Annual Report 2013

Institute of Child Protection Studies
Australian Catholic University

Vision: To promote and enhance the protection and well-being of children, young people and families in their communities by conducting and disseminating quality research and evaluation.
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# Table of Contents

- **Introduction** .................................................................................................................. 4
- **Report from the Chair of the ICPS Advisory Board** ..................................................... 5
- **Report from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences** ....................... 6
- **Report from the Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies** ......................... 7
- **Institute of Child Protection Studies Advisory Board** .................................................... 9
- **Personnel in 2013** .......................................................................................................... 10
  - Staff ..................................................................................................................................... 11
  - Adjunct and Associate Members ...................................................................................... 18
  - Students ............................................................................................................................... 20
- **Post-Doctoral Research Supervision** .............................................................................. 22
- **Research Program** .......................................................................................................... 23
  - Projects completed in 2013 ............................................................................................... 23
  - On-going Projects ............................................................................................................... 25
- **Publications** .................................................................................................................... 27
  - Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles ......................................................................................... 27
  - Book Chapters .................................................................................................................... 27
  - Research Monographs and Reports .................................................................................. 28
  - Non-Refereed Articles ........................................................................................................ 28
  - Practice-Based Publications ............................................................................................. 29
- **Presentations** .................................................................................................................. 30
- **Training and Professional Development** ......................................................................... 33
- **ICPS Events** .................................................................................................................... 34
- **Representation and Memberships** .................................................................................. 36
- **Media** .............................................................................................................................. 37
- **Appendix A: Past Research Projects** .............................................................................. 39
Introduction

The Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS) at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) was established in 2005 to carry out high quality research, evaluation and professional development; to enhance outcomes for children, young people and their families.

ICPS was established as a partnership between the ACT Community Services Directorate, ACT Government; and the ACU, and is a nationally recognised centre of research excellence in the area of child, youth and family welfare. Based in the ACT, ICPS has offices in both Canberra and Sydney.

As a particularly vulnerable group within societies, children and young people are at risk from abuse and neglect. This risk places an obligation on adults and society to act to protect children from abuse and neglect, the immediate effects of abuse and neglect, as well as its long term impacts on individuals and our society. Research that leads to a better understanding of these issues, their causes and underlying structures is a critical undertaking.

Through its activities ICPS aims to influence policy and practice to achieve positive social change, enhancement of the Common Good and improved outcomes for children, young people and families. ICPS has an identified strength in rigorous academic research and its direct translation into policy and practice enabled through its partnerships with government, non-government and community organisations.

The overarching objectives of ICPS are:

- To conduct high quality research and evaluation which improves our understanding of the nature and extent of child abuse and neglect and reduces its impact on children, young people and families, with a particular focus on the needs, experiences and service responses to children, young people and families;
- To promote children’s needs, interests and views and influence the development of policy and the provision of services to children, young people and families through research dissemination and community engagement activities; and,
- To contribute to and increase the professional development opportunities of those working with children, young people and families (including government, non-government and other community-based organisations).
Report from the Chair of the ICPS Advisory Board

I am pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report of the Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), and to reflect on another year of successful collaboration and partnership between ICPS and the ACT Community Services Directorate.

The use of evidence based research and evaluation is fundamental in informing policy, practice and funding directions for the provision of services to the community. Through their activities, ICPS significantly contributes to the growing body of research about the importance of early intervention, the effectiveness of service responses and the needs of vulnerable families.

ICPS has undertaken important work in the ACT child, youth and family sector in 2013, including the development of a detailed Evaluation Plan for the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program. ICPS research undertaken directly with children and young people affected by parental incarceration, and with vulnerable young people on how they construct identity and meaning provide valuable sources of evidence by which we can support children, young people and families in the ACT. I was also pleased to see ICPS and the ACT Community Services Directorate collaborate on a project regarding prenatal case-conferencing in the ACT.

I would like to give my thanks to the members of the ICPS Advisory Board for contributing their time to supporting the work of ICPS in 2013, and I congratulate the ICPS staff team on another successful and productive year.

Ms Natalie Howson
Director-General of the ACT Community Services Directorate
Board Chair, Institute of Child Protection Studies
2013
Report from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

In 2013, the Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS) has continued to play a significant role in contributing to the research environment and outputs of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the Australian Catholic University.

The Faculty supports research that engages with Australian and international communities to serve the common good, especially for marginalised or disadvantaged groups, and is committed to the conduct of research that expands human knowledge and understandings, especially in areas related to social justice.

ICPS has undertaken important work in these areas during 2013, completing projects relating to identity and meaning for vulnerable young people, exploring the impact of key government and homelessness services on the lives of people who have experienced homelessness, and engaging directly with children and young people to explore their experiences of parental incarceration. I commend ICPS for achieving an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, to develop and trial a contact intervention between children in out-of-home care and their parents.

I would like to congratulate Professor Morag McArthur, and the ICPS staff team, on their significant achievements in 2013.

Professor Gail Crossley
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, ACU
2013
Report from the Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies

2013 has been a year of growth and change, for the Institute of Child Protection Studies, for the Australian Catholic University, and for children, young people and families across Australia. Of particular note has been the change of federal government, and subsequent shifting and realigning of portfolios, ministries, departments and policies. I had the privilege of hearing the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, present at the Family and Relationship Services Australia National Conference in November, and welcomed his commitment to early intervention and prevention in the formation of social policy.

Last year saw the establishment of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and I am pleased by the progress the Royal Commission has made in 2013, with the strong participation and support from the community. ICPS developed a submission to Issues Paper 1: Working with Children Check, and in 2014 will commence a project funded by the Royal Commission to hear children and young people’s views on safety in institutions. This project will make an important contribution to informing the Royal Commission and will increase adults’ knowledge about what children and young people experience, and how they think about safety in institutional contexts.

In 2013 the ACU has also been working towards a university-wide restructure, which will see ICPS move out of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, to be located in 2014 within the Institute for Learning Sciences Australia in the Faculty of Education and Arts, under Executive Dean Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith. We are looking forward to the opportunities that will be presented by being located in the new faculty. I give my sincere thanks and gratitude to Professor Gail Crossley, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, for the support that she and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences have provided to ICPS over many years.

This year has been incredibly busy for ICPS, with the completion of four projects, and a further three continuing into 2014. We concluded the Identity and Meaning for Vulnerable Young People project, the findings of which have been well received by the youth sector in the ACT and across Australia. We have also had significant exposure for the Children’s Experiences of Parental Incarceration project, which was commissioned by SHINE for Kids. Vicky Saunders carried out this research and will continue this topic for her PhD. We were pleased to develop the detailed evaluation plan for the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program and look forward to seeing its implementation over the coming years. At a national level, we submitted a report to the Department of Social Services for the
project *Connecting the Dots: Service Delivery Pathways and Homelessness*, which explored the perceived impact of key government services on the lives of people who have experienced homelessness. Continuing into 2014 will be the *Refugee Communities* project, which is exploring how services may better support refugee parents to care for their children; and the *Evaluation of Intergenerational Trauma Initiatives*, which is evaluating three healing initiatives commissioned by the Healing Foundation. Both of these projects are being implemented in partnership with the Australia Centre for Child Protection.

We were excited to be awarded a three-year Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, to develop and trial a contact intervention between children in out-of-home care and their parents. This project is a partnership between ICPS, the University of Melbourne, ACT Community Services Directorate and community service partners in the ACT and Victoria.

In addition to our research program, ICPS staff and adjunct members have published widely in 2013, with nine peer-reviewed journal articles, three book chapters, and seven research monographs and reports. Collectively, we have delivered over 40 presentations, including at the 13th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, the ISPCAN conference in Dublin, and the Family and Relationship Services Australia National Conference. We are committed to providing training and professional development opportunities to workers and services in the ACT and across Australia, and held 8 practice-based training workshops, and 11 seminars to share the findings of our research.

We were all very sad to see our much-loved colleague, Lorraine Thomson, retire from ICPS in July. Lorraine worked with ICPS since the beginning, specialising particularly in evaluation of services and systems. Although we miss her terribly, we give her our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

Thank-you to the members of the ICPS Advisory Board, and to the ACT Community Services Directorate, for their on-going support and commitment to the work of ICPS.

Professor Morag McArthur
Director, Institute of Child Protection Studies
2013
Institute of Child Protection Studies Advisory Board

ICPS is a partnership between the Community Services Directorate, ACT Government; and the Australian Catholic University. It is overseen by an Advisory Board which provides advice to the Director.

_Institute of Child Protection Studies Advisory Board, as at December 2013_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Natalie Howson (Chair)</td>
<td>Director-General, ACT Community Services Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Morag McArthur</td>
<td>Director, Institute of Child Protection Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc Prof Patrick McArdle</td>
<td>Campus Dean, ACU Canberra Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jillian Paull (Executive)</td>
<td>Senior Director, Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, ACT Community Services Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Bev Orr</td>
<td>National President, Australian Foster Care Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Hilary Martin</td>
<td>Representative of Children, Youth and Families ACT (CYFACT)</td>
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<td>Ms Emma Robertson</td>
<td>Director, Youth Coalition of the ACT</td>
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<td>Ms Karen Wilson</td>
<td>Branch Manager, Children’s Policy Branch, Department of Social Services</td>
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<td>Dr Adam Tomison</td>
<td>Director, Australian Institute of Criminology</td>
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<td>Prof Tim Scrase</td>
<td>Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Australian Catholic University</td>
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**Personnel in 2013**

Below is an overview of the staff, adjunct and associate members, and students who were involved with ICPS in 2013. A biography of each staff member follows.

### Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof Morag McArthur</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Stephanie Taplin</td>
<td>Associate Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Tim Moore</td>
<td>Senior Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Justin Barker</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Lorraine Thomson</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Vicky Saunders</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Debbie Noble-Carr</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Melanie Greenhalgh</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Steven Roche</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Taryn Morrison</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jane Lawson</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Erin Barry</td>
<td>Communications Coordinator</td>
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### Adjunct and Associate Members

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<tr>
<td>Dr Gail Winkworth</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Carina Henriksson</td>
<td>Visiting Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Adam Tomison</td>
<td>Honorary Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Giovanna Richmond</td>
<td>Associate Research Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Diana Boswell</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Peter Camilleri</td>
<td>Associate Member</td>
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### Students

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Elise Woodman</td>
<td>PhD Candidate</td>
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<td>Ms Barbara Knight</td>
<td>PhD Candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Debbie Noble-Carr</td>
<td>PhD Candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Vicky Saunders</td>
<td>PhD Candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Eunice Logan</td>
<td>Masters of Social Work Student Placement</td>
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Staff

Professor Morag McArthur, Director

*Dip. Welfare: BScSci (Hons) UNSW; Postgrad Cert Higher Ed Teaching UNSW; PhD UNSW*

Professor Morag McArthur is the foundation director of ICPS. As a social work academic with over 25 years of teaching and research experience Morag has worked with Commonwealth, State and Territory Government departments, non-government and community organisations on a wide range of research and evaluation projects. She has taught both undergraduate and post-graduate research methods, public policy and social theory. As post-graduate coordinator she had a key role in designing and implementing the first specialised post-graduate courses in child welfare in Australia.

As Director of ICPS she has worked to successfully bridge the gap between research, policy and practice by assisting a wide range of organisations to develop and utilise evidence more effectively and to build organisational research capacity. She has worked on a wide range of research projects aimed specifically at improving policy and practice that affects children, young people and their families. One key area of expertise is the development of innovative and participatory methodologies which include children and young people.

In 2013, Morag was successful in achieving a three-year Linkage Grant through the Australian Research Council as Chief Investigator, to develop and trial a contact intervention between children in out-of-home care and their parents. In addition to overseeing all ICPS research projects and supervising six PhD students, in 2013 Morag published five peer-reviewed journal articles, in the *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law, Child & Family Social Work, Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal, Australian Social Work, and Communities, Children and Families Australia*; along with two book chapters, in *Australia’s Children’s Courts Today and Tomorrow*; and *Immigrant and Refugee Families*. Morag also authored six research monographs and reports relating to completed ICPS projects. Morag delivered 10 presentations over the year, most notably at the 13th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, the ISPCAN Conference in Dublin, and the FRSA Conference. During 2013, Morag also represented ICPS on a number of external committees, including the National Framework Coalition meeting, the Child Aware Approaches Conference Reference Group, and the Scientific Committee for the Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.
Dr Stephanie Taplin, Associate Director

MA (Psychology); Dip Crim; PhD (Public Health) (Sydney)

Dr Stephanie Taplin started as the Associate Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies in 2012. She has worked for more than 20 years in illicit drug, criminology and child protection research within government research centres. In 2008, she obtained Research Fellowship funding through the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (funded by NSW Community Services), where she is still a Visiting Fellow.

Between 2008 and 2012, Stephanie was undertaking research with mothers on the NSW Opioid Treatment Program examining their characteristics, their children and parenting, and the factors associated with their involvement with the child protection system. She has a particular interest in the prevention of substance use and mental health problems, and her focus, over recent years, on child protection has developed from this interest. She is predominantly a quantitative researcher but favours a mixed methods approach to her research.

In 2013, Stephanie was named as Chief Investigator on a three-year grant through the Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, to develop and trial a contact intervention between children in out-of-home care and their parents. Stephanie will supervise the Project Manager for this project, and an accompanying PhD student. Stephanie published a peer-reviewed journal article in Child Abuse & Neglect, and delivered six presentations on her research regarding substance-using mothers and child protection, including at the 13th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, the ISPCAN Conference in Dublin, and the PHAA Social Inclusion and Complex Needs Conference. She also participated on the ACT Child Protection Advisory Committee, the National Complex Needs Alliance, and on the Scientific Committee for the Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow

BA ANU; M.Child&AdolWelf CSU; M.Youth Studies ACU, PhD ACU

Dr Tim Moore has over 20 years of experience working within the child, youth, family and community sectors; working with young carers, children in out-of-home care, young people with disabilities, families affected by homelessness, mental illness and alcohol or other drug issues. Tim has developed significant interest and expertise in the broad field of children’s participation. Drawing from
his practice experience as a youth worker, Tim has helped design participatory processes, supporting children and young people to actively shape, facilitate, evaluate and lead projects that directly impact on their lives. He has conducted research in the areas of homelessness, young caring, juvenile justice, out-of-home care and Aboriginal youth. Tim has advised local and national peaks, advocacy bodies and governments on children and young people’s participation.

In 2013, Tim graduated from his PhD studies which explored how children’s researchers construct and understand children and childhood, and the implications for research practice. He commenced a project funded by the Healing Foundation which is evaluating intergenerational trauma initiatives in Kununurra, Darwin and Brisbane. Tim published a peer-reviewed journal article in *Australian Social Work*, and authored a research monograph for the Connecting the Dots project. He delivered eight presentations in 2013, including at the CREATE Conference, ThEMHS Conference, the ISPCAN Conference in Dublin, the MANCEPT Conference in Manchester, and the 13th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. In addition, he facilitated a number of training opportunities for workers and services in the ACT and Australia, including the Kids Central Training Workshop, Response Ability Pathways, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and Relationship-based Practice. He hosted the ICPS Researcher Symposium in November 2013, which brought together a group of children’s researchers to explore the theoretical, ethical, methodological and practice issues related to children’s participation in research. Tim has represented ICPS on a number of external committees and advisory groups, and continued his volunteer work with Carers Australia.

**Dr Justin Barker, Research Fellow**

BA (Hons) ANU & University of Adelaide; PhD (Anthropology), ANU

Dr Justin Barker is an urban anthropologist whose research has examined youth homelessness, homeless fathers, intergenerational drug use, alcohol related violence, normalisation of alcohol and other drug use amongst subcultures of young people, and tobacco management in the community sector. He has been the project manager and lead researcher on numerous research projects that have aimed to directly inform policy and practice.

Prior to his career as a researcher Justin was a youth worker in Adelaide and Canberra working with homeless young people. This experience led onto his PhD that examined the lives of homeless young people in Canberra, providing ethnographic insights into the conditions of youth homelessness. He has developed and implemented a range of qualitative research methodologies aimed at doing
research with young people and vulnerable population groups. Justin has a strong background in social theory which he uses to add meaning and insight into his research and draws on research findings to contribute to social theory.

In 2013, Justin worked on the ICPS research project ‘Connecting the Dots’: Service delivery pathways and homelessness, which examined the perceived impact of key government services on the lives of people who have experienced homelessness; and was the Project Manager of the Identity and Meaning for Vulnerable Young People Project. He published two peer-reviewed journal articles in the *Journal of Youth Studies*, four research monographs and reports, and two non-refereed articles. Justin also delivered seven presentations during 2013, including at the New Agenda of Youth and Young Adulthood conference in Glasgow, the New Perspectives in Homelessness Research conference, and at the ACT Youth Affairs Conference.

**Ms Lorraine Thomson, Research Fellow**

*BSW (Hons) UNSW; M.Litt (Peace Studies) UNE; MSW ACU*

Lorraine Thomson is a social worker in the fields of practice of mental health, child and family and income support; has experience in program evaluations and has carried out a number of family support program evaluations, including the Integrated Family Support Project evaluation for the ACT Government. She has also undertaken research in a number of areas: good practice in placement planning; what works in residential care; a major research report to the Attorney-General’s Department to support the development of the Family Relationships Centres and Advice Line; and the ACT Children’s Court (part of an ARC funded national project). She led the project that developed the *Statement of specific child wellbeing and protection curriculum content for social work qualifying courses* for the Australian Association of Social Workers.

In 2013, Lorraine developed a detailed evaluation plan for the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program; an integrated and collaborative service system for vulnerable children, young people and families in the ACT. She published two peer-reviewed journal articles, in the *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, and *Child & Family Social Work*. She also published a book chapter in *Australia’s Children’s Courts Today and Tomorrow*, and authored a report related to the Child, Youth and Family Services Program evaluation project. Lorraine retired from the ACU in July 2013.
Ms Vicky Saunders, Research Fellow

RN, BSW (Hons) ACU, PhD Candidate (ACU)

Vicky Saunders is an experienced human services researcher and social worker. Prior to commencing at ICPS, Vicky worked with foster carers and children and young people in out-of-home care services. Over the past five years, Vicky has developed considerable experience in qualitative research, and has completed projects about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, separation and divorce, young carers, family and child welfare, refugees and juvenile justice. As well as conducting research at ICPS, Vicky teaches social policy, social theory and welfare history at the ACU School of Social Work to undergraduate social workers. She has a broad range of research expertise which includes the design of qualitative research projects, conducting interview/focus groups, and developing research methods for a range of vulnerable groups. She has published in the area of conducting research with parents, children and young people about sensitive issues.

In 2013, Vicky commenced her PhD by publication on the topic of children of incarcerated parents, which also relates to her research commissioned by SHINE for Kids, which explored children’s experiences of parental incarceration in the ACT. In addition to this project, Vicky is implementing a project funded by the Department of Social Services, which aims to explore how services can better support refugee parents to care for their children. She published a peer-reviewed journal article in Australian Social Work, a book chapter in Immigrant and Refugee Families, and a research monograph relating to the Children of Prisoners project. She also delivered six presentations during 2013 relating to her research about children of prisoners, including at the ISPCAN Conference in Dublin. In December, Vicky was the keynote speaker at the ICPS forum on children of prisoners in the ACT.

Ms Debbie Noble-Carr, Research Fellow

BSW, RMIT, PhD Candidate (ACU)

Since completing a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1997, Debbie has worked in a wide range of direct service provision such as financial counselling and housing support work. Over the last 10 years Debbie has worked as a researcher at various organisations including Carers Australia, AIHW and ACU.

Debbie has completed projects on issues such as young carers, adoption, children experiencing homelessness, children affected by parental alcohol or other drug use, younger mothers and
breastfeeding and identity and meaning in the lives of vulnerable young people. Debbie also has extensive experience in providing professional development in the areas of child centred practice and family aware youth work practice.

In 2013, Debbie commenced her PhD with the ACU on the topic of young people’s perceptions and experiences of grief and loss. She completed her research on identity and meaning for vulnerable young people, and published a subsequent research monograph from this project. She has also delivered four presentations related to this project, including at two ICPS forums, the AYAC National Youth Affairs Conference, and the CREATE Conference. She also facilitated two Kids Central Training workshops for workers and services in the ACT.

**Ms Melanie Greenhalgh, Research Fellow**

Melanie Greenhalgh is an experienced youth worker with over 18 years' experience. Prior to commencing with the Institute of Child Protection Studies, Melanie was a Children and Young People’s Advisor within the ACT Legislative Assembly. Her experiences have been broad and range from a local youth peak body to a federal level for the Australian Medical Association. She has previously taught youth work practice, community development and community work in a university setting.

In 2013, Melanie completed a literature review for the Refugee Communities project, funded by the Department of Social Services, which aims to explore how services can better support refugee parents to care for their children. She also provided project support to the Connecting the Dots project. Melanie resigned from ICPS in October 2013 to commence a program management position in the community sector.

**Mr Steven Roche, Research Associate**

Steven Roche has been a social worker since 2009, and commenced with ICPS in November 2013. His social work background extends across the mental health, alcohol and other drug, and homelessness sectors in both outreach and residential settings. In 2011, he completed the honours program in sociology at ANU, investigating identity construction amongst homeless men in supported accommodation. Steven returned to Australia in November 2013 after spending 11 months in the Philippines as a Child and Youth Social Worker, under the Australian Youth Ambassador for
Development Program. As an aspiring researcher, his interests relate to homelessness, qualitative research methods and social theory. He has provided project support to the Connecting the Dots project.

Ms Taryn Morrison, Research Associate

**BArts/Sci (Psychology), Juris Doctor (Law)**

Taryn Morrison commenced with ICPS in November 2013. She has completed studies in psychology at the University of Sydney and law at the University of New South Wales, and has worked in community and youth services and community legal centres including work with young people experiencing homelessness, women experiencing domestic violence and children and young people in out-of-home care. Most recently, she was employed as a Policy and Sector Development Officer at the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs and young people in the ACT.

Ms Jane Lawson, Business Manager

**BA (History) Murdoch, Grad Dip HR Deakin, BSci (Mathematics and Statistics) Murdoch (current)**

Jane commenced as the Business Manager of ICPS in January 2013, after working for fifteen years with the Australian Public Service in senior programme management roles in education, workplace relations and human resource management. Through these roles she developed expertise in human resource management (particularly workforce planning), project and risk management, programme evaluation and reporting and quality improvement. Jane has extensive government experience in tender evaluation and contract management. Jane worked for two years with the Australian Breastfeeding Association in a project and business management role, establishing the ACT office and managing projects to improve breastfeeding rates (initiation and duration) in the ACT.

In 2013, Jane has implemented significant change management processes within ICPS, particularly in relation to project management, budgeting and quality improvement. She is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and statistics, and has provided quantitative data support to ICPS projects during 2013.
Ms Erin Barry, Communications Coordinator

*BCommEd, UC*

Erin has worked in peak bodies within the ACT youth and community sector since 2006, undertaking a range of policy, advocacy, representation and sector/workforce development activities. Prior to being employed at ICPS, she was a senior Policy Officer at the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs and young people in the ACT. In 2013 she was the President of Mental Illness Education ACT.

In 2013, Erin provided communications support to the ICPS across all projects and events, and established the ICPS Research to Practice Series, which provides quarterly issues linking the findings of ICPS research to practice for workers and services supporting vulnerable children, young people and families. She provided project assistant support to the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program project, and published two non-refereed articles, in *Parity* and *The Conversation*.

Adjunct and Associate Members

**Dr Gail Winkworth, Adjunct Professor**

*BSW (Hons) UNSW; DSW USyd*

Dr Gail Winkworth has been a leader in child and family welfare policy and practice in NSW and the ACT for more than thirty years. She led Child Protection, Out of Home Care, Adoptions and Family Support programs and developed and coordinated strategies for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and disaster recovery in the ACT. In 2000 she was awarded The Public Service Medal for her work in designing and implementing programs for disadvantaged children and families and for the implementation of mandatory reporting. She was the founding editor of the journal *Communities, Children and Families Australia*.

**Dr Carina Henriksson, Visiting Research Fellow**

*Teacher's degree, B Languages, MSocSci, PhD (education)*

Dr Carina Henriksson is an Associate Professor and senior lecturer at the Department of Pedagogy, Linnaeus University, Sweden. In February 2013 she commenced as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University,
with the Institute of Child Protection Studies. Prior to moving to Australia, Carina was a Research Fellow in Brunei at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Carina is the editor of the international journal *Phenomenology & Practice*, a human science journal dedicated to the study of lived experiences within a broad range of disciplines. She is also the founder and editor of the Southern Hemisphere Human Science Newsletter.

**Dr Adam Tomison, Honorary Professor**

*BSc (Hons) Deakin; PhD, Monash*

Dr Adam Tomison was appointed Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology in 2009. He is an expert in the field of child abuse, the prevention of child abuse and other family violence, and the development and operation of child protection and family support systems. In 2006-07 Adam was the expert advisor (and Director of Policy and Research) for the 'Little Children are Sacred' NT Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse. He also developed the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

**Dr Giovanna Richmond, Associate Research Fellow**

*BSocStud, Sydney Uni; BA (Hons) (ANU); PhD (ACU), PSM*

Dr Giovanna Richmond’s research activity has covered cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral learning and practice, public inquiries, child health and development, child protection and workforce planning. Prior to joining the ACU School of Social Work, she held senior positions in the ACT Government in the fields of health, family support services, child welfare and disability services. Her PhD developed a model to enhance the sustainability of human service organisations, with a focus on policy and reform processes in areas that included local government, community and child welfare sectors.

**Dr Diana Boswell, Adjunct Professor**

Dr Diana Boswell is the Director of the Thomas Wright Institute. She provides specialist psychological services for young people with complex and challenging behaviours, and their families, working across corrections, education, disability, and social welfare areas. Since 2003, Diana has been an Adjunct Professional Associate at the University of Canberra where she taught post-graduate courses in managing complex behaviours and autism spectrum disorders. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University; an accredited Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
Instructor (Cornell University USA); and certified Life Space Crisis Intervention trainer (LSCI Institute USA).

Prof Peter Camilleri, Associate Member

BSocStud (Hons) Sydney; M.Sc (SocRes) Surrey; PhD Flinders

Professor Peter Camilleri is the Professor of Social Work at ACU. He has taught on social work programs at University of South Australia and James Cook University, was involved in the Bushfire Recovery Research Project, and worked on the ARC funded project *Assessment of the Childrens Courts*. His areas of research include recovery from natural disasters, suicidal behaviour and case management.

Students

See also Vicky Saunders and Debbie Noble-Carr in *Staff*.

Ms Elise Woodman, PhD Candidate

Elise Woodman is a social worker and school counsellor who began her Social Work PhD with the ACU and ICPS in July 2011. Her research project is looking at young people's experiences of family connectedness. This research recognises the importance of family connectedness for young people’s wellbeing and aims to inform schools, parents and social workers on how young people experience and understand family connectedness, to help them support the development and maintenance of family connectedness throughout adolescence.

Ms Barbara Knight, PhD Candidate

Barbara Knight joined ICPS in 2011 as the inaugural recipient of the FaHCSIA PhD Scholarship. Her area of research is located in the context of developing a methodology that engages with upper primary age children in a conversation about their experiences of family transitions and changing families. Barbara is a social worker with practice, policy, program management and research experience in community mental health, criminal justice environments, alcohol and drug programs, and the out of home care environment.
Ms Eunice Logan, Masters of Social Work Student Placement

Eunice Logan completed a student placement with ICPS in 2013 to undertake a research project in partnership between ICPS and the ACT Community Services Directorate, analysing data relating to prenatal reporting of women in ACT Care and Protection Services.
Post-Doctoral Research Supervision

ICPS provides support to a number of PhD candidates at the Australian Catholic University. Professor Morag McArthur supervises the following students, in partnership with Professor Joanne Zubrzycki.

PhD Students in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Tim Moore (graduated 2013)</td>
<td>Keeping them in mind: Understanding how researchers construct children and the impacts for research practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Woodman</td>
<td>Young people’s experience of family connectedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Knight</td>
<td>Children’s experience of changing families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Healy</td>
<td>How can government best support and enable communities to recover from disaster?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bindi Bennett</td>
<td>How is Aboriginal cultural identity developed, understood and experienced by young Aboriginal people with light skin colour, lack of kinship ties and community links?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Noble-Carr</td>
<td>Young people’s experiences of grief and loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicky Saunders</td>
<td>Children of Incarcerated Parents (by publication)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Research Program

Projects completed in 2013

Identity and Meaning in Vulnerable Young People

Investigators: Debbie Noble-Carr, Dr Justin Barker

Funding Source: ACU Institute for Catholic Identity and Mission

Overview: This qualitative study explored the role and potency that concepts such as identity, and a search for meaning, have in the lives of vulnerable young people. Literature has found that having a positive view of self, the world and the future is important in the lives of vulnerable young people. However, much of this research is international (predominantly the UK and USA), and little is actually known about how the current service system in Australia does, or should, support vulnerable young people in a search for positive identity and meaning. 24 interviews were completed with vulnerable young people in the ACT aged between 15 and 25 years during 2012. Through these interviews, the study elicited an in-depth narrative of the young people’s life experiences, with particular reference to how they view themselves and make sense of their world and their place within it. The implications for the service sector were also explored.


Service Delivery Pathways and Homelessness: Connecting the Dots

Investigators: Prof Morag McArthur, Dr Justin Barker

Funding Source: Department of Social Services, Department of Employment, Department of Human Services, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Overview: This project examined the perceived impact of key government services on the lives of people who have experienced homelessness. It contributed to informing a knowledge gap to understand clients’ experiences of specialist homelessness services (SHS) and Australian Government service systems. Situated within a broader research project, the ICPS component conducted qualitative, in-depth telephone interviews with 100 research participants who are homeless or have experienced homelessness. These interviews investigated the impact of services on the lives of people who have experienced homelessness, and explored how key services can improve the experiences of homeless people as they negotiate these service systems.

**Children’s Experiences of Parental Incarceration**

*Investigators:* Vicky Saunders

*Funding Source:* ACT Health Directorate, SHINE for Kids

*Overview:* This project deepened the understanding of children’s needs by exploring their experiences of parental incarceration. Commissioned by SHINE for Kids, it identified appropriate individual, family and community responses, informed by children, their caregivers, and other key groups; in the context of multiple system involvement (e.g. child protection, criminal justice, health, education, family support). Qualitative interviews were undertaken with 12 children and young people between the ages of 6 and 18, and 12 parents and care-givers. This research provided new insights into how service systems might work more effectively and responsively together to reduce future involvement in welfare, health and criminal justice systems, improve children's well-being and increase their participation in society.


**Evaluation Plan for the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program**

*Investigators:* Lorraine Thomson, Prof Morag McArthur

*Funding Source:* ACT Community Services Directorate

*Overview:* The ACT Child, Youth and Family Services Program (the CYFSP), funded by the ACT Community Services Directorate, provides an integrated and collaborative service system for vulnerable children, young people and families in the ACT. The CYFSP commenced in 2012, with 28 non-government organisations providing a range of services in the community. ICPS developed a detailed Evaluation Plan for the CYFSP, including an evaluation framework, evaluation approach, and a set of tools for data collection during the life of the evaluation.

On-going Projects

Contact between children in out-of-home care and their parents: Developing and trialling a contact intervention

*Investigators:* Prof Morag McArthur, Dr Stephanie Taplin, Prof Cathy Humphries (University of Melbourne)

*Funding Source:* Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

*Overview:* This three-year study will develop and trial a new model of delivering contact between children in care and their birth parents, which will reduce current and future distress related to contact, improve children’s relationships with their birth parents and increase successful reunifications in the long term. The project will be conducted in the ACT and Victoria, and is a joint initiative between ICPS, University of Melbourne, the ACT Community Services Directorate and community service partners in the ACT and Victoria.

Refugee Communities Intercultural Dialogue: Building relationships, building communities

*Investigators:* Vicky Saunders, Prof Morag McArthur, in partnership with the Australian Centre for Child Protection

*Funding Source:* Department of Social Services

*Overview:* This research aims to provide in-depth and contextualised data about how services may better support refugee parents to care for their children, in an attempt to reduce the numbers of children of refugee parents entering the statutory care and protection system. It seeks to better understand the social resources and connections required by refugee parents and their children to support positive parenting skills and family relationships. This study will develop new knowledge about refugee children and young people's views on social connectedness and how this influences their safety and wellbeing, and will explore how services can create more responsive and integrated practices that will lead to better outcomes for children and young people living in families from a refugee background.

Evaluation of Intergenerational Trauma Initiatives

*Investigators:* Prof Fiona Arney (Australian Centre for Child Protection), Dr Tim Moore, Prof Morag McArthur

*Funding Source:* The Healing Foundation

*Overview:* The Healing Foundation is an independent Indigenous organisation engaging communities to develop healing amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It has commissioned three Aboriginal controlled agencies in Kununurra, Darwin and Brisbane to develop programs that help communities (particularly children, young people and families) to deal with intergenerational trauma. In partnership with the Australian Centre for Child Protection (ACCP), ICPS will evaluate these initiatives and capture the progress to date. This evaluation will be the first large-scale study across multiple jurisdictions to provide empirical evidence of the effectiveness of diverse approaches to addressing intergenerational trauma for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Past research projects are available at Appendix A.
Publications

ICPS staff members released the following publications in 2013.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Book Chapters


**Research Monographs and Reports**


**Non-Refereed Articles**


Practice-Based Publications

Research to Practice Series:


Presentations

ICPS staff members delivered the following presentations in 2013:


Barker, J. (2013). Keynote speaker at launch of Dad’s Place, Canberra.


Training and Professional Development

ICPS staff members provide training, seminars and professional development opportunities to workers and services that support vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Training and professional development opportunities provided in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Connections, Caring Communities and Creative Collaborations, for Queanbeyan High School Professional Development Day, January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Group work with young people workshop, YWCA of Canberra, April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Child-Centred Practice, Merri Outreach Support Service, September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Noble Carr and Tim Moore</td>
<td>Kids Central Training, March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Noble Carr and Tim Moore</td>
<td>Kids Central Training, December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore and Diana Boswell (Thomas Wright Institute)</td>
<td>Response Ability Pathways, May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore and Diana Boswell (Thomas Wright Institute)</td>
<td>Therapeutic Crisis Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore, Justin Barker and Diana Boswell (Thomas Wright Institute)</td>
<td>Relationship-based Practice, for Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn, March 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICPS Events

ICPS held a number of public events during 2013, targeted at workers, services, policy makers and researchers from within the ACT and across Australia.

Seminar: Bridges, Bonds and Barriers - Exploring the needs and experiences of vulnerable children and young people

This seminar was held on 31 January 2013 and was attended by 150 people in the youth, community and government sectors. The seminar featured Prof Todd Herrenkohl, from the School of Social Work at the University of Washington; and Debbie Noble-Carr, Research Fellow at ICPS. Todd presented on the health and mental health consequences of children’s exposure to family violence and adversity. Debbie presented initial findings from her qualitative study which explored identity and meaning for vulnerable young people.

Community Seminar: Exploring complex needs

Held on 18 March 2013, this seminar was targeted at community and government services in the ACT, and was presented by Prof Eileen Baldry, Professor of Criminology at the University of New South Wales. Eileen discussed her research which focused on complex clients who are high service users, and which used data linkage across NSW Government service delivery systems, including child protection, education, justice, disability, health, housing and police.

Seminar and Launch: Identity and meaning for vulnerable young people

This event launched the final report of the Identity and Meaning for Vulnerable Young People project, a qualitative study which was undertaken by Debbie Noble-Carr in 2012-2013. Held on 16 April 2013, Debbie presented the findings of her research, which explored the role and potency that concepts such as identity, and a search for meaning, have in the lives of vulnerable young people. The event was well attended by 130 people from the youth, community and government sectors.

Community Seminar: Witchcraft-related violence against children in Uganda and Tanzania

This presentation was held on 19 November 2013 and featured Peter Sewakirinya, Director of the Kyampisi Child Care Ministries in Uganda; and Dr Jean Burke, Lecturer in Social Work within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, ACU. Peter presented information about child sacrifice in Uganda, and the work that his organisation is involved in to end child sacrifice, provide education and community
outreach, and provide medical support and rehabilitation to maimed children. Jean presented on her research which relates to the attacks and murders of children and adults with albinism in Tanzania, and how these crimes and strategies to deal with them have been portrayed in Tanzanian online print media.

**Symposium: Seen and Heard – Meaningfully engaging children and young people in research**

This symposium was held in partnership with the ACT Children and Young People’s Commissioner, on 28 November 2013. It aimed to bring together a group of experienced children’s researchers, to share their insights, raise their concerns and consider how the field of children's research might continue to expand and develop. The symposium included presentations and panel discussions on the theoretical, ethical, methodological and practical issues related to children’s participation in research.

**Forum: Children of prisoners in the ACT**

This forum was held on 4 December 2013 and was attended by over 90 people from the ACT youth, community, justice and government sectors. Vicky Saunders, Research Fellow at ICPS presented the findings of her research, which explored the experiences of children and young people with an incarcerated parent in the ACT. Christine Moore, Convenor of the ACT Women and Prisons Group; and Gloria Larman, CEO of SHINE for Kids also presented at the forum.

**Lunchtime Seminars**

In addition to these public events, ICPS held a number of lunchtime seminars for staff and students at the ACU Canberra Campus, at which ICPS researchers presented on their work. These included:

10 July 2013: Dr Carina Henriksson, Hermeneutic phenomenology in research
14 August 2013: Dr Tim Moore, Exploring the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of reflexive practice in children’s research
11 September 2013: Elise Woodman, Young people’s experiences of family connectedness
9 October 2013: Dr Stephanie Taplin, Child protection and mothers on methadone
13 November 2013: Dr Justin Barker, Negative cultural capital and homeless young people
Representation and Memberships

ICPS staff members participate in a range of external committees, advisory groups, boards and as critical friends on specific projects.

External Representation and Memberships in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morag McArthur</td>
<td>National Framework Coalition Meeting, July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morag McArthur</td>
<td>Child Aware Approaches Conference Reference Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morag McArthur and Justin Barker</td>
<td>DHS: Centrelink social workers and unsupported young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morag McArthur and Stephanie Taplin</td>
<td>Scientific Committee for the Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Family Connections Screening Project, Melbourne City Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Because it’s a serious matter... Talking with students about bullying and disability, ACT Disability Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Constructing young caring and the implications for policy and practice, Carers Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>National People with Disability and Carer Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>Carers Australia Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Moore</td>
<td>National Carer Strategy Implementation Reference Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Taplin</td>
<td>ACT Child Protection Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Taplin</td>
<td>National Complex Needs Alliance, December 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media

Media Releases

16 April 2013: Research Report Launch: Me, Myself and I – Identity and meaning for vulnerable young people
3 July 2013: Half-million dollars ARC Grant for ACU’s Institute of Child Protection Studies
31 July 2013: Children of Prisoners: An often invisible group
31 October 2013: Supporting children of prisoners in the ACT: Program and report launch (joint media release with SHINE for Kids)
27 November 2013: Symposium on Research with Children and Young People
3 December 2013: Forum: Children of Prisoners in the ACT

In the Media

Print and Online

1 February 2013: *Abused need long-term help*, Canberra Times article by Megan Doherty
3 July 2013: *Study to improve relationships between birth parents, children*, ABC News article
6 August 2013: *Spotlight on children of jailed parents*, Canberra Chronicle article
31 October 2013: *Children of prisoners lack support*, ABC News article by Louise Willis
31 October 2013: *Children of prisoners need more support*, Canberra Times article by Peter Jean
26 November 2013: *Itching for a fight: The motives behind alcohol-fuelled violence*, The Conversation article by Justin Barker and Erin Barry
30 November 2013: *Child protection is a community responsibility*, Canberra Times article by Peter Jean
5 December 2013: *Prisoners’ Children are ‘forgotten victims’*, Canberra Times article by Fleta Page

Radio and Television

24 May 2013: Caring for an adult when you’re only a child, Insight SBS, Tim Moore
3 July 2013: ARC Linkage Grant, ABC 666 Canberra, Stephanie Taplin
1 August 2013: Children of Prisoners, ABC 666 Canberra interview with Genevieve Jacobs, Vicky Saunders
August 2013: Children of Prisoners, ABC 666 Canberra interview with Alex Sloane, Vicky Saunders
August 2013: Children of Prisoners, 104.7 News Interview, Vicky Saunders
August 2013: Children of Prisoners, 106.3 News Interview, Vicky Saunders
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, WIN TV News Interview, Vicky Saunders
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, ABC Radio Interview, Vicky Saunders
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, 2CC Radio Interview, Vicky Saunders
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, Prime TV News Interview, Vicky Saunders
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, ABC TV News Interview, Morag McArthur
October 2013: Children of Prisoners, ABC Radio Interview, Vicky Saunders
November 2013: Young people and alcohol related violence, Queensland Radio Interview, Justin Barker
Appendix A: Past Research Projects


2012

Literature Synthesis on what works for children experiencing homelessness and/or family violence
Evaluation of the ‘Reconnect’ Program
Workforce trends in statutory child protection
The Collaboration Rubric

2011

Challenges, Possibilities and Future Directions: A national assessment of Australia's Children's Courts
The effect on parents and young people of Family Tax Benefit Part A
Child protection practitioners' values survey
More than just me: Supporting fathers who are homeless
Refugee child and family experiences of resettlement in the ACT: A scoping project
Evaluation of Supporting Children after Separation Program (SCASP) and Post-Separation Cooperative Parenting (PSCP) service
What Australian Kids Say About their World

2010

Integrated Family Support Project Evaluation
Understanding the experiences and aspirations of younger mothers
Increasing collaboration in the ACT
Evaluation of the Supported Playgroups and Parent Groups Initiative
The experiences and needs of young carers aged 18-25 years living in the ACT
Supporting Young People in Education

2009

Getting what we need: Families experiences of services
Kids R Central: Toolkit for services working with homeless children
Building New Opportunities for Collaboration: The Family Relationship Services Program
Early Intervention in the Australian Capital Territory
Evaluation of Clearinghouses
Communities for Children Evaluation
Working Across the Grey - Communities for Children
Supporting Children and Young People in Families Affected by Alcohol or Other Drug Use for ACT Government
Youth Services Program Future Directions
Understanding Children and Young People's Experiences of Separation and Divorce - a Scoping Project

2008
Evaluation of Relationships Australia Canberra and Riverina (RACR) Counselling Program
Review of the Qualifications and Training Pathways Dept of Child Safety Queensland
Submission for the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW
Child Wellbeing and Protection Curriculum Content for Social Work Qualifying Courses
Supporting Transitions from Juvenile Detention Project
Transferability of Social Work Knowledge between Different Practice and Cultural Contexts
Evaluation framework for “Step up Step down” program: STEPS
Murray Darling Basin Evaluation Framework
Evaluation Plan of Clearinghouses

2007
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Project
Consultations for the Youth Services Program
Indigenous Family Support
Evaluation of ‘Families Together’ Program
Affirm Evaluation Framework
Emergency Readiness Training
Children's Experiences of Homelessness
Recovering from the 2003 Canberra Bushfires
Australian Government Evaluation Framework for Disaster Recovery
Family Relationship Centres and Family Relationship Advice Line Continuous Improvement Process
Young Carers in Western Australia
Experience of Former Foster Carers
2006

Reading, Writing and Responsibility: Young Carers and Education
Principles for Child Centred Practice
Family Group Conferencing Scoping Paper
Youth Support Workers in Schools
Family Relationship Centres and Family Relationship Advice Line Practice Framework for Screening and Assessment
Family Relationship Centres and Family Relationship Advice Line Research Report
The Multidisciplinary Approach to Student Services

2005

Good Practice for Placement Planning
Screening of People Working with Children and Young People: Issues Paper
Workforce Planning in the Care and Protection System in the ACT: Issues Paper
Consultation on Strengthening Families Partnership Approach in ACT
What Works in Residential Care
Schools as Communities Evaluation