



ISSR NEWSLETTER

Quarter 4, 2019 Issue

New Centre of Excellence for research to support Australian families

ISSR will lead a research node documenting what life is like when born into the digital age

ISSR researchers deliver 'wake-up call' for Australia to get serious about early learning

Message from the Director

The Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) has had another successful and busy year, securing over 30 new projects. We have successfully recruited a number of new researchers to the institute including three new professors to enhance our capability to respond to critical social challenges in the areas of social policy, health, education and the social science of innovation and technology. We also had significant recognition of our capability in the achievement of Australian Research Council funding to host a new Centre of Excellence and lead a node of another over the next seven years. These Centres are described in the articles below.

ISSR has also undertaken a strategic planning process over 2019 to position the institute for the future. This plan will be finalised by the end of the year and will importantly drive our vision and mission to undertake transformational research that makes meaningful difference to people's lives. Social science research is increasingly playing a central role in ensuring new public policy and innovations in technology are human centred and designed for positive social impact. ISSR's research seeks to

ISSR builds new strengths in using data science to do social good

ISSR welcomes a social policy innovator to the team

ISSR 2020 training schedule released

understand social context, ensure social licence for the use of data and technologies, improve equity in opportunity and apply evidence to develop timely and appropriate social solutions.

See [this short video](#) outlining why social science research is important and see how we do it [here](#).

On behalf of ISSR I would like to thank our collaborators and partners for their support and contributions to our research activities in 2019 and wish them, and all of the readers of this newsletter, a happy and safe holiday season.

Professor Mark Western, Director

LATEST NEWS AND RESEARCH

New Centre of Excellence for research to support Australian families

Research to help Australian families break the cycle of disadvantage and stop the gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' widening will continue at ISSR. The Federal Minister for Education Dan Tehan MP in October announced \$32.1 million in funding for the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course (the Life Course Centre). [Read more](#)



ISSR will lead a research node documenting what life is like when born into the digital age

ISSR researchers are part of a new international research centre to document what life is like when born into the digital age.

ISSR researchers Professor Karen Thorpe, Associate Professor Simon Smith, and Dr Sally Staton are chief investigators, and lead the UQ node, of the new Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. [Read more](#)



ISSR researchers deliver 'wake-up call' for Australia to get serious about early learning

The State of Early Learning in Australia 2019 report, written by ISSR researchers Professor Karen Thorpe and Dr Sally Staton, was launched at Parliament House in Canberra on Monday 25 November. It shows sharp differences in access to affordable, high-quality early learning across the country and emphasises the need for strong federal oversight. [Read more](#)



ISSR builds new strengths in using data science to do social good

ISSR's emerging capabilities in social data analytics techniques such as predictive risk modelling and machine learning were showcased at Professor Rhema Vaithianathan's address to the 2019 John Western Lecture in September. [Read more](#)



ISSR welcomes a social policy innovator to the team

In August ISSR welcomed Professor Tim Reddel to the Institute to lead a new Social Solutions initiative. Tim will build on ISSR's key capabilities in applied policy research and aim to foster greater public policy impact for social science research through collaborative and mutually-beneficial partnerships between researchers, policy makers, service providers and communities. [Read more](#)



TRAINING UPDATE

2020 training schedule released

ISSR aims to provide training opportunities for government, academic and industry professionals interested in using research methods and evidence based approaches to support the design, implementation and evaluation of research projects, policy and programs.

The latest training schedule for ISSR's popular *Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics* short course program has just been released. ISSR will also offer a new course in 2020 to support public service senior managers understand how data science can support policy and program development and improvement. [See all upcoming course dates here](#)



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