

Grandparents in Parenting Roles

Access Grid Workshop

Date: Thursday 16 August, 2007

Time: 3.00pm AEST, 2.30pm ACST, 1:00pm WST

Duration: 1 hour followed by discussion

This is the first workshop run in collaboration with the *ARACY/ARC/NHMRC Research Network: Future Generation*. This represents an ideal opportunity for researchers from both Networks to identify shared research priorities. Ageing Well members and members of all Network Contributing Organisations, including ARACY members, are welcome to attend this joint event.

This workshop will include presentations on the issues to do with Grandparents in Parenting Roles from a range of perspectives. Following on from the presentations, a discussion session will take place aimed at targeting the key issues and research priorities in this area with a view to developing potential research projects and identifying people interested in taking these projects forward.

Workshop Agenda

Welcome:

Ann Sanson Future Generation	Welcome and introduction on behalf of both Research Networks (5 minutes)
Helen Bartlett Ageing Well	
Colette Browning		

Presentations:

Professor Bettina Cass Professorial Research Fellow Social Policy Research Centre University of New South Wales	Understanding grandparent care: Policy implications of grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren in the Australian context (15 minutes)
--	--

Ms Vicki Rundle Branch Manager Child Care Policy and Children's Policy and Programs Branch, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	An overview of the issues raised by grandparent carers; Australian Government initiatives and payments that are available to grandparent (and in most cases other relative) carers; and discussion of some of the work the Australian Government is currently engaged in. (15 minutes)
--	---

Ms Lisa Langley State Policy Officer Council on the Ageing (NSW)	An overview of Council of the Ageing (COTA) work in the area of grandparenting research and policy (15 minutes)
--	--

Open discussion:

Discussion of research priorities and the identification of potential research collaborations between the ARACY Future Generation and Ageing Well Research Networks.

Concluding remarks:

Ann Sanson, Helen Bartlett and Colette will summarise the discussion including potential cross-Network areas of collaboration and directions ahead.

More details on the workshop including an abstract, speaker biographies and details of the locations of suitable Access Grid facilities are provided overleaf.

RSVP closes: Monday 13 August, 2007

To Register please email Anna Drylie at AnnaD@aracy.org.au

For more information on the workshop please contact Dr Matthew Carroll at the Ageing Well Network on 02 9767 6280 or m.carroll@usyd.edu.au

Abstract:

Presenters: Bettina Cass, Vicki Rundle and Lisa Langley

Bettina Cass will present an overview of the formal and informal pathways into grandparent care of their grandchildren. She will also provide an overview of the current data and policy and research context of grandparents providing primary care in Australia, in Indigenous and non-Indigenous families. Her presentation will draw on the project entitled "Grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren: a national, State and Territory analysis of grandparent-headed families - policy and practice implications" which was recently funded for 2007-2010 under the ARC Linkage Grant scheme.

Vicki Rundle will provide an overview of the issues raised by grandparent carers that have emerged through a range of forums and reports; outline the Australian Government initiatives and payments that are available to grandparent (and in most cases other relative) carers; and discuss some of the work the Australian Government is currently engaged in.

Lisa Langley will outline some of the recent developments by COTA, one of the key ageing constituency groups in Australia. Lisa will provide details on COTA's intergenerational working group and Grandparenting policy platform where the issues and policy priorities to do with grandparenting have been identified. Lisa will also outline the COTA Grandparenting Forum planned for 2008 and will provide an overview of the gaps in the research and future focus.

These three complementary presentations will provide an overview of the key issues to do with grandparenting and will inform the ensuing discussion of research priorities and the identification of potential research collaborations between the ARACY Future Generation and Ageing Well Research Networks.

Speaker biographies

Bettina Cass:

Bettina's research and publications cover studies in Australia and internationally, focusing on: family and children's policies and services; welfare reform; formal and informal care-giving across the life-course; services for older people and retirement incomes policy; policies concerned with the balancing of employment and family responsibilities; employment, unemployment and disability policies; housing policies. She has been director and board member of several large government inquiries and reviews concerned with family policies and family income support, children's services, social security, housing needs of women and children, ageing, retirement incomes and disability policies. She is currently a member of the Social Inclusion Board of the South Australian Government. She has also carried out projects with community services organisations in the NGO sector.

Her current projects include:

- Young carers: their participation in education, the labour force and social networks, identifying the costs and benefits of their care-giving, funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage grant for 2007-9;
- Grandparents as primary carers for their grandchildren: experiences and outcomes for grandparents and grandchildren, funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage grant for 2007-2010;
- Participation, social networks, care-provision and the well-being of older Australians;
- Policies which make a difference for children, young people and their families facing economic adversity.

Vicki Rundle:

Before commencing with the Australian Government in June 2006, Vicki worked in the senior executive service in the Tasmanian State Government across a range of health and community service settings. This included hospital and ambulance service delivery and policy, strategic policy for the Department of Health and Human Services, and management of a state-wide population health division.

Immediately prior to starting with the Australian Government, Vicki had state-wide responsibility for the Children and Families Division in DHHS, which encompassed child protection, juvenile justice, family violence, SAAP services, early childhood policy and maternal and child health services. In these roles, Vicki represented the State of Tasmania on numerous Commonwealth/State committees and negotiations, including the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC) for four years.

The Child Care Policy and Children's Policy and Programs Branch that Vicki currently heads up has responsibility for policy development, and program design and implementation of early childhood programs to improve outcomes for all children and their families, particularly vulnerable or at risk children.

Lisa Langley:

Lisa has a social work degree and a background in social policy and planning. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Policy Studies at the University of New South Wales. After returning to Australia from living and raising a family in the United States, Lisa worked for Centacare in policy and program development and then as Manager of Policy and Research for the Asthma Foundation of New South Wales. She is currently the State Policy Officer for the Council on the Ageing (NSW).

Locations - Your nearest Access Grid Facility

([What is access grid?](#))

City	Local Time	University or Centre	Address
Australian Capital Territory			
Canberra	3.00 pm	Australian National University	Peter Baume (Medical School) building , #42a in the Interactive Learning Theatre, Ground floor The building is at F4 on the campus map: http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/largemap.asp
New South Wales			
Sydney	3.00pm	Australian Technology Park	Smart Internet Technology CRC Bay 8, Suite 9/G12 Australian Technology Park Locomotive Street Eveleigh
Queensland			
Brisbane	3.00 pm	Griffith University	Division of Information Services, Nathan Campus NO6 - 2.05 Access Grid Room 170 Kessel Rd (Max. number - 20)
Brisbane	3.00 pm	University of Queensland	Rm 621, GP (General Purpose) South Building, Staff house Rd, University of Queensland, St Lucia Location map (Max. number - 25)
Brisbane	3.00pm	Queensland University of Technology	Room 713 V Block (top floor of library) Gardens Point Campus 2 George St Brisbane
South Australia			
Adelaide	2.30 pm	University of Adelaide	SA Virtual Reality Centre Ground floor of the Santos Building, at approximately D12 on map through the sliding doors and go right. (Max. number - 20)
Victoria			
Melbourne	3.00 pm	University of Melbourne	Research Computing Services 723 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Melbourne	3.00pm	VPAC	VPAC Virtual Venue 110 Victoria Street, Carlton South, Melbourne (Max. number – 6)
Western Australia			
Perth	1.00 pm	University of Western Australia	WASP Ground Floor of Physics Dept University of Western Australia Map