

**PAID CARE POSTGRADUATE GROUP
SEMINAR - 11 JUNE 2010**

**Transformations of Care:
Living the consequences of changing public policies in Australia.**

Jane Mears

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This paper will outline the initial findings from a research project examining home care provision, practices and policy in Australia. The aim of this research is to explore and analyse the working conditions of care workers, particularly the organisation, management and delivery of care, across three categories of government subsidised care providers; state funded and administered agencies (in this instance NSW Home Care), not for profit organisations (NFPOs) and for profit organisations (FPOs). Three strategies have been utilised to collect data for this study. The first strategy is a survey; a questionnaire distributed to 1200 care workers. Secondly, in-depth interviews have been conducted with care workers, care managers, those receiving care and informal carers. Thirdly, a number of in-depth observation studies, where the researcher ‘follows’ a care worker throughout her working day have been conducted (Szebehely, 2007).

The methodology of this research project replicates, with adaptations to the Australian context, the Nordic study of careworkers conducted by Professor Marta Szebehely and her team in 2005 (Szebehely, 2005). This research has been undertaken with assistance from Professor Szebehely and the Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) Division in the Department of Human Services. However the information and views contained in this paper do not necessarily, or at all, reflect the views or information held by ADHC, the NSW Government or the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services.

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**Negotiating Child Care:
Use of services and informal networks**

Kylie Sait

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My PhD thesis is based on research I conducted for an ARC Linkage project. I investigated the experiences of parents of children in the early years (ages 0-3 years) living in the Ryde local government area in accessing early childhood and family services, establishing informal support networks and negotiating care responsibilities. I explored the caring experiences of parents from a variety of non-English speaking migrant backgrounds, including Chinese, Korean, and South Asian, among others, compared to Australian-born parents. I used a mix-methods approach with data collected through a questionnaire (370+ respondents), in-depth interviews with 24 case study parents, participant observations at playgroups, mothers groups, parks, etc and attendance at local council and service provider interagencies.

I will provide a brief overview of my research. However, the focus of my presentation will be on the ways in which parents negotiate child care responsibilities and their use of formal centre-based care and familial/informal networks. As this discussion is a work-in-progress and based on a draft thesis chapter, I welcome feedback and suggestions.

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Discussion Session

**The Implications of COAG Changes to Responsibilities for
Aged and Disability Care**

Introduced by

Laurel Hixon

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In April 2010, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that, from July 2011, the Commonwealth Government will be responsible for the funding and administration of aged care services (for people 65 years old and over) and State and Territory governments will be responsible for the funding and administration of disability services, subject to some variations for some specific groups and situations. Services for people who have a disability and are 65 years old and over will, in general, come under the Commonwealth's responsibility. This decision most directly affects the Home and Community Care (HACC) program, currently funded jointly by the two levels of government and administered by State and Territory governments for both aged and disability services. In addition, some Commonwealth disability programs will be transferred to the states and territories. Victoria is not part of the agreement.

The stated objective of the changes is "To improve client services in community aged care and disability services by enabling the creation of integrated and coordinated care systems that are easier for clients to access and navigate and respond more flexibly to clients' changing care needs." The changes are likely to have a significant impact on the paid care sector for people receiving care and for formal and informal providers of care. The aim of this session is to discuss the potential effects of the changes and to identify their implications for research in paid care, including what lessons past and current research may have for the new arrangements, what impact the changes may have on current research, and what future research may be necessary to properly assess the effects of the changes.