University of Sydney EMCR Outstanding Publication
Award

Dr Stefanie Plage, Research Fellow, UQ Foundation
Research Excellence Award

**Dr Sally Gainsbury, Professor Agnieszka Tymula,
Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, Dr Robert Heirene**
University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences (FASS) Research Collaborative Award

Associate Professor Stefanie Schurer, Research
Fellow, University of Sydney, FASS Senior Researcher
Excellence Award

Dr Elizabeth Stratton, Research Fellow, University of
Sydney, Faculty of Medicine and Health Bright Ideas
Funding

Other awards

Professor Matthias Studer, Visiting Academic from
the University of Geneva, received the Society for
Longitudinal Studies Harvey Goldstein Memorial
Award

**Dr Ferdi Botha, Professor Ilan Wiesel, Dr Ang Li,
Professor Rebecca Bentley**, Australian Economic
Papers 2024 Best Paper Prize for Housing affordability
stress and mental health: The role of financial
wellbeing, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8454.12340>

Associate Professor Alyssa Milton, Research Fellow,
received a Springer Nature Editor of Distinction Award
(Author Service Award) for her contributions to BMC
Psychiatry

Student successes

Doctor of Philosophy

Dr Ari Pratiwi (UQ)

Dr Iryna Kolesnikova (UQ)

Dr Jacqueline Huber (USyd)

Dr Joseph Power (USyd)

Dr Kayla Greenstein (USyd)

Dr Phoebe George (UWA)

Dr Saeed Jaydari Fard (UQ)

Dr Suaditya C. Mohan (UQ)

Dr Sylistah Gadam (UQ)

Dr Tianyi Ma (UQ)

Dr Zhuoxiao Chen (UQ)

Master's by Coursework

Elise MacKay (USyd)

Renee Bilston (USyd)

Xinting (Shelly) Wang (USyd)

Communications

Amplifying the Centre's research and connecting our work with diverse audiences including policymakers, practitioners, organisations, stakeholders, and the community is a core part of our mission. It is how we make our research relevant and increase the chances of positive change for Australians.

Media highlights

In 2025, Life Course Centre researchers shared their expertise with a wide audience across online, radio, blog, and print media. Some media highlights include:

[*How having a baby makes it more likely Australian couples rely on the man's income*](#)

The Conversation, 2 January 2025

[*Finland's housing policy has shrunk homelessness rates. Could Australia do the same?*](#)

SBS news, 19 January 2025

[*Despite some key milestones since 2000, Australia still has a long way to go on gender equality*](#)

The Conversation, 24 March 2025

[*Homelessness – the other housing crisis politicians aren't talking about*](#)

The Conversation, 16 April 2025

[*Cyclones drive people to buy health insurance, more so than some government campaigns*](#)

The Conversation, 26 May 2025

[*Nationwide shortage of outside school hours care leaves parents in work limbo*](#)

ABC News, 9 August 2025

[*Many parents – mostly mothers – lose family payments from the first dollar they earn. Here's how we could fix it*](#)

The Conversation, 14 August 2025

[*Terrible choice facing families: Put baby in care or lose the home*](#) (subscription required)

The Telegraph, 5 September 2025

[*Revealed: Shocking truth about Aussie's understanding of homelessness*](#) (subscription required)

The Courier Mail, 13 October 2025

[*Brisbane homelessness services report 48 per cent increase in number of children being supported*](#)

ABC News, 15 October 2025

[*Parents of neurodivergent kids need support. But those who need it most often wait longer*](#)

The Conversation, 17 November 2025

[*What's working from home doing to your mental health? We tracked 16,000 Australians to find out*](#)

The Conversation, 3 December 2025

Communications

Website

The Centre website provides a key platform for communicating our work, bringing together our research, achievements, and stakeholder engagement. As the impact of the Centre’s research grows, we have expanded the Impact section on our website and included some more detailed reports.

REPORT

Urban Density, Equity and Access

As Australian cities grow and change, challenges linked to rapid urbanisation are becoming more evident, particularly the need to ensure equitable access to services. To respond to the increasing challenge, it is necessary to observe rapid changes across the built environment, the socio-demographics of locations, and other relevant factors.

This Life Course Centre research by Chief Investigator Professor Mark Stevenson and Research Fellow Dr Kerry Nice examined the variation in access to services such as schools or primary health care across Australia’s capital cities. It also explored the opportunities and co-benefits that urban densification can bring in improving accessibility to social services.

The research was showcased as a Topic Summary Feature in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 17th biennial report on the welfare of Australians and translated into an interactive StoryMap on the Centre’s website.

[SEE WEBPAGE](#)

IMPACT PAGE

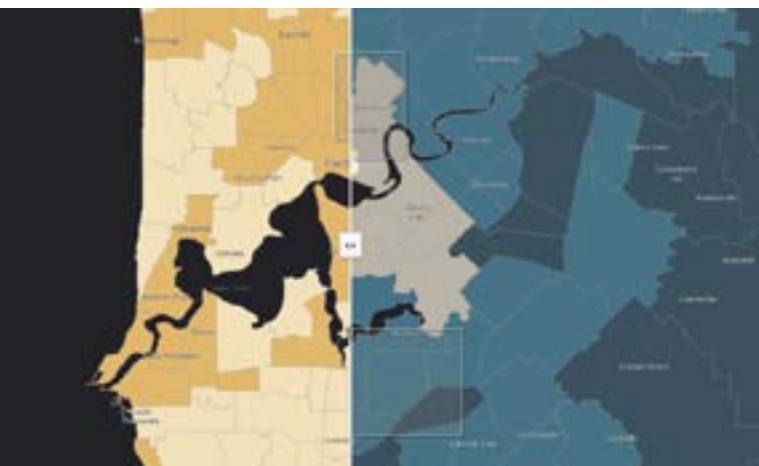
Equitable Electrification and Transition Away from Gas

To meet emissions reductions targets, governments across the world are considering when and how to move away from gas to non-fossil fuel energy sources, including in Victoria. Electrifying homes can help to lower household energy bills and emissions. However, the cost and effort required to convert from gas to electric appliances is challenging for many households, particularly those on low incomes and renters.

Research led by Associate Professor Sangeetha Chandrashekeran explores the views of lower income and vulnerable households to inform policy, regulatory, and commercial decision-making.

The project’s key reports, research findings, and information are now available on a dedicated Impact page on the Centre’s website.

[SEE WEBPAGE](#)



Communications

Social media

In 2025, the Centre boosted its social media presence, including the launch of a Bluesky account – an emerging platform for science communication. Additionally, we continued to increase outreach on LinkedIn. During the year, Centre posts on LinkedIn generated more than 23,000 impressions and 628 reactions, contributing to more than 700 pages view, 380 unique visitors, and help increase followers by 31% to 949 by December.

Anti-poverty Week

As a major sponsor of Anti-Poverty Week, the Centre leveraged its communication channels to promote and support awareness activities across the month of October. This included a targeted social media campaign, website articles, and content across Centre newsletters.

We coordinated and supported researchers writing blog articles for Power to Persuade – an independent platform for social policy discussion. Our articles generated strong engagement, with 1400 unique visitors and 1600 views on the Power to Persuade website during the week the articles were published.

[Better Sleep starts at Home](#)

Dr Shannon Edmed (UQ) and Professor Simon Smith (UQ)

[Gender Inequality and Satisfaction with Marriage](#)

Alysha Gray, PhD student (UQ)

Additionally, Chief Investigator Professor Cameron Parsell contributed his expertise on homelessness across several media outlets, including an ABC News article reporting a rise in the number of children living in crisis accommodation. The story drew on data from Brisbane homelessness services, which showed a 48 per cent increase in demand over the past financial year.

Newsletters

The Centre's newsletters provide a consistent and trusted channel for engaging both internal and external stakeholders. In 2025, the Centre's internal newsletter supported engagement across our four nodes and international partner institutions, delivering 15 highly crafted editions for Centre members and affiliates.

The Centre's external newsletter was distributed to stakeholders, partners, and subscribers, highlighting the Centre's recent research, events, publications, news, and media activity. Two editions were circulated to approximately 2000 recipients, achieving an average open rate of 56%, exceeding benchmarks typically seen in high-performing sectors.

Australian Policy Online (APO)

With 300,000 annual website users from Australia and New Zealand and more than 15,000 newsletter subscribers, APO has grown to become a leading public policy repository in Australasia and the world.

In 2025, the Centre used APO to enhance the visibility, discoverability, accessibility, and impact of its research outputs. Twelve Centre Working Papers were selected and uploaded to APO by the Media and Communications Officer to extend their reach to broader audiences. Of these, three were chosen by APO to feature in its newsletter which is distributed to more than 15,000 subscribers weekly. This exposure led representatives from a Queensland Government office to contact researchers from one Working Paper, inviting them to prepare a case study for the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management website. The case study was subsequently promoted through the Office's external engagement newsletter, further extending the reach of the Centre's research.

A blue-tinted photograph of three people in a meeting. On the left, a man with glasses is looking towards the center. In the middle, a woman is looking at a laptop screen. On the right, a woman wearing a hijab and glasses is also looking at the laptop. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a meeting room with a whiteboard.

Our Activity

2025 Calendar

6-7 FEBRUARY

WORKSHOP

8th Australian Gender Economics Workshop (AGEW), Wollongong

Partially sponsored by Life Course Centre



18 FEBRUARY

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

National Disability Data Asset (NDDA)

Presented by Kayelle Drinkwater, Branch Manager – Data Access Branch, Department of Social Services

4 MARCH

WORKSHOP

Life Course Centre Places Program – Housing Partner Workshop, Melbourne

5 MARCH

MENTORING

Meet the Researcher

Life Course Centre Research Fellow, Professor Sally Gainsbury, The University of Sydney

24 MARCH

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

Parenting and Gender Stereotypes

Presented by Professor Alina Morawska, The University of Queensland

1 APRIL

EVENT

Life Course Centre Western Australian Node Welcome

1 MAY

MENTORING

Online Panel: Research Careers Outside of Academia

6 MAY

SEMINAR

Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance: challenges and opportunities

Presented by Professor Maggie Walter, University of Tasmania



15 MAY

TRAINING

Team Management Profile Workshop

Professional staff development training, Brisbane

Delivered by Stephen Gray Consulting

15 MAY

FORUM

Enhancing children's journeys through Out of Home Care: a multi-perspective study, Brisbane

Presented by Professor Karen Healy and the project team (picture below)



20 MAY

TRAINING

Personal Information, Data (RE) Use & Privacy Obligations: A guide for researchers, Sydney

4-5 JUNE

CENTRE SCHOOL

Life Course Centre Training Forum, Melbourne

18 JUNE

MENTORING

Meet the Researcher

Dr Vincent Mancini, The University of Western Australia

13-18 JULY

CONFERENCE

30th International Population Conference (IPC2025), Brisbane

Partially sponsored by Life Course Centre

2025 Calendar

24-25 JULY

CONFERENCE

International Life Course Conference 2025: A roadmap for the future, Brisbane

21-23 JULY

TRAINING

Kathleen Fitzpatrick
International Researcher in Residence School, Brisbane
Featuring Professor Laura Bernardi, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (pictured below)



JULY

VISITORS

Professor Matthias Studer, University of Geneva

Professor Laura Bernadi, University of Lausanne

Professor David B. Grusky, Stanford University

28 JULY

WORKSHOP

Life Course Centre Oz Voices, Brisbane

29 JULY

WORKSHOP

How poverty shapes children's home, neighbourhood and school environments, Sydney
Presented by Professor Rebekah Levine Coley, Boston College

14-15 AUGUST

WORKSHOP

27th Labour Econometrics Workshop (LEW), Melbourne

Partially sponsored by Life Course Centre

27 AUGUST

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

Gambling Treatment & Research Clinic: Gambling Research Insights

Presented by Dr Dilushi Chandrakumar, The University of Sydney

17 SEPTEMBER

SEMINAR

Self-Control Research Network, Sydney

Seminar with Professor Kirby Nielsen, California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

14 OCTOBER

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

Studying Social Trajectories: Introducing Sequence Analysis

Presented by Professor Matthias Studer, University of Geneva

21-22 OCTOBER

WORKSHOP

Data for Policy Workshop: Integrating NGO program data for research and evaluation, Canberra (pictured below).



12-13 NOVEMBER

CENTRE SCHOOL

Centre School for Early Career Researchers, Perth

Featuring panelists Hayley Christian, Tegan McNab and Fiona Roche – Engaging The Right Stakeholders (pictured below).



17 NOVEMBER

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The accuracy and malleability of parental first- and second-order beliefs about child socio-emotional health

Presented by Dr Giorgia Menta, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

17 NOVEMBER

TRAINING

Terri Janke and Company True Tracks Workshop, Brisbane

2 DECEMBER

LIFE COURSE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The impact of neighbour, colleague and family peers on parental labour supply

Presented by Dr Jordy Meekes, Leiden University, The Netherlands

9 DECEMBER

EVENT

Dr Mary Wing Ming Lee Family Dynamics Fellowship Annual Seminar, Brisbane

Presented by Dr Sandra Buchler, The University of Queensland

Capacity Building Portfolio

Our Capacity Building Portfolio delivers high-quality initiatives and opportunities that support and equip the next generation of leading researchers in the field of social disadvantage. In 2025, the Portfolio strengthened the capability of Early-Career Researchers (ECRs) and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students through a program of targeted training, awards for career development and networking, and mentoring initiatives.

Training forum

In June, around 60 HDR students and ECRs from across our four nodes attended a Centre Training Forum in Melbourne. The two-day program was tailored to strengthened HDR and ECR research skills through essential information and hands-on training, and provide them with the opportunity to connect with peers. Day one focused on enhancing research impact through arts-based and tech-based approaches, including data visualisation, visual design, and the integration of AI tools. On day two, attention turned to grants, with sessions facilitated by senior researchers on effective grant writing and insights into opportunities through the Centre.

Seed Funding Scheme

In 2025, the Capacity Building Portfolio once again offered the competitive Seed Funding Scheme in partnership with the Research Committee. The scheme supports ECRs to develop cross-nodal collaborations that align with the Centre's aims, with applicant teams able to apply for up to \$10,000 to pursue innovative projects.

Building on its inaugural year, where six teams shared \$60,000 in funding, the 2025 round attracted an even higher calibre of applications, resulting in 10 projects being awarded a total of \$100,000. The range and depth of research projects was outstanding, investigating areas such as food and nutrition security, economic literacy, lived experience storytelling, and the creation of a digital decision aid to help young people with mental health concerns navigate the workplace.

Centre School

Our Capacity Building Portfolio held its Centre School for ECRs in November, with around 30 participants travelling to Perth for two days of interactive sessions, professional development workshops, and opportunities to connect with peers from across the Centre's nodes. The program opened with a highly interactive Research for Impact workshop facilitated by Cruxes Innovation (pictured below). ECRs then attended a series of panel sessions on topics including community engagement, stakeholder engagement, and effective grant measurement, with panellists comprising of Centre Chief Investigators, Centre Community Advisory Committee members, and professional and research staff from The Kids Research Institute Australia. The school concluded with a dedicated ECR Seed Funding session designed to assist prospective applicants to refine their project pitches, receive expert feedback, and recruit potential collaborators.



Capacity Building Portfolio

2025 Capacity Building Award

Across three rounds of Capacity Building funding, more than \$47,000 was awarded to 12 successful applicants in 2025. The Capacity Building Award, which is open to ECRs, HDRs, and Early-Career Research Professionals, supported a range of activities including pursuing learning development opportunities, attending and presenting at conferences, joining workshops and forums, and building research connections. This included Dr Nanyin Yang (USyd) who received funds to attend the Neuroeconomics Summer School at INSEAD in France. While there, Nanyin's team won the award for the best summer school research project. They designed an experiment, collected data, and conducted analysis in just 12 days.

Research Fellow Dr Laura Simpson Reeves (UQ) received funds to strengthen her international networks and build research collaborations in early 2026. This included attending and presenting at the 26th International Conference on Integrated Care in the United Kingdom, attending a workshop with the U21 Social Work Community of Practice, and visiting the Wellbeing, Health and Social Care Research Centre. While at the University of Nottingham, Laura met with internationally recognised experts Associate Professor Siobhan Laird and Emeritus Professor Paul Bywaters.

Centre HDR student Alysha Gray (UQ) was awarded funds to attend structured training to advance her technical knowledge and build research skills. Alysha attended the three-day Getting Started: Analysing HILDA with Stata Workshop in Melbourne, which provided training in using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) data to answer research questions and build strong study design.

What other 2025 recipients said about the Capacity Building Award:

“The award enabled me to conduct the first ethnographic fieldwork of my academic journey. It allowed me to live for seven months in Kampung Badran and Kampung Jogoyudan in Yogyakarta. Through the fieldwork, I gained insights into the dynamic life of people with disabilities. I look forward to sharing insights from this research.”

Lambang Septiawan, HDR, Melb

“I am very grateful to the Capacity Building Portfolio for enabling me to share research and present findings from my research projects and lay the foundations for future collaborations.”

Dr Stefanie Plage, ECR, UQ

First Nations Research Portfolio

2025 was a year of growth for the First Nations Research Portfolio, which plays a vital role in promoting best practice and increasing First Nations-led and co-designed projects across the Centre. Building on the strong foundations established during its first full year in 2024, the Portfolio deepened support for First Nations partnership research projects. First Nations leaders, researchers and community members had a strong presence at the International Life Course Conference, bringing critical perspectives and insights on health, wellbeing, cultural identity and self-determination, cultural economy and environmental care.

Research projects

Six projects were awarded funding through the First Nations Research Enabling Scheme in late 2024 and are scheduled for completion in 2026. In 2025, the Portfolio offered further grants to fund new larger scale First Nations research projects. A further six projects were approved in December 2025, including:

Karanga Yarra Badya-ny Bimbil (Never Left Country)

First Nations researchers Phillipe McLeod-Ebsworth and Natalie McLeod, Partner organisation Konermar Buller Jaithmatang, Centre First Nations Research Portfolio co-lead Brendan Kennedy, Centre Research Fellow Dr Ning Xiang.

This project will document and understand the intergenerational impacts of Aboriginal peoples' forced removal from Country by working collaboratively with Elders, community leaders, and First Nations organisations. Drawing on oral histories, storytelling, and cultural mapping, the project will co-create resources that support land connection, cultural continuity, and wellbeing for current and future generations.

Strengthening community-led research

First Nations researchers Associate Professor Uncle Wayne Williams, Roslyn von Senden, Markesh Fanti, Lacoata Major, Centre Chief Investigator Professor Simon Smith, Centre member Associate Professor Yaqoot Fatima, Centre Affiliate Dr Azhar Potia.

Following on from leading research on First Nations sleep and wellbeing, the research team will partner with six communities across regional, rural, and remote areas of North West Queensland and Far North Queensland to collaboratively develop a suite of guidebooks, training manuals, and practical tools to support all stakeholders engaged in community-led research.

The other projects are:

Laying the foundation for co-developing a culturally tailored type 2 diabetes prevention and management program with Indigenous people in rural South-West Queensland

Inclusive education from Indigenous perspectives

Reconstructing Boonwurrung Language: A Contemporary Cultural Approach

Growing strong and yarning for wellness: A dual arm study on prenatal exposure to tobacco, nicotine and cannabis and Indigenous health literacy

Award winning research

Portfolio co-leads, Tati Tati senior knowledge leader Brendan Kennedy and Associate Professor Sangeetha Chandrashekeran (Melb), received the Best Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Award from the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) Global Research Centre conference. The award was for their presentation titled Kulingi kaiejn ruwe Water Rights for First Nations: Exploring Cultural Economic Futures through Agent Based Modelling.

First Nations Research Portfolio

Training Day

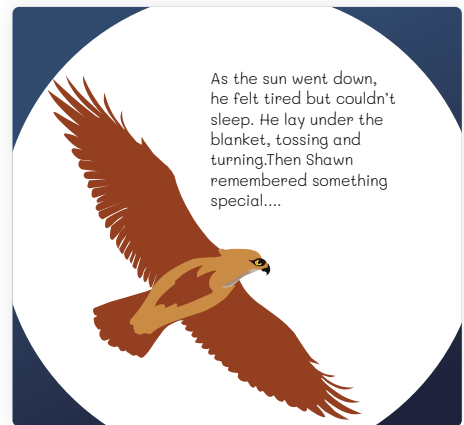
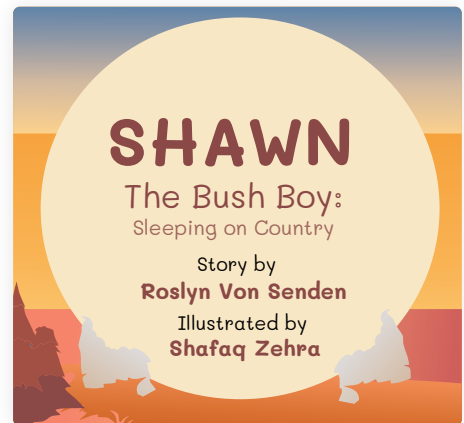
The Centre held a True Tracks® training workshop for Chief Investigators, senior researchers, and professional staff to strengthen First Nations engagement and deepen understanding of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), data governance and best practice. The practical workshop was delivered by Dr Terri Janke’s team. Dr Janke is a nationally and internationally recognised First Nations expert on ICIP and data governance.

The workshop was further informed by lived experience and research practice from First Nations researchers and leaders, Natalie McLeod, Phillippe McLeod-Ebsworth and Brendan Kennedy. Their contributions enriched discussions, increased understanding of culturally safe engagement, and informed ICIP strategies for Centre projects.



Children’s book

Demonstrating the diversity of projects supported by the Portfolio, a notable project was the children’s storybook *Shawn the Bush Boy: Sleeping on Country*. Written by Centre Affiliate Roslyn von Senden and illustrated by Shafaq Zehra, the story follows an adventurous boy who overcomes his struggle to fall asleep at night through the guidance of an Elder and the power of traditional storytelling.



Knowledge Transfer Portfolio

The Knowledge Transfer Portfolio continued to evolve in 2025, with an emphasis on strengthening support for Centre members and their research projects. Targeted training and practical resources enhanced researchers' knowledge around working effectively with non-academic partners. The introduction of additional funding opportunities also helped researchers embed the perspectives of organisations and community members into their projects.

Resources and The Drop

To support greater understanding and uptake of knowledge transfer principals in projects, the Portfolio refreshed its content on the Centre's internal platform with a focus on enhancing usability and access to information. New resources and guides were developed and housed alongside existing materials, with links to additional tools and videos incorporated into the section. These improvements make it easier for Centre members to quickly find the support they need.

Additionally, the Portfolio commenced its internal training seminar series titled 'The Drop'. This online lunch-and-learn initiative launched with Establishing and working with a Community Advisory Committee, delivered by Dr Michelle King (Community Advisory Committee) and Dr Priya Vaughan (Knowledge Transfer Portfolio Committee).

Community Involvement Fund

Establishing the Community Involvement Fund was a key priority for the Portfolio in 2025. This internal funding scheme was designed to support researchers in initiating, expanding, or enhancing community involvement activities at the highest levels, such as joint-decision-making and priority setting, within their projects.

Across three competitive funding rounds, more than \$38,000 was awarded to 10 successful applicants. Recipients used the funding for a diverse range of initiatives, including creating a lived experience story bank, exploring equitable urban environments that promote early child health and development, engaging with fathers of babies in neonatal units, and supporting outside of school hours care programs.

Priority Setting Project

In 2025, the Portfolio launched its Priority Setting Project to identify the most pressing issues in addressing deep and persistent disadvantage across the life course. Using a concept-mapping approach, this project will capture diverse perspectives to build a shared understanding of emerging priorities and research needs.

The International Life Course Conference in July provided the ideal opportunity to gather valuable insights from delegates. Community Advisory Committee and Knowledge Transfer Portfolio members ran an interactive station (pictured below) across the two-day event, generating input from researchers, government and community representatives, and people with lived experience. Findings from this project will directly inform future research directions and the Centre's Roadmap for the Future initiative.



Knowledge Transfer Portfolio

Knowledge Transfer Awards

The Knowledge Transfer Awards continued to recognise and support researchers in translating their work into real-world impact. Through these awards, recipients receive funding to develop projects that enhance knowledge transfer and community engagement.

Dr Sandy Houen, an Innovation Award recipient in 2024, used the funding to support her work in co-designing resources that promote high-quality interactions between adults and children in the first five years of life, supporting brain development. Her Making Moments Matter resources are being adopted by the State Library of Queensland. Similarly, 2024 Outstanding Leadership Award winner, Dr Azhar Potia, yarned with nearly 100 students, staff, and mentors to strengthen mentoring pathways for First Nations communities, with Phase 2 roundtable workshops now planned.



Serve



Return



Rally



Learn

Graphics from Dr Sandy Houen's Making Moments Matter resources

In 2025, the Knowledge Transfer Awards again provided funding opportunities for researchers. The recipients were:

Outstanding Leadership Award

Dr Priya Vaughan

PROJECT: Everybody: Evaluating and adapting the body neutrality paradigm to support people with schizophrenia and psychosis to self-manage their physical health

Innovation Awards

Dr Aaron Schokman

PROJECT: Setting the agenda: Embedding lived experience in sleep disordered research

Dr Mingxuan (Ming) Zhao

PROJECT: Shared voices, shared futures: Co-designing knowledge tools and events to build equitable, child-friendly neighbourhoods

Dr Ellie Brown

PROJECT: Partnering with lived experience in sexual wellbeing for youth mental health

Rising Star Awards

Renee Bilston

PROJECT: Shaping school transitions together: Co-production with children and their communities in outside of school hours

Elena Bild

PROJECT: Co-dissemination of PhD research with lived experience collaborators

Activity Plan 2026

Many of our events and opportunities in 2026 will be focused on the development of our Life Course Centre Roadmap for the Future (to be launched in 2027). Highlights will include the continuation of our Data for Policy work, two substantial First Nations Research workshops, and extensive engagement with our partners and stakeholders.

Leadership and Governance

The Executive Committee will have two main focuses in 2026. As the Centre approaches the end of its current funding period on 31 December 2027, the Executive Committee will concentrate on budget management and strategic decision making, for best use of the remaining resources. The Executive Committee will also have oversight of the Roadmap for the Future process, including positioning the Centre for continuation beyond its current funding period.

The Advisory Committee will also be heavily future focused, and we will be asking the committee members for advice on funding opportunities and network growth. The committee will also be refreshed in 2026, with a new chair and potential new members.

The Community Advisory Committee is currently engaged in a priority setting exercise. This began at the International Life Course Conference, and it will be using a variety of qualitative research methods to provide insights to help shape the future direction of the Centre.

The Research Committee will transition away from the approval of new projects and strategic funding for new initiatives. Instead, the committee will monitor project progress and provide support where necessary for the successful completion of projects. It will also contribute to the development of the Roadmap for the Future by reflecting on our research findings to date, and what these suggest for future directions.

Capacity Building Portfolio

Based on survey responses from Centre members, the Portfolio Committee has determined a suite of initiatives to deliver in 2026:

- The Capacity Building Award will continue in 2026. It provides a significant opportunity for Centre students and early-career researchers (ECRs) to engage nationally and internationally. It has been offered for many years and continues to attract high levels of engagement.
- The Centre School for 2026 will be a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) School. In 2027, the final Centre School will be a joint HDR and ECR school.
- A targeted training forum will be offered on Generative AI, in conjunction with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAR). This will include a public lecture and workshop. The first offering will be in Brisbane in March, with a focus on Indigenous perspectives and hands-on practice. There will be a second offering in Melbourne later in the year.
- The portfolio's successful mentoring programs will continue. This includes one-on-one mentoring (ongoing or one-off), group mentoring on specific topics, and opportunities to meet international visitors through mentoring drop-in sessions.

Activity Plan 2026

Data for Policy Portfolio

In 2025, the Data for Policy Portfolio held a highly successful workshop in Canberra on the integration of non-government organisation (NGO) data into linked administrative data. The focus for the portfolio in 2026 will be on delivering the outcomes from the workshop.

- Development of the Guidelines for the Integration of NGO data, including extensive consultation with the NGO and government sectors.
- A smaller follow-up workshop in the second half of the year for further feedback on the guidelines, with a penultimate draft to be circulated in early 2027.
- The establishment of demonstration projects for NGO data integration, as well as continuing support for current integration projects.
- The portfolio has a highly engaged external committee, with government and NGO members. As well as directing the development of the NGO guidelines and other initiatives, this committee is a highly valuable resources for the Roadmap for the Future process.

Knowledge Transfer Portfolio

Since the Centre's inception, the Knowledge Transfer Portfolio has steadily developed the Centre's resources for best practice knowledge transfer. In 2026, the portfolio will deepen engagement opportunities for Centre members and contribute extensively to the Roadmap for the Future process. Objectives include:

- Lead the delivery of the Priority Setting Exercise in partnership with the Community Advisory Committee, to inform the Roadmap for the Future
- Advance Knowledge Transfer infrastructure that can mature into legacy assets for researchers or a future Centre
- Deliver advanced co-design training workshops
- Maintain the Community Advisory Committee and showcase community-led projects
- Track and showcase outcomes from the Knowledge Transfer Awards

First Nations Research Portfolio

There are two primary priorities for the First Nations Research Portfolio in 2026: contributing to the Roadmap for the Future and providing ongoing support for the funded First Nations-led projects. These priorities are closely aligned, with both sharing the goal of more meaningful and culturally-informed engagement with First Nations Centre members.

- Two workshops will be held in 2026. The first will gather approximately 20 First Nations people, and other associated researchers, to collaboratively develop the vision for the Roadmap for the Future and collectively shape its foundational principles to ensure it reflects First Nations lived experience.
- The second workshop will socialise, test, and refine the emerging Roadmap for the Future vision and ensure a holistic, representative perspective.
- The portfolio will deliver a series of seminars for Centre members and continue to produce best practice case studies for the members' use.
- As part of the commitment to progress several new Centre funded First Nations projects, support and training will be provided to project researchers.



Our Performance

Key Performance Indicators

Performance Measure	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Target 2025	Target 2026	Target 2027
1. Number of research outputs	156	154	166	198			
Journal articles	103	99	104	135	115	120	125
Books	2	1	0	7	3	3	3
Book chapters	5	4	2	6	12	12	12
Conference publications	14	6	17	10	10–15	10–15	10–15
Other: Working papers / preprints	32	44	43	40	40–50	40–50	40–50
2. Quality of research outputs							
Indexed journal articles in top quartile journals (%)	76.6	79.80%	82.30%	84.70%	75%	75%	75%
Indexed journal articles in top 10% journals (%)	26.6	40.50%	56.30%	41.90%	40%	40%	40%
Indexed publications in top 10% citation percentiles worldwide (%)		16.30%	17.30%	16.60%	18%	19%	20%
Targeted publications in high-impact, multi-disciplinary journals				0	1	1	2
3. Number of workshops/conferences held/offered by the Centre	21	24	34	31	15–20	15–20	15–20
4. Number of training courses held/offered by the Centre	27	15	16	20	15–20	15–20	15–20
5. Number of additional researchers working on Centre research							
Postdoctoral researchers	10	7	9	9	10	5	0
Honours students	10	8	5	6	5–10	5–10	5–10
PhD Students	12	9	10	23	8	0	0
Masters by research students	0	0	1	1	2	2	0
Masters by coursework students	1	5	6	9	2	2	0
Associate Investigators	7	2	2	1	5	3	0
Other researchers (non-postdoctoral and in-kind)	19	11	28	24	10	10	0
6. Number of postgraduate completions	8	11	7	14	10	10	10–15
7. Number of mentoring programs offered by the Centre	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
8. Number of presentations/briefings							
To the public	17	21	55	54	15–20	20–25	20–25
To government (parliamentarians and department/agencies at both State and Federal level)	92	144	131	103	40–50	40–50	40–50
To industry/business/end users	51	70	135	90	20–25	20–25	20–25
To non-government organisations	30	70	89	84	20–25	20–25	20–25
To professional organisations and bodies	29	28	30	42	10–15	10–15	10–15
Other (please specify)							
9. Number of new organisations collaborating with, or involved in, the Centre	18	26	34	45	10–20	5–10	0
10. Number of female research personnel							
Female	53%	53%	53%	50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%	≥ 50%

Key Performance Indicators

Performance Measure	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Target 2025	Target 2026	Target 2027
Centre-specific KPIs							
Position papers, reports and submissions to government	23	27	8	24	20–25	20–25	25–30
Publications and profiling of Centre research in non-academic outlets	65	80	75	122	60–80	60–80	60–80
Public awareness and outreach activities	48	61	52	50	50–60	60–70	60–70
Increasing participation in research: undergraduate researchers, community researchers and participants in equity initiatives	23	26	12	12	10–15	10–15	10–15
Demonstrated influence on policy and practice	26	29	25	22	25	25	30
New research projects co-designed with partners	5	7	5	11	5	3	0
New funding associated with the Centre	\$5,582,909	\$15,301,041	\$15,335,001	\$20,311,802	\$2–5M	\$2–5M	\$2–5M
New Interventions	3	4	6	7	5	5	0
Centre funding directly allocated to support Indigenous researchers (including Elders and knowledge Leaders)				\$364,600	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Senior Indigenous academics involved in the Centre				2	2	2	2
Training courses in working with First Nations researchers, communities and data				3	3	3	3
First Nations organisations engaging and partnering with the Centre				7	5–10	5–10	0
New centre-funded projects which employ Indigenous researchers				3	2	3	0
Projects co-designed with First Nations organisations				3	2	3	0
Knowledge Translation projects aimed at First Nations communities and organisations				2	2	3	5

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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