

# Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program

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The principal objective of the Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program is to promote, by the conduct and encouragement of fundamental and applied research, understanding of the factors influencing the capacity of Australian families to function effectively. To this end, research activities are designed to:

1. Expand knowledge, inform the policy process and improve public understanding of:
  - factors affecting the social and economic wellbeing of families across the life course;
  - social, economic, legal and normative factors related to changing patterns of family formation, dissolution and reformation;
  - factors that promote effective parenting and caring for children in families;
  - child protection;
  - caring and wellbeing of families in later life;
  - living standards of Australian families;
  - trends in the demographic, social and values structures of Australian society affecting families.
2. Encourage and coordinate wider research aimed at improving understanding of factors affecting marital and family wellbeing among policy makers, service providers and the public at large.

## Overview

Solid progress was made in 1997–98 in implementing the core studies included in the Institute's Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program. The Program identified six core areas of research: family wellbeing across the life course; family formation, dissolution and reformation; parenting young children; child protection studies; ageing, later life families and family care; and the living standards of Australian families. The Program also monitored demographic trends related to families.

A summary of Research Project Performance in 1997–98 is included at the end of this section.

The focus during the 1997–98 year has been on data analysis and publications in several of the major studies. These included Stage 1 of the Australian Family Life Course Study; the Housing Across the Life Course Study; the Later Life Families Study; Parenting 21; and the Australian Divorce Transitions Project. Outputs from these studies will continue to be produced in the following year.

The Institute has also undertaken a number of research consultancies in areas consistent with its research directions. These include: Impact of Violence on Post-Separation Negotiations and Financial Outcomes, for the Office of the Status of Women; evaluations of child protection pilot projects, for the Department of Human Services Victoria; evaluation of an out-of home (public) care pilot project being implemented by the Department of Human Services Victoria.

During 1997–98, the Institute's Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) unit provided services for many of the Institute's own research projects as well as for external contract research projects. Examples of the latter include a

survey of carers for the Department of Social Security; the Melbourne University Neighbourhoods Study, the Health Status of Older People and Healthy Retirement Studies (Lincoln Gerontology Centre, La Trobe University).

A number of projects were completed in 1997–98. For example, Newtown Revisited, a study of a particular community undertaken in conjunction with the University of Newcastle, came to an end; a major publication will be forthcoming early in the next calendar year. A joint project was completed on the Economic Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in South Australia with the South Australian Office of Families and Children. Two papers from the Later Life Families Study – 'Dimensions of Retirement' and 'Intergenerational Relations and Social Transfers' – were also published. During 1997–98, a number of discussion papers on the prevention of child abuse were completed for the New South Child Protection Council. The Housing across the Life Course Study resulted in the following publications: 'Social Polarisation and Housing Careers' and 'Public–Private Mix in Housing Policy Reform'.

Projects nearing completion include: a report on Impact of Violence on Post-Separation Negotiations and Financial Outcomes, a monograph on Work and Family, and working papers on Sterilisation and Ex-nuptial Births. In addition, two working papers from the Australian Divorce Transitions project, one on Spousal Support and the other on Superannuation, are nearing completion.

The Institute has engaged in a number of collaborative ventures with Australian universities, Commonwealth and State

Government departments and agencies. These include the Australian National University, Sydney University, Melbourne University, the University of Queensland, the University of Newcastle, the Department of Social Security, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, the Australian Council for Educational Research, the Family Court

of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services, among others.

Taken together, the 1997–98 Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program adds substantially to the increased understanding of factors affecting Australian family wellbeing.

## Family Wellbeing Across the Life Course

Families are engaged in constant processes of transition to which adaptive adjustment is the essence of stability. To understand family stability, therefore, is to understand the processes in which families engage to maintain equilibrium and thereby provide for the nurture and care of their members. This section of the Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program focuses on different aspects of family wellbeing and adjustment and has implications for developing policies appropriate to supporting families of different types and at different points in their lives.

### Australian Family Life Course Study (Stage 1)

The Australian Family Life Course Study is a national longitudinal panel survey of individuals aged between 25–50 years, living in varying family circumstances. Individuals aged less than 25 years but with primary parenting responsibility for a child are included in the sample. The first stage of the survey was conducted during the latter half of 1996 using the Institute's Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATT) unit. The second stage is scheduled for the next financial year.

The study examines wellbeing for a range of family types at major transition points within the life course. Its broad aim is to achieve a better understanding of how the major demographic, social and economic changes over the last 30 years have affected family functioning and family wellbeing and stability.

Family relationships and family functioning are explored in relation to economic resources, social integration and support, family composition and intergenerational links and other demographic variables such as urban rural differences and ethnic background.

There are five major research areas in the study:

- *employment patterns across the life course* – the labour force attachment and careers of men and women across the life course, including work preferences and values;

- *demographic analysis of pathways to family formation, dissolution and reformation* – the prevalence and diversity of different types of family formation and reformation and the implications for children; also fertility issues concerning the number of children, timing of the first birth, and spacing of children and incidence of sterilisation;

- *families caring* – a comparison of family functioning and wellbeing among families caring for a member with a disability, long-term illness or frail aged with families who do not have these caring responsibilities;

- *family functioning and wellbeing* – a comparison of families with a child with a disability or health problem with families with children without health problems;

- *intergenerational links* – the impact of family background characteristics on family values about intergenerational support and caring and on gender roles.

The Australian Family Life course survey has generated conference papers, *Family Matters* articles and a Briefing Paper. A book on work and family, funded by Esso, is near completion and further research findings will be published during the next six months.

### Housing Across the Life Course

This project investigates how one component of the family life course, the family housing career, is changing in the face of significant economic, demographic and social change.

A phase of qualitative data collection, comprising a series of in-depth interviews was undertaken, following the completion of the quantitative data collection. The in-depth interviews explored the family, employment and housing-related reasons for every locational move for 66 respondents. The research technology of the Institute's Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) unit was successfully extended into this area of qualitative data collection.

Data from this project have continued to be useful in informing developments in Commonwealth housing policy. The project team gave oral evidence to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Housing Assistance and tabled further written submissions; evidence which was drawn upon in the final report of the Inquiry. A paper delivered to the Social Policy Research Centre conference at the University of New South Wales has been published in the conference proceedings.

The project has also continued to inform public discussion on housing issues, with a recently released Working Paper and journal article reporting a decline in Australia's home ownership rate, particularly amongst young families, attracting considerable media interest.

A collaborative venture extending the work of the project has been undertaken with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute and the University of Sydney through an Australian Research Council Grant that will investigate time series data on housing tenure, adequacy and costs, in relation to different age cohorts, income groups and household types.

A further collaboration has commenced with the Australian Council for Educational Research. Drawing upon the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth, access to home ownership by young Australians will be investigated.

Negotiations with the Department of Social Security have been finalised for the completion of two reports: the mobility and tenure choice of public and private renters, and intergenerational transfers of accommodation support.

## Family Formation, Dissolution and Reformation

The Institute was established with the broad goal of improving the understanding of factors affecting marital and family stability. The marked changes in family formation and dissolution in recent years have far reaching implications for family functioning and wellbeing. This component of the Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program is designed to identify the role of values, the law and support programs in processes of family formation and dissolution and in making the transitions that these family changes involve.

### Australian Divorce Transitions Project

This project aims to study the process of divorce and its consequences for parents; to examine the impact of divorce on an older cohort of couples for whom the issues of employment, housing, superannuation and future security are important concerns; and to provide a children's perspective on divorce as an extension of work undertaken in the Institutes's Consequences of Marriage Breakdown Study. The study:

- re-examines and extends the economic and social aspects of divorce presented in the first two volumes, *Settling Up* and *Settling Down*, emanating from the Consequences of Marriage Breakdown Study, and provides a contemporary basis for the evaluation of the impact of changes in family law and social policies over the last decade;
- examines matters of justice and equity as they relate to older people who divorce in terms of employment, retraining, social security provision and future security through superannuation entitlements, and builds on existing knowledge derived from the former Consequences of Marriage Breakdown Study;
- provides a benchmark for evaluating new legislation concerning children in the *Family Law Reform Act 1995*, and informs debate in the consideration of children's views in matters concerning contact and living arrangements, child support and wellbeing after parental separation.

Working Papers to inform policy debates on child support, matrimonial property division and superannuation, spousal support, current trends in child contact, and living arrangements are currently in preparation.

### Violence and Financial Outcomes Project

This study, commissioned by the Office of the Status of Women – Legal, Violence and International division, examines the prevalence of violence for divorced men and women and its relevance to property settlement and financial outcomes post-separation. A report has been completed.

### Sibling Relationships and Adjustment to Parental Divorce

There is scant information available to the Family Court on how to make decisions in the best interests of the child, particularly when decisions can affect children from the same family differently. This project aims to explore the function of the sibling relationship for children during and following the divorce of their parents with a view to assisting the Family Court in making decisions relating to residential and contact arrangements.

The project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Family Court of Australia and the University of Queensland Family Centre. The first wave of data collection is under way.

## Parenting Young Children

Families play a core role in the care and nurture of children, in their socialisation, and in the transmission of values from one generation to another. This part of the Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program focuses on issues relating to the care of children: how parents care; the impact of work on care; and the use of formal and informal child care.

### Parenting-21

Parenting-21 explores how Australian parents from a variety of cultural backgrounds pass on their values to their children. The study focuses on child rearing practices and attitudes, and how these relate to cultural beliefs about the nature of childhood. Parenting-21 is linked to an international consortium of research teams carrying out similar projects in Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United States.

The study aims to provide a detailed picture of how ordinary Australian families are raising their children today, preparing them for life into the next century; to evaluate the influence of cultural background on raising children; and to contribute to discussions regarding the development of support services for families with young children.

The sample for the first component consisted of 378 families Australia-wide. The sample for the second component comprised Australian families from Anglo and Vietnamese communities in Melbourne.

Data collection and preparation is complete for the national, Anglo and Vietnamese families. Data analysis has focused mainly on the Anglo sample with results forming part of the international collaborative research project due to be presented at an international conference. It is envisaged that data analysis of the three samples of families will be completed by 30 June 1999.

The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services of the Department of Health and Family Services awarded the Institute a contract to extend the scope of Parenting-21 to include remote communities of the Torres Strait Islands. This extension of Parenting-21 is being undertaken in collaboration with the University of Queensland.

The methodology has been especially designed to take account of the linguistic and cultural backgrounds of the communities of the Torres Strait. It includes focus and family group discussions, and interviews with key informants. Fieldwork will be undertaken from July to October 1998 in six of the Torres Strait islands.

## Child Protection Studies

To complement the Institute's responsibility for the National Child Protection Clearing House, a number of research projects on child protection and child abuse prevention have been undertaken. The purpose of these studies is to identify the ways in which child abuse prevention is being undertaken in various parts of Australia; to contrast the effectiveness of different strategies; and to examine appropriate models of service delivery in the area of child and family support.

### Evaluation of a Victorian Pilot Implementation of Looking After Children

With support from the Rotary Health Research Fund of Australia, the Institute is conducting an independent evaluation of a new initiative in the provision of out-of-home care services currently being implemented on a trial basis by the Department of Human Services Victoria, Protection and Care Branch.

The Looking After Children (LAC) initiative is a practical program which focuses on seven key areas of children's wellbeing. The intention of LAC is to create an environment in which children in care receive a level of care and support comparable to other children.

The Institute's evaluation will determine how well the LAC initiative contributes to the physical and psychosocial wellbeing of children and young people involved in the trial, and will also consider the extent to which LAC promotes the continued involvement of the family of origin in the lives of their children.

Data collection is close to completion, and a final report to stakeholders, as well as a detailed Institute publication, will be produced by December 1998.

### Child Protection and Family Wellbeing Project Evaluations

In 1997 the Institute was contracted by the Department of Human Services Victoria to conduct the evaluation of three innovative child protection/family

wellbeing strategies being piloted in various regions of the State. Each has focused on ensuring that children and their families had access to services which would assist them to address family problems and prevent child maltreatment. These projects are: the Family and Neighbourhood Links (FANL) project; the Enhanced Client Outcomes (ECO) project; and the Western Metropolitan Region Pilot Family Outreach Service.

#### *FANL and ECO projects*

The Family and Neighbourhood Links project is based on research in the areas of family support and child protection that indicates the importance of social support to family functioning and good parenting. It reflects a shift in approach towards prevention and early intervention, particularly in regard to family breakdown and child abuse. The essence of the FANL project is to enhance the supporting mechanisms currently available to families.

The Enhanced Client Outcomes approach aims to provide a system of responses to child abuse reports received by Protective Services which recognise the varying degrees of risk and diversity of needs within the client population.

To achieve Department of Human Services objectives, the Institute has designed an evaluation which enables a comparison of regions implementing both FANL and ECO projects with others piloting the ECO project alone and a 'no treatment' region. Data collection is currently under way, with

the expectation that the project will be completed, and final reports provided to the Department of Human Services in December 1998.

***Pilot Family Outreach Service***

In partnership with Burgell Consulting, the Institute gained the contract to evaluate the Western Metropolitan Region Pilot Family Outreach Service. The Pilot Service was developed as a 12-month joint project undertaken by the Primary Care and Protective Services Programs of the Western Metropolitan Region of the Department of Human Services. The objective of the Pilot Service was to accept referrals from families, service providers, protective workers and the community at large regarding situations where there were concerns about family functioning.

The aim of the program evaluation was to assess the comparative benefits of the Pilot Family Outreach Service with a view to promoting and implementing effective models on a mainstream basis. Specifically, an assessment is made of the extent to which the Service has produced improved outcomes for users, especially when compared with alternative service approaches, including no intervention. Data collection for the project has been completed and a final report is expected to be submitted to the Department of Human Services in late July 1998.

## Ageing, Later-life Families and Family Care

This aspect of the Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program focuses on the role of families in later life. It examines intergenerational relationships, care of and by older people, and factors that encourage independence and wellbeing among families in which there are older members.

### Later Life Families Study

The Later Life Family Study of 721 men and women aged 50–70 was conducted in late 1996. Men and women in later life experience a number of life course transitions – retirement either anticipated or taken, becoming grandparents, and caring for elderly parents. Findings from the study are particularly relevant given the private and public concerns related to the provision of a range of services and supports to a population that is ageing.

In late 1997 case studies were undertaken to explore in greater depth aspects of intergenerational relations and exchange in later life. The case studies will be presented in a Working Paper in late 1998.

A number of papers have been prepared and presented at national conferences and appeared in *Family Matters*, or have been published as Working Papers. The issues examined included: an overview of families in later life, families and retirement, the impacts of marital status on intergenerational transfers from parents to children and children to parents, marriage relationships in later life and aspects of grandparenting.

## Australian Living Standards

Following on from earlier Institute work on the living standards of families in Australia, a number of projects and contracts have examined the economic and social wellbeing of Australian families in a variety of economic and family situations.

### Exploring Living Standards

This project is designed to identify key components of living standards and the interrelationships between these components for groups of parents and adolescents in different circumstances. Research is based on the Australian Living Standards Study (ALSS), a national study of more than 5,000 families.

Analysis for 1997–98 resulted in articles in *Family Matters* and conference papers covering the following issues: the relationship between parents' English language skills and aspects of living standards of parents and adolescent children; links between parent–adolescent relationships and health and wellbeing of fathers, mothers and adolescents; and the relationship between adolescents' propensity to confide in mothers, fathers and peers and their personal wellbeing.

An additional report is being prepared for the Institute conference in November on the links between financial circumstances and other spheres of life, including the family, for the personal wellbeing of parents.

### Newtown Revisited

Newtown Revisited is a collaborative research project between the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the University of Newcastle, examining changes in family and community life between 1966 and 1991. The suburb at the centre of the study was developed by the Victorian Housing Commission in the 1950s, in response to a need to provide accommodation for young families near newly established manufacturing plants.

Newtown was the site of a community study undertaken by Lois Bryson and Faith Thompson (then of Monash University) in 1966, published under the title, *An Australian Newtown: Life and Leadership in a Working Class Suburb* (Penguin 1972; Kibble Books 1976), and was one of the areas included in the Institute's Australian Living Standards Study.

These two data sets provide the starting point for an analysis across time of how family life has changed in a working class suburb. In particular, the analysis focuses on the impact of a sectoral shift from a manufacturing to a service economy, changes in the nature of welfare services, and demographic diversification.

A paper from the project was delivered at Professor Bryson's retirement conference and a further paper has been published in an international refereed journal. Allen and Unwin will publish a monograph from the project, entitled *Social Change, Suburban Lives* in January 1999.

### Costs of Children in Australia

Since 1991 the Institute has published updated estimates of the Costs of Children in its journal *Family Matters*. Based on data collected in the 1980s, the Institute has updated Lovering's 'basket of goods' using the Consumer Price Index, and Lee's expenditure survey data using the Average Weekly Earnings. While these updates remain the best available data, the Institute recognises that they may not adequately reflect changes in spending patterns and commodity use that have taken place over the years. Accordingly, the Institute is in the process of re-evaluating the methodology for estimating the cost of children.

## **Family Trends Monitoring**

The family trends monitoring aspect of the Institute's Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program provides insight into patterns of family change and a demographic context within which the Institute's other research projects can be placed.

### **ABS Consultations**

Liaison has been maintained with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the areas of families, labour force, income, Census and other data collections, with opportunities for more detailed consultations on data needs in these areas.

### **Indicators of Wellbeing for Children**

The development of indicators of wellbeing for children and young people requires looking beyond some of the measures which have been standard, such as infant mortality, number of single parent families, numbers of immunised children and other information in existing collections.

This project is developing a model which captures the major elements of children's lives as well as reflecting the key issues of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project is also looking at how we might best understand the expectations of children's developing contribution towards their families and the community.

A considerable body of international and Australian literature has been reviewed for fitting to the model, and an analysis of the data collected by the Institute in the early 1990s for the Australian Living Standards Study has been conducted, using the model as a basis for outcome measures. Collaboration with the Family Statistics Unit at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, who are also developing a publication on children, has been maintained during the year to ensure minimal duplication but maximal common understanding of data collection issues.

### **Regional Families**

The issues of location and concentration of families require a particular approach to the collection and analysis of data. This project used Census data to analyse patterns of distribution of characteristics of young people, parents, children and the elderly according to the type of location of residence.

During the year the Institute was represented on the advisory committee established by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to review the Australian Standard Geographic Classification and at a workshop on Geographic Information Systems and health.

## Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing Unit

The Institute's Research, Service Review and Evaluation Program maintains a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) unit, providing expertise in questionnaire design, programming, interviewing, data entry and project management.

In 1997–98, CATI facilities were contracted to a number of contract research projects. In June, a survey of carers was commenced for the Department of Social Security with the aim of interviewing 400 randomly selected respondents who are caring for someone who is frail aged, or who has a disability or a long-term illness.

Also in June, the third wave of the Healthy Behaviours and Outcomes of Ageing Project, for the Lincoln Gerontology Centre at La Trobe University, was commenced. This project surveys physical, emotional and social wellbeing of approximately 800 older Victorians.

Two new projects are in the planning stages for commencement early in the next financial year – another project for the Lincoln Gerontology Centre to look at people's experiences of retirement before and after they leave work, and a project for the Sociology Program at the University of Melbourne to survey residents of two Melbourne suburbs about their attachment to their neighbourhood.

CATI facilities have also been used by Institute researchers to interview respondents participating in the Looking After Children Evaluation, and the Family and Neighbourhood Links Evaluation – both for the Department of Human Services Victoria.

Last November, 66 in-depth interviews were conducted by the CATI unit as part of the Institute's Housing Across the Life Course project. This was the first time CATI had been used to collect qualitative information.

Other Institute projects that used CATI resources over the year were: the National Child Protection Clearing House, the National Youth Suicide Prevention Project, and the Parenting-21 Project (all for data entry); and the Australian Family Life Course Study, and the Australian Divorce Transitions Project (both for occupation coding).

## Summary of Research Project Performance

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
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### Family Wellbeing Across the Life Course

<b>Australian Family Life Course Study</b> (Stage 1)  (commenced October 1995; scheduled completion of first wave June 1998)	Data analysis	Achieved and ongoing	Conference paper on work and family - work values and choices.	Achieved
	Dissemination of findings via conference presentations, workshop participation, written papers and a monograph	Achieved and ongoing	Panel discussant on cohabitation and marriage panel discussion at the Marriage Educators Association of Australia and the Catholic Society for Marriage Education Conference	Achieved
			Conference paper on work patterns and preferences across the life course	Achieved
			Conference paper on work preferences, values and participation	Achieved
			Presentation at the Child Care and Employment Opportunities Workshop on work and family.	Achieved
			Presentation on social and demographic changes in families in the last thirty years at the Eminent Speakers Program, Department of Health and Family Services	Achieved
			Draft report to respondents	Achieved
			Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on work and family values, preferences and practice	Achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
			Briefing Paper on work and family values, preferences and practices	Achieved
			Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on marriage relationships and cohabitation	Achieved
			Publication of Work and Family monograph	Near Completion
			Report on families across the lifecourse	Near Completion
			Series of demographic papers on Family Formation with Demography Department, RSSS-Australian National University	Achieved
				In progress
<b>Housing Across the Life Course</b> (commenced July 1996; scheduled completion November 1998)	Completion and piloting of in-depth interview schedule	Achieved	Conference paper on public-private mix in housing policy reform	Achieved
	Collection of qualitative data from 60 respondents	Achieved	Conference paper on social polarisation and housing careers	Achieved
	Qualitative data preparation	Achieved	Publication of conference paper on public-private mix in housing policy reform in peer reviewed SPRC Conference Proceedings	Achieved
	Initial qualitative data analysis	Achieved		
	Detailed cohort-based analysis of quantitative data	Achieved	Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on young people's access to home ownership	Achieved
	Development of collaborative research projects: University of Sydney and Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (ARC project); DSS (two contracted projects) and Australian	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on social polarisation and housing careers	Achieved
			AIFS Briefing Paper on home ownership and social policy in an ageing society	Achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
	Council for Educational Research (one collaborative project)		<p>Publication of paper in memorial volume for Professor Chris Maher</p> <p>Submission of SPRC conference paper to Senate Inquiry into Housing Reform</p> <p>Oral evidence given to the Senate Inquiry into Housing Reform</p> <p>Paper for the International Sociological Association World Congress, Montreal, Canada</p> <p>The following papers to be produced on family housing careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AIFS Working Paper</li> <li>- AIFS Briefing Paper</li> <li>- Paper for publication in <i>Family Matters</i></li> </ul> <p>The following papers to be produced on family housing coping strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AIFS Working Paper</li> <li>- AIFS Briefing Paper</li> <li>- Paper for publication in <i>Family Matters</i></li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>

### Family Formation, Dissolution and Reformation

<b>Australian Divorce Transition Project</b>  (commenced July 1996; scheduled completion June 1998)	Data collection: 650 divorced respondents	Achieved	Preliminary submission to the Family Law Council - 'Clean Break' Committee	Achieved
	Data collection: 63 adolescents whose parents have divorced Achieved	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on spousal support	In progress

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
	Data preparation	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on property division	In progress
	Initial data analysis	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on Superannuation	In progress
			AIFS Working Paper on child support	In progress
			AIFS Working Paper on financial living standards after divorce	In progress
<b>Spousal Violence and Post-Divorce Economic Circumstances</b> (commenced September 1997; scheduled completion July 1998)	Data collection: 398 divorced respondents	Achieved	Report for the Office of the Status of Women, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	In progress
	Data preparation	Achieved		
	Data analysis	Achieved		
<b>Sibling relationships and adjustment to parental divorce</b> (commenced February 1998; scheduled for completion February 2001)	Completion of questionnaire	Achieved		
	Negotiations with Family Courts in Queensland and Melbourne	Achieved		

## Parenting Young Children

<b>Parenting-21</b> (commenced July 1995; scheduled completion June 1999)	Data analysis	Continuing	Conference paper on an introduction to the Parenting-21 study	Achieved
	Dissemination of findings via conference presentations, written paper and book	Achieved and ongoing	Conference paper on Parenting-21: supporting parents into the 21st century	Achieved
			Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on parenthood and parenting	Achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
			Preparation of poster for presentation on parental support networks for the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development conference, Berne, Switzerland	In progress
<b>Parenting-21 Extension</b> (commenced January 1998; scheduled completion March 1999)	Development of research strategy for Torres Strait Islander Groups	Achieved	Paper produced and report to Steering Committee  Development of research instruments for Torres Strait Islander Groups  Piloting and amendment of three research instruments  Timetable for site visitations	Achieved  Achieved  Achieved  Achieved
<b>Self Care of Primary School Aged Children</b> (commenced April 1997; scheduled completion October 1997)	Dissemination of findings via written papers	Achieved	Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on children home alone before and after school  Media presentations (radio) on issue of children home alone before and after school (3AK,3LO and Radio National)	Achieved  Achieved

## Child Protection Studies

<b>Evaluation of Pilot Implementation, 'Looking After Children'</b> system (funded by Rotary Health Fund of Australia grant) (commenced December 1996; scheduled completion September 1998)	Development of research instruments	Achieved	Conference presentation on the outcomes of Out-of-Home Care	Achieved
	Completion of first wave of data collection	First stage of data collection completed	Participation at Australian Looking After Children Seminar	Achieved
	Development of data management framework and preliminary analysis	Achieved	Establishment of AIFS Looking After Children Research Advisory Group Committee	Achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
	<p>Obtain additional year's funding from Rotary Health Research Fund to enable the completion of the project</p> <p>Dissemination of findings via conference presentations, participation at seminars</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Membership in external Committees relevant to Looking After Children Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking after Children Steering Committee</li> <li>- Regional Implementation Committee</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p><b>Fiscal and Economic Costs of Child Maltreatment:</b></p> <p>joint project with South Australian Office of Families and Children (commenced September 1996; scheduled completion August 1997)</p>	<p>Dissemination of findings via written papers and conference presentations</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Preparation of report on the economic cost of child abuse and neglect in South Australia</p> <p>Conference paper to be presented on the economic cost of child abuse and neglect in South Australia</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p><b>NSW Child Protection Council: child abuse prevention discussion paper and audit</b></p> <p>(commenced February 1997; scheduled completion August 1997)</p>	<p>Completion of contract</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Discussion paper on overcoming structural barriers to the prevention of child abuse and neglect</p> <p>Discussion paper on preventing child abuse and neglect in New South Wales</p> <p>Conference papers on preventing child abuse in New South Wales</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98	
<b>Child Protection and Family Wellbeing Project Evaluations</b>	a) Evaluations of Family and Neighbourhood Links (FANL) and Enhanced Client Outcomes (ECO) Project (commenced July 1997; scheduled completion November 1998)	Develop instruments	Achieved	Conference presentation on community development approaches to child protection	Achieved
		Conduct detailed agency briefings	Achieved		
		Conduct of the bulk of data collection	Achieved		
		Begin data analysis and coding	Achieved		
	b) Evaluation of the Western Metropolitan Region Pilot Family Outreach Service (commenced July 1997; scheduled completion August 1998)	Develop instruments	Achieved	Preparation of final report	In progress
		Brief agency participants	Achieved	Conference paper presented on community development approaches to child protection	Achieved
		Data collection	Achieved		
		Data analysis and report writing	In progress		

### Ageing, Later-Life Families and Family Care

<b>Later Life Families Study</b> (commenced October 1995; scheduled completion June 1998)	Dissemination of findings via conference presentations and written papers	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on dimensions of retirement on families in later life	Achieved
	Conduct of case studies on intergenerational exchange in later life	Achieved	AIFS Working Paper on views on ageing	In progress
			AIFS Briefing Paper on multigenerational caring	In progress
	- preparation of Working Paper based on the case studies	In progress	Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on the influence of families in later life	Achieved
			Publications in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on divorce and family relations in later life	Achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
			<p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on later life parents helping adult children</p> <p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on helping elderly parents</p> <p>Conference presentation on later life workers</p> <p>Conference presentation on the effects of marital separation on intergenerational transfers at the 14th World Congress of Sociology, Montreal, Canada.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p><b>Co-residence of Adults and their Parents</b></p> <p>(commenced March 1997; scheduled completion November 1997)</p>	<p>Data analysis</p> <p>Report writing</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>In progress</p>		
<p><b>Intergenerational Transfers Across the Life Course</b></p> <p>(commenced March 1997; scheduled completion November 1997)</p>	<p>Data analysis</p> <p>Report writing</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Conference paper on intergenerational transfers across the life course at the National Council of Family Relations Conference, Washington DC, USA.</p> <p>Publication in the <i>UN Bulletin on Ageing</i> of a paper on intergenerational transfers across the life course.</p> <p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on intergenerational transfers.</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Submitted for publication</p>

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
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## Living Standards Studies

<p><b>Exploring Living Standards</b></p> <p>(commenced February 1997; scheduled completion February 1998)</p>	<p>Analysis of relationships between factors of living standards for parents and adolescents, in particular:</p>		<p>Conference paper on relationships between adolescents and parents</p>	Achieved
	<p>- links between parent-adolescent relationships and personal wellbeing</p>	Achieved	<p>Conference paper on adolescents' satisfaction with relationships with their parents at the International Society of Quality of Life Studies, Charlotte, North Carolina</p>	Achieved
	<p>- socio-economic factors linked with educational aspirations and post-school outcomes of young people</p>	Achieved	<p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on aspirations of migrant adolescents and parents</p>	Achieved
	<p>- school type and quality of school life: views of students and their parents</p>	Achieved	<p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on latest Australian and overseas quality of life research</p>	Achieved
	<p>- relationships between socio-economic wellbeing, family relationships, personality factors and personal wellbeing of parents</p>	In progress	<p>Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on the views of students and their parents about the quality of secondary school life</p>	Submitted for publication
<p><b>Housing Preferences and Capital Gains:</b></p> <p>joint project with Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (commenced January 1995; scheduled completion August 1997)</p>	<p>Dissemination of findings via conference presentations, written papers and journal articles</p>	Achieved	<p>Conference paper on capital gains and economic inequality</p>	Achieved
			<p>Article for <i>Housing Studies Journal</i></p>	Submitted and accepted for publication
			<p>Three written papers prepared and submitted for publication</p>	Revised and resubmitted
			<p>Draft chapter on housing prices for book on urban geography</p>	Accepted for publication

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
<b>Newtown Revisited:</b> collaborative project with the University of Newcastle (commenced January 1995; scheduled completion July 1997)	Completion of data analysis	Achieved	Conference paper on the impact of social policy in an Australian Newtown Revisited	Achieved
	Dissemination of findings via conference presentations, written papers and a book	Achieved	Publication in the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (referred journal) of a paper on economic and political restructuring in 'Holdenist' suburbia: understanding urban poverty in Australia  Manuscript for publication by Allen and Unwin	Achieved  To be published January 1999
<b>Costs of Children in Australia</b>	Production of regular updates	Achieved	Publication of updates in <i>Family Matters</i>	Achieved
	Monitoring of Social Policy Research Centre progress with Budget Standards Project	Achieved		

## Demographic Trends Monitoring

<b>Family Trends Monitoring</b> (ongoing)	Monitoring of trends for families through releases of data from ABS and other sources	Achieved and ongoing	Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of two papers on demographic trends	Achieved
	Timely and informative responses to external enquiries on interpretation of trends	Achieved and ongoing	Provision of written and verbal answers to journalists and others relating to various family trends	Achieved
	Monitoring of Australian and international literature in relation to interpretation of trends for families	Achieved and ongoing	Conference paper on trends in joint parental work	Achieved
			Publication in <i>Family Matters</i> of paper on trends in family work	In progress

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
	ABS liaison on issues of data collection to monitor changing trends	Achieved and ongoing	Paper for ABS Workshop on analysis of trends in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families  Submission re 2001 Census  Data collection on demographic intentions for young people	Achieved  Achieved  Not achieved, rolled over to 1998/99.
<b>Indicators of Wellbeing for Children</b>  (commenced 1996; scheduled completion of Stage 1 mid to late 1998)	Comprehensive literature review on issues of provision to and participation by children with regard to families, the community, and state  Analysis of Australian Living Standards Study data for testing of links between aspects of the lives of children, their families and their communities	Achieved  Achieved	Paper for CSIRO conference on measuring national progress  Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  Article for <i>Family Matters</i> on aspects of ALSS analysis  Write up of literature and proposed set of indicators	Achieved  Achieved  In progress  In progress
	Contribution to international project on Indicators for Children  Validation of and enhancements to the model designed for testing the measures of wellbeing for children	Partially achieved but ongoing  Achieved	Write up of ALSS analysis  Submission to Childwatch International regarding the Significance of Political and Economic Transformations in the Everyday lives of Children project	In progress  Achieved
<b>Regional Families</b>  (commenced 1996; report due late 1998)	Improved geographic classification for analysis  Enhanced knowledge of GIS techniques and applications	Achieved but ongoing  Achieved but ongoing	Contribution to workshop on planning of Mawson Lakes (MFP)  Contribution to workshop of providers and planners involved in service provision for young people	Achieved  Two achieved

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
	Improved links with other agencies working with geographic analysis of children and families	Achieved but ongoing	Publication on analysis of 1986-1991 trends	Analysis achieved but rolled over to publication using 1996 data
	Enhanced links with agencies involved in regional planning for families	Partially achieved		

### Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)

<b>Looking After Children</b> (commenced 1 June 1997; scheduled completion 30 September 1998)	Interviewing respondents	In progress		
<b>Australian Family Life Course incorporating Later Life Families and Housing Across the Life Course</b> (commenced 10 September 1996; completed 8 December 1996)	Interviewing respondents	Completed Wave 1; Wave 2 scheduled for 1999		
<b>Housing Across the Life Course</b> (commenced 20 November 1997; completed 21 October 1997)	Conduct of in-depth case studies	Complete		
<b>Youth Suicide Project</b> (commenced 1 August 1997; completed 14 December 1997)	Data entry	Complete		

Project	Planned Milestones 1997–98	Achieved Milestones 1997–98	Planned Outputs 1997–98	Achieved Outputs 1997–98
<b>Parenting-21</b> (commenced 1 January 1996; completed 1 March 1998)	Data entry	Complete		
<b>Divorce Transitions Project</b> (commenced 1 October 1997; completed 1 March 1998)	Coding	Complete		
<b>National Child Protection Clearinghouse</b> (commenced 20 October 1997; completed 2 March 1998)	Data entry	Complete		
<b>Family and Neighbourhood Links (FANL)</b> (commenced 9 February 1998; completed 12 March 1998)	Pre-test	Complete		
<b>Office of the Status of Women</b> (commenced 1 March 1998; completed 31 March 1998)	Coding	Complete		
<b>Lincoln Gerontology Centre - Healthy Retirement Project</b> (commence 1 July 1998; scheduled completion 1 July 1999)		In progress		

Project	Planned Milestones 1997-98	Achieved Milestones 1997-98	Planned Outputs 1997-98	Achieved Outputs 1997-98
<p><b>Lincoln Gerontology Centre - Healthy Behaviours of Older People</b> (Wave 3) (commence 6 July 1998; scheduled completion 31 October 1998)</p>		In progress		
<p><b>DSS Carer's Study</b> (commenced 21 June 1998; scheduled completion 31 July 1998)</p>	Telephone interviewing	In progress		

## **Research Support Grants**

Section 114B (2)(b) of the Family Law Act 1975 authorises the Institute to advise the Minister in relation to the making of grants, and with the Minister's approval to make grants, out of Parliamentary appropriations for purposes related to the Institute's functions.

The Institute made no support grants under Section 114B (2) (b) of the *Family Law Act 1975* during 1997–98.