

# Child and Family Research; Strengthening Practice Seminars

To welcome the Centre for Child and Family Research into the Faculty of Education four seminars of value to researchers and practitioners have been developed. Each of the sessions are stand alone seminars with speakers that will update the current research environment, explore recent research findings and invite practitioners to become engaged in further research. A mission of the Centre is to be a voice for research informed practice.

To register for these events visit: <http://strengtheningpracticeseminars.eventbrite.co.nz>

## Thursday August 29 2013

### Anne Duncan - 3pm

**What does the new government investment in research and evaluation mean? Will it lead to better outcomes and better practice? If not, why not?"**

So what is SuPERU in the context of the Families Commission? What does this focus mean for research and evaluation in New Zealand? How might it influence policy-makers and decision-makers in government? The seminar will explore the between research/evaluation and practice in family and social policy and discuss what might it mean for practitioners.

### Dr Jeremy Robertson - 4pm

**Having an impact: how can research and evaluation findings influence policy and practice?**

The issue of the translation of research findings into practice has been a focus of attention in the health sciences. Until recently this issue had been relatively under-developed within social science research community. Most applied social scientists want their research to inform policy and practice. However summarising a complex study into digestible practice advice is challenging, and not without its risks. Drawing on my experience as a researcher I discuss the various ways in which I, and my colleagues, have attempted to make our research findings available to practitioners. I then welcome comments and reflections from the practitioner/researcher audience.

## Thursday September 26 2013

### Jill Goldson - 4pm

**Family facilitation: an evidence based approach to dispute resolution in the rearranging family.**

The presentation centres on my published research and ongoing work in child inclusion with rearranged families who are in dispute. A raft of reforms in NZ family law are imminent. An informed systemic approach to a facilitated resolution is a core consideration to ensure these reforms work with integrity. Practice, methodology, outcomes and implications will be discussed against a background of the United Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) and the Care of Children Act (COCA). The approach described is not therapy per se, but dispute resolution with a therapeutic outcome.

## Thursday October 31 2013

### Dr Irene de Haan - 4pm

**A good start; support for families in transition to parenthood**

For 15 years she was manager of Homebuilders Family Centre in Warkworth, a non-profit sector organisation providing home-based social work support, parenting education, advocacy and counselling for children and young people. Her doctoral research on transition to parenthood was founded on the belief that it is essential that families get the support they need to get off to a good start in the parenting role.

## Thursday November 28 2013

### Prof Marie Connolly - 4pm

**Just talking about it or doing it? Taking children and young person's rights seriously in practice.**

When the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was introduced it was a huge step forward – an historic milestone that positioned the rights of children and young people at the centre of professional concern. Since then, most countries have ratified UNCROC. There nevertheless remains a big gap between what the convention expects and how countries support children's rights. This presentation takes a look at what children and young people report is important to them and considers what agencies need to do to be rights-based in practice.

## Presenters



### Anne Duncan

Anne Duncan is the Director of SuPERU (Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit), a newly created division of the Families Commission. SuPERU is mandated to provide research and evaluation leadership and services across government in areas of social policy development and social programme delivery. SuPERU works across government agencies and is involved with design and delivery of evaluation of complex, multi-agency social programmes as well as research around key areas of concern and interest to government in the social area. The focus is on delivering robust evidence to inform and support good decision-making, and to ensure best possible return on social investment for those New Zealanders most in need.



### Dr Jeremy Robertson

Jeremy commenced with the Families Commission as their Chief Research Advisor in February 2011. He has over 25 years experience in applied social science research and evaluation in New Zealand. Prior to joining the Commission Jeremy spent 10 years at Victoria University of Wellington, working with the Crime and Justice Research Centre, and the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families. He has conducted research for a number of government departments, on topics broadly related to family functioning and child wellbeing.



### Jill Goldson

Jill Goldson is a counselling practitioner with over 25 years experience with children and families; she is also a researcher, author of published research and presenter at conferences. Jill has lectured at Unitec, Massey University and Otago University and works in clinical practice. She is Director of the Family Matters Centre in Auckland.



### Dr Irene de Haan

Irene de Haan is a registered social worker who has worked as a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Chief Social Worker. She currently chairs regional family violence death review panels under the auspices of the Health, Quality and Safety Commission.



### Prof Marie Connolly

Marie Connolly is Professor of Social Work at the University of Melbourne. She has worked in the area of child and family welfare for more than 30 years and has published widely, including most recently, *Understanding Child and Family Welfare: Statutory responses to children at risk* (2012). From 2005-2010 she was Chief Social Worker at the Ministry of Social Development.