Our Vision

The Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP) aims to contribute to the improved status and wellbeing of children and young people, particularly in regional and rural areas, by means of its interdisciplinary research, education and advocacy activities. The CCYP:

1. Undertakes relevant and appropriate **inter-disciplinary research** in key areas of children’s lives.
2. Provides **education and professional development** for individuals and organisations working with children and young people.
3. **Engages with colleagues in the field of child and youth research** regionally, nationally and internationally.
4. **Collaborates with agencies and organisations** concerned with quality service provision for children and young people.
5. **Contributes to the development of local, state and national policies** that enhance the wellbeing of children and young people.
6. **Supports the participation of children and young people** in research activities in their families, schools and communities.

Our Values

The CCYP is based on an understanding that:

- Children and young people are entitled to the provision, protection and participation rights afforded them under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Practice and policy should be evidence-based.
- Participation and collaboration are intrinsic to improved outcomes for children and young people.

Our History

The CCYP was established at SCU in 2004 to promote the status, voice of children and young people, and to contribute to their wellbeing, through its activities in research & evaluation, education and advocacy. The Centre, with its emphasis on a) interdisciplinary research activities and b) collaboration between researchers, policy makers, practitioners and young people, has now established a strong reputation internationally, nationally and regionally. The distinguished Advisory Board of the CCYP includes senior representatives from major regional organisations, working alongside leading academics, members of the judiciary and business, to provide expert guidance in relation to the Centre and its continued development. The Centre is further supported by a young persons’ consultative group who work closely with researchers at the CCYP, as well as with policy makers and practitioners, to give them advice and feedback about issues that matter to children and young people.

We acknowledge the Widjabul People of the Bundjalung Nation, Arakwal People, Gumbaynggirr People, Ngundawal Minjungbal People of the northern end of Bundjalung country, Yugambeh People, Traditional Custodians of the land upon which the University campuses are located and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this region.
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CCYP Board

CHAIR:
Associate Professor Judy Cashmore AO, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney (Adjunct Professor, Southern Cross University)

MEMBERS:
Justice Margaret Beazley AO, Supreme Court of New South Wales
The Honourable Jennifer Boland, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
Professor Deborah Brennan, Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW
Dr David Condon, Director, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Lismore
North Coast Area Health Service (Member to be advised)
Emeritus Professor Jacqueline Goodnow AC, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University
Aunty Irene Harrington, Bundjalung Elder
Mr Richard Harris, School of Law & Justice, Southern Cross University
Professor Martin Hayden, Head of School, School of Education, Southern Cross University
Professor Alan Hayes, Director, Australian Institute of Family Studies
Mr Daryl Jacobs, Department of Education and Communities, North Coast Region
Dr Tony Lembke, Northern Rivers General Practice Network
Ms Anne Meagher, Regional Director NSW (Northern), Juvenile Justice, Attorney General and Justice
Ms Clare Mulham, Businesswoman
Ms Susan Priivald, Regional Director NSW (Northern), Department Family & Community Services
Emeritus Professor Anne Smith, Retired Director, Centre for Research on Children and Families, New Zealand

CCYP Staff

Professor Anne Graham, Director

Professor Bettina Cass AO, Research Professor (CRN)
Dr Robyn Fitzgerald, Research Fellow
Dr Sally Robinson, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr Mary Ann Powell, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr Astghik Mavisakaylan, Research Fellow
Dr Sallie Newell, Senior Research Officer

Dr Jan Backhouse, Project Officer
Ms Alison Moss, Research Assistant
Ms Nadine White, Research Assistant
Ms Donna Shipway, Research Assistant
Ms Kate Neale, Marketing, Promotion and Dissemination
Ms Theresa Crawford, Administrative Officer
## Adjunct Professors

Professor Deborah Brennan, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Associate Professor Judy Cashmore AO, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney  
Professor Mary Kellett, Director of Childhood and Youth at the Open University, UK  
Emeritus Professor Anne Smith, Retired Director, Centre for Research on Children and Families, New Zealand

## Young People Big Voice Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daisy Aczel-Morris</th>
<th>Evanna Kelly</th>
<th>Maia Ryall</th>
<th>Tuesday Schofield-Jones</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Hort</td>
<td>Giselle Newton</td>
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## Centre Associates

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<tr>
<th>Dr Jan Backhouse</th>
<th>Professor Martin Hayden</th>
<th>Dr Michelle Townsend</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Wendy Boyd</td>
<td>Dr Brian Kean</td>
<td>Dr Judith Wilks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Tess Boyle</td>
<td>Dr Deana Leahy</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor Bob Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Andrew Cashin</td>
<td>Dr Elaine Nuske</td>
<td>Ms Ha Thi Quynh Anh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Marilyn Chaseling</td>
<td>Dr Liz Reimer</td>
<td>Ms Ha Thi Tuyet Nhung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Angela Coco</td>
<td>Dr Brad Shipway</td>
<td>Ms Le Thi Dan Dung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Alexandra Cutcher</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor Keith Skamp</td>
<td>Ms Ton Thi Tam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Richard Harris</td>
<td>Dr Tony Yeigh</td>
<td>Associate Professor Amy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Karen Hawkins</td>
<td>Dr Robert Smith</td>
<td>Cutter-Mackenzie</td>
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Another year, but not just another annual report! The Centre has moved into a new phase building on its earlier developmental work and the added strength of new researchers and the partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at UNSW. The funding provided by the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) program has, as outlined in this report, allowed the Centre to add to the ranks of the Centre several new impressive researchers in social policy relating to children and to build and strengthen a number of activities in an already busy Centre. The aim of the CRN is to build the capacity of regional universities by partnering with research-strong universities in similar areas of work. The Centre is indeed fortunate to have had a very solid base for such a partnership with Professor Deborah Brennan at the SPRC at UNSW; Deb has been a very constructive and committed member of the Board for several years.

As a research centre, the Centre has focused more of its activities related to the lives of children and young people under the CRN in some new directions in multi-disciplinary social policy research as a result of the skills brought by new researchers and post-graduate students. Centre staff have also been involved in a number of activities associated with the CRN, including writing fellowship programs, co-authored publications between CCYP and SPRC, seminars and workshops involving Australian and international visiting academics.

At the same time, the Centre has been building a national and international reputation in its core areas of work concerning the ethics of research with children and children’s participation. UNICEF has appointed Professor Anne Graham to lead the development of an international Charter and Guidelines for research involving children. Anne is working closely with UNICEF’s Innocenti Centre and Office of Research. This work is breaking new ground in the international field and will provide guidance to those involved in many charitable agencies working in many countries around the world.

Nationally, the Centre’s work in research bolstered and made real by its experience in practice with an advisory group of young people at the Centre, Young People, Big Voice (YPBV), also led to the Director, Professor Anne Graham, being invited to join and contribute to ARACY’s expert reference group. Anne is particularly well placed to advise on the development of a national action plan for child and youth wellbeing.

The social and emotional wellbeing of children in schools is also a key area for the Centre’s research, as the focus of an ARC Linkage grant with the Catholic Education Office, Interrelate and Good Grief. This is a large and significant study with substantial policy and practice implications. The Centre has now developed a strong reputation for such applied and relevant research.

Once again, I would like to commend the work and commitment of the staff at the Centre, under the leadership of the Director, who works so hard and keeps such a strong focus on what matters to those at the Centre and beyond – the social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. I would also like to thank the members of the Advisory board for continuing to provide strong support and encouragement to the Centre and to warmly welcome Professor Alan Hayes, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies who joined the board in 2012. The challenge ahead is to build on all the opportunities provided by the CRN and by the collaboration with the Social Policy Research Centre, and other agencies nationally and internationally.

Adjunct Professor Judy Cashmore
It is with much pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2012. This year the Centre for Children & Young People has benefited immensely from developments made possible through the Commonwealth Government’s Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) program. The CCYP is now enjoying a productive partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at UNSW to develop further capacity at Southern Cross University in multidisciplinary social policy research related to children, young people and families. During 2012 the CRN collaboration has resulted in several new researcher appointments, joint funding applications, joint higher degree supervision, co-authored publications, writing fellowship programs, international visiting fellows, workshops, seminars and informal mentoring activities. We are now busily preparing for an expansion of these activities into 2013-14. The CRN has brought new energy to the Centre and we remain indebted to Professor Deborah Brennan and her colleagues from the SPRC for their enthusiasm and commitment to this work.

Having a number of new researchers join the CCYP team this year has allowed for the development of new programs of research in areas including disability, economic disadvantage and rural childhoods, as well as strengthening existing areas such as ethics and social and emotional wellbeing. We are now putting considerable effort into funding submissions to further strengthen and expand this newer work.

Reflecting back over this year, it has been gratifying to see the ways in which the work of the Centre is now having wider reach and impact. Of particular significance in 2012 is the development of an international ethics Charter and Guidelines for research involving children. This initiative emerged out of earlier research undertaken in partnership with the University of Otago, UNICEF’s Office of Research, Innocenti and Childwatch International, which identified the need for more explicit standards and guidance for research involving children and young people across a wide range of research contexts. The development of the Charter and Guidelines has already generated significant dialogue internationally around some of the more difficult issues, questions and choices that shape research involving children. As a result of a wide international consultation (with over 300 researchers, funders, NGO’s and other stakeholders invited to provide feedback on the draft materials) there is a great deal of interest in the forthcoming publication of the Charter and Guidelines, along with the development of a dedicated website to support wide dissemination and ongoing discussion between researchers.

The Centre’s growing reputation in research concerning child and youth participation was also evidenced this year through an invitation to join ARACY’s expert reference group advising on the development of a proposed national action plan for child and youth wellbeing. This invitation provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the need for a national framework, standards and indicators to guide and strengthen the implementation and evaluation of children and young people’s participation.

While on the topic of participation, a very important contribution to our work at the CCYP has been the young people’s advisory group, Young People, Big Voice (YPBV), which has been part of the Centre since its inception. In 2012, we took the difficult decision to ‘rest’ the group due to a number of factors including changes in membership and facilitator, as well as other resourcing issues. We are looking forward to re-commencing YPBV in early 2013 having had time to review and plan around recruitment, funding and facilitation. We have missed having these young people meeting regularly at the Centre and bringing such integrity, dedication and fun to the practice of ‘participation’ and to our work as researchers.

I am very appreciative of the quite extraordinary commitment and efforts of the CCYP team, the interest and support of SCU colleagues, the expertise and creativity of our CRN partners from UNSW, and the unwavering support of our Advisory Board, expertly led by Adjunct Professor Judy Cashmore. These collaborative efforts have significantly improved the performance of the Centre and positioned it well for the future.

We look forward with much optimism to the opportunities and challenges of 2013!

Professor Anne Graham
# Strategic Priorities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>To undertake research, program planning and evaluation activities in areas identified as important for the improved status and wellbeing of children and young people.</td>
<td>• Secure external funding to conduct quality, relevant research&lt;br&gt;• Secure external funding to engage in collaborative program planning and evaluation&lt;br&gt;• Secure external funding to support and develop postgraduate students and post-doctoral fellows&lt;br&gt;• Secure external funding and engage leading visiting scholars&lt;br&gt;• Disseminate the findings of CCYP research and evaluation projects in scholarly ERA listed journals and practitioner-focused publications&lt;br&gt;• Contribute to relevant wider research and evaluation networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Capacity Building</td>
<td>To provide quality learning and professional development opportunities with a focus on improving children and young people’s status and wellbeing - for people working or researching with children, young people and/or their families (or preparing to do so).</td>
<td>• Develop quality accredited postgraduate education in child and youth studies&lt;br&gt;• Prepare and deliver a major annual conference/symposium&lt;br&gt;• Prepare and deliver a series of seminars&lt;br&gt;• Disseminate summaries and other relevant information from the CCYP conference and seminars&lt;br&gt;• Gather and disseminate information about other relevant education and professional development opportunities&lt;br&gt;• Prepare and deliver web-based resources that assist research and evaluation&lt;br&gt;• Provide basic research, program planning and/or evaluation support for organisations, academics and students engaged in projects relevant to CCYP goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>To promote the rights and interests of children and young people.</td>
<td>• Secure external funding for a young people’s consultative committee (Young People Big Voice)&lt;br&gt;• Encourage the active participation of children and young people in CCYP activities&lt;br&gt;• Encourage the active participation of children and young people in other relevant regional, state, national and international forums</td>
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Collaborative Research Network

In 2011, Southern Cross University secured a substantial grant from the Commonwealth Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DiiSR) under its Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) program. The CRN is designed to encourage smaller, less research-intensive and regional higher education institutions to develop their research capacity and adapt to a research system driven more strongly by performance outcomes by teaming up with other institutions in areas of common interest.

The CRN at SCU has three elements, one of which links the Centre for Children and Young People with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), University of New South Wales. This consolidates the already strong ties between CCYP and SPRC (Professor Deb Brennan has been a member of the CCYP Board for several years) as well as providing funding for new appointments and initiatives.

We are delighted that, as part of the CRN, Professor Bettina Cass has been appointed as professor (part-time) in the CCYP. Professor Cass is one of Australia’s most distinguished social scientists. From 2005-2012 she was Professorial Fellow in the Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW. Previously, she was Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney and Professor of Australian Studies in the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. She has been Director of several large Government Inquiries and reviews concerned with family policies and family income support, social security, labour market policies, housing needs of women and children, ageing, retirement incomes and disabilities. She has also been a commissioner on NSW and Commonwealth Law Reform Commissions on social policy references and a consultant to the OECD on social policies in Eastern Europe. She has also carried out research and consultations in partnership with community-based organisations.

The CRN has been the catalyst for a number of exciting developments in 2012. Key CRN activities for 2012 have included:

- The appointment of 2.6 FTE research staff with a further 1.0 FTE pending
- A jointly supervised PhD, supported by a CRN scholarship
- Two CRN writing fellowship programs spanning November 2011 to August 2012.
- A research and policy workshop on Grandparents raising Grandchildren in August 2012 funded by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) and SCU
- Participation in CRN Research Leaders workshop at the University of Sydney
- A Mixed Methods workshop involving more than 50 participants across the three SCU campuses in November 2012
- Participation by SCU students and staff in a Higher Degree Research (HDR) Workshop at UNSW November 2012
- Contributing to 2 ARC Linkage Grants with the SPRC and the University of Queensland in the November 2012 round
- Mentoring of CCYP staff by SPRC researchers

Additionally the Centre hosted visits from distinguished international scholars who presented seminars, workshops and led roundtable discussions:

- Professor Nigel Thomas (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
- Professor Fiona Williams (University of Leeds, UK)
- Professor Malcolm Hill (University of Strathclyde, UK)
- Professor Mary Crock (University of Sydney)

Professor Bettina Cass, and Professor Deborah Brennan, from the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW and Professor Anne Graham, director of Southern Cross University’s Centre for Children and Young People
A very successful Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum was held at Invercauld House, Goonellabah in August 2012. The Forum was organised by the Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP) and the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at the University of New South Wales, and was supported by funding from the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and Southern Cross University. This forum was an integral component of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN).

The aims of the Grandparent Forum were to bring together grandparents who are primary carers of their grandchildren, university researchers, service providers and policymakers to discuss the experiences and circumstances of grandparent carers; the policy and practice implications of Australian research on grandparents raising their grandchildren; and to contribute ideas for better, more equitable services for grandparents and their grandchildren. The forum also aimed to identify future areas of research to support effective policies and programs to meet the needs of grandparent-headed families in Australia.

Fifty two participants attended the Forum including representatives from Government departments, community organisations and schools, as well as grandparent/kinship carers representing support groups from Casino, Lismore, Ballina/Byron, Tweed Valley, Port Macquarie and Clarence Valley.

The Forum was introduced by Professor Anne Graham, who explained the objectives of the meeting were to generate ideas for future research and policy, and to showcase the strength of the collaboration between CCYP and SPRC researchers in the CRN. Professor Deb Brennan, from SPRC outlined the key findings from ‘Grandparents as Primary Carers of their Grandchildren’, a recently completed ARC Linkage grant project. The aims of the study were threefold: to bring the voices, experiences, perspectives and needs of grandparent carers into the policy-making process; to help build a strong evidence base for advocacy and support groups, service providers and policymakers; and to identify gaps in policies and services in order to help formulate effective solutions. Dr Jan Backhouse from CCYP talked about the findings from her PhD thesis that focused on the impact of the transition from a traditional grandparent role to a grandparent-as-parent role on grandparents who were raising their grandchildren. Professor Anne Graham chaired panel presentations, which included Cathy Jamieson, a grandparent carer of four grandchildren from the Tweed Valley Kin Care Support Group; Bridget Jenkins, PhD scholar from SPRC who spoke on the information needs of grandparent carers drawn from the SPRC’s project ‘Grandparents as Primary Carers of their Grandchildren’; and Lisa Gava, Manager Client Services, Family and Community Services, Lismore.

Professor Bettina Cass from SPRC summarised the key policy issues identified in the Forum, in particular grandparents’ lack of access to accurate and timely information regarding financial and social support services available through State and Commonwealth government departments. Staff in government agencies need to be trained to treat grandparents with respect, provide consistent, clear and correct information, bearing in mind their diverse circumstances and needs. Forum participants agreed that more research is required in order to improve the resources and services of grandparents raising grandchildren, and in particular, to gain better knowledge and understanding of the circumstances and needs of children being raised by grandparents in both formal and informal care arrangements.
Welcome to new CRN staff

Professor Bettina Cass

Professor Bettina Cass is a Professor (part-time) in the CRN program, and Emeritus Professor at the Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW. She is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Bettina’s major responsibilities for the CRN are to: advise on relevant projects within the Centre for Children and Young People; assist with the development of grant applications; assist with publishing activities through mentoring and advising colleagues in CCYP, both through holding writing workshops and individual mentoring; co-supervise Higher Degree Research students; and assist with the planning and organisation of research workshops and participate in them. Her research on issues and policies relevant to children and young people include studies of young people with family caregiving responsibilities; the experiences and needs of families where grandparents are the primary care-giver; understanding the views and experiences of young people living in disadvantaged circumstances about policies which would make a difference for them; analysis of childcare policies; analysis of Australian and international family policies, including family tax/benefits systems; policies which facilitate work/life balance for people with parenting and other caregiving responsibilities. In all of her work she brings research evidence into engagement with policy debate and development.

Dr Sally Robinson

Sally joined the Centre in January as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the CRN program, where she does participatory and inclusive research with young people with disability and those who support them. She has been involved in a range of research and evaluation in the social policy arena over the past decade, focusing particularly on safety and harm, accommodation and social exclusion concerns of people with disability. Sally is a member of the NDIS Expert Advisory Group on Quality, Safeguards and Standards and a member of the NSW Disability Council. Prior to life as a researcher, Sally has a long history of advocacy and support work with people with intellectual disability.

Dr Mary Ann Powell

Mary Ann is a Postdoctoral Fellow, partly in the CRN program, with research interests including ethics in research with children and young people, children’s social and emotional wellbeing, and rural childhood. Currently her CCYP role includes working on the international research ethics project, which has been her key interest over the last two years. Mary Ann’s professional background is in child psychotherapy, and prior to developing her interest in participatory research with children, she worked in a range of NZ contexts, particularly with children and families who have experienced family violence, abuse, neglect and trauma. Mary Ann has also been involved in postgraduate teaching and supervision in child psychotherapy and child mental health.

Dr Astghik Mavisakalayan

Astghik Mavisakalyan brings to the CCYP strong research interests in the economics of education. Her previous research has looked at issues surrounding school choice, achievement and public education expenditures in the context of immigration. After joining the CCYP in July, Astghik has further pursued her research interests in economics of education through her work on new projects.

Being part of the Collaborative Research Network has enabled Astghik to collaborate with colleagues at the Social Policy Research Centre, including the SPRC-led ARC project “Families at the Centre: Negotiating Australia’s Mixed Market in Early Childhood Education and Care”. As part of the quantitative element of this project, Astghik is involved in the design of a study linking neighbourhood characteristics with childcare choices of families. Furthermore, the effect of neighbourhood characteristics on children’s outcomes
will be explored as part of this study. Astghik will be utilising the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children for this project. Being one of the most comprehensive surveys focusing on children’s outcomes in Australia, this study will also form the basis of Astghik’s research agenda for her CRN fellowship which is concerned with issues surrounding children’s well-being and socio-economic disadvantage. Aiming to fill important gaps in knowledge, this research will result in submissions for competitive grant schemes and top-tier journals.

**HDR Student Ms Kate Neale**

Ms Kate Neale is in the first year of her PhD candidature, and is supervised by Professor Anne Graham and Professor Bettina Cass.

Kate’s research aims to investigate whether and how ethical consumption is recognised and practised within families. The study is exploring how children influence, and are influenced by, others with respect to ethical consumer choices.

**Other Research Highlights – HDR News**

Congratulations to Shelley Thornton who graduated with her PhD in June 2012.

Shelley’s Thesis is titled: Supporting Children’s Mental Well-being in Primary Schools: Problem-Solving Through Communication and Action. Shelley’s supervisors were Professor Anne Graham and Dr Renata Phelps.

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**Endeavour Research Fellow**

Julia Truscott is an Endeavour Award Scholarship student from Scotland, studying towards a Masters by Research in the CCYP. She has a 1st Class Honours degree in Science Communication from the University of London and has worked in a range of education related roles in the UK, Japan and Australia. Most recently Julia worked for Forestry Commission Scotland as a community and education ranger. She was involved in the launch of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning and helped to deliver and support teachers in achieving this. She is a trained Forest School Leader and was instrumental in expanding Forest Schools and Nature Kindergartens across the Grampian region in Scotland. Julia’s research focus links closely to this work. She is exploring the growing interest in nature kindergartens in Australia. She is investigating changing perceptions towards risk and how this affects play experiences at pre-school, with a wider interest in changing modern childhood.

*Julia Truscott, Masters Student*
Research and Evaluation Activities

**GOAL** - To undertake research, program planning and evaluation activities in areas identified as important for the improved status and wellbeing of children and young people.

This section provides an overview and highlights of the CCYP’s progress in 2012 in relation to this goal as we:

- engage in ongoing and new research projects;
- engage in ongoing and new program planning and evaluation projects;
- support higher degree research students;
- disseminate the findings of CCYP research and evaluation projects; and
- contribute to the wider research and evaluation community.

Our current and recently completed projects are summarised below. These cover a range of topics linked to the Centre’s priority interests around children and young people’s: wellbeing; education and learning; rights and citizenship.

We continue to develop and refine mixed methods approaches that help ensure our research and evaluation is robust, respectful and responsive, as well as focused on influencing policy and practice.

### Current Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childwatch International</td>
<td>Progressing Ethical Research with Children</td>
<td>July 2011 – December 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interrelate Family Centres, Catholic Schools Office Lismore Diocese and Good Grief Australia</td>
<td>Improving Approaches to Wellbeing in Schools: What role does recognition play? Other Partner Organisation: Centre for Children &amp; Young People’s Participation, University of Central Lancashire</td>
<td>August 2011 – August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rivers Social Development Council</td>
<td>Belonging and Connection: Building Inclusion of Children with Disability 0-8 in the Tweed Region</td>
<td>August 2012 – July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Education &amp; Communities and NSW Commission for Children &amp; Young People</td>
<td>Exploring the Potential of Student ‘Participation’ for Improving the Experience of School</td>
<td>November 2011 – June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW Social Policy Research Centre, Strathclyde University, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and Children With Disability Australia</td>
<td>Space, Place and Relationships: Understanding Connectedness and Belonging for Young People with Cognitive Disability in Regional Communities</td>
<td>September 2012 – March 2014</td>
</tr>
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# Recently Completed Projects

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Partner Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigation Of Parenting Capacity Following Separation &amp; Divorce</td>
<td>May 2010 – May 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>UnitingCare Burnside and NSW Commission for Children &amp; Young People</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Today &amp; Tomorrow Research Group</td>
<td>March 2011 – March 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialist Supported Living Services: Post Implementation Review</td>
<td>March – July 2012</td>
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<td>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum</td>
<td>June – August 2012</td>
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# Higher Degree Research Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student (Degree)</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danny Hatchman (EdD)</td>
<td>An Exploration of Influences on Faith-Nurtured Students’ Religiosity and Spirituality in Transition from Primary to Secondary Catholic Schooling - The Perspective of Students</td>
<td>2009 – 2012</td>
<td>Brad Shipway / Anne Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie O’Sullivan (PhD)</td>
<td>One-To-One Laptops in Primary Classrooms and their Influence on Teachers’ Pedagogy</td>
<td>2010 – 2016</td>
<td>Renata Phelps / Brad Shipway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huynh Thi Nhan Hieu (PhD)</td>
<td>Raising Learning Achievement for Jrai Ethnic Minority Students at Primary School in Gia Lai, Viet Nam</td>
<td>2011 – 2014</td>
<td>Anne Graham / Renata Phelps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Griffiths (PhD)</td>
<td>Exploring Boys and Disengagement in NSW Primary Schools</td>
<td>2012 – 2015</td>
<td>Anne Graham / Brad Shipway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Truscott (Masters)</td>
<td>Nature-Based Play at Pre-School</td>
<td>2012 – 2014</td>
<td>Anne Graham / Amy Cutter-McKenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Neale (PhD)</td>
<td>Children and Ethical Consumption</td>
<td>2012 – 2015</td>
<td>Anne Graham / Bettina Cass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Prior (PhD)</td>
<td>Learning Needs of Twice Exceptional Students</td>
<td>2012 – 2020</td>
<td>Anne Graham / Sally Robinson</td>
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Dissemination of CCYP Project Findings

CCYP staff, students and affiliated researchers have disseminated their work through the publication of book chapters, journal articles, reports and other documents and through presentations at national and international conferences and other forums.

**BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS**


**REFERRED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER EDITORIAL REVIEW**


Improving Approaches to Wellbeing in Schools: What Role Does Recognition Play?

The CCYP team working on this ARC funded project has made excellent progress in 2012.

This research is exploring teacher, student and policy views on wellbeing in schools and utilises recognition theory in developing new understandings and approaches.

The project partners are the Catholic Schools Office, Lismore, Interrelate Family Centres and Good Grief Ltd. Our international collaborator is Professor Nigel Thomas from the University of Central Lancashire in the UK.

A comprehensive analysis of state and national wellbeing policy was completed in late 2012. Related data collection for the qualitative phase of the project was also completed across the Lismore, Melbourne and Townsville Catholic School Regions between April and July 2012. This phase involved interviews with 90 teachers and Principals, as well as focus groups with 650 students. This data is currently being analysed in conjunction with the development of a teacher and student survey for the quantitative phase of the project. Data collection for the survey will be completed in Term 1, 2013.

Childwatch International Child Research Ethics Project

Over the course of 2012 a key CCYP project under Anne Graham’s leadership has been the development of an international ethics Charter and Guidelines and webportal for research involving children, jointly sponsored by UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti and Childwatch International. The CCYP have been leading this project in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) at the University of Otago. The project builds on work completed over the previous year by the CCYP and CRCF in the Childwatch Thematic Group focused on Building Capacity for Ethical Research with Children and Young People.

The key focus has been on developing the Charter and Guidelines, in accordance with an extensive international consultation and review process. In April 2012, Anne Graham co-chaired a meeting at the Innocenti Centre, Florence which was attended by members of the Project Advisory Group (PAG), including scholars, researchers and UNICEF representatives from a range of countries. Participants at the meeting provided critical input into the rationale, design and process for developing the Charter and Guidelines. Initial rounds of consultation on
the draft document followed, including PAG members, selected researchers and stakeholders, participants at a meeting on research on Violence against Children in Stockholm, attended by Anne Graham in June 2012, and participants at a meeting on research with Young Key Affected Populations in relation to HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, attended by Nicola Taylor of the CRCF in September 2012. Subsequently, invitations were extended to over 300 international experts to review the revised draft Charter and Guidelines. The response, from over 80 researchers, has been overwhelmingly positive and we are currently engaged in further revising the draft in light of the recommendations, for finalisation by the end of the year. The consultation process has highlighted the critical role that the webportal will play in making the Charter and Guidelines universally accessible. Work has started on development of the ethics webportal, with the initial design concept drawn up and plans underway for the architecture of the website.

The next phase of the project will involve finalisation of the print and electronic forms of the ethics Charter and Guidelines, development of the website to host this and other ethics-related material, then the establishment of processes and mechanisms for launching and ongoing dissemination and delivery of the Charter and Guidelines. This next phase is being carried out by the CCYP, Childwatch International and sponsored by UNICEF, Innocenti.

Belonging and connection for children and young people with disability

In 2012, Dr Sally Robinson has been building a program of research exploring the nature and extent of belonging and connection experienced by children and young people with disability living in regional communities. This research is particularly interested in the ways in which the experience of belonging and connection shapes young people’s perceptions of inclusion/exclusion and impacts on their developing identity as persons of dignity and worth.

Two projects are currently underway with young children and with teenagers:

*The Belonging project: Building inclusion for children with disability aged 0-8 and their families in the Tweed Region*

The Belonging Project is a participatory research project talking with children with disability aged 0-8 years and their families about what it means to feel included and connected in their community. Using a combination of drawing, mapping, play, interactive social media applications and photography, the research is capturing the views of children and families on what it means to belong in the Tweed Valley Shire.

The results of the research will be used by the Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC) to form a foundation for the development of a capacity building framework for strengthening inclusion in community settings. The project is being completed by NRSDC and CCYP for the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

*Space, place and relationships: how do young people with cognitive disability understand belonging and connection in their regional towns?*

This research will investigate the lived experience of belonging and connection for young people with cognitive disability living in regional communities. Young people with cognitive disability in three regional communities in NSW, Victoria and Queensland will be supported to use narrative, photovoice and other multimedia approaches to explore the enablers and barriers to connectedness and belonging, including any perceived impact of living in a regional community.

Young people in other regional centres will be included with the use of interactive pictorial and easy English online surveys. The views of young people with cognitive disability on participating in research and potentially influencing policy decisions at local, state and federal levels will also be gathered through the research process.

This collaborative project will also involve researchers from the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre, Strathclyde University, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and peak organisation Children with Disability Australia.
Collaborative Evaluation of the Today & Tomorrow Research Initiative

The CCYP collaborated with the NSW Commission for Children & Young People to evaluate Uniting Care Burnside’s pilot Today & Tomorrow Research initiative, which aimed to build children and young people’s skills and capacity to undertake research, reflect on and present their ideas in ways that are meaningful to them. The CCYP team tailored an evaluation approach which was predominantly a child-centred process designed to encourage regular, naturally-timed reflections by both the young researchers and the adult facilitators in relation to their experiences and learning’s from the program. This involved each young researcher completing brief PRE and POST surveys, a semi-structured POST interview (to explore their experiences in more depth) and recording their reflections after each program session, in response to six key prompts. In addition, the adult facilitators completed semi-structured POST interviews and recorded similar post-session reflections, while the Project Reference Group participated in a POST focus group about the program.

Some highlight findings include:

- **Very good attendance** – seven young researchers attended 16 or more of the 18 weekly sessions and all nine still engaged at the end of the program.

- **A very positive response to the program content** – all young researchers had a clear understanding of what they had to do and agreed ‘it’s a good idea for kids to learn about doing research’.

- **A range of perceived impacts on young researchers’ thinking and/or skills** – all nine felt they had learned things that would help them in the future and five commented about how these learnings had already been helpful for them at school.

- **A range of perceived benefits for young researchers’ wellbeing** – six young researchers felt the program had helped them feel better about themselves and three expressed a sense of personal achievement among their ‘best things’ about the program.

What did We do Our Research On??

- Dave did his research on Math’s game
- Harry did his research on computer programming
- Sharmi did her research on books
- Kate & Jane did their research on sexism
- Lily did her research on Facebook
- Mark & Rob did their research on cars
- Bill did his research on Green House Gases

Contributions to the Wider Research and Evaluation Community

**ARACY**
Expert Reference Group for the National Action Plan for Child & Youth Wellbeing
Anne Graham

**Childwatch International Research Network**
Director of Key Institution
Anne Graham

**National Disability Insurance Scheme**
Expert Advisory Group on Quality, Safeguards and Standards
Sally Robinson

**NSW Ministerial Disability Council**
Member
Sally Robinson

**Children and Society**
Reviewer
Anne Graham

**Journal of Sociology**
Reviewer
Anne Graham

**International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)**
Reviewer
Anne Graham

**Raising Children Network (Parenting Research Centre)**
Reviewer
Jan Backhouse
Anne Graham

**Child & Family Social Work**
Reviewer
Jan Backhouse

**Journal of Policy & Practice in Intellectual Disabilities**
Reviewer
Sally Robinson

**PsychoOncology**
Reviewer
Sallie Newell
During 2012, the Centre has continued to make progress towards achieving this goal, by providing individuals and organisations with direct learning opportunities and through the capacity building approach employed in our program planning and evaluation consultancies. The following section provides an overview and highlights of the CCYP’s recent progress in relation to this goal:

- delivering a series of seminars,
- developing a suite of postgraduate award programs in Childhood and Youth Studies,
- providing free basis research, program planning and/or evaluation support for organisations, academics and students engaged in projects relevant to CCYP goals.

Seminars

**Children’s Participation – Challenges for Research and Practice. Presented by Professor Nigel Thomas.**

28 February 2012

In his seminar Nigel Thomas reflected on twenty years of research and practice in children and young people’s participation in decision-making, taking in both individual participation in private matters and collective participation in public affairs. Two decades on from the near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nigel suggested it is a good time to consider what has been learned from the experience of implementing Article 12 of the Convention, and how that learning can contribute to an understanding of the place of children and young people in society.

**Care Relations and Social Policy: Competing Interpretations of Need. Presented by Professor Fiona Williams.**

19 March 2012

Care has become an urgent personal and political issue. Professor Fiona Williams looked at different interpretations of care needs that have emerged in the political landscape of Europe. The argument developed is that there are overlapping but competing frames for interpreting care needs – social justice (from organisations representing those mobilising around care) and social investment (from institutions of governance) – and that while the social investment frame provides some opportunities for claims ‘from below’ to be met, at the same time it delimits their scope. Professor Williams concluded her seminar by discussing how care as an activity and an ethic might find greater social value.

‘What Children Say about Services and Professionals.’ Presented by Professor Malcolm Hill.

24 April 2012

In this seminar, Professor Malcolm Hill considered children’s perspectives on the factors that limit and facilitate access to, and engagement with, the services and professionals aiming to support them. Help seeking is placed in the context of the availability of informal support and the mediation of family and peers in children’s relationships with professionals. Consideration was given to the
importance of venues, locations and timing of contacts with services. The presentation concluded with a review of the qualities of professionals that children and young people commonly value and criticise. Discussion focused on what can be learned from UK research to improve understandings and approaches in Australia.

The seminar was of particular interest to academics and professionals working in services that support children and young people (community services, education, health, disability, juvenile justice etc).

Research Roundtables

The CCYP convened two Research Roundtables during 2012. The purpose of these Roundtables is to provide a forum to discuss research interests, to support new initiatives and to network researchers with similar interests. The format of the Roundtables is flexible but will usually focus on a theme. Where possible, expert guest speakers are invited to facilitate discussion around the Centre’s research interests.

RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE WITH PROFESSOR NIGEL THOMAS

5 March 2012

Professor Nigel Thomas led a research roundtable which looked at the location and contribution of childhood studies as a field of inquiry. From its origins in critical sociology in the 1970s, and new thinking in a range of disciplines in the 1980s and 1990s, it now has at least some of the characteristics of an established field, with regular conferences, networks, research centres and even funding streams. Nonetheless its relationship to ‘mainstream’ disciplines including sociology, psychology and politics remains problematical, as does its historical relationship to children’s rights and advocacy. Questions remain about its future direction, in particular around fundamental questions of structure and agency, and the implications of a social constructionist conceptualisation of childhood for research, policy and practice. The aim of the roundtable was to air some of these questions (rather than to offer definitive answers) and to explore how these issues might be navigated in different research contexts.
Childhood and Youth Studies Course

The Masters of Childhood and Youth Studies, which commenced in 2011, continued to grow steadily throughout 2012. There are currently 32 students enrolled. Of these, 20 are in the Masters program, 4 in the Graduate Diploma and 8 in the Graduate Certificate.

We were delighted to see our first two students complete the Graduate Certificate program this year and celebrate their graduation in September. Four further students are due to graduate from the Masters program in early 2013. This is a milestone for the Centre for Children and Young People which has led the development and co-ordination of the Childhood and Youth Studies Courses under the skilful leadership of Dr Renata Phelps.

In 2012 a further two units were developed and delivered for the first time. CYS03346 Supporting Young People’s Health and Safety: Perspectives on Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health was developed by Dr Michael Gard and CYS03351 Researching With and For Children was developed by a team including Professor Mary Kellett who wrote the Background Briefing paper.

Other units currently on offer include:

- Improving Practice Through Program Evaluation
- Engaging with Children and Young People
- Children and the Law
- Researching with and for Children
- Promoting Children’s Protection and Participation
- Children’s Rights: Policy into Practice
- Strengthening Young People’s Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Understanding Children and Childhood
- Critical Literature Review

These units are delivered online with regular workshops, discussion groups and lively interaction between students, tutors and guest presenters. Students report the content and assessment of the units is relevant for their practice and the knowledge gained enhances their existing understandings of issues and concerns in working with children and young people.

Advocacy Activities

GOAL - To promote the rights and interests of children and young people.

Young People Big Voice (YPBV)

The YPBV has ‘rested’ in 2012 and will reconvene in early 2013. Following the CCYP Planning Day in October this year, plans are now underway for the appointment of a new YPBV facilitator. It is expected that the facilitator will commence recruitment for new members in early 2013. While many current YPBV members will depart the Lismore area to pursue studies in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, several have expressed interest in remaining involved with the work of YPBV, including the training and development of the new team.

We take this opportunity to also wish Sarah Hort, Maia Ryall and Giselle Newton all the best as they come to the end of their Year 12 studies and to thank them for their involvement with YPBV over many years. Their contribution has been invaluable and we are very grateful for their enthusiasm, ongoing support and interest in the work of the CCYP.

The work of YPBV remains an important aspect of the research, education and advocacy activities of the CCYP and we look forward to welcoming new members in the near future.
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