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Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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Disability, participation and youth wellbeing

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Outline of presentation

- Background and key issue
- Data and sample
- Descriptive analysis
- Multiple regression
- Summary and discussion



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Background and key issue

- Building a socially inclusive society is an important objective of the Government
- Two research themes may contribute to the evidence base:
 - Identifying who are at risk of social exclusion, and
 - Which aspects of exclusion matter the most for people's wellbeing
- This research fits in with the second theme, and focuses on the impact of disability and participation on youth wellbeing.



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Background and key issue (cont.)

- In particular, this research investigates whether economic and social participation affects the subjective wellbeing of young people with and without disability in different ways



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Data and sample

- Data: the first eight waves of the HILDA survey (2001-2008)
- Sample: young people aged 15-24 years
 - 5,157 individuals (49% males)
 - Approximately 16,000 observations; about 2,000 in each wave



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Descriptive analysis: Key variables

- Subjective wellbeing:
 - Overall life satisfaction on a 0-10 scale:
 - 0. Totally dissatisfied; 10. Totally satisfied
 - Young people in the sample were generally fairly happy:
 - Mean = 8.04 (S.D.=1.39)
 - less than 2% dissatisfied (score = 0-4)
 - more than 14% totally satisfied (score = 10)
- Whether has a disability (three categories):
 - No (88.6%)
 - Yes, without work limitations (5.8%)
 - Yes, with work limitations (5.6%)



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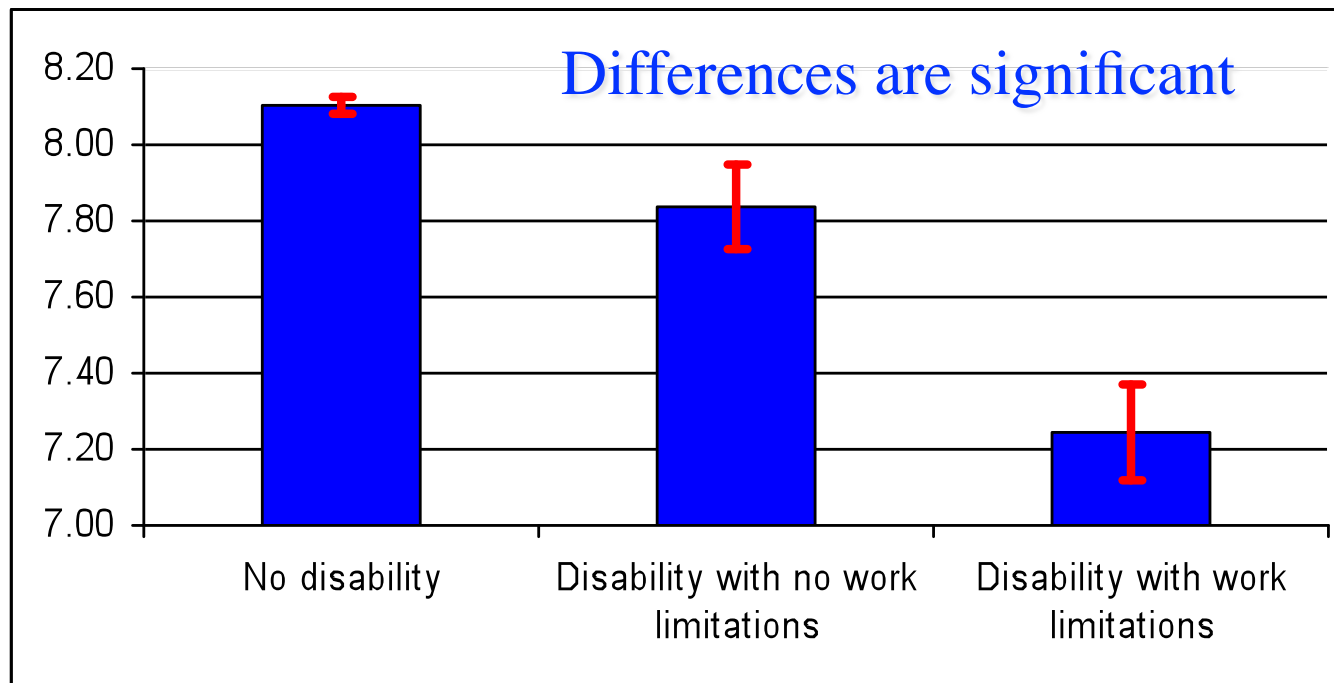
Descriptive analysis: Key variables (cont.)

- Economic participation (7 categories):
 - Full-time work (32.0%);
 - Part-time work & full-time study (22.2%)
 - Part-time work & not in full-time study (12.0%)
 - Unemployed & full-time study (3.8%)
 - Unemployed & not in full-time study (4.4%)
 - Not in the labour force & Full-time study (19.1%)
 - Not in the labour force & not in full-time study (6.6%)
- Social participation:
 - Active club membership (0. No; 1. Yes): 42.6% yes
 - Frequency of contact with friends/relatives (5 categories):
 - 1. Once a month or less (8.9%)
 - 2-4: Two-three times a month to several times a week (75.7%)
 - 5. Daily (15.4%)



Descriptive analysis: Disability and wellbeing

Figure 1. Overall life satisfaction by disability status of youth
(with 95% confidence intervals)





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Descriptive analysis: participation and wellbeing

Overall life satisfaction by disability and economic participation:

Economic participation	Disability status		
	No disability	No work limitations	With work limitations
1. Full-time work	8.02	7.80	7.33
2. Part-time work, full-time study	8.25	7.96	7.76
3. Part-time work, not full-time study	8.02	7.89	7.43
4. Unemployed, full-time study	8.12	8.28	7.87
5. Unemployed, not full-time study	7.64	7.31	6.64
6. Not in the labour force, full-time study	8.25	8.01	7.63
7. Not in the labour force, not full-time study	7.95	7.37	6.45



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Descriptive analysis: participation and wellbeing (cont.)

Overall life satisfaction by disability and social participation:

Social participation	Disability status		
	No disability	No work limitations	With work limitations
<i>Active club membership:</i>			
0. No	7.96	7.69	7.01
1. Yes	8.28	8.04	7.69
<i>Frequency of contact with friends/ relatives:</i>			
1. Monthly or less	7.88	7.36	6.73
2. Two or three times a month	7.79	7.87	6.94
3. Once a week	8.03	7.76	7.02
4. Several times a week	8.13	7.98	7.53
5. Daily	8.46	7.95	7.84



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Multiple regression:

- Fixed effects approach:
 - **Advantages:** individual level fixed effects (e.g., values) considered; consistent estimates
 - **Limitations:** smaller sample size; time-constant variables excluded
- Interaction of disability and participation



Results: disability, active club membership

Explanatory variables	Full model
<i>No disability</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Disability without work limitations</i>	-0.02
<i>Disability with work limitations</i>	-.41***
<i>Not an active club member</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Active club member</i>	0.01
<i>Disability without work limitations + active club membership</i>	-0.02
<i>Disability <u>with</u> work limitations + active club membership</i>	.37***

Note: * Significant at 5%; ** Significant at 1%; *** Significant at 0.1%.



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Results (cont.): Disability, economic participation

Explanatory variables	Full model
<i>No disability</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Disability without work limitations	-0.35
Disability with work limitations	-.37**
<i>Unemployed and not studying full-time</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Full-time work	.12
Part-time work, full-time study	.20**
Part-time work, not full-time study	.20**
NILF, full-time study	.17**
NILF, not full-time study	.25***
<i>Disability <u>without</u> work limitations + Part-time work, not full-time study</i>	.54*

Note: * Significant at 5%; ** Significant at 1%; *** Significant at 0.1%.



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Results (cont.): disability, contact with friends/relatives

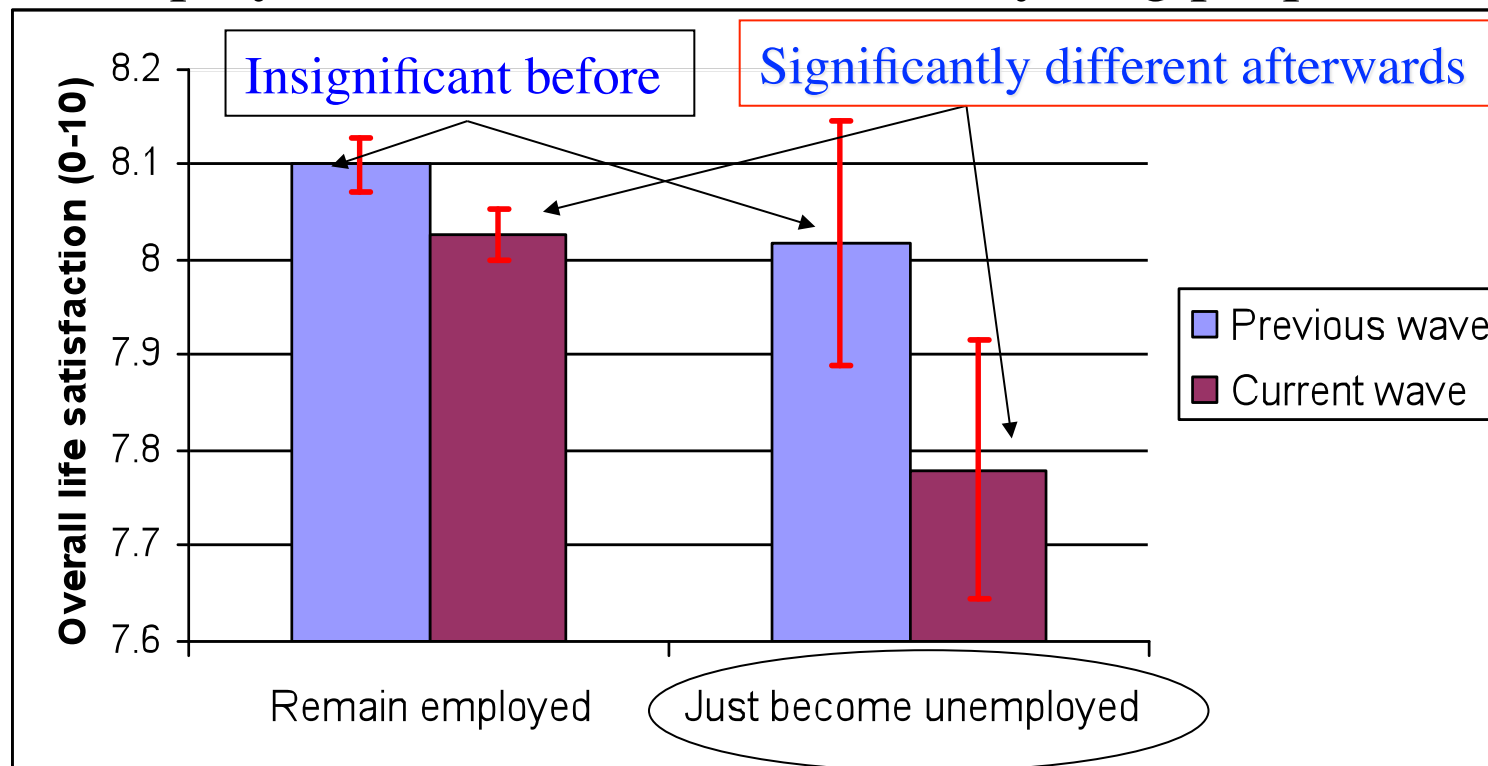
Explanatory variables	Full model
<i>No disability</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Disability without work limitations	0.03
Disability with work limitations	-0.15
<i>Contact with friends/relatives <u>several times a week</u></i>	<i>Reference</i>
Monthly or less	-0.03
Two or three times a month	-0.09*
Disability <u>with</u> work limitations + contact with friends/relatives <u>monthly or less</u>	-.34*

Note: * Significant at 5%



Causality: lower life satisfaction → unemployment, or unemployment → lower overall life satisfaction?

Unemployment and life satisfaction of young people:





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Summary and discussion

- Generally, the results show a **positive influence of participation** and a **negative impact of disability** on youth subjective wellbeing.
- Overall, the results highlight the **importance of economic and social participation for the wellbeing of young people with disability**, which suggests avenues for enhancing wellbeing among this focal group.