

Swinburne Institute for Social Research

Annual report 2003



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INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL
RESEARCH

Mission, values and goals

The ISR's mission is to undertake valuable and innovative social research and deliver high quality postgraduate education and training.

The ISR values research that advances our understanding of the social world and improves the quality of life; freedom of expression and thought; and a safe, friendly and enjoyable working environment.

The ISR's goals are to become recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of our research, to develop a reputation for innovation, and to foster high levels of research skills amongst our postgraduate students.

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Staff

Director

Associate Professor David Hayward, BA(SUT),
GradDipUrbSoc(SUT), PhD(Mon)

Deputy Director: Research

Professor Denise Meredyth, BA(Hons)(ANU),
DipEd(CanbCAE), PhD(Griffith)

Deputy Director: Strategy and Communications

Professor Julian Thomas, BA(Hons)(ANU),
PhD(ANU), GradDipMediaCommITLaw(Melb)

Deputy Director: Teaching and Learning

Dr Kath Hulse, BA(Hons)(Exeter), MSocSci(Birm),
PhD(SUT)

Administration Manager

Sue Kelman, BA(SUT), AssDipCommDev(SIT)

Professors

Professor Terry Burke, BEc(Hons)(Mon),
MSocSci(Birm), MEc(Mon)

Professor Alastair Davidson, BA(Hons)(ANU),
LLB(Mon), PhD(ANU)

Professor Boris Frankel, BA(Hons)(Mon), MA(Mon)

Adjunct Professors

David Scott, AO, BA(Melb)

Dennis Trewin, BEc(ANU), MSc(London)

Yoland Wadsworth, BA(Mon), PhD(Mon)

Senior Research Fellows

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

Dr Sue Lewis, BSc(Hons)(Melb), PhD(Melb),
DipEd(Melb)

Dr Michael Liffman, BA(Hons)(Melb), MSc(Social
Admin)(LSE), PhD(Melb)

David MacKenzie, MA(Mon)

Dr Klaus Neumann, DipEd(Studienseminar Kassel),
PhD(ANU)

Mike Salvaris, BA(Melb), LLB(Melb)

Research Fellows

Nicola Brackertz, BA(Melb), MA(Melb),
PostgradDipArtCuratorialStudies(Melb)

Peter Browne, BA(Melb)

Karyn Down, BA(Hons)(Melb), GradDip(AFTS),
GradDipCommDev(Phillip)

Alexis Esposito, BEc(Hons)(LaTrobe), DipEd(LaTrobe),
MA(Melb)

Scott Ewing, BEc(Mon), GradDipUrbResPolicy(SUT)

Dr Robert Hassan, BA(Hons)(SUT), PhD(SUT)

Dr Liza Hopkins, MA(Melb), PhD(Melb)

Helen McKernan, BSc(Mon), DipEd(Mon)

Sean McNelis, BA(Hons)(LaTrobe),
BTheol(MelbCollDivinity), MA(SUT)

Ulrike Schuermann, DipPaedagoge(Duesseldorf)

Denis Tracey, BA(ANU)

Adjunct Research Fellows

Bev Kliger, MUrbPolicyPlanning(RMIT),
GradDipUrbRegPlanning(RMIT)

Peter Mares, BA(Adel)

Max Nankervis, BA(Melb), DipEd(TSTC),
MUrbPlanning(Melb)

Ilene Wolcott, BA(Rochester), MEd(American)

Research Associates

Geoffrey Barker

Brian Walters, SC

Teaching Fellow

David Zerman, GradDipPublicPolicy(Melb),

GradDipInternatCompLaw(Mon),

GradDipMediaStudies(Victoria)

Research Officers

Ron Aspin, BA(Hons)(SUT)

Holly Cole, BA(Hons)(Melb)

Samantha Henderson, BSocSci(Hons)(SUT)

David Prater, BA(Hons)(Syd)

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

Darren Sharp, BMm(Media Studies)(SUT)

Tania Herbert, BAppSc(Deakin), BA(Hons)(Ballarat)

Caroline Neske, BA(Mon), MA(Mon)

Ken Young, BEd(Melb)

Finance Manager

John Mathews, DipHumRes(Mon)

Principal, Business Development

Mike Pelling, BA(Qld)

Student Coordinator

Robyn Timms

Editor

David Hudson, BA(Hons)(Melb), MA(Melb),
DipEd(Melb)

Executive Assistant

Michelle Orr, BNursing(RMIT)

Finance Officer

Barbara Rozsa

Administration Assistant

Grace Lee, BA(SUT)

Structure and governance

The ISR comprises **four research programs** and **two research centres**.

The **research programs** are:

- Action Research (Adjunct Professor Yoland Wadsworth, program leader);
- Cities and Housing (Dr Kath Hulse, program leader);
- Citizenship and Government (Professor Denise Meredyth, program leader);
- Media and Communications (Professor Julian Thomas, program leader).

The **research centres** are:

- Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment (Dr Michael Liffman, director);
- National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity (Dr Sue Lewis, director).

The ISR is managed through the following committees:

Management Group

The ISR Management Group comprises the Director, Deputy Directors, Administration Manager and Centre (APCPSI and NCGCD) Directors. It meets fortnightly.

Academic Committee

The ISR Academic Committee comprises Kath Hulse (chair), Tom Alves, Deirdre Barron, David Hayward and Denise Meredyth. The purposes of the committee are:

- To consider specific matters of postgraduate research training, including applications for candidature, applications to be registered as supervisors, candidates' progress and changes to supervision;
- To consider broader issues relating to strategy for recruitment of high quality candidates, developing a supportive environment for postgraduate students, and any issues that postgraduate students wish to raise;
- To plan professional development programs for students and supervisors;
- To monitor university policies on teaching and postgraduate development.

During 2003, there were eleven postgraduate research students enrolled at the ISR:

Tom Alves: *Managing medium density development: A municipal case study (PhD)*

Ron Aspin: *Public-private partnerships as a solution to housing affordability problems: A case study of inner urban development (MA)*

Nicola Brackertz: *Managing for service outcomes: An investigation of management changes in Victorian local government authorities due to the implementation of a strategic facilities management (PhD)*

David Brosnan: *The role of housing policy in civil society (PhD)*

Scott Ewing: *Wired high rise: A case study in new forms of governance (PhD)*

Christine Fitzpatrick: *Participation in local government: Rhetoric, myth, reality (MA)*

Barbara Ives: *Inner urban public housing redevelopment: A case study of the high rise estate at Kensington, Melbourne (PhD)*

Craig McIntosh: *Crisis management: The rise of neo-liberalism in Victoria: To what extent did the Kennett government transform Victoria? (PhD)*

Ian McShane: *Building communities: Managing public assets to provide social value (PhD)*

Andrea Sharam: *Market segmentation and domestic electricity supply in Victoria (PhD)*

John Stone: *Political and social factors in the decline of mass transit: An investigation of failed policies to rebuild Melbourne's mass transit (MA)*.

Ethics Committee

The ISR Ethics Committee – Scott Ewing (chair), Nicola Brackertz, Louise Kloot and Julian Thomas – operates under the guidelines of the Swinburne University Human Research Ethics Committee. All research projects are reviewed by the committee before they commence.

Research Committee

The ISR Research Committee comprises Denise Meredyth (chair), Terry Burke, Scott Ewing, Robert Hassan, Sue Kelman, David MacKenzie, Sandra Mosca, Mike Pelling and Liss Ralston. The committee's powers reflect those of the Swinburne University Academic Board as set down in Section 30 of the Swinburne University of Technology Act.

Chair's report



Hayden Raysmith

As the 2003 Annual Report reflects, the ISR does not suffer from a lack of motivation or productivity. The output and energy has been extraordinary.

The role of the Advisory Board is to provide wise counsel, connect with the outside world, reflect on the past years work and provide strategic advice in relation to future research. It looks back and it looks forward in helping to steer the direction.

In 2003 the ISR benefited from the external review by Tom Spurling from the CSIRO, Professor Peter Saunders from the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre, and Emeritus Professor Lois Bryson, former Dean of Arts at Newcastle University, conducted in 2002. This review noted the Institute's preceding three years of rapid growth and the challenge this presented. This growth continues and while growth associated with successful outcomes is pleasing it does have associated risks, including a potential loss of coherence and continuity, distraction from the core values and qualities that have made the Institute a valued research body, a loss of public purpose and community connection, over zealous protection of intellectual property, and underfunding of core research. The Advisory Board addressed all of these matters during 2003, offering advice in relation to the Institute's future direction, focus and retention of core values.

It is not an easy time for universities with funding dominating and sometimes diverting the academic goals, particularly where a longer term perspective is required. It is the role of the Advisory Board to help the Institute hold its course as it strives to attract the resources, maintain a conducive research environment that attracts quality researchers and continue its important work. Thus far the ISR has balanced its competing demands well and has maintained high standards of research. This is reflected in the number of research grants and publications.

It has also continued its innovative approach to policy dissemination and publication through Australian Policy Online and the Briefings series

published in partnership with UNSW Press, which I jokingly referred to at the launch as the "Mills & Boon" of contemporary policy issues. Topical nature and well written, they bring serious research to a wider audience.

Above all else the ISR has continued its relevance and valuable contribution to housing, urban development, citizenship, social indicators, action research, gender and cultural diversity, media and communications and philanthropy and social investment.

The support of the University and, in particular, the retiring Vice Chancellor, Professor Iain Wallace, has been handsomely rewarded. But 2004 presents new challenges with changing faculty structures, a new Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Young, and the departure of some key staff. It is to be hoped that the ISR will continue to be one of the strengths and defining features of Swinburne University of Technology as it strives to define its place in a crowded and competitive tertiary education sector.

ISR Advisory Board

The ISR acknowledges the very valuable input of all members, and the leadership role and guidance of Hayden Raysmith as chair. During 2003, the Advisory Board's members were:

Mr Hayden Raysmith, Adjunct Professor, RMIT University (chair)

Professor Kwok Bun Chan, Director, David C. Lam Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University

Rev. Tim Costello, Director, Urban Mission Unit, Baptist Church

Associate Professor David Hayward, Director, ISR

Mr Mike Hill, Secretary, Victorian Local Government Association

Ms Sue Kelman, Administration Manager, ISR

Professor Rob Moodie, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Health Foundation

Ms Helen Owens, Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Professor Doreen Rosenthal, Director, Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne

Adjunct Professor Dennis Trewin, Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Professor Iain Wallace, Vice-Chancellor, Swinburne University of Technology

Mr Mike Zafiroopoulos, General Manager, Special Broadcasting Service.

Director's report



David Hayward

I am once again delighted to report that the ISR has enjoyed a year of great success. Our focus is on high quality, innovative social research and postgraduate education. We value research that makes a

positive contribution to public policy and public debate, and our achievements in 2003 reflect those objectives. On all counts, our research performance continues to improve, our visibility increases – nationally and internationally – and the quality of the visitors we attract continues to impress.

In a year of many highlights, a number of achievements stand out. First is our continued success in housing research. We again had considerable success in winning Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) grants, backed up by important contracts with the City of Greater Dandenong and the City of Greater Geelong to complete local housing studies. We also were successful in winning a tender from the Office of Housing to undertake a large-scale evaluation of the redevelopment of the Kensington public high rise estate. Our suite of housing management courses went international, with New Zealand students enrolling for the first time. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Terry Burke, Kath Hulse and Mike Pelling, who put a lot of time into promoting the course and modifying materials to the benefit of all our students.

Second is the growing reach of our publishing and networking activities. These are designed to make our research, and that of others, more accessible. We aim to contribute to informed public debate and to consolidate the ISR's role as a national centre of innovative and policy oriented research. Our public policy website, Australian Policy Online, has gone from strength to strength. Around 120 research centres across Australia are members, and the site has close links with similar sites internationally. We have also established a new publishing partnership with the UNSW Press. Centred on our Briefings series of topical, research based books, the series is edited by Peter Browne and Julian Thomas. Authors include ISR staff and visitors, as well as high profile researchers from

around Australia. Together with our ARC and AHURI research grants, the Institute's publishing and communications activities are important in building our connections with researchers in other universities and beyond.

Our successes are reflected in a number of ways. Publications, particularly of books, hit new highs, as did book chapters. Particularly pleasing was the continued growth in competitive grant research income, which went well past the \$1.3 million mark, as well as our contract research income which remained steady at around \$750,000.

Academic visits are an important part of the ISR's efforts to collaborate with other institutions. During 2003 we hosted a visit by Associate Professor Brian Costar, a nationally renowned political scientist from Monash University. Brian had a remarkably productive time with us, and developed a tremendous rapport with our staff. We were very sad to see his time come to an end. We also hosted a visit from Michael Jacobs, the general secretary of the Fabian Society. Like Brian, Michael was incredibly productive and attracted considerable media interest. On returning to the United Kingdom, he took up a position as a senior advisor to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

The ISR grew once more in 2003, not only through of the efforts of existing staff. We enticed David MacKenzie to move here after many years at RMIT. David brings with him a tremendous track record in contract research around youth and homelessness, as well as an entrepreneurial flair which will bloom in the ISR's convivial environment.

The National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity also joined the ISR, bringing with it ten years of success in contract research and the delivery of various services designed to increase

the opportunity for women to study in non-traditional areas. The Centre's annual award for women who have succeeded in male-dominated areas of employment are a Swinburne highlight. We're delighted to have Sue Lewis, Helen McKernan and Holly Cole join our ranks.

The year was not without its difficulties. Mike Salvaris, Alastair Davidson and Boris Frankel all departed, and we are sad to see them go. They



**Jock Given's
*America's Pie:
one of the first
books in the
ISR's Briefings
series***

ISR publications 2000-03

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Books	3	6	2	8
Chapters	6	4	3	10
Refereed articles	6	6	20	16
Conference papers	3	17	31	18

ISR Research income 2000-03

Operating grant	\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000
Competitive grants	\$364,068	\$788,527	\$852,851	\$1,309,658
Scholarships			\$21,000	\$21,000
Postgraduate teaching	\$164,811	\$256,270	\$369,703	\$349,674
Contract research	\$269,026	\$702,157	\$757,330	\$759,324

played a significant part in helping to build up the ISR in the area of citizenship, and their departure presents us with an important challenge.

Alastair played a particularly important role in giving the ISR an international profile, not just by virtue of his publications, but also through the year he spent as a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, followed by a year as Chair of Human Rights at Rutgers. Alastair's warmth and generosity of spirit will be sadly missed not only by the academic staff, but by the administrative staff as well, with whom he enjoyed a very good relationship.

From 2004 we will be rebuilding our Citizenship and Government program around questions of minority rights, migration and political asylum, with a view to contributing nationally and internationally to debates on these most important issues.

The ISR also faced some financial difficulties, which saw us end the year in deficit. This partly reflects workflow and project management challenges arising from too many projects coming across our desks, but also reflects broader problems facing academic research. Our major task is to win nationally competitive grants, but these by definition lose money because they do not cover all costs (including Chief Investigators' salaries). The more we have succeeded in this task, the more the losses have mounted. Our latest estimate is that we are carrying over \$500,000 of subsidies to help pay for these activities, and this is not sustainable over the longer term without some additional university support. This is as much a challenge for the university as it is for the ISR, and creating a more sustainable funding model will be one of our top priorities in 2004.

We have now reached the end of what might be termed our growth phase, underpinned by a strategy that saw all of our major research

programs expand, our national profile develop, and our contribution to scholarly debates increase. We managed to draw upon a diverse range of funding streams, but in the process it has become increasingly difficult to maintain a carefully planned strategic research program – a casualty of the ever present need to generate contract research income. In 2004 we intend to begin a strategic review to assess our underlying values, research directions and communications activities, but how far we get will be dependent in part on the broader restructuring of the university as a whole.

Finally, I should like to draw attention to Professor Iain Wallace who retired as Vice-Chancellor in December. Iain played a crucial role over the last five years in helping the ISR to get through some difficult periods. His unwavering support has played an important part in our successes, and we thank him sincerely for this. In appreciation, at its final meeting for the year, the ISR Advisory Board resolved to establish an Iain Wallace prize for social enterprise, which will be

awarded for the first time in 2004. Iain kindly accepted having his name attached to this award, and we look forward to seeing him make the presentation to the inaugural winner.

In closing, I should like to thank all the ISR staff for their efforts, particularly our administration team who worked tirelessly under what often proved to be very difficult circumstances to deliver an excellent service.



Rebels With a Cause: the Briefings book co-written by Brian Costa during his visiting fellowship at the ISR

2003 highlights

Kensington social impact study

The Kensington social impact study was commissioned by the state government, and has been investigating the changes to people, families, and the local community since the redevelopment of the Kensington public housing estate. From 2000 to 2002, approximately one thousand tenants were relocated from walk-up flats which were subsequently demolished. The redeveloped estate will comprise 616 new units, along with the remaining two refurbished high rise towers, with a mix of public and private tenants residing there. For the Social Impact Study, interviews were conducted with local agencies and businesses, relocated residents and tenants still living on the estate in the high rise towers. A questionnaire was also distributed to local residents living in the vicinity. The final report of the study will contain analysis of the social impact on the people and communities involved, as well as recommendations for improvements relevant to Kensington and any future redevelopment in other areas.

Retrieving the record

Retrieving the record is a joint research project with the National Archives of Australia. Funded by a Linkage grant from the Australian Research Council, it draws on the work of Klaus Neumann, Denise Meredyth, Dinah Partridge and Julian Thomas, in collaboration with Margaret Kenna of the NAA. The project partners aim to develop and demonstrate new conceptual avenues for the use of primary historical records in secondary classrooms, and to evaluate them in terms of their potential for civics and citizenship education. The project focuses on Australian immigration policies and their implementation between 1945 and 1973, particularly the evolution of the White Australia policy and its administration. A book and articles about restrictive immigration in postwar Australia will result, as will articles on the use of archival resources in the teaching of history and citizenship.

As part of the project, the team is developing an exhibition and an interactive website which will offer educationists several modules based on immigration case studies. The website will be hosted by the NAA. It will encourage teachers and students to draw on primary sources to

discover how Australian immigration policies were formulated, how they were implemented and how they affected the lives of individuals and communities. The website will introduce teachers and students to the use of online archival resources. It will also facilitate intellectual exchanges among groups of teachers and students, and foster collaborative projects across states.

Visiting fellows

Brian Costar was a visiting research fellow in the ISR throughout 2003, on leave from his position as an associate professor in the School of Social and Political Inquiry at Monash University. He conducted staff seminars on current political and electoral issues, participated in media interviews and contributed opinion articles to several newspapers. His research focused on the history and role of independent parliamentarians (leading to a book, *Rebels with a Cause*, co-authored with Jennifer Curtin, published in early 2004). He also began work on a book on the premiers of Victoria (co-edited with Paul Strangio) to be published by Federation Press, and (with Denise Meredyth and David MacKenzie) initiated a joint ISR/Australian Electoral Commission study of homeless voters.

Michael Jacobs was a visiting research fellow from October 2003 to January 2004, working on models of public service organisation and delivery. Until September 2003 he was general secretary of the Fabian Society, the United Kingdom's senior thinktank and political association. Michael was formerly a research fellow at the London School of Economics and at the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change, Lancaster University. Michael's research during his visiting fellowship was on motivation, agency and accountability in the organisation and delivery of public services. Drawing on current debates and experience in European welfare states, he developed a framework of analysis of public service reform strategies, their objectives and outcomes. Michael also participated in media interviews and conducted seminars at Swinburne, the University of Melbourne and in Adelaide and Hobart.

Publishing

Geoffrey Barker, *Sexing It Up: Iraq, Intelligence and Australia*

Senior press gallery journalist and ISR research associate Geoffrey Barker takes us step by step

through the maze of claims and counter-claims about what United States, British and Australian intelligence agencies were telling their governments, and what those governments were telling the media.

David Burchell, *Western Horizon: Sydney's Heartland and the Future of Australian Politics*

Depending on how you define it, Western Sydney contains as much as half of the population of Australia's largest city. It is one of Australia's youngest and fastest growing regions. And as Labor has discovered, it is highly politically volatile. For decades, Western Sydney was the 'other' Sydney, the home of 'battlers' and 'Westies' who, it was said, lacked cultural resources, amenities and couth. Recently, it has become a success story, and the region's 'aspirational' voters have become the quintessential 'new class' of the new millennium. Yet the area is a complex patchwork of hard-won success and enduring, grinding poverty, along with everything in between. Since the 2001 federal election, commentators have struggled to explain what it is that makes Western Sydney 'different'. This book by David Burchell, an ISR visiting fellow in 2002, is the first serious effort to find answers.

Jock Given, *America's Pie: Trade and Culture After 9/11*

In this timely book, Jock Given looks at how the events of 11 September 2001 altered the debate over how countries like Australia can preserve and strengthen their film and television industries. Steering a course between those who see free trade as a universal panacea and those who fear its homogenising impact, he offers a vivid account of how culture and trade are interacting in the real world of the early twenty-first century.

Jock Given, *Turning off the Television: Broadcasting's Uncertain Future*

The Australian 'digital broadcasting revolution' – the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting – began more than two years ago, but so far the public have noticed few changes. *Turning off the Television* is about tomorrow's broadcasting. From the dot-com crash to Marconi and back, from the digital age forward into an uncertain future, Jock looks at the constant shifts in the technologies, business models and social uses of TV and radio. He also explains the enduring aspects of broadcast media which have attracted so much



government policy attention, and what might happen to them in the future. Sceptical about the hype, optimistic about the possibilities, honest about the scale of the policy challenges, this is essential reading for anyone interested in the future of media.

Robert Hassan, *The Chronoscopic Society: Globalisation, Time and Knowledge in the Network Economy*

'With this superbly crafted book, Robert Hassan has created an academic rarity: scholarly research that can be read for pleasure. Hassan skilfully guides his readers through the intricate terrain of the networked information economy, a territory that is both eminently familiar and profoundly unfamiliar. He takes them inside the chronoscopic society, lays bare its inner workings, makes tangible the open future of potential impacts and in the process opens up spaces for critical engagement' (Barbara Adam, Cardiff University).

David Hayward and Peter Ewer (eds), *Visions for Victoria*

Are unions a 'problem' to be 'managed' by Labor governments, or are they allies in a project of social justice? Is the public sector an instrument of democratic influence over economic life, or a watering hole where private profit-makers drink from the fountains of privatisation, contract public services and corporate welfare? *Visions for Victoria* tackles these questions in the context of the current debate about the future of the public sector. It canvasses a range of policy problems, from the environment to essential services, and reflects more widely on the crisis of labour movement policy-making, the crucial debate over public financing and the continuing vigour of privatisation, now re-badged as 'public-private partnerships'.

Denis Tracey, *Giving It Away: In Praise of Philanthropy*

Philanthropy in Australia remains largely unexplored territory. When Denis Tracey interviewed about 60 individuals and families – some well known and some not – about their philanthropic activities and ideas, he discovered a few surprising realities. Philanthropy doesn't

just do good; it also brings joy and fulfilment to the donors. It doesn't have to be the sole preserve of the rich, and it doesn't necessarily involve money. After reading this book, everyone will understand how and why individuals and families give away their time and money, and how they decide which causes and organisations to support. And they'll also understand how philanthropy can be intensely satisfying.

Brian Walters, *Slapping on the Writs: Defamation, Developers and Community Activism*

In this lively, accessible book, barrister and ISR research associate Brian Walters describes eight cases where defamation laws – and even the Trade Practices Act – have been used in an attempt to silence critics of development. From the Victorian seaside town of Lorne to Hinchinbrook Island in North Queensland, the threat of legal action has created fear, and often silence, among conservationists and community activists.

2003: a closer look

In this part of the Annual Report, each program and centre reports on its activities in 2003.

Action Research program

The highlight of 2003 was mustering funds of around \$100,000 with which to commence establishment of a long-term multi-faceted program to develop and strengthen community, organisational and general social capacity regarding this increasingly popular methodology.

After nearly two years of submitting grant applications and development of a comprehensive business plan (funded by the Reichstein Foundation), three out of five applications for substantial funds proved successful. The Action Research program commenced formal operations on 4 August, ending the year on an up note.

The new program specially acknowledges the expertise and unflagging energies of Dr Rhonda Galbally of OurCommunity P/L, and the continued support of other friends and colleagues in associated action research organisations ARIC/ARIA, SPIRAL and ALARPM. We are grateful to the following for inaugural funding support:

- ANZ Executors and Trustees (Family and Community Support) through the Alfred Edments Estate and Harold Oldham Perpetual Trust – \$20,000;
- Perpetual Philanthropic Foundations (through the Diana Browne Trust) – \$30,000;
- A six months public health residency in Integration and Implementation Sciences and Public Health and Sustainability, at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University – \$36,000;
- Research consultancies consistent with the program's objectives, including with the Department of Human Services (narrative evaluation), the Australian Institute for Family Studies in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services' Stronger Families Program (action research capacity building), the Office of Housing Kensington Redevelopment (action research for community capacity building) and Centrelink (action research evaluation for internal organisational capacity building) – approx. \$20,000.

The ANZ start-up funds have particularly enabled modest progress with:

- Website development;
- Victorian-based workshops and short courses consistent with working towards accredited postgraduate courses;
- Organised local networking through development of the SPIRAL (Systemic Participatory Inquiry Research Action Learning) network.

The Perpetual funds focus on the development of an action research program of national significance and will particularly enable in 2004:

- Development towards accreditation and trialling of courses and appointment of a part-time course convenor;
- National peer support network development and resourcing.

The consultancy work will enable progress on research focused on:

- Integrating research, evaluation and narrative methods;
- Examining the conditions for successful multiple stakeholder inquiry;
- Exploring further the underlying and systemic psychology/sociology interface.

The ANU residency is enabling resource writing and publishing.

In December the ISR supported a concept proposal and course structure for a nested suite of postgraduate courses (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters in Social Science [Action Research]).

Internationally, Adjunct Professor Yoland Wadsworth, convenor of the Action Research program and president of the international Action Learning, Action Research & Process Management Association (ALARPM) was involved in organising and attending the joint World Congresses of ALARPM and PAR – Participatory Action Research at the University of Pretoria in South Africa in September.



Research programs

Cities and Housing research program

Staff of the Cities and Housing program were involved in teaching, postgraduate supervision, research and contributing to policy debates around housing and urban issues during the year.

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma courses in Housing Management and Policy continued to attract students from around Australia and New Zealand. Second year students attended a successful two-day residential workshop in Melbourne in July. 2003 saw a major course renewal exercise, following re-accreditation in the previous year. Material was rewritten or extensively updated and expanded to include New Zealand, and a new subject *Housing Organisation and Management* was introduced. The renewal process has been a major exercise and is due for completion by mid-2004.

Turning to our research activities, the ISR continued to be the lead partner in the Swinburne-Monash Research Centre of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). ISR staff completed two AHURI funded projects: an analysis of expenditure patterns and indebtedness of public and private rental households between 1975 and 1999, and a review of independent living units for older people, a previously neglected area of study. Work continued on three projects: an examination of the links between rental housing and work disincentives (with the University of Western Sydney), research into the attitudes of people seeking to enter social housing, and a review of changes to allocation systems in social housing. Each of these involved a substantial amount of primary research. The ISR was successful in getting AHURI funding for two new projects in 2003: an innovative look at 'housing futures' using foresight techniques, and research into rental systems in Australia and overseas.

2003 also saw the conclusion of Logometrix, a collaborative research project into performance measurement of local government facilities that was funded by the Australian Research Council. As a result of the project, local councils will be able to monitor and measure the performance of their facilities using a browser interface to the web.

The Cities and Housing program has excellent industry connections and these resulted in a variety of commissioned research projects. Housing studies were completed for the

City of Greater Dandenong, as well as a study of supply problems in Victorian regional town land markets for the Urban and Regional Land Corporation. The City of Greater Geelong, the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and the Queensland Department of Housing also commissioned the ISR to undertake housing research projects, and the Victorian Department of Human Services funded a one-year social impact study of a major redevelopment project on a large public housing estate in inner Melbourne.

Seven postgraduate students (four PhD and three Masters) in the program carried out research into housing and urban issues in 2003. In July, the ISR hosted a national AHURI symposium for students undertaking postgraduate research.

Cities and Housing staff continued to play an active role in policy debates. They ran workshops in Sydney and Auckland for the Australasian Housing Institute on social housing rent setting reform, in Perth for the Department of Housing and Works on allocations systems, in Castlemaine (Victoria) for local councils on addressing affordability in regional towns, and a number of workshops across Melbourne for various local governments and community groups on housing affordability and aged persons' housing.

Cities and Housing staff also presented papers at key conferences and are involved in a number of committees including the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Housing (Victoria), the board of Melbourne Affordable Housing, the board of the Tenants Union of Victoria, the Asian Pacific Housing Researchers Network, and the editorial committees of the journals *Urban Research and Policy*, *Parity* and *People and Place*.

Citizenship and Government research program

2003 was a year of change in the program's staff, projects and core themes. The title reflects a renewed focus on civic infrastructure. This theme links research on social and political rights, civic capacity and access to public services, information and democratic decision-making. Key areas include refugee policy and immigration, citizenship education, community consultation, social capital, public services, state finances and interventions in homelessness. The program also hosts the developing areas of refugee policy and youth policy.

2003 was also a productive year. The program benefited from visits by two outstanding fellows, Michael Jacobs, and Brian Costar. New projects sprang from each of these visits.

David Hayward's co-edited book *Visions for Victoria* was published, while Alastair Davidson, Boris Frankel, Klaus Neumann and Peter Mares gave papers that attracted wide public attention. Denise Meredyth continued her work on four ARC-funded projects.

The year saw some departures and arrivals. Mike Salvaris and Alastair Davidson left us after several years of dedicated research. However, new projects brought new colleagues. Klaus Neumann, a visitor at the ISR in 2002, began work on *Retrieving the record*, an ARC Linkage project with the National Archives of Australia which involves developing a civic education strategy using online primary documents and historical analysis of the White Australia policy. David MacKenzie joined us from RMIT, bringing with him new projects on homelessness and youth policy and new teaching and research partnerships in China. He has continued to work with the Salvation Army, state housing departments, Myer Foundation, Alcoa Foundation and Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

The program's strengths now lie in collaborations across policy areas, linking immigration policy to civic education, community consultation to the social use of technology, and homelessness to voter registration. During 2003, we drew on these strengths to develop some exciting new projects for the years ahead. These include a three-year strategic initiative on refugee policy, political rights and immigration, which commences at the beginning of 2004, and a partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission on enfranchising Australia's homeless.

Media and Communications research program

The focus of the Media and Communications program is research on new media, its applications, histories, and social and policy consequences. There was a series of publishing highlights in 2003: senior research fellow Jock Given published two important books, *Turning off the Television* and *America's Pie: Trade and Culture after 9/11*. ARC postdoctoral research fellow Robert Hassan published *The Chronoscopic Society: Globalisation, Time and Knowledge in the Network Economy*. Research associate Brian Walters SC published *Slapping on the Wrists*, a trenchant study of the effects of defamation law on disputes relating to property development; and research associate Geoffrey Barker, a distinguished member of the Canberra press gallery, published *Sexing It Up: Iraq, Intelligence and Australia*. The Wired High Rise research group edited a special issue of *Southern Review* devoted to local networks and the digital divide, entitled *Wired Communities and Information Poverty*.

Turning to work in progress, major ARC projects underway include *Wired high rise*, our study of a computer network in a high rise public housing estate in Melbourne, Julian Thomas and Denise Meredyth's work on electronic government, Julian's project about the concept of audiovisual services industries, and Robert Hassan's ongoing research into the experience of time in networked societies.

The ISR's online and print publishing activities are another key element of our program. This side of the program can be thought of as our media practice. Our aim here is first to ensure that the work of ISR researchers is widely communicated and recognised, and second to build the profile of the ISR more generally as a national centre for applied social science. At present our publishing activities involve two main initiatives, the Briefings series of books published with the University of New South Wales Press, and the website Australian Policy Online, <www.apo.org.au>. Both the book publishing program and APO enjoyed successful years in 2003. The book series included work by ISR authors as well as writers from around Australia.

APO, edited by Peter Browne, now presents the work of 120 research centres and organisations across Australia, and has links with similar public policy oriented sites in the United States and Britain. It has developed close

connections with other Australian research centres, especially the Gilbert and Tobin Centre for Public Law at the University of New South Wales, the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney, and the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University. With support from Swinburne, the ISR and these other institutions, APO secured ARC infrastructure funding for the first time in 2003. The grant will enable us to extend the subject matter of the site considerably in 2004, and add an extensive archive. Working with the National Library and others, the grant will also help us to make the site more accessible and more readily searchable.

Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment

The Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment was established in 2001 with assistance from the Myer Foundation and the Pratt Foundation. It teaches, researches, promotes and consults in all aspects of philanthropy and social investment, including the fast-growing field of corporate citizenship.

The major highlight of the year was the commencement in July of Australia's (and perhaps the world's) only Graduate Certificate course designed specifically for grantmakers. Eighteen students enrolled and will complete the course in June 2004. April saw the launch of *Giving It Away: In Praise of Philanthropy* by Denis Tracey, deputy director of the Centre. This is a series of interviews in which active philanthropists (some well-known, and some not) discuss with great candour what they give, why they give, what outcomes they want and what rewards they actually get. In September the centre hosted a week-long course on *Principles and techniques of fund raising* conducted by faculty members of the prestigious Fund Raising School at Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy.

During 2003 the centre also continued its strong program of public seminars and workshops, including:

A visit by Anant Nadkarni of the giant Indian corporation, Tata, which has one of the world's largest and most sophisticated programs of corporate citizenship;

A visit by David Carrington, a leading British expert in social investment. As the second Heloise Waislitz Fellow, David gave lectures and workshops in Melbourne and Sydney;

Donations and disasters, a seminar exploring

the issues raised by the controversy surrounding the Red Cross Bali Appeal. Speakers included James Ensor (Oxfam Community Aid Abroad), Martine Letts (Australian Red Cross), Cameron Stewart (*The Australian*) and Charles Tapp (AusAid);

Meet the philanthropists; a panel session featuring well-known Melbourne philanthropists including Carrillo Gantner, Harold Mitchell, Andrew Hoyne, Sam Lipski, Susan Barton, Jill Reichstein and Bev Brock;

A lecture on *The ethics of giving*, by renowned ethicist, Peter Singer, the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University.

National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity

After more than ten years of going solo within Swinburne's structure, the National Centre for Gender and Cultural Diversity (NCGCD) has a new home. After protracted 'partnership' negotiations, the NCGCD joined the ISR in August 2003 and staff Sue Lewis, Helen McKernan and Holly Cole have enjoyed developing new partnerships and new directions.

Staff have extensive experience in providing research and training in gender equity and diversity management, diversity leadership, diversity audits, gender and culturally inclusive education, cross-cultural communication and organisational change. Social justice makes good business sense and is at the core of our work. Within this field, the NCGCD specialises in undertaking this research and training in masculine and technical work cultures where women remain under-represented, both across the board and/or at senior levels. It is this context that makes our centre unique in the Australian university system and we are looking forward to integrating this experience into future projects with other ISR researchers.

We are also very experienced at designing and delivering change strategies within these organisations. For instance, our work enables managers and staff to unpack and challenge normative and prescriptive assumptions about 'who fits in' and who gets excluded. Our work can get us into trouble when challenging traditional 'ways of doing things'.

Our highlights for 2003 were a mixture of internal Swinburne projects and external research with industry and education partners.

The *Recruitment and retention program for women in non-traditional fields of study* has the

central objective of increasing women's participation in Swinburne courses where women are under-represented. Its central plank is the Speakers Program where women currently studying 'non-traditional' courses at Swinburne train and conduct career and experiential based sessions in Victorian secondary schools. In 2003 demand for this program saw the workshops reach 2,500 school girls in greater Melbourne with the message to 'think about non-trad study' at Swinburne. Holly Cole manages and facilitates this program.

Our *National awards for outstanding women in non-traditional areas of work and study* culminated in the annual gala dinner in August where the finalists and winners were honoured. These awards reward and profile women's outstanding achievements in industry, business and education, and 2003 celebrated women from such diverse fields as pastry cookery, charter boat operation, marine engineering and electronic systems management. They provide an important public relations vehicle for the centre and Swinburne, generating nation-wide interest and media coverage.

Our newsletter *Gender and Cultural Diversity Matters* positions Swinburne and the ISR as an innovator in the field of diversity management and research. Our key marketing tool, the newsletter is distributed nationally to 3,000 readers and continues to be a highly effective way of maintaining our public profile. Features covered new and emerging issues in diversity, key projects and researchers in the field, book reviews and 'what's on', as well as promoting our National Awards and profiling finalists.

Sue Lewis started a major research project for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in April. Its objectives are ambitious: to research and then develop a long-term equity plan that starts with the reality of the current culture and plans for a more diverse fire service over the next ten years. The MFB first opened its doors to female firefighters in 1988 to comply with state equal opportunity laws. Since then, the number of women applying continues to be low and the number recruited remains proportionately low. Recruitment intakes are predominantly male – at operational levels, nearly 99 per cent; at corporate levels, 62 per cent. In early 2001, the MFB endorsed an Access and Equity Policy to build a workforce that more closely reflects the composition of Melbourne's communities, and this research flows from that commitment.

Firefighting remains one of the most gender-

segregated professions. While international comparisons are difficult, the highest proportion of women in firefighting is around 15 per cent in some United States brigades. Around the world, both women and men describe firefighting services as masculine, very hierarchical, locked in the past and very resistant to change. Most fire services understandably have hero status in the eyes of the public and the government. While this is justly earned and maintained, it can create a sense of immunity from public criticism. In particular, it can limit scrutiny of how firefighting cultures have been slow to include the social changes taking place in the broader society. This research has taken Sue into fire grounds, fire trucks, fire stations and facemasks in order to collect data and interview firefighters and managers. Remember to get the 2004 ISR Annual Report to read the outcomes...

Another major project for the centre is a partnership with Telstra Business and Government (TB&G). This gender survey is an indicator of the significance that senior management are giving to gender dynamics within TB&G organisational life. There are very few companies in Australia that are considering the business case for a more gender balanced management and organisational culture, and the complexities of taking such a step are not to be underestimated. In essence, TB&G is taking the lead through contracting the NCGCD to interview 60 employees on their experience and understanding of gender dynamics within TB&G and Telstra more widely. Sue Lewis, Helen McKernan and Murali Neelameegan undertook this interview research program.

Gender is fundamental to the way that work is organised. Whilst the sexual divisions of labour are obvious in our society, the way in which gender operates in organisational life to code certain jobs and roles within jobs as more suited to women or men is less obvious. Jobs are not inherently female or male – we socially and organisationally shape them as such. How organisations such as TB&G unpack this social and organisational shaping and reconstruct these jobs as gender neutral is complex and is not a simple or straightforward process.

Work/life balance was a key issue in this gender survey, just as it is in Australia and other industrialised societies in the OECD. 'Balancing work and family' conveys the links and tensions between being a paid employee and being a member of the community as well as a family – balancing the needs of two 'greedy'

organisations. The research outcomes of this survey are contributing to understanding this dynamic in a technology-based company such as Telstra and will contribute to TB&G planning for change. The understandings and challenges contained in the findings cannot be easily addressed or changed overnight.

Research projects

Australian Research Council projects

Building communities: Managing public assets to provide social value

ARC APAI Linkage (with the City of Moonee Valley) 2003–05

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 between 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 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.

Logometrix: Synergistic property solutions for local government: A needs analysis to manage council assets for best value service delivery using the internet

ARC Linkage grant 2001–03

This partnership project is managed by Nicola Brackertz, with Terry Burke and Russell Kenley as Chief Investigators. Building from an initial ARC grant, it now involves collaboration with nine Victorian local government authorities, with software developers and with UNITEC Institute of Technology (Auckland). The project aims to develop a strategic management tool that allows local councils to evaluate the performance of their community facilities in relation to service delivery. Incorporating elements of service, building, community, financial, environmental and utilisation performance, the Logometrix software application can be accessed on the World Wide Web using a browser interface. This interface is linked to a centralised database, thereby allowing councils to evaluate the performance of their own facilities as well as to

benchmark against other participating councils. Logometrix is currently being marketed in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. In 2002 Logometrix received the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM) Award for Best Paper on FM Innovation at the Global Symposium of the International Council for Research & Innovation in Building & Constructions (CIB) in Glasgow. In 2000 it was awarded Best Paper at the Symposium of Working Commission W070 on Facilities Management & Asset Maintenance in Brisbane.

Inner urban public housing redevelopment: A case study of the high rise estate at Kensington, Melbourne

ARC APAI Linkage grant (with Office of Housing, Department of Human Services) 2002–04

Many of the old public housing estates in Australia require redevelopment. This project is tracing the redevelopment process on one estate from conception to post-occupancy, analysing the financial, organisational, political and construction hurdles that had to be overcome. This analysis will serve as a comprehensive model for other imminent redevelopments, particularly as a model for the incorporation of private sector interests. Terry Burke and David Hayward are the Chief Investigators, and Barbara Ives is the postgraduate student working on the project.

Liberal machines: Information poverty, political culture and the uses of new communications technologies

ARC Discovery grant 2003–05

This project by Denise Meredyth and Julian Thomas examines two contentious issues in scholarly and policy debate: the nature and consequences of information poverty, and the consequences of new communications technologies for western political culture. Rather than focusing on the emancipatory potential of new technologies, they see these problems through the prism of liberal government, its history and prospects. In particular, they are interested in liberalism's longstanding concerns with security, civil peace, freedom and disadvantage.

Managing medium density development: A municipal case study

ARC APAI Linkage grant (with the City of Booroondara)

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 municipality of Booroondara (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

ARC APAI Linkage (with Metropolitan Transport Forum) 2003–05

The project aims to improve understandings of political and social factors underlying failed attempts to rebuild an effective mass transit system in Melbourne. It will do this by developing an analysis of the delivery of Melbourne's mass transit system which combines 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.

Public-private partnerships as a solution to housing affordability problems: A case study of inner urban development

ARC APAI Linkage grant (with the City of Port Phillip) 2002–04

Through a case study of an innovative inner city, medium density, low cost housing project, the characteristics of a public-private partnership will be described and analysed in many contexts. The financial, political and institutional impediments to the development of such ventures will be identified and broadened to a



Research projects & consultancies

solution for other Australian municipalities. This will be achieved by policy and process recommendations. The model will be used to provide a practical solution to low cost inner city housing, which to date has not been sustainably achieved in Australia. Terry Burke and David Hayward are the Chief Investigators, and Ron Aspin is the postgraduate student working on the project.

Retrieving the record: The White Australia policy, citizenship education and new applications for archival research

ARC Linkage grant (with National Archives of Australia) 2003–05

This project is designed to develop models for making more effective use of the resources of the National Archives of Australia within civics and citizenship education. Denise Meredyth and Julian Thomas are the Chief Investigators, with Klaus Neumann as senior research fellow and Dinah Partridge as research assistant. Using the resources of the Archives, Klaus will produce a new history of the White Australia policy. This will be developed into a public display and forum, showing how archival materials can illuminate the complexities of the democratic process. Supplementary research will investigate prospects for making stronger institutional connections between the Archives, citizenship education and teachers' professional formation.

The new services industry model: Implications for audiovisual media

ARC Discovery grant 2002–04

This project is examining important current changes in the understanding of audiovisual media. It involves a collaboration between Julian Thomas (ISR), Stuart Cunningham (Queensland University of Technology), Elizabeth Jacka (University of Technology, Sydney) and Tom O'Regan (Griffith University). The project is concerned with a new 'services industry model' developed by governments, academics, industry players and international organisations to map future directions and policies for audiovisual industries. However, little attention has been given to how this model may apply to the complex cultural and social role of audiovisual media. The research aims to fill this gap through a series of substantial publications on four key problems: the conversion to digital broadcasting; public broadcasting and its future role; international policy dynamics; and the re-evaluation of long-standing domestic social and cultural policy objectives.

Time out of mind? Australians' experience of time in the network society

ARC Discovery grant Postdoctoral Fellowship 2003–05

Computer mediated communication is profoundly affecting the ways in which individuals live. The rapidity of the process has left many changes unexplored and under-analysed. Robert Hassan is using an ethnographic study to uncover the ways in which people think about time and about electronic networks, and by what means these influence how they make sense of their lives, their work and their relationships in a fast-changing and globalising world. The project will result in an international workshop on 'Time and Networks', an edited collection of articles from workshop participants, and an internationally published book on the project's findings.

Wired high rise: The social and information policy implications of computer access in a networked inner city housing development

ARC SPIRT grant 2001–03

The focus of this project, partly funded by the ARC, is a new 'wired community' in the inner Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy. Community organisations, residents and the Victorian government are working together to build a network connecting hundreds of apartments in four high rise towers on the Atherton Gardens public housing estate. The network aims to break the cycle of social exclusion and isolation by building skills and linking residents to community organisations, government services and local businesses. The ISR's task is to provide an analysis and evaluation of the network. While governments and policy commentators around the world have looked to information technology to redress problems of social exclusion, little detailed empirical work has been done. This is the first detailed examination of a low income wired community in Australia, and one of the first in the world. The research team includes Scott Ewing, David Hayward, Liza Hopkins, Alison Jarman, Denise Meredyth and Julian Thomas.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute projects

Allocating social housing

Allocations are at the heart of social housing provision and management. Social housing is a scarce public resource and, in the absence of market criteria to allocate priorities, a bureaucratic allocations system is the principal rationing device to determine access. The underlying philosophy, form and direction of an allocations system has a whole range of implications for housing assistance, tenant management, asset management and, as more recently recognised, community sustainability. The broad aim of the research is to provide knowledge as to why, and how, to reform allocations systems in order to enable greater discretion, choice and flexibility. The project team includes Terry Burke and Kath Hulse

Entering rental housing

This study is a consumer survey of nearly 5,000 low income renters designed to identify their perceptions of, and experiences in, living in private rental and their future housing expectations. Half the sample were on public housing waiting lists and the others were not, with a secondary objective of finding out who applies for public housing and why. Complementing the survey is a smaller post-occupancy survey to measure the views and experiences of those clients who have made the transition from the waiting list to actual public housing allocation. The project team includes Terry Burke, Caroline Neske and Liss Ralston.

Rental housing costs, housing assistance and work disincentives: Attitudes to work and employment decisions

This research seeks to assess the effect of rental housing costs and subsidy structures on the capacity of unemployed people to gain work. Specifically, it looks at how the housing costs that unemployed people pay in various rental tenures, and the housing assistance available to them, assist or inhibit the transition to work. Researchers are Kath Hulse (ISR) and Bill Randolph (University of Western Sydney).

Independent living units provided by not-for-profit organisations: Clarifying their current and future role as an affordable housing option for older people with low assets and low incomes

This is a study of Independent Living Units

provided by not-for-profit organisations for older people. The project proposes to fill a significant gap in information and identify changes occurring in this sector. It will explore the potential, opportunities and disadvantages for linking this type of housing with support services for older people, and identify practical strategies that will enable those with low assets and low incomes to have continued access to this type of accommodation. The project team comprises Terry Burke, Tania Herbert and Sean McNelis.

Long-term housing futures for Australia: Using 'foresight' to explore alternative visions and choices

The key aim of this project is to develop a small number of scenarios about the nature of Australia's housing system at a specified future date. As such, the project involves the development of a significant exercise in strategic foresight about alternative futures for Australia's housing, the conditions and policies which would support these futures, and the implications for research and policy. The project draws on the literature and experiences of foresight studies, a creative field of investigation, analysis and postulation to develop scenarios that help prepare organisations and nations for possibilities and challenges. It applies foresight methodology to the issues of Australia's broader housing system, examines the effect of major economic, technological and social trends, and explores alternative policy pathways on a future housing system. In analysing the implications of scenarios, questions of winners and losers, impact on ecologically sustainable communities and implications for and impacts of government interventions can be explored. Team members include Terry Burke, Kath Hulse, Richard Slaughter, Anne Tiernan, Joseph Voros and Robin Zakharov.

Rental systems in Australia

This will be the first accessible and comprehensive study of rent setting principles, problems and practices in Australia, and one of the first internationally. With its emphasis on problem identification and potential for reform, it will fill a major knowledge vacuum. The broad objective is to assess the potential for rental reform in a way that is consistent with the complexities of contemporary social housing management and current funding constraints. It will also evaluate the possible implications and opportunities for rent setting reform created by

any new funding models resulting from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement or from affordable housing initiatives. The major reason for proposing the study is that such a core component of social housing operations should be exposed to critical review and analysis in order to assess the validity of current practice for current and future social housing provision. Terry Burke, Alexis Esposto, Kath Hulse and Sean McNelis make up the team.

Commissioned research

Community Rent Scheme

Queensland Department of Housing

The Community Rent Scheme was established in 1991 to assist low income people experiencing immediate and severe housing need to access short- to medium-term housing while they waited for more permanent accommodation in public housing. The evaluation is examining the continuing appropriateness of the program in the light of major social and housing market changes and made recommendations for a new form of transitional housing assistance. The research team includes Terry Burke, Anne Tiernan and Robin Zakharov.

Counting the homeless

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

This is a joint RMIT-Swinburne project led by Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie. The project, which began in 2001, received funding of more than \$700,000 from all state and territory government departments concerned with the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, as well as a major investment from the Salvation Army. The main national report was published in November 2003 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the first of eight Australian Census Analytic Program reports. It provides national population data on homelessness in Australia. All eight jurisdictional reports have been completed, presenting more detailed regional breakdowns of the data.

Ethics and pharmaceutical companies

In 2002 the Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment was invited to develop a set of guidelines that would help companies and health consumer organisations to plan, formalise and maintain partnerships that deliver mutual benefits, while avoiding adverse outcomes. The project is funded by a number of pharmaceutical

companies, and guided by a steering committee that includes representatives of both the industry and consumer groups. The research team comprises David Prater and Denis Tracey.

Evaluation of the Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation

In May 2003 the Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation's operations and procedures. This involved interviews with funding recipients, Board members and other relevant parties. The evaluation was completed in September. Michael Liffman and David Prater presented their findings to the Foundation's board in December.

Greater Dandenong housing study

City of Greater Dandenong

The City of Greater Dandenong commissioned the ISR to analyse changes in the municipality's housing market and to make policy recommendations. Parts of the municipality are not experiencing the economic and housing market performance of other areas of Melbourne and thus much of the study was given to the role and potential of housing as a basis for regeneration. Terry Burke, David Hayward, Max Nankervis and Alpana Sivam worked on the project.

Kensington social impact study

Victorian Department of Human Services

The ISR is carrying out a social impact study of a major redevelopment of a public housing estate in inner Melbourne, identifying the impact on people, families and the local communities. The work will also suggest strategies to manage or change any adverse social effects of the redevelopment and to contribute to community building. Kath Hulse was leader of the project team, which included Karyn Down and Tania Herbert.

Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade

This project conducted by Sue Lewis aims to research and develop a long-term equity plan that starts with the reality of the current culture and plans for a more diverse fire service over the next decade.

Review of Youth SAAP in the ACT

ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

David MacKenzie and Ken Young conducted a

\$30,000 review project which was required to make recommendations on the development of youth services in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program under the new ACT Homelessness Strategy. The report recommended new models of supported long-term accommodation as well as systemic early intervention initiatives including a new Adolescent Community Placement program.

Telstra Business and Government

This survey is an indicator of the significance that the senior management of Telstra Business and Government (TB&G) are giving to gender dynamics within TB&G organisational life. Sue Lewis, Helen McKernan and Murali Neelameegan make up the project team.

Youthworx

Myer Foundation, Jressati Foundation, Salvation Army

Youthworx is a model using radio broadcasting and media arts to work with highly disadvantaged or homeless young people. Broadcasting is undertaken through youth radio station SYN-FM. Youthworx and SYN both represent participatory models of young people's activity. A consortium, including the Salvation Army and two government departments, will fund the \$250,000 needed to launch the core program in 2004. Seed funding of \$25,000 was received from the Myer and Jressati Foundations and work is underway to build a substantial and recurrent research and development program. David MacKenzie is project director and Ken Young is project manager.



Publications
and
presentations

Books

- Barker, Geoffrey, *Sexing It up: Iraq, Intelligence and Australia*, UNSW Press, Sydney
- Burchell, David, *Western Horizons: Sydney's Heartland and the Future of Australian Politics*, Scribe, Melbourne
- Given, Jock, *America's Pie: Trade and Culture Since 9/11*, UNSW Press, Sydney
- Given, Jock, *Turning off the Television: Broadcasting's Uncertain Future*, UNSW Press, Sydney
- Hassan, Robert, *The Chronoscopic Society: Globalization, Time and Knowledge in the Network Economy*, Peter Lang, New York
- Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter (eds) *Visions for Victoria*, Vulgar Press, Melbourne
- Tracey, Denis, *Giving It Away: A Celebration of Australian Philanthropy*, Scribe, Melbourne
- Walters, Brian, *Slapping on the Wrists: Defamation, Developers and Community Activism*, UNSW Press, Sydney

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- Davidson, Alastair, 'Une race condamnée: La colonisation et les Aborigènes d'Australie' in Ferro, Marc (ed.) *Le livre noir du colonialisme*, Éditions Robert Laffont, Paris
- Davidson, Alastair, 'The politics of exclusion in an era of globalisation' in Jayasuriya, Laksiri, Walker, David and Gothard, Jan (eds) *Legacies of White Australia: Race, Culture and Nation*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth
- Davidson, Alastair, 'Citizens and pariahs: Australia faces globalisation' in Weiss, Doris (ed.) *Social Exclusion. An Approach to the Australian Case*, Peter Lang Verlag, Frankfurt am Main
- Ewer, Peter, 'Governance' in Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter (eds) *Visions for Victoria*, Vulgar Press, Melbourne
- Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter, 'Introduction' in Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter (eds) *Visions for Victoria*, Vulgar Press, Melbourne
- Hayward, David (with Quiggin, John), 'A financial vision for a long-term Labor government in Victoria' in Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter (eds) *Visions for Victoria*, Vulgar Press, Melbourne
- Jarman, Alison (with Hintjens, Helen), 'Acting for asylum: The nexus of pro-refugee activism in Melbourne' in Leach, Michael and Mansouri,

- Fethi (eds) *Critical Perspectives on Refugee Policy in Australia*, Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights, Deakin University, Melbourne
- Mares, Peter (with Allotey, Pascale), 'Controlling compassion: The media, refugees, and asylum seekers' in Allotey, Pascale (ed.) *The Health of Refugees: Public Health Perspectives from Crisis to Settlement*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne
- Mares, Peter, 'Distance makes the heart grow fonder: Media images of refugees and asylum seekers' in Newman, Edward and van Selm, Joanne (eds) *Refugees and Forced Displacement: International Security, Human Vulnerability, and the State*, United Nations University Press, Tokyo
- Sharam, Andrea, 'Essential services: New sustainability or old injustices?' in Hayward, David and Ewer, Peter (eds) *Visions for Victoria*, Vulgar Press, Melbourne

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- Brackertz, Nicola, 'Logometrix: Local government facilities: Strategic performance measurement', *FM Magazine*, vol. 11, no. 5, pp. 64-7
- Davidson, Alastair, 'Ciudadanía y migración: ¿Derechos para aquellos sin pertenencia?', *Anales de la Cátedra Francisco Suárez*, no. 37, Universidad de Granada, pp. 35-55
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Board and committee memberships

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