



Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth
Working together to enhance the wellbeing and life chances of children and young people.

**Final Report to ARACY/ARC NHMRC Network
Round 3 Seed Funded Collaboration**

Project title	Children's stake in parents' jobs: Cross-national comparisons of job quality, parent's health and children's wellbeing.		
Convenor of collaboration	Dr Lyndall Strazdins		
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email	Sharryn.Sims@anu.edu.au	Total grant amount	\$10,000

Major activities undertaken (expand section as necessary)

Activity	Date	Description
Developed project vision and short-term goal		<p>Vision of the project was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build collaborative thinking and track record by developing a shared conceptual framework of family friendly job quality and parent and child wellbeing in a cross-national context and producing a joint publication. To position the collaboration to seek competitive funding for a major cross-national study of family friendly job quality, and parent and child wellbeing. <p>The short-term goal was established for a collaborative pilot publication encompassing a preliminary conceptualisation and assessment of cross-national variations in family friendly job quality.</p>
Development of draft scope of literature review (attached to interim report) and email discussion	5 th - 25 ^h May	To provide a foundation for the conceptual thinking and build a shared framework. After seeking input from collaborative partners, key themes in the research literature on job quality, parental and child health and wellbeing were identified. The review outline was produced by the project officer, identifying key publications and also conceptual gaps, and an endnote library developed. This was then distributed to partners and policy commentators to guide further project direction.
Development of endnote library of cross referenced resources to support publication and later funding proposal	Ongoing throughout project	Includes over 90 references on various aspects of job quality; family friendly leave; flexibility legislation; cross-national comparisons of job quality, working conditions and all data sources. Input from collaborative partners on relevant publications to include.
Development of a working model for dimensions of family friendly job quality and email discussion/dissemination to collaborators	2 nd July – 17 th August	Developed a working/draft model of family friendly job quality encompassing 4 wellbeing related work conditions (job security and job control, workload intensity, pay) and 2 time related work conditions (an expanded family friendly leave that included personal/sick leave, and workplace flexibility), with a total of 21 indicators identified. Emailed to collaborators for input.
Data feasibility assessment	?	Searched literature and national websites for data descriptions and availability that matched conceptual model
Consultation on leave dimension		Email discussion on conceptualizing and selecting markers for family friendly leave
Develop preliminary tables of	?	Establishing feasibility and building joint track record. Disseminated

family friendly job quality developed for review and critique		outline tables constructed on dimensions of family friendly job quality as a foundation for a joint paper.	
Development of a draft proposed paper publication	17 th – 24 th October	Developed a draft proposed publication outline "Family friendly nations?: <i>"Cross-national comparisons of employed parents' job quality in affluent countries"</i> pilot paper outline. Paper plan is to compare family friendly job quality; an index of family friendly job quality previously developed and a recent UNICEF report on child wellbeing.	
Integrate partner and collaborator input		We have now received detailed feedback from our OECD partner including offers of incorporating OECD data into the paper. We hope to continue this collaborative process, funding permitting.	
Benefits arising from the project and how these align to ARACY goals			
<p>The benefits from this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project provided an opportunity for key professionals from a range of disciplines with an interest in job quality and child wellbeing to share information and develop an approach to research family friendly job quality and child wellbeing on an international level. • Build collaboration (national and international) consensus, information sharing and track record (joint publication) to support later, competitively funded joint project. • Progress towards a first paper, which aims to stimulate the discussion and development of policies to improve job quality and the wellbeing of working parents and their children. • Development of a conceptual model of a comparable cross-national measure of family friendly job quality using a score card approach that can be compared with the UNICEF report. This provides a foundation to engage commentators to build an agreed model and measures for future funding. 			
Project outputs			
Grant applications (expand table as needed)			
Granting body	Date of application	Title of application	PIs
Was application successful?			
Yes	Amount granted	No	Pending (give date of notification)
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Was application successful?			
Yes	Amount granted	No	Pending (give date of notification)
Publications (Provide full details and current status - published, in press, under review, etc) (expand table as needed)			
Paper 1			
Paper 2			
Unpublished papers placed on ARACY or other websites (expand table as needed)			

Paper 1
Summary of findings of Family Friendly Job quality across OECD countries

Paper 2

Please comment on the collaboration process, successes and obstacles (expand section as necessary)

Collaboration Process

Funding was too limited to pay for partner travel. Our priority was to build joint thinking and track record to enable a successful, future bid for funding. Collaboration was undertaken via email, and via a meeting between LS and WA (OECD) while WA was attending an Australian conference.

- In the initial stages of the project, CI's gave input into the vision, scope and direction of the project (via email).
- As the project progressed, input and critique sought on the development of a family friendly job quality conceptual model upon which to build an intellectual foundation to engage future collaboration.
- Policy partner input now being integrated into the proposed joint authored paper publication draft.
- Contact between collaborators was maintained throughout the project via email. Weekly meetings between the convenor Dr Lyndall Strazdins and officer managing the project were also maintained.

Successes

Several factors contributed to the success of the collaboration:

- Engagement and interest from partners, especially our OECD partner.
- Practical focus on paper output to build track record and joint thinking.

Obstacles

Note: We received a smaller encouragement grant. An enhanced level and depth of collaborator input into the project required more funding: 1) for face-to-face collaboration, and 2) for more time for production of concrete drafts for collaborator reaction, response and refinement.

Name: _____ **(Convenor)** **Date:** _____