

# 'Back to Work'

## Time for a survey that accurately counts women's work amidst COVID-19

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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PROTECTING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN POLICY AND RESOURCING: 'DATA AND DOLLARS'

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# Paid work, unpaid work

Both are work and both are productive

Society and economy rely on unpaid work, social reproduction

Unequally distributed

Discounted, invisible

What doesn't get counted  
doesn't count

Social welfare usually seen in financial terms, but time is also a crucial indicator, can also quantify and assign value to labour of social reproduction

Diaries of all people do over the course of the day

Give valid, reliable and detailed quantitative information from within households, of what is done and who does it

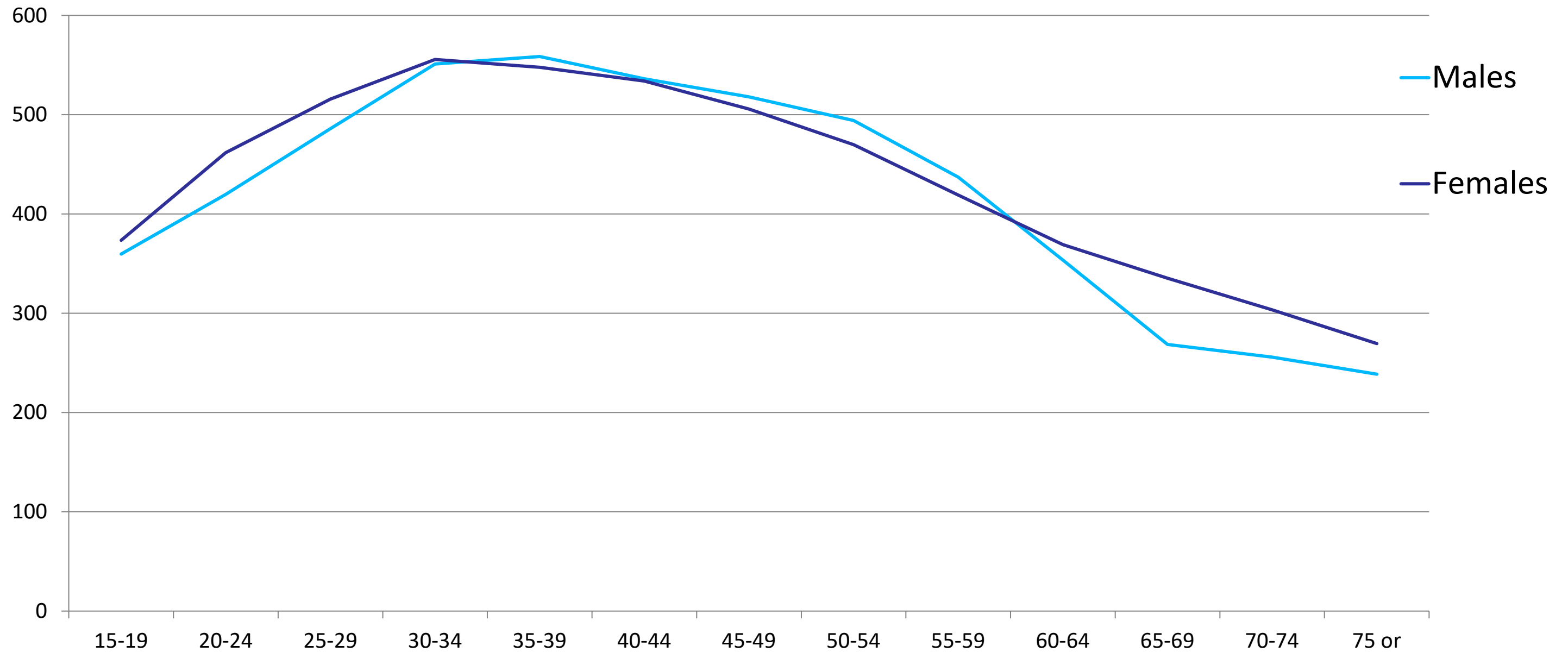
Usually collected by national statistical agencies

Australian Bureau of Statistics Time Use Survey 1992, 1997, 2006...

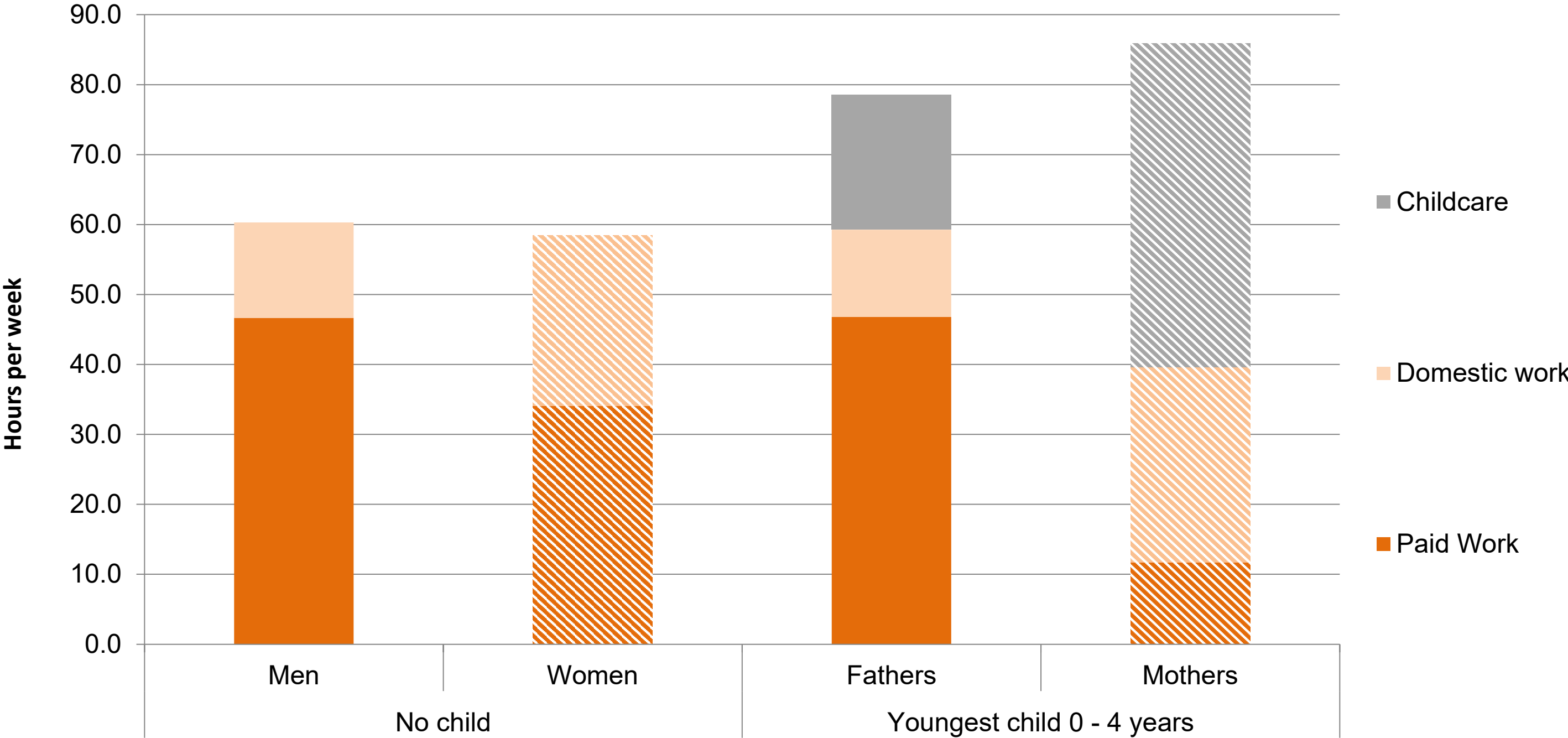
Then stopped

After 14 year gap, a new ABS TUS is scheduled for November 2020

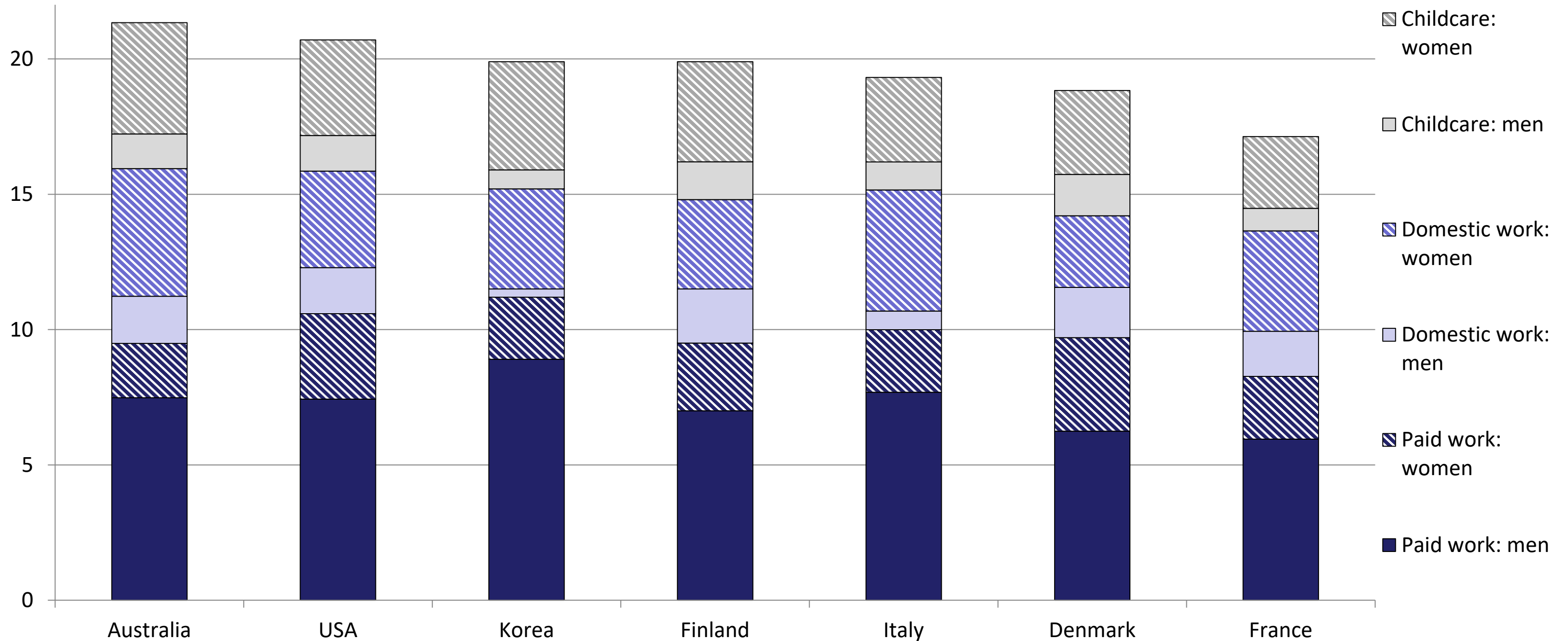
# Total paid and unpaid work by age and gender



# Time differences by parenthood



# Parents' daily hours paid and unpaid work by country





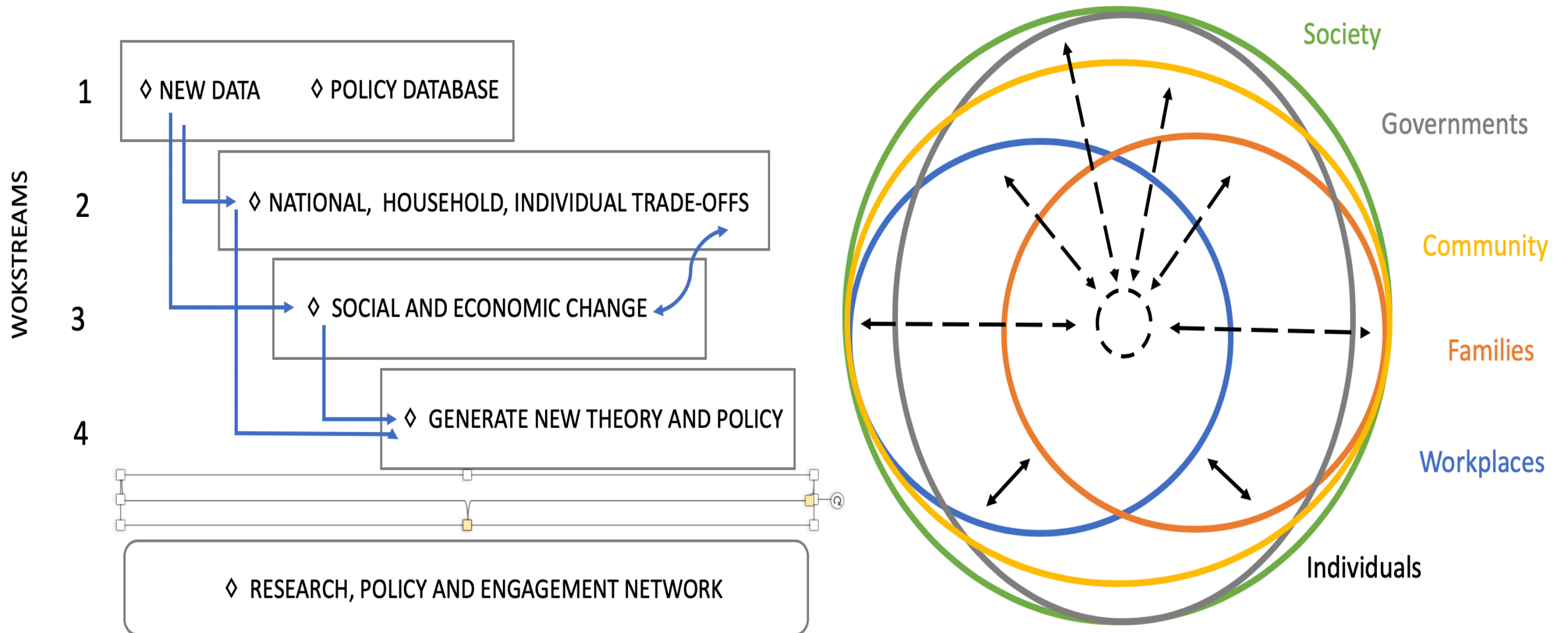
# Multiple multi-level trade-offs, need data to show...

...not only women's trade-offs between their own market work, leisure and family care

...or couples' trade-offs between the market work of one and the leisure or family care of the other,

...but also how government policies trade off women's economic participation against having to provide more publicly funded care services

# Interconnected, need full data and holistic view



# But no current time use data

## COVID-19, massive disruption

As usual, employment information has come out quite quickly - women's jobs affected ++; casual, part time; essential service workers, underpaid for skill levels...

More care, more housework, more stress, gender division of labour better or worse?

But no national intra-household data until after new ABS TUS collection in November

So as a stop-gap we fielded a short survey ***Work and Care in the Time of Covid-19***

<http://unimelb.edu.au/covidcare>

Since first released on May 1<sup>st</sup>, nearly 2500 responses. So far, seems that in households with young children, per day since COVID

Women are averaging over two more hours of both active and supervisory care, over an hour more housework, 15 mins less paid work

Their partners are averaging about an hour more of both active and supervisory care, about 20 mins more housework, 30 mins less paid work

So all working harder/longer, but women more than men

Satisfaction with shares down, time pressure up, lots of qualitative responses to examine

But not representative, doesn't cover all activities. We really need comprehensive national data ongoing, and commitment to

Recognise the time, effort and value of all 'women's work', paid and unpaid

Collect the evidence, and use it in gender-sensitive policy formation

Invest in care supports; basic social infrastructure, essential to underpin recovery

Show us the money!

‘Ignoring social reproduction whilst recruiting women into paid work externalizes care work onto families and communities while simultaneously diminishing their capacity to perform it...and no society that systematically undermines social reproduction can endure for long’ (Fraser 2018)



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## SURVEY

Work and Care in the Time of COVID-19

<http://unimelb.edu.au/covidcare>