INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WELFARE REFORM
MEETING THE POLICY CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

Australian Centre for Applied Social Research Methods
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
International conference on welfare reform
Meeting the policy challenges of change

Date
17-18 September, 2015

Venue
ANU Commons (cnr of Barry Drive and Marcus Clarke Street), Acton

Co-hosts
Australian Centre for Applied Social Research Methods (AusCen), ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
Social Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, ANU

Registration required
W eventbrite.com.au
T (02) 6125 4127

Welfare reform is an important and hotly debated issue around the world. Governments in a number of countries, including Australia, the UK and New Zealand are actively reviewing their welfare systems. This conference will bring together university academics, the community sector and policy makers to provide perspectives from Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Sweden on future directions for social security systems.

Day 1
Thursday 17 September
8.30am - 6.30pm

8.30am Registration

9am
Chair: Andrew Podger, The Australian National University
Margaret Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The Australian National University
Matthew Gray, The Australian National University

Welcome

9.15am Opening address

10am
Overview of the Final Report, ‘A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes’
Patrick McClure, Chair, Reference Group on Welfare Reform

10.30am Morning tea

11am
Chair: Bruce Chapman, The Australian National University

Workforce participation (young people and childcare)

Policies to assist young people into work
Jeff Borland, University of Melbourne

Patterns of exit amongst young income support recipients
Agnieszka Nelson, The Australian National University

Child care assistance: Are subsidies or tax credits better?
Xiaodong Gong, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), University of Canberra

Panel
Sally Sinclair, National Employment Service Association
Kelly Hand, Australian Institute of Family Studies
Boyd Hunter, The Australian National University
Robert Hudson, Brotherhood of St Laurence
Day 1 (continued)

12.30pm Lunch

1.15pm Delivery of welfare programs
   Chair: William Sanders, The Australian National University
   The welfare payments infrastructure transformation programme
   Tamati Shepherd, Commonwealth Department of Human Services (TBC)
   Accountability, choice and payment structures in disability employment
   Ann Nevile, The Australian National University
   Panel
   Kate Beaumont, National Welfare Rights Network

2.45pm Afternoon tea

3.15pm Data and research needs
   Chair: Matthew Gray, The Australian National University
   Data opportunities to help guide welfare reform
   David Kalisch, Australian Bureau of Statistics
   To be advised
   Toni Makkai, The Australian National University
   The role of longitudinal surveys in welfare reform
   Darren Pennay, The Australian National University
   Q&A session

4.30pm Reflection
   Macro outcome of reforms across the whole welfare portfolio
   Bob Gregory, The Australian National University

5pm Break

Day 1 (continued)

5.30pm PUBLIC LECTURE

Justifying conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change in UK

Welfare conditionality is about linking welfare rights to ‘responsible’ behaviour. Within and beyond the UK, the use of conditional welfare arrangements that combine elements of sanction and support which aim to ‘correct’ the ‘problematic’ behaviour of certain recipients of welfare is now well established and is currently embedded in a broad range of policy arenas including unemployment and disability benefit systems.

Professor Peter Dwyer is one of the leading thinkers on welfare conditionality in the UK. He will offer some early findings from the five year ESRC funded ‘Welfare Conditionality—Sanctions, Support and Behaviours Change’ project. The lecture will set out the extent to which welfare conditionality has become a key component of the UK welfare state and then explore the ways in which key informants seek to justify or oppose its use in a range of welfare settings.

This lecture will be chaired by Dr John Hewson.

Dr Hewson is the Chair of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, at The Australian National University. He is also a member of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Board.

6.30pm Reception
## Day 2
**Friday 18 September**
**9am - 4pm**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 9am  | Behaviour change  
**Chair:** Simon Jackman, The Australian National University  
How tight are the screws? Conditions and sanctions for the unemployed in OECD countries, 1980-2012  
Carlo Knotz, University of Lund, Sweden  
Homelessness  
Alasdair Stewart, University of Glasgow, Scotland  
New conditionality in Australia  
Matthew Gray, The Australian National University  
Income management in the APY lands; lessons for income support policy  
Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales  
Panel  
Nicholas Biddle, The Australian National University |
| 10.30am | Morning tea |
| 11am | Payment structure and adequacy  
**Chair:** Paul McBride, Commonwealth Department of Social Services  
Adequacy of social security benefits for working age households: A comparative assessment  
Peter Whiteford, The Australian National University  
Why the present payment structure for working age payments is flawed and tinkering with the categories won’t fix it  
Peter Davison, Australian Council of Social Service  
To be advised  
Miranda Stewart, The Australian National University  
Universal Credit in the UK: claimants’ early experiences and expectations  
Peter Dwyer, University of York, United Kingdom  
Logic, evidence and politics: the structure and adequacy of social security payments’  
Andrew Podger, The Australian National University |
| 12:45pm | Lunch |
| 1:30pm | Workforce participation (welfare policies and single parents)  
**Chair:** Jenny Corbett, The Australian National University  
Single mothers  
Ben Phillips, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), University of Canberra  
Welfare policies – some labour market and economic perspectives  
Rob Bray, The Australian National University  
Q&A session |
| 3pm | Investment approach to welfare  
**Chair:** Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales  
To be advised  
Damian Edwards, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand  
The investment approach to recent welfare reforms in New Zealand: lessons for Australia  
Simon Chapple, University of Otago, New Zealand  
Investing for a better outcome: An Australian investment approach  
Serena Wilson, Commonwealth Department of Social Services  
Panel  
John Hewson, The Australian National University  
Alan Hayes, Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle |
| 3.45pm | Closing address  
Matthew Gray, The Australian National University |
| 4pm | Conference close |