

Swinburne Institute for Social Research

Annual report 2006



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Mission, values and objectives

The Institute for Social Research's mission is to undertake innovative and influential research and deliver high-quality postgraduate education and training.

The ISR values research and teaching that advance our understanding of the social world and improve the quality of life, freedom of expression and thought. It also values collegiality, critical engagement and pluralism in the workplace.

The Institute's objectives are:

- > to produce and communicate excellent research that is creative, ambitious and informative, with direct application to current policy debates
- > to contribute to public policy development and debate, testing orthodox views against examples of policy and politics in action
- > to develop and provide excellent postgraduate and undergraduate teaching
- > to make substantial contributions to scholarship and to the Australian community.

About the Institute

The Institute for Social Research (ISR) is a centre for research and publishing in three core fields – citizenship, politics and government; urban and housing studies; and media and communications. ISR research teams collaborate across disciplines to produce empirical and conceptual insights into longstanding social and policy dilemmas. We aim to meet the highest standards for research and scholarly communication, while working closely with partners in industry, the community and government.

The ISR comprises three research programs: Cities and Housing, Citizenship and Government, and Media and Communications. The ISR also hosts a node within the new Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation, based at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and runs the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) Swinburne–Monash Research Centre.

This Annual Report describes the Institute's activities during 2006. It includes reports from each of the research programs, brief staff profiles, and a list of publications and grants.

It also includes a section profiling four key senior appointments we made during 2006.

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Director's report

Julian Thomas

Back in 2005 the ISR took some important steps: the Institute was recognised within Swinburne as a top-level university research centre; our researchers were part of a successful application for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation; and we began to put into practice a research strategy to improve the quality of our research and to provide greater stability and certainty for our staff.

In 2006 the ISR has built on those gains and extended the strategy. We have appointed four outstanding researchers to senior research-only positions. These appointments are profiled later in this report, although it is worth emphasising here how delighted and proud we are to have been able to attract such a strong, diverse and interesting group. We now have a critical mass of highly accomplished researchers who are already expanding the Institute's capacities dramatically.

We have pursued our strategy of focusing our efforts on attracting longer-term and more substantial research funding. The outcomes of this are apparent in our overall research performance, where we have continued to increase our external research income substantially over previous years. This report describes a series of substantial new projects across the Institute's three areas. In 2006 the ISR generated external research income of \$2.3 million, continuing our solid growth over recent years. This result means that in a year when Swinburne's overall research grew substantially, the ISR was responsible nonetheless for about one-sixth of the University's overall external research grant income. In our view this is a significant achievement for a humanities and social sciences research centre in a university where big-ticket science predominates.

With all this achievement in research, we're delighted that our longstanding postgraduate teaching activities have also been recognised. In June 2006, the housing course team of Terry Burke, Kath Hulse, Scott Ewing, Mike Pelling and Robyn Timms received a Carrick Institute Citation 'for outstanding contribution to student learning'.

One continuing problem for the Institute, as for growing research centres everywhere, has been accommodation. The lease on the ISR's building in Wakefield Street was relinquished by the University

early in the year, leaving us with operations split across opposite ends of the campus, and many of our staff working in poor conditions. In 2007 we are likely to move again, this time into a refurbished building housing the entire Institute.

Throughout the year, the ISR's staff have continued to pursue exciting projects with dedication and imagination. The Institute is lucky to employ a remarkable group of researchers, and a very able administrative team who make everything possible. I would like to thank everyone at the ISR for their contributions through a successful year.

The ISR's Tier 1 appointments

As a result of the Institute's recognition as a Tier 1 research centre within the University, the ISR made four senior research-only appointments during 2006. These appointments have been funded by the Vice-Chancellor as a strategic initiative to improve the quality of the University's research. The process was the first time the Institute has been able to plan a series of senior appointments across all its program areas. We are delighted to have made four very strong appointments. Together they will significantly extend the range and depth of the Institute's research capacities.

Professor Jock Given

Media and Communications Program

Jock Given is returning to the ISR after three years completing a doctoral thesis in the University of Melbourne's School of Historical Studies. He was awarded the 2003–04 C. H. Currey Fellowship at the State Library of NSW for this project, about the early wireless entrepreneur Ernest Fisk. The work describes the business career of this major figure in the development of wireless in Australia between 1911 and 1944, who was later the managing director of the music and consumer electronics company EMI in London from 1945 to 1951. It is a transnational business biography, blending technology, law, economics, culture, politics and public policy in an analysis of the imperial past that resonates strongly in the global present.

Jock researches and writes about contemporary media policy issues, including the transition to digital broadcasting, media ownership, and the history of the media and communications business, especially wireless.

As a senior researcher at the ISR from 2000 to 2004, Jock published two books, *Turning off the Television: Broadcasting's Uncertain Future*, about digital broadcasting in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, and *America's Pie: Trade and Culture after 9/11*, about the history and future of international trade in cultural goods and services, focusing on the free-trade agreement between Australia and the United States. He has worked in media and communications law and policy for more

than 20 years in positions including: Director, Communications Law Centre; Policy Adviser, Australian Film Commission; and Director, Legislation and Industry Economics, Department of Transport and Communications.

Associate Professor Kath Hulse

Cities and Housing Program

Kath Hulse brings extensive, high-level experience in policy development, applied research and management of social programs from a long career in government and the not-for-profit sector. She has particular experience in housing, urban development and community services. In 2001, she moved into the university sector as a teacher, being part of an ISR team awarded a Carrick Institute Citation in 2006, and researcher, being chief investigator on a number of national competitive grants from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). Since 2004, she has been Director of the Swinburne–Monash AHURI Research Centre and for the last four years she has run an annual symposium for PhD students from the 14 universities in the AHURI network undertaking research into housing and urban issues.

Kath's current interests cover a broad range of public and social policy issues, including social exclusion and social cohesion, the role of housing and place in shaping economic and social participation, and new approaches to social and affordable housing. In her new position, Kath is planning a book (with a colleague) debunking a number of 'welfare myths', developing a project on the effects of homelessness on lived experiences of citizenship, and proposing to undertake research questioning traditional assumptions about housing tenure and home ownership in the light of significant economic and social changes. She also has an interest in developing a longitudinal study of older people as they make transitions in their working and living arrangements.

Professor Klaus Neumann

Citizenship and Government Program

Klaus Neumann has held teaching and research positions in universities in Germany and Australia, and worked as an independent historian in New Zealand and Australia. He has written extensively

about memories of the Nazi past in postwar Germany; settler–Indigenous relations in Australia and New Zealand; colonial history and memory in Papua New Guinea; immigration, refugee and asylum seeker policies in Australia; World War II internment; and German and Australian literature. Klaus has edited or written seven books, including *Not the Way It Really Was* (1992), *Shifting Memories* (2000) and *Refuge Australia: Australia's Humanitarian Record* (2004), winner of the 2004 Human Rights Award (Non-Fiction). He has also written radio plays and numerous articles. He is currently working on two projects: a critical history of Australian and New Zealand responses to refugees and asylum seekers (funded through an ARC Discovery grant and a grant from the MacArthur Foundation), and a comparative study of social memory and historical justice.

Professor Peter Newton

Cities and Housing Program and Centre for Regional Development

Peter Newton is a joint appointment between the ISR and Swinburne's Centre for Regional Development. Peter was formerly Director of CSIRO's Urban Systems research program, where his research focused on revitalising Australian cities through developing new-generation technologies and integrated planning and management solutions. His expertise in urban systems, particularly in the areas of geomatics, forecasting, modelling, and environmental assessment has been recognised nationally and internationally.

From 1990 to 1993, Dr Newton was Co-director of Telstra's Centre of Expertise in Geographic Information Systems and Analysis, a Telstra-funded research centre including the Telstra Research Laboratories, the University of Tasmania and CSIRO. In 1994, Dr Newton was appointed Program Manager for CSIRO Infrastructure Systems. Concurrently he was also Associate Director of AHURI (1994–99).

2006: A closer look

In this part of the Annual Report, each program and centre reports on its activities in 2006.

Citizenship and Government research program

Denise Meredyth

Context

The program had a strong research year, with significant publications, the continuation of major funded projects and the completion of some large consultancies on high-profile public policy issues. The strengths of the program lie in three main areas of citizenship studies: parliamentary democracy; immigration and refugee policy; and civic cultures and community governance within multiethnic and diverse populations.

The program's activities include Brian Costar's work as Chair in Victorian State Parliamentary Democracy, as well as a suite of high-profile funded projects on immigration and refugee policy (Klaus Neumann, Glenn Nicholls, Peter Mares, Peter Browne) and ARC-funded work on community engagement and local government (Denise Meredyth, Nicola Brackertz, Ivan Zwart, Katrina Gorjanicyan and Helen Sheil).

The program has also been home to consultancies and commissioned research on homelessness, youth policy, economic evaluation, consumer credit, gender in the workplace, and girls, schooling and information technology. These have been developed within allied centres that have been incorporated into the inclusive theme of citizenship. David Mackenzie's work on homelessness and youth policy sits within the program, though he also works with researchers in Cities and Housing and, through the ARC-funded 'Youthworx' project, with Media and Communications and with the Centre of Excellence. Sue Lewis and Helen McKernan, formerly of the National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity, also joined the program during 2005–06; their work has since taken them to Swinburne research centres outside the ISR. At the end of 2006, with the ISR's establishment as a Tier 1 centre, the program was strengthened by the appointment of Professor Klaus Neumann, who has rejoined us from the University of Melbourne.

Our major achievements for 2006 and plans for 2007 are outlined below.

Publications

The Citizenship and Government program consolidated its publication record. Peter Browne published *The Longest Journey* (UNSW Press) on the refugee resettlement program. The book was shortlisted for the 2006 Human Rights Arts Non-Fiction Award, which is awarded by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Brian Costar and Colin A. Hughes' *Limiting Democracy: The Erosion of Electoral Rights in Australia* was also published this year, and was launched in Canberra by Peter Andren MHR and in Melbourne by the Hon. John Cain and the Hon. Alan Hunt. Brian also co-edited *The Victorian Premiers 1856–2006*, with Paul Strangio. With Kay Saunders, Brian also co-edited a special edition of the *Royal Historical Society of Queensland Journal* on the work of the political historian Denis Murphy.

Other significant publications were also completed during the year and will appear in 2007. First, in *Deported: A History of Forced Departures from Australia*, Glenn Nicholls examines the role of deportation in Australian history from the establishment of the penal colony to current policies towards unlawful non-citizens. This book is under contract to UNSW Press.

Second, the World Bank commissioned Peter Mares and Nic Maclellan to research and write a chapter within their report, *At Home & Away: Expanding Job Opportunities for Pacific Islanders through Labour Mobility*. The chapter explored the potential for creating a viable model for Pacific Islanders to enter the Australian agricultural labour market on a temporary (seasonal) basis. Beyond this, across the program, a series of articles and book chapters have been submitted to refereed journals, on immigration, community consultation, environmental politics, gender and work, youth and homelessness and consumer credit.

Industry reports

It was also a good year for substantial research reports.

Peter Mares' *Labour Shortages in Murray Valley Horticulture: A Survey of Growers' Needs and Attitudes* was published with considerable impact on immigration policy discussion; it was widely used by both the horticultural industry and non-government organisations, and attracted sustained media and policy discussion.

Nicola Brackertz, with Ivan Zwart, Liss Ralston and Denise Meredyth, completed and published *Community Consultation and the Hard to Reach*, a report on applied research on community consultation with eight local municipalities. The report was published by the Victorian Local Governance Association. Its focus on civic capacities is shared by the final report of the Carlton Community Lifelong Learning Hub Project, carried out by the ISR's Liza Hopkins, which presented the findings of a 12-month research and community development project undertaken for Carlton Primary School and the City of Melbourne.

Scott Ewing's *The Effectiveness of Mandatory Comparison Rates*, funded by the Consumer Credit Fund, drew on a survey of consumers' understanding and use of comparison rates to evaluate the effectiveness of recently introduced government regulations regarding mandatory comparison rates for consumer credit. With Sarah Pinkney, Scott also completed a substantial report on the *Costs and Paths of Homelessness*, commissioned and published by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. The report draws on a two-year project designed to lay the foundations for the development of robust economic evaluation and costing relevant to Australian homelessness policy and service delivery. The report explores a range of promising approaches to understanding and estimating the costs of homelessness and homelessness interventions, with a focus on the range of 'pathways' approaches to costing, investigated with reference to recent models from Australia, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. It goes on to review available resources for costing work relevant to Australian homeless populations and services and to make suggestions about how the Australian government could build greater capacity for economic evaluation in this policy field.

Policy interventions

> Brian Costar gave evidence at the Senate inquiry into the federal government's Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2005.

> Peter Mares made a detailed submission and gave evidence to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee Inquiry into Pacific Region Seasonal Contract Labour. His work advocates greater mobility for unskilled workers from the Pacific Islands to help overcome the challenges the region faces because of small economies, remoteness,

growing youth populations and low jobs growth.

- > Glenn Nicholls made written and oral presentations to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee's inquiry into the administration and operation of the *Migration Act 1958*. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee draws on the submission in its report on the administration and operation of the *Migration Act*. Two key recommendations of the inquiry reflect proposals outlined in Glenn's submission: that prior to anyone's being removed or deported there be a check by an independent authority of that person's identity, health, fitness to travel and the existence of permissions from transit and destination countries, and that people lawfully resident in Australia for more than ten years should not be deported.
- > The 'Community Consultation and the Hard to Reach' project received wide attention in local government and was cited in Victorian parliamentary debates on outer urban infrastructure.

External research funding

- > It was the final year of Peter Mares' ARC Linkage project, 'Pacific Labour and Australian Horticulture', which focused on the potential for Pacific Islanders to fill seasonal gaps in the agricultural labour market, working with horticultural producers in the region stretching along the Murray River between Swan Hill and Mildura in northwest Victoria.
- > The World Bank funded Peter Mares and Nic Maclellan to extend this work in a commissioned chapter on the impact on Pacific islands of seasonal labour in Australia.
- > It was the third year of ARC Linkage project 'Community Consultation and the Hard to Reach' (Denise Meredyth and Nicola Brackertz). A collaboration with eight Victorian local councils, the project investigated strategies for making community engagement and consultation more representative. Conceptual issues included the dilemmas associated with representative democracy and with models of participatory and deliberative democracy. Practical outcomes will include strategies councils can use to be clearer about the aims of consultation exercises, using a wider range of consultative methods and modes of communication to get a response from people who are either unable or unwilling to participate in local planning.
- > ARC Centre of Excellence funding has supported the five-year 'Youthworx' Linkage project (Denise Meredyth, Julian Thomas and David

Mackenzie), shared with the Media and Communications program.

- > It was the first year of 'Counting the Homeless 2006', a three-year consultancy project (\$2.1 million) funded by Commonwealth, state and territory governments and developed by David Mackenzie, with Chris Chamberlain of RMIT. The project is establishing the population statistics for homelessness in Australia, using a census of homeless school students, data on users of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services, and data from the ABS Census held in August 2006.
- > 'Evaluation of the HOME Advice Program' (David Mackenzie, with Kathy Desmond (KDC Consulting), Adam Steen and Liss Ralston) continued. This three-year project is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. The aim is to evaluate the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Commonwealth government's Household Organisational Management Expenses (HOME) Advice Program. It will assess, over time, the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the program and the outcomes for families, using data from the Family Homelessness Prevention Pilots (FHPP) (July 2002 – June 2004) and from the HOME Advice Program (five to six years).
- > The 'Costs and Pathways Project' (Scott Ewing and Sarah Pinkney) was one of several projects funded under the National Research Program of the National Co-ordination and Development Committee, which oversees the policy development and implementation of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).
- > The Commonwealth government, through the Department of Education, Science and Training program Australian School Innovation in Science Technology and Mathematics, funded Helen McKernan's year-long project 'More Bytes: Girls and IT/Multimedia in the Middle Years of Schooling'. The project aims to improve teaching of multimedia to teenage girls. Helen has been researching the factors that influence girls' use of interactive networked multimedia at home and at school and exploring how to engage female secondary students in years 8 to 10 with multimedia.
- > Sue Lewis continued her funded work on women and firefighting, with the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFESB). This is also associated with an ARC Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry (APAI) project.

Media and Communications research program

Julian Thomas

We began a number of substantial new projects in the media and communications area in 2006 – some of these are described below. The program is now growing rapidly, and has been considerably strengthened by the commencement of the new ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation. It will expand further in 2007 with the appointment of Professor Jock Given as one of the Institute's Tier 1 research chairs.

ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation

The new Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre was one of 11 funded in the 2005 Centre of Excellence round, and was the only one awarded in the humanities and social sciences.

Among other objectives, ARC Centres of Excellence are funded to:

- > undertake highly innovative research at the forefront of developments within areas of national importance, with a scale and a focus leading to outstanding international and national recognition
- > enhance the scale and focus of research in areas of national research priority
- > link existing Australian research strengths and build new capacity for interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to address the most challenging and significant research problems.

The Centre is intended to maximise the national economic, social and cultural benefits of the new digital content industries. It works across a range of disciplines to develop and research new models for production, access and distribution in the creative industries. It aims to provide integrated, empirically grounded solutions to structural, conceptual and policy problems during a period of rapid technological and commercial development.

Total ARC funding is \$7 million over a five-year period (2005–10); industry funding is likely to exceed \$3 million. The overall value of Centre activity based at Swinburne is likely to exceed \$2 million over the 2005–10 period.

Swinburne is the only node attached to the new centre; in ARC terms this means that Swinburne is a recognised institutional element, by virtue of its contribution to the Centre as a whole. The ISR's

involvement in the Centre is extensive, building on our experience in areas including:

- > the social dimensions of information policy
- > the 'digital divide'
- > the diffusion and uptake of broadband networks
- > youth radio and new media
- > new models for the production and distribution of cultural goods
- > policy implications of emerging communication technologies
- > comparative statistical analysis of Australian new media consumption.

The Centre's Swinburne staff include a number of ISR staff and members of the faculty's Media and Communications discipline. Julian Thomas co-ordinates the Swinburne node. The other Swinburne Chief Investigators are Trevor Barr (Media and Communications) and Denise Meredyth (ISR). Associate Professor Darren Tofts, from the Media and Communications academic group in the faculty, is an Associate Investigator. Julian Thomas is also the designated leader of the Centre's International program, and a member of the Centre's management team. Additional Swinburne-based research fellows, postdoctoral fellows and PhD students are likely to be appointed to specific projects over the life of the Centre. In October 2006 the ISR co-hosted the third national meeting of Centre of Excellence Chief Investigators, with the Centre of Screen Business at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

Creative Economy

In another Centre of Excellence initiative, we launched Creative Economy <www.creative.org.au>, a gateway to research and commentary on developments in Australia's creative industries and their cultural and social impact. The site draws on the resources of the ISR's successful Australian Policy Online, together with outputs from industry groups, consultants and other researchers and research organisations. Creative Economy is edited by Peter Browne and Amanda Lawrence.

Youthworx: Youth Media and Social Enterprise

Our project on youth media and social enterprise commenced in early 2006. This five-year research and development program will offer new insights into important problems in youth development, social policy, education and training, and media and cultural policy studies. The basis of the project is a

partnership linking social investment and multi-disciplinary research, involving The Salvation Army, the youth-run Melbourne community radio station SYN-FM, and researchers at the ISR. The focus of the research is 'Youthworx', a youth development project that engages 'at risk' young people in creative media production, aiming to reconnect them to society, education, training and work. The project is of substantial research interest because it stands at a point of convergence between media practice, social enterprise, and public policy. It raises questions directly relevant to new scholarship in branches of media, education studies and social policy. The proposed research therefore uses 'Youthworx' to illuminate three wider themes: (i) the emergence of youth media as an Australian creative industry and as an element in the Australian media system; (ii) the sustainability of social enterprises of this sort, and the social impact of investment in youth participation; and (iii) youth media as a social investment in informal learning and vocational skill formation. The project draws on a substantial industry commitment, and its outcomes will inform both partners' planning and the future development of initiatives of this sort.

In 2006 the ISR appointed Dr Ellie Rennie to a Research Fellow position attached to this project. Ellie comes to the ISR from QUT's Creative Industries Faculty. Her book, *Community Media: A Global Introduction*, was published in the middle of the year.

Digital Futures: The Australian Component of the World Internet Project

The World Internet Project (WIP) is a collaborative survey-based project looking at the social, political and economic impact of the internet and other new technologies. Founded by the UCLA Center for the Digital Future in the United States in 1999 (now based at the USC Annenberg Center), the WIP now has more than 20 partners in countries including Singapore, Italy, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Macao, Korea, Philippines, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Hungary, Canada, Chile and Argentina. In July 2006 Scott Ewing and Julian Thomas attended the meeting of WIP partners held in Beijing, where Julian gave a presentation on the Australian project. In addition to the partner presentations a lot of time was devoted to negotiating the agreed common questions. While the broader project has been under way for a number of years, the common questions and their exact wording had not been finalised. In addition a common coding schema was agreed that will facilitate

cross-country comparison by partners. A shared database will contain each country's data for the common questions.

Following the Beijing partners meeting the revised common questions were circulated and agreed to by all partners. Given the need to wait for the finalisation of the common questions we decided to postpone the first round of field work till early 2007 to gain maximum marketing advantage for the survey and to avoid being in the field in the lead-up to Christmas. We have given a number of presentations on the WIP and an article was published in the *Telecommunications Journal of Australia* (vol 56, nos 3/4). As well as working towards the 2007 survey, we are also planning the 2007 partners meeting, to be held in Melbourne in July 2007.

Other activities

> Liza Hopkins continued work on her ARC postdoctoral fellowship on Turkish communities and diasporic media. This project aims to produce the first sustained ethnographic study of the Turkish community in Australia in the context of a highly charged public discourse around the place of Islamic groups in the west. In particular, the study will look at the use of modern forms of communications and media to define social groups and assert social identity within a multiethnic, multilingual and multi-faith society. It will contribute significantly to conceptual and practical comprehension of Australia's place in the global community.

> Robert Hassan took up his ARC Research Fellowship exploring time, globalisation and the social impact of new information technology early in 2006, before moving the project to Melbourne University's Media and Communications program. Robert and Julian Thomas' *New Media Theory Reader* (OUP) was published in August. Robert made an important contribution to the ISR over a number of years as a very productive and dedicated postdoctoral fellow, and he will be missed.

> Julian Thomas and Gerard Goggin edited a special issue of the journal *Southern Review* on *Mobile Histories*, looking at the history of mobile telephony in Australia.

> Julian Thomas and Denise Meredyth were successful in a Linkage grant with the State Library of Victoria: 'The Searchers: Australian Information Seekers and Citizens'. This project will commence in 2007.

Cities and Housing research program

Kath Hulse

The Cities and Housing program undertakes research and teaching and contributes to policy debates around housing and urban issues.

Research

Research conducted by Cities and Housing program staff is applied and policy-relevant and is funded from a variety of sources. A large part of our research program is funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). Swinburne is the lead partner in the Swinburne–Monash Research Centre of AHURI, one of seven such Research Centres in Australia. We have had a successful track record in obtaining AHURI funding. Current projects include:

- > 'Housing, Housing Assistance and Social Cohesion', Kath Hulse and Wendy Stone, \$77,350, 2005–06
- > 'Improving Access to Social Housing', Kath Hulse and Terry Burke, \$78,330, 2005–06
- > 'Older Persons in Public Housing: Policy and Management Issues', Sean McNelis, \$144,834, 2006–07
- > 'Public Sector Housing: Rethinking Housing Sub-Markets', Terry Burke and Maryann Wulff (Monash), \$48,730, 2006–07
- > 'Rental Investors', in which we are conducting research for the University of Queensland, Terry Burke and Sean McNelis, \$38,000 – Swinburne component, 2005–07
- > 'Housing, Home Life and Work Decisions', a project for AHURI National Research Venture 1 on 'Housing Assistance and Economic Participation', Kath Hulse and Lise Saugeres, \$153,197, 2006–07
- > Projects for AHURI National Research Venture 3 on 'Housing Affordability', Terry Burke, Caroline Neske and Liss Ralston, \$175,000, 2005–07
- > AHURI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award, Lise Saugeres, \$110,000, 2007–09.

Currently, we have a Linkage grant from the ARC for a project entitled 'Out of the Institution', which is examining the housing and other consequences of deinstitutionalisation in Victoria and South Australia. Our industry partners are Supported Housing Ltd and NEAMI, a support agency, as well as the South Australian Department of Health. We have also

carried out research funded from other sources during 2006 including from the National Law Enforcement Research Fund, local governments, and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

These projects have resulted in a wide range of academic and other publications.

Research training

For the last four years, Kath Hulse and Michael Pelling have run an annual national symposium for PhD students in the AHURI network of 14 universities. The symposia have been judged to be very successful by the students themselves, their supervisors, the universities and AHURI. The symposia are intended to develop research capacity within the housing and urban sector and have developed an excellent reputation for ISR as a leader in postgraduate research training in the field of housing and urban studies. We will be running a fifth symposium at the Customs House, University of Queensland in June 2007.

We have three finishing students – one whose research has been funded through Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) from the ARC, one with a Swinburne University Postgraduate Award, and another PhD student. We have also been successful in securing half funding for a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship from AHURI, 2007–09. The successful candidate for the fellowship, after competitive submissions from universities across the AHURI network, was Dr Lise Saugeres.

Teaching

The program runs several postgraduate courses: Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master of Social Science (Housing Management and Policy). 2006 is the twelfth year of these courses, which were developed and designed in conjunction with the government and other partners involved in social housing. The courses respond to the educational needs of a niche market – people working in social housing and related sectors, such as homelessness, and welfare agencies. Delivery is via distance education although this is supplemented by tutorials held in each state capital in Australia, and in Wellington and Auckland, up to three times a semester, depending on numbers enrolled. In addition, students in the second year of the Graduate Certificate attend a residential program. The housing courses are designed for mature-age students working in the social housing and related sectors.

They are full fee-paying and most students have their course fees paid by state or territory housing departments in Australia or New Zealand or other social housing or welfare agencies. Student numbers in recent years have generally been 120 students per annum.

In June 2006, the housing course team (Terry Burke, Kath Hulse, Scott Ewing, Mike Pelling and Robyn Timms) was recognised by a Citation Award (and \$10,000) from the Carrick Institute 'for outstanding contribution to student learning'. The Australian government established the Carrick Institute to promote excellence in education.

Contribution to policy debates and public forums

A key part of the Cities and Housing program is communication of research findings not only through conventional academic publications and conferences but also in presentations and other contributions to policy debates in Australia and elsewhere, as the following examples illustrate.

Input into government policy

- > Terry Burke briefed the Policy and Research Working Group of the Housing Ministers' Advisory Conference, comprising senior policy personnel from all states and territories, on 'Housing Affordability' in October 2006 (Sydney).
- > Kath Hulse briefed the same group on 'Housing and Social Cohesion' in August 2006 (Brisbane) and on 'Improving Access to Social Housing' in November 2006 (Melbourne).
- > Kath Hulse met with members of the Public Bodies Review Committee of the NSW Legislative Assembly in June 2006 as part of their Inquiry into Social Housing.
- > Terry Burke is on the Victorian Housing Minister's Advisory Council.

International engagement

Terry Burke is on the Professorial Panel of City University of Hong Kong's housing program and Vice Chair of the Asia-Pacific Network of Housing Researchers.

Presentations

Terry Burke presented:

- > the keynote address at the National Housing Conference, Perth, in October 2005 on 'Social Housing over the Horizon: Creating a Contemporary Social Housing System'

- > 'Governance and Reform in the Australian Social Housing System' to the Hong Kong Housing Authority and City University of Hong Kong, February 2006
- > 'Affordable Housing and Planning' to the Queensland Planning Institute forum
- > 'Where Does the Australian Private Rental Sector Stand in an International Context?' to the Queensland Tenants' Union 20th Anniversary Symposium
- > the keynote paper for the Hong Kong Chartered Institute of Housing 20th Anniversary conference on 'Public Housing Reform', November 2006.

Kath Hulse:

- > was key presenter at the National Forum on Affordable Housing, Old Parliament House, Canberra, July 2006
- > was key presenter at the Australasian Housing Institute Seminar on Social Housing in the UK, Melbourne, November 2006
- > gave a seminar for the Centre for Public Policy (University of Melbourne)/Department of Human Services on 'Housing and Social Policy', August 2006
- > gave a seminar for the Office of Housing, Victoria, on 'Future Directions for Housing Policy', October 2006.

Staff profiles

Dr Kathy Arthurson

Kathy joined the ISR in late 2006 and she is now the leader of the Cities and Housing program. She is currently working on an ARC-funded postdoctoral research project on 'Social Mix and Social Exclusion in Disadvantaged Communities: Clarifying the Links between Policy, Practice and the Evidence Base'.

Kathy's research interests span social housing, community regeneration and sustainable communities. Her pre-academic career was largely in public policy and management. In the 1990s she worked for the Australian federal government as a manager and policy analyst in a range of positions that included housing and urban policy, health, community services, ageing and disability. Kathy's past experiences are reflected in the nature of her research on housing and urban issues, which is applied research that focuses on the policy implications of topics spanning social housing, neighbourhood regeneration and sustainable communities.

Nicola Brackertz

Nicola is currently working on the 'Community Consultation and the Hard to Reach: Local Government, Social Profiling and Civic Infrastructure' project. This three-year collaborative research project looks at the issues faced by local governments when trying to engage hard-to-reach communities. The cities of Boroondara, Darebin, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moreland, Nillumbik, Port Phillip and Whittlesea, as well as the Victorian Local Governance Association, are partners in the research, which also receives funding from the ARC.

Nicola continues to be the primary researcher on the Logometrix initiative, providing performance indicators and benchmarking for local government authorities in Australia and New Zealand, focusing especially on the service performance of community facilities.

Nicola is also interested in the history of circus, which she teaches at the National Institute for Circus Arts on Swinburne's Prahran campus.

Professor Terry Burke

Terry's research and teaching interests are in housing and urban policy and planning. His research focuses

on affordable housing, management and administrative reforms in social housing practice, and deinstitutionalisation and homelessness. While teaching is taken up with convening the ISR's suite of courses in Housing Management and Policy, he is also interested in extending the teaching program to homelessness management and policy.

Peter Browne

Peter Browne's interests lie in publishing and media. He has also written widely on immigration policy and other aspects of contemporary politics. He was editor of the monthly magazine *Australian Society* between 1986 and 1992. He has been a Research Fellow at the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, and was co-editor of the book review magazine *Editions*, 1992–95. He was the humanities publisher for UNSW Press from 1997 to 2001.

Dr Meg Carter

Meg joined ISR in 2006 as a Research Fellow working on an ARC-funded project entitled 'Out of the Institution: Evaluating a Model of Housing and Support'. This project compares the experiences of people who were discharged from psychiatric institutions in Victoria in the 1990s, with support provided by NEAMI and Supported Housing Limited, with those of people currently being discharged from Glenside Hospital in Adelaide with support under the 'Returning Home' program.

Before completing a PhD in Sociology Meg worked with federal government agencies for 20 years. She has worked with the (then) Department of Family and Community Services and its predecessors in administration and management roles with programs including Housing, SAAP, Emergency Relief, Child Care and Aged Care, and as a Regional Manager with the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service. She also worked with the (then) Department of Employment, Education and Training on administration of funding for non-government schools, and student allowances, and as Equal Employment Opportunity Co-ordinator.

Professor Brian Costar

Brian's principal areas of research are Australian political parties, state and federal parliamentary politics, and Australian electoral history. He is a frequent commentator on state and federal politics in the press and the broadcast media, and has written widely on contemporary political issues. His current

research focuses on the contemporary role of small parties and independents in Australian parliaments, and the political history of Victoria.

Scott Ewing

Scott has 15 years' experience as a social researcher, both at Swinburne and in the private sector. He is currently managing the Australian component of the World Internet Project, a global survey of internet use and non-use and is undertaking a PhD examining the role of economic analysis in social policy. Scott also teaches in the housing studies program.

Dr Tania Herbert

Tania has qualifications in psychology and disability studies, including a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology. She came to the ISR from a research position at Ecumenical Housing and has worked with a range of groups: people with disabilities and psychological disorders; intellectually gifted individuals; children; and older people. During 2005, Tania worked on the Kensington Social Impact Study, which is investigating the impact recent public housing redevelopments in Kensington have had on individuals, families and the local community.

Dr Liza Hopkins

Liza is an ARC postdoctoral research fellow currently working on a project investigating media use among the Turkish community in Melbourne. She is particularly interested in the social impacts of new technologies and in the ways ethnicity and migration impact on our multicultural society.

Associate Professor Kath Hulse

Kath's academic qualifications are in social administration and social policy, urban and regional planning, and public policy. She has a long professional background in areas of public policy, in particular urban and social policy. Kath has extensive experience as a senior executive in government: in research, policy development, strategic planning and program management. She has also been involved in the not-for-profit sector and is currently a board member of a Victorian housing association. Her present research interests cover a broad range of public and social policy issues, including social cohesion, the role of housing and location in economic and social participation, and new approaches to social and affordable housing.

Amanda Lawrence

Amanda's research interests centre around library and information management, print and electronic publishing, website design and usability, and the creative industries. She is currently completing a Graduate Diploma in Information Management at RMIT and is the managing editor of the Australian Policy Online and Creative Economy websites for the ISR. She was formerly the Literature Program Manager at the Asialink Centre, University of Melbourne and has published various book chapters and reports on the Australian and Asian publishing markets.

Associate Professor David Mackenzie

David is particularly interested in the sociology of youth, youth issues and youth policy. He is best known for his work on homelessness in Australia. Current projects include: 'Counting the Homeless 2006'; working with disadvantaged and marginalised young people using media and the arts ('Youthworx'); a national evaluation of the Household Organisational Management Expenses (HOME) Advice program; and several projects exploring different aspects of youth homelessness and marginalisation in Victoria.

Peter Mares

Peter has been associated with the ISR since 2002, when he joined the Institute as a visiting fellow to write a revised post-*Tampa* edition of his award-winning book *Borderline*, about Australia's responses to refugees and asylum seekers. His most recent work investigates the feasibility of Pacific Islanders coming to Australia on temporary visas to carry out seasonal work in horticulture. The idea of a seasonal workers scheme has emerged as a key topic of policy discussion in Australia and is the subject of a 2006 Senate inquiry. Peter's research has aroused intense interest among politicians, farming organisations, local government bodies and international development agencies. Peter contributes to media debates on refugee and migration policy and continues a career outside the ISR as a journalist and broadcaster with ABC Radio National.

Sean McNelis

Sean joined ISR in 2002 and has over 25 years' experience in the housing field. He has worked for the housing departments of state and Commonwealth governments, as the housing policy officer for the Victorian Council of Social Service and as a senior

researcher/consultant for Ecumenical Housing. His most recent research work includes the future of high-rise public housing towers in Melbourne, community housing finance, a private retail investment vehicle for community housing, independent living units for older people, social housing rental systems in Australia and overseas, local government housing strategies and older people in public housing. Sean is a member of the Australasian Housing Institute.

Professor Denise Meredyth

Denise has research interests in education, cultural sociology, cultural policy, applied social policy and political/social theory. Her early work was on education policy, including debates on the social and vocational role of the university humanities, on key competencies and on assessment and equal opportunity. Later, she explored debates on civic formation and citizenship education, on cultural policy, pluralism and education for 'values' and on information poverty and the digital divide. Current projects are on local government, community consultation and 'hard to reach' groups, on at-risk young people, informal learning and community radio, on the civic roles of public libraries and on 'wired community'. Across these themes, her work is about the practical effect of endemic dilemmas in liberal and democratic political thought, for programs of social governance.

Dr Glenn Nicholls

Glenn holds a PhD from Monash University for a dissertation on Thomas Mann's *Doctor Faustus* and Patrick White's *Voss*. Since graduating he has worked in a range of research positions with government and non-government organisations. He established the country research service at the Refugee Review Tribunal in 1993 and has published articles on Australia's refugee policies in international journals and the media. Glenn was appointed to the ISR in 2004 and is completing a history of deportation policies in Australia. In 2005 Glenn was invited to give evidence on deportation to the Senate Committee examining the operation of the *Migration Act*. His book *Deported: A History of Forced Departures from Australia* will be published by UNSW Press in 2007.

Caroline Neske

Caroline has been employed in the Cities and Housing stream since September 2002. In addition to working on various AHURI projects, she has

undertaken the statistical analysis for numerous housing affordability studies for local councils, the most recent being for the Bass Coast Shire and the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Caroline has also been the project manager on research projects conducted for the TAFE and Higher Education Marketing Departments at Swinburne University. Additionally, she contributes to the administration of the ISR's housing courses through marking student assignments. She is currently working on the AHURI projects 'Housing Affordability for Lower Income Australians' and 'Improving Access to Social Housing'. Her interests include: marginal housing, in particular caravan parks; social housing reform; access to affordable housing for vulnerable groups, such as refugees and low-income families; homelessness; and debt issues.

Dr Ellie Rennie

Ellie's research focuses on community and Indigenous media. She is currently the full-time research fellow on 'Youthworx: Youth Media and Social Enterprise', investigating Australia's emerging youth community radio sector and the social, educational and economic benefits of media participation. Her previous work has looked at international models for community-based media, the transition to digital broadcasting, and creative industries policy.

Dr Lise Saugeres

Lise Saugeres has a PhD in Human Geography from Manchester, UK. She has worked as a Research Associate in housing at Cardiff University, UK, as a Research Fellow in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, UK, and as a Research Fellow in Women's Studies and Sociology at Monash University. She has been at Swinburne University since May 2006, working on an AHURI-funded project on 'Housing Assistance and Economic Participation'. She has now been awarded a three-year AHURI postdoctoral fellowship. Her main interests are gender, family, employment, social disadvantage, housing, welfare, identity and qualitative research methods.

Wendy Stone

Wendy Stone is a sociologist with broad experience in policy research. Between 1995 and 2003 she worked at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) where she undertook research about family life,

housing circumstances, youth transitions and social capital. Wendy was principal investigator of the AIFS 'Families, Social Capital and Citizenship' project, which informed the development of policy around family and community strengths, as well as the development of empirical tools for measuring social capital nationally (for example in the ABS General Social Survey). More recently, Wendy held a management position within the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and has previously lectured in sociology and researched at the University of Melbourne. Currently, Wendy is undertaking research about housing, place and social cohesion as well as completing doctoral research about 'downshifting', housing and family life. Her research interests include housing and regional studies, sustainable housing, family sociology and conceptualising and understanding community life.

Professor Julian Thomas

Julian Thomas is Director of the ISR, leads the ISR's Media and Communications program, and is also a program leader in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation. His research interests are in media policy, information policy and the history of communications technologies. Before coming to the ISR in 2000, he taught new media at RMIT, worked on the Productivity Commission's Broadcasting Inquiry, and was a senior researcher at the former Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy at Griffith University. His publications include studies of intellectual property issues relating to new media, the future of local content rules for Australian television, and IT skills in Australian schools.

Dr Ivan Zwart

Ivan has interests in various aspects of Australian local government, including recent attempts to engage communities through public participation. He also maintains an interest in deliberative democratic theory and practice which was the focus of his PhD, and is currently working on a book chapter and article in this area.

PhD candidates

Tom Alves

Managing Medium-density Development: A Municipal Case Study

Supervisors: Terry Burke and Kath Hulse

This project is a qualitative investigation of the development process for medium-density housing and the role played by urban municipalities in its management. The case study is of an inner/ middle-ring Melbourne municipality in which new medium-density development is replacing some of the traditional stock of single detached dwellings. Its question is: why is medium-density housing provision so hard to achieve in Australian cities and why does Barry Humphries care about it?

Tom worked for a number of years as an architect and continues to remain involved in the profession. In his undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney he majored in history but he also studied biblical Hebrew and philosophy, leading him to Melbourne to complete a graduate diploma in theology.

Ron Aspin

A Local Government Solution to Housing Affordability Problems: A Case Study of Inner Urban Development

Supervisors: Terry Burke and David Hayward

This research is a study into one of Australia's few joint venture partnerships in low-income housing provision outside of the public housing area. The project has been studied from its conception, planning and approval, to post-occupancy. The research draws out all the financial, political and institutional impediments to the development of such ventures, assesses how they were overcome in this particular case, and offers policy recommendations which might see this approach ease the shortage of low-income housing in Australia.

The case study is the Inkerman Oasis (renamed the D'Lux) development constructed on the St Kilda Council Depot site in the city of Port Phillip. The City of Port Phillip is the industry partner.

Other than studying for his PhD, Ron works sessionally for LifeWorks as a marriage educator, teaches sociology at the University, and volunteers as a telephone counsellor. Before becoming a sociologist, he was a metallurgist and spent over 25 years working in and around the metals industry, mainly in iron and steel foundries both in Australia and

overseas. Nine of those years he was with the CSIRO in Adelaide conducting research into founding practices. He also spent a number of years marketing consumables into that market.

Scott Ewing

Endemic Problems, Interventions and Economic Evaluation

Supervisors: Denise Meredyth, Julian Thomas and Brian Costar

This project examines the role of economic evaluation in guiding government responses to endemic problems. The thesis begins with an examination of the varying perspectives of policy-makers and other interested parties on economic evaluation and outlines the history of economic evaluation and particularly cost-benefit analysis in social policy. Taking homelessness service delivery as a case study the thesis includes an analysis of homelessness as an endemic social problem and examines recent efforts to apply economic evaluation to homelessness interventions in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Scott is a Senior Research Fellow at the ISR and has worked as a full-time researcher for the last 15 years in both university and private sector settings. This work has included managing large survey projects, undertaking focus groups and interviewing individuals for a wide variety of projects. He is the co-author (with Sarah Pinkney) of *Responding to Youth Homelessness: The Economic Costs and Benefits of School-based Early Intervention*, a book commissioned by the Queen's Trust, and has published a number of journal articles related to his work.

Glenn Jessop

Mobile Phones and Driving: A Social Policy Analysis

Supervisors: Denise Meredyth and Julian Thomas

This project seeks to explore the use of mobile phones while driving, from a social policy perspective. In light of the legal and public safety issues at stake, people's use of mobiles while driving is a pressing and practical concern. Drawing on a variety of disciplines, Glenn provides a historical and sociological context of phone use in cars before moving on to explore the range of current formal and informal measures that have been adopted in addressing the practice, including legal regulation, law enforcement and education campaigns. After outlining these strategies and how they are supported by

various stakeholders, Glenn critically evaluates their effectiveness.

Having completed a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) at Swinburne, in 2003 Glenn worked on the ISR's 'Wired High Rise' project as part of the School of Social and Behavioural Science's Industry and Community Studies Strand for his honours. This research focused on people with a disability, technology and service provision.

Willie Kamara

Charter of Rights in an Australian State

Supervisors: Brian Costar and Denise Meredyth

Since the end of World War II, human rights protection has become fashionable as part of good governance and democracy. With the exception of Australia, all western democracies now have a Bill or Charter of Rights to safeguard the rights of its citizens. Although Australia has been and remains very active in the vanguard of rights protection, particularly at the international level at the United Nations, human rights protection in Australia remains at the periphery of the political agenda.

This project is a qualitative examination of human rights protection initiatives in Australia, at federal, state and territorial levels. The main question being grappled with is: why does Australia not have a Bill or Charter of Rights to protect its citizens and inhabitants?

The study focuses on the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) as the first jurisdiction in Australia to acknowledge and protect the rights of its citizens via the *Human Rights Act 2004*. Victoria is of particular interest in this study given that it is the first state to have legislated on human rights protection in Australia, in the form of the *Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. The study will also look at human rights protection in the form of a Bill or Charter of Rights in comparable jurisdictions like Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom with a comparative insight.

Prior to undertaking this project at ISR, Willie lived and studied in Ghana (as a refugee from Liberia) from 1990 to 2005. Willie attained his first degree from the University of Ghana in 2005 and migrated to Australia the same year. In addition to his academic undertakings, Willie also works part-time with Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES) as a senior community guide facilitating and coordinating the settlement needs of new and emerging communities (on visa sub-class 200 and 202) in Victoria.

Tony Lamb

The Victorian Country Party in and out of Coalitions 1915–45: A Case of Self-interest and Mutual Hatred
Supervisor: Brian Costar

Coalitions are a major feature of political systems where more than two major parties exist. This project examines the working relationships between the Victorian Country Party and other parties, particularly the Labor Party. The Victorian political cooperative arrangements are compared to those by the same parties nationally and in other states from the outbreak of World War I to the end of World War II. The main focus is on the period 1935–45 and the thesis is examined through a political biography of Hamilton Lamb MLA, the only sitting MP in Australia to die on active service during World War II.

Tony Lamb, BA DipEd PhC, is the son of Hamilton Lamb. He was a member of federal parliament during the Whitlam and Hawke governments. In between these periods he was a teacher and tutor at Swinburne and secretary of the tertiary teachers union (CASA). Tony is still working in pharmacy as a locum and is involved with U3A in Canberra to encourage learning as a lifelong activity.

Ian McShane

Building Communities: Social Value and Community Infrastructure

Supervisors: Julian Thomas and Denise Meredyth

Around two-thirds of Australia's local-level cultural and recreation facilities were built in the years of growth following World War II. Now ageing and needing renewal, many of these facilities face change or closure as community needs and building codes change, market principles influence public policy, and local governments struggle with funding shortfalls. State and local government responses to the community infrastructure 'crisis' (Troy 1999) have been mostly concerned with technical, financial and service outcomes. Ironically, though, while many community buildings deteriorate, current policy rhetoric focuses on re-building communities. Is there a connection? Although celebrated episodes of community resistance to facility closures (such as the Fitzroy Pool in Melbourne) suggest treacherous waters for local government decision-makers, there has been limited investigation of the social value of facilities, understood as the intangible contributions of facilities to community identity and social networks. This work combines historical research, site analysis, qualitative interview data, and policy review to

develop conceptual and empirical understandings of the links between community and community facilities, and contribute to the sustainable management of local government infrastructure.

Ian is an historian by training and has a background as a curator, heritage consultant and public sector manager. Ian's research interests and publications range across museums and cultural heritage, education, community infrastructure, and public policy.

David Prater

Self-publishing in the Field of Australian Poetry
Supervisors: Julian Thomas and Denise Meredyth

This thesis is concerned with the phenomenon of poetry books self-published by individual authors in Australia. It asks why self-publishing is so often conflated with vanity publishing and seeks to explore the ways in which the two practices or phenomena are valued (if at all) in the Australian cultural context. It seeks to define, survey and quantify self-publishing in Australia, employing a combination of literary and theoretical analysis, qualitative interviews and empirical investigation. Rather than offering a simple defence of self-publishing or a textual analysis of self-published poetry works, it will seek to reinsert self-publishing into a robust description of what Bourdieu might term the 'field' of Australian poetry. In doing so, it offers a more complex view of cultural relations and a more robust view of the cultural significance of self-publishing.

David's background is in Australian literature, in creative writing and in media policy. He has worked as a researcher in a variety of health, educational and governmental organisations. Since 2000 he has edited *Cordite Poetry Review* <www.cordite.org.au>, an online poetry journal funded by the Australia Council for the Arts. His work has appeared in most Australian literary magazines including *Meanjin*, *Southerly*, *The Age*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Best Australian Poetry 2003*, *Overland* and *papertiger*, as well as several international anthologies and magazines. In 2005 he was awarded a new work grant from the Australia Council for the Arts, and also travelled to Seoul (ROK) as an Asialink resident.

Andrea Sharam

Market Segmentation and the Victorian Electricity Industry

PhD awarded 2006. Supervisors: David Hayward and Peter Love

After many years advocating on behalf of electricity and gas consumers in Victoria, Andrea put

her experience to good use in this work on market segmentation of customers: a process that occurs when essential services are subject to competition. Consumers are separated into the HVC (high value customers), BOZOs (brings only zero outcomes – that is, excluded/undesirable); or 'residual' market customers. The latter are those who pay over the odds (or get poorer service) because there is no option. This is a form of 'redlining', or economic discrimination based on the customer's lack of market power. Market segmentation, the thesis argues, helps explain why poverty becomes entrenched.

Wendy Stone

Alternative Housing Pathways: The Place of Home and Meaning of Place among Australian Downshifter Families

Supervisors: Kath Hulse, Denise Meredyth

Recent research undertaken by the Australia Institute (Hamilton and Mail 2003; Breakspear and Hamilton 2004) suggests that almost a quarter of adult Australians of working age have 'made a voluntary decision to change their lives in ways that reduce their incomes and spending (other than retirement)' and that these people, termed 'downshifters', are from diverse age groups, family types and income levels (with the exception of those with lowest household incomes).

This research, along with similar studies from overseas, raises significant questions about how individuals negotiate powerful economic and social pressures in their consumption patterns and lifestyle preferences.

The implications for housing, Australians' largest single consumer item and wealth asset, may be significant, yet remain unexplored. This research empirically examines the relationship between downshifting, housing and place. The key question being investigated is how families who voluntarily reduce their incomes to improve their life quality maintain a roof over their heads. Using a combination of secondary analysis of survey data and analysis of primary qualitative data, the research will make a unique contribution to our understanding of social change in contemporary Australia, and to our knowledge of changing housing consumption patterns and preferences in particular.

Wendy is a Research Fellow at the ISR and her extensive experience is outlined under her staff profile, above.

John Stone

Political and Social Factors in the Decline of Mass Transit: An Investigation of Failed Policies to Rebuild Melbourne's Mass Transit

Supervisors: Terry Burke and Paul Mees (University of Melbourne)

Melbourne's mass transit system has been in decline since the 1950s and now carries around 8 per cent of all travel in the city. Speculation about the cause of this decline has focused on deterministic physical characteristics of the urban form, including population density, car ownership and job location. However, recent research has shown that the prime cause of the poor performance of Melbourne's transit system is not the city's 'dispersed' urban form. If mass transit carries more people in Toronto, a city with similar physical characteristics to Melbourne, what is it about the policy-making environment that might explain Melbourne's poor performance? This question is tackled through a comparative analysis of the development of transport policy in Melbourne, Vancouver and Perth from 1960 to 2000.

John has played a role in transport planning in Melbourne, in local government and in the community sector. In 1998, he wrote Melbourne's first modern local government Integrated Transport Strategy for Moreland City Council and worked on the council staff to see the strategy adopted and implemented. He has published several reports on Melbourne's transport system, and has debated the professional planning community in its own forums and in the wider community. Between 1989 and 1997, John was part of the management team of Environment Victoria, Victoria's peak community environment advocacy group. By the mid-1990s, Environment Victoria had become the most influential state-based group in Australia, having developed a series of innovative programs in nature conservation, energy demand management and transport. It had a broad funding base from government, industry and individuals, and a very active volunteer support base. Before that, John worked for nearly ten years as an organiser in some of the most successful nature conservation campaigns of the 1980s, including the East Gippsland forests and the national Franklin River campaign.

Selected research projects 2006

Australian Research Council projects

ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation

2005–10. Julian Thomas, Trevor Barr, Denise Meredyth, David Mackenzie, Darren Tofts

Swinburne University is a node of this Centre, established at Queensland University of Technology under the direction of Stuart Cunningham. It is the first ARC Centre of Excellence in the humanities and social sciences.

Julian Thomas, Trevor Barr, Denise Meredyth and David Mackenzie are Chief Investigators and Darren Tofts is an Associate Investigator. Other Chief Investigators include Christoph Antons, Eugene Clark, Brian Fitzgerald, Malcolm Gillies, Lelia Green, John Hartley, Gregory Hearn, Jeffrey Jones, Don Lamberton, Malcolm Long, Erica McWilliam, Binh Pham, Michael Rosemann, Neal Ryan and Arthur ter Hofstede.

Swinburne's new research projects, funded through the Centre, include: the World Internet Project, a multi-nation statistical study of national patterns of internet use and new media; the development of Creative Economy, a national clearinghouse; and 'Theory and e-government', an investigation of liberal governance, democracy and information policy.

Youthworx: Youth Media and Social Enterprise

2005–10. ARC Linkage with The Salvation Army and SYN-FM. Funded within the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation. Denise Meredyth, Julian Thomas and David Mackenzie with Ellie Rennie and Chris Wilson

This collaboration with The Salvation Army and SYN-FM follows the impact on marginalised young people of Youthworx, a scheme enabling them to become trainees and producers in a youth-run community radio station. Youthworx exemplifies a new convergence between media diversity, innovation and fresh approaches to endemic social problems. Research will follow entrants to the program, over five years, as marginalised young people are challenged to become active creative producers and decision-makers. This longitudinal study will have broader significance for research on innovation and diversity in the Australian media system.

Community, Identity and Media Use: Understanding the Turkish Community in Australia

2005–07. ARC Discovery Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship. Liza Hopkins

This project will produce the first sustained ethnographic study of the Turkish community in Australia in the context of a highly charged public discourse around the place of Islamic groups in the west. In particular, the study will look at the use of modern forms of communications and media to define social groups and assert social identity within a multiethnic, multilingual and multifaith society. It will contribute significantly to conceptual and practical comprehension of Australia's place in the global community.

Out of the Institution. An Investigation of Deinstitutionalisation, Exploring the Effectiveness of Supported Housing for People with Psychiatric Disabilities Leaving Care

2005–07. ARC Linkage with Supported Housing Limited and NEAMI Ltd. Terry Burke and Sue Moore with Meg Carter

This project has two objectives. The first is to investigate outcomes of a unique model of supported housing for deinstitutionalised people living in the community. The second is to survey people who are about to be deinstitutionalised along with staff and family and set up a framework for longitudinal analysis of this group. While a major social policy reform, deinstitutionalisation in Australia has been under-researched, despite the potential pitfalls. This project will provide information and analysis that will help government and community agencies to seek and provide better outcomes for clients and communities.

Pacific Labour and Australian Horticulture

2005–06. ARC Linkage with Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad, Swan Hill Rural City Council and Sunraysia Mallee Economic Development Board. Peter Mares

This research project investigates the costs and benefits of increasing labour mobility between the Pacific and Australia, including the feasibility of a seasonal labour program to employ agricultural workers from Pacific Island nations in the Swan Hill/Mildura region during periods of peak labour demand. It will forge a ground-breaking collaboration between an international development agency and local government to investigate how such a scheme might contribute simultaneously to economic and social development in Pacific Island nations (through

remittances and skills transfers) and in regional Australia (by improving the labour supply to key horticultural industries).

Australian Policy Online Enhancement Project

2005. ARC LIEF. Julian Thomas, George Williams, David Burchell, Brian Costar, Rodney Tiffen with Peter Browne and Amanda Lawrence

Australian Policy Online is Australia's only comprehensive gateway providing access to research reports available electronically from nearly 120 Australian research centres and other organisations. This project broadens the range of material available, providing important new resources to users of the site, reinforcing the site's role in the national information infrastructure through its involvement in a number of innovative projects, and strengthening APO's international dimension. APO will be a series of datasets comparing Australia's policy performance with other OECD countries, an annotated bibliography of hard-copy material and a series of opinion surveys; these resources are not available from other online sources.

Professional Induction of Female and Male Firefighters in a Metropolitan Fire Station

2005–08. ARC Linkage APAL with MFESB. Sue Lewis and Denise Meredyth with Georgia Prattis

This project offers new understanding of how the gendered professional identity of recruit firefighters is shaped by the regimes of selection, training and transition to work, in a metropolitan fire station. Doctoral research will explore whether women's relational and communication capacities are developed or discouraged in a masculinist work setting such as firefighting. The project will enhance understanding of why some occupations remain male dominated despite 20 years of policy and program level change initiatives. It will have direct benefits for both metropolitan and rural firefighting services in Australia, assisting them to adapt to new professional and equity imperatives.

Community Consultation and the Hard to Reach: Local Government, Social Profiling and Civic Infrastructure

2004–07. ARC Linkage, with the Cities of Nillumbik, Melbourne, Moreland, Darebin, Port Phillip, Maribymong, Whittlesea and Boroondara and VLGA. Denise Meredyth and Brian Costar with Nicola Brackertz

This study offers conceptual insights into reasons for non-participation in local government consultation,

drawing on critical policy analysis and debates on governance and democratic capacity. The collaboration of eight local councils and the VLGA enable the development of a transferable, generally viable framework linking: (i) sophisticated demographic profiles; (ii) types of communication media on a continuum of intensity (face to face, telephone/mail survey, email/internet); (iii) issues on which residents wish to be consulted; and (iv) implications for civic infrastructure. Outcomes will benefit councils and Victorian citizens by providing an innovative, practically applicable framework for policy implementation using consultative processes. Denise Meredyth and Brian Costar are the Chief Investigators, with Nicola Brackertz as Research Fellow. During 2004, Wendy Stone and Liss Ralston worked on the project.

Building Communities: Managing Public Assets to Provide Social Value

2003–05. ARC APAL Linkage, with the City of Moonee Valley. David Hayward and Russell Kenley with Ian McShane

Local government facilities have a social value for the community beyond the immediate provision of service or amenity. However, this aspect is not generally considered in the formal planning and management of public facilities, which concentrate on economic considerations and community service needs. This project explores the links among public assets, their social value and community wellbeing. It will provide a rationale, model and set of indicators to assess social value for facilities, assisting local government decision-making, including in regional and rural communities, and contribute to the development of meaningful long-term infrastructure and community plans. David Hayward and Russell Kenley are the Chief Investigators. Postgraduate student Ian McShane is examining the role of public facilities in the maintenance of social capital in local areas, under the supervision of Denise Meredyth and Julian Thomas.

Managing Medium-Density Development: A Municipal Case Study

2003–05. ARC APAL Linkage with the City of Boroondara. Terry Burke and David Hayward with Tom Alves

There has been no applied, local-government-focused research on medium-density residential development. This issue creates the most political and

planning problems for many urban local governments in Australia. Using the case study of the municipality of Boroondara (Melbourne), the aim is to identify, explain and address the many problems associated with such development. This will advance our knowledge about the implications of medium-density housing for municipalities and thus enable the implementation of better management practices. Terry Burke and David Hayward are the Chief Investigators, and Tom Alves is the postgraduate student working on the project.

Political and Social Factors in the Decline of Mass Transit: An Investigation of Failed Policies to Rebuild Melbourne's Mass Transit

2003–05. ARC APAI Linkage with Metropolitan Transport Forum. Terry Burke and Paul Mees with John Stone

The project aims to improve understanding of political and social factors underlying failed attempts to rebuild an effective mass transit system in Melbourne. It will do this by analysing the delivery of Melbourne's mass transit system, combining modern public policy theory with the outcomes of recent transport planning research. Urban transport in Australia imposes very large economic, social and environmental costs. Significant increase in the use of mass transit is necessary to reduce these costs.

The project will provide problem-solving knowledge to assist efforts to improve the planning and delivery of mass transit in Australian cities. Terry Burke and Paul Mees are the Chief Investigators, and John Stone is the postgraduate student working on the project.

A Local Government Solution to Housing Affordability Problems: A Case Study of Inner Urban Development

2002–06. ARC APAI with City of Port Phillip. Terry Burke with Ron Aspin

The research involves a study into the Inkerman Oasis development in St Kilda, one of Australia's few joint ventures in low-income housing provision outside of the public housing area. The project is being studied from its conception, planning and approval, to post-occupancy. The research identifies the financial, political and institutional impediments to the development of such projects, assessing how they were overcome in this particular case study, and offering policy recommendations which might see similar models adopted to ease the contemporary shortage of low-income housing in Australia.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) projects

New projects in 2006

Housing Assistance and Economic Participation: Preferences and Constraints

2006–07. Kath Hulse and Bill Randolph (University of NSW)

This project is part of a program of themed research for AHURI's National Research Venture 1 on Housing Assistance and Economic Participation. The project was developed from, and extends, a previous research project involving the two investigators. The research uses qualitative research methods to examine how people in receipt of housing assistance make decisions about economic participation and the extent to which these decisions are influenced by the design of housing assistance, attributes of housing and location, and underlying social values and expectations. It complements other more quantitative research projects conducted by other universities.

The primary research method was in-depth interviews with 105 people in receipt of housing assistance, not in paid work and living in six study sites in Victoria and New South Wales. Interviews were completed and analysis commenced by the end of 2006.

Older Persons in Public Housing: The Policy and Management Issues

2006–07. In association with the AHURI Queensland Research Centre. Sean McNelis and Liss Ralston

Around 109,000 people aged 65 years or more live in public housing, nearly all living alone or with their partners. They comprise approximately 29 per cent of tenancies. This number is likely to increase as older tenants age in place and more apply for public housing in the absence of other viable alternatives.

Public housing managers are now being confronted by a range of major policy, management and practice challenges: the demand from older people for public housing has not peaked; older people have higher and changing expectations; many will need support; and their housing units are too small, below community standards and no longer meet the expectations of older people. The project aims to identify the housing policy and management issues associated with older tenants and discuss the implications of these issues and of new approaches to

older people for the future of public housing and state/territory housing authorities.

Social Housing Submarkets

2006–07. Terry Burke

This AHURI project aims to examine public housing 'sub markets' in order to identify issues for public housing management and policy, particularly asset management including acquisition, sales and transfers, rent setting, and allocations. By classifying and identifying public housing sub markets, it may be possible to provide the basis for development of policies and procedures for dealing with differential performance across the public housing system.

Continuing AHURI projects in 2006

Housing, Housing Assistance and Social Cohesion in Australia

2005–07. Kath Hulse and Wendy Stone

Social cohesion as a policy concept has generated increased interest among public policy-makers in recent years. The project clarifies what is meant by social cohesion and how this relates to other policy concepts which have been much in vogue in recent years, such as social capital and social inclusion/exclusion. It reviews a wide range of existing research on the links between housing, housing assistance and social cohesion, finding that much of the research both in Australia and internationally has been conducted without a clear conceptual framework, impairing its capacity to disentangle the interactions of aspects of housing and housing assistance with particular outcomes.

The research seeks to clarify the nature of these relationships conceptually, and investigate them empirically. Specifically, it seeks to understand the relationships between housing (tenure, density, size of dwelling, location) and housing assistance (public housing, community housing, rent assistance and schemes supporting home ownership) and aspects of social cohesion, including family and community wellbeing.

Improving Access to Social Housing: Common Housing Registers and Other Potential Reforms

2005–07. Kath Hulse, Terry Burke and Caroline Neske

This project aims to examine in detail issues around the management of, and possible reforms to, applications/allocations in a multi-provider social housing system, building on recent research for AHURI by ISR researchers Kath Hulse and Terry

Burke ('The Changing Role of Allocations Systems in Social Housing'). The research will investigate common housing registers and choice-based allocations systems and their relevance for all types of social housing agencies in Australia, by undertaking workshops in four states with policy-makers, and fieldwork visits to overseas locations where such systems have been implemented (Scotland, Ontario and England). It will examine what evidence there is on the advantages and disadvantages of common housing registers that have been piloted or implemented in social housing in Australia and overseas and what alternative means of improving the management of applications/allocations are being proposed, piloted or implemented, particularly choice-based allocation systems.

Further, the research will assess the outcomes of choice-based allocation systems and other reforms to applications/allocations and consider how these compare with those of common housing registers. Finally, the research will examine what policy levers and institutional settings facilitate the development of common housing registers or other means of improving access to social housing and any other factors relevant in determining the feasibility of common housing registers or alternative reforms to applications/allocations in social housing in Australia.

Determining the Extent of Affordability Problems, Contributing Factors, Past Trends and Future Projections

2005–07. AHURI Collaborative Research Venture Project. Terry Burke, Caroline Neske and Liss Ralston

This project is part of a broader AHURI 'Collaborative Research Venture on Affordability' which brings together a number of related research projects. The project will provide evidence on the behavioural and structural determinants of the affordability problem for both renters and home purchasers experiencing affordability problems and seek to understand the decisions that households make in response to affordability problems.

The research aims to determine whether affordability problems are short- or long-term issues for different household groups, and whether the problem is a short-term or episodic issue related to housing market fluctuations or a longer-term chronic issue. It will explore the behavioural trade-offs made by households facing unaffordable housing costs when choosing accommodation and determine what factors affect the likely future duration of affordability

problems for the identified groups. Further, the research will assess the extent to which affordability problems for the identified groups have worsened or improved over time and explore the possibility that housing affordability outcomes are transmitted across generations. The project involves large-scale mail-out surveys to 12,000 rental households and 12,000 home purchasers.

Rental Systems in Australia and Overseas

Sean McNelis and Terry Burke

This study presents the first comprehensive review of social housing rental systems in Australia and overseas. It describes and analyses rental systems in five social housing sectors in Australia (public housing, community housing, affordable housing, Indigenous housing and aged persons' housing) and in seven overseas countries (New Zealand, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands). The research proposes a range of options for achieving affordability, financial viability and administrative efficiency and reducing work disincentives, and models two of these options.

Other national competitive grants

Effective Strategies for Tackling Drug and Related Problems on Social Housing Estates

2004–06. Terry Burke

This project was funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund and was a joint study with the University of Tasmania and Edith Cowan University. The study evaluated the ability to establish effective and sustainable working partnerships between police and state housing agencies to deal with drug and alcohol related problems. Two low-rise sites (Devonport, Tasmania; Girrawheen, Western Australia) and one high-rise site (Collingwood, Victoria) were examined. The project is now complete.

Commissioned research

Australian government

Costs and Pathways of Homelessness

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. Scott Ewing and Sarah Pinkney

There is some evidence in Australia of a renewed interest in what cost analyses might have to offer the homelessness sector. The National Homelessness Strategy made the first step when it commissioned AHURI researchers to undertake a review of cost analyses relevant to the field. This research,

commissioned by the Department of Family and Community Services, aimed to help build foundations for the systematic development of costing analyses for the homelessness sector. These foundations are to be built on contemporary understanding of homelessness as a dynamic phenomenon, and guided by the ultimate policy goal of fostering substantial outcomes for clients.

Evaluation of the HOME Advice Program

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. David Mackenzie, with Kathy Desmond (KDC Consulting), Adam Steen and Liss Ralston

The aim of this three-year Commonwealth-funded project is to evaluate the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Australian government's Household Organisational Management Expenses (HOME) Advice Program. It will assess, over time, the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the program and the outcomes for families, using data from the Family Homelessness Prevention Pilots (FHPP) (July 2002 – June 2004) and from the HOME Advice Program (five to six years). This includes analysis of the appropriateness of (i) interventions by community service agencies and Centrelink in addressing a client's needs during and after support; (ii) the community development element of the program and use of the brokerage funds; and (iii) the partnership arrangements between service providers and Centrelink. The project will also evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the program, including the cost effectiveness of the program overall, the community development element, and the service provider/Centrelink partnership model.

More Bytes: Girls and IT/Multimedia in the Middle Years of Schooling

Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Helen McKernan

'More Bytes' is a research and development project that aims to improve teaching of multimedia to teenage girls. The program is funded through the DEST program Australian School Innovation in Science Technology and Mathematics. The project responds to the declining participation of girls in ICT in secondary and tertiary education and researches the factors that influence girls' use of interactive networked multimedia at home and at school. 'More Bytes' explores how to engage female secondary students in years 8 to 10 with multimedia. Through

forming a network of students from diverse backgrounds, an interactive narrative of girls' culture across place, space and time is created. The project involves the participation of researchers, teachers, school girls, tertiary undergraduates and multimedia lecturers to provide the expertise and experience to design and create innovative experiences for girls in multimedia. Helen McKernan developed the project and is the principal researcher.

Victorian government

The Effectiveness of Mandatory Comparison Rates: Information, Capacity and Choice

Consumer Credit Fund – Consumer Affairs Victoria. Scott Ewing and Ivan Zwart

Financial deregulation and significant innovation within financial markets have seen a rapid increase in the type and number of consumer credit products available. What is not known is how consumers, and particularly low-income and vulnerable consumers, have adjusted to this changed environment. This research focuses on the effectiveness of recently introduced government regulations regarding mandatory comparison rates for consumer credit. The research will provide an evidence base for strategic analysis by Consumer Affairs Victoria and other interested parties including the Ministerial Council for Uniform Credit Laws. The central question addressed is: have mandatory comparison rates proven to be an effective regulatory option to ensure that consumers are able to make informed choices between different credit options?

Local governments

Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy

Shire of Yarra Ranges. Sean McNelis, Terry Burke, Caroline Neske, Liss Ralston, Beverly Kliger and Max Nankervis

This study reviewed the housing issues and problems confronting the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the individual communities that make up this very diverse shire. The study used both secondary data analysis and focus group discussions with local residents to generate this overview. The information was then worked into a housing strategy.

Bass Coast Affordable Housing Strategy

Shire of Bass Coast. Sean McNelis, Terry Burke, Caroline Neske, Liss Ralston and Beverly Kliger

Like many coastal areas Bass Coast is experiencing rapid household growth and second

home ownership fuelled by cashed-up Melburnians looking for a lifestyle change. The escalation in rents and house prices has created a major affordability problem. This study documents the form and scale of the problem and develops a series of strategies to deal with the problem.

Affordable Housing for Young People Employed in the Melbourne CBD

Melbourne City Council. Sean McNelis, Alexis Esposto and Caroline Neske

As one means of promoting a more diverse and inclusive community, the City of Melbourne commissioned ISR to undertake an assessment of the availability of affordable housing for young people aged 16 to 25 years employed in the Melbourne CBD. The research analysed housing affordability for young workers according to major occupational groups and income bands.

Carlton Community Lifelong Learning Hub

Carlton Primary School and City of Melbourne. Liza Hopkins

This 12-month research and community development project was undertaken for Carlton Primary School prior to the establishment of a Lifelong Learning Hub. The focus of the research part of the project was on the educational backgrounds and learning needs of the wider school community – that is, parents, grandparents, siblings and others related to the students at the school. The majority of students who attend the school are from Horn of Africa refugee backgrounds and now live in public housing in Carlton.

The research investigates the previous educational attainment of a sample of the community, along with a study of what learning opportunities are currently available to residents, which services are already being used, what further needs exist and what barriers prevent residents from engaging in further learning. The report also details the process which was undertaken to bring service providers and not-for-profit agencies together into an integrated Learning Hub and details some of the difficulties involved in carrying out such a project.

Yarra Affordable Housing Discussion Paper

City of Yarra. Sean McNelis, Terry Burke and Caroline Neske

Over the past ten years the City of Yarra has been subject to an increasing demand for its inner-city

properties and consequently a shift in its housing base from low-cost rental stock to owner-occupied housing. For the council, one of the city's greatest strengths is its diverse community. This project produced a Discussion Paper for the council which analysed the existing situation in Yarra including major changes in its role and function within metropolitan Melbourne, identified the key affordable housing issues confronting the council and outlined some options for increasing affordable housing within the City of Yarra.

Local Government Housing Kit

Municipal Association of Victoria. Terry Burke and Sean McNelis

In 1999, Swinburne developed a housing toolkit for Victorian local government entitled 'Housing: Your Basic Infrastructure – A Toolkit for Local Government Housing Policies and Strategies'. Since 1999 the context for preparing housing policies and strategies has changed substantially. The purpose of this project was to update the housing kit in a way which took account of these changes and provided councils with contemporary examples and information.

Community sector

MFESB Organisational Change/Implementation Framework

Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board. Sue Lewis

This research project is designed to research and develop a long-term equity plan for a more diverse fire service. It includes an examination of the culture of the fire service in metropolitan Melbourne and extends to a gender review of recruit training and the recruit selection process. Sue Lewis is the principal researcher on this project.

New Models for Family Mediation

Melbourne City Mission. David Mackenzie

This is a two-year study of family reconciliation practice and the effectiveness of this intervention as it relates to youth homelessness. It involves wide consultation with key stakeholders and service providers, in order to develop a benchmark of 'good practice' family reconciliation/mediation services, to investigate the uptake and use of family reconciliation practice and the implications of changes in service delivery practice as it relates to family-centred practice. David Mackenzie is the principal researcher.

Homeless Families: Lived Experiences of Citizenship 2006–07. Funded by donations made by supporters of Swinburne at the Sir Rupert Hamer Lecture 2006: \$33,200

The research is being conducted in collaboration with Hanover Welfare Services. It seeks to extend work on family homelessness in Australia by investigating lived experiences of citizenship from the perspective of families with children who have had period(s) of homelessness. The project examines the processes through which the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are acted upon in daily transactions between families who are homeless and a range of economic and social institutions. The research involves detailed, face-to-face interviews with 25 people living in families who have experienced homelessness recently. Planning for implementation of the project commenced in 2006.

Publications program

Australian Policy Online

Based at the ISR, Australian Policy Online (APO) has become an important component of Australia's national research infrastructure and a key outlet for research on public policy matters. The website brings together research from over 140 centres and institutes around Australia, providing public servants, students, academics, journalists and other researchers with easy access to the latest research material in 25 subject areas.

During 2006 the number of subscribers to APO passed 7200, and the site was recording an average of over 1800 unique visits each weekday. The APO archive now provides access to over 3800 research reports, together with the full text of over 460 shorter articles on policy-related topics. Visitor feedback is uniformly favourable. The site is listed on a number of international research websites and is archived by the National Library of Australia's PANDORA project. APO's main source of funds during the year was a third grant from the ARC's Linkage – Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities fund, awarded to a group of universities (Swinburne, Monash, Sydney, New South Wales and Adelaide) led by Swinburne.

Briefings

The Briefings series was conceived as a way of publishing short, research-based books on topical issues, aimed at a general readership. Initially published by Scribe Publishing, since late 2003 the series has been published by UNSW Press. At under 30,000 words, the Briefings books sit between journal articles and full-length books. Because of their length they can be written, edited and published quickly in response to a topical issue.

During 2006 the following books were published in the series: *The Longest Journey: Resettling Refugees from Africa*, by Peter Browne; *Church and State: Australia's Imaginary Wall*, by Tom Frame; *Rescuing Afghanistan*, by William Maley; *Limiting Democracy: The Erosion of Electoral Rights in Australia*, by Colin A. Hughes and Brian Costar; *What Price Security? Taking Stock of Australia's Anti-Terror Laws*, by Andrew Lynch and George Williams; and *Against the Grain: The AWB Scandal and Why It Happened*, by Stephen Bartos.

By the end of 2006, 24 books had appeared in the series, ten of them partly or entirely written by Swinburne staff or research associates. The books in the series have attracted wide media attention. Several books in the series have been particularly influential. The first in the series, *Don't Tell the Prime Minister*, an account of the 'children overboard' affair by Patrick Weller, continues to be frequently mentioned in articles and commentary on ministerial staff and government accountability, most recently in the *Australian* on 22 April 2006. Stephen Bartos' book on the AWB scandal was described as 'explosive' in the *Canberra Times*. The legislative approach to entrenching human rights outlined in George Williams' *The Case for an Australian Bill of Rights* (2004) has been adopted by the Victorian government, with legislation introduced in the first week of May 2006; a new edition of that book was scheduled for publication in early 2007.

2006 ISR seminar series

March

Dr Kath Hulse: 'Understanding Work Disincentives: Neoliberal Ideology or Good Public Policy?'

April

Glenn Jessop: 'Mobile Phone Use While Driving: A Social Policy Analysis'

June

Dr Glenn Nicholls: 'A Hundred Years of Deportation from Australia'

Dr Klaus Neumann: 'Public Memory and Reconciliation in Perpetrator Societies'

August

Ian McShane: 'Aqua Profonda: Culture and the Regeneration of Community Facilities'

September

Professor Trevor Barr: 'Broadband Policy for Australia: Looking Elsewhere'

Dr Ellie Rennie: 'Inside the House of SYN: Youth Radio and the Creative Industries'

October

Dr Ivan Zwart: 'Deliberative Democracy and Community Stormwater Management'

November

Professor Brian Costar: 'Political Money and the Corruption of Australian Democracy'

Wendy Stone: 'Housing and Downshifting: How Australian Families Keep a Roof Overhead'

December

Julian Thomas: 'The Remote Control and Television's History of the Present'

Structure and governance

ISR leadership

The ISR's Director is Professor Julian Thomas, who also runs the Media and Communications research program, as well as both the International program and the Swinburne node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation. Thomas has been Director since mid-2004. Before coming to the ISR in 2001, he held senior positions at the Productivity Commission and the Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy.

The ISR's Deputy Director is Professor Denise Meredyth, who also runs the Citizenship and Government research program. Meredyth returned to the ISR in 2002 (having held an ISR research fellowship 1998–2000) with experience developing a research centre at the University of the West of England; she is also a former ARC postdoctoral research fellow.

Dr Kath Hulse is Director of the AHURI Swinburne–Monash Research Centre, an integral element of the ISR, and leader of the Cities and Housing research program. She brings to these roles extensive senior experience in social policy development, applied research and management of social programs from a long career in government and the not-for-profit sector.

Other senior ISR staff include Professor Terry Burke, a former Director of the Institute, and Professor Brian Costar, who holds the Chair in Victorian State Parliamentary Democracy. Burke is a longstanding senior Swinburne staff member who played a notable part in the establishment of the ISR and the development of its predecessor, the Centre for Urban and Social Research. Costar was appointed in 2004 from Monash, and brings extensive academic leadership experience from that institution.

In 2006, the ISR comprised three research programs:

- > Cities and Housing (Dr Kath Hulse, program leader to October; then Dr Kathy Arthurson)
- > Citizenship and Government (Professor Denise Meredyth, program leader)
- > Media and Communications (Professor Julian Thomas, program leader).

Committees

Management Group

The ISR Management Group comprised the Director, Deputy Director, ISR Co-ordinator, representatives of both staff and postgraduate students and the Faculty Manager. It was responsible for the general management of the Institute and met on a monthly basis.

Advisory Board

The ISR has an effective and distinguished Advisory Board including representatives from government, industry and community organisations, and the Vice-Chancellor. The Board members are prominent policy-makers in the academic, business, social welfare and local community areas; they promote the ethos of the Institute, helping us to initiate industry and community partnerships and to build cooperative and fruitful research agendas and projects. The Board offers guidance on strategic planning and emerging areas of social science research. We acknowledge the very valuable input of all members.

During 2006, the Advisory Board's members included:

- > Professor Liz Jacka, University of Technology, Sydney (Chair)
- > Professor Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor and President, Swinburne University of Technology
- > Emeritus Professor Lois Bryson, University of Newcastle
- > Associate Professor Rebecca Chiu, Hong Kong University
- > Professor Stuart Cunningham, Queensland University of Technology; President, Council of Humanities and Social Sciences
- > Adjunct Professor Dennis Trewin, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- > Mr Mike Zafiropoulos, Managing Director, SBS Melbourne
- > Captain David Eldridge, The Salvation Army
- > Ms Monica Pfeffer, Department of Human Services, Victoria
- > Professor Julian Thomas and Professor Denise Meredyth, representing the ISR.

Staff list 2006

Director

Professor Julian Thomas PhD (ANU), GradDip MediaCommsIT Law (Melb), BA Hons (ANU)

Deputy Director

Professor Denise Meredyth PhD (Griffith), GradDipEd (Canberra), BA Hons (ANU)

Professors

Professor Terry Burke MSocSc (Birm), MEc, BEc Hons (Monash). Professor of Housing

Professor Brian Costar PhD, BA (Qld). Chair of Victorian State Parliamentary Democracy

Professor Jock Given, BA, LLB, BComm, BEc (Qld)

Professor Klaus Neumann Erste Staatsprüfung für das Lehramt an Gymansien, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Universität Frankfurt/Main, Zweite Staatsprüfung für das Lehramt an Gymansien, Studienseminar Kassel II, PhD (ANU)

Associate Professors

Associate Professor Kathleen Hulse PhD (Swin), MSocSc (Birm), BA Hons (Exon). Director, AHURI Swinburne–Monash Research Centre

Associate Professor David Mackenzie MA (Mon), BEd (LaTrobe), BSc (Syd)

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Kathy Arthurson PhD (Adelaide), Masters in Policy and Administration (Flinders), Grad. Cert. Public Sector Management (Griffith), BA Hons (Flinders)

Mr Peter Browne BA (Melb)

Mr Scott Ewing GradDip (URP) (Swin), BEc (Mon)

Mr Peter Mares BA (Adel)

Mr Sean McNelis MA (Swin), BA Hons (La Trobe), BTheology (Melb College of Divinity)

Dr Glenn Nicholls PhD, BA (Melb)

Research Fellows

Ms Nicola Brackertz MA, PgradDip Arts, BA (Melb)

Dr Tania Herbert D ClinPsych (Ballarat), BAppSci (Deakin), BA Hons (Ballarat)

Dr Liza Hopkins PhD, BA Hons (Melb). ARC Postdoctoral Fellow

Ms Helen McKernan Grad Dip Organisational Dynamics (Applied Science) (RMIT), BSc, DipEd (Monash)

Ms Caroline Neske MA (Applied Social Research), GradDipAppSocResearch, BA (Psychology) (Monash)

Ms Liss Ralston BA, GradDipAppSc (Statistics) (SUT)

Ms Wendy Stone MA (Melb), BA Hons (ANU)

Dr Ivan Zwart PhD, BA Hons (UTas)

Administrative staff

Ms Grace Lee BBus (Acc & Fin) (Swin).

ISR Co-ordinator

Ms Joanne Colosimo

Mr David Hudson MA, DipEd (Melb). Editor

Mr Michael Pelling, BA (Qld). Principal, Business Development

Ms Robyn Timms. Student Liaison Officer

Board and committee memberships

Terry Burke

- > Vice-Chair, Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research
- > Coordinator, Australian Chapter, Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research
- > Editorial Committee, *People and Place*

Brian Costar

- > Member, Victorian Working Party for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

Scott Ewing

- > Benefit Assessments in Child Welfare Advisory Committee, Department of Community Services, Government of New South Wales
- > Editorial Reference Group, *Parity*

David Hudson

- > Board of Directors, New International Bookshop Cooperative Ltd

Kath Hulse

- > Vice Chair, Melbourne Affordable Housing
- > Board of Directors, Ecumenical Community Housing

David Mackenzie

- > Expert advisor on the National Information Services Committee (ISC) of the SAAP Coordination and Development Committee (CAD)

Peter Mares

- > Advisory Board, 2007 Adelaide Festival of Ideas
- > Judging Panel, 2005 Human Rights Awards (radio category), Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Ian McShane

- > National Councillor, Museums Australia

Denise Meredyth

- > Editorial Board, *Australian Universities Review*
- > Editorial Committee, *Southern Review*

Andrea Sharam

- > President, Energy Action Group

Julian Thomas

- > Editorial Committee, *Southern Review*
- > Advisory Board, RMIT, MA (Communications)
- External Review Panel, RMIT Schools of Applied Communication and Creative Media
- > Management Committee, ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation.

Publications and presentations

Alves, Tom, 'Designing a built environment for people to live in: Implications of the new design nexus' in L. Anderson and S. Jackson (eds) *The New Design Nexus: ICT, Changing Demographics and Sustainability*, lab.3000-innovation in digital design, Melbourne

Brackertz, Nicola, 'Relating physical and service performance in local government community facilities', *Facilities*, vol. 24, nos 7/8, <<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/Insight/viewContentItem.do?contentType=Article&contentId=1554395>>

Brackertz, Nicola, 'Hard to reach? Engagement, governance and community consultation in Victorian local government', paper presented to 'Governments and Communities in Partnership: From Theory to Practice' conference, Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, 25–27 September, <<http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference06/Brackertz.pdf>>

Brackertz, Nicola, 'Relating physical and service performance in local government community facilities: Implications for resource allocation', paper presented to European Facilities Management Conference, Frankfurt, 6–7 March

Brackertz, Nicola, *MacroMelbourne Initiative: Developing Strategic Responses to Disadvantage in Melbourne: Today and in 2030*, response to Melbourne Community Foundation discussion paper, <<http://www.communityfoundation.org.au/resources/items/2006/05/77418-upload-00001.doc>>

Browne, Peter, *The Longest Journey: Resettling Refugees from Africa*, UNSW Press, Sydney

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Burke, Terry, 'Social housing over the horizon: Creating a contemporary social housing system' in S. Darby, P. Flatau and I. Hafekost (eds) *Building for Diversity*, Proceedings of the National Housing Conference 2005, Department of Housing and Works, Perth

Burke, Terry (with Jacobs, Keith, Green, Meredith, Siggers, Sherry, Mason, Ron and Barclay, Angela), *Making Sense of Partnerships: A Study of Police and Housing Collaboration for Tackling Drug and Related Problems on Public Housing Estates*, report prepared for National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, Hobart

- Burke, Terry (with Phillips, Rhonda), *Improving Access to Social Housing*, Work in Progress Report, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne
- Burke, Terry (with Seelig, Tim and Morris, Alan), *Motivations of Investors in the Private Rental Market*, Positioning Paper, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne, <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/20280_pp>
- Burke, Terry, 'Housing management reform: A solution or a cause of housing problems?', paper presented to 'Contemporary Housing Management – Beyond the Boundaries' 40th anniversary conference, Chartered Institute of Housing, Asian Pacific Branch, Hong Kong, 24 November
- Burke, Terry, 'Professionalisation of housing management: Australia', *Housing Express*, Chartered Institute of Housing, Asian Pacific Branch, Hong Kong, August
- Burke, Terry, workshop presenter, 'Assessing housing affordability in communities', Australasian Housing Institute (Queensland branch), 4 August
- Burke, Terry, 'Rent assistance plus: Drawing private rental housing into the social housing system', presentation to 'Private Rental Housing' seminar, Shelter NSW, Sydney, 15 June
- Burke, Terry, panel speaker, housing affordability workshop, Office of Housing, Melbourne, 12 May
- Burke, Terry, workshops, Common allocations systems, State Housing Departments, Perth (March), Brisbane (March) and Adelaide (May)
- Burke, Terry, external advisor, Housing courses, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, February
- Costar, Brian, 'Introduction: Premiers and politics, 1856–2006', 'John Allan: The first agrarian', 'Albert Dunstan: The jumping jack premier', 'Tom Hollway: The bohemian', and 'John McDonald: A remorseful premier' in B. Costar and P. Strangio (eds) *The Victorian Premiers 1856–2006*, Federation Press, Sydney
- Costar, Brian (with Hughes, Colin), *Limiting Democracy: The Erosion of Electoral Rights in Australia*, UNSW Press, Sydney
- Costar, Brian, 'The electoral system' in D. Parkin, J. Summers and D. Woodward (eds) *Government, Politics, Power and Policy in Australia*, 8th edn, Pearson Education, Sydney
- Costar, Brian, 'Political leadership and Queensland nationalism', *Royal Historical Society of Queensland Journal*, vol. 19, no. 9
- Costar, Brian, 'Freedom and diversity: Real challenges to democracy', inaugural lecture, Parliament House, Melbourne, 3 May
- Costar, Brian, 'Recent upper house reform in Victoria', paper presented to 'Improving Government Accountability in Queensland' conference, Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 21 April
- Costar, Brian and Mares, Peter, 'A test that will divide, not unite us', *Age*, 13 December
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- Costar, Brian, 'Factional warlords central source of power in Victorian ALP', PM, Radio National, 8 March, <<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2006/s1587111.htm>>
- Costar, Brian, 'The Victorian state election: 25 Nov. 2006', presentation to Monash-Peninsula Business Associates Program, 10 October
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