

Member profile: Dr Lyndall Strazdins, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Dr Lyndall Strazdins is Fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, the Australian National University. Her research focuses on the impacts and implications for Australian children of family unfriendly jobs, and on climate change. Dr Lyndall Strazdins and Ms Sharryn Sims are currently working on a project comparing the quality of parents jobs across OECD countries - **"Child-friendly" jobs: National and International differences**.



Dr Strazdins presented early findings from this project at last month's ARACY Forum panel and has been involved with ARACY since 2003. Her first interaction came through an ARC linkage grant led by Professor Michael Bittman, where Dr Strazdins worked with Research Network Coordinator Professor Ann Sanson, and Associate Professor Jan Nicholson. The partnered project, **Impact of parental employment conditions on children's wellbeing: The influence of employment quality, time and activities with children, and parenting practices**, was used as an example of an early collaboration success in the [Growing up in Australia project](#).

The ANU Fellow's recent work addresses the issue of what makes a job family-friendly and the need to ensure parents can access other work conditions, along with paid maternity leave.

"Parents (usually mothers) already had the right to unpaid leave, but this meant that they lost income for spending time with their newborns," she said. "And through the eyes of parents and children, both income and time matter.

"While we welcome the Australian Government's introduction of paid parental leave, the work-family struggle does not end there. We are still well behind other developed nations in providing really family-friendly/child-friendly work environments - enabling the three elements that children need of adequate pay, adequate time, and work conditions which are supportive of employed parents' health."

Learn more about Dr Lyndall Strazdin's evidence and views, as presented to the [ARACY Annual Forum](#).

Dr Lyndall Strazdins is an ARACY Individual Member, and the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (ANU) is an ARACY Organisational Member.

