



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 Seed Funded Collaboration			
Project title	Impact of the labour market on the wellbeing of Australian children and youth		
Convenor of collaboration	Jianghong Li		
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email	jianghongl@ichr.uwa.edu.au Jianghong.Li@curtin.edu.au	Total grant amount	\$25,500 (only \$20,400 has been received so far)
Major activities undertaken (expand section as necessary)			
Activity	Date	Description	
We have made a lot of inquiries to seven potential national and State industry partners through phone calls and written communications to seek their interest and support. This took a large amount of time.	December 2007 to July 2008	Partners approached and liaised with include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for Youth, WA Department for Communities • Youth Bureau, FaCSIA (Now FaHCSIA) • Parent and Youth Policy Branch, DEEWR • National Office and WA Branch of Relationships Australia • Workplace Authority • WA Department of Education and Training • Mental Health Branch, WA Department of Health • Child and Adolescent Health Branch, WA Department of Health 	
Meeting with State industry partner: Director of Office for Youth, WA Department for Communities	May 15 th 2008	The meeting was attended by Jianghong Li (Convenor) and two CIs (Mike Dockery and Garth Kendall) to seek partnership and support from the Office for Youth	

Meeting with State industry partner: the new Director and her Assistant Director, Office for Youth, WA Department for Communities	September 9 th 2008	Due to the change in the leadership of the Office we met with the new Director to communicate to her about our proposed research project and our intention to seek cash and in-kind contribution from them for a joint ARC Linkage grant application. All CIs from WA attended the meeting and our team member from Canberra (Dr Lyndall Strazdins) was kept informed on all meetings and the outcomes.
Meeting with Office for Youth	26 th September	To finalise the Office's commitment to their cash and in-kind contribution to an ARC Linkage Project Grant application
Email correspondences among the Chief Investigators (which required a lot of time and effort)	throughout 2008 and early 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Communications about establishing partnership with industry partners 2) Obtaining CIs' input in the development of two grant applications
Review databases for research on parental work and child health and wellbeing	April – September 2008	Data bases that have been reviewed and/or identified as suitable for this area of research include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Seven released waves of Australian Household, Income, Labour Dynamic Survey (HILD) data 2) The Western Australian Pregnancy Cohort Study 3) National Annual Surveys conducted by Relationships Australia 4) Data held by Workplace Authority
Development of a collaborative a nationally competitive grant application	February-April 2008	A joint application between CIs and researchers from Curtin Business School, Curtin University of Technology was developed and submitted to Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
Development of a collaborative a nationally competitive grant application	May-November 2008	A joint application was developed between CIs and the Office for Youth, WA Department for Communities and submitted to ARC Linkage Project Scheme in late November
Reviews of Australian labour market trends and impact of parental employment on children	January – August 2008	Sonia Andrews (PhD student and a participant of the collaboration) undertook these reviews which were used for the development of the ARC Linkage Project application submitted in November 2008
A systematic review of impact of nonstandard work on the health and wellbeing of children and youth (international)	December 2008-August 2009	Sonia Andrews (PhD student and a participant of the collaboration) conducted the review, with the guidance of the convenor. All CIs have provided feedback into this review for improvement. The review is undergoing the last round of revision and we aim for submission to Social Sciences and Medicine by the end of August. We ensure that ARACY will be acknowledged in the paper. Once the paper has been accepted for publication, a final version may be posted on the ARACY website with permission of the journal.
Team meeting in Melbourne.	Mid July 2009	We have outlined plans and strategies for further developing our work and collaborations with other relevant academic and nonacademic partners (agenda and summary of the meeting available on request).

<p>Teleconference</p> <p>As a result of this teleconference:</p> <p>1) We are writing a background information document</p> <p>2) We have an application in progress for the US studies grant due for submission on 9th October. This grant, if successful, will support our collaborative research with Prof Wen-Jui Han.</p> <p>3) Two further teleconferences have been scheduled with Wen-Jui and Lyndall</p> <p>A meeting and teleconference scheduled with Prof Barbara Pocock and her team</p>	<p>28th July 2009</p> <p>August 2009</p> <p>August-September 2009</p> <p>September and November 2009</p> <p>September 2009</p>	<p>While in Melbourne, we approached a few government researchers (who happened to be in Melbourne for the HILDA Conference) to inquire about possible partnership. No final outcome yet.</p> <p>We held a productive teleconference with Professor Wen-Jui Han from School of Social Work, University of Columbia, the US and Dr Lyndall Strazdins from ANU. We discussed possible comparative research on parents' involvement in the labour market and child health and wellbeing and outlined two steps forward: 1) inform each side of the partnership with background information on the social, economic and demographic characteristics of Australian and the US, esp. social policies that support families and children and also information on exiting nationally representative databases that offer comparable data on indicators and measurements of parental work and child health and wellbeing; 2) decide on a topic for research topic based on this background information; 3) apply for an international or national grant to support the research.</p> <p>Discuss possible collaboration on a nationally competitive grant application for early 2010</p>
<p>Benefits arising from the project and how these align to ARACY goals</p>		

The major benefits arising from these activities include:

- Two submissions of nationally competitive grant applications, based on the links between researchers and an industry partner and the reviews of literature on the labour market and child outcomes world wide.
- A systematic review of the literature on nonstandard work and child health and wellbeing
- Capacity building of two young researchers: Sonia Andrews has gained considerable experience in conducting literature review and will submit a first-author paper to a peer reviewed international journal. Anusha Mahendran (another young researcher) has gained knowledge about and experience in writing a nationally competitive grant application by assisting in the ARC Linkage Project Grant application which we submitted in November 2008.
- Better knowledge of relevant existing data bases suitable for this area of research
- The links we have established with Office for Youth of WA Department for Communities are likely to be long-term as the partner has a strong interest in this area of research and improvement of the health and wellbeing of youth in WA.
- Similarly, the collaborations between the team members of this project will continue beyond the duration of this project because we have a long term interest and commitment to research on impact of parental work and child health and wellbeing.
- Enable us to do some of the ground work for international collaborations: eg, teleconferences and exchange of the background information of Australia and the US and an application for a US studies grant due for submission in early October 2009
- Anticipated broadened national collaboration: eg, with the Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia

Project outputs			
Grant applications (expand table as needed)			
Granting body	Date of application	Title of application	PIs
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute	April 2008	Housing and Children's Development and Wellbeing: A Scoping Study	Mike Dockery, Garth Kendall, Jianghong Li, Lyndall Strazdins , Felix Chan, Rachel Ong, Richard Seymour, Anusha Mahendran
Was application successful?			
Yes Amount granted \$49,976 No Pending (give date of notification)			
Granting body	Date of application	Title of application	PIs
ARC	November 2008	Impact of parent employment status and non-standard work schedules on mental health and life satisfaction in Australian children and youth	Jianghong Li, Mike Dockery, Garth Kendall, Lyndall Strazdins, Karin Mac Arthur (WA Department for Communities)
Was application successful?			
Yes Amount granted No Not successful Pending (give date of notification)			
United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney	9 th October 2009	Parental non-standard work and child and adolescent health and wellbeing: a pilot cross national comparison between Australia and the US	Australia: Jianghong Li, Mike Dockery, Garth Kendall, Lyndall Strazdins The US: Prof Wen-Jui Han from School of Social Work , Columbia University
Date of notification: Mid November 2009 Outcome: Not successful We submitted an application to Foundation for Children in February 2010 and we have been awarded \$160,000 to conduct a 2 year project as detailed below: Foundation for Children (ID2010-039, 2011-2012 \$160,000) CIs: Li J, Kendall G, Strazdins L. Title: Impact of parental work on mental health in Australian children			
Publications (Provide full details and current status - published, in press, under review, etc) (expand table as needed)			
Paper 1: Dockery M, Li J, Kendall G. Parents work patterns and adolescent health and wellbeing. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> 2009, 68:689-698. While the authors started the paper way before we received the ARACY seed funding and it was not intended as part of the seed funding project, the project strengthened the continuous collaboration between the authors in the stage of revisions and resubmission of this paper. A pdf copy of the paper has been attached.			

Paper 2: A systematic review of the impact of nonstandard work on the health and wellbeing of children and youth led by Ms Sonia Andrews. We intend to submit the review to an international peer reviewed journal, with full acknowledgement of the ARACY Seed funding. After the paper has been submitted to a journal and with the journal's permission, this review would be posted on the ARACY website.

Paper 3: Alfred Michael Dockery, Garth Kendall, Jianghong Li, Anusha Mahendran, Rachel Ong and Lyndall Strazdins. *Housing and Development Outcomes for Children: A Scoping Study* for Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Western Australia Research Centre. December 2009.

Unpublished papers placed on ARACY or other websites (expand table as needed)

Paper 1

Paper 2

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

Due to the structural changes within the Commonwealth Government following the new election in late 2007, we had not been able to secure the support from the potential industry partners as we had anticipated by early 2008. The partners were not yet in a position to make a commitment to our proposed ARC Linkage Project on the influence of parents' work on the health and wellbeing of Australian Children and Youth. With the permission from Professor Ann Sanson, we extended our collaboration activities from the initial 8 months to 11 months. We also had to adjust our collaboration activities to the leadership change in Office for Youth in June and the WA government election in September 2008. Despite these challenges, I believe that we have achieved very good outcomes.

A request for a further extension of the Project until 31 July was approved.

With the current global and national economic down turn, it may become more difficult in the future to secure cash contributions from industry partners for collaborative research. Future strategies for securing partnership with government and non-governmental organisations would be to give more consideration for other forms of collaboration than ARC Linkage Project Grant which depends on partners' cash contributions. For example, collaborations with government organizations can also be based on in-kind contributions such as the use of their existing databases, indicators they have developed which are relevant for research on the topic and their network to reach working parents and youth to collect qualitative data, for example focus groups interviews.

Name: Jianghong Li

(Convenor) Date: 01 June 2010