Centre for Work + Life

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Centre for Work + Life
University of South Australia
July 2009
The Centre for Work + Life is a national research centre that investigates work and its intersection with household, family, community and social life in Australia. Its aim is to identify long-term change and to inform responses to the significant challenges around work and life.

Centre for Work + Life

University of South Australia

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2009, the Centre’s major work focus included analysis, authoring and widespread dissemination of the Australian Work and Life Index (AWALI), and finalisation of a series of reports arising from the Work, Home and Community project.

AWALI is the Centre’s signature index and in 2009 four funding sources contributed to AWALI– SafeWork SA and WA Health, National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) and the Centre itself. Five major themes emerged from our findings this year (reflected in our media releases) and there was extensive media interest in the stories related to the overload experienced by women and the growing load on rural mothers, which was not apparent with rural men.

Late 2009 saw the culmination of our work on the Work, Home and Community project with the release of the final reports and we were delighted with the extent of public interest and the downloads of the reports. Linked Up Lives, the overview report of the project, was widely distributed by the Centre to key stakeholders nationally in government, planning and community organisations and has been followed up with consultation with various levels of government. Material from the project is informing our emerging research in the area of work, life and environmental sustainability and adolescents, adult work and libraries.

We made good progress with our current research projects including the Increasing VET participation amongst lower paid workers over the life-cycle project which the Centre is conducting for the NCVER. Focus groups and interviews were conducted across four states with workers, students, industry representatives and VET educators in the three major industry groups, providing new insights into the factors that impact on lower paid workers and their thinking about VET.

In April we presented findings from the qualitative research of the Work, Life and Health project. This involved focus groups and interviews with workers across life stages and occupations in the WA Health workforce and generated considerable interest. The final report and recommendations were well received by WA Health.

In terms of research training, our three current Ph.D students progressed well. Catherine Earl had a most rewarding time during her scholarship in Canada in April and May 2009, creating international links and seeing her work in an international context. We had two honours students at the Centre in 2009 and over summer 2009/10 we had 6 students on summer research scholarships with the Centre, including three ANU students who, through an agreement between the two Universities, undertook 8 week scholarships with the University of South Australia.

The Centre was invited by the relevant Ministers to join the Judging Panels for the 2009 National Work-Life Balance Awards, and the EOWA Business Achievements awards. The Centre hosted a number of visiting international scholars in 2009 including Prof Rhacel Salazar Parreñas from Brown University and Professor Eileen Appelbaum from Rutgers. These, along with a number of other seminars provided opportunities for public events with the Hawke Centre, collaboration with a range of Schools in the University and seminars within the Centre, greatly enriching our work.

The Centre submitted several applications for ARC grants with a focus on sustainability which are likely to be more significant to the Centre’s research program in the future.

Barbara Pocock
July 2010
The Centre for Work and Life (CW+L) is a national research centre located within the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia. It was established in 2006.

The Centre for Work + Life's mission is to be the place to go for reliable research about the changing nature of work and its intersection with household, family, community and social life in Australia. The Centre’s Charter is available on the Centre’s website.

PARTNERS

In 2009 the Centre has continued to work closely with existing partners and create new research partnerships around significant issues. In 2009 our partners were:

- **SafeWork SA**
- **Western Australian Department of Health**
- **Brotherhood of St Laurence**
- **ZeroWaste SA**
- **Innovation and Economic Opportunities Group**
- **Lend Lease Communities**
- **SA Unions**
- **Premier’s Council for Women**
- **National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)**

CENTRE RESOURCES

The Centre draws resources from the University of South Australia, the Australian Research Council and some of the industry partners listed above. In 2009, the Centre’s budget was once again around $1 million.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Centre’s Advisory Board includes representatives of the Centre’s partners and from the international and national research community, community organisations, unions, business and government. The Board meets bi-annually to advise on the strategic directions and activities of the CW+L.

2009 Advisory Board Members were:

- **Chair**
  - Ms Ann Sherry AO
  - Chief Executive Officer, Carnival Australia
Members

Ms Elizabeth Broderick
Sex Discrimination Commissioner & Commissioner for Age Discrimination, Australian Human Rights Commission

Professor Margaret Hallock
Director, Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, University of Oregon, USA

Mr Mark Cully,
Chief Economist, Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Ms Janet Giles
Secretary, SA Unions, South Australia

Emeritus Professor Ian Davey,
University of South Australia & Chair, Innovation & Economic Opportunities Group

Ms Michelle Hogan Manager, Work Life Balance Strategy, SafeWork SA, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia

Ms Julie McMahon
Community Development Worker/Financial Counsellor, UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide

Ms Michelle Hogan Manager, Work Life Balance Strategy, SafeWork SA, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia

Ex-officio

Professor Barbara Pocock
Director, Centre for Work and Life, Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia

Ms Annie Campbell Senior Business Development Manager, Education Arts and Social Sciences Divisional Office, University of South Australia

Professor Paul Smyth General Manager, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Professorial Fellow, School of Social & Political Sciences, University of Melbourne.

Ms Catherine McMahon
Centre Manager, Centre for Work + Life, Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia

Professor Margaret Hallock
Director, Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, University of Oregon, USA

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Ms Catherine McMahon
Centre Manager, Centre for Work + Life, Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia

CENTRE STAFF & STUDENTS

Director: Professor Barbara Pocock,
Barbara Pocock has been researching work, employment and industrial relations in Australia for over twenty years and has published widely. Initially trained as an economist, she completed her doctorate in gender studies. Her research has included work, industrial relations, trade unionism, pay and pay equity, vocational education, inequality in the labour market.

Dr Natalie Skinner, Research Fellow
Natalie Skinner is interested in health and wellbeing in the workplace and has conducted research on stress and burnout, job satisfaction, work overload and the interaction between work and life. She manages the Australian Work and Life Index and the Work, Life and Health project.

Dr Pip Williams, Research Fellow
Pip Williams with her background in psychology and public health has studied a range of social, psychological and health phenomena over many years. She managed the Work Home and Community project, exploring how people fit work, home and community together in urban Australia.
Ms Catherine McMahon, Centre Manager
Catherine McMahon’s background is in policy and management in government and university sectors. She has been involved with refugee advocacy and not-for-profit organisations on the status of women and human rights. Apart from her management role, she worked on the Low Paid Workers and VET Project.

Dr Jane Edwards, Researcher
Jane Edwards’ background is in the sociology of health and illness. Her research has focused on mental health in rural settings, sexuality and its relationship to health and health service access and service delivery. She is currently engaged on the Work Home and Community and Lochiel Park projects.

Dr Reina Ichii, Researcher
Reina Ichii has expertise in development economics and public finance management. Her interests include the gender impacts of fiscal policy and time use analysis of domestic care activities. She worked on quantitative analysis for projects, including the Australian Work and Life Index.

Mr Ken Bridge, Adjunct Associate
Ken Bridge has a long career in teacher education, community action and labour studies and has researched health and workplace issues, with a focus on health professionals, workplace training and the impact of work on family life. He has assisted with the Work, Home and Community Project.

Jen Manning, Administrator
Jen Manning is the Centre’s administrator and personal assistant to the Centre Director. She has had considerable and varied experience in office management roles in the private sector particularly in the medical area, and in government administration prior to working at the university.

Suzanne Pritchard, Project Officer, Research
Suzanne Pritchard joined the Centre in 2008 having worked in government and national agencies and the university sector for many years in the education field, with a focus on targeted initiatives in the multicultural and language areas and on tertiary education policy.

Postgraduate Students

Catherine Earl, PhD Scholar
Catherine Earl’s research focuses on young workers in South Australia and the impact of the changing industrial relations climate on their engagement, experience and power in the workforce.

Ali Elder, PhD Scholar
Ali Elder, recipient of the Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship is investigating the working lives of cleaners in the commercial cleaning industry paying particular attention to dignity at work and the impact of cleaning work on the body.

Paul van Dijk, PhD Scholar
Paul van Dijk’s PhD is part of the ARC Linkage Work–Life Balance, Well-Being and Health project and his research focuses on organisational justice and work-life interaction in the health care workforce.

Other Students
Natalija Vujinovic successfully completed her Honours degree in Psychology in 2009. Her thesis was entitled ‘Working Mothers Experiences in Balancing Work, Home Life and Community Involvement in a Master-Planned Community’.

Hugh Beil successfully completed his Honours degree in Social Work. His thesis was entitled ‘What aged care services and housing options are expected by baby boomers in South Australia: a metropolitan rural comparison’.

The Centre had six summer research students over summer 09/10, three were recipients of UniSA/ANU Vice Chancellors’ Summer Research Scholarships and three were UniSA EASS Undergraduate Research Vacation Scholarship holders.
Their research covered the following areas:

- The Fair Work Act and its implications for young workers;
- Pay Equity;
- Indigenous Australians at Work: Successful Initiatives in Indigenous Employment;
- How public libraries can provide resources for adolescent development;
- The work/life integration experiences of working mothers in a master-planned community;
- The relationships between work, life and sustainability, and the factors inhibiting or supporting environmental citizenship.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

In 2009, the Centre’s research included the continuation of several major ARC research projects and the major project funded by NCVER. A number of research activities were undertaken with partner organisations which extended the Centre’s activities and the Centre was contracted by external agencies to undertake research projects.

The Centre continues to be part of a number of research networks including the Work and Family Roundtable and the Canadian research network, The Inter-University Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT).

MAJOR PROJECTS

Australian Work and Life Index (AWALI)

The Australian Work and Life Index (AWALI) is a national survey of work–life outcomes amongst working Australians. AWALI commenced in 2007 and has been repeated annually by the Centre in partnership with the SA and WA governments. In 2009 specialist questions about education and training were asked as part of the research project funded by NCVER.

AWALI serves as a benchmarking tool to compare and contrast work-life outcomes over time and across various groups defined by geographic location, employment characteristics (e.g. occupation, work hours, industry, job quality) and social demographics (e.g. gender, age, parenthood, income).

It also serves as a powerful analysis tool to examine the protective and risk factors related to work-life conflict, and the social, community and health outcomes affected by the state of the work-life relationship.

A national report summarising key findings is produced following each data collection. Each AWALI survey takes a particular focus: in 2007 it was on working time, in 2008, workplace culture, and in 2009, it focused on requests for flexibility and their outcomes, undertook some international comparisons and considered how work-life pressures affect participation in education and training. AWALI is funded as part of the Work, Life and Health Project, an ARC-funded study in partnership with SafeWork SA and the Western Australian Department of Health. The 2009 report Work, life and workplace flexibility: the Australian work and life index 2009, released in July drew considerable media and community interest.

Work/Life Balance, Well-Being and Health

The Work/Life Balance, Well-Being and Health project is an ARC Linkage grant in partnership with SafeWork SA and the Western Australian Health Department.

This project addresses well-being and work–life issues within the health sector and the larger Australian workforce and has three major components:

- an in-depth study of work–life challenges, policies and practices in the health workforce.
- a national work–life survey, the Australian Work and Life Index (AWALI)

The study of the health workforce, conducted in Western Australia public health units, was a multi-methodology study involving qualitative interviews and focus groups, and quantitative data collection via an organisational survey. The study investigated barriers to a healthy work–life relationship and actions that assist it, to inform theory, practice and policy over the working life and through key work–life transitions.

In Western Australia, 104 health sector workers and managers from across occupations and city, regional and rural/remote locations participated, results were analysed and an interim report prepared which set out the preliminary findings for discussion at the roundtable of key stakeholders in April 2009.

The Centre also undertook an Australian Work and Life Index (AWALI) Survey of the WA Department of Health workforce for which data was collected as part of the WA Health Employee Survey in March-April 2009. The report of the findings was submitted to the WA Department of Health in 2010.


2009 saw the release of four reports from this major project. The four reports were launched at CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia) in Adelaide on 2nd December 2009.

This three year study by the Centre researched how Australians are 'putting together' their jobs, homes and communities, and was jointly funded by the Australia Research Council, Lend Lease Communities and the Innovation and Economic Opportunities Group.

The study collected qualitative and quantitative information from adult and teenage residents, workers, business owners and community service providers across ten suburban and urban communities in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales. The selected communities included four new master-planned communities, four relatively low income, older established working class communities located adjacent to the planned communities and also, two harbour-side inner city developments.

The research findings indicated that individuals and families around Australia are struggling to integrate the demands of work with the needs of home and community life. This project sheds light on why this is becoming an increasing problem in suburban Australia by drawing together the views of residents (both adults and teenagers), workers, business owners and community service providers. These findings have implications for employers, educators, businesses, developers, community organisations and urban planners.

The researchers call for a more holistic approach to urban planning that considers the daily activities of residents across the lifespan, and which acknowledges the space, time and power effects of urban design on different groups of people. The quality and location of work and essential services were found to be particularly significant to people's ability to live sustaining lives and to build socially robust communities.

Sustainable Lives in Sustainable Communities? Living and Working in Ten Australian Suburbs
Increasing VET participation amongst lower paid workers over the life-cycle

The Centre is conducting this research for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). The project is funded over three years from January 2008 to December 2010.

The Low-paid workers and VET project focuses on how changing conditions at work, at home and in the wider community affect the participation of lower educated and lower paid workers in Australia’s vocational education and training (VET) sector.

Using data from the 2009 Australian Work and Life Index, a report was prepared which examined how work-life pressures influence the capacity and motivation of individuals, particularly low-paid workers, to engage in education and training. This report Work-life issues and participation in education and training was published by NCVER in late December 2009.

Over 2009 the qualitative research component of this study included conducting focus groups and/or interviews with workers participating in and not participating in VET in non-residential aged care, retail and food processing in Western Australia (retail), South Australia (aged care and retail), Victoria (food processing) and Queensland (aged care), plus interviews with VET educators and industry representatives in the sectors. A discussion paper was then prepared and a series of 21 strategic conversations conducted with significant stakeholders in national and state governments, industry training councils, industry organisations, VET providers and unions in December 2009.

A discussion paper Low paid workers, changing patterns of work and life, and participation in vocational education and training: a discussion starter was published by NCVER in March 2009 on the issues emerging on what influences people’s decisions to participate in vocational education and training.

Further analysis, publications and consultations will occur in 2010.

OTHER RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCIES

Lochiel Park (2009–2010)

The Centre is the social sciences research partner in the project “The Intelligent Grid in a new housing development – Lochiel Park” led by Professor Wasim Saman of the Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technology (ISST) at the University of South Australia. A key focus of the project is evaluating and monitoring energy use in a state-of-the-art sustainable housing development, Lochiel Park Green Village.

The Centre for Work + Life will conduct research using qualitative and quantitative methods with residents in 2009 and 2010 to understand factors that facilitate and inhibit their behaviour around environmentally friendly energy use. This will include an investigation of the way factors such as working and travel patterns; household configuration; stage of life; the domestic division of labour and engagement with the local community shape the way households interact with the technology being trialled.

Whilst data collection was slower than anticipated because of unforeseen delays in completing the building of houses, the first phase of qualitative data has been collected. A third year student won a summer scholarship and worked with the Centre identifying significant literature for the study in early 2009.

The survey data will be integrated with metering data about household energy use to provide a comprehensive picture of the kinds of households most likely to be energy efficient and to provide insight into the factors that aid and inhibit energy efficient practices. The findings from this project will be of interest to several stakeholder groups, including designers, developers, councils, as well as local and state government.
Paid Parental Leave (2009)

In 2009 after the Australian Government announced it would introduce the National Paid Parental Leave Scheme from 2011, the Public Service Association (PSA) of South Australia were considering their position in relation to parental leave provisions for government employees, including for Enterprise Bargaining (EB) negotiations then underway. The PSA engaged the Centre for Work + Life to prepare a report, drawing on the national and international literature, addressing the arguments about the duration and timing of parental leave and effects of income support during parental leave. The report The Case for Improving Paid Parental Leave in the South Australian Public Sector is available on the PSA website together with details of the EB outcomes.

Adolescents as Environmental Citizens (2009)

Zero Waste SA funded ($10K) a pilot study which examined how home, school, community and adult work contribute to the development of environmental citizenship in adolescents. This pilot study is complete and has contributed to the development of an ARC Linkage application Adolescents as environmental citizens: how home, school, community and work affect the development of environmental citizenship in adolescents in November 2009. Zero Waste SA and the NSW Commission for Children and Young People both made significant commitments to cash and in-kind support of this Linkage application.

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (2009-)

EOWA is sponsoring publication of case studies that present findings of models of good practice in a series of Australian companies, governments and community organisations. These will present practical strategies that affect work and life that are being applied in workplaces and the implications for better future practices.

Women’s Employment Strategy

The Centre was contracted in 2008 to undertake a research project for the Premier’s Council for Women (PCW) on Women’s Employment in South Australia: Towards a new Strategy for Women’s work in South Australia. The report was finalised in February 2009 and published on the Premier’s Council for Women’s website and released to the media in July 2009.

Developing an Australian evidence-base for policies and interventions on work hours, fatigue and work-family strain. (2010)

In late 2009 the Centre was advised that this project had been successful in its application for funds under the SafeWork SA commissioned research grants. This involves Dr Natalie Skinner (project manager) and Prof Barbara Pocock from the Centre for Work + Life with Dr Jill Dorrian, School of Psychology, Dr Sally Ferguson and Associate Professor Verna Blewett from the Centre for Sleep Research at the University of South Australia.

This project which will commence in 2010 will inform evidence-based policy related to work hours, fatigue, work-related psychological distress/mental health and work-life balance, with the longer term goal of contributing to a reduction in workplace illness/injury claims related to mental disorders. This multidisciplinary project will involve longitudinal data analysis of the HILDA (Household, Labour and Income Dynamics in Australia) survey, and analysis of new SA data on fatigue from AWALI 2010 (Australian Work and Life Index). Findings will be disseminated in a seminar and two workshops, with an emphasis on engagement with key stakeholders in the development of recommendations for policy and practice.

PH.D PROJECTS

The Centre’s Ph.D students are undertaking the following studies:

- Reconceptualising Citizenship and the Commodification of Labour: Young workers in the South Australian labour market, Catherine Earl, Year 3
- Cleaning, Dignity, and the Embodied Worker: An investigation of dignity at work for cleaners in the Australian commercial cleaning industry, Ali Elder, Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship holder Year 2,
RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

The Work and Family Policy Roundtable (W+FPR)
The Work and Family Policy Roundtable is co-convened by Professor Barbara Pocock and Dr Elizabeth Hill from the University of Sydney. The Roundtable brings together nineteen academics from twelve universities.

Collaborations within the University

The Centre agreed to be a partner from 2009 in the project 'The Intelligent Grid in a new housing development – Lochiel Park' led by the university's Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technology.

The Centre and the School of Management entered into a program of shared research activities for 2009 which includes international visitors, public events and publications.

Cooperative Research Centre – Work 21C

The Centre collaborated with colleagues at the Centre for Sleep Research, UniSA, at the National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University and at the Workplace Research Centre, University of Sydney in forming a bid team executive for a CRC focussed on work in the 21st century and in exploring stakeholder interest in any proposed bid.

International collaboration

Professor Barbara Pocock, is part of an international team led by the Interuniversity Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT) that will conduct a vast study of work and employment in a global context. This relationship also resulted in the success of one of our PhD students, Catherine Earl, in gaining a scholarship to visit Professor Charlotte Yates at McMasters University in Canada for two months in April and May.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2009

Where available, links to download reports, papers and presentations are available on the Centre’s website at http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/cwl/publications.asp

BOOK CHAPTERS


REPORTS

Linked Up Lives: Putting Together Work, Home and Community in Ten Australian Suburbs: Overview Report Philippa Williams, Barbara Pocock & Ken Bridge, Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia
**Sustainable Lives in Sustainable Communities? Living and Working in Ten Australian Suburbs**, Philippa Williams, Ken Bridge, Jane Edwards, Natalija Vujinovic & Barbara Pocock, Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia

**Mobility, Mothers and Malls: How Home, Community, School, and Work Affect Opportunity for Teenagers in Suburban Australia** Philippa Williams, Ken Bridge & Barbara Pocock, Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia

**Work, Home and community: findings from the household survey** Natalie Skinner, Reina Ichii, & Philippa Williams, Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia

**Work-life Issues and participation in education and training** Natalie Skinner (Centre for Work + Life), National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Adelaide


**The Case for Improving Paid Parental Leave in the South Australian Public Sector** Report prepared for the Public Service Association SA by the Centre for Work + Life, University of South Australia

**Working Women in South Australia: Progress, Prospects and Challenges** Report to the Premier’s Council for Women, Barbara Pocock, February 2009 published on Premier’s Council for Women website in July 09,

**Low-paid workers, changing patterns of work and life, and participation in vocational education and training: A discussion starter** Pocock, B. NCVER, March 2009

**REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


Williams, P, Bridge, K & Pocock, B 2009, ‘Kids lives in adult space and time: how home, community, school and adult work affect opportunities for teenagers in suburban Australia’, *Health Sociology Review*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 79-93. (Tier B)


**REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS**


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**COMMUNITY IMPACT AND OTHER CENTRE OUTCOMES**

**COMMUNITY LINKS & INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS**

**International visitors**

The Centre has hosted a number of visiting international scholars in 2009 providing opportunities for discussion of international links, public events with the Hawke Centre, collaboration with Schools of the University and seminars within the Centre. These included Professors Donna Baines, (McMaster University, Canada), Rachel Salazar Parenas (Brown University, USA), Prof Ewart Keep (Cardiff, UK) and Prof Eileen Appelbaum (Rutgers, USA). This has enriched our work and strengthened our links with international scholars and their research centres.
Associations

In 2009 the Centre Director was a Member of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australian and New Zealand Executive, a Director of The Australia Institute, a member of the Board of the Festival of Ideas and a judge for the National Work Life Balance Awards and EOWAs Business Achievement Awards.

Professor Pocock was appointed to the Public Sector Performance Commission Advisory Board in July 2008.

See also research collaborations

CENTRE CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The Centre conducted the following seminars in 2009:

17th Feb 09  Skill ecosystems, Kim Windsor

27th Feb 09  On the definition of work, Associate Professor Chris Provis, School of Management, University of South Australia

13 Mar 09  Work–life harmonisation and fertility in Australia: an event history analysis using HILDA data, Professor Hideki Nakazato, Konan University, Kobe, Japan

17 Mar 09  Justice for women at work: a discussion of paid parental leave and pay equity, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, the Centre for Work + Life and the School of Management.

6 April 09  Environmental sustainability, work, life and consumption, Dr Richard Denniss, the Australia Institute, Professor Barbara Pocock, Director, Centre for Work + Life. Co-hosted with the Hawke Centre and The Australia Institute.

3 June 09  Cultures of flirtation: the sexual work and moral boundaries of Filipina migrant hostesses in Tokyo, Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Professor of American Civilization and Sociology, Brown University.

12 Aug 09  Work–life balance policies in a declining economy: are they still win-win? Professor Eileen Appelbaum, School of Management and Labor Relations, Director, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University, USA. Co-hosted with the Hawke Centre and the School of Management.

17 Aug 09  Individual's engagement in vocational education: Systems and drivers affecting low paid workers in UK, US & Australia, Professor Ewart Keep, Deputy Director of The Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University

19 Aug 09  Resistance as emotional labour: The Australian and Canadian non profit social services, Associate Professor Donna Baines, Associate Professor of Social Work and Labour Studies McMaster University, Canada

13 Oct 09  Understanding Low Skilled Men's Access to Jobs: An Occupational Case Study Approach, Megan Moskos, research assistant, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University and PhD candidate

CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Staff of the Centre for Work + Life contributed to a number of conferences, workshops and speaking engagements in 2009, including:

Skinner, N. & Pocock, B. Work, Life and Workplace Culture in Australia in 2008, 23rd Conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand (AIRAANZ), Newcastle, NSW 4-6th February 2009

‘Flexibility in a Tough Environment’, keynote presentation to WA Department of Commerce, Perth WA, 2 Apr 09

Presentation to the UniSA Research Leadership Development Program: Session topic: Building & leading research enterprises: research centres, Friday 15th May 2009, Adelaide

Work/Life and Employment Research in Australia: White work, Black gaps?, presentation, David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education & Research (DUCIER) seminar, 1 June 2009, University of South Australia.

2009 Senate Standing Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee, Inquiry into the Provision of Childcare in Australia, evidence to Committee, 22 July 2009, Adelaide. See also Submission to the 2009 Senate Inquiry into the Provision of Childcare in Australia, February 2009

What’s different in this recession? Low-paid workers in times of labour market stress, keynote address at National Vocational Education and Training Research NCVER ‘No Frills’ Conference, 7-8 July 2009, University of Ballarat, Ballarat. (Barbara Pocock)


Novita Inaugural Oration Research Symposium on ‘Meeting the Challenges of Disability’, Keynote speaker 5 August 2009, Adelaide

What are Today’s Workers Thinking?” Keynote speaker - Australian Workplace Conference – Managing your workforce in uncertain times, Sydney, 7 August 2009


Keynote speaker ‘Work, Family and Community’ at 15th World Congress of the International Industrial Relations Association (IIRA), 24th – 27th August 2009, Sydney NSW. (Barbara Pocock)


Presentation to Privatisation, Security and Community: How Master Planned Estates are Changing Suburban Australia, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) Workshop, 28-29th September 09, University of Queensland. (Barbara Pocock)

Williams P. & Skinner N. presented papers at the Community, Work and Family III International Conference ‘Making the Connections in a Global Context’, held at Utrecht University in the Netherlands (16th – 18th of April)[Williams P. Mobility, Mothers and Malls: How home, community, adult work and school affect opportunity for teenagers; Skinner N. Community and work characteristics as predictors of work-family gains and strains]


EXPERT COMMENTARY

The Centre Director and staff provided considerable expert commentary to media, including in-depth interviews and panel discussions covering a range of research areas, including paid maternity leave, work and life pressures and work, home and community, and workplace relations. Further details are on the Centre’s website at [http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/cwl/media.asp]
Media releases

11 March 2009: Experts to tackle justice for women at work
16 March 2009: Paid maternity leave is a stimulus measure, say experts
11 May 2009: Paid parental leave welcomed
13 July 2009: More work..more pay...for more women! (Premiers Council for Women)
27 July 2009: Work + Life balance holds a key to recession recovery
6 August 2009: Work/life balance: What Aussies can learn from the US,

24 September 2009: Too much work: Working families feel the pressure
21 October 2009: Loving work fuels extreme jobs: Foenander Lecture
30 October 2009: UniSA explores the truth behind economics
2 December 2009: Teenagers' lives limited by adult constraints
2 December 2009: Work, Home, Community essential to urban planning

Interviews and Discussions

Linked up lives ABC Radio National 'Life Matters' 30 November 2009, Guest: Dr Pip Williams CW+L
Work life balance update (download audio) ABC Radio National 'Life Matters' 27 July 2009
Taking leave (download audio) ABC Radio National, Australia Talks, 23 June 2009, Guests Barbara Pocock and others

'Working less could do more to save the environment', Deutsche Welle, Living Planet, 17 April 2009, Barbara Pocock and others


Employment experts debate prospects for minimum wage, The World Today, ABC Radio National, 23 March 2009, Barbara Pocock and Margaret Hallock (Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, University of Oregon),

The Living Low Paid, Barbara Pocock interview with Phil Dobbie, BTalk Australia, 4 March 2009.

Media reports

Hockey's personal life at risk The Australian, 1 Dec 2009
Hard times for easy-living communities The Age 28 November 2009
New communities need good planning The Sydney Morning Herald 28 November 2009
Rich or poor, youth stranded in outer spaces The Age 28 November 2009
How we've forgotten our teens The Advertiser 27 November 2009
Men yearn for a work-life balance too The Courier Mail 21 Nov 2009
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