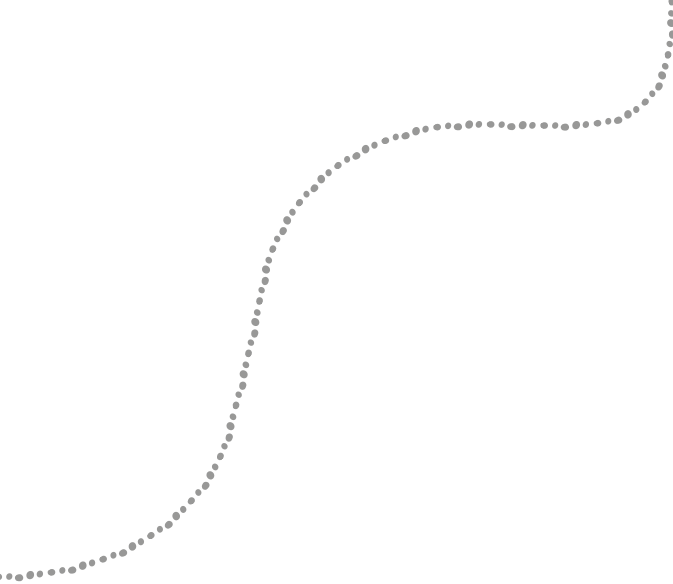


ISPR ANNUAL REPORT 2016



knowledge pathways



why ants?

Like humans, ants are social creatures. They live in highly organised colonies that can number in the millions. Their ability to coordinate large groups of individuals to ensure that the needs of their colony are met represents a striking similarity to human societies. There are in fact many parallels between the two societies, including division of labour, distribution of goods and services, communication between individuals, and the ability to solve complex problems.







An ant colony's ability to survive and thrive relies on the free flow of information. Communication of new discoveries, methods and dangers is essential to advance the community, much like in our own societies where building and sharing knowledge are essential for our development and evolution.

Within the Institute for Social Science Research, we strive to work together—with our colleagues and students, our partners and the wider community—to uncover evidence and produce solution-oriented social science that benefits our wider society. Much like the trails that ants leave for their peers to help navigate and avoid obstacles, our research is shared along many knowledge pathways to help develop solutions and overcome society's largest problems.



CONTENTS



	OVERVIEW	4
	DISCOVERY	11
	SOCIAL MOBILITY	16
	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	18
	HOMELESSNESS.....	20
	INDIGENOUS RESEARCH	22
	DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS	24
	RESEARCH METHODS.....	26
	POLICY EVALUATION	28
	LEARNING	31
	ENGAGEMENT	39
	RESOURCES.....	49
	PEOPLE.....	53
	PROJECTS.....	57
	PUBLICATIONS.....	63

OVERVIEW

about ISSR

our vision

Social science leadership for a better world.

our mission

To undertake social science for public value, and to contribute to the public interest, the advancement of knowledge, and the advancement of our fields.

our goals

- o **Address significant social problems,** questions and issues. The significance or importance of our work relates to its relevance to public and social policy, broad societal impact and scientific concern.
- o **Create public value.** We aim to contribute beyond academia and to have value, relevance and impact for stakeholders, partners, end-users and society as a whole.
- o **Produce high quality research.** We aspire to develop strong theories and coherent substantive arguments, high quality evidence, high quality methods of analysis, and robust defensible interpretations of that evidence.

our values

As well as championing The University of Queensland's (UQ) Learning, Discovery and Engagement objectives, ISSR aims to be an exemplar for UQ by creating a positive and sustainable unit of high quality research.

Our success and continued development is underpinned by the University's values:

- o The pursuit of excellence
- o Creativity and independent thinking
- o Honesty and accountability
- o Mutual respect and diversity
- o Supporting our people.

message from the vice-chancellor and president

The 2016 *Oxford English Dictionary* word of the year was “post-truth”, capturing the idea that public opinion can be heavily influenced by appeals to emotion and belief at the expense of objective facts. The rise of this word is largely attributed to public commentary surrounding “Brexit”, the 2016 US Presidential election, and other global events which continue to frame social understandings.

These events have some commentators wondering whether truth and facts retain any relevance at all, and reflecting on the role of science and evidence in a “post-truth” world. At times like these, it is imperative that organisations such as universities lead the way in championing the role of evidence to inform public debate, policy and practice.

The University of Queensland's Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) provides solution-oriented social science that works towards reducing disadvantage and increasing wellbeing. ISSR's research delivers the concrete evidence that policy-makers need to invest in solutions that can create change in people's lives and address the global challenges of rising inequality and persistent social disadvantage.

For example, ISSR's evaluation of Brisbane Common Ground's supportive and affordable housing services determined that reducing disadvantage makes far-reaching social as well as economic sense. The evaluation identified that the community saves \$13,100 annually for every homeless person provided with supportive housing. Results such as this highlight the imperative of finding new ways for scientific evidence to lead to positive social transformations.

Australian policy-makers have demonstrated a willingness to harness valuable data assets, combining the power of social science (survey, ethnographic and economic) research methods with linked government social services data in an effort to improve social policy.

The Institute is driving significant innovations in these areas, using longitudinal data to inform evidence-based policy-making, and developing new tools and partnerships to facilitate ongoing advances. A good example is ISSR's work scoping the national *Widening Participation Longitudinal Study*, which is designed to map disadvantaged students' pathways into higher education, and help assess the effectiveness of equity interventions aimed at improving university attendance.

The Institute's commitment to innovation is evident in its collaboration with edX to create a new online Leadership in Global Development MicroMasters®. The MicroMasters, designed to provide a unique entry pathway into an on-campus Masters program, is the first of its kind to be offered in Australia.

ISSR is training a new generation of social researchers and policy practitioners to combine evidence and innovation to create the kind of change the world needs. Evidence matters, and solution-oriented social science such as that flowing from ISSR is needed now more than ever.

I thank Professor Mark Western and all ISSR staff and partners for their vision and contributions towards delivering research that creates change.

Professor Peter Høj
**Vice-Chancellor and President,
The University of Queensland**



Vice Chancellor and President of The University of Queensland, Professor Peter Høj



director's report

ISSR works with our colleagues, partners and funders to address hard questions in social and public policy and deliver research solutions that help answer these questions. We assume, like many others, that high quality social science contributes essential evidence to help understand and solve some of the most pressing problems. We also understand that solving challenging questions requires deep partnerships, multifaceted approaches, teams that cross disciplines and sectors, and new approaches. In last year's Annual Report, I described this process as "solution-oriented social science", and talked about how future research needs to combine principles from science and social science, engineering and design to work on shared large-scale problems. In this way, solution-oriented social science is both a high level aim to do research that matters, and an approach to reinvigorate disciplines and catalyse research breakthroughs and innovation.

This year's Annual Report showcases some of ISSR's solution-oriented social science from 2016. The Indigenous Design Place (IDP) is a strategic initiative supported by UQ's Vice-Chancellor to create an enabling cross-disciplinary network of UQ researchers who work with Indigenous communities. IDP has already generated new projects including an innovative study of how culturally sensitive design principles for hospitals and clinics can help encourage Aboriginal people to seek primary healthcare.

In another project, ISSR researchers collaborated with external consultants to validate the Australian Government's actuarial analysis of the lifetime costs of the Australian social welfare system. This research was a response to the Australian Government Department of Social Services' first ever evaluation of the costs of Australian welfare projected out for the life of the current Australian population, released in 2016.¹ The evaluation established that welfare costs amount to \$4.8 trillion over the life course, and was most costly for several cohorts of people who are more likely to experience long-term welfare dependence throughout their life. ISSR led the team that validated this evaluation and will again validate the 2017 evaluation.

If 2015 was a year of transition for the Institute, with the departure of several large research groups, 2016 has been a year of regeneration and refocusing. I signalled in last year's report that we would begin to grow new areas such as health and data science, and that we would also focus on innovative new teaching developments. We took the first steps in these directions in 2016 by: welcoming a new research group in public health research, led by Professor Rosa Alati; appointing a new postdoctoral fellow in data science and machine learning as a joint appointment with UQ's School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering; and delivering our new MicroMasters® in Leadership in Global Development as the online entry pathway into UQ's Master of Leadership in Global Development program. These developments help position ISSR strongly for further growth in 2017.

Taking social science's role in policy development seriously means understanding research-policy connections. ISSR researchers, led by Professor Brian Head, have done much to identify the conditions that enable or impede policy-makers from effectively using social scientific evidence. One of the highlights of 2016 was the Annual Symposium of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) which focused on policy impact in the social sciences, and led by Brian. The symposium brought researchers and policy-makers together to advance the conversation about research policy impact.

As Australia moves closer to our first national evaluation of university research engagement and impact, events like the ASSA Symposium help to sharpen the national understanding of these issues. Brian's leadership of policy evaluation research in ISSR has been central to our strength in this area, and we were sorry to say farewell to Brian at the end of 2016 as he moved to take up a post in UQ's School of Political Science and International Studies.

As with many others, we have construed the challenges of bringing research to policy as largely reflecting differences in the institutional norms, incentives and practical constraints that govern these two domains. We also understand that politics infuses the policy process and that good evidence doesn't necessarily trump politics, and 2016 seemed to elevate the triumph of politics over evidence to a new level. Brexit and the US election were noteworthy for the way that expertise and reasoned argument were discounted as valid bases for public deliberation, and used to mobilise anger, resentment and other emotions. UQ's Vice-Chancellor, in his message in this report, highlights the *Oxford English Dictionary* word of the year, "post-truth", to illustrate this point, which is a trend that also extends to Australia.

The post-truth agenda is radical because it breaks with many taken-for-granted assumptions about reason, rationality, evidence, facts and truth. Researchers and academics have been taken by surprise because (psychological research into judgement and decision-making notwithstanding) many of us operate with a kind of "naïve rationalism" which assumes reasoned argument and evidence effectively counter subjective belief and emotion. 2016 showed us the limits of that view.

The other lesson I take from 2016 is that social scientists and others need to engage more effectively and more extensively, with policy-makers, business and industry, the community sector, civil society organisations and politicians in activities that foster conditions for reasoned public deliberation and decision-making. A key part of this task is recognising that appeals to subjective belief and emotion resonate so powerfully with many people because they give voice to genuine grievances. In 2017, ISSR will attempt to engage more directly in diverse forums where our research enables us to contribute positively to public discourse.

We established one such forum in 2016 with the newly formed Board of the Institute for Social Science Research, which will provide the Institute with strategic advice, guidance and support in relation to ISSR's research, learning and engagement.

ISSR's Board is chaired by John McGagh FTSE, Chair of the Institute of Chemical Engineers Australia and Chief Digital Officer of Snowy Hydro Limited, and includes leaders from the Australian and Queensland governments, Australian Bureau of Statistics, The Smith Family, and UQ (see full list below). We are extremely fortunate to have a Board with such depth of experience spanning industry, community organisations, policy and academia, and who are exceptionally strong advocates for cross-sectoral engagement and research to inform decision-making and practice.

BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
John McGagh (Chair), Chief Digital Officer, Snowy Hydro Limited
Barbara Bennett , Deputy Secretary (Families and Communities), Australian Government Department of Social Services
Professor Tim Dunne , Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Queensland
Anne Hampshire , Head of Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family
Michael Hogan , Director-General, Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
Dr Paul Jelfs , General Manager (Population and Social Statistics Division), Australian Bureau of Statistics
Professor Alastair McEwan , Dean, Graduate School, The University of Queensland
Professor Mark Western , Director, Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland

ISSR's Board, staff and students have all contributed to making 2016 a year of regeneration and repositioning for the Institute. I hope you will appreciate their achievements, as I have done, in reading this report, and also look forward with us to reaching some of the places that we have signposted as we move into the year ahead.

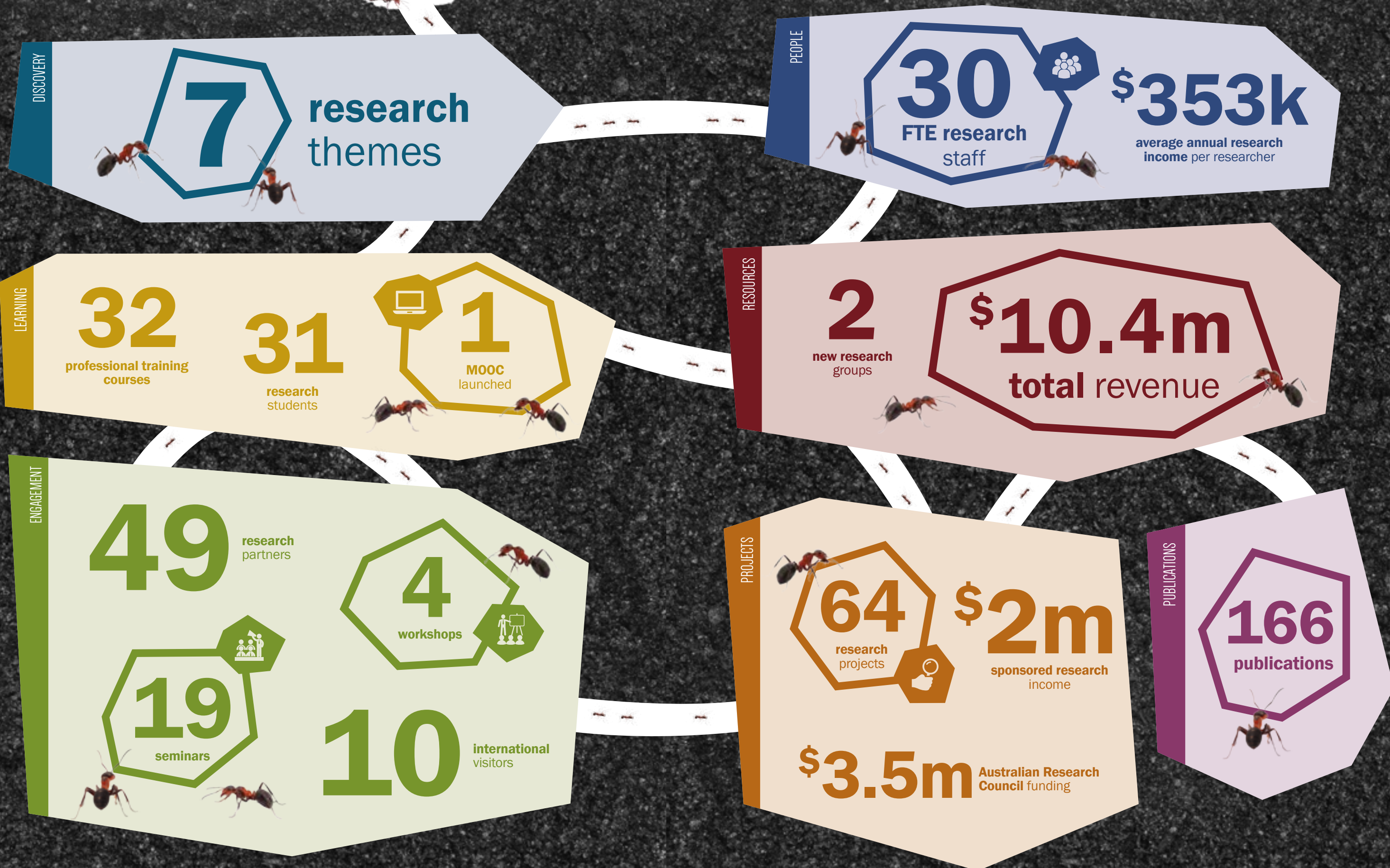
Professor Mark Western
Director, Institute for Social Science Research



ISSR Director, Professor Mark Western

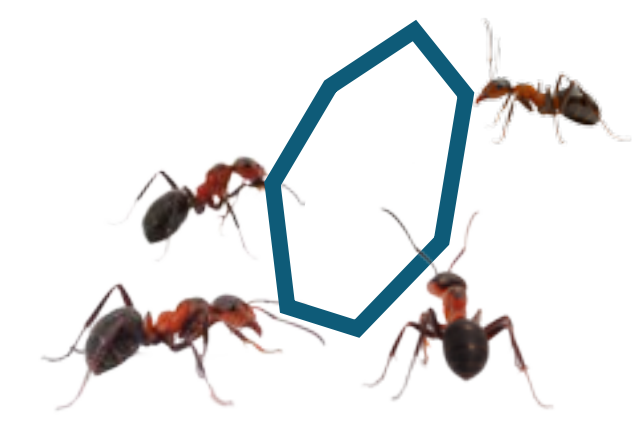
¹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/baseline-valuation-report-0>

2016 snapshot





DISCOVERY



2016 was a year of transition and expansion for ISSR. Along with changes in the substantive areas of research that are undertaken by the Institute, we undertook more projects, established new relationships, and generated important social science innovations that we will carry forward into 2017 and beyond.

new pathways and recognition

In 2016, ISSR undertook 64 research projects, up from 57 in 2015, across seven substantive areas:

- Children and families research (led by Professor Janeen Baxter)
- Development effectiveness research (led by Professor Mark Moran)
- Homelessness research (led by Dr Cameron Parsell)
- Indigenous research (led by Professor Paul Memmott)
- Policy evaluation research (led by Professor Brian Head)
- Research methods and social statistics (led by Professor Michele Haynes)
- Social mobility research (led by Professor Mark Western).

ISSR's research program is highly responsive to partners' needs and this creates opportunities to build new research capabilities to address changing demands. At the end of the year, we welcomed a new research team to the Institute led by Professor Rosa Alati, which will enhance our capacity for population health research. ISSR has long held an interest in the social determinants of health, or how the conditions in which people are born, work and live contribute to differences in their health status and social outcomes. Through this change, the Institute will broaden its substantive focus in health research, to enhance its leadership in drug and mental health research and to take advantage of research synergies between new research and existing areas of work, such as the Life Course Centre, and longitudinal research methodology.

Professor Alati and her research group transferred to ISSR from the UQ School of Public Health, with Professor Alati's position now shared between ISSR and the School of Social Science. This new position is integral to ISSR's strategic goals to build new

leadership in research and teaching in the social aspects of health, and to strengthen connections between ISSR and the School of Social Science in an important cognate area. We were pleased to welcome this new group at the same time as Professor Alati and epidemiologist Dr Kim Betts were awarded three-year UQ Development Fellowships to support their research.

ISSR's research excellence was recognised through several more prestigious awards and grants in 2016. The Institute was awarded more than \$3.5 million in grant funding from the Australian Research Council and more than \$2 million in funding for research commissioned by government, non-government and industry clients (find out more about our latest projects on pages 58–62). A number of ISSR researchers were also recognised for their efforts, including an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (Dr Paco Perales), a UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award (Dr Cameron Parsell), and a Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence (Dr Arturo Martinez), among other accolades.

building evidence for social change

ISSR's evaluation activities in 2016 targeted national and state programs to address challenging social and economic issues. Our work included:

- evaluating the *Interim Home Based Care Subsidy (Nanny Pilot) Programme* (led by Dr Jenny Povey)
- designing the *Evaluation Framework for Queensland's Reform Program on Domestic and Family Violence* (led by Professor Michele Haynes)
- undertaking the *Mental Health Demonstration Project Evaluation* (led by Dr Cameron Parsell), a pilot service integration project to improve support for social housing tenants who have complex needs.

An evaluation of Brisbane's Common Ground found that its supportive housing approach is generating savings of around \$13,000 in government-funded services per tenant compared to when they were homeless. These project findings were picked up by *ABC Radio*, *The Conversation*, and *The Courier Mail* in 2016, with media coverage about ISSR's homelessness research continuing well into 2017.

contributing to national reform

In 2016, ISSR partnered with Deloitte Actuaries and Consultants to validate the baseline analysis in one of the Australian Government's most ambitious policy initiatives in recent years: the national *Priority Investment Approach to Welfare*. This initiative uses actuarial analysis to assess Australia's future welfare costs over the life course among the general population as well as various population groups, which enables the government to predict the amount of money it will spend on welfare for specific groups over their lifetimes, and better prioritise interventions for those groups with high lifetime costs. We will continue to work with the Australian Government Department of Social Services to validate future valuations in 2017, using our statistical expertise to enable public industries and communities to strengthen confidence in the decisions made under future *Priority Investment Approach to Welfare* initiatives.

extending research on education

ISSR extended its track record of delivering insights into opportunity in education for Australian students in 2016. We completed two research projects funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training:

- We scoped a longitudinal study to measure the effectiveness of interventions to improve education equity (in partnership with Victoria University) and found that an accelerated sequential design could produce meaningful results for primary, secondary and higher education within a four-year study period.
- We analysed data from the *Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth* (for the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education) and learned that specific school factors, student-teacher relationships and presentations by career advisers, have a positive effect on university participation, particularly for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

We also contributed to research on the role of student engagement in enhancing student participation and educational achievement by:

- continuing a program of work to explore the links between student engagement, classroom practice and academic achievement using longitudinal data (funded by the NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation)
- partnering with the UQ School of Education to investigate effective strategies for improving school attendance (funded by the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training)

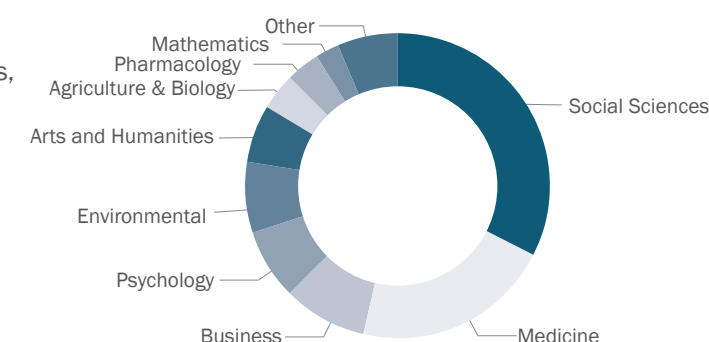
- leading the quantitative research component of a study into what works to keep young people engaged in meaningful learning at low socioeconomic schools (in collaboration with the UQ School of Education and funded by the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training)
- researching how school principals influence parental engagement in disadvantaged schools (in collaboration with the UQ School of Education and funded by the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training).

At the end of the year, we also secured new funding from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to review the efficacy of equity classifications as a means of identifying people who need support to access higher education so that their personal and social circumstances do not function as a barrier to achieving their learning potential.

publication impact

Publication impact is commonly measured by the prestige, ranking and reach of the journal in which it is published, and the number of citations made by other publications. By these measures, ISSR continued to produce research of high quality in 2016, with the majority (72%) of our journal articles published in top quartile journals.² While the Institute's research naturally predominates in social science publications, nearly two-thirds of our articles appeared in journals crossing other subject areas (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. 2016 articles by journal subject areas³



² Based on articles for which SCImago journal ranking information was available
³ Based on data from 46 articles published in 2016 indexed in SCImago

Table 1. 2016 publication outputs

PUBLICATION	2016
Books	3
Book chapters	13
Journal articles ⁴	58
Reports	20
Working papers	17
Conference papers	36
Other	19
TOTAL	166

In 2016, ISSR researchers produced a total of 166 publications (see Table 1), with our research published by 40 journals spanning 14 diverse subject areas from medicine and psychology to business and economics. The breadth and exposure of ISSR publications reflect the wide appeal and relevance of research originating from the Institute, and its many paths of influence. Publishing ISSR’s research in journals from a broad range of disciplines serves to increase the reach and readership of our work, and serves to expand its overall impact. In 2016, more than half (52%) of our research was published in multidisciplinary journals, highlighting the collaborative nature of our work.

2016 publications in the spotlight

ISSR’s publications of particular significance over the last year include seven papers that were in the top 5% of research outputs in terms of references across multiple platforms, including academic publications, broadcast and social media (as scored by Altmetric).

The ISSR papers with the highest number of references in 2016 were:

- 1. No smoke without tobacco: A global overview of cannabis and tobacco routes of administration and their association with intention to quit. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.
ISSR co-author: Dr Jason Ferris.
- 2. Safer scoring? Cryptomarkets, threats to safety and interpersonal violence. *International Journal of Drug Policy*.
ISSR co-author: Dr Jason Ferris.
- 3. Correlates of new psychoactive substance use among a self-selected sample of nightclub attendees in the United States. *American Journal on Addictions*.
ISSR co-author: Dr Jason Ferris.

- 4. Could urban greening mitigate suburban thermal inequity?: The role of residents’ dispositions and household practices. *Environmental Research Letters*.
ISSR co-author: Dr Christopher Ambrey.
- 5. Do policy makers use academic research? Reexamining the “Two Communities” theory of research utilisation. *Public Administration Review*.
ISSR co-author: Prof Brian Head.
- 6. Timing of return to work and breastfeeding in Australia. *Pediatrics*.
ISSR lead author: Ning Xiang.
ISSR co-author: Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski.
- 7. The family life course and health: Partnership, fertility histories, and later-life physical health trajectories in Australia. *Demography*.
ISSR lead author: Martin O’Flaherty.
ISSR co-authors: Prof Janeen Baxter and Prof Michele Haynes.

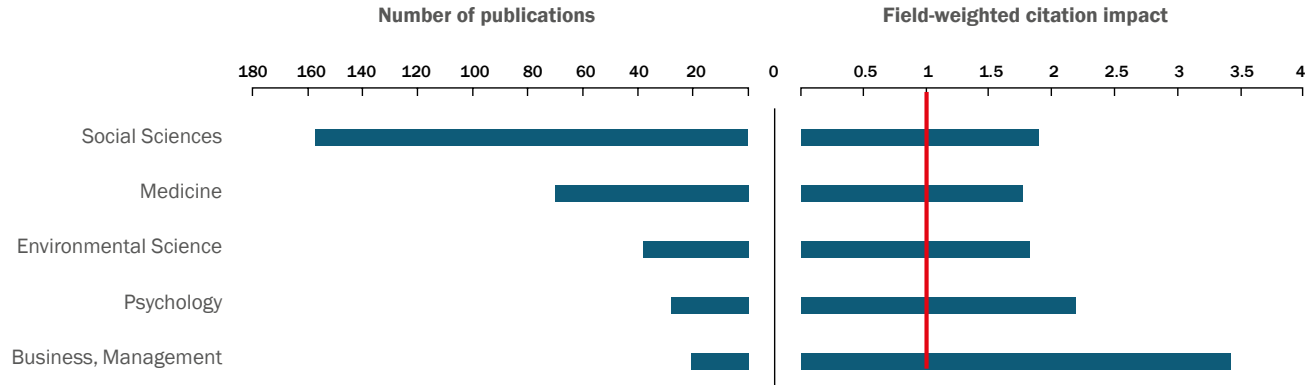
Dr Jason Ferris’ co-authored paper, *No smoke without tobacco: A global overview of cannabis and tobacco routes of administration and their association with intention to quit*, received the highest level of public interest of all ISSR publications in 2016, inspiring mentions in 36 news articles, one blog, 28 tweets and three Facebook posts.⁵

citations over time

Looking back on academic citations over the four-year period 2013–2016, ISSR researchers have co-produced 247 journal articles⁶, which have been collectively cited 1,287 times.

Over this period, one in four (27%) ISSR publications were published in the top 10% ranked journals⁷, and one in five (19%) are among the top 10% most cited articles worldwide in their field. Our research achieves nearly twice the academic impact of other articles from a comparable age and subject area⁸, with all top five subject areas in which ISSR has published reaching above average citation rates (See Figure 2).⁹

Figure 2. Journal citation impact by subject area 2013–2016¹⁰



top performing papers

ISSR’s top academic papers between 2013 and 2016 based on citations¹¹ were:

- 1. Global variation in the prevalence and incidence of major depressive disorder: A systematic review of the epidemiological literature. *Psychological Medicine*. (127 citations)
ISSR co-author: Ms Adele Somerville.
- 2. Shaping citizen perceptions of police legitimacy: A randomized field trial of procedural justice. *Criminology*. (85 citations)
ISSR lead author: Prof Lorraine Mazerolle.
- 3. An experimental test of voluntary strategies to promote urban water demand management. *Journal of Environmental Management*. (42 citations)
ISSR lead author: Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding.
- 4. A novel mixed method smart metering approach to reconciling differences between perceived and actual residential end use water consumption. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. (38 citations) ISSR co-author: Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding.
- 5. Wicked problems: Implications for public policy and management. *Administration and Society*. (35 citations)
ISSR lead author: Prof Brian Head.

future directions

In 2017, ISSR will further advance important social science innovations in the areas of big data, social computing, and population health. We aim to leverage our strategic relationships with the Australian Government Department of Social Services and Department of Human Services, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics to build collective capabilities in the use of big social data. The Institute will also continue to work with non-government organisations and industry to optimise their data collection practices for measurement and performance monitoring and to make evidence-informed decisions.

The following pages showcase the highlights and major achievements attained in each of the Institute’s substantive research areas, and detail the plans for future research in each of these areas.

⁴Based on UQ eSpace data as at 20 January 2017
⁵Hindocha et al. (2016) Altmetric score 289, eSpace, 23 February 2017
⁶This count includes all articles with data available on their impact through Scopus/SciVal (as at 23 February 2017) and includes reviews and editorials
⁷Scimago Journal Ranking
⁸1.8 field-weighted impact
⁹1.7–3.4 field-weighted impact

¹⁰Based on data from 247 articles 2013–2016 indexed in SciVal (27 January 2016 Scopus data analysed 23 February 2017)
¹¹List extracted from Scopus on 23 February 2017

ISSR's social mobility research is focused on the areas of an individual's life that can be leveraged to improve social and economic outcomes, such as education and employment. We also investigate the determinants of disadvantage and wellbeing to uncover the characteristics that influence a person's ability to make constructive changes.

Our research into student engagement and effective teaching practices for the New South Wales Government Department of Education, and our scoping of the *Widening Participation Longitudinal Study* (WPLS) for the Australian Government Department of Education and Training are two examples of how ISSR research is influencing change in the education sector. The former project uses cutting-edge statistical modelling techniques to analyse departmental data to study the relationship between student engagement and student outcomes. Throughout 2016, we delivered project findings to the department for use in policy development, where there is strong potential to have a real impact on school practice.

The second project, the WPLS scoping study, was completed in partnership with Victoria University's Centre for International Research on Education Systems. The project provided the department with detailed guidelines for the design of a longitudinal study of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and their pathways and barriers to higher education. The WPLS is designed to inform improved government and university equity policy and practice (read more about the project opposite).

2016 witnessed significant expansion in our research into educational inequalities and disadvantage, including a range of projects such as:

- research with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to review current higher education equity group classifications. This comprehensive review of the equity framework and conceptualisations of disadvantage with respect to higher education will inform ongoing equity policy and program development.
- a grant from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (via the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education) to investigate the effects of school factors on the pathways into higher education taken by students from disadvantaged backgrounds. ISSR researchers found that positive school experiences and career advice are key to widening university participation.
- a project funded by the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training for research on strategies to improve school attendance. This project involved a mixed-methods study developed in collaboration between the UQ School of Education and ISSR to analyse school administrative data and attendance records, and understand reasons for non-attendance and strategies to combat it.

Work in this program has not been limited to education. ISSR researchers are working with La Trobe University, the University of Manchester, UK, and X'ian Jiaotong University, China, to examine the determinants of wellbeing. The ARC Discovery Project, *Social Networks and Subjective Wellbeing in Australia, China and the United Kingdom*, involved a new national survey of Australian social networks and analysis of this and other Australian, Chinese and UK data.

We are also involved in a number of projects in collaboration with the Life Course Centre that study intergenerational social and economic mobility in Australia: analysing how gender, race and socioeconomic status are related to perceptions of inequality of opportunity, and how perceptions of inequality of opportunity affect individual effort choices.

Our research examines how systems of inequality and disadvantage arise, and how they can be addressed to improve social and economic outcomes.

HOW TO IMPROVE UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION

Statistics tell us that people from disadvantaged social groups under-participate in Australian higher education, which costs the country in both economic and social terms. Time spent in education is a predictor of future employment and earnings, and the systematic under-representation of particular social groups in occupations that require a tertiary qualification can undermine diversity in these professions.

Educational equity interventions aim to enhance the access of disadvantaged groups to formal learning opportunities such as tertiary studies, but their effectiveness is difficult to measure. For this reason, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training engaged ISSR to scope a potential new study, the *Widening Participation Longitudinal Study* (WPLS), to map the pathways of disadvantaged learners into higher education and to assess the impact of equity interventions on their participation and attainment.

There are no existing identified surveys in Australia that measure individual experiences of equity interventions in the higher education context, either before entry or post-commencement, and this new survey was designed to address that gap. ISSR also found that a new longitudinal study would be an opportunity to examine issues relating to student aspirations and expectations, as well as broader social and economic factors such as family attitudes, financial decision-making, peer influences, and mental and physical wellbeing.

The longitudinal study conceived by the department had the potential to be prohibitively expensive. This is because longitudinal studies are characterised by repeat measures with individuals and require significant commitment to ongoing data collection, as well as retention strategies to reduce sample attrition over time.

With this in mind, ISSR delivered three options for a new WPLS that could achieve usable data for research and policy-making within an accelerated four-year window. We found that the study could be built from multiple data sources, including administrative data such as NAPLAN student testing, existing longitudinal survey data collected by government and new longitudinal data to interrogate intervention uptake and impact, as well as student aspirations and expectations.

The final report, including design specifications, is a fresh source of evidence for the Australian Government as it makes decisions on how to improve the nation's longitudinal evidence base. With improved data infrastructure, we can better determine how and why there are differences between individuals in relation to higher education access and achievement so that policy-makers, researchers and education practitioners have the requisite knowledge to design future interventions that work.

The study to scope the WPLS was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Higher Education Participation Programme and was delivered in partnership with colleagues at Victoria University's Centre for International Research on Education Systems.

PROJECT TEAM

- Professor Bill Martin
- Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
- Professor Mark Western
- Professor Peter Noonan (Victoria University)
- George McLean (Victoria University)

The Higher Education Participation Programme's *Widening Participation Longitudinal Study* is designed to provide the evidence needed to evaluate equity student university participation interventions

Families are of key importance in producing and perpetuating inequality and protecting against it. We know that the family you are born into has a strong influence on life chances and opportunities. With almost 600,000 children living below the poverty line, understanding the links between family characteristics and child outcomes is critical to designing efficient and effective policies to reduce disadvantage and enhance child wellbeing.

Families also play a critical role in the maintenance of gender inequalities. Despite gains in closing gender gaps in education and the labour market, gender inequality remains persistent. As a result, differences in life outcomes on the basis of gender are important for both academics and policy-makers. ISSR researchers are working closely with academic and government partners around the country and overseas to investigate family dynamics, child wellbeing and gender inequalities, and to translate our research through presentations, publications, training courses, policy advice and other outreach activities.

In 2016, ISSR researchers uncovered and verified several new insights into children's wellbeing, family dynamics and gender inequality including:

- children who move homes frequently have poorer educational outcomes than those in more stable housing arrangements
- children whose mothers have low job security have lower socio-emotional wellbeing than children with mothers in secure employment
- children in vulnerable family types are at an increased risk of developing mental disorders
- becoming a parent is associated with a marked increase in gender inequality, in paid and unpaid work, sleep deprivation, time pressure and mental health
- entering or leaving intimate partnerships can generate unequal gender outcomes, with women faring much worse financially than men after relationship breakdown
- children whose parents divorced suffer long-term wealth deficits.

These results demonstrate areas that could potentially be targeted by interventions to help improve outcomes for children and women.

In addition to publishing our work in some of the world's top academic journals, our research has appeared in a number of reports produced in collaboration with our government partners. 2016 saw the completion of a major piece of work investigating mothers' workforce engagement after the transition to parenthood, in the *Enhancing Mothers' Workforce Engagement in the Preschool Years* project (read more opposite).

Other highlights include several researchers being recognised for their outstanding work:

- Dr Sergi Vidal was awarded a Ramon y Cajal Fellowship by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness for a project titled *Family Dynamics and Social Stratification* (2017–2021).
- Dr Paco Perales received a Discovery Early Career Research Award by the Australian Research Council on a project titled *Sexual Orientation and Life Chances in Contemporary Australia* (2017–2020), as well as the 2016 UQ Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Early-Career Researcher Award.
- Dr Jack Lam was awarded an Early Career Work and Family Fellowship by the Work & Family Researchers Network.

In addition, a paper by Dr Paco Perales, Professor Janeen Baxter and Dr Tsui-O Tai, *Gender, justice and work: A distributive approach to perceptions of housework fairness*, was one of five finalists for the 2016 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work Family Research.

Our research shows that families are central for understanding life course pathways and the opportunities and constraints that individuals face along the way.

LIFE COURSE CENTRE

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course (the Life Course Centre or LCC) was established in 2014 to investigate the critical factors underlying disadvantage and provide life-changing solutions for policy and service delivery. The research centre is led by ISSR, in collaboration with the University of Western Australia, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, and eighteen other international universities, government and non-government organisations.

LCC research at ISSR includes projects in family dynamics and the characteristics of families that contribute to the intergenerational transfer of social and economic poverty. Research is also investigating how best to support and enhance capabilities to prevent or overcome disadvantage, including research on parenting, early childhood education, family structures, mental health and employment. This research suggests that interventions directed at improving the wellbeing and health of mothers are critical for maximising opportunities for children. It also highlights the importance of working closely with schools and communities to ensure children without strong family resources do not fall too far behind.

Due to the significant synergies between LCC and ISSR research, LCC researchers also collaborate on a range of projects across the Institute, including:

- evaluating the *Interim Home Based Care Subsidy (Nanny Pilot) Programme* (led by Dr Jenny Povey)
- designing the *Evaluation Framework for Queensland's Reform Program on Domestic and Family Violence* (led by Prof Michele Haynes).

millennium mums

How are contemporary mothers re-engaging with the workforce after childbirth?

This is one of the major questions investigated in the *Enhancing Mothers' Workforce Engagement in the Preschool Years*, an Australian Research Council Linkage Project which was completed in partnership with researchers across The University of Queensland, the University of Sydney and the Australian National University, together with policy analysts from the Australian Government Department of Social Services. The project was designed to provide policy-makers with an understanding of how mothers manage work and family and access support services, and policies to navigate the modern day pressures of combining work and motherhood.

Led by Associate Professor Belinda Hewitt (now at the University of Melbourne) researchers examined the factors that influence mothers' decisions about whether to return to work following the birth of a baby including: the type and availability of child care, the existence of flexible work arrangements, and the quality of jobs available. They also reviewed their expectations of employment following children and their experiences of returning to employment. The results were documented in a comprehensive report for the department and included many important findings, such as: the ongoing prevalence of part-time work among working mothers with preschool children, and the lowest returns to work among mothers in casual employment. Interestingly, taking parental leave had no impact on patterns of gender equity in the home, with mothers continuing to bear the burden of most care work, regardless of leave taking arrangements.

Read the full report online at www.issr.uq.edu.au/millenniummums.



With rising numbers of Australians living in insecure housing situations, sleeping rough and spending long periods living on the streets, ISSR is committed to undertaking research that can inform policies to combat homelessness. Throughout 2016, our researchers conducted a range of projects examining housing, homelessness and relevant social support services. Our investigations sought to explore how people use these services, how service providers deliver them, and how they impact people's lives.

We strengthened our relationships with our government and service delivery partners during the year, leading to a number of key projects that evolved out of previous collaborations, signalling that our work is highly relevant and accessible to frontline practitioners.

One such example is our evaluation of the *Street to Home* initiative in Cairns, a program designed to meet the needs of people sleeping rough and experiencing chronic homelessness. This evaluation builds on a 2012 *Street to Home* project that ISSR conducted for the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW). ISSR identified that the initiative required service integration and multidisciplinary support teams to meet the needs of people with mental health and complex problems. DHPW adopted these recommendations and this new round of ethnographic research is examining the implementation, delivery and outcomes achieved by the multidisciplinary service delivery model in one location.

A further example of our work with DHPW includes our research to enable the department to better identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable public housing tenants. Families who access public housing often have complex needs and require a range of services across multiple agencies. As a result, the government recognises a need to integrate its human service provision across departments. Our research aimed to develop an evidence base about families with multiple and complex service needs to identify early risk indicators and inform an effective whole-of-government approach to meeting their needs. The long-term objective of the research is to build evidence to substantiate an argument for developing and implementing cross-government and place-based programs to disrupt the transmission of disadvantage across generations.

The impact that our research has on the everyday lives of people encountering housing and homelessness issues, through our influence on policy and service delivery, was demonstrated through the significant attention received by the public launch of our Brisbane Common Ground project report in 2016. Our evaluation found that the initiative saved \$13,100 per tenant and featured in subsequent articles in *The Conversation* and the *British Journal of Social Work* (read more about the project opposite).

In addition to establishing and embedding our relationships with government agencies, we have also developed significant research partnerships with non-government service providers, including, for example, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland. This partnership arose from St Vincent de Paul's desire to further improve its service delivery model. The project involves using the organisation's administrative information to improve its data collection, management and reporting practices, and the effectiveness of its work to reduce disadvantage.

Our research seeks to build knowledge about how people use social programs and resources to materially improve the conditions of their lives.

13,100 REASONS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

ISSR research has revealed that governments can save \$13,100 per person each year if they provide the chronically homeless with access to secure, long-term housing and relevant support services.

Brisbane Common Ground (BCG) is a supportive housing project that provides people experiencing ongoing homelessness with a combination of safe accommodation and relevant support services (such as health, education and counselling services) to assist them to move out of homelessness. ISSR undertook an evaluation of the project from 2013 to 2015 to determine if supportive housing was a cost-effective method of addressing the issue of homelessness. The evaluation involved linking datasets from a variety of public agencies to assess the levels of services that people accessed while homeless, compared to when they were in supportive housing.

The report revealed that people who suffer from chronic homelessness often have complex needs relating to health, disabilities, abuse and addiction, and that without support these people often use a significant amount of health, policing and legal resources. By contrast, when you provide these same people with access to safe housing and targeted services, their need for public services such as hospitals, courts and jails reduces dramatically.

BCG tenants who participated in the study experienced, on average, fewer:

- mental health episodes
- days as an admitted patient
- visits to the emergency department
- interactions with police (both as a victim and offender)
- nights spent in custody.

This reduction in the amount of emergency services required by tenants delivered significant cost savings to the community. On average, each tenant accessed \$13,100 less of community services per year, including the cost of the housing. Such savings demonstrate that it makes economic sense to provide people with affordable housing as opposed to leaving them homeless. The project team suggested that savings made from reducing demand for acute services could be reinvested into services that will help people continue to sustain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.

Another key discovery from the evaluation was the finding that when people who have been homeless began to identify as a tenant (as opposed to identifying as homeless, ill or a criminal, for example) they started to access services that further helped to increase their autonomy and minimise their chances of becoming homeless again in the future. This supports the idea that once people have a stable home environment, they are in a better position to start making positive choices in their lives and begin to re-engage with society in a constructive manner.

This research project involved working closely with a variety of public agencies and linking datasets to ascertain the accurate levels of services acquired, and represents an innovative example of how administrative data can be adapted and used to uncover previously hidden insights, and improve service delivery.

PROJECT TEAM

- Dr Cameron Parsell
- Dr Maree Petersen
- Professor Michele Haynes
- Alan Dick
- Professor Dennis Culhane (University of Pennsylvania)

The Brisbane Common Ground complex is located in Hope Street, South Brisbane





Working with Indigenous leaders, we seek targeted research outputs with capacity to improve daily lives.

ISSR's program of Indigenous research continued to deliver significant results in 2016 with the launch of a range of new projects focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A major achievement in ISSR's Indigenous research was the establishment of the Indigenous Design Place (IDP) initiative. IDP was designed to respond to academic, community and industry needs for culturally appropriate design solutions to cater for Australia's Indigenous people (see opposite). The initiative was launched through UQ Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Funding to build a network of approximately 25 cross-disciplinary UQ researchers from the Faculties of Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences and Science and the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology.

IDP initiated a number of key projects throughout the year, including an ARC Discovery Project to investigate culturally sensitive design for hospitals and clinics to appeal to Indigenous clients and patients. This project aims to explore the role of design in motivating people to seek primary healthcare (for more information see page 61). The project has an ambitious research design and much of the year saw ISSR's research methods team, led by Professor Michele Haynes, designing the survey method and the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre's team, managed by Dr Tim O'Rourke, leading the complex chain of necessary ethics approvals.

In 2016, we have been able to build on previous successes with an ARC Linkage Project grant awarded to extend our research into the *Wild Australia Show*. In 2015, we partnered with the UQ Anthropology Museum to exhibit historical photographs of Indigenous performers that toured the country in the 1890s. This latest project involves further investigations of the show to understand its implications for our understanding of race relations and Indigenous culture. The latest project is a collaboration with the Queensland Museum, Museum Victoria and the State Library of NSW.

Continuing IDP's strong start, the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Services awarded a grant to investigate household and environmental factors affecting Indigenous health. This project builds on the *Midja Database*, an online Geographic Information System (GIS) and statistical database built on to the ILOC (Indigenous Location) unit of Indigenous geography that was previously developed by ARC Discovery Indigenous Award recipient Carroll Go-Sam and Professor Jane Hunter from the UQ School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering.

Our grant-funded research was balanced by a number of consultancy research projects with anthropological services provided on a native title claim to an area of sea in the south-west of the Torres Strait. This was followed by a project for Anyinginyi Aboriginal Health Corporation in Tennant Creek which involved developing a framework for a culturally responsive service delivery within Anyinginyi's *Stronger Families* program with a team of about 20 Aboriginal staff and several counsellors.

A 2016 highlight for Indigenous research group leader, Professor Memmott, was attending the special sitting of the Federal Court in Rockhampton where the Judge awarded native title to the Darumbal people of the Lower Fitzroy River. Professor Memmott began research on the land tenure of this group in 1993 and has been involved in their claim continuously since that time.

DESIGNS TO IMPROVE INDIGENOUS WELLBEING

Connection to country and extended social networks are fundamental pillars of Indigenous identity. The loss of these connections, or loss of place, plays a major role in the spiritual disconnectedness suffered by Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which leads to a range of adverse social and economic outcomes that see many of our Indigenous people vulnerable to poor wellbeing, loss of identity and mental health issues.

Helping to restore this connection to country and kin is a key goal of the newly launched Indigenous Design Place (IDP). IDP is a research hub that aims to investigate the potential of using culturally appropriate design to help foster a sense of connection and to improve Indigenous outcomes. The initiative draws together academics from across The University of Queensland with Indigenous collaborators.

Together, they produce culturally appropriate planning and applied research products for use by Indigenous organisations, governments, service providers and construction industry stakeholders, including architects. This applied research focuses on developing enhanced hard and soft infrastructure for Indigenous communities, including built environment designs, community-led social change plans, and social policies with the capacity to improve the daily lives of Indigenous people.

IDP project leader, Professor Paul Memmott, has deep connections to Indigenous communities and a proven track record in designing culturally appropriate spaces for hospitals, prisons and supported housing facilities, integrated with Aboriginal-directed service delivery systems. This experience translated into IDP's inaugural project, the ARC Discovery Project *Architectural Design to Improve Indigenous Health Outcomes*, which focuses on researching the impact of healthcare architecture on Indigenous health and wellbeing, and supports the design of Aboriginal healing spaces in healthcare settings (see more on page 61).

IDP is managed by ISSR and located in the School of Architecture through the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, a centre which concentrates on developing innovative Aboriginal-led social and built environment design solutions to improve quality of life and wellbeing for Australia's Indigenous communities.

Project led by Professor Paul Memmott



An Indigenous inspired design: The face of Aboriginal Elder William Barak on a contemporary building in Melbourne (Image courtesy of ARM Architects. Photographer: Peter Bennetts)



ISSR's development effectiveness research contributes to policy and improving social and economic development outcomes in practice. In 2016, there was also a strong focus on developing training and educational products to augment and disseminate research findings.

One of the key projects undertaken this year examined the experiences of women deployed internationally on peacekeeping and security operations for the Australian Government Department of Defence. Led by Professor Mark Moran, researchers on this project included semi-structured interviews and collecting data via online surveys. The research will produce an evidence base that demonstrates the value that deployed women bring to, and the challenges that they face in, international operations.

Another major focus for the year was the *Australia-Papua New Guinea Borderlands* project, which received ARC Discovery Project funding in 2015. This project aims to investigate the social, demographic and financial situation of communities that live on either side of the international border running through the Torres Strait Islands. Extensive desktop research was followed by a round of international fieldwork, with researchers undertaking interviews with Papua New Guinea nationals in the South Fly region of the country. In addition to providing evidence for the project, this research will produce the first ever socioeconomic record of this region. Both the Australian and PNG governments have expressed significant interest in the Borderlands project and its results, with considerable potential for uptake and impact (read more opposite).

Throughout 2016, the program research team worked in partnership with UQx and edX, and in collaboration with a range of partners across the public and private sector to develop the content for the Leadership in Global Development MicroMasters®, a first of its kind in Australia. The MicroMasters includes four Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and a capstone assessment designed to foster the next generation of leaders in development. In addition to the MOOCs and the MicroMasters, our researchers are developing a one-year, on-campus *Master of Leadership in Global Development*. The MicroMasters will become a prerequisite for the new on-campus program, which will enrol its first cohort of students in semester one 2018.

Another initiative developed in 2016 was the *Advanced Indigenous Development Programming* short course which adds to ISSR's growing suite of professional development programs. This innovative course was developed in response to a public sector demand for quality training to improve capabilities of practitioners working in Indigenous communities. The course aims to empower frontline workers to move their focus from purely service delivery and to inspire change (read more on page 34).

On a final note, group leader Professor Mark Moran added to ISSR's library with the publication of *Serious whitefella stuff: When solutions became the problem in Indigenous affairs* in 2016. This book, published by Melbourne University Press, takes academic case studies and reworks them into a creative non-fiction format, making the content appealing and accessible to a much broader audience. This book is another example of innovative research translation to inform evidence-based policy and practice (read more on page 64).

LOOKING ACROSS THE BORDER

Research conducted as part of the ARC Discovery Project, *Australia-Papua New Guinea Borderlands*, will inform a detailed analysis of the communities that live on the PNG side of the border, as well as producing a comprehensive socioeconomic analysis of their interactions across the border into Australia. While studies on either side of the border exist, this is the first project to consider both sides of the border as a borderland region.

The project itself aims to investigate the unique policies in place across the region and how they impact on the lives of the people living on both sides of the Australia-PNG border. This borderland is a highly complex region, where locals have relative freedom of movement across the border for traditional activities under the Torres Strait Treaty, but highly regulated movement for all other activities. Additionally, the Australian side consists of remote Torres Strait Islander communities that are supported by significant public funding, and so are less disadvantaged than communities on the PNG side.

In the first round of fieldwork, three of the project's investigators spent four weeks visiting remote PNG villages, interviewing members of the local communities and collecting data. Early investigations reveal that much

of the area is more complex than originally thought, with influences from Indonesia, and the impacts of freedom of trade and movement across the Indonesia-PNG border also having a marked effect on the area.

The most noteworthy observations made by the team during their stay, however, were the extreme levels of poverty that PNG nationals in this region lived in, being an area that is beyond the reach of the national government's stretched resources, as well as many international aid programs. The region has significant needs in areas such as roads, clean water supply, and sanitation. As a result, the population suffers from diseases consistent with poverty such as malaria and multiple-drug resistant tuberculosis. The minimal aid that does reach the region focuses solely on disease control, not environmental health. This represents a missed opportunity, as investments in basic infrastructure would not only help to control the spread of disease, but also improve the lives of community members.

The team's PNG data collection will be bolstered by further fieldwork on the Torres Strait Island side of the border in 2017. A third round of international fieldwork will take place later in the year with a closer focus on the Indonesia-PNG border.

PROJECT TEAM

- Professor Mark Moran
- Professor Jennifer Corrin (UQ School of Law)
- Laura Simpson Reeves
- Nathalie Gentle
- Kevin Murphy
- Geoff Miller



Two boys sitting on a local wharf. Inset: A typical house found in the South Fly region of Papua New Guinea (Images courtesy of Professor Mark Moran)

We work at the frontline of development assistance, understanding what works or doesn't work in development.



Social data is a powerful resource for providing insights into the factors that shape people's lives. Our team strives to continually strengthen our expertise in the analysis of a wide range of complex social data to improve knowledge for social benefit.

ISSR is a national leader in developing, managing and analysing complex longitudinal data for social policy and research. Throughout 2016, ISSR's research methodologists and social statisticians continued their efforts to develop new methods for collecting and analysing social data, conducting research methods training and undertaking commercial research.

With the support of the Life Course Centre and our partners, ISSR has continued to grow its expertise in administrative data management and analysis of complex social data to support better understanding of target populations and decision-making. In 2016, we worked closely with the Australian Government to trial three different trusted user models for accessing and using this type of data for research purposes, and were also engaged by other government and non-government organisations to use their data for monitoring and evaluation towards improved policies and programs.

In 2016, our researchers continued to apply their expertise in providing research services related to the monitoring and evaluation of important initiatives implemented by the Australian and Queensland governments. This included a collaboration with Deloitte Actuaries and Consultants to validate the actuarial analysis used to determine Australia's future lifetime welfare costs and the costs of particular subgroups within the national population as part of the Department of Social Services' *Priority Investment Approach to Welfare* initiative.

The Queensland Government also recognised our methodological expertise by commissioning our services to develop an evaluation framework for the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–2026*. Through close consultation with experts and stakeholders, we developed an evaluation framework to: determine the overall impact of the strategy; identify which of its programs are effective in addressing domestic and family violence; and build the evaluation capacity of the Queensland Government (read more opposite).

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training also drew on our expertise to evaluate two initiatives for subsidised in-home child care through the *Nanny Pilot Programme* and *In Home Care*. Dr Jenny Povey and the team worked closely with the department and stakeholders to conduct a thorough evaluation of the initiatives through the development and implementation eight distinct surveys, in-depth qualitative interviews with stakeholder groups, and analyses of government and service provider administrative data.

Elsewhere, Dr Jason Ferris, a drug and alcohol epidemiologist with high level skills in statistical methodology, progressed a range of topical research throughout the year. Collaborative projects include *An Assessment of Late Night Alcohol Restrictions in Queensland* (Deakin University), an assessment of the global health risks of drugs available on cryptomarkets (that is, markets accessed through the Darknet or hidden web) (University of New South Wales), and a geospatial analysis of clandestine methamphetamine labs, their supply and distribution chains, and related health harms.

To strengthen our social computing capacity, we engaged a new postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Lin Wu, to investigate the application of deep machine learning techniques to longitudinal administrative data (a joint appointment with the UQ School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering).

This new capacity will help us to deliver powerful insights for our government and non-government clients in 2017.

EVALUATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFORM

In response to recommendations in the report, *Not now, not ever: Putting an end to domestic violence in Queensland* by the Special Task Force on Domestic Violence in Queensland, the Queensland Government has developed a comprehensive 10-year strategy to coordinate how Queenslanders can work together across the state to end this violence. To ensure continued investment in interventions that make a measurable impact, the Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) commissioned ISSR to develop a framework for the evaluation of the strategy.

The *Evaluation Framework for Queensland's Reform Program on Domestic and Family Violence* is designed to determine the overall impact of the strategy, and identify specific programs within the strategy that are successful and effective in addressing domestic and family violence.

To develop the overarching framework, a team of ISSR researchers led by Professor Michele Haynes reviewed recent evaluations of similar strategies conducted across Australia and overseas, determined how the strategy's success can be measured using data at the state level, and proposed a monitoring tool to demonstrate success over time.

ISSR delivered a design that will empower key stakeholders to engage and invest in evaluation activities that aim to improve the life outcomes of Queenslanders at risk of domestic and family violence. The framework was designed in consultation with DPC and other stakeholders to provide a shared conceptual framework for monitoring performance of the reform program over the long term.

The evaluation framework also includes a capacity-building component designed to support the Queensland Government and its implementation partners to work together to apply consistent measures, methods and models for monitoring and assessment that have relevance to the reform program as a whole, as well as to discrete projects and services. Building capability will be crucial to the success of the components of the overarching 10-year evaluation.

PROJECT TEAM

- Professor Michele Haynes
- Professor Mark Western
- Dr Denise Clague
- Dr Jack Lam
- Dr Jenny Povey
- Russell McKay
- Carys Chainey
- Dr Cameron Parsell
- Professor Janeen Baxter



In 2016, ISSR's policy evaluation research work continued to focus on five main areas: the contribution of social science research in the better management of complex problems; the role of evidence-informed policy-making in Australia; the identification of ways in which academics can demonstrate research impact; the improvement of mental health service innovation; and the factors that facilitate important innovations and reform in urban water governance. A common theme throughout has been identifying strategies and processes, and creating opportunities, that enable knowledge exchange and collaboration between academic researchers and non-academic research users.

Progress has continued in the final year of our ARC Discovery Project on complex problems and the role of social sciences. We have raised many issues about why some complex and so-called "wicked" problems seem to be intractable and enduring, and have explored how research can be better targeted and communicated to external audiences. The goal is to demonstrate the relevance of research and thus achieve greater impact with key external partners and stakeholders, such as major organisations in government and non-government sectors.

Professor Brian Head played a key role in the development and delivery of two Academy of the Social Sciences (ASSA) events during the year. The first was entitled *Taking stock: The reconfiguration of public housing stock in Australia*. The workshop brought together academics, policy-makers and housing practitioners to reflect on recent public housing policy and service delivery reform processes. Participants used the opportunity to identify key questions around the topic, map out an agenda for future research, and initiate new research collaborations.

The second ASSA event was the 2016 ASSA Annual Symposium, which considered how the social sciences are responding to the need to demonstrate their relevance and influence beyond the university sector. This was an important contribution to the continuing national discussion regarding the proposed ARC *Engagement and Impact Assessment* project to be piloted in 2017.

Research impact was also on the agenda when Professor Patrick Dunleavy, a leading scholar from the London School of Economics and Political Science, visited UQ in April 2016. He presented two seminars and delivered a public lecture on *Maximising the impact of academic research: UK experience and prospects in Australia*. This was a timely visit in the context of the funding and policy changes in higher education currently underway in Australia.

Research on mental health service innovation continued to develop through Professor Head's role in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health Systems Improvement, a project led by the UQ School of Public Health. As one of 10 chief investigators around Australia, he has been working on how research-based ideas for service improvement have succeeded in the past, and how new ideas for effective service delivery can be implemented.

In December, the Institute farewelled Professor Brian Head after nine years at ISSR as he took on a teaching and research role in the UQ School of Political Science and International Studies. Professor Head will continue to maintain strong links to the Institute as an affiliate and through ongoing research collaborations.

Our applied and solution-based research evaluates the effectiveness, affordability and viability of policies, providing an evidence base for informed decision-making.

INFLUENCING POLICY TO STRENGTHEN WATER RESILIENCE

With the world's changing climate, population pressures, and pollution risks, many cities and towns internationally face growing challenges in the area of water resource management. This is particularly relevant in Australia where water scarcity is a significant issue.

For the last four years, ISSR researchers have been involved in a series of projects for the *Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities* focused on creating solutions to help communities become more water sensitive. These projects have explored the social transformations required to become more responsive to the need for effective water management, including: changing attitudes and behaviours, economic assessments, and better governance arrangements to manage innovation. Researchers found that better knowledge-sharing is necessary to successfully respond to the complexities of effective urban water management.

Leading the project *Better governance for complex decision-making*, Professor Brian Head highlighted the need for collaboration among the diverse stakeholders. The team found that individual government agencies, water utilities, professional organisations and other bodies cannot solve the complex problems of enabling water sensitive cities in isolation.

Relevant organisations need to be brought together to work collaboratively to develop effective and robust solutions that are well supported by policy and regulation, and well understood by the community.

In their report *Toward effective change in urban water: the role of collaborative governance in cross-scale integration*, Dr Susan van de Meene, Professor Brian Head and Dr Yvette Bettini detailed a series of local and international case studies of successful water innovation. They highlighted the different dynamics involved in initiating an innovative proposal, and successfully implementing programs with high levels of support across stakeholders in government.

The issues and challenges faced in water systems often cross geographic and governance boundaries, requiring coordinated policy responses that eliminate obstacles to operation. In Europe, the US and Australia, flood and drainage issues were found to require integrated water management planning and practice across multiple scales and organisations; whereas for water supply and wastewater issues, the responsibility mainly lies with large corporatised utilities. The key challenges for these groups are innovating and increasing public acceptance of recycled or re-used water for a range of purposes. Technical innovation in these circumstances needs to be supported by effective communication and transparent decision-making.

Research in this area is providing the important evidence required to maintain sustainable water management in our communities and promote the health of our waterways and coastal environments.

Project led by Professor Brian Head



RESEARCH REFORM AND IMPROVING RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

ISSR has established itself as a respected voice in the research sector, committed to improving the research industry within Australia.

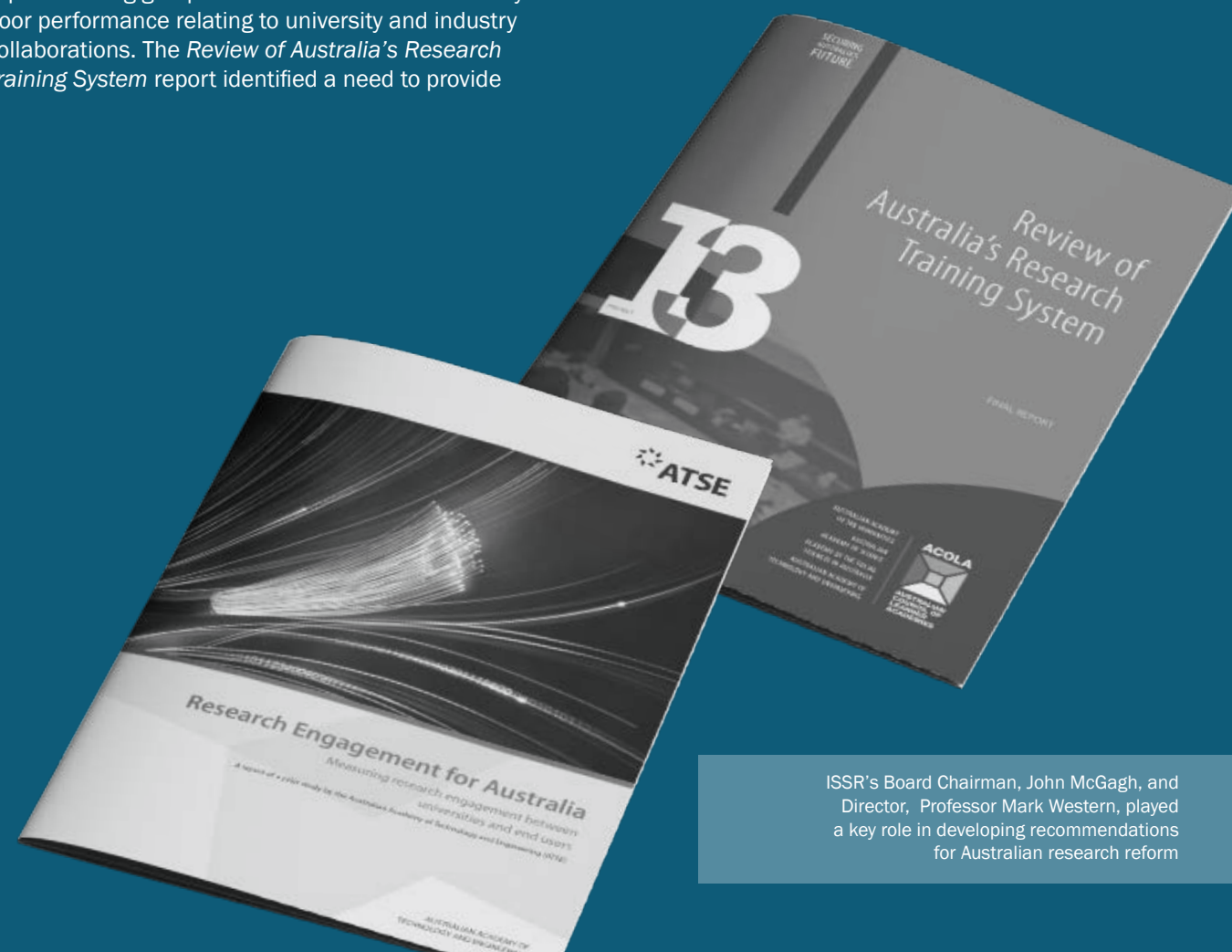
Throughout 2016, Institute leaders played a key role in two major initiatives designed to influence research sector reform. ISSR Board Chairman, John McGagh, was the chair of the Expert Working Group overseeing the review of Australia's higher degree by research training system, while ISSR Director Professor Mark Western was one of two Deputy Chairs for this working group as well as co-author with John McGagh and others of its national report. Professor Western also played a key role in a Steering Committee responsible for proposing a set of metrics to assess research engagement around the country.

In the first initiative, Mr McGagh and Professor Western joined with other representatives from the Australian Council of Learned Academies on an expert working group to address Australia's relatively poor performance relating to university and industry collaborations. The *Review of Australia's Research Training System* report identified a need to provide

graduates with more transferable skills throughout their training to increase their appeal to prospective employers. The report proposed incorporating industry placements into research degrees, which would have the two-fold effect of teaching students practical, in-demand skills and helping to bridge the gap between academia and industry through mutually beneficial collaborations. The report also recommended increasing the professionalism of research supervision through excellence recognition, metrics, training and professional development for supervisors.

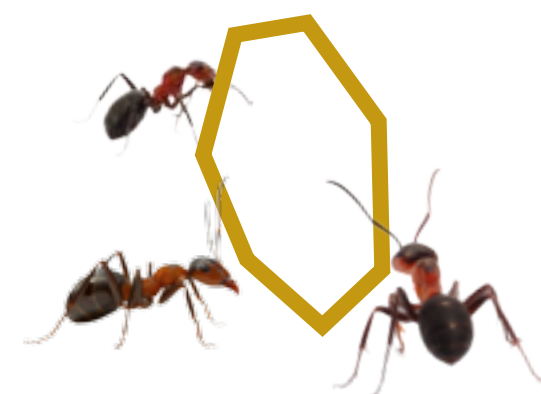
For the second initiative, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering assembled a Steering Committee to respond to a report that showed Australia ranking lowest in the OECD on collaborations between public and private sector researchers. The committee was set up to propose ways to measure how well university researchers, industry and other end-users collaborate.

Bringing together members of government and the higher education sector, the Steering Committee determined that improved research translation was required to maximise engagement between end-users and the available research. To measure research engagement, the committee proposed measures that incorporated income received from industry and other research end-users along with commercialisation income. The committee's work culminated in the *Research engagement for Australia: Measuring research engagement between universities and end users* report, published by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



ISSR's Board Chairman, John McGagh, and Director, Professor Mark Western, played a key role in developing recommendations for Australian research reform

LEARNING



LEARNING

The Institute is committed to producing world-class social scientists through our advanced and comprehensive research training offerings. We provide a range of continuous learning and development opportunities for staff and students, inside and outside the Institute, to ensure that researchers are equipped to operate at the forefront of their field. ISSR also develops close relationships with industry to create customised training and relevant knowledge-exchange pathways.

postgraduate training

2016 was the third year in which postgraduate students could enrol through the Institute and we hosted more research higher degree students than ever before (31 in total). Our international reputation as a world-class social science research institute continues to draw students from around the world, with one in five of our research higher degree students joining us from foreign universities.

ISSR's students have opportunities to collaborate with researchers across UQ under co-supervisory arrangements, increasing the scope of their exposure. This spirit of collaboration is also fostered by ISSR's academic staff, who co-supervised students from a range of disciplines, including geography, public health, social science, chemical engineering, political science, and architecture in 2016. These close connections across the University are evident in the wide variety of research conducted by our students, with ISSR's five PhD graduates in 2016 producing theses on subjects as diverse as strengthening health systems in countries around the world, housing security, hate crimes, and statistical methods for longitudinal social data.

The Institute is dedicated to producing highly skilled and employable graduates, and we are thrilled to be admitting seven new research higher degree students in 2017. ISSR provides these students with rich and varied experiences through opportunities to complete industry placements, access international travel scholarships, participate in mentoring programs, and undertake additional training.

ISSR's focus on developing high quality researchers who can work in a variety of settings has led to former students embarking on exciting careers, through appointments such as Research Fellows at prestigious universities like Yale and the University of Sussex, and as a biostatistician at the Queensland Institute for Medical Research Berghofer.



3MT winner, Amanda Acutt, and People's Choice winner, Ruth (Lute) Faleolo

2016 3MT competition

Each year, ISSR students have the opportunity to participate in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition, which challenges students to describe their research topics in only three minutes. In 2016, our students presented on a range of topics from truancy and childhood resilience to family health and migrant voices. Our winner was Amanda Acutt, whose research on *Truancy in Queensland* examines the Queensland legislation that authorises prosecution and fines for parents who fail to ensure their children attend school, and seeks to understand the reasons behind schools' reluctance to apply these laws. A "People's Choice" award was given to Ruth (Lute) Faleolo, who discussed her work about *Capturing migrant voices on wellbeing*, which looks at the movement of Pacific Islander people from Auckland to Brisbane, and its impact on their personal wellbeing.

short-course training

ISSR's *Methods for Social Analysis and Statistics* (MFSAS) short-course research methods training program continued to perform well in 2016 with consistent course attendance. More than 26 courses, ranging from half-day to five-day durations, were delivered at ISSR throughout the year, ensuring that a growing number of professionals are collecting and analysing high quality social data to improve their policies and interventions. The overarching goal for the MFSAS program is to provide skills development modules to bridge the gap between those who "do" statistics and those who "do" social policy across industry, government and the academic sector. Our participants continuously comment on the high quality delivery, with a great mix of theory and hands-on sessions built into the structure of the course. In addition to the on-campus courses, we continue to deliver on-site training at a client's premises as required. In 2016, we also conducted a range of *Leximancer* software training courses with interstate university clients. *Leximancer* is software developed by ISSR's Dr Andrew Smith to analyse and extract meaning from very large text databases.

"Thank you for an excellent course, the lecturers are very knowledgeable and take a lot of time to discuss individual participants' topics. Great mix of theory sessions and hands-on sessions. The handbook is great to come back to."

Ms Barbara Wimmer,
University of Tasmania

New additions to ISSR's professional development products in 2016 included an *Advanced Indigenous Development Programming* course, a five-day workshop designed to provide practitioners with new skills to improve their capacity for change in Indigenous communities, and a collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to help promote the use and impact of available ABS longitudinal datasets. This collaboration with ABS resulted in an *Analysing the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset* (ACLD) workshop which was delivered in the pre-conference program for the Australian Government's *Longitudinal Data Conference 2016*, and will soon be supplemented by a series of web-training materials.

In total, ISSR delivered 32 professional development courses over the year.



Dr Melanie Spallek delivering the inaugural *Analysing the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset* course

Analysing ABS data

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has a range of longitudinal datasets which are available to public and private researchers for analysis. Looking to increase the use and influence of this data, the ABS engaged ISSR to develop and deliver a training course that would provide users with the skills to comprehensively interrogate the data.

ISSR surveyed existing and potential user groups to identify the barriers they face in using this type of data to support decision-making, and to gain insights into training requirements and delivery preferences. Using the survey results, Dr Melanie Spallek developed the *Analysing the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset* course, a workshop dedicated to promoting one of the newest resources in the ABS longitudinal data suite, as well as educating users in its strengths, limitations and appropriate methods for analysis. The inaugural course was delivered to almost 100 public servants, academics, researchers and non-government practitioners as a pre-conference workshop at the *Longitudinal Data Conference 2016* in Canberra in October.

The survey results highlighted the importance of complementing face-to-face training with online resources, and the workshop is now currently being developed into a set of online modules.

Dr Spallek joined the ABS Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset Technical Advisory Group to provide advice on methods, sharing user perspectives, and identifying potential improvements, in order to help develop the third wave of the ACLD.

internships

ISSR offers undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in UQ Advantage Summer and Winter Scholar programs. These programs enable students to develop their research skills, work on socially significant research projects, learn more about the research process, and gain exposure to an externally focused multidisciplinary research institute. In 2016, ISSR hosted 15 undergraduate students for 6–10 week placements, with many going on to work at ISSR as research assistants or applying to undertake research higher degrees. The program also benefits early career researchers, helping them develop supervisory, communication and management skills.

“Scholars are a great way for early career researchers to gain experience supervising junior colleagues and to develop skills in planning tasks, communicating expectations and providing mentorship.”

Dr Renee Zahnow,
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, ISSR

“The most incredible experience in my years as a student has been participating as a research scholar at ISSR. This opportunity provided me with valuable insight into the real-world research that takes place at the Institute, and the chance to learn from world-class researchers from various disciplines.”

Ms Heidi Hoffmann,
2016 Winter and Summer Scholar

cultivating capabilities
for Indigenous
development

Responding to a growing demand for practical skills to assist government and non-government practitioners working in remote Indigenous communities, ISSR launched a new five-day *Advanced Indigenous Development Programming* (AIDP) course in mid-October. The course is designed to encourage participants to change their focus from a purely service delivery model to one that cultivates opportunities for community development. It challenges practitioners to think developmentally, reimagine the way that services are delivered, and recognise that these interactions have the potential to facilitate social change. By demonstrating how services and service delivery can be used as a means to empower Indigenous communities, the course inspires participants to be agents of change within their practice.

Course facilitators, Professor Mark Moran, Dr Michael Limerick and Pauline Peel, drew on their own experiences across fields of Indigenous and international development, policy research and evaluation, community governance, change and transition management, stakeholder engagement, and participatory communications to provide expert guidance and instruction. Participants were taught practical skills in adaptive development practice, understanding complexity, political economy and stakeholder analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and conflict negotiation, and left the course with a comprehensive toolkit designed to inspire transformational development. Participants in the course praised the interactivity and practical application of the program, and felt encouraged that they now had a practical plan to address the key challenges they face in their work.

With the success of the first course, ISSR intends to deliver the course again in 2017, helping to achieve one of the key objectives of building a collaborative network of practitioners across the country.

To find out more about the AIDP course visit issr.uq.edu.au/advanced-indigenous-development-programming-course.

our students

STUDENT ¹²	PROGRAM	ADVISOR ¹³	THESIS TOPIC
GRADUATES			
Dr Erlyn Macarayan	PhD	Prof Mark Western Dr Melissa Curley Prof Charles Gilks	Health systems strengthening in global and national contexts
Dr Louise Marquart-Wilson	PhD	Prof Michele Haynes Dr Peter Baker	Misspecification and flexible random effect distributions in logistic mixed effects models applied to panel survey data
Dr Deborah Oxlade	PhD	Dr Cameron Parsell Dr Maree Petersen Prof Mark Western	The housing security afforded by later life housing circumstances of ex-service households of Queensland: A life course perspective
Dr Melanie Spallek	PhD	Prof Michele Haynes Prof Andrew Jones	Interrelationships among home ownership and early family events in Australia
Dr Susann Wiedlitzka	PhD	Prof Lorraine Mazerolle Dr Suzanna Fay-Ramirez Dr Toby Miles-Johnson	The legislative context of prejudice motivated victimisation: Perceptions of police legitimacy and citizen decisions to report hate crime incidents
CONTINUING STUDENTS			
Amanda Acutt	PhD	Prof Lorraine Mazerolle Dr Emma Antrobus Dr Sarah Bennett	Law as written versus law in action
Laura Bedford	PhD	Prof Lorraine Mazerolle Dr Emma Antrobus Dr Sarah Bennett	Randomised controlled trials in policing: An organisational learning perspective
Laetitia Coles	PhD	Dr Belinda Hewitt Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski Prof Lynda Cheshire	Contemporary fatherhood: Social, demographic and attitudinal factors associated with highly involved fathers who work very long hours
Michele Ferguson	PhD	Prof Brian Head Prof Emer Paul Boreham	The possibilities and perils of the research impact agenda: Understanding and mapping the impacts of the social sciences in policy making in Australia
Yangtao Huang	PhD	Prof Mark Western Dr Francisco Perales	Intergenerational economic mobility in contemporary Australia: Is Australia still a land of the “fair go”?
Nicole Kapelle	PhD	Prof Janeen Baxter Dr Sergi Vidal Torre Prof Michele Haynes	Gendered impacts of life course transitions on social disadvantage in contemporary Australia: A life course perspective
Kate Leslie	PhD	Prof Lorraine Mazerolle Dr Emma Antrobus Dr Sarah Bennett	Getting kids back to school: The role of self-efficacy and social support in achieving family group conference agreement outcomes
Poh Ping Lim	PhD	Prof Mark Western Dr Bernard Baffour Prof Michele Haynes	An activity based microsimulation model of travel demand in Australian capital cities
Eduardo Lucio	PhD	Prof Michele Haynes Dr Bernard Baffour	Design and analysis of longitudinal social surveys for hard to reach populations
Martin O’Flaherty	PhD	Prof Janeen Baxter Dr Gavin Turrell Prof Michele Haynes	For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health: The role of life course family processes in health equality
Peter Rankin	PhD	Prof Mark Western Prof Michele Haynes	Using Bayesian models to understand how social disadvantage impacts people throughout their life course
Amir Salimiha	MPhil	Prof Janeen Baxter Dr Francisco Perales	Whether and how maternal job characteristics are associated with child well-being
Agnieszka Sobolewska	PhD	Prof Lorraine Mazerolle Dr Emma Antrobus Dr Sarah Bennett	Lockstep: The role of youth networks in truancy, co-offending and crime/social control interventions
Rose-Marie Stambe	PhD	Prof David Fryer Dr Ravinder Sidhu Dr Silke Meyer	Becoming unemployed: Mapping embodied subjectivity within <i>jobactive</i>
Nicole Watson	PhD	Prof Michele Haynes Dr John Henstridge	Improvements in non-response adjustments for complex longitudinal survey data

¹² Only those students who provided permission are listed
¹³ Bold font indicates principal supervisor



Some of our summer scholars (L-R): Rebekah Zhao, Kyla Watson, Kate Huang, Heidi Hoffmann and Sarah Wirth

our students continued

STUDENT ¹⁴	PROGRAM	ADVISOR ¹⁵	THESIS TOPIC
NEW STUDENTS			
Sarah Ball	PhD	Dr Cameron Parsell Prof Brian Head Dr Emma Antrobus Dr Sarah Bennett	Behaviour change, rigorous evidence and public policy: An ethnography of the use of “behavioural insights” in policy development by the Australian federal government
Madonna Boman	PhD	Dr Cameron Parsell Dr Jack Lam	Risky transitions: Young people leaving out- of-home care in South East Queensland
Hanisah Corner	PhD	Prof Mark Moran Dr Cameron Parsell	Assessing the impact of public financing on health systems in the Papua New Guinea borderlands regions and the implications for public health surveillance and health care delivery within Papua New Guinea
Zoe Ellerman	PhD	Prof Mark Moran Prof Mark Western	The lessons from international development for Indigenous affairs
Frank Ford	MPhil	Dr Cameron Parsell	Pathways out of homelessness
Zahra Redwood	PhD	Dr Cameron Parsell	Homelessness and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Angelina Tang	PhD	Dr Francisco Perales Prof Janeen Baxter Dr Francisco Rowe	Overseas graduates in Australia: Characteristics, dynamics and change



ISSR’s MicroMasters will give students the skills to excel in the global development sector

first MOOC created for innovative MicroMasters®

Throughout 2016, an ISSR team, led by Professor Mark Moran, developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) which forms part of UQ’s innovative online MicroMasters. This MOOC is one of four online courses that students will need to complete to achieve the newly established *Leadership in Global Development* MicroMasters, and gain the skills needed to advance their careers in international development.

The MOOCs within the MicroMasters are designed for mid-career managers and senior professionals who are working in global development and looking to move into leadership roles. The first MOOC, *Leaders in Global Development*, teaches students key leadership skills specific to the global development sector, and equips them to build a shared vision and lead across geographical, cultural, organisational or disciplinary boundaries.

The course also helps students identify leadership styles, the different types of power, and the tools for gaining legitimacy in their development work.

The MicroMasters, which was launched in early 2017, is a new entry pathway for Masters-level education, and is the first of its kind to be offered in Australia. The course consists of a series of four 8–12 week MOOCs, and is delivered via the edX online learning platform, an innovative teaching medium founded by Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The MicroMasters offers a unique entry path into the soon-to-be-launched UQ *Master of Leadership in Global Development*, with all students looking to enrol in this on-campus program required to complete the MicroMasters first.

ISSR’s move into online education delivery reflects UQ’s commitment to innovation in the teaching and learning sphere, and strengthens the Institute’s role as an innovator in education delivery.

student pathways to world-leading organisations

ISSR students have the opportunity to work alongside top international organisations on a range of significant real-world projects. During her time at ISSR, former student Ms Eryln Macarayan (now Dr Macarayan) undertook field collaborations with global organisations such as the World Health Organization, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, and Gavi (a global vaccine alliance bringing together public and private sectors to create equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world’s poorest countries). Dr Macarayan’s PhD thesis, *Monitoring and evaluation health systems strengthening: Impact on disease epidemiology, pathogenesis, and mortality*, was bolstered through her involvement with these organisations. This experience has gone a long way to help Dr Macarayan achieve her aims to bring together medical and social services fields to yield practical applications and positively impact global health.



ISSR graduate, Dr Lyn Macarayan outside the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva

¹⁴ Only those students who provided permission are listed
¹⁵ Bold font indicates principal supervisor



new travel scholarship launched

ISSR students now have the opportunity to gain life-changing international experience as part of their research higher degree studies with the launch of the new Western Travel Scholarship. The prize, up to \$15k a year, will be awarded to outstanding postgraduate students undertaking research in the field of inequality.

The Western Travel Scholarship is named in recognition of The University of Queensland's first Professor of Sociology, Emeritus Professor John Western AM, and is designed to broaden recipients' research exposure by providing opportunities to work on new projects, train in different research methods, and collaborate with inspirational researchers in their field. It will enable students to undertake international activities such as attending or presenting at conferences, collecting or accessing data, visiting overseas laboratories, and undertaking internships or secondments with universities outside Australia. This experience will provide a unique opportunity to expand recipients' professional networks, and to develop positive cross-institutional relationships.

This new scholarship was made possible through a generous donation from Mrs Tasnee Western, in memory of her late husband. Mrs Western's gift will allow scholarships to be awarded to one or more students each year for assistance with travel, accommodation, and general living expenses while overseas.

Dean's Award for ISSR's first PhD graduate

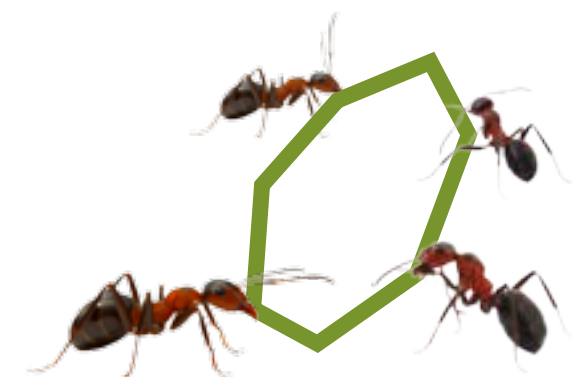
ISSR's first PhD graduate, Dr Art Martinez, was selected from among more than 650 graduates to receive one of The University of Queensland's Dean's Awards. Less than 10% of PhD graduates receive this prestigious award, and are selected from theses nominated by examiners as being "exceptional".

Dr Martinez's thesis, *A longitudinal approach to measuring income mobility among Filipino households*, forms part of his long-term plan to contribute incremental steps towards ensuring that we are using scientifically sound methods to better understand poverty and socioeconomic inequality. Having worked for three years as an applied statistician for the Asian Development Bank's Economic Research Department, Art is passionate about helping the 1.2 billion people worldwide who live below the US\$1.25 per day poverty line, and is positioning himself well to do so.



ISSR graduate, Dr Art Martinez

ENGAGEMENT



ENGAGEMENT

ISSR engages with stakeholders in ways that extend the reach and translational value of the Institute's research towards achieving our goals to: maximise research innovation and translation; impact scientific knowledge; and grow the Institute's portfolio of work.

connecting with stakeholders

Our researchers' engagement activities throughout the year included a number of public events and media coverage of issues such as Indigenous culture, welfare and homelessness.

- In May, Professor Paul Memmott provided historical expertise to the public through a panel on *Dulka Warngiid – Land of All*, a retrospective QAGOMA exhibition celebrating the life of the late Kaiadilt artist, Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori.
- Dr Cameron Parsell profiled key findings from his evaluation of Brisbane Common Ground through national and local media throughout the year that gave him a platform for sharing evidence of sustainable and effective support for homeless.
- Professor Mark Western talked about the Commonwealth's *Priority Investment Approach to Welfare* as part of a panel discussion ABC TV's *Lateline* in September 2016.
- In late 2016, both Professor Mark Western and LCC Director Professor Janeen Baxter delivered a public lecture on the topic of "Welfare dependency or inherited disadvantage?" as part of UQ's Global Leadership Series, posing challenges to commonly held ideas of meritocracy in Australia.
- Thirteen ISSR researchers and PhD students delivered presentations to attendees from research, policy and practice sectors at the inaugural *Longitudinal Data Conference* in October 2016, speaking on topics such as gender gaps, intergenerational disadvantage, familial financial decisions, and housing stability.

Engagement for the upcoming year will continue to deliver on targets set out in ISSR's engagement strategy, including developing a range of products and knowledge-exchange activities to connect social science evidence with external stakeholders to inspire policy and practice change.

showcasing social science research

Demonstrating ISSR's dedication to promoting the role of social science beyond academia, Professor Brian Head worked closely with the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) to develop its 2016 Annual Symposium. This event was designed to raise awareness of the need for social scientists to demonstrate their relevance and influence beyond the university sector, and explore how the sector is responding to the challenge. Participants were encouraged to examine the actual value contributed by the social sciences in Australia and develop new methods to demonstrate these research impacts. Bringing together researchers and policy-makers, the symposium highlighted the value of collaborating across sectors to solve complex social issues.

growing smarts in the sunshine state

In 2016, we expanded a number of important research relationships in Queensland to support evidence-based decision-making in our home state. These research partnerships are characterised by repeat engagement, which is a mark of the confidence our government clients have in our work:

- ISSR was commissioned by the Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to design the evaluation framework for Queensland's reform program on domestic and family violence (see story on page 27), and we later partnered with Deakin University to evaluate the Queensland Government's policy for tackling alcohol-fuelled violence, again working with DPC.
- We extended our research service record with the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works by commencing evaluations of: the *Mental Health Demonstration Project* to deliver integrated support for social housing clients with complex needs; and the *Street to Home* supportive housing program in Cairns (see page 20).



Professor Paul Memmott looks on while Judith Ryan, Senior Curator of Indigenous Arts at the National Gallery of Victoria discusses Sally Gabori's art at the *Dulka Warngiid – Land of All* panel at QAGOMA

- In partnership with Micah Projects, we evaluated the integrated nursing services provided at Brisbane Common Ground, building on our earlier successful evaluation of the Brisbane Common Ground complex which found that governments can save money when affordable accommodation and in-house support services are provided to the homeless (see page 21).
- We also delivered the third wave of a cross-sectional customer impact survey for the Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Small Business, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games to generate insights into customer journeys on the state-sponsored *Business and Industry Portal* online, extending work we commenced in 2014.



Centre Director, Prof Mark Western, addressing attendees at the National Longitudinal Data Conference 2016



ISSR researchers participated in the international Families and Societies Workshop in Brussels, Belgium

developing new partnerships with end-users

ISSR seeks to initiate and maintain productive relationships with research end-users and frontline services to achieve research impact. In 2016, ISSR established a productive partnership with the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland on a project led by Dr Cameron Parsell to assist the charity in understanding the impact of its work and which activities are most

effective in ending people's dependency on charity and welfare. The Institute also initiated new collaborations with diverse stakeholders including the Queensland Museum, Museum Victoria, the State Library of New South Wales on the *Wild Australia Show* (an ARC Linkage Project), and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health on a scoping study to enable evaluation of its services.



ISSR's Dr Chris Ambrey and Vinnies Queensland CEO Peter Maher discuss how to better use the charity's data resources (image courtesy of St Vincent de Paul Queensland)



Brisbane Common Ground (BCG) Integrated Nursing Service: A clinical nurse consults with a Brisbane Common Ground tenant (Image courtesy of Micah Projects, photography: Katie Bennett)

research partners

In 2016 ISSR undertook research with 49 different partners from government and non-government organisations. The Institute worked closely with partners, providing expertise and commercial services to help organisations better understand how to collect, manage and use their social data. Our research partners include:

- Arruwurra Aboriginal Corporation
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Civil-Military Centre
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training
- Australian Government Department of Health
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
- Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
- Communio
- CRC for Water Sensitive Cities
- Deakin University
- Deloitte Actuaries and Consultants
- Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education Limited
- Griffith University
- International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
- International WaterCentre Pty Ltd
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Micah Projects
- Monash University
- Motor Accidents Authority
- Museum Victoria
- New South Wales Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
- Palladium
- Public Safety Business Agency
- Queensland Government Department of Education and Training
- Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works
- Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games
- Queensland Mental Health Commission
- Queensland Museum Network
- Queensland University of Technology
- SEQ Water
- St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland
- Telethon Kids Institute
- The Salvation Army
- The Smith Family
- The Social Research Centre
- The State Library of NSW
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Western Australia
- Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
- University of South Australia
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- Victoria University
- Water Research Australia
- World Bank





ISSR researchers featured in various national conversations on social issues in 2016

the art and science of spinifex

While Indigenous Australians have known about the amazing properties of spinifex grass for millennia, modern science is only just beginning to catch up. Recent investigations by UQ researchers found that nanofibres from the grass can be used to strengthen materials, and have developed a new method of extracting these nanofibres. Looking to inspire further innovation and new ways of thinking to advance UQ's spinifex research, nanoscientists, anthropologists and agricultural scientists from the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), ISSR, and School of Agriculture and Food Sciences chose to explore the intersections of art and science by engaging spinifex artist Shirley Macnamara as a UQ Artist-in-Residence throughout 2016.

Ms Macnamara is a nationally acclaimed Indigenous artist whose style of sculpture is highly sought after by galleries and public institutions. She uses her experience and mastery of the unique medium of spinifex to weave and sculpt beautiful and evocative pieces from native grass and other materials found on her family cattle station south of Mount Isa and her traditional country around Camooweal.

The UQ Art Museum designed UQ's Artist-in-Residence program to encourage collaboration between artists, researchers and the community to promote knowledge-

sharing, build understanding and inspire new thinking. The multifaceted residence included an "art-meets-science" workshop to share knowledge on spinifex, Indigenous cultures, plant biology and plant materials, as well as building a mutual understanding of traditional Indigenous cultures and Western scientific methods. During this workshop, researchers were encouraged to explore Ms Macnamara's unique techniques using spinifex as part of a cross-cultural exercise aimed at stimulating deeper understanding of the material.

Ms Macnamara is developing new art inspired by her time collaborating with UQ researchers for a future exhibition at the University.

Ms Macnamara is a senior member of the Indjalandji-Dhidhanu People, who are collaborating with UQ nanotechnologists to grow and harvest spinifex for use in the production of commercial products ranging from tyres to surgical gloves. This partnership evolved from a 2008 ARC Discovery Project led by Professor Paul Memmott on the science of spinifex grass and ways of working with Indigenous communities to source and harvest the grass, and continues through research and development work by Professor Darren Martin from AIBN.

raising the profile of ISSR research

Throughout 2016, ISSR researchers engaged in public debate on concepts of inequality and wellbeing through national media.

High profile media involvement included:

- ISSR Director Professor Mark Western was invited to join an expert panel on ABC TV's *Lateline* program to discuss the Australian Government's *Priority Investment Approach to Welfare*.
- Life Course Centre Director and ISSR research group leader Professor Janeen Baxter discussed gender in Australia and Australia's breadwinner culture with ABC Radio National's Matthew Crawford.
- Homelessness research group leader Cameron Parsell was called upon by various radio programs to discuss his Brisbane Common Ground evaluation findings that demonstrate how providing people suffering from homelessness with supportive housing can produce cost savings for the community.

- A number of researchers also published articles in the online publication *The Conversation*, including:
 - o *How community-based innovation can help Australia close the Indigenous gap*, Prof Mark Moran
 - o *How to improve research training in Australia – give industry placements to PhD students*, Prof Mark Western
 - o *Ideas for Australia: Closing the gap is proving hard, but we can do better by working developmentally*, Prof Mark Moran
 - o *Supportive housing is cheaper than chronic homelessness*, Dr Cameron Parsell.



Ms Macnamara discussing the properties of spinifex runners with Prof Darren Martin from AIBN. Inset: An example of Ms Macnamara's artwork (image courtesy of the artist and Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne)





seminars and workshops

VISITOR	DATE	PRESENTATION
Dr Paolo Brunori (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Bari)	1–2/2/16	Measuring inequality of opportunity (workshop)
Dr Paolo Brunori (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Bari)	4/2/16	The perception of inequality of opportunity (seminar)
Lisa-Christine Girard (Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow, University College Dublin)	11/2/16	The impact of breastfeeding on cognitive and non-cognitive development at age three (seminar)
Prof Harvey Goldstein (Professor of Social Statistics, University of Bristol)	1–2/3/16	Imputation for missing values and data linkage (workshop)
Prof Harvey Goldstein (Professor of Social Statistics, University of Bristol)	3/3/16	How should we handle errors of measurement in social science data? (seminar)
Michael Woolcock (Lead Social Development Specialist, Development Research Group, World Bank)	3/3/16	Leadership in Global Development (workshop)
Prof Stuart Kinner (Senior Research Fellow, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University)	10/3/16	Using data linkage to study health and social outcomes for ex-prisoners (seminar)
Mr Sean Innis (Group Manager, Policy Officer Group, Australian Government Department of Social Services)	22/3/16	Sustainability of Welfare (seminar)
Dr Louise Phillips (School of Education, The University of Queensland)	7/4/16	Decolonising methodologies in researching civic action with Aboriginal Australian young children (seminar)
Dr Kirsten Besemer (Post-doctoral Research Fellow, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University)	28/4/16	The consequences of paternal imprisonment for children and their caregivers (seminar)
Prof Leslie S Stratton (Professor of Economics at Virginia Commonwealth University)	5/5/16	How distance to a non-residential parent relates to child outcomes (seminar)
Prof Erik Olin Wright (Vilas Distinguished Research Professor, University of Wisconsin)	19/5/16	Understanding class (seminar)
Prof Michael Kimmel (SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, Stony Brook University)	27/5/16	Angry white men: Gender on the extreme right (seminar)
Prof Janeen Baxter, Dr Jack Lam and Martin Flaherty (Director, Life Course Centre, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Life Course Centre and ISSR RHD candidate)	3/6/16	Dynamics of parental work hours, job insecurity, and child wellbeing during middle childhood in Australian dual-income families (seminar)
Carroll Go-Sam, Dr Michael Aird and Assoc Prof Charles Passi (Indigenous Research Fellow, Aboriginal Environments Research Centre; Adjunct Associate Lecturer, School of Social Science, The University of Queensland and Adjunct Associate Professor, The University of Queensland)	23/6/16	An Indigenous Design Place Event: Indigenous homes, people and places (seminar)
Prof Brian Head (ISSR Group Leader, Policy)	20/7/16	Career overview and advice for postgraduate students (seminar)
Prof Christopher Baum (Professor of Economics and Social Work, Boston College)	11/8/16	Fundamentals of Stata programming (workshop)
Dr Walter Forrest (ISSR Research Fellow)	21/8/16	Intergenerational effects of military service (seminar)
Dr Yan Liu (ISSR Research Fellow)	13/9/16	Spatially integrated humanities and social science research using GIS technologies (seminar)
Dr Christian Brzinsky-Fay (Berlin Social Science Centre)	3/11/16	Masterclass in sequence analysis (workshop)
Dr Orla Doyle (Senior Researcher, UCD Geary Institute & Lecturer, UCD School of Economics)	15/11/16	Intervening early to promote school readiness (seminar)
Assoc Prof Renuka Mahadevan (School of Economics, The University of Queensland)	24/11/16	Is there a link between poverty and food security? (seminar)
Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski (ISSR Research Fellow)	25/12/16	Career guidance, school experiences and university participation of equity students (seminar)

debunking the concept of welfare dependence

ISSR’s Director, Professor Mark Western, and the Life Course Centre’s Director, Professor Janeen Baxter, drew a full house to The University of Queensland’s Global Leadership Series public lecture in November.

In their presentation, *Welfare dependence or inherited disadvantage?*, the duo challenged the audience to rethink some of their strongly held beliefs on the nature of disadvantage while revealing the results of some of the Institute’s latest research.

Professor Western and Professor Baxter asked the question, “are hard work and individual effort enough to help a person break free from a life of disadvantage, or are there systemic inequalities that prevent some people from becoming the masters of their own destiny?” They argued against the commonly held acceptance of meritocracy in Australia, which assumes that everyone can achieve the same outcomes if they work hard enough and the system treats everyone the same.

“Our research tells us that the circumstances we are born into strongly shape our destinies,” Professor Baxter said.

“People don’t start from the same place, even before birth. The institutions that matter for our success (like family, schools, workplaces and universities) too often reward performance that partly reflects our earlier advantages, and often these same institutions don’t really compensate for the earlier disadvantages and setbacks.”

Professor Western further explained that “the advantages of ‘good luck’ [being born into a family with economic and social advantages that offer children a very strong start] can compound over a person’s life, while the disadvantages of ‘bad luck’ can also compound, to make people increasingly vulnerable and cause them to fall behind.”

The speakers highlighted the need for investing in future generations through holistic approaches to support disadvantaged parents and students early in the life course, thereby enhancing people’s ability to effectively participate in school, tertiary education and employment.

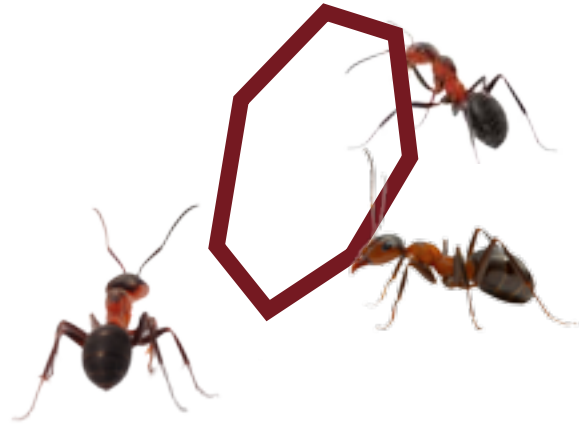


Professor Janeen Baxter addresses the audience at Brisbane Customs House as part of The University of Queensland’s Global Leadership Series public lecture





RESOURCES



RESOURCES

governance

ISSR is governed through a committee structure, where the Institute's Director is supported by the Executive Committee and two Sub-committees, and advised by the Board (see Figure 3).

The Board of the Institute for Social Science Research is a key research strategy and leadership body for the Institute. Consisting of prominent business, public sector and academic executives who have all achieved significant success in their respective fields, the Board provides the Director with advice and guidance about future plans and overall direction. The Board met for the first time in 2016.

The Executive Committee consists of the Institute Director, three Deputy Directors (Research, Innovation and Operations) and all research group leaders (eight as at 31 December 2016). ISSR's internal structure promotes flexibility to leverage opportunities, share resources and produce high quality, impactful research.

Up until September, the same Executive Committee members met with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Associate Dean (Research), ISSR emerging leaders and an research higher degreee (RHD) representative as part of the ISSR Research Committee. Following a review of both committees' core functions, the Research Committee was dissolved in order to prevent duplication and find new ways to engage emerging leaders in strategic discussions.

Reporting to the Executive Committee, the Research Higher Degree Sub-committee is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of ISSR policy and procedures for RHD programs. The Wellbeing Sub-committee is likewise dedicated to promoting a positive work culture for all staff and students.

ISSR's research groups, guided by group leaders, work collectively to address significant social problems and deliver results for our clients and society. As previously reported, ISSR wound up two existing research areas in 2016 following Professor Lorraine Mazerolle's transition to the School of Social Science and Professor Brian Head's move to the School of Political Science and International Studies. Two new groups were also established at the end of 2016, in areas of public health research, led by Professor Rosa Alati, and educational inequality, led by Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski. In 2017, ISSR will continue its efforts to recruit for new group leaders and mid-career researchers to ensure ongoing growth in our research and service capability.

Figure 3. ISSR's committee structure

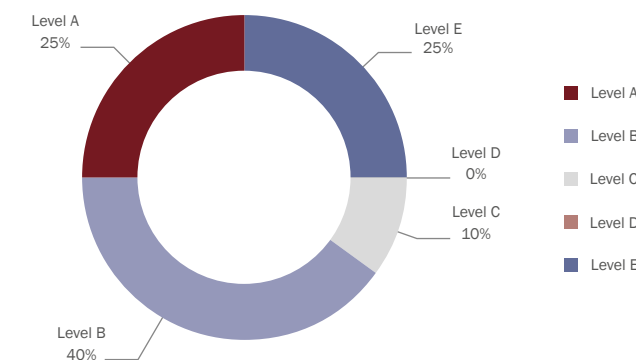


personnel

Between 2015 and 2016, ISSR experienced a 25% decrease in academic staff numbers¹⁶, driven by one group leader's retirement and two transferring with their teams to other schools within the University. Over the year, ISSR recruited new senior researchers and their teams to the Institute; and recruitment will continue in 2017 with the aim of increasing academic staff numbers in line with earlier years. The Institute's current academic staffing profile is comparable to 2015, with early career researchers making up 65% of academic staff, mid-career researchers totalling 10% and professors representing 25% (see Figure 4). Despite a drop in academic staff numbers, the Institute still performed very well, with the average income per academic staff member increasing by 50.5% over 2015 to \$353k.¹⁷

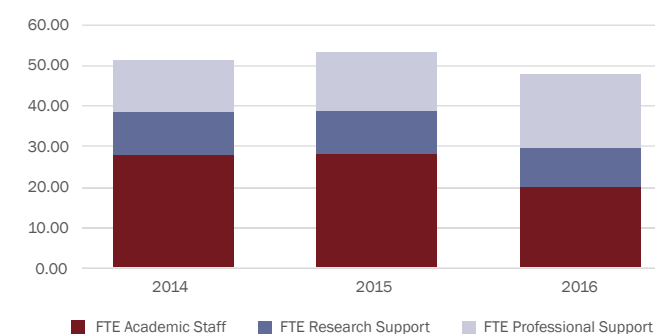
The number of full-time equivalent professional staff grew for the third consecutive year, with the 2016 proportion of professional staff to academic staff growing by 11%, driven largely by the decrease in academic staff numbers over the same period.

Figure 4. Academic staff by level, as a proportion of total academic staff, as at 31 March 2016



Strategic academic recruitment activity in late 2016, coupled with changes to professional support as a result of UQ's *Reorganising Services* agenda, will rebalance the proportion of academic to professional staff in ISSR throughout 2017 and 2018.

Figure 5. Total staff FTE by function 2014–2016¹⁸



An overall increase in professional staff in the Institute over the last three years has been driven by resourcing requirements across three major areas: additional resources to support commercial research services (such as the MFSAS professional development program and CATI), professional support for the Life Course Centre, and facilities management support driven by the Institute's relocation to Long Pocket. The Institute will continue to invest in high quality professional staff to support its activities such as business development, engagement, commercialisation, financial management, training support and operational services.

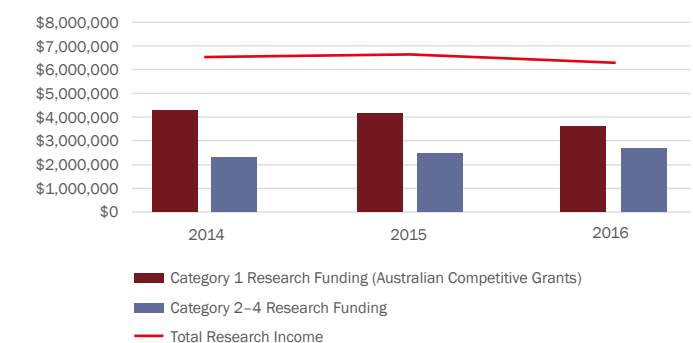
finance

Despite a 25% decrease in academic staff from 2015 to 2016, ISSR's overall revenue decreased by only 8% or \$876,215. Nearly all expenditure categories decreased in line with the reduction in Institute personnel, except for additional investment in research higher degree scholarships (\$70,828) and equipment (\$84,934). ISSR ended the year with a surplus of \$139,745 which was driven by a reduction of \$778,595 in project personnel and other project-related expenditure. Almost all ISSR projects were delivered on time and on budget in 2016, positively impacting our end-of-year position.

ISSR sits organisationally at UQ within HASS, and continues to drive one third of the faculty's research income; yet overall growth for ISSR has steadied since 2014, since securing funding for the Life Course Centre. In 2016, ISSR was awarded \$1.7 million to undertake evaluations for Australian, Queensland and New South Wales government departments, increasing our revenue from this sector by 52% since 2015. ISSR's growth in this area from 2014 to 2016 reflects our deepening partnerships with government and delivery of high quality outputs.

ISSR's sales and services income increased for the third consecutive year, with continued growth in our commercial services, including the MFSAS short-course training program and research services. Research block grant income increased by \$162,010 in line with ISSR's research income growth from 2015, but was offset by a 30% decline in internal University support. The Institute leveraged the University's \$1.17 million investment to return \$7.62 million in 2016, representing a return of over six times the initial investment made by UQ.

Figure 6. ISSR Research Income 2014–2016



¹⁶ 31 March 2015 compared to 31 March 2016 (UQ HR data census)

¹⁷ Based on academic staff level B and above as at 31 March 2016. This total may differ from official UQ data, released after the date of this publication

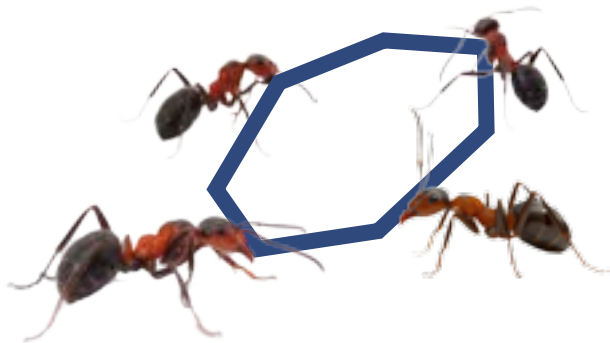
¹⁸ As at 31 March each year

consolidated income and expenditure statement 2014–2016

	2014	2015	2016
	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE			
Research			
ARC research	4,131,417	3,917,755	3,537,226
NHMRC research	0	78,661	79,693
Cooperative Research Centres research	193,692	259,527	71,855
Australian government research	1,013,404	671,469	1,293,497
State government research: Queensland	304,143	363,115	436,819
State government research: Other	42,508	240,908	202,544
Third party collaborations	1,435,243	1,655,569	1,003,887
Operating			
Research block grants	1,331,298	1,411,392	1,573,402
Other research income and recoveries	92,660	64,516	64,643
Internal allocations	1,903,225	1,678,645	1,177,392
Sales and services	530,903	882,460	936,346
Other			
Sponsorships	0	29,500	0
Total revenue	10,978,493	11,253,518	10,377,303
EXPENDITURE			
Projects			
Salaries	3,680,568	4,359,222	3,689,566
Research services	772,045	861,470	782,861
Scholarships	136,209	298,880	114,504
Collaborative projects	2,245,369	1,746,272	1,608,444
Other expenses	81,057	174,546	65,607
Operating			
Salaries	3,824,470	3,861,452	3,579,996
Equipment	89,766	65,324	84,934
Infrastructure	193,862	128,949	114,998
Scholarships	25,327	40,216	70,828
Collaborative projects	5,420	37,940	12,195
Other expenses	122,926	264,092	113,625
Total expenditure	11,177,019	11,838,363	10,237,558
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-198,526	-584,845	139,745



PEOPLE



PEOPLE

board of the institute for social science research

John McGagh (Chair), Chief Digital Officer, Snowy Hydro Limited

Barbara Bennett, Deputy Secretary (Families and Communities), Australian Government Department of Social Services

Professor Tim Dunne, Executive Dean, UQ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family

Michael Hogan, Director-General, Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

Dr Paul Jelfs, General Manager (Population and Social Statistics Division), Australian Bureau of Statistics

Professor Alastair McEwan, Dean, UQ Graduate School

Professor Mark Western, Director, Institute for Social Science Research

ISSR executive committee

Professor Mark Western, Director

Professor Rosa Alati, Group Leader

Professor Janeen Baxter, Centre Director, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course

Professor Michele Haynes, Deputy Director (Research)

Professor Brian Head, Group Leader

Ms Cordelia Jackson, Deputy Director (Operations)

Ms Sue McKell, Deputy Director (Innovation)

Professor Paul Memmott, Director, Aboriginal Environments Research Centre

Professor Mark Moran, Group Leader

Dr Cameron Parsell, Group Leader

research staff

Dr Christopher Ambrey, Research Fellow

Dr Bernard Baffour, Research Fellow in Social Statistics

Dr Yvette Bettini, Research Fellow

Dr Kim Betts, Research Fellow

Dr Danilo Bolano, Research Fellow in Social Statistics

Mr Joshua Bon, Research Assistant

Mr Joseph Byrne, Research Analyst

Ms Alice Campbell, Research Assistant

Ms Carys Chainey, Research Assistant

Dr Denise Clague, Research Officer

Dr Andrew Clarke, Research Fellow

Ms Laetitia Coles, Research Assistant

Dr Rochelle Côté, UQ Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Susan Creagh, Research Fellow

Ms Laura Dunstan, Research Assistant

Ms Michele Ferguson, Research Officer

Dr Jason Ferris, Senior Research Fellow

Dr Bryn Hughes, Research Fellow

Dr Yara Jarallah, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ms Elizabeth Kennedy, Research Officer (Research Surveys, Text Analytics and Training)

Mr Matthias Kubler, Senior Research Officer

Dr Jack Lam, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Jeong Lee, Research Fellow in Social Methods

Mrs Erin Lord-Lynch, Research Officer

Dr Silke Meyer, UQ Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Kevin Murphy, Research Fellow

Dr Daphne Nash, Research Fellow

Dr Francisco Perales Perez, Research Fellow

Dr Maree Petersen, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ms Rhonda Phillips, Research Fellow

Dr Jenny Povey, Research Fellow in Social Methods

Dr Tina Rampino, Research Fellow in Social and Economic Inequality and Mobility

Dr Jonathan Richards, Research Fellow (Historian)

Dr Caroline Salom, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ms Laura Simpson Reeves, Senior Research Officer

Dr Andrew Smith, Senior Scientific Officer (Information Science)

Dr Melanie Spallek, Research Fellow in Longitudinal and Life Course Methods

Ms Rose-Marie Stambe, Research Assistant

Ms Sarah Stevenson, Research Assistant

Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski, Research Fellow in Social and Economic Inequality and Mobility

Mr Nam Tran Thanh, Research Assistant

Dr Sergi Vidal, UQ Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Zoe Walter, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Lin Wu, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Social Computing

Dr Ning Xiang, Research Assistant

Ms Susan York, Research Services Manager (Research Surveys, Text Analytics and Training)

Dr Renee Zahnow, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

HASS faculty fellows

Dr Louise Phillips, School of Education

Dr Lynda Shevellar, School of Social Science

Dr Walter Forrest, School of Social Science

professional staff

Mrs Kathryn Ackerley, Human Resources Assistant

Mrs Lucy Bryce, Personal Assistant

Ms Laura Clarke, Research Development Officer

Mrs Bogi Crilly-Toth, Senior Finance Officer

Ms Erica Davis, Senior Legal Counsel, Research

Mrs Lynette Dawson, Facilities and Office Manager

Ms Emma Earl, Research Partnerships Manager

Ms Dolores Element, Executive Assistant

Ms Carla Gerbo, Centre Manager

Ms Monica Gonzalez, Engagement Manager

Ms Cara Herington, Training Coordinator

Mrs Cassandra Hughes, Facilities and Office Manager (maternity leave)

Ms Ann Johnstone, Engagement Officer

Mrs Jenny Johnston, Project Officer

Mrs Louise Keith, Finance Manager (maternity leave)

Miss Morgan Lee, Office Administrator

Miss Emma Leonard, ATSI Business Administration Trainee

Miss Sally Lowe, Human Resources Advisor

Ms Carla McCarthy, Events and Administration Coordinator

Ms Honor Morton, Marketing and Communications Officer

Mrs Katherine Parsonage, Senior Finance Officer

Mr Alarka Phukan, Finance Manager

Dr Lisa Pope, Postgraduate Administration Officer and Unit Publication Officer

Mr Florian Riechers, Digital Communications Officer

Ms Gail Stewart, Personal Assistant

Ms Jadwiga Szablewska, Finance Officer

affiliate appointments

Dr Emma Antrobus, School of Social Science

Dr Sarah Bennett, School of Social Science

Dr Adrian Cherney, School of Social Science

Associate Professor Kelly Fielding, School of Communications and Arts

Professor Lorraine Mazerolle, School of Social Science

Professor Gita Mishra, School of Public Health

Dr Maree Petersen, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Dr Rebecca Wickes, School of Social Science

Associate Professor Yan Liu, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

honorary/adjunct appointments

Ms Linda Apelt, Adjunct Professor

Ms Jenny Bellamy, Honorary Senior Research Fellow

Emeritus Professor Paul Boreham, Emeritus Professor

Dr Garth Britton, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Dr Sin Cheung, Honorary Senior Lecturer

Dr Linda Colley, Adjunct Research Fellow

Dr Gillian Considine, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Dr Stephen Darroch, Adjunct Research Fellow

Professor Fiona Devine, Honorary Professor

Emeritus Professor David de Vaus, Emeritus Professor

Associate Professor Mel Dunn, Adjunct Associate Professor

Associate Professor Belinda Hewitt, Honorary Associate Professor

Emeritus Professor Andrew Jones, Emeritus Professor

Dr Michael Limerick, Adjunct Associate Professor

Dr Roderick McCrea, Adjunct Research Fellow

Mr Michael McFadden, Adjunct Professor

Mr Maurie McNarn, AO, Adjunct Professor

Mr Geoffrey Miller, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Mr Gregory Oliver, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Mr Charles Passi, Adjunct Associate Professor

Mr Darren Pennay, Adjunct Professor

Dr Gregory Picker, Honorary Research Consultant

Mr Geoffrey Richardson, Adjunct Associate Professor

Professor Fiona Steele, Honorary Professor

Dr Tsui-O Tai, Honorary Research Fellow

Dr Vikki Uhlmann, Honorary Research Fellow

Dr Gentry White, Honorary Research Fellow

Dr Mara Yerkes, Honorary Senior Research Fellow

Associate Professor Maria Zadoroznyj, Adjunct Associate Professor

occupational trainees

Mr Tomas Cano Lopez, Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona

Ms Sara Kalucza, Umeå University, Sweden



Two of our outstanding researchers,
Dr Francisco Perales and Dr Cameron Parsell

awards



ISSR researchers continue to be recognised for their outstanding achievements, with two staff members receiving prestigious awards in 2016.

One of ISSR’s emerging leaders, **Dr Francisco (Paco) Perales**, was awarded an Early Career Researcher award from the UQ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) in September. The faculty’s annual research award recognised Dr Perales for his outstanding research on the factors which influence intergenerational disadvantage throughout Australia. The award acknowledges researchers’ achievements and the impact of their work.

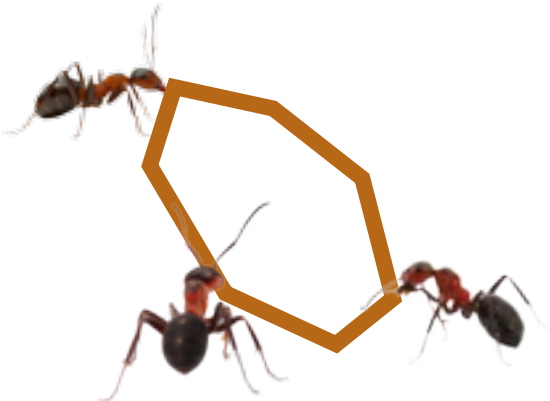
This award was shortly followed by the announcement that Paco had received a coveted Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) grant. This grant will provide Dr Perales with \$370k over three years to investigate socioeconomic disparities between individuals of different sexual orientations and identify the mechanisms driving this social stratification. His project on *Sexual Orientation and Life Chances in Contemporary Australia* will involve analysing administrative and survey data

to monitor differences and deliver policy-relevant evidence to improve life outcomes for different sexual identity groups. The ARC DECRA program supports promising early career researchers and promotes enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways.

ISSR Group Leader **Dr Cameron Parsell** was also recognised in 2016 through a UQ Foundation Research Excellence (FREA) award for demonstrated excellence, promise of future success in research, and leadership potential in the field of social science.

The \$80k award acknowledges Dr Parsell’s important research into homelessness and social housing, and provides support to further his solution-oriented social research in these areas. FREA awards seek to advance and facilitate the research agenda of excellent early career researchers, particularly where there is evidence of strategically important research.

PROJECTS



PROJECTS

project list

flagship projects (>\$1 million)

PRIMARY FUNDER ¹⁹ (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence (2014–2021)	ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course	Prof Janeen Baxter
National Health and Medical Research Council Centre of Research Excellence (2012–2017)	NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Evidence-based Mental Health Planning: Translating Evidence into Policy and Services	Prof Brian Head

large projects (\$500k–\$1 million)

PRIMARY FUNDER ¹⁹ (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2015–2018)	Interim Home Based Care Subsidy (Nanny Pilot) Programme	Dr Jenny Povey
Australian Government Department of Social Services (2013–2016)	Longitudinal Mothers Survey: Enhancing Mothers' Workforce Engagement in the Preschool Years	Dr Belinda Hewitt
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2012–2019)	Aboriginal Lifeworlds, Conditionality and Housing Outcomes	Prof Mark Moran
Australian Research Council Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (2014–2016)	Enhancing the Contribution of Social Science Research in Resolving Complex Policy Problems	Prof Brian Head
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2019)	Architectural Design to Improve Indigenous Health Outcomes	Prof Paul Memmott
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2018)	Assessing the Impact of Public Finances on the PNG–Australia Borderland	Prof Mark Moran
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2019)	Social Futures and Life Pathways of Young People in Queensland: Waves 6 and 7 of a Longitudinal Study	Dr Cameron Parsell
Australian Research Council Linkage Project (2013–2016)	Improving Educational Outcomes for Disadvantaged Children	Prof Mark Western
Motor Accidents Authority (2013–2017)	Factors Influencing Social Health Outcomes After Land Transport Injury: Inception Cohort Study	Prof Michele Haynes
The University of Queensland VC Strategic Funding (2016–2019)	Indigenous Design Place	Prof Paul Memmott

medium projects (\$100k–\$499k)

PRIMARY FUNDER ¹⁹ (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Australian Civil-Military Centre (2015–2017)	Australian Civilian, Police and Military Female Personnel in Multilateral Peace and Security Operations	Prof Mark Moran
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2018)	Review of Identified Equity Groups	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2015–2016)	The Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program (Widening Participation Longitudinal Study) Scoping Study	Prof Bill Martin / Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski

¹⁹ For a full list of partners see page 43.

medium projects (\$100k–\$499k) continued

PRIMARY FUNDER ²⁰ (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Australian Government Department of Social Services (2016–2017)	The Provision of Services in Relation to the Validation of the Actuarial Valuation for the Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare	Prof Michele Haynes
Australian Research Council Linkage Project (2015–2016)	Securing the Essential: Assisting Indigenous Communities and their Service Providers to Sustainably Manage Water and Energy Supply	Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding
Australian Research Council (Linkage Project 2016–2020)	An Assessment of Late Night Alcohol Restrictions in Queensland	Dr Jason Ferris
Australian Research Council (Linkage Project 2013–2016)	Enhancing Social Research in Australia Using Dual-frame Telephone Surveys	Prof Michele Haynes
Australian Research Council (Linkage Project 2016–2019)	How Meston’s Wild Australia Show Shaped Australian Aboriginal History	Dr Michael Aird
Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (2012–2016)	Better Governance for Complex Decision-Making	Prof Brian Head
Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (2012–2016)	Engaging Communities with Water Sensitive Cities	Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding
Life Course Centre (2015–2017)	A Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality in Australia and the Rest of the World	Prof Mark Western
Life Course Centre (2015–2016)	Breaking the Cycle: Can Parental Engagement and Academic Socialisation Enablers Improve Education Outcomes for Disadvantaged Children?	Dr Jenny Povey
Life Course Centre (2014–2016)	Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing in Australia	Prof Janeen Baxter
Life Course Centre (2015–2017)	Small Area Estimation of Disadvantage	Dr Bernard Baffour
Life Course Centre (2014–2016)	The Effect of Home Relocations on Australian Children’s Development	Prof Janeen Baxter
Life Course Centre (2016–2017)	Statistical Inference for Linked Administrative, Census, and Survey Data	Prof Michele Haynes
National Health and Medical Research Council Early Career Fellowships (2015–2018)	Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratories: An Analysis of the Geo-spatial Dynamics Between Ecological Factors, Pharmacists, Pseudo-runners and Related Health Harms	Dr Jason Ferris
New South Wales Government Department of Education, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (2015–2017)	Student Engagement and Outcomes: Research and Analysis	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Queensland Government Department of Education and Training (2016)	Research on Effective Strategies for Improving School Attendance	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Queensland Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2017)	Principal Leadership for Parent–School–Community Engagement in Disadvantaged Schools Project	Dr Jenny Povey
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016–2017)	Evaluation of Multidisciplinary Street to Home: Cairns	Dr Cameron Parsell
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016–2017)	Mental Health Demonstration Project Evaluation	Dr Cameron Parsell
Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet (2016–2017)	Evaluation Framework for Queensland’s Reform Program on Domestic and Family Violence	Prof Michele Haynes
Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (2015–2016)	Customer Impact Survey Wave 3	Sue York
The University of Queensland Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2013–2016)	Ending Homelessness: Analysis of Innovative Strategies to Reduce Homelessness	Dr Cameron Parsell
The University of Queensland Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2013–2016)	From Disadvantage to Success? Indigenous Participation in the Urban Marketplace: A Global Comparison	Dr Rochelle Côté
The University of Queensland School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work (2016)	End-of-life Decision-making	Sue York

²⁰ For a full list of partners see page 43.



small projects (<\$100k)

PRIMARY FUNDER ²¹ (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Sie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (2013–2016)	Youth Gang Violence in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review of the Predictors of Participation and the Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Involvement	Dr Angela Higginson
Arruwurra Aboriginal Corporation (2016–2017)	Arruwurra Genealogy Research	Prof Paul Memmott
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2017)	Identifying School Engagement Practices Facilitating University Participation of Equity Students	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2015–2016)	Building Australia’s Affordable Housing Industry Capacity: A Review and Pointers for a Roadmap	Rhonda Phillips
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2015–2016)	Inquiry into Affordable Housing Industry Capacity	Rhonda Phillips
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2015–2016)	Recent Housing Transfer Experience in Australia: Implications for Industry Development	Rhonda Phillips
Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union (2016)	Future Manufacturing Jobs in Queensland	Dr Bernard Baffour
Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (2012–2016)	Accelerating Transitions to Water Sensitive Cities by Influencing Behaviour	Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding
Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (2012–2016)	Better Regulatory Frameworks for Water Sensitive Cities	Prof Brian Head
Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education Limited (2015–2016)	Statistical Analysis of Alcohol Harms Data	Dr Jason Ferris
Life Course Centre (2015–2016)	Building a Social Welfare Program of Research with the Salvation Army	Dr Cameron Parsell
Life Course Centre (2016–2017)	Defining and Measuring Multiple Disadvantage with Linked Administrative Data	Prof Janeen Baxter
Life Course Centre (2015–2017)	Gendered Consequences of Life-course Transitions	Prof Janeen Baxter
Micah Projects (2016)	Evaluation of the Brisbane Common Ground Integrated Nursing Services	Dr Cameron Parsell
New South Wales Government Department of Education, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (2016)	Statistical Weights for New South Wales Student Engagement Data	Dr Bernard Baffour
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016)	Families Interacting with Formal Services: A Scoping Study	Dr Cameron Parsell
St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland (2016–2017)	Data Evidence for Impact: St Vincent de Paul Society and Institute for Social Science Research Partnership	Dr Cameron Parsell
The Salvation Army (2016–2018)	Impact of the Salvation Army Pindari Model	Dr Cameron Parsell
The University of Queensland Early Career Researcher Award (2016)	The Use of Paradata in Design and Analysis of Social Surveys	Dr Bernard Baffour
The University of Queensland FirstLink (2016–2017)	Data Access Pilot: National Linked Datasets	Prof Michele Haynes
The University of Queensland Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation (2015–2016)	Research Support for the UQ Student Strategy Consultation	Sue York
The University of Queensland New Staff Research Start-up Fund (2013–2016)	Public Accountability Frameworks for Adaptive Development Practice	Prof Mark Moran
The University of Queensland (Poche Centre 2016–2017)	Indigenous Community Health – Monitoring Effectiveness of Health Services at the Community Level	Prof Michele Haynes
Water Research Australia (2014–2017)	Customer Perceptions of Water Quality	Assoc Prof Kelly Fielding
World Bank (2016–2017)	Water Utility Reform in Australia: Lessons for India	Prof Brian Head

²¹ For a full list of partners see page 43.



An artist's impression of a health clinic, to be used in interviews with Aboriginal people to explore their values and preferences for clinical and hospital design options (image by Kali Marnane, UQ)

culturally sensitive hospital design

Many Indigenous patients are very intimidated by “white-fella” style hospitals or health services, sometimes to the point that they avoid visiting them and accessing the critical treatments they need. This fear or dislike of Western medical environments can be a factor in preventing some people from receiving care until they are critically ill. In order to help resolve this problem, and contribute towards closing the national Indigenous health gaps, an ISSR and UQ School of Architecture ARC Discovery Project is investigating what can be done to improve the design of hospitals to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel more comfortable, and encourage them to take advantage of essential services.

The project, *Understanding Indigenous Experiences of Architectural Settings to Improve Indigenous Health Outcomes: Does Design Matter?* focuses on how to design building access, waiting spaces, consultation rooms, wards and accommodation facilities of healthcare settings, while taking cultural beliefs into consideration. The project also investigates service environments and health administration policies, as both these settings and practices may not take into account Indigenous beliefs about health and spirits, or fear of particular treatments.

This project is well on the way to establishing the first piece of systematic empirical research on the design of Aboriginal healthcare settings. It promises to influence healthcare architecture in Australia by providing evidence for hospital administrators and architects to design more culturally appropriate healthcare

environments. Developing these new guidelines for Indigenous healthcare design and management has the potential to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s engagement with health services, increase service utilisation, and boost long-term health outcomes.

A key strength of the project is its broad multidisciplinary approach that combines mixed methods from architecture, sociology, statistics and anthropology. The project team is collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to understand how clients experience supportive or stressful healthcare settings in order to formulate recommendations for architectural design, service delivery and health policy. The team will survey large samples of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban, rural and remote regions from Normanton to Mount Isa to Townsville.

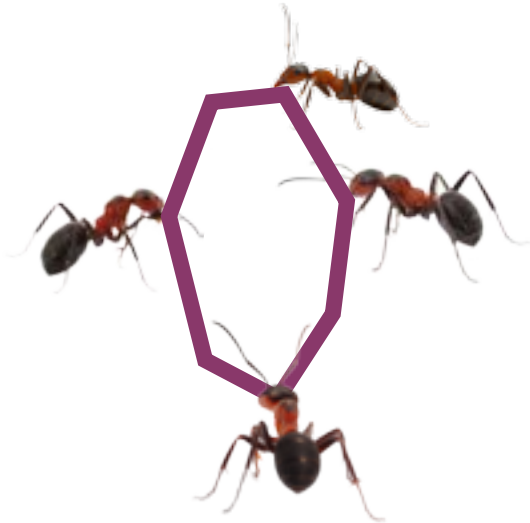
The project is led by Professor Paul Memmott, Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, collaborating with Professor Michele Haynes and Dr Timothy O’Rourke.

new projects

PROJECT FUNDER ²² (DURATION)	TITLE	ISSR LEAD
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2017)	Identifying School Engagement Practices Facilitating University Participation of Equity Students	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Australian Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2018)	Review of Identified Equity Groups	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Australian Government Department of Social Services (2016–2017)	The Provision of Services in Relation to the Validation of the Actuarial Valuation for the Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare	Prof Michele Haynes
Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (2016)	Future Manufacturing Jobs in Queensland	Dr Bernard Baffour
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2019)	Social Futures and Life Pathways of Young People in Queensland: Waves 6 and 7 of a Longitudinal Study	Dr Cameron Parsell
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2018)	Assessing the Impact of Public Finances on the PNG–Australia Borderland	Prof Mark Moran
Australian Research Council Discovery Project (2016–2019)	Architectural Design to Improve Indigenous Health Outcomes	Prof Paul Memmott
Australian Research Council Linkage Project (2016–2020)	An Assessment of Late Night Alcohol Restrictions in Queensland	Dr Jason Ferris
Australian Research Council Linkage Project (2016–2019)	How Meston’s Wild Australia Show Shaped Australian Aboriginal History	Dr Michael Aird
Life Course Centre (2016–2017)	Defining and Measuring Multiple Disadvantage with Linked Administrative Data	Prof Janeen Baxter
Life Course Centre (2016–2017)	Statistical Inference for Linked Administrative, Census, and Survey Data	Prof Michele Haynes
Micah Projects (2016)	Evaluation of the Brisbane Common Ground Integrated Nursing Services	Dr Cameron Parsell
New South Wales Government Department of Education, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (2016)	Statistical Weights for New South Wales Student Engagement Data	Dr Bernard Baffour
Queensland Government Department of Education and Training (2016)	Research on Effective Strategies for Improving School Attendance	Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski
Queensland Government Department of Education and Training (2016–2017)	Principal Leadership for Parent–School–Community Engagement in Disadvantaged Schools Project	Dr Jenny Povey
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016–2017)	Evaluation of Multidisciplinary Street to Home: Cairns	Dr Cameron Parsell
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016)	Families Interacting with Formal Services: A scoping study	Dr Cameron Parsell
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works (2016–2017)	Mental Health Demonstration Project Evaluation	Dr Cameron Parsell
Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet (2016–2017)	Evaluation Framework for Queensland’s Reform Program on Domestic and Family Violence	Prof Michele Haynes
St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland (2016–2017)	Data Evidence for Impact: St Vincent de Paul Society and Institute for Social Science Research partnership	Dr Cameron Parsell
The Salvation Army (2016–2018)	Impact of the Salvation Army Pindari Model	Dr Cameron Parsell
The University of Queensland Early Career Researcher Award (2016)	The Use of Paradata in Design and Analysis of Social Surveys	Dr Bernard Baffour
The University of Queensland FirstLink (2016–2017)	Data Access Pilot: National linked datasets	Prof Michele Haynes
The University of Queensland Poche Centre (2016–2017)	Indigenous Community Health – Monitoring Effectiveness of Health Services at the Community Level	Prof Michele Haynes
The University of Queensland School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work (2016)	End-of-life Decision-making	Sue York
The University of Queensland VC Strategic Funding (2016–2019)	Indigenous Design Place	Prof Paul Memmott
World Bank (2016–2017)	Water Utility Reform in Australia: Lessons for India	Prof Brian Head

²² For a full list of partners see page 43.

DISSEMINATION



PUBLICATIONS

books

Brusset, Emery, Coning, Cedric de and Hughes, Bryn (Eds) (2016) *Complexity thinking for peacebuilding practice and evaluation*. London, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan Publishers.

Moran, Mark (2016) *Serious whitefella stuff: When solutions became the problem in Indigenous affairs*. Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne University Press.

McGagh, John, Marsh, Helene, Western, Mark, Thomas, Peter, Hastings, Andrew, Mihailova, Milla, Wenham, Matt (2016) *Review of Australia's research training system*. Melbourne, Australia: Report for the Australian Council of Learned Academies www.acola.org.au

serious whitefella stuff

How does Indigenous policy developed in Canberra work—or not—when implemented in remote Aboriginal communities? What is the right balance between respecting local traditions and making significant improvement in the areas of alcohol consumption, home ownership and revitalising cultural practices?

The book *Serious Whitefella Stuff: When solutions became the problem in Indigenous Affairs*, attempts to unravel these issues. In a context where politics and policy dominate, this collection of real-world stories provides a rare examination of practice in Australian Indigenous affairs.

Written by ISSR Professor Mark Moran, with contributions from Alyson Wright and Professor Paul Memmott, the book highlights sizeable gaps between policy and frontline practice in the field of Indigenous affairs, and the need to move past political gestures if we are to make real progress in addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

The book was featured on ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* program, and discussed in *The Australian* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



Serious Whitefella Stuff is a collection of stories showcasing Indigenous policy in action, drawn from the authors' personal experiences in five remote Indigenous communities across Queensland and the Northern Territory.

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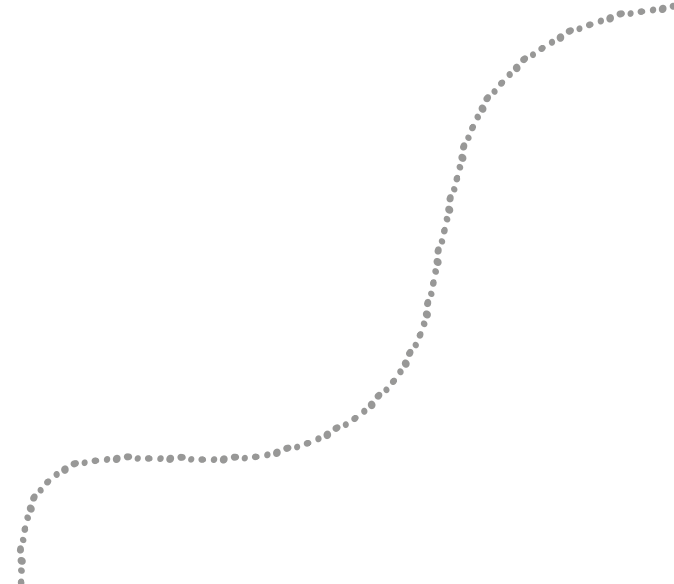
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