



## Institute for Social Science Research

### ISSR Update New professors, sleep science and 2019 training

ISSR started 2019 by investing in areas for new knowledge we hope will impact directly on better outcomes for Australians in need. We are pleased to announce the appointments of Professors Lisa McDaid (social relationships and health) and Rhema Vaithianathan (social data analytics) who join ISSR from mid-2019. We're also progressing exciting new research on sleep after a 2019 Federal Government inquiry found that four out of every ten Australians don't get enough of it. Read more about our new appointments, recent research and upcoming training—we value your collaboration and participation in our work, so contact ISSR to get involved.

**Professor Mark Western**  
Director, Institute for Social Science Research  
The University of Queensland

#### Featured research



##### Australia, you're exhausted!

We spend around a third of our life asleep and ISSR is trying to find out how we make the most of it. In March 2019, ISSR researchers presented to a sold-out crowd on *The Science of Sleep* as part of UQ's Global Leadership Series. **Couldn't make it to the event? Listen to the podcast [here](#).**



##### Who knows best about kids' sleep?

Parents and early childhood educators don't see eye-to-eye on sleep practices. While 80% of early childhood education and care providers set a mandatory sleep time for preschool children, 79% of parents do not want them to nap. So, who knows best when it comes to our kids' sleep? A new \$705k longitudinal study led by ISSR's Professor Karen Thorpe aims to find out. [\[Read more here\]](#)



##### Can we bank sleep for better driving?

Young drivers in Australia are falling asleep at the wheel, with one in four reporting a crash or near crash in the past year due to fatigue. Could a new ISSR sleep program create change? Associate Professor Simon Smith and his team are developing and testing an intervention to help young people to "bank" sleep and increase their resilience to fatigue. [\[Read more here\]](#)

#### Latest news and research



##### New ISSR professors in health and data analytics

The appointments of Professors Lisa McDaid (left) and Rhema Vaithianathan (right) help position ISSR to respond to rapidly evolving challenges to the health, social and economic wellbeing in Australia and overseas. Professors Lisa McDaid and Rhema Vaithianathan join ISSR from the United Kingdom and New Zealand respectively, bringing deep expertise in health, social science, and social data analytics. [\[Read more here\]](#)



##### MFSAS 2019 training schedule released

The latest training schedule for ISSR's popular *Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics* short course program has just been released. Courses in essential statistics, social cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation and longitudinal data analysis will run in November and December 2019. ISSR is also facilitating a five-day intensive (9-13 September 2019) on advanced development approaches for people working in Indigenous affairs and social services. [\[See all upcoming course dates here\]](#)



##### Queenslanders tell us how they use drugs

Through annual in-depth interviews with people who regularly use ecstasy and related stimulants or inject drugs in Queensland, ISSR researchers are contributing to the national Drug Trends survey research program. The program has entered its 23rd year, producing first-hand insights into the experiences of drug users in Australia. [\[Read more here\]](#)



##### Federal Government funds new tools for education equity

Students who experience multiple types of disadvantage face a combination of challenges that can undermine their Higher Education chances, and Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski has secured funding to develop new tools to measure this. "Australian universities have known for a long time that specific population groups face barriers to obtaining degrees", says Dr Tomaszewski. "It's great the sector is now seeking better ways to understand how students who experience more than one type of disadvantage are affected". The study is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) National Priorities Pool.

#### Contact us

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16/12/2019

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