



## ISSR NEWSLETTER

### Quarter 2, 2021 Issue

[Evaluation of an Innovative Professional Development Program for Queensland Teachers](#)

[Australian Curriculum Review - Consultation Data Analysis and Preliminary Reports \(ACARA\)](#)

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### Dear ISSR stakeholders and friends

Australian students returned to NAPLAN testing in May 2021 after the cancellation of national testing last year because of COVID-19. It was a reminder that the impact of COVID-19 has not only disrupted schooling but has also significantly affected families' health and socio-economic circumstances – the effects of which will be felt hardest by those who were already experiencing disadvantage.

At ISSR, we have a long history of researching issues of fairness in education access and attainment, and we are driven to understand why educational disadvantage persists and how our universities, schools and kindergartens can help reduce inequality in Australia. In this newsletter we profile how our current work is contributing towards better education outcomes for vulnerable Australians, from pre-school to higher education.

In addition to the focus on education, I am delighted to share that:

[Evaluating the Queensland KindyLinQ Pilot Program](#)

[Research Leader Profile](#)

[HDR thesis showcase](#)

[Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics \(MFSAS\)](#)

- ISSR received positive national media coverage this month related to the [Learning through COVID-19](#) project that was funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation.
- [Dr Yaqoot Fatima](#) has been selected as one of the outstanding early career researchers to receive a Queensland 2021 Young Tall Poppy Science Award.
- The [ISSR Annual Report 2020 is now available](#), which provides a summary of the work and achievements of ISSR through a highly unconventional year.

'ISSR Review Week' is 2–6 August 2021, and we look forward to working with the Review Panel to shape the next exciting chapter of ISSR.

Regards.

**Mark Western, Director ISSR**

## ISSR RESEARCH – SOCIAL SCIENCE OF EDUCATION

### Evaluation of an Innovative Professional Development Program for Queensland Teachers

ISSR researchers have been commissioned to evaluate a professional development intervention designed to support teachers to improve their teaching practice. Teaching practice is an important in-school factor impacting on student outcomes, and the findings of this study will support more than 100,000 registered teachers in Queensland. [Read more here](#)



### Australian Curriculum Review – Consultation Data Analysis and Preliminary Reports (ACARA)

The Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority recently released a suite of proposed revisions to refine, realign and declutter the current Australian curriculum from Foundation to Year 10. ISSR researchers are supporting the public consultation phase of this critical curriculum review. [Read more here](#)



### Evaluating the Queensland KindyLinQ Pilot Program

ISSR researchers are leading an evaluation to assess the feasibility of a facilitated, play-based program for 3-year-old children and their families, called KindyLinQ. This program is currently being piloted in 40 State Schools across Queensland. ISSR researchers are also assessing the enablers and barriers to engagement of children and families from within the participating communities. [Read more here](#)



## RESEARCH LEADER PROFILE

### Associate Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski

Associate Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski's vision is to achieve better intelligence about what works to improve equity in education. Leading ISSR's education and equity research capability, Wojtek and his team are particularly interested in how Australian schools, universities and TAFEs can help address issues of disadvantage. [Read more here](#)



## HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) at ISSR

### HDR THESIS SHOWCASE

#### Relaxation and Unrest: A Crystallization of Children's Experiences in Early Childhood Education and Care

An ISSR PhD researcher has recently undertaken an innovative study into how children experience rest and relaxation in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). This research is important because it demonstrates that children's voices are critical in the design of childcare settings, the development of policies to support opportunities for relaxation, and the day-to-day practices of ECEC services. [Read more here](#)



### HDR research opportunities

The Institute for Social Science Research is a national leader in advanced interdisciplinary social science and evidence based policy research. ISSR researchers address some of the most important issues and challenges facing Australia today in areas such as education, employment, housing, social wellbeing, homelessness, sustainability, and Indigenous studies. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, our scholars work closely with policy makers and frontline development workers to ensure our research directly impacts upon policy and practice and contributes to systemic institutional change. A list of our current HDR project topics can be found [here](#).



## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics (MFSAS)

ISSR provides training for government, academic and industry professionals who need research methods and evidence based approaches to support the design, implementation and evaluation of research projects, policy and programs.

The MFSAS program is designed for those who need to use, understand, and interpret statistical information, but who may not necessarily have a background or training in statistics:

- [MFSAS Gathering Qualitative Data Course \(2 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Program Evaluation Course \(1 day\)](#)
- [MFSAS Essential Social Analysis Skills Course \(3 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Social Cost-Benefit Analysis Course \(3 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis and Panel Regression Models \(2 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Modelling change and event occurrence \(2 days\)](#)
- [MFSAS Longitudinal Data Analysis Course \(5 days\)](#)



Our courses are ideal for professionals in government departments, agencies, non-government organisations, university staff and postgraduate students who want to learn more about methods for social analysis and translate scientific social research into public policy outcomes. [See all upcoming course dates for 2021](#)

### Custom and group bookings

For groups, the course content can be customised to meet your research training needs, and can potentially include working on your research problems and data. Group courses can be held at your location or at [ISSR's training facilities](#). To discuss group training options please contact [issr.education@uq.edu.au](mailto:issr.education@uq.edu.au).

### [Download MFSAS Training Brochure](#)

## RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Seeking young adult volunteers

Young adults (18-24 years) are more likely to be involved in road accidents. A study being conducted at ISSR is seeking to change this.

A team of ISSR researchers have begun a randomised control trial to test a new program that is investigating the role of sleep, nutrition, activity and transport use in young adults in lowering their risk of road crashes. [Find out more here](#)



### Help us understand children's sleep

The University of Queensland is conducting The Sleep Transitions and Regularity study (STARs) - a four-year study aimed at understanding children's sleep and napping patterns.

The objective of the study is to understand how daytime naps influence children's development with the aim of providing better information to families and carers.



Researchers are calling for parents and kids to be involved in a national study into early childhood sleeping patterns at The University of Queensland. [Find out more here](#)

## Driving under influence of drugs and medications study

The Institute for Social Science Research is conducting a simulated driving study aimed at determining the health impacts and driving impairments of people who drive under the influence of illicit drugs or prescription medication. [Find out more here](#)



*Please share our newsletter with colleagues who may be interested.*



Copyright © 2020 [The University of Queensland](#)  
ABN 63 942 912 684 | CRICOS Provider 00025B | [Privacy policy](#)  
Authorised by: Institute for Social Science Research  
Maintained by: [issr@uq.edu.au](mailto:issr@uq.edu.au)

This email was sent by Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland Long Pocket  
Precinct, Level 2, Cycad Building (1018), 80 Meiers Rd, Indooroopilly QLD 4068 to  
[x.aitkensmith@uq.edu.au](mailto:x.aitkensmith@uq.edu.au)

[Unsubscribe](#)

