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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH PROJECT PERFORMANCE



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The following pages present in tabular form a summary of research project performance across the Institute's research programs. For each of the research projects in these areas, project aims, planned outputs, actual outputs, and outcomes achieved are recorded.

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
THEME 1: FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS			
<p>Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (Commissioned by FaCSIA; commenced 1 April 2006)</p> <p>To provide information and advice on family relationships to providers of family relationship and support services, policy makers, and the research and broader community</p>	<p>Staff recruitment and development of the infrastructure and framework</p>	<p>Staff appointments were made, the website shell and framework were prepared, and the first set of planned outputs (for July 2006) were nearing completion</p>	<p>Significant progress was made on the development of the Clearinghouse</p>
<p>Family Trends and Transitions (Institute-initiated; ongoing)</p> <p>To analyse and disseminate information on a broad range of family-related trends</p>	<p>Publish articles, present papers, and participate in media interviews on family transitions, including leaving home, partnership and family formation, family stability, family dissolution and re-formation, changes in family structure, and fertility</p> <p>Provide online database, Family Facts and Figures, on AIFS website</p>	<p>3 Family Trends articles in <i>Family Matters</i> 11 paper presentations 1 fact sheet on families with adolescents Media interviews</p>	<p>Analysis and dissemination of broad family trends and transitions Continuing requests for media interviews and paper presentations Debate stimulated in the media Large number of pages downloaded by researchers, policy makers and practitioners Research cited in Australian literature</p>
<p>The Case for Marriage in Australia (Institute-initiated; commenced June 2003; to be completed in 2006)</p> <p>To examine whether marriage confers particular advantages on Australian individuals and couples</p>	<p>Analysis of Australian data</p>	<p>Analysis completed Report to be published in 2006</p>	<p>The project will contribute to the body of knowledge about the role of marriage in the physical and emotional wellbeing of Australians</p>

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<p>Building Healthy Couple Relationships (Institute-initiated; ongoing) To monitor and evaluate research and policies on positive family relationships, and education and support, and disseminate relevant information</p>	<p>Prepare articles for <i>Family Matters</i> Seek contributions of articles for <i>Family Matters</i> from marriage and relationship education service providers Handle media queries</p>	<p>4 articles in <i>Family Matters</i> (including 2 invited articles from marriage and relationship education service providers) Media queries handled</p>	<p>Request for interviews and information from relationship professionals and the media Consultations with marriage and relationship education providers</p>
<p>Family law monitoring and evaluation (Institute-initiated; ongoing) To monitor and evaluate family law-related research and policies, and disseminate relevant information</p>	<p>2 articles in <i>Family Matters</i> Submissions, as required</p>	<p>3 articles in <i>Family Matters</i> Media interviews</p>	<p>Respond to calls for submissions to two government reviews Liaise with national and international research bodies, universities, and community and professional groups</p>
<p>Allegations of Violence in the Context of Family Court Proceedings (Commissioned by Attorney-General's Dept; commenced March 2006; to be completed by September 2006) To estimate how often allegations of violence are raised in family law proceedings, and how these allegations or refutations are dealt with by the courts</p>	<p>Data collection Report to the Attorney-General's Dept</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The project will play a key role in informing the Australian Government's Family Violence Strategy</p>
<p>Understanding Contact Disputes (Commissioned by Attorney-General's Dept; commenced 2004; revised completion date 2007) To gain insight into the prevalence of post-separation parenting disputes about children, and understand the psycho-dynamics that lead to the escalation of these disputes</p>	<p>Focus group data collection Face-to-face data collection CATI data collection Final report</p>	<p>Focus group data collection completed Face-to-face data collection in progress CATI data collection – on hold until face-to-face interviews completed</p>	<p>Will inform a range of interventions and services in the new family law system</p>

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<p>Family Law Data Mapping Project (in collaboration with the Australian Social Science Data Archive at ANU; commenced 2004; revised completion date 2007) To map the family law data</p>	<p>Phase 1: Workshop, discussion paper Phase 2: Consultations, final report</p>	<p>Workshop conducted 2 discussion papers completed Potential stakeholders invited Phase 2 – awaiting stakeholder confirmation</p>	<p>Will provide a summary of key baseline metadata available for the evaluation of the new family law system</p>
<p>The Experiences of Parents and Children after Family Court Decisions about Relocation (ARC Discovery Grant; in collaboration with ANU Faculty of Law; commenced January 2006; scheduled completion 2007) To explore the experiences of parents and children who have been the subject of judicial determinations in relation to relocation</p>	<p>Gain ethics approval Data collection</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Will improve understanding of relocation disputes</p>
<p>Caring for Children after Parental Separation (Institute-initiated; commenced 2002; revised completion date 2006) To achieve a better understanding of the dimensions, predictors, and outcomes of contact between non-resident parents and their children</p>	<p>1 research report</p>	<p>In progress 1 <i>Family Matters</i> article 3 keynote addresses 16 other conference presentations Media interviews</p>	<p>Identified for the first time parent-child contact patterns after separation Research cited in Australian and international literature (including ABS Australian Social Trends 2006) Study under consideration for replication by New Zealand Invitations to present papers at international and national conferences</p>
<p>Family Law Reform Evaluation Project: baseline data collection (Commissioned by Attorney-General's Dept and FaCSIA; commenced May 2006; completion date August 2006) The project will collect baseline data to assess the extent to which the new family law system is achieving its intended objectives</p>	<p>General population survey Focus groups Survey of family lawyers</p>	<p>In progress In progress In progress</p>	<p>Will provide baseline data against which the effects of the introduction of the new family law system can be compared</p>

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<p>International Forum on Family Relationships in Transition (in collaboration with Attorney-General's Dept and FaCSIA; commenced November 2004; completed June 2006)</p> <p>To bring together family law experts and policy makers to exchange ideas for supporting families through family transitions – particularly relationship change</p>	<p>Organise and host the International Forum at Parliament House</p> <p>Prepare conference proceedings</p>	<p>International Forum at Parliament House December 2005</p> <p>Published conference proceedings</p>	<p>Provided a context for informed discussion and debate on key family law policy issues emerging in Australia and overseas</p>
<p>Families in the Asian Region (Jointly with International Branch, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; ongoing)</p> <p>To establish or strengthen existing connections with Asian countries regarding family-related research</p>	<p>Develop and strengthen links with representatives of Asian countries involved in research on families</p>	<p>3 visits to Vietnam to assist in the development of its National Family Survey</p> <p>Presented a keynote address in Vietnam on family trends in Australia</p> <p>2 paper presentations to visiting Asian delegations</p> <p>Participated in conference in Beijing, on invitation</p> <p>Invited delegates from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Singapore, Vietnam to participate in the International Forum on Family Relationships in Transition</p>	<p>Data collection in Vietnam completed</p> <p>Continued communication with academics and policy makers in the Asian region</p> <p>Received visits from delegations from Vietnam and Malaysia</p> <p>Invitation to participate in conference in Beijing</p> <p>All invitations to delegates from the Asian region to participate in the International Forum on Family Relationships in Transition were accepted. Some invitees accompanied observers</p>
<p>HILDA Survey</p> <p>Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (Ongoing)</p>	<p>Participate in Project Management Group and External Reference Group</p> <p>Prepare Family Dynamics section of the forthcoming survey wave</p>	<p>Participation in the management of the HILDA survey is ongoing</p> <p>Development of the family dynamics component for each wave is ongoing</p>	<p>HILDA dataset is now being used extensively by researchers in universities and at AIFS, and by government departments</p> <p>2 papers from AIFS staff were presented at the HILDA Conference in October 2005</p>

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<p>To develop the Family Dynamics module of the HLDA survey, and represent AIFS in the Project Management Group and External Reference Group Meetings</p> <p>To encourage use of the HLDA dataset where appropriate</p>	<p>Provide advice on other measures for inclusion in the survey</p>	<p>Provided advice on measures of social capital</p>	
<p>THEME 2: CHILDREN, YOUTH AND PATTERNS OF CARE</p>			
<p><i>Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</i> (Commissioned by FaCSIA Expression of Interest 2001; scheduled completion 2011)</p> <p>Retain as many families as possible in the study for future waves of data collection of the first comprehensive Australian data on domains of a child's life to build an evidence-base on which to develop sound policies</p> <p>Obtain data that can be used to further understanding of early childhood development, inform social policy debate</p>	<p>Between Wave 1 and Wave 2 contact with families via a questionnaire and newsletter (Wave 1.5)</p> <p>Commissioned reports on the above</p> <p>Send birthday cards and season's greetings cards to children each year</p> <p>Recruit data collection agency for Waves 2 to 4</p>	<p>Wave 1.5 newsletter and questionnaire distributed to all main wave participants commencing May 2005; follow-up by mail and phone during July–October</p> <p>Report prepared on the Wave 1.5 mail-out</p> <p>Birthday cards and season's greetings calendars sent</p> <p>Contract signed with ABS for data collection for Waves 2 to 4</p>	<p>Between waves contact with main wave participants resulted in contact being made with 80 per cent of families</p> <p>Over 70 per cent of questionnaires returned</p> <p>Recommendations for future between wave studies and respondent retention processes</p> <p>Return-to-senders allowed tracking of families who had moved</p> <p>Feedback from Wave 2 indicates retention rate of over 85 per cent</p> <p>First batch of Wave 2 data being processed by ABS</p>

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<p>and identify opportunities for early intervention and prevention strategies in policy areas concerning children</p> <p>Warehouse data and provide user support to facilitate the use of the data</p>	<p>Study instruments and methodology that cover the range of measures relevant to child development</p> <p>Conduct of dress rehearsal</p> <p>Commencement of main wave data collection</p> <p>Commissioned reports on Wave 2 data collection</p> <p>Wave 3</p> <p>Documentation to assist with Wave 3 development</p> <p>Initial proposals for Wave 3 content</p> <p>User support through training and email/telephone response to queries</p>	<p>Computer-assisted interview</p> <p>Dress rehearsal conducted September – November 2005</p> <p>Main wave commenced April 2006</p> <p>Full report of the Wave 2 dress rehearsal and preliminary report main Wave 2</p> <p>Mapping of measures from Wave 1 to Wave 2</p> <p>Summary templates by domain of changes recommended between Wave 2 and Wave 3</p> <p>Report prepared on range of measures to be developed and/or reviewed for Wave 3</p> <p>Regular teleconferences with data users</p> <p>Regular web updates on status of data file</p> <p>Computer code supplied to correct identified errors with the dataset</p> <p>Telephone/email support provided</p>	<p>Documentation and evaluation of dress rehearsal allowed study instruments and methodology to be refined for the main wave</p> <p>Range of measures to be developed and/or reviewed for Wave 3 identified</p> <p>About 90 requests for data access approved</p> <p>Data queries promptly dealt with</p>
<p>Australian Temperament Project (Joint funding ARC and AIFS; commenced at AIFS in 2000 but has been in existence since 1983)</p> <p>Data analysis to identify the factors that promote adjustment and wellbeing, key transition points and sensitive periods of change, and pathways to outcomes</p>	<p>Statistical analysis of longitudinal data set</p>	<p>Statistical analysis completed</p>	

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<p>Reporting and dissemination</p> <p>Planning and implementation of Year 2006 data collection</p>	<p>Preparation of journal articles, conference presentations and newsletters</p> <p>Planning for Year 2006 general data collection</p> <p>Implementation of the Year 2006 general data collection</p>	<p>2 journal articles published</p> <p>2 newsletters published</p> <p>2 conference presentations</p> <p>2 workshop presentations</p> <p>Review literature concerning areas to assess and potential measures</p> <p>Measures selected or developed</p> <p>Ethics approval gained</p> <p>Questionnaires designed, printed and distributed</p> <p>Data collection underway</p>	<p>Findings cited in national and international publications</p> <p>Ongoing access of the ATP study website</p> <p>Strong media interest in the findings from print, radio and television</p> <p>Continuing requests for copies of reports, papers and measurement instruments used in the study</p> <p>Requests for advice from other national and international researchers</p>
<p>ATP/TAC/RACV collaboration (Commissioned by TAC and RACV; 1st phase commenced 2003, completed 2005; 2nd phase commenced February 2006, scheduled completion 2008)</p> <p>Reporting and dissemination relating to risky or unsafe driving among young adults</p>	<p>Preparation of 2 journal articles</p>	<p>1 journal article accepted for publication, the 2nd undergoing revision</p>	<p>Findings providing new Australian evidence to assist policy development</p> <p>Strong interest in the findings from print, radio and television media</p>

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<p>Negotiate second phase of collaboration</p> <p>Planning and implementation of data collection (a module within the Year 2006 general ATP data collection)</p>	<p>Develop memorandum of understanding</p> <p>Planning for data collection</p> <p>Implementation of data collection</p>	<p>Memorandum of understanding prepared and signed</p> <p>Measures selected or developed</p> <p>Ethics approval gained</p> <p>Questionnaires distributed</p> <p>Data collection underway</p>	<p>Will provide information for child care policy on how Australian children who attend child care services develop</p>
<p>Child Care in Australia: Wave 1 thematic publication</p> <p>(Commissioned by FaCSIA; commenced June 2006; scheduled completion December 2006)</p> <p>To analyse the <i>Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</i> Wave 1 dataset to examine the relationships between patterns of child care/education, family demographics and development of infants and 4-year-old children</p>	<p>Signing of contract for conduct of project</p> <p>Development of workplan</p> <p>Commencement of electronic literature search to identify findings from main international child care and early education studies</p>	<p>Contract for conduct of project signed</p> <p>Workplan developed with team members</p> <p>Project Officer employed to assist with literature search</p> <p>Literature search commenced</p>	<p>Media interest in findings published in Institute research paper</p> <p>Enquiries about the study from researchers</p>
<p>Child Care in Cultural Context</p> <p>(Institute-initiated; commenced February 2000; ongoing)</p> <p>To examine the extent and developmental impact of differential parenting across home and child care settings experienced by children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</p>	<p>Dissemination of findings via papers and conference presentations</p>	<p>1 paper accepted for publication</p> <p>1 paper submitted</p> <p>analysis for research paper</p>	<p>Media interest in findings published in Institute research paper</p> <p>Enquiries about the study from researchers</p>

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<p>Child Care Choices (ARC Linkage grant with Macquarie University and Charles Sturt University; commenced January 2001; ongoing)</p> <p>To study the prevalence and developmental impact of unstable child care arrangements on children, families and care providers</p>	<p>Dissemination of findings from Wave 1 data collection via papers and conference presentations</p>	<p>Presentation at the Australian Parenting Conference</p> <p>Development of 2 papers to be presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference in July 2006, focusing on children's social skills and child care factors in children's socio-emotional development</p>	<p>Will provide important information for policy about the developmental significance of unstable child care arrangements</p>
<p>Children and Family Life (Institute-initiated; commenced July 2001; ongoing)</p> <p>To study the family environment, development and wellbeing of school-aged children growing up in non-traditional family structures</p>	<p>Statistical analysis of dataset</p> <p>Development of derived variables</p> <p>Dissemination of findings from Wave 1 data collection via written papers and conference presentations</p>	<p>Data screened and cross-checked</p> <p>New variables constructed</p> <p>Bivariate analysis conducted</p> <p>Multivariate analysis on nature and effects of parenting in different family structures completed</p>	<p>Requests for copies of measurement instruments used in the study</p> <p>Enquiries about the study from national researchers</p> <p>Will provide information for policies aimed at supporting vulnerable families with school-aged children</p>
<p>Follow-up of Study of Children Conceived through Donor Insemination (Commissioned by Monash Medical School, Box Hill Hospital; commenced July 2001; scheduled completion December 2006)</p>	<p>Completion of data collection to study the family life and adjustment of children conceived through donor insemination</p>	<p>Data collection finalised</p>	<p>Will provide information about a previously unresearched population to enhance information and support services</p>

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<p>Families Caring for a Person with a Disability (Commissioned by FaCSIA; commenced May 2006) To investigate the perceived impact on carers and their family of caring for a person with a disability</p>	<p>Progress report Development of interview schedule Draft literature review Ethics approval submission</p>	<p>Progress report Interview schedule Draft literature review</p>	<p>This project has the potential to shape and improve the way supports and services are provided to families caring for someone with a disability</p>
<p>National Child Protection Clearinghouse (NCPCC) (commenced at AIFS in 1995. The current three-year contract commissioned by FaCSIA provides for the continuation of the Clearinghouse to June 2007) The NCPCC is a research and advisory body that serves as an interchange point for information, research and initiatives supporting work in the fields of child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care. The goal of the Clearinghouse is to inform policy, practice and research in these fields.</p>	<p>2 issues papers 2 newsletters Research enquiry service <i>Childprotect</i> e-discussion list Networking/outreach</p>	<p>2 issues papers 2 newsletters 3 journal articles 1 manuscript submitted for publication to an international journal 2 Research Briefs (new e-pub series) Update of Resource Sheet #3 9 conference presentations Responded to 327 enquiries, including 3 interviews with the media 342 messages were posted on the <i>Childprotect</i> e-discussion list from a subscriber list of 607 3 submissions 15 invited addresses Attendance at 23 meetings, conferences and events 25 consultations Representative/member of 6 external committees and 3 editorial boards</p>	<p>The Clearinghouse is perceived by stakeholders as a key Australian research information and advisory body for the areas of child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care The work of NCPCC and information about child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care is readily accessible to researchers, policy makers and practitioners</p>

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<p>Stage 1: Indigenous out-of-home care project for the Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP) (Commissioned by FaCSIA on behalf of ACCAP)</p> <p>To identify the barriers to recruiting, retaining, assessing, training and supporting Indigenous carers, and providing services to Indigenous children in care, as well as strategies for enhancing practice in this area</p>	<p>Compilation of latest research and practice literature and resources relevant to child abuse prevention and child protection</p> <p>Develop and maintain a website that provides electronic access to NCP's publications and other resources</p> <p>In-depth literature review completed 30 June 2005</p> <p>Stakeholder consultations, focus groups with carers of Indigenous children and focus groups with Indigenous children conducted in May and June 2005</p> <p>Interim report completed 30 June 2005</p> <p>Report on dissemination strategies completed 30 August 2005</p> <p>Final report of data analysis completed 31 Oct 2005</p>	<p>13,125 records in library repositories, up from 12,229 records in 2004–2005</p> <p>1,398,657 hits on website</p> <p>706,870 downloads and 410,725 downloads of NCP's publications</p> <p>2 reports</p> <p>Dissemination strategy endorsed by ACCAP</p> <p>6 conference presentations and 3 invited addresses to discuss project findings</p>	<p>This project will enhance outcomes for Indigenous children in out-of-home care by enhancing practice</p>
<p>Stage 2: Indigenous out-of-home care project for the Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP) (Commissioned by FaCSIA on behalf of ACCAP with support from SNAICC)</p> <p>To encourage the 'diffusion of innovation' in Indigenous out-of-home care services through the culturally appropriate dissemination of findings from Stage 1 and the in-depth profiling of 12 promising practices (in the areas of recruitment, assessment, training and support of Indigenous carers, and services for Indigenous children)</p>	<p>Finalise Promising Practice Profiles sites June 2006</p> <p>Outlines for summary papers based on Stage 1 reports 30 June 2006</p> <p>Progress report 30 June 2006</p> <p>Data collected 1 September 2006</p> <p>Draft theme papers submitted 1 September 2006</p> <p>Promising Practice Profiles completed</p> <p>Interactive workshops to disseminate summary papers and PPPs March 2007</p>	<p>Finalised Promising Practice Profiles sites</p> <p>Draft summary papers based on Stage 1 reports</p>	<p>This project will enhance outcomes for Indigenous children in out-of-home care by enhancing practice</p>

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<p>National Comparison of Child Protection Systems (Institute-initiated as part of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse function) To provide appropriate national comparison of key elements of policy, legislation and service delivery across the states and territories in matters relevant to child protection services and prevention of child maltreatment</p>	<p>Issues papers, conference presentations and/or journal articles on the following key topics: child protection; statutory child protection training; corporal punishment laws and working with children checks</p>	<p>1 keynote conference address 6 invited addresses 2 invitations to tender 1 successful tender application 1 conference presentation 2 journal manuscripts 2 policy briefs Appendixes to literature review</p>	<p>The Clearinghouse is the primary information and advisory body for the Australian child protection policy context</p>
<p>Research Utilisation Project (Commissioned by the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia) A two-stage survey to examine the barriers and facilitators of research utilisation by policy makers and practitioners</p>	<p>1 project report due March 2007</p>	<p>Data collection commenced June 2006</p>	<p>This project has the potential for great impact within the Institute in informing Clearinghouses in particular about effective means of dissemination to enhance research utilisation by policy makers and practitioners, and externally to inform researchers and research funders about maximising the impact of research on policy and practice</p>
<p>Literature Review and Research Report for Community Services Ministers Advisory Council (CSMAC) Child-Safe Organisations Working Group (Commissioned by FaCSIA on behalf of CSMAC) To provide a substantial literature report on risk factors for child maltreatment, risk assessment tools for use in child-related employment screening, and data on abuse of children within organisations</p>	<p>Phase 1: Report on literature review Phase 2: Report on data audit and implications</p>	<p>2 reports</p>	<p>The literature review provides policy makers and practitioners with an evidence-base to inform policy and practice in this area. The <i>Findings from Service Data</i> report has the potential to impact policy nationally in relation to the recording of allegations of child maltreatment in organisations</p>

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>Literature Review for Community Services Ministers Advisory Council (CSMAC) National Foster Care Working Group (Commissioned by FaCSIA on behalf of CSMAC)</p> <p>An in-depth review of the literature identified in Cashmore and Alnsworth's (2004) audit of Australian out-of-home care research</p>	<p>Phase 1: Report on literature review due 30 June 2005</p> <p>Phase 2: Report on implications and dissemination strategy due December 2005</p>	<p>2 reports</p> <p>Invited address at the national forum to progress a national research agenda: Out-of-Home Care Research Forum: From Research to Action</p> <p>Invitation to present findings at the Australian Foster Care Conference 2006</p>	<p>This report has the potential to impact policy, research and practice in the Australian out-of-home care sector by providing a systematic appraisal of the evidence-base and highlighting priorities for future research</p>
<p>National Audit of Child Protection Research in Australia 1995–2004 (Auspiced and funded by the newly established Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia)</p> <p>To produce an audit of research being conducted in the areas of child protection, child maltreatment and child abuse prevention</p>	<p>Progress report</p> <p>Final report</p>	<p>1 report</p> <p>1 journal article</p> <p>1 invited address</p>	<p>The report has the potential to impact policy, research and practice in the Australian child abuse prevention and out-of-home care sectors by providing a systematic appraisal of the evidence-base and highlighting priorities for future research</p>
<p>THEME 3: FAMILIES AND WORK</p>			
<p>Family and Work Decisions (Institute-initiated; commenced Feb 2001, ongoing, conducted in partnership with the FaCSIA)</p> <p>To study the work decisions of families (particularly mothers) with dependent children.</p>	<p>Publish conference papers and a research paper from the project</p>	<p>Published 1 research paper</p>	<p>Informed policy makers about the labour market participation potential of non-working mothers</p>

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<p>Parents on Low Income Study (Funded by ARC Linkage grant)</p> <p>This three-year Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Australian National University. This project has built a new 10-year longitudinal database, from FaCSIA administrative records and supplementary surveys, for low-income parents with dependent children</p>	<p>Linkage of four related surveys of low-income parents to government administrative records</p>	<p>Four related surveys of low-income parents now linked to government administrative records and available for further analysis</p>	<p>Increased capacity to undertake policy relevant research on labour market participation among low-income parents</p>
<p>Work and Family Interactions (Institute-initiated; commenced 2002; ongoing)</p> <p>This project area contains much of the research (other than the Family and Work Decisions Project) into families and their relationship with the labour market, including work and family issues, family-friendly workplace issues and transitions into and out of the labour market</p>	<p>Several workshop presentations and a journal article using the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</p>	<p>1 journal article 1 section in a working paper 3 forum/workshop presentations 3 conference presentations</p>	<p>Dissemination of policy relevant research from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children Maintain international research contacts</p>
<p>Mothers, fathers, children and work (Commissioned by FaCSIA)</p> <p>To provide new information on, and improve our understanding of, issues relating to work and family balance for parents of infants and children aged 4–5 years using Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</p>	<p>1 commissioned report</p>	<p>1 commissioned report</p>	<p>Dissemination of policy relevant research from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</p>

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<p>Australians Working Together (Commissioned by FaCSIA and transferred to DEWR)</p> <p>This project was an evaluation of the impact of compulsory Centrelink interviews and activity requirements introduced by the Australian Government in September 2003</p>	<p>Publication by Department of Employment and Workplace Relations of report</p>	<p>1 report</p>	<p>Influence policy makers in the area of welfare reform and labour market participation</p>

THEME 4: FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY LIFE

<p>Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault</p> <p>(Commenced in 2003. ACSSA is funded by Office for Women, FaCSIA until December 2007 with the possibility of an 18-month contract extension)</p> <p>ACSSA functions as the sole national repository for current information and research on sexual assault in order to assist service providers, policy makers and others working in the field to improve responses to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of, sexual assault in the community</p>	<p>Each of ACSSA's publications are distributed in hard copy to over 7,000 subscribers, with electronic copies also available on the website</p> <p>Promote national use of enquiry service</p> <p>Develop and maintain a website that provides electronic access to ACSSA's publications and other resources</p>	<p>1 issues paper 4 newsletters 2 resource papers 3-4 requests per month for media</p> <p>Responded to 243 research queries or requests for advice More than 709,251 hits on website More than 218,966 pages downloaded from website More than 79,596 visits to ACSSA publications online</p>	<p>Publications widely requested post-release</p> <p>Requests for multiple copies of particular publications to assist with training and education</p> <p>Information from publications used in policy documents and consultation papers</p> <p>Approaches for media interviews and information from publications included in newspaper articles</p> <p>Publications are the most popular pages downloaded from website</p> <p>Increased use of enquiry service by all states and territories</p> <p>The work of ACSSA and information about sexual assault made readily accessible to a national audience</p>
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Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>Project aims</p>	<p>Networking and outreach</p> <p>Establish an evidence-base of best practice approaches and interventions in response to sexual assault</p>	<p>fortnightly e-Newsletter</p> <p>2 committee memberships</p> <p>2 promotional presentations, 3 conference presentations, 2 seminar presentations, 1 workshop presentation, participation in 3 forums</p> <p>38 projects profiled</p>	<p>2005–2006 has seen a 63 per cent increase in the number of stakeholders receiving sector research and information via <i>ACSSA-alert</i></p> <p>25,176 visits to the database on the website</p>
<p>Analysis of Police Investigations into Sexual Assault (Commissioned by the Dept of Victorian Communities, Office for Women's Policy)</p> <p>To identify the characteristics of cases that are finalised as complaints withdrawn, no offence disclosed, and offender processed – including characteristics related to the offence, the victim, the offender, the relationship between the victim and the offender and the time between the offence and the report to police</p>	<p>Data collection</p> <p>Report preparation</p>	<p>Data collected April–September 2005</p> <p>Draft report on the research findings (submitted November 2005)</p> <p>Final report (submitted June 2006)</p>	<p><i>Reported rapes in profile: A problem of attrition</i> – a report to the Victorian Office of Women's Policy (OWP) on behalf of the State-wide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault</p> <p>The report builds an important evidence-base in relation to the progress of sexual assaults complaints with police, which is much needed both in Victoria and interstate</p>
<p>Communities and Families Clearinghouse (CAFCA) (Commissioned by FaCSIA, established July 2005)</p> <p>To improve access to current information and resources to inform policy, practice and research in the fields of early</p>	<p>To establish, host and moderate electronic discussion list</p>	<p>CAFCA-<i>chat</i> electronic discussion list established with 150 members as at 30 June 2006</p>	<p>The electronic discussion list has been used by SFCS Network and early childhood and community development sectors</p>

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>intervention and child development. It also aims to provide information and advice to projects funded under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS)</p>	<p>To establish a catalogue and help desk service for clients who wish to access information from the library collection and databases</p>	<p>6,000 downloads of pages including the newsletters, questionnaires for services users and agencies, FAQ re evaluation process Resources pages – 3,552 downloaded Stronger Families Strategy projects page – 1,485 downloads Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) respondent website (from May 2006) – 405 downloads Communication Strategy and Plans approved by FaCSIA</p>	<p>Website used as a resource on information about early intervention and child development by service providers, SFCS network, other researchers, etc.</p>
<p>Communication and Support for Local Evaluators</p>	<p>Preparation of two Communication Strategy documents and communication plans To establish, host and moderate email discussion list To establish <i>Evaluators' National Newsletter</i> and disseminate to SFCS Network To establish library resources</p>	<p><i>e-valuate</i> email discussion list established with 100 members as at 30 June 2006 2 <i>Evaluators' National Newsletters</i> prepared and disseminated Two databases for SFCS funded projects and initiatives established – database of Communities for Children (CfC) and Local Answers (LA) projects</p>	<p>The electronic discussion lists have been used by SFCS Network Newsletters generated further enquiries and discussion on electronic discussion lists</p>
<p>Evaluation of Relationships Australia Victoria FUN for Kids program (Commissioned by RAV) To assess the impact of the program on participating fathers and their families and provide evidence of good practice in parent education with fathers</p>	<p>Obtain ethics approval Conduct Pilot Study Conduct interviews at FUN for Kids programs in school semesters 2 and 3</p>	<p>Ethics approval granted by the AIFS and RAV ethics committees Separate ethics application for children's component submitted to AIFS and RAV Pilot study completed and preliminary analysis of data Interviews conducted at all semester 2 programs in Melbourne and Kyabram</p>	<p>Will provide RAV with an effective evaluation of the impact of the FUN for KIDS program</p>

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (Commissioned by FaCSIA)</p> <p>To capture the extent to which the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (2004–2009) helps to build the capacities of children, families and communities and to build a strong evidence-base for the development of effective programs and services in the early childhood sector</p> <p>Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA)</p> <p>The study will be the primary mechanism for collecting data on outcomes for children, families and communities</p> <p>Instrument and methodology development and testing</p> <p>Main wave sample design and selection</p> <p>Wave 1 data collection</p>	<p>At the Institute, CAFCA has prime carriage for the following National Evaluation activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct of the Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) study (see below) Identification of Promising Practices (see below) Conduct of Themed Studies (see below) Design of Playgroups National Evaluation Framework (see below) <p>Ethics approval</p> <p>Conduct of dress rehearsal – December 2005</p> <p>Preparation of commissioned report on the conduct of the dress rehearsal</p> <p>Main wave sample selection across 15 sites and 43 postal areas</p> <p>Methodology specifications detailing sample design</p> <p>Appoint a fieldwork agency to conduct SFIA</p> <p>All documentation and information materials needed before, during and after fieldwork prepared</p>	<p>Ethics approval obtained from AIFS and SPRC ethics committees</p> <p>Wave 1 instruments and data collection processes refined in preparation for main wave</p> <p>Commissioned report submitted to SPRC as per project schedule</p> <p>About 5,200 families contacted by FaCSIA seeking their participation in the study</p> <p>Specifications circulated for comment</p> <p>Agency selected</p> <p>Survey questionnaires finalised</p> <p>Survey training manual finalised</p> <p>Respondent brochures printed</p> <p>Respondent website established</p> <p>1800 Enquiry Manual prepared</p> <p>SFIA Security Policy prepared</p>	<p>CAFCA team invited to present on SFIA at various federal government meetings and workshops</p> <p>CAFCA representatives have been invited to be part of the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children Advisory Group</p> <p>Information is publicly available via the website</p>

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>Promising Practice Profiles (PPPs)</p> <p>This aspect of the evaluation will identify, validate and disseminate promising practice arising from the SFCS</p>	<p>Recruitment of 60 interviewers</p> <p>Conduct 2 interviewer training courses plus preparation of interviewer instruction manual</p> <p>Recruitment of over 2,000 families to the study</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Interviewer Training for 60 interviewers conducted over 2 days in Sydney and Melbourne</p> <p>Recruitment of families to the study (as at 30 June 1,000 families recruited)</p> <p>6 commissioned reports prepared and submitted to FaCSIA</p>	<p>Will provide stakeholders in the early childhood sector with the opportunity to access valuable information about effective practices and provide ideas for adaptation in their local communities</p>
<p>Themed Studies</p> <p>The themed studies will explore particular topics in depth and will be concerned with why and how the initiatives/strategies work</p>	<p>Development of selection criteria for promising practices</p> <p>Submission process developed</p> <p>PPP website established</p> <p>Identification of possible themes</p>	<p>Criteria developed and approved</p> <p>Consultation on website conducted</p> <p>Consultation within AIFS and consortium and with FaCSIA about potential themes conducted</p>	<p>Will provide policy makers, community workers and service providers with a greater understanding about local communities</p>
<p>Playgroups National Evaluation Framework</p> <p>AIFS will assist in the design and development of an evaluation framework for the Playgroups Program of FaCSIA aimed at improving services funded under the program</p>	<p>Preparation of the evaluation framework in consultation with key playgroup associations, SPRC, AIFS and FaCSIA</p>	<p>Discussion/consultation held between SPRC, AIFS and FaCSIA and national and state playgroup association representatives on how to proceed with the evaluation framework</p> <p>Draft framework prepared and circulated to key stakeholders</p>	

Project aims	Planned outputs	Actual outputs	Outcomes
<p>Indigenous Community Development Evaluation (Commissioned by the Teistra Foundation) To evaluate 15 Indigenous community development projects they have funded, and to document 'early learnings'</p>	<p>Early Learnings, Vol. 2 by September 2005</p>	<p>1 report</p>	<p>Report launched at Philanthropy Australia Conference (Oct 2005) Report generated media interest nationally Ongoing interest from policy makers interested in program development</p>