

Consultations

The Institute maintains a consultative role with individuals, government and non-government bodies. Staff conduct these consultations, either individually or as members of planning or advisory teams, to inform others of the Institute's research and research findings, and to provide advice on existing family research or on formulating research in areas not well covered by existing data. Such consultation is an indication of the Institute's involvement in the policy process.

International bodies

In 1999–2000, consultations took place with representatives of the following international organisations or bodies:

Brigham Young University, Utah, USA, re marriage education research;

Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Centre for Health and Gender Equity, Maryland, USA, re Australian estimates of spousal violence for the *Population Report*, no.11. Series L;

Department of Applied Social Science, University of Stirling, Scotland, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Department of Child Welfare, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Department of Paediatrics, United Christian Hospital of the Hospital Authority Kowloon, Hong Kong, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Family Policy Studies Centre, London, UK, re Australian research on fatherhood issues;

Medicins Sans Frontieres (China), People's Republic of China, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Ministry of Social Policy, New Zealand, re Institute longitudinal studies;

National Children's Bureau, London, UK, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

National Family and Parenting Institute, London, UK, re Australian studies relevant to child discipline;

Paediatric Institute, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Research Division, Department of Research and Investigation, Foundation for Children's Future,

Japan, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Save the Children (UK) - China program, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagoya City University, Japan, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

The Park Hospital, Oxford, United Kingdom, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

University of Nevada, Reno, USA, re Institute research into confiding behaviour and personal wellbeing of young people;

University of Nevada (Jeanne Hilton, Ph.D), USA, re research on fathering;

University of Waterloo, Department of Sociology, Canada, re Australian Family Panel Survey;

Women's Association of Shaanxi, People's Republic of China, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

World Bank, Washington DC, USA (Michael Woolcock), re theorising and measuring social capital; and

Xi'an Medical University, Shaanxi Provincial People's Hospital, Republic of China, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues.

National and state bodies

The Institute engaged in consultations with representatives of the following national and state bodies:

Attorney-General's Department, Canberra, re various issues including future research issues and directions;

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, re the Australian Family Panel Survey;

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, re possible research collaboration;

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, re National Child Protection Clearinghouse;
- Carers Association of Australia, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne), re child care research;
- Child Support Agency, Canberra, re various issues including future research issues and directions;
- Child Support Agency, Canberra, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Children's Commission of Queensland, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Community Policing Squads, Victoria Police, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Community Services, NSW, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Community Services, Child and Family Services Unit, NSW, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, Canberra, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Department of Family and Children's Services, Western Australia, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, Child Care Advisory Group, re social capital;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, re various issues including future research issues and directions;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, re social capital audit of existing FaCS programs;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, Strategic Analysis of Policy Branch, re contract consultancy research 'Transgenerational Income Support Dependence Project';
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, Family Relationships Branch, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, re National Child Protection Clearinghouse;
- Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, re library cooperation;
- Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Queensland, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Queensland, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Department of Human Services, Victoria, Protection and Care Branch, re Children in Need implementation study;
- Department of Infrastructure, Victoria, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Eastern Domiciliary Care Service, Northfield, South Australia, re measurement of stress in carers;
- Family and Children's Policy Office, Western Australia, re measurement of attachment to neighbourhood;
- Health and Human Services, Tasmania, re measurement of family functioning;
- Infertility Treatment Authority, Melbourne (Prof. Gab Kovacs and Helen Szoke), re undertaking research into donor families;
- Life Matters, ABC, re post-divorce financial circumstances of men and women;
- Melbourne City Council, re social capital indicators;
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), re National Child Protection Clearinghouse;
- National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- NSW Commission for Children, re research activities of Program Area A;
- NSW Commission for Children and Young People, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Office for Childcare, New South Wales, re child care research;
- Office of the Status of Women, Canberra, re various issues including the Spousal Violence and post-separation Financial Outcomes Report, and future research issues and directions;
- Prevention and Education (Child Abuse and Neglect) (PECAN), Territory Health Service, Northern Territory, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Protection and Care Branch, Department of Human Services Victoria, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;
- Relationships Australia, South Australia, re Australian Family Panel Survey;
- Queensland Child Protection Council, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Queensland Government Forde Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Institutions, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

The Office for Families and Children, Department of Human Services, South Australia, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Victorian Drug Policy Expert Committee, re substance use in adolescents;

Victorian Department of Health, re CATI-based survey research;

Violence Against Women Regional Reference Group, New England Area Health Service, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues; and

Youth Advisory Unit, Victoria Police, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues.

Universities and educational bodies

As well as the ongoing interchange of ideas with colleagues in research centres and universities, the Institute also provided research consultancy to a number of Australian researchers and lecturers in family studies and related fields. Consultations were conducted with representatives of the following organisations:

Australian Centre for Sex, Health and Society, re development of research measures regarding youth homelessness;

Australian Council for Educational Research, re joint tender for research consultancy;

Australian National University, Centre for Economic Policy Research (Tom Crossley), re measuring family expenditure in household panel surveys;

Australian National University, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, re quality of life trends in the Institute Australian Living Standards Study;

Deakin University, Psychology Department, re family functioning measures;

Deakin University, Deakin Human Services Australia, re areas of research interest.

James Cook University, School of Psychology, re research into confiding behaviour and wellbeing of young people;

Macquarie University, re child care research;

Monash University, Child and Family Violence Unit, Department of Social Work and Human Services, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Newcastle University, Centre for Public Policy, Family Action Centre, re the Australian Family Panel Survey;

Swinburne University, Department of Psychology (Dr Christine Critchley), re parenting measures;

University of Melbourne, Centre for Public Policy, re policies for promoting strong families;

University of Melbourne, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, re joint tender for research consultancy and HILDA tender;

University of Melbourne, New Settlement Project research team, Department of Public Policy, re social capital;

University of Melbourne, Sociology Program (Kevin McDonald), re sociology internship program at Institute;

University of New South Wales, Social Policy Research Centre, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Victoria University of Technology, Department of Psychology, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues.

Community, professional and advocacy groups

There is a strong demand from community-based organisations for Institute advice and consultation. In 1999–2000, these focused mainly on issues affecting children such as parenting styles and child protection issues. Other issues included the Institute's longitudinal Australian Family Panel Survey, and research on child care and homeless families. Representatives of the following organisations engaged in consultations with the Institute during the year:

Australians Against Child Abuse, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Australian Association of Nanny Agencies (Vic) Inc, re child care research;

Abused Child Trust, Queensland, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Burnside, New South Wales, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Carers Association of Australia, re the Institute's Australian Family Panel Survey;

Centre for Independent Studies, Sydney, re refereeing proposed publication and international meeting of the Mont Pelerin Society;

Child and Family Services Committee, Community Services Australia-Uniting Church, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program (CSAPP), re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Coalition for Australia's Children, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Jesuit Social Services, re National Child Protection Clearinghouse;

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking) Australia, re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Effective Answers Pty. Ltd., re Swedish measure of quality of life;

Hanover Welfare Services, re homeless families;

Lady Gowrie Childcare Centre, NSW, re new study of child care in cultural context;

National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

People's Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse (PAACSA), re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

UNESCO 'Innocence in Danger' South Pacific Regional Action group (KIDs.AP), re child protection and child abuse prevention issues;

Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG) re new study of child care in cultural context;

Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Prisoners, re proposed project enhancing prisoners' parenting skills; and

Victorian Parenting Centre, re research on parenting.

Representation at conferences, workshops, launches

Staff at the Institute attended and represented the Institute at various conferences as part of their staff development and training program. Likewise several staff were asked to participate and share their expertise at workshops organised by government or university bodies and private business enterprises.

International Conference on Personal Relationships 2000 (ICPR 2000), Brisbane, 27 June–2 July 2000.

Melbourne Institute Business Economics Forum, Melbourne, 15 June and 6 April 2000; 30 November and 14 September 1999.

New Social Settlement Seminar Series, Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, 14 June 2000 and 15 March 2000.

Panel Data and Policy Conference 2000, Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, 1–3 May 2000.

Seminar on Welfare Reform, University of Melbourne, 16 May 2000.

Social Capital Think Tank 4, Hosted by the Department of Family and Community Services Community Branch, Canberra, March 2000.

Second Australian Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) Population Health Surveys Forum, Adelaide, 24–25 February 2000.

Melbourne Institute one-day seminar on welfare incentives, Melbourne, 25 January 2000.

Annual Innovation Awards, Commonwealth Executive's Forum, Melbourne, 9 December 1999.

National Housing Conference, Sydney, 29–30 November 1999.

The 61st Annual Conference of the (USA) National Council on Family Relations, Irvine, California, 12–15 November 1999.

Roundtable on Child Poverty in Australia, Melbourne, 10 November 1999.

National Australia Bank CommunityLink Awards, Melbourne, 28 October 1999.

Balancing Work and Family Conference, Melbourne, 15 September 1999.

Australian Financial Review/Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AFR/ACCI) Corporate Work and Family Awards, 15 September 1999.

Social Policy Research Centre workshop on Social security in the context of social development in East and South East Asia, Sydney, 2–3 September 1999.

Social Policy Research Centre Conference, Sydney, 21–23 July 1999.

Kinetica Annual Users' Meeting, Sydney, 19–20 July 1999.

Mont Pelerin Society Special Regional Meeting South-East Asia, Bali, Indonesia, 8–11 July 1999.

Association for Qualitative Research: Issues of Rigour in Qualitative Research International Conference, Melbourne, 6–10 July 1999.

Media

As part of the dissemination of family research to a wide audience, Institute staff provided background information and advice for programs and feature stories about young people, families and social issues to major print and electronic media outlets throughout the year, and participated in more specific interviews based on Institute research.