

GENERATION Y: DEFERRING CHILDREN AND HOME OWNERSHIP

The 17th *AMP.NATSEM Income and Wealth Report*, 'Generation whY' has found remarkable differences between Gen Y and Gen X. Born between 1976 and 1991, Generation Y are much less likely to have children than Australians of the same age group 15 years earlier (Generation X), and are remaining in the parental home for longer than Gen Xs.

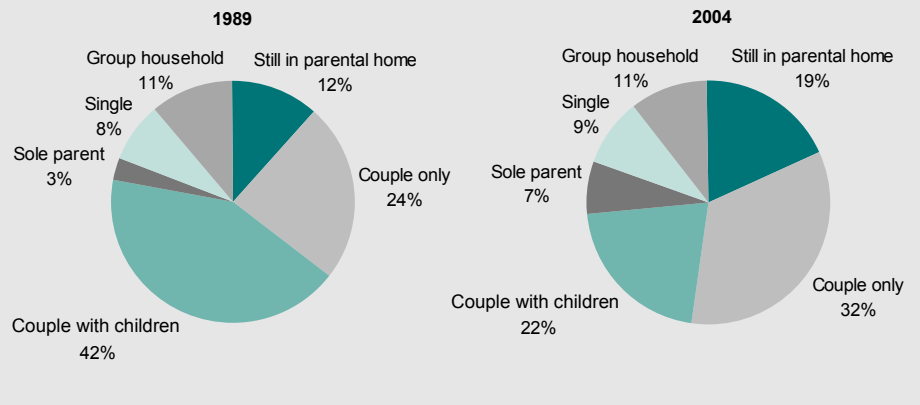
The report found a sharp decrease in the proportion of 25–29 year olds living in couple with children families, decreasing from 42 per cent of 25–29 year olds in 1989 to 22 per cent in 2004 (see figure). More of this age group are now living as sole parents, as couples without children, or still residing at home with mum and dad.

The lack of children is apparently just a deferment, with most Gen Ys reporting that they expect having children to be very important to them by the age of 35. It thus seems likely that Gen Y will do in their 30s exactly what their Baby Boomer parents and Gen X did in their 20s — get married, start a family and possibly buy that dream home (but more likely all on a smaller scale).

The report also found that Gen Ys still hold on to the great Australian dream of one day owning their own home, yet many are sceptical about being able to achieve this dream. Their spending habits and debt do not reflect irresponsible money management but, rather, high housing costs for this age group and an inability (or reluctance) to enter the property market. The high cost of housing for Gen Y is underlined by the 21 per cent of parents with 18–24 year old children outside the home reporting that they provide money to help pay rent and other housing costs for their children.

Gen Y women are the product of a post-feminist era. They are undeniably doing better in their education and employment than any other female generation — and, in some cases, than their Gen Y male counterparts. They hold more post-school qualifications than their male peers, have increased their presence in the labour market dramatically over the last 15 years

Family type of 25–29 year olds



and a larger proportion are employed as professionals or associate professionals when compared with Gen Y men.

Yet, despite this new found 'girl power', the report showed that the gender wage gap is alive and well. For example, Gen Y women working as full-time clerical and service workers earn 16 per cent less on average than comparable full-time Gen Y men. In addition, single Gen Y women are still

holding on average around \$25 000 less in assets than single Gen Y men. This suggests that, even at this young age, many Gen Y women will always be on the back foot, trying to catch up with Gen Y men as they juggle career, baby and diploma.

The report was written by Rebecca Cassells and Ann Harding and can be found at www.amp.com.au/ampnatsemreports.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS NATSEM



From left to right: Mr Peter Leahy, Director of the China Australia Governance Project; Dr Zhongzhen Su and Ms Chen Jun, both from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China; Prof. Ann Harding, NATSEM Director; and Dr Lorraine Corner, consultant (see page 3 for full story)

Microsimulation flourishing

In August some 200 delegates from 31 countries attended the 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association (IMA) in Vienna.

For someone who has been attending the regular international gatherings of microsimulators for the past 15 years, there were a number of striking new developments at the Vienna conference.

The first was the rapid development of the subject areas to which microsimulation is being applied. The traditional 'bread and butter' issues of cash transfers and tax continue to be very well-represented. But today there is also a concentration upon such new subject areas as health and aged care, environmental issues and small area estimation. Rapid progress is also being made in the expansion of behavioural labour supply microsimulation models and in dynamic microsimulation models (for examining the future impact of policy change in coming decades).

The other clear trend was the geographic spread of microsimulation technologies. Microsimulation used to be largely the province of the industrialised world, with the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia all having well-developed microsimulation models. But now microsimulation has spread to Africa, thanks to concerted efforts by the UN World Institute for Development Economics Research. As

a result, countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda were represented at the conference.

This growth in the discipline is partly due to the increased availability of microdata and to the quantum improvements in computer hardware and software. However, it is also due to the growing complexity of the social policy programs found in industrialised countries today, as well as to the emergence of critical policy issues that require a longer term perspective, such as the fiscal challenges presented by population ageing. These developments are fostering the construction of new models and resulting in rapid change in techniques and methodologies.

I hope that in 2008 we will be able to make improvements to the International Microsimulation Association website, so as to make it a more comprehensive resource for those just starting to build microsimulation models, as well as for more experienced practitioners. In the interim, you can join the Association and sign up for free email notifications at www.microsimulation.org.



Ann Harding pictured with Karin Rick, the Vienna Town Mayor, host of the opening reception of the 1st General Conference of the IMA in August

The 2nd General Conference will be held in Ottawa in mid-2009 — so I look forward to seeing you there!

Modelling our future

Development of the Australian Population and Policy Simulation Model (APPSIM) is continuing well, with the first versions of the fertility, mortality, family formation and dissolution, leaving home, and movement to non-private dwellings (such as nursing homes) processes now incorporated within the model with good progress towards incorporation of education and labour market processes. APPSIM is a dynamic population microsimulation model, which takes the 180 000 individuals captured in the 2001 Census 1 per cent sample file and ages them forward, year by year, for up to 50 years.

When completed, APPSIM will play an important role in helping Australia test the impact of possible policy responses to the challenges posed by population ageing. The model is being constructed with Australian Research Council (ARC) funding and with support from 13 Commonwealth partner organisations (including Treasury and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ann Harding".

NATSEM WINS TWO NEW ARC GRANTS

Improving Government Policy Making and Needs-Based Delivery of Services: Innovative Techniques to Enhance Administrative Data by Adding Socioeconomic Status

There is an urgent need within Australia to better utilise our administrative data to answer questions about whether there are socio-economic differences in usage of key social services or in outcomes. It has been difficult in the past for governments to analyse such issues because information about the socio-economic characteristics of the users of government services is typically not collected as part of the routine administration of programs such as education and health. This proposal aims

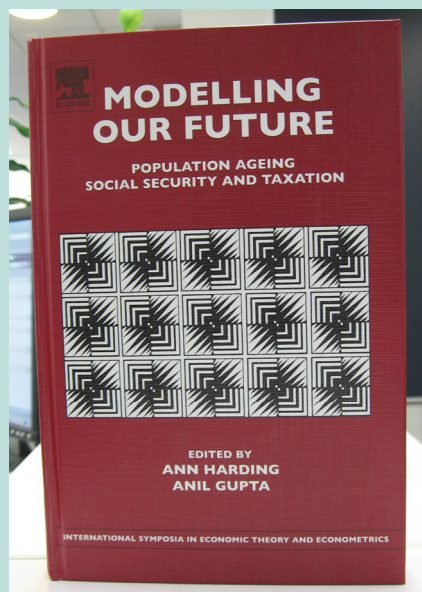
to fill a critical gap by testing and applying a new method for blending small area information about socioeconomic status from the census with administrative data. This ARC Discovery grant was won by Ann Harding, Laurie Brown and Linc Thurecht and the project will commence in early 2008.

Population Ageing, Health Status and Health Outlays: Assessing Impacts and Policy Options during the Next 40 Years

Population ageing has been identified by the Commonwealth as Australia's biggest economic challenge in the coming decades. This project will create a sophisticated model of health and morbidity status, tracking simulated individuals through their 'lives' for each of the next 40 years.

It will predict their health and morbidity status during each of those years, their likely usage of health services and the cost to government of providing those services. The project will enhance the suite of microsimulation models being constructed to help guide the Commonwealth (and Australia) through the policy reforms and structural changes that population ageing will require. This grant provides funds for a PhD scholarship, with the scholar being expected to play a crucial role in the development of the health module within the APPSIM dynamic microsimulation model. The ARC Linkage grant was won by Ann Harding and Laurie Brown, with support from our partner organisation, Australian Department of Health and Ageing.

RECENT BOOK PUBLICATIONS



Harding, A & Gupta, A (eds) 2007, Modelling our future: population ageing, social security and taxation, *International Symposia in Economic Theory and Econometrics*, vol. 15, Amsterdam, Elsevier.

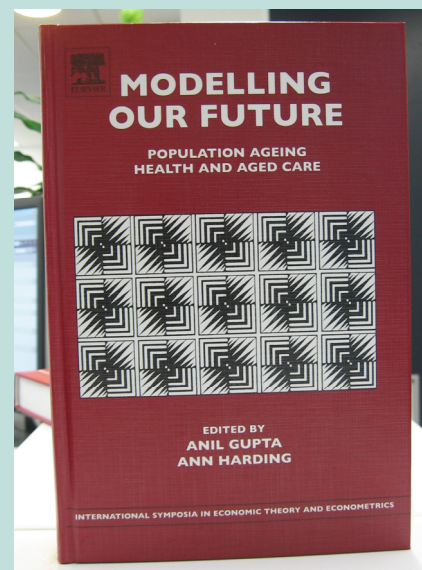
The issues associated with population ageing are already assuming prominence in most OECD countries. Many governments are extremely concerned about the likely impact of population ageing on future government outlays and economic growth. In Australia, for example, there have already been two major government reports that have attempted to quantify the likely implications for government

spending of population ageing. These reports have concluded that there will either have to be cuts in current government programs, increases in taxes or some combination of these. The ageing population will also require more health human resources (doctors, nurses, pharmacists etc.), in an environment where the existing workforce itself is ageing. Economic growth is forecast to slow significantly in future decades due to population ageing, reducing the ability of governments to rely on a rapidly growing taxpaying labour force to finance the expected shortfalls.

Against this backdrop, volumes 15 and 16 of the *International Symposia in Economic Theory and Econometrics Series* provide very timely and relevant research for policy makers and researchers across the world. The modelling approaches and research described in the volumes are at the international leading edge, providing insights into how different countries are facing the challenges associated with population ageing. Many countries have developed microsimulation and other models to help them evaluate the impacts of population ageing and of public policy change.

Volume 15 concentrates upon the impacts of population ageing upon social security and taxation. For example, the chapters examine likely future pension outlays under current and possible alternative schemes;

estimate the likely wealth of future retirees; forecast tax revenues out to 2026 and look at the impact of population ageing upon housing prices and tourism. Volume 16 covers health and aged care, including health status; pharmacare and health expenditure issues; financing, caring and health delivery; health human resources; and data challenges. In addition, the book contains descriptions of 22 microsimulation models currently in active use around the world.



Gupta, A & Harding, A (eds) 2007, Modelling our future: population ageing, health and aged care, *International Symposia in Economic Theory and Econometrics*, vol. 16, Amsterdam, Elsevier.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS NATSEM (continued from page 1)

NATSEM hosted a work placement for two visitors from the National Development and Reform Commission over a six-week period to early December 2007. This visit was part of a larger project under a bilateral development cooperation program funded by AusAID for the Government of Australia, 'Improving capacity for income distribution monitoring and forecasting'. During their visit Dr Zhongzhen Sun prepared a technical paper and gave a final presentation on the best approach to modelling income distribution in China. Ms Chen Jun prepared a paper and gave her presentation comparing the Chinese and Australian tax-transfer systems and identified which components are relevant to China. The visit was very successful and NATSEM looks forward to future opportunities to work with representatives from China to contribute to the development of microsimulation modelling there.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN CANBERRA

As part of Anti-Poverty Week in 2007, NATSEM, with funding from a University of Canberra Industry Collaboration grant, together with ACTCOSS and the ACT Chief Ministers Department launched a new report that provides the latest snapshot of low-income households in the ACT. The aim of this piece of research was to look at the characteristics of the least affluent households in the ACT. This was done using innovative spatial microsimulation techniques developed by NATSEM, to analyse those ACT households that fell within the bottom Australian equivalised disposable income quintile.

The research found that 13.6 per cent of ACT households fall into the bottom Australian equivalised disposable income group, which are around 16 000 households out of a total 116 000 ACT households.

When broken down into major town centres, the North Canberra Statistical Subdivision (which includes the suburbs of Ainslie, Braddon, Dickson and Downer), had the highest proportion of households in the bottom quintile when compared with all other statistical subdivisions, with around 21 per cent of North Canberra households within the bottom quintile.

The research also found that those households falling within the bottom quintile were more likely to be headed by a person aged over 65 years, headed by a woman, single person or single parent households, be renting publicly, and reliant on government benefits as the main source of household income. The research was conducted by Rebecca Cassells, Quoc Ngu Vu and Justine McNamara. A second phase of the project is being undertaken in 2008.

Poverty at the local level

Poverty rates varied substantially across different small areas of Australia's eastern seaboard in 2006 according to a NATSEM paper presented to the International Microsimulation Association conference in August 2007. The study found that people living in the least poor 10 per cent of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT had a poverty rate of only around half the overall average rate across these four states.

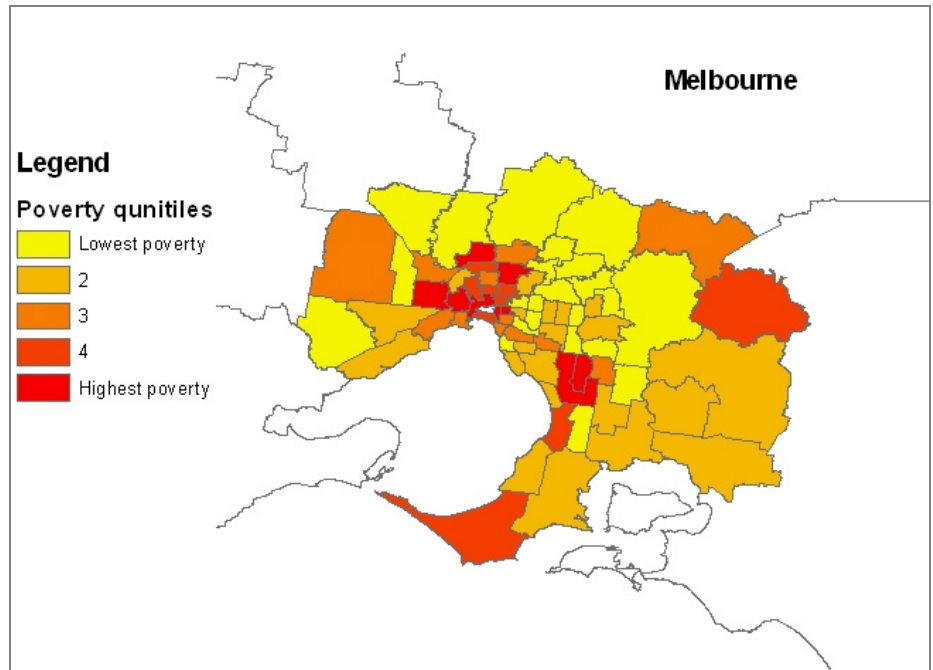
Using population-weighted quintiles of poverty, the authors found that areas outside the capital cities are more likely to have higher proportions of people in income poverty than those living within capital cities. However, there were also clusters of income-poor suburbs in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. For example, in the map of Melbourne shown opposite, areas of relatively high poverty (the darkest colour on the map) appear in some SLAs particularly to the north, west and far south of the city.

The paper, written by Robert Tanton, Justine McNamara, Ann Harding and Tom Morrison is part of a five year ARC funded project to produce small area measures of advantage and disadvantage and to make them very widely available to researchers across Australia. In late 2007 this project focussed on producing child-related measures of advantage and disadvantage.

Housing needs

Robert Tanton and Binod Nepal used NATSEM's regional microsimulation techniques to develop a model of housing needs for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). This research builds on modelling developed through an earlier AHURI project and is based on our model HouseMod. The ACT project, for the ACT Land and Development Authority in cooperation with AHURI, utilises the latest data available from the ABS, the 2003-04 Survey of Income and Housing.

Other research work in the housing area was undertaken by Quoc Ngu Vu for the Housing Industry Association and St Vincent De Paul. This work focussed on



Population weighted quintiles of poverty by SLA, Melbourne, 2006.

housing stress and attracted extensive media and public interest particularly in the lead up to the recent federal election.

STINMOD

As always, STINMOD has continued to play an important role in public policy debate, with a range of clients commissioning NATSEM to explore the distributional and revenue impact of possible policy changes. In the lead up to the October 2007 election, NATSEM was commissioned by the Australian Labor Party to produce estimates of the distributional and revenue impact of a range of possible tax, transfer and health policies. These were released publicly during the election campaign.

The latest version of STINMOD (07) was released in December. It incorporates new base data for the years from 2007-08 to 2012-13, derived from the Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2002-03 and Survey of Income and Housing 2003-04. A new feature is the addition of data on the non-private dwelling population that includes people in institutions such as homes for the aged and disabled, derived from the 2001 Census Household Sample File. The user friendly version of STINMOD with several improvements has also now been released.

Modelling Medicare

'HealthMod' is NATSEM's microsimulation model that simulates the use and costs of medical and related services by Australian families through the federal government's Medicare. An ARC linkage grant funded the prototype construction of HealthMod which has a 2001 base year. A paper describing the development of HealthMod was presented at the 1st conference of the International Microsimulation Association in Vienna in August 2007 and a journal article written by Sharyn Lymer, Laurie Brown, Alicia Payne and Ann Harding has been submitted to the *International Journal of Microsimulation*.

During 2008, an updated version of HealthMod will be constructed, which will include the complicated modelling of the Medicare Safety Net. HealthMod will be used with NATSEM's other health models to look at the distributional impact of health outlays including changes in government policy with respect to access and subsidisation of health services and the likely revenue or expenditure implications for both government and consumers.

Diabetes Management Module

Development of the latest version of the Diabetes Model has commenced with the main focus being the construction of a Diabetes Management Module (DMM). The DMM will provide a modelling capacity to quantify the health and economic benefits of improved management of type 2 diabetes. The project has two main objectives. The first is to model diabetes control — defined in terms of glycaemic, weight, lipid and blood pressure control — and the progression of complications associated with the disease. The second is to build the capacity to simulate improvements in the management of diabetes and to quantify the health and economic benefits that will result. Our research partner on this latest development is Eli Lilly Australia.

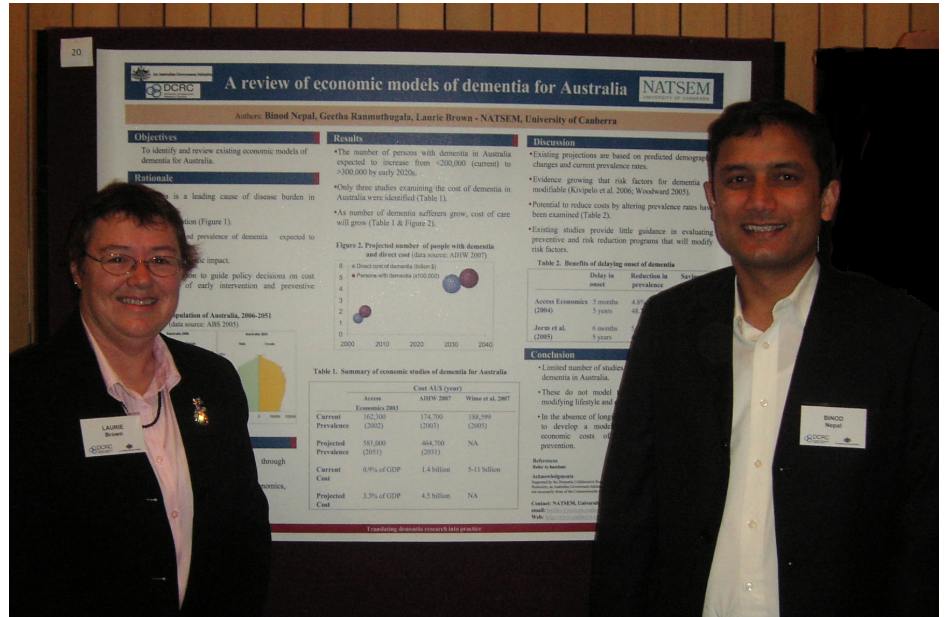
Understanding dementia

We live longer than ever before, thanks to the advances in nutrition, sanitation, and medicine. But this has not come without a price. One of the great challenges associated with the rising longevity is the growing number of people with dementia. Dementia is characterised by progressive deterioration of the cognitive functions leading to a reduced ability to carry out activities of daily living independently.

The longer we live, the chances of developing dementia are higher and the need for care and support become greater. Studies have estimated that prevalence of dementia doubles every five years among people in their 60s or beyond. With the ageing of Australian population, the tide of dementia is expected to rise and the cost of care and treatment to soar.

On 17–18 September 2007 the first National Dementia Research Forum under the Australian Government Dementia: A Health Priority Initiative showcased the work of Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (DCRC). This forum provided updates on the latest research in diagnosis, treatment and management and provided opportunities for networking among the professionals and others.

NATSEM was represented in the forum by Laurie Brown and Binod Nepal (above).



Laurie Brown (left) and Binod Nepal (right) at the National Dementia Research Forum in September 2007.

They presented a poster titled ‘A review of economic models of dementia for Australia’ drawing on the ongoing project on modelling dementia prevention. This review paper identified a need for a better economic model of dementia, which would endogenously include dementia risk factors and prevention interventions. It generated keen interest from delegates. NATSEM is currently working towards developing such a model.

Child social exclusion

Children living in Queensland, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and to a lesser extent South Australia, are more likely to be living in a Statistical Local Area where children are at high risk of experiencing social exclusion than children living in the other states. This is according to results of a NATSEM project focused on developing

indicators of social exclusion risk for Australia’s children at a small area level. As shown in the chart below, children in these states and territories are over-represented in the bottom quintile of child social exclusion risk.

This project, funded by an ARC Discovery Grant, is in its third year. The project’s chief investigators are Ann Harding from NATSEM with colleagues from the University of Canberra - Associate Professor Anne Daly and Professor Phil Lewis. Using a social exclusion framework, the project aims to study the spatial distribution of disadvantage among Australian children, using both a headline index of social exclusion risk, as well as data on the individual indicators of disadvantage that make up the index. Currently, the researchers are examining spatial trends in child social exclusion risk over time.

Proportion of all 0–15 year old children in bottom CSE quintile and proportion of all 0–15 year old children, by state and territory, 2001



Journals

Cassells, R, McNamara, J, Lloyd, R & Harding, A 2007, 'Child care affordability and availability', *Agenda*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 123–39.

Walker, A, Percival, R, Thurecht, L & Pearse, J 2007, 'Public policy and private health insurance: distributional impact on public and private hospital usage', *Australian Health Review*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 305–14.

Harding, A & Percival, R 2007, 'The Australian child support reforms: a case study of the use of microsimulation modelling in the policy development process', *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, vol. 66, no. 4, December.

Book chapters

Harding, A, Warren, N & Lloyd, R 2007, 'Beyond conventional measures of income: including indirect benefits and taxes', in John Mickelwright and Stephen Jenkins (eds), *Poverty and inequality: new directions*, Oxford University Press, London.

Other publications

Cassells, R & Harding 2007, A, 'Generation whY', *AMP.NATSEM Income and Wealth Report*, no. 17, July. (OP51)

Henman, P, Percival, R, Harding, A & Gray, M 2007, *Costs of children: research commissioned by the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support*, Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Occasional Paper 18, July. (OP49)

McNamara, J, Tanton, R & Phillips, B 2007, *The regional impact of housing costs and assistance on financial disadvantage: final report*, report for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, RMIT-NATSEM Research Centre.

Cassells, R, Vu, Q N & McNamara, J 2007, *Characteristics of low income ACT households*, report to the ACT Council of Social Service, Canberra, 15 October (P116).

Percival, R, Payne, A, Harding, A & Abello, A 2007, 'Honey I calculated the kids ... it's \$537,000: Australian child costs in 2007',

AMP.NATSEM Income and Wealth Report, Number 18, December. (OP53)

Presentations and papers

Harding, A, Vu, Q N, Payne, A and Percival, R, 'Interactions between wages and the tax-transfer system for low wage workers', Australian Fair Pay Commission, Melbourne, 5 September 2006.

Harding, A, 'Helping policymakers to make difficult decisions: new directions in microsimulation modelling in Australia', Congressional Budget Office Seminar Series, Washington, USA, 15 May 2007. (P25)

Harding, A, 'Socio-economic characteristics at the small area level: new models and data for policy makers and for needs based planning of government services', Department of Geography Seminar Series, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, 17 May 2007. (P24)

Harding, A, 'Geography and microsimulation: new socio-economic models and data for policy makers and for needs based planning of government services', Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment Seminar Series, Melbourne, 21 May 2007. (P26)

McNamara, J, 'Child social exclusion: development of a small area indicator for Australia', International Society for Child Indicators inaugural conference, Chicago, 27 June 2007.

Cassells, R & Yap, M, 'ACT Government – social issues', presentation to ACT Public Service 'Take the LEAD' Executive Development Program, Canberra, 28 June 2007.

Harding, A, Vu, Q N & Payne, A, 'A rising tide? Income inequality, the social safety net and the labour market in Australia', Conference on Labour Markets in Australia and Japan, Canberra, 6 July 2007. (CP104)

Keegan, M, 'Modelling the workers of tomorrow: the APPSIM dynamic microsimulation model', presentation to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, 10 July 2007. (CP103)

Yap, M, McNamara, J, Tanton, R, Daly, A & Harding, A, 'Child social exclusion: development of a small area indicator for Australia', presentation to the Australian

Social Policy Conference, Sydney, 13 July 2007. (CP105)

Payne, A, 'Tomorrow's consumers', RSL and Services Clubs National Conference 2007, Gold Coast, 16 July 2007. (P27)

Keegan, M, 'Modelling the workers of tomorrow: the APPSIM dynamic microsimulation model', HILDA Survey Research Conference, University of Melbourne, 19–20 July 2007. (CP103)

Harding, A, 'Needs-based planning indicators and population ageing', seminar presentation hosted by NSW Department of Community Services, Sydney, 20 July 2007.

Harding, A, 'Needs-based planning indicators and population ageing', seminar presentation hosted by ACT Chief Minister's Department, Canberra, 23 July 2007.

Payne, A, 'Tomorrow's consumers', presentation to Harris Scarfe, Adelaide, 2 August 2007.

Pennec, S & Bacon, B, 'Modelling fertility and mortality in the APPSIM dynamic microsimulation model', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP112)

Xiong, L, Jia, J, Gong, M, Li, L & Zhao, J, 'Modelling of medical insurance system for urban employees in China', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP111)

Tanton, R, McNamara, J, Harding, A & Morrison, T, 'Rich suburbs, poor suburbs? Small area poverty estimates for Australia's eastern seaboard in 2006', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP108)

Tanton, R, 'SPATIALMSM: the Australian spatial microsimulation model', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP109)

Brown, L, Harris, A, Picton, M, Thurecht, L, Yap, M, Harding, A, Dixon, P & Richardson, J, 'Linking microsimulation and macro-economic models to estimate the economic impact of chronic disease prevention', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP110)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Tanton, R, Williamson, P & Harding, A, 'Comparing two methods of reweighting a survey file to small area data: generalised regression and combinatorial optimisation', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20–22 August 2007. (CP113)

Harding, A, 'Challenges and opportunities of dynamic microsimulation modelling', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20-22 August 2007. (CP107)

Harding, A, 'APPSIM: the Australian Dynamic Population and Policy Microsimulation Model', 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, 20-22 August 2007. (CP106)

Cassells, R & Yap, M, 'ACT Government — social issues', presentation to ACT Public Service 'Take the LEAD' Executive Development Program, NOUS Group, Canberra, 30 August 2007.

Harding, A, 'Developing needs-based planning indicators and measures of disadvantage for the ACT', presentation to the ACT Community Inclusion Board 'Dropping Off the Edge' Workshop, Canberra, 10 September 2007. (P28)

Brown, L, 'Public health messages and actions in Indigenous health: the contribution of economic modelling to policy formulation and evaluation', Sax Oration presentation to the ACT Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia, Australian National University, Canberra, 11 September 2007. (P29)

Nepal, B, Ranmuthugala, G & Brown, L, 'A review of economic models of dementia for Australia', National Dementia Research Forum, Sydney, 17–18 September 2007.

Harding, A, 'Assessing the future distributional impact of population ageing and policy change: the APPSIM model', 36th Australian Conference of Economists, Hobart, 25 September 2007. (P32)

Payne, A, Harding, A, Vu, Q N & Percival, R, 'Another day, another dollar? The effective tax rates and labour force participation of partnered mothers in Australia', presentation at the 36th

Australian Conference of Economists, Hobart, 24–26 September 2007.

Harding, A, 'Population ageing: implications for our socio-economic futures and local government', Local Government Managers Australia NSW Annual Conference, Sydney, 26–28 September 2007. (P115)

Payne, A, 'Working poverty in Australia, 2005–06', NSW Council of Social Service Annual Conference 'Perspectives on Poverty', 17 October 2007. (P117)

Daly, A, Harding, A, McNamara, J, Tanton, R & Yap, M, 'An index of social exclusion risk for Australian children: a spatial analysis', National Institute of Governance Seminar Series, Canberra, 10 October 2007. (P30)

Cassells, R & Harding, A, 'Generation whY', Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) seminar series, Melbourne, 17 October 2007.

Harding, A, 'Intergenerational challenges: government budgets and population ageing', presentation to the ANZSOG Executive Fellows Program, Melbourne, 22 October 2007.

Cassells, R & Harding, A, 'Generation whY', National Institute Governance seminar series, University of Canberra, Canberra, 23 October 2007.

McNamara, J, 'Regional impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage', AHURI Research Seminar, Adelaide, 30 October 2007.

Tanton, R, 'Regional work being done by NATSEM', presentation to the Local Government Grants Commission Meeting, Wollongong, 1 November 2007.

Daly, A, McNamara, J, Tanton, R, Harding, A & Yap, M, 'An index of social exclusion risk for Australian children: a spatial analysis', National Institute of Governance seminar series, University of Canberra, Canberra, 15 November 2007.

McNamara, J, Tanton, R & Phillips, B, 'Regional impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage', AHURI RMIT-NATSEM Research Seminar, 29 October 2007.

Tanton, R, Harding, A & McNamara, J, 'Urban and rural estimates of poverty', State of Australian Cities Conference, Adelaide, 28–30 November 2007. (CP114)

Xiong, L, Jia, J, Gong, M, Liu, H & Hu, K, 'Forecasting the urban medical insurance system of Kunming City using micro-simulation modelling', 5th Health Services & Policy Research Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 2–5 December 2007.

Accessing NATSEM's publications online

www.natsem.canberra.edu.au

The publications database can be accessed online at NATSEM's website. It contains all of NATSEM's published reports and many of the presentations given by staff at conferences and to government and non-government organisations.

Where a publication above includes a sequence number (e.g. CP106 or P28) it can be used to easily access that publication online. Simply type the sequence number in the search engine in the online publications database to retrieve that entry.

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NATSEM UPDATE

New staff welcomed

Riyana Miranti joined NATSEM in October 2007. She has just finished her PhD in economics from the Australian National University. She submitted her PhD thesis 'The determinants of regional poverty in Indonesia 1984–2002' in April 2007. Prior to joining NATSEM, she worked for two and a half years as a researcher at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. Her research interests include regional development, regional poverty and migration. She is currently working with the Regional Dimension team. Riyana also has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Indonesia and a Master of Social Sciences in Economics from the National University of Singapore.



Charlotte Copeland, Business Manager, commenced with NATSEM in July 2007 to work with us through to early February 2008 and the arrival of our longer term appointment to Business Manager.

Daniel Ford, Administration Assistant, started at NATSEM in September and performs a variety of duties, including assisting the research staff and maintaining NATSEM's online publications database and NATSEM's website. Daniel is working at NATSEM during an extended time off from his undergraduate studies at the Australian National University.



Employee of the quarter

Congratulations to Quoc Ngu Vu and Rebecca Cassells who were deemed joint winners of NATSEM's 'Employee of the Quarter' in September 2007.

Staff departures

We farewelled Therese Stubbs, Mandy Yap, Lyndall Carey, Kalpana Subramaniam and Thomas Morrison in 2007 and thank them for their contributions to NATSEM.

Recent NATSEM seminars

Marcia Keegan, PhD student, NATSEM, 'The labour force participation of tomorrow's workers: a dynamic microsimulation approach', 29 May.

Dr Ingrid Woolard, Centre for Social Research, University of Cape Town, 'Projecting the cost of social assistance in South Africa to 2015', 7 June.

Clair Matthews, PhD student, NATSEM, 'Diabetes and the Australian Chinese Asian Population', University of Canberra Economics PhD Workshop, 29 August.

Dr Linc Thurecht, Senior Research Fellow, NATSEM, 'Economic modelling of the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in Australia', 18 October.

Dr Justine McNamara, Senior Research Fellow, NATSEM, 'The

Impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage: a small area analysis', 29 November.

Dr Sun Zhongzhen (Visiting researcher) and Ms Chen Jun (Chief staff member), Department of Employment and Income Distribution, National Development & Reform Commission, China, 'Improving income distribution monitoring and forecasting in China', 3 December.

Dr Richard Morrison, Human Resources & Social Development Canada (Canadian Government), 'Validating dynamic microsimulation models: the DYNACAN approach', 4 December.

Prof. Ruth Hancock, Professor of Non-clinical Gerontology, Department of Health and Human Sciences, University of Essex, UK, 'Paying for long-term care for older people in the UK: arguments & evidence from a microsimulation model', 6 December.

About NATSEM

The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, an affiliated research centre of the University of Canberra, has an international reputation as a centre of excellence for analysing microdata and constructing microsimulation models. Its work is funded through research grants and consultancy income. For further information, log onto NATSEM's website.

NATSEM aims to be a key contributor to social and economic policy debate and analysis in Australia, by developing models of the highest quality, undertaking independent and impartial research, and supplying valued consultancy services.

In a large proportion of NATSEM's research, analysis typically begins by looking at either the characteristics or the impact of a policy change on an individual household, building up to the bigger picture by looking at many individual cases through the use of large datasets.

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