

The voice for Anglican care and social justice in Australia May 2009

Highlights

- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children
- Government reports on carers and residential and community aged care
- Community Jobs Summit
- Third Bernard Judd Memorial Lecture

Now the neoliberal idyll is over. The casino has shut its doors. The neoliberal moral economy is in crisis. But the crisis is not the work of greedy bankers, lax regulators or corrupt MPs alone: they are only grubby flotsam floating on much deeper currents. It will not be resolved unless and until we acknowledge that we, the 'people', are also part of the problem — that the real culprit is the hyper-individualistic, materialistic hedonism of the entire culture, popular at least as much as élite.

David Marquand, The Guardian, 26 May 2009

In a [speech](#) to this year's Australian Council of Social Service national conference, Treasury Secretary Ken Henry posed what he called the 'mildly provocative' question, 'How much inequity should we allow?'

Castigating his own 'brash young' self for being fixated on so-called hard issues like efficiency and productivity, Dr Henry argued that, far from being 'soft' and secondary, distributional concerns have intrinsic importance. So much so that 'today equity is central to Treasury's mission and policy advice'.

However, 'Leaving fairness solely to the market to determine should be unacceptable to a civilised society. Societies will choose how much inequity they allow according to the institutions, norms, laws, policies and programs they adopt.'

The two traditional frameworks for determining equity regarding the tax-transfer system are procedural and distributive fairness. The former is concerned only with whether processes are transparent and unbiased: with whether individuals' formal rights have been respected. 'A fair process based on the protection of everyone's individual rights is the ultimate test of equity.'

Distributive fairness, on the other hand, considers equity to be grounded in some conception of the social good and, in relation to tax, is inherently redistributive.

Both distributive and procedural fairness are necessary to the pursuit of equity in the tax-transfer system, Dr Henry said, but not sufficient. The greatest challenge for his current review is to deal with features of the system 'which cause, contribute to, to fail to redress significant inequities that chronically harm people's lifetime well-being'.

This concern with well-being, not simply income, and the focus on one's lifetime, rather than only immediate circumstances, is inspired by the 'capabilities approach' of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, for whom 'the true measure of human development is that a person has the "capabilities" necessary to leading the kind of life they value and have reason to value'.

Henry's respect for Sen is well-known (and covered in last year's *State of the Family*). What is of broader significance is that the ethical core of the capabilities argument should sit so comfortably in the context of a discussion of tax reform — by the country's leading econocrat.

This is not an isolated case, and precedes the financial and economic meltdown, though the latter has certainly helped concentrate the mind on matters of right and wrong. People of all ideological stripes have for some time been noting — or noticing for the first time — that economics is not only compatible with moral reasoning but, at least implicitly, grounded in it.

Articles with titles like '[Dare to be moral](#)' (by Frank Furedi) and '[Doing the right thing is worth money in the bank](#)' (by Elizabeth Farelly) are becoming increasingly common. Even the conservative American satirist P.J. O'Rourke has been telling anyone who will listen (like the ABC's [Alan Saunders](#)) that Adam Smith was first and foremost a moral philosopher and that the *Wealth of Nations* can only be properly understood as a sequel to the earlier *Theory of Moral Sentiments* — a much more influential book in Smith's own lifetime and one with which he assumed readers of the economic treatise would be familiar.

These represent efforts to wrest ethics back from what Furedi calls the 'moral entrepreneurs ... in the business of peddling simplistic ideas about "good" and "evil" to establish 'true moral judgements, based on values and convictions'.

Therein lies the rub. How exactly do we differentiate 'simplistic' from 'true' moral judgements — if it can be done at all? On the one hand, it is as easy to caricature serious ethics as it is to misrepresent economics: the one as camouflaged special pleading, the other as soulless quantification.

On the other, there *are* countless charlatans in both disciplines, with neither having a particularly firm link to empirical certainty. That said, the difficulty of reaching an objective understanding of what Professor Marquand calls the 'moral economy' is no reason to avoid the attempt. If anything, it makes the task more urgent.

The best approach, as usual, is to work from practical cases and Dr Henry's question about allowable inequity is as good a starting-point as any. The commitment to maximizing capabilities entails equality only in respect of those Sen identifies as absolute: proper nutrition, shelter, freedom from avoidable disease and the like. For the development of higher faculties and general social advance capabilities are relative — in terms both of community standards and individual aptitude. Not everyone can or would want to be a heart surgeon or tennis champion. But in today's Australia any child lacking numeracy or literacy (including computer literacy) is deprived of certain basic abilities for being a full citizen. In between come the vast majority of us, our individual differences being as much a source of energy as potential division.

Naturally, there will be many disagreements at the edges about which capabilities qualify as 'basic', as well as the extent of inequality that is compatible with a broader conception of equity or justice. Beyond the highest level of generalisation, and the satisfaction of truly absolute needs, there will never be full agreement. But that does not matter. The point is that we can and should have this kind of conversation — as a central element of economic debate.

That the head of Treasury is grappling with such problems is encouraging. The traditional distance between ethics and economics — or that between the community sector and business — was always artificial. We can not only learn from each other, we can speak the same language. We can even, with a bit of effort, share the same vocabulary.



Kasy Chambers
Executive Director

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Anglicare Australia, as part of the Coalition of Organisations committed to the Safety and Well-being of Australia's Children, had a meeting with Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin — along with senior departmental officials — for a preview of the National Framework ahead of its agreement by the Council of Australian Governments on 30 April.

The Coalition first recognised and raised the need for a national framework in 2007 and persuaded the then opposition to make a commitment to such a framework should it win office. Developing the framework has been a drawn-out process. A negotiating group of the Coalition, meeting with FaHCSIA and the Minister's office, needed to elicit agreement from each state and territory counterpart.

The overwhelming feeling from the Coalition is that the agreed framework is a good starting-point but needs to be significantly built on. The Coalition will now meet and determine questions of governance and how we engage with this framework.

Some main points of the framework are:

- National standards for out-of-home care.
- Expansion of the Communities for Children Program.
- A 'tuning' of existing programs and work to prevent child abuse.
- Encouragement for all adult services (such as those for mental health and homelessness) to become 'child aware'.
- A national research agenda.
- A workforce strategy.
- An increase in support for young people leaving care.

The federal government has committed \$61.6 million over four years to fund the project.

Full details are available [here](#).

Community Response Taskforce

The second official meeting of the Taskforce took place on 22 May. Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard and attended by Minister Jenny Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Ursula Stephens, the meeting was a useful and interactive discussion. Issues covered included the changes and developments in Emergency Relief and financial counselling; these developments are continuing and FaHCSIA is working with members of the Taskforce to reach a mutually beneficial resolution. Removal of red tape and the ongoing inefficiencies in funding, administration and regulation were discussed and we have referred the results of the members' survey to the Productivity Commission. In the meantime, government continues to work on these issues, including a standardised chart of accounts and standardised funding contracts within departments.

In discussing unemployment, it was determined that Fair Work Australia which comes into existence on 1 July will be setting out Best Practice Guidelines; the Taskforce will refer the issue of redundancy as one of the first considered.

The Taskforce also discussed the recent federal budget. Anglicare Australia praised the general direction of the budget and encouraged the government to 'stick to its guns' with regard to the capping of the rebate for private health insurance. Both Julia Gillard and Jenny Macklin indicated that this may be a difficult issue and requested our support.

Government report on carers

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth has released a report on its inquiry into better support for carers, entitled *Who Cares ...*'

Key among its 50 recommendations are an increase in the base rate of income support for carers; a review of means testing thresholds; better coordination of support services in the form of a one-stop-shop for information on community care services, as well as support systems that are nationally consistent and more streamlined.

Among other recommendations:

- More options for carers who want to manage the purchase of services themselves, including self-managed individualised funding packages.
- A national education campaign to increase community awareness of the needs of carers.
- National carer recognition legislation and a national carer action plan.
- A national strategy to address the skills and training needs of carers.
- Increased access to case management services for carers.
- Strengthening options for flexible working arrangements for carers.
- Supporting carers to find suitable employment after a period of absence from the workforce.
- Extension of preventative health care initiatives to include carers.
- More counselling services for carers and their families.

Read the full report [here](#).

Report into residential and community aged care

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration has issued a report on its inquiry into residential and community aged care in Australia.

The most far-reaching of its 31 recommendations is the establishment of a national aged care forum, reporting directly to the Minister for Health and Ageing and coordinated by her department, to consider, on an ongoing basis, current and future challenges to the aged care sector. Further, the forum will establish a taskforce representative of all aged care stakeholders, including clients, to take action on the forum's determinations; and the department, in cooperation with the taskforce and all involved stakeholders, will undertake an all-encompassing review of the *Aged Care Act 1997* and related regulations. This review should:

- equally examine the provision of residential and community aged care services in Australia, considering both current and future challenges in the provision of aged care services; and
- provide future projections to enable both short and longer-term sectoral planning.

Read the full report [here](#).

Compact developments

The National Compact Joint Taskforce met for the first time on 11 May to start drafting a new Compact between the Australian Government and the 'Third Sector'. It comprises 18 representatives from non-profit organisations, Commonwealth Government agencies, local government and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Its role is to develop a framework for the Compact containing key priorities and principles for the relationship between government and non-profit organisations.

According to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, the development of the Compact will help improve service delivery and address challenges currently facing the non-profit sector, including governance, leadership and workforce issues.

Ongoing details will be available on the [website](#) of the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens.

Homeless youth

The federal government has announced it will invest \$48 million over the next two years to continue to support young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, through the Reconnect program. Reconnect operates across Australia and provides support to a broad range of young people, including Indigenous Australians, the newly arrived and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

As part of the new contracts, the government will require Reconnect providers to be better linked with other homelessness services and is working to streamline processes by incorporating the Newly Arrived Youth Support Service with existing Reconnect providers.

Government funding to give young Australians a voice

The federal government has signed a funding agreement that will provide \$1.6 million over a four year period to the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) — Australia's national non-government youth affairs peak body, representing the rights and interests of young people and the sector that supports them. Funding for the body had been abolished by the former government in 1999.

Key objectives to be undertaken by AYAC include:

- Fostering good practice in youth engagement and participation and ensuring young people's voices are heard in national debates.
- Developing policy positions around identified priorities affecting, or of interest to, the youth sector and young people.
- Undertaking youth sector development work via promoting, and drawing on, evidence-based research and partnerships.

Social housing

Housing ministers from the Commonwealth, states and territories and New Zealand met in Melbourne on 22 May. The Australian ministers agreed on an extensive work program to reform the social housing system at both state and national level.

Priority areas of work over the next six months include:

- Options for the development of new funding models for Commonwealth funding assistance for social housing, more explicitly linked to the number of households accommodated.
- The development of national tenancy and management standards that can be benchmarked across the whole social housing sector.
- Consideration of ways to help social housing tenants move into private rental and home ownership.

Ministers also agreed to expedite work on an industry development strategy for the not-for-profit housing sector. As a first step, there would be a target of transferring up to 75 per cent of the housing stock funded under the Nation Building and Jobs Package to the community housing

sector within the next five years. This would see the community housing sector grow by as many as 15,000 dwellings by 2014.

Among other items discussed were models for the national regulation of the not-for-profit housing sector to provide greater protection for tenants and greater assurance for investors in affordable rental housing; independent prudential supervision of social housing providers to protect public investment in the sector; the importance of adequate housing to improving the living standards of Indigenous Australians; issues affecting people living in residential caravan parks and villages, including lack of coverage by existing tenancy laws and the risk of homelessness as a result of the sale and redevelopment of parks.

There will be a joint meeting with planning ministers in October.



Community Jobs Summit

On 1 May Anglicare member the Brotherhood of St Laurence joined St Vincent de Paul Society, the Salvation Army, Mission Australia and the Australian Government for a Community Jobs Summit. It was attended for the greater part of the day by the Prime Minister, the whole day by the Minister for Employment Participation and in the afternoon by the Deputy Prime Minister. The event brought together people from across the country to think about creating jobs in a recession, about the Jobs Fund and about social enterprise and its potential. The papers from the summit will be available shortly. With regard to the Jobs Fund, the messages were about designing programs that will stimulate local economies and create jobs or prevent job loss. While there is a strong emphasis on those [priority areas](#) previously identified by the Prime Minister, the funding is not limited to them but is targeting areas of increasing or high employment.

The first round of funding closed on 22 May and Anglicare Australia suggested to Deputy Prime Minister Gillard that all successful proposals be shared via a website so that organisations could see first hand what was funded and thus have a better idea of the scope of the fund.

Residential aged care accreditation review

The Department of Health and Ageing is undertaking a review of the accreditation process for residential aged care homes. The outcome of the review will inform options for improving the accreditation process for consideration by the Minister for Ageing. The department is seeking comment from organisations and individuals with an interest in improving the process and has issued a discussion paper for this purpose.

The deadline for submissions is 17 July.

Read the discussion paper [here](#).

Telstra Access for Everyone Program

With telecommunications playing an increasingly important part in enabling people's social inclusion — looking for work, dealing with government, just staying in touch — it is important they be available to the widest possible range of people. Anglicare Australia is working with Telstra to deliver the *Access for Everyone* program. The two major services within this program are the:

- Telstra Bill Assistance — Vouchers to the value of \$25 that can be issued to clients to help meet a home phone bill.
- Telstra Phonecards — Phonecards to the value of \$5 that can be issued to clients for use at public pay-phones.

Information about these services and others available can be viewed at the [Access for Everyone website](#).

The following Anglicare agencies assist Telstra to deliver the *Access for Everyone* program:

- ACT and NSW Regional: Anglicare Australia ([Melissa Dyson](#))
- Sydney region: Anglicare Sydney ([Yvonne Roberts](#))
- Northern Territory: Anglicare NT ([Tricia Ross](#))
- Queensland (Southern): Spiritus ([Amanda Kelly](#))
- Queensland (Central): Anglicare Central Queensland ([Chris Cherry](#))
- South Australia: Anglicare SA ([Helen Connolly](#))
- Tasmania: Anglicare Tasmania ([Chris Jones](#))
- Victoria: Anglicare Victoria ([Michael Hopkins](#))
- Western Australia: Anglicare WA ([Jessie Kapitola](#))

Anglicare programs that work with clients who are experiencing financial crisis and have difficulty paying their Telstra home telephone bill or could find pre-paid public phone cards useful should approach the relevant Anglicare agency to discuss joining the program.

2009 CEO FORUM

Tuesday 23 June and Wednesday 24 June

Pavilion on Northbourne, Canberra and Parliament House

Buffet dinner at the Pavilion

Anglicare Australia has organised a special room rate of \$135 at the Pavilion for CEOs.

For further details contact [Rhiannon Scott](#) on (02) 6230 1775.



Parenting issues for women with disabilities in Australia

Carolyn Frohmader, Women With Disabilities Australia

For many women with disabilities in Australia, the fundamental human right to create a family is not realisable. Instead, women with disabilities have traditionally been discouraged from considering parenthood or denied the opportunity to bear and raise children. They have been, and continue to be, perceived as asexual, dependent, recipients of care rather than care-givers, and generally incapable of looking after children. This policy paper canvasses issues relating to parenting for women with disabilities in Australia.

Read [here](#).

Regional employment and income opportunities provided by renewable energy generation

Walter Gerardi and Simon Knapp, The Climate Institute

This report provides a detailed analysis of potential Australian clean energy jobs. Renewable energy generation is likely to expand markedly over the next two decades, notably through the Renewable Energy Target scheme and the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which will make renewable energy technologies more competitive with traditional fossil fuel sources. Modelling undertaken for Treasury indicates that the CPRS will increase the opportunities for renewable generation as permit prices increase over time and conventional fossil fuel generation becomes more expensive. Realisation of this potential will lead to economic opportunities in regional areas where good renewable energy resources are located. Constructing power stations will lead to employment opportunities as well as income spent on local goods and services. Operating and maintaining power stations will lead to further employment opportunities. For some projects, other ongoing income will also be provided which will help bolster local economies.

The study provides estimates of the regional benefits of renewable energy generation; of direct and indirect employment arising from renewable energy generation; and of capital expenditure on new renewable generation, and the proportion spent on the local economy.

Read [here](#).

A quiet revolution

Cheryl Kernot, *Griffith Review* No. 24

In this essay Cheryl Kernot discusses how the Third Sector can often solve complex social problems with more agility and innovation than the government or private sector.

'Life has a way of leading you places. I have surfed on the wave of this transformational shift, this quiet revolution, which puts social value at its core, as my disillusion with the old ways of public policy formation has grown. Contrary to the best instincts of many, our economic system has been dominated by a system which measures value creation in only one dimension: financial impact, profit and loss. In the last few years, there has been considerable effort, particularly in Britain and increasingly in Europe, to develop reliable systems and language to measure social impact more broadly.'

Read [here](#).

New Youthbeyondblue mental health website

beyondblue: the national depression initiative has launched a new Youthbeyondblue [website](#) aimed at raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, and associated drug and alcohol problems among young people — and where to get help. It includes a wide range of new fact sheets on depression and anxiety-related topics, including how to help a friend, effective treatments, alcohol and depression, cannabis use, bullying, and eating disorders. All fact sheets can be downloaded or ordered via the website.

Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2007-08

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 4307.0.55.001

This publication provides estimates of apparent consumption of alcohol based on the availability of alcoholic beverages in Australia. The publication provides estimates of the quantity of beer and wine available for consumption, and estimates of the quantity of pure alcohol available for consumption from beer, wine, spirits, and ready to drink pre-mixed products.

It also provides estimates of apparent per capita consumption. This is the total apparent consumption divided by the total population aged 15 years and over. The choice of the population 15 years and over is consistent with international standards for measuring trends in apparent consumption over time, and is not intended to imply anything about the actual levels of consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 18.

Read [here](#).

Investing in the Early Years

Save the Children *State of the World's Mothers* report 2009

This international report provides evidence that Australia is falling behind most of the developed world in early childhood development. It ranks 23rd out of 25 countries, ahead of only Canada and Ireland, in an early childhood development report card, meeting only two of the 10 benchmarks.

Read [here](#).

Prospects for closing the gap in a recession

Boyd Hunter, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

This paper discusses some of the implications for Indigenous Australians of current adverse macroeconomic conditions. Like other disadvantaged minorities, they may be particularly susceptible to the prospect of large increases in unemployment and reductions in national wealth, but with a few notable exceptions such issues have rarely been discussed.

Read [here](#).

Women, drug use and crime: findings from the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program

Wendy Loxley and Kerryn Adams, Australian Institute of Criminology, Research and Public Policy series, no. 99.

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program makes a quarterly assessment of drug use by police detainees around Australia. This report finds differences in drug use between male and female detainees and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous female detainees, highlighting different patterns of drug usage and dependencies and of associated most serious offences leading to arrest.

Read [here](#).

Inverting the pyramid: Enhancing systems for protecting children

Allen Consulting Group for the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

Following a comprehensive review of Australia's child protection systems and international models, this report considers how to halt the dramatic increase in cases of child abuse and neglect. It has two key objectives: to describe the current service systems for protecting children across Australia in terms of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; and to identify the organisational strategies and processes that could lead to more effective approaches to prevent child abuse and neglect. The report recommends major change to child protection systems, so that services such as those in the health, education and welfare sectors recognise the role they need to play in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Read [here](#).

Housing-adjusted Henderson Poverty Lines

Brian Lawrence, Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations

The purpose of this paper is to revise the estimates of housing costs which are contained in quarterly updates of the measures of poverty known as the Henderson Poverty Lines (HPLs), published by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. It calculates average rents paid by low income families and average rates of rental assistance. Among the review's findings:

- The Australian Fair Pay Commission has underestimated net housing costs for low income working families since 2006, when it set the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW).
- The updated quarterly HPLs underestimate the net housing costs for pensioners and unemployed people.
- For a family of four where one of the parents is employed on the FMW and the other parent stays at home to care for two school-aged children, the discrepancy is \$91.29 per week.
- For a single parent employed on the FMW with one school-aged child, the discrepancy is \$74.48 per week.
- For a single pensioner the underestimation in the Poverty Line is \$20.49 per week.
- For an unemployed single parent with two children the underestimate in the Poverty Line is \$62.91.

Read [here](#).

Financial Stress: The hidden human cost

Wesley Mission

A survey by the Wesley Mission, conducted in December 2007, shows Sydney residents were financially worse off than they were when surveyed two years earlier. Almost one in three respondents said it would be difficult or impossible to cope with a \$160 increase in their monthly expenses, compared with 14 per cent in August 2006. There was also a near doubling in the numbers who would find it difficult or impossible to raise \$2000 at short notice, rising to 30 per cent of Sydney residents. And 23 per cent could not pay their electricity, gas or telephone bills on time compared with 13 per cent in 2006.

Read [here](#).

Faith, Hope and Charity

The Third Bernard Judd Memorial Lecture by Dr Stephen Judd



Dr Stephen Judd

'These lectures are given in honour of the Rev Bernard Judd OAM, MBE who was a member and Secretary of the NSW Council of Churches for many years. The lecture is intended to challenge the thinking of the Council on issues which should be addressed — a practice in which Bernard Judd consistently engaged.'

Previous lectures have been given by The Rev Tim Costello and Archbishop Peter Jensen.

Read [here](#).

Helping home borrowers in financial hardship

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and Consumer Affairs Victoria

This report examines how lenders and mortgage brokers respond to borrowers experiencing financial difficulties. It finds that while some lenders are responding well to the needs of their customers, there is generally room for improvement. It provides guidance to industry on how to improve practices. Among the findings:

- Information about financial hardship is usually only provided following payment default, making it difficult for borrowers to take positive action at an early stage. In addition, this information is often insufficient for borrowers to understand their options and make informed choices.
- Some lenders do very little to identify borrowers who may require hardship assistance. Many leave this identification of need to collection officers who may not be trained for the purpose.
- Lenders appear to prefer offering short-term assistance, such as a three month payment moratorium, rather than engaging with, and responding to, a borrower's specific situation.
- Some lenders have adopted policies inconsistent with the rights and remedies available to borrowers under the Uniform Consumer Credit Code.
- Despite clear industry standards, mortgage brokers generally have a limited understanding of their role in responding to financial hardship. While most brokers say they offer assistance, there is little evidence of formal policies and procedures to ensure it is done effectively or constructively.

Read [here](#).

Charity

Encounter, ABC Radio National, 24 May

A discussion on the impact of the global financial crisis on donations to charities, and the rationale of charity in general. Participants include Daniel Petsalis, Service Manager of Mission Australia's Missionbeat service, and philosopher Peter Singer, whose latest book is *The Life You Can Save: Acting Now to End World Poverty*.

Read transcript [here](#).

Inventing the Third Sector

Background Briefing, ABC Radio National, 17 May

A report on the not-for-profit (or 'Third') sector in the light of current developments such as the Productivity Commission study and the mooted Compact and national regulator. It includes a discussion of the particular role of churches and some of the criticisms made of them.

Read transcript [here](#).

Making Choices — Future Dementia Care: Projections, Problems & Preferences

Access Economics for Alzheimer's Australia

An important consequence of Australia's demographic ageing is the rapid increase of the number and proportion of people who have dementia, projected to rise from about 230,000 in 2008, to 465,000 in 2030 and to over 730,000 by 2050. Australia has recognised dementia as a health priority and taken the first steps through the Dementia Initiative to meet the growing challenges of the dementia epidemic.

This report contains a detailed economic and social analysis that supports building on the Dementia Initiative to meet the growing challenge of the dementia epidemic. The impacts will grow as the numbers of people with dementia inexorably grow to over 700,000 by mid century. Lower growth in the numbers of people with dementia can only happen if research finds better treatments and Australians adopt 'brain healthy' lifestyles to reduce the risk of dementia.

Read [here](#).

New from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Caring for oral health in Australian residential care

Dental statistics and research series no. 48

As the Australian population ages and a greater proportion of older Australians retain their natural teeth, more people living in residential aged care are developing complex oral disease and dental problems. Based on an investigation of 21 aged care facilities in three states, this report shows that carers play a crucial role in helping maintain the oral health of older adults in residential aged care, including the identification and referral needed for dental care. Three aspects of best practice were pursued: assisting the development of policies and procedures; training carers to use an oral health assessment called the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) and then evaluating the reliability and validity of carers' use of the OHAT; and applying an evidence-based oral health protocol for carers of dependent older adults. The OHAT was evaluated as being a reliable and valid screening tool for use among residents, including those with cognitive impairments.

Authored by K.D. Carter, J.M. Chalmers, L. King, A.J. Spencer and C. Wright.

Oral health of health cardholders attending for dental care in the private and public sectors

Dental statistics and research series no. 50

Health cardholders who visit a public dentist have a similar level of oral health and receive similar dental care as those who visit a private dentist. This publication presents findings on health cardholders attending for dental care in the private and public sector using data from the National Survey of Adult Oral Health 2004-06. Health cardholders have government entitlement cards and are eligible for public dental care. But while dental health and care was similar for those using either public or private dentists, this may reflect a general level of disadvantage common to all cardholders. Where differences did exist, the differences consistently involved either poorer oral health status or less desirable service patterns for those who visited the public sector compared to the private sector.

Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2007-08

SAAP National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) report series 13

Although SAAP agencies accommodate large numbers of people every day, they cannot always meet all the requests for SAAP accommodation. This report provides information about the level of unmet demand for SAAP accommodation, including how the estimates are calculated.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health labour force statistics and data quality assessment

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health labour force statistics and data quality assessment provide comprehensive data on the Indigenous health labour force. Data are drawn from censuses, surveys and administrative data sources. The report presents information on Indigenous medical practitioners, nurses, Aboriginal health workers and those studying health. The report also assesses the quality of Indigenous labour force data. It provides a useful resource for policy makers, administrators and researchers interested in the Indigenous labour force.

All AIHW publications may be accessed free of charge [here](#).

Seminar: The right to social participation of children with disabilities in China

Karen Fisher and Xiaoyuan Shang, Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW

Children with disability in China struggle to share the same citizenship rights to social participation as other children in their communities. This seminar explores the experiences of children and young people with disability in China to examine the impact on three dimensions of social participation — communication, social relationships and interest representation.

9 June, 12.30–1.30 pm, Level 2, Robert Webster Building (G14), University of UNSW.

Details [here](#).

Indigenous homelessness, housing and home ownership

Dr Paul Flatau, Professor Paul Memmott and Dr Esther Charlesworth

This seminar will draw on the findings of three Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute projects: Sustaining high risk Indigenous tenancies (Dr Flatau), Indigenous home ownership on communal title lands (Professor Memmott) and Flexible housing design for Indigenous communities (Dr Charlesworth).

16 June, 9:00 am–12:30 pm, Crowne Plaza, 32 Mitchell Street, Darwin.

Details [here](#).

Communities in Control Conference

Crisis, catastrophe, community: rebuild, renew, recharge

Centacare Catholic Family Services Melbourne and Our Community are again convening the Communities in Control Conference. Following bushfires and floods and in the context of ongoing droughts and climate change the conference provides an opportunity to get people together to share experiences and learn about rebuilding, renewing and recharging communities. There will also be a pre-conference skills day on 14 June.

15–16 June, Moonee Valley Racing Club, Melbourne.

Details [here](#).

Conference: Building Community Centred Economies

A collaboration between the International Association of Community Development and Community Development Queensland, this conference is designed to attract a diverse local, national and international audience, including community organisations and NGOs, large and small business, all spheres of government, academics, social enterprises and philanthropic trusts, writers, artists, community development practitioners, policy makers, and environmentalists just to name a few. Participants are expected from over 30 countries from the Oceania region and around the world.

17–20 June, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre,

Details [here](#).

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009

20–23 September

Hyatt Regency, Auckland

The conference brochure is on the Anglicare Australia website.

For further details contact [Rhiannon Scott](#) on (02) 6230 1775.

National Rural Church Life Roundtable

Sponsored by the Christian Research Association, this conference will provide an opportunity to examine the issues of leadership and organisation in rural churches; respond to the issues in their rural context; explore rural ways of thinking about faith, life and community; and the training and resourcing of rural church leaders. The aim is to provide a broad, ecumenical forum for considering what is actually helping to strengthen rural ministry and for sharing creative ideas to build a healthy future for rural churches.

18–19 June, Geelong Conference Centre, Adams Court, Eastern Park.

Details [here](#).

Towards a national disability studies agenda

Disability Studies and Research Centre, University of NSW

The aim of the conference is to bring together, for the first time, people from academic disability studies, students and members of the disability community to discuss in the context of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities developments towards a national disability studies agenda.

26–27 June, University of NSW.

Details [here](#).

HILDA survey research conference 2009

The conference will provide a forum for the discussion of research based on the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. Attendance at the conference is open to all, but should be of special interest to both users of the HILDA Survey data and persons with an interest in the outcomes from longitudinal survey research in the broad fields of economic and social policy.

15–17 July, University of Melbourne.

Details [here](#).

Australian Social Policy Conference 2009 *An Inclusive Society? Practicalities and Possibilities*

How can we build an inclusive society? This theme is a topic of growing importance in social policy—one that is central to the stated aims of the current Labor Government. At a time of global economic insecurity, exacerbated by the challenges of climate change, how do we create a society that is both socially and economically inclusive within its own borders and actively engaged with its regional neighbours to promote a wider form of global inclusiveness?

8–10 July, University of NSW.

Details [here](#).

Conference: Cultural and Religious Freedom under a bill of rights

Organised by the Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion at the University of Adelaide, this conference will examine the implications for cultural and religious freedom of the proposed bill of rights from the perspectives of legislators and policy makers, religious and community groups, academics and the judiciary. Confirmed speakers include Hon. Sir Anthony Mason, AC KBE, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Australia; Hon. Judge J Clifford Wallace, Emeritus Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and Hon. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

13–15 August, Canberra.

Details [here](#).

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) National Conference

Transforming Australia for our children's future: Making prevention work

The aim of the conference is to showcase preventive innovations that are improving the well-being of children and young people. The three themes of the conference are 'macro-level prevention', 'politics and processes of social change' and 'prevention pays'. Sessions will be relevant to those working in public and non-government sectors, across sectors, disciplines and professions.

2–4 September, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Details [here](#).

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