



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Maximising the Value of Longitudinal Studies for Policy and Science:



Australian Research Alliance
for Children & Youth

Methodological and Analysis Issues

Workshop and Networking Dinner

**Workshop:
Thursday 12 & Friday
13 November 2009**

**Networking Dinner:
Thursday 12
November 6.30pm**

**Venue:
The Pavilion on
Northbourne
242 Northbourne Ave
Dickson ACT 2602**

Including Presentations from:

- Prof. Richie Poulton
- Ms Lisa Calderwood
- Prof. John Carlin
- Prof. Stephen Zubrick
- Prof. Bob Gregory
- Ms Carol Soloff
- Prof. Julie Byles
- Ms Nicole Watson

FaHCSIA and the ARACY ARC/NHMRC Research Network are holding a two-day workshop on methodological issues in longitudinal studies. The workshop will bring together researchers and policy makers involved in longitudinal research. The workshop will feature presentations from experts, panel discussions and a poster session.

The workshop will:

- bring together the implementers/researchers and the policy makers involved with major longitudinal studies;
- be relevant to all longitudinal studies, providing an opportunity to share knowledge; &
- be designed to assist people involved in the design, management and conduct of longitudinal research and data preparation.

Facilitated by Professor Ann Sanson and Dr Helen Rogers, the workshop will feature presenters including Professor Richie Poulton, Director of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit at the University of Otago, which conducts the Dunedin Longitudinal Study; and Ms Lisa Calderwood, Senior Survey Manager, Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the University of London, who is currently working on the UK Millennium Cohort Study.

Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions of panels of experts and to display a poster on their own longitudinal research, describing their varied methodologies—what has worked, what hasn't—and the current status and findings of their study. Please see over for the workshop program.

There is no charge to attend this workshop. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided each day of the workshop, also included at no cost is the networking dinner (excluding drinks) on Thursday, 12 November.

For participants attending from interstate, The Pavilion on Northbourne has excellent accommodation, discounted to \$135 per night for participants. Please ensure that you quote FCS12N at the time of booking your accommodation to receive the discount rate.

Attendance is **limited**, so please [register your interest](#) with ARACY online or via email/fax by completing the form below. Confirmation of registration will be sent from four weeks prior to the event. **Please feel free to circulate workshop information to relevant parties.**

Longitudinal Methods Workshop Registration Form

To register your interest using this form, email or fax to:
Rachael Wilken,
rachael.wilken@aracy.org.au
ARACY
Department
of Paediatrics,
University of Melbourne,
Royal Children's Hospital,
Parkville VIC 3052
Ph: (03) 9345 5145
Fax: (03) 9345 6667

For more information contact:
**Rachael Wilken Or
Vicki Hagen at FaHCSIA**
Vicki.Hagen@fahcsia.gov.au
or (02) 6244 6531

To register your interest please go to the [ARACY Website](#) or complete the form below:

(Ms/Mrs/Mr/Dr/Prof) Name _____

Department/Organisation _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Mobile _____

Title/Area of Current Study _____

- Full Registration Day 1 & 2 Day 1 only Day 2 only Yes, I would like to attend the workshop dinner on 12 Nov (included)
- Dietary requirements (please specify): _____
- Title of Poster Presentation (feel free to expand on a separate page): _____
- Your question for the Panel:
Examples: At what point does attrition make it necessary to end a study? What is the balance between repeating old questions and introducing new questions into a longitudinal study?
- I am unable to attend the Longitudinal Studies Workshop but am interested in receiving information from the ARACY Longitudinal Studies Research Network



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Workshop Program

Day 1 – Thursday 12 November 2009

Day 2 – Friday 13 November 2009

Time

Topic

8.45am

Arrival, coffee & tea

9.00am

Welcome & overview of workshop

Time

Topic

8.45am

Arrival, coffee & tea

9.00am

Welcome and overview of Day 2

9.15am

Feature Presentation:
Professor Richie Poulton
University of Otago



9.15am

Feature Presentation:
Ms Lisa Calderwood
University of London



10.45am

Data Collection:
Australian Bureau of Statistics

- effect of modality on responses to items
- modality and response rates
- respondent burden
- interview length
- respondent-interviewer interaction

10.45am

Weighting:
Ms Nicole Watson

- complexity versus ease of use
- longitudinal versus cross-sectional weighting: which is more useful/sensible or does it depend on the type of analysis being done?

11.45—

Panel Discussion:
Retention and Attrition

- minimising attrition
- incentives and retention
- longitudinal retention strategies for people vulnerable to drop-out
- impact of questions asked and methodology on attrition
- engaging children and young people

11.45—
12.45pm

Imputation:
Professor John Carlin

- risks and benefits of differing levels of imputation prior to data release
- technical considerations for different methods of imputation
- cross-sectional versus longitudinal imputation

1.45—
2.45pm

Scale Performance:
Professor Stephen Zubrick

- cross-sectional scale validation
- longitudinal scale validation

1.30pm

Data Linkage:
Ms Carol Soloff

- benefits, pitfalls and confidentiality concerns

2.45—
3.45pm

Using Longitudinal Data in Policy Making:
Professor Bob Gregory

2.15pm

Data Harmonisation:
Professor Julie Byles

4.00pm

Panel Discussion:
Answering participants' questions—Design & collection.

3.00pm

Panel Discussion:
Answering participants' questions—Data issues.

4.30pm

Reflection

4.00pm

Reflection

5.00pm

Poster display and discussion prior to dinner

4.30pm

Close of Workshop

6.30pm **Workshop Networking Dinner**

For more information contact:

Rachael Wilken at ARACY on rachael.wilken@aracy.org.au or (03) 9345 5145, or
Vicki Hagen at FaHCSIA on Vicki.Hagen@fahcsia.gov.au or (02) 6244 6531