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Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world more than a billion people are desperately poor.

In Anti-Poverty Week help fight poverty and hardship.

- Why not organise a display, stall or award?
- Maybe a workshop, lecture or forum?
- How about a fundraiser, fact sheet or petition?

For more information and ideas:

- visit www.anti-povertyweek.org.au
- email apw@anti-povertyweek.org.au
- call 1300 797 290

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Our latest Life Course Centre newsletter coincides with Anti-Poverty Week 2018.

Anti-Poverty Week, running from October 14-20, is an important opportunity to raise awareness of those experiencing poverty, not only in poorer countries throughout the world but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. It is a chance to take a step back, consider the trends and look at how can we do better to effectively intervene to disrupt poverty and disadvantage?

The Life Course Centre is proud to be a Key National Sponsor of Anti-Poverty Week 2018 and we are involved in activities and events at each of our nodes throughout the country. These events help to keep the issue of poverty on the agenda and promote discussion and action to address it. I encourage you during this week to take the time to reflect on the extent of poverty and disadvantage in Australia, who is most affected and how we can reduce its impact on children, families and the community.

As well as highlighting Anti-Poverty Week 2018, this newsletter contains lots of news on the Life Course Centre's latest research and achievements. Our work continues to strongly inform and influence policy discussion and debate on disadvantage in Australia. A wide range of our research was cited in the Productivity Commission's latest report on inequality, and we have also recently made a submission to the Australian Government's Inquiry into Intergenerational Welfare Dependence. It is pleasing that the government is investigating this important issue and we look forward to the inquiry results in April 2019.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: HOW TO HELP 'THE UNLUCKY FEW?'

Australia is sometimes referred to as 'the lucky country' but it is also home to 'the unlucky few' caught in a cycle of poverty and deep and persistent disadvantage. It is very sad that in 2018, despite years of sustained economic growth, there are still individuals and families in Australia without enough money to pay the rent, buy food and afford routine household bills. Our country has enjoyed an unprecedented run of sustained economic growth for almost 30 years making us the envy of the world but we seem unable to ensure that everyone shares equally in this good fortune. The fact that Australia has not been able to make headway in this area is both an academic and a policy "puzzle".

[Find out more](#)



This is an activity to mark



ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: LIFE COURSE CENTRE EVENTS

The Life Course Centre is involved in a range of events for Anti-Poverty Week 2018 across all our nodes. These include a workshop at The University of Queensland on the role of education in reducing poverty, and a sponsored Equity and Fairness session at the Outlook conference in Melbourne. In WA, we are represented on the inaugural Advisory Reference Group meeting being held in Anti-Poverty Week for the *100 Families WA* research project. In Sydney, two Life Course Centre scholarships will be awarded to students studying social and economic disadvantage at The University of Sydney. We are also participating in a number of other events throughout October that are related to building the evidence base for effective interventions to assist those living in poverty.

[Find out more](#)

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: CHANGING OUR THINKING ON HOMELESSNESS



In Anti-Poverty Week, Cameron Parsell's call to change the discourse on homelessness carries even greater weight. Cameron's book *'The Homeless Person in Contemporary Society'* explores homelessness from the perspective of those who experience it and highlights the need to disrupt the system. Homeless people have a proliferation of services but this doesn't address the underlying problem of affordable housing, argues Cameron - a Life Course Centre Associate Investigator and recent recipient of an ARC Future Fellowship. Read more on Cameron's recent book launch below.

[Find out more](#)

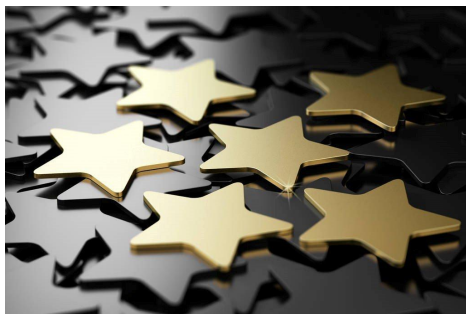
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS PROBLEM OF DEEP AND PERSISTENT DISADVANTAGE

Life Course Centre research has been prominently featured in the Productivity Commission's latest report on the state of inequality in Australia. The report cites work from a wide range of our Researchers, Chief Investigators, Partner Investigators and


[Find out more](#)


A MATTER OF TIME: FATHERS AND CHILD COGNITIVE OUTCOMES

A new paper published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* finds that a father's involvement in children's upbringing, particularly in educational activities, can deliver significant gains for a child's cognitive development. This study was strongly supported by the Life Course Centre and demonstrates our capacity building strengths and international reach. It was authored by Tomás Cano, PhD Candidate at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, along with Francisco Perales and Janeen Baxter of The University of Queensland. Tomás was a visitor to the Centre where he worked on the paper. He also presented it at this year's ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto.

[Find out more](#)


AWARDS FOR LIFE COURSE CENTRE RESEARCHERS

A number of our researchers have recently been honoured with awards, including Research Fellows Dr Renee Zahnow of The University of Queensland and Kirsten Hancock of The University of Western Australia. Renee was awarded a Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research from the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Renee completed her PhD in Criminology at UQ in 2015, has completed two postdoctoral positions at the Institute for Social Science Research at UQ, and is currently a lecturer at the UQ School of Social Science. In WA, Kirsten received an award for Best Postgraduate Publication in Education from the WA Institute for Educational Research for the paper: 'Associations between school absence and academic achievement: Do socioeconomics matter?' published in the *British Educational Research Journal* in 2017.

THE IMPACT OF MENTORING ON REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS - A VIEW FROM EUROPE

Associate Professor Òscar Prieto-Flores of the University of Girona in Catalonia was a recent visitor to the Life Course Centre and gave his insights into a major new research initiative he is leading to assess the impact of refugee and immigrant mentoring programs in Spain. Òscar said there were hundreds of refugee and immigrant mentoring



programs underway in Europe, with effects likened to “bamboo shoots” that take a long time to grow and then flourish. “Mentoring is an important part of the puzzle and we need to assess the impact of the many innovations in this area,” he said. His project will assess the effectiveness of mentoring programs that target children, youths and adults. “It is important to see the effect that mentoring is having on these people in terms of positive reception, more social inclusion and creating more social capital,” Óscar said.

[Find out more](#)



NEED FOR BROADER VIEW OF SENTENCING AND INCARCERATION

Solutions to rising rates of mass incarceration in Australia cannot be found solely in the criminal justice system and should also take into account a range of social issues such as poverty, mental health, addiction, homelessness, education and employment. This was a key message from the 'Futures of Sentencing and Incarceration' workshop held at The University of Queensland's TC Beirne School of Law which drew together scholars from Australia and the US. It also included an address by Andrew Leigh MP, the Shadow Assistant Treasurer (pictured left), who said “it is becoming increasingly inescapable that you can't take a serious look at inequality and deep poverty in Australia without understanding what's going on with mass incarceration”.

[Find out more](#)



A LIVEABLE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Australia's early childhood educators have walked off the job four times in the past 18 months in their ongoing fight for improved wages and recognition of the value of their work. In a timely article for *The Conversation* on the day of the most recent strike in September, Life Course Centre Chief investigator Professor Karen Thorpe said that unless these educators are provided with a livable wage they will walk out the door for good. This comes at a high cost to Australia's aspiration for world-class, high quality education for its youngest children, and the turnover of early childhood educators is highest in the areas of greatest socioeconomic disadvantage.

[Find out more](#)

WHAT SAY DOES A SECOND LANGUAGE HAVE IN A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?



There have been relatively few studies on the development of bilingual children, despite a burgeoning literature on child cognitive development more generally. A new Life Course Centre Working Paper aims to fill this gap. Authored by Deborah Cobb-Clark, Colm Harmon and Anita Staneva of The University of Sydney, the paper finds bilingual children are not significantly different when compared with their monolingual peers in language development. However, there is evidence of the long-term positive effects of bilingualism on emotional development, particularly among boys and children of lower-educated parents.

[Find out more](#)



HOW DOES RACISM IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH?

A new Life Course Centre Working Paper represents one of the first studies internationally on the impact of racism on children's health across time. Currently, most research looking at the relationship between racism and health has been focused on adults. Very few studies have examined how racism impacts on children's health over time, thereby limiting understanding of how experiences of racism change health outcomes as children age. The Working Paper, *'Prevalence of Racial Discrimination in a Cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children,'* was authored by Leah Cave, Carrington Shepherd, Matthew Cooper and Stephen Zubrick, from the Telethon Kids Institute and The University of Western Australia.

[Find out more](#)



SORRY, MEN, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS 'DIRT BLIND'

In a recent article for *The Conversation*, Life Course Centre Research Fellow Dr Leah Ruppanner of The University of Melbourne, explores the issue of housework and gender, and in the process debunks the myth that men are 'dirt blind' and don't see household mess. Keeping house is much more about gendered expectations than it is about actual dirt and mess and, while the gender gap in housework is narrowing, women still do seven hours more housework per week than men.

[Find out more](#)



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ISSR The Life Course Centre is administered by the University of Queensland's Institute for Social Science Research



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