

Sharing research data

New Zealand is being asked to treat with urgency the issue of saving and sharing publicly funded social research data.

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Dr Bruce Scoggins

A one-day seminar on sharing data, hosted last December by the Health Research Council (HRC), was supported by the SPEaR Linkages Programme.

HRC Chief Executive Dr Bruce Scoggins said the HRC held the seminar because it was important to start looking at how to ensure data collections arising from public sector investment “are accessible, affordable and generate the maximum possible benefit to New Zealand”.

But he said that, while everyone at the conference recognised the advantages to New Zealand from implementing a policy on data sharing, “they were less clear on how to proceed from here”.

Peter Davis, professor of public health at the Christchurch School of Medicine and the driving force behind the seminar, says information and communications technologies are transforming the management of research data, including its storage, access, analysis and distribution.

“It’s important that the New Zealand science and science policy communities are brought up to date with this major international trend. For example, we need to discuss the implications for policy and practice of following the OECD principle that publicly funded research data should be openly available to the maximum extent possible.”

Peter said contributions to the seminar by speakers from the UK and Australia were “representative of an international science momentum that, till now, New Zealand has had little part in”.

While some initiatives were under way, such as Statistics New Zealand’s proposed Official Statistics Research and Data Archive and SPEaR’s advocacy for an on-line data-sharing portal, “the abiding impression [from New Zealand speakers] was more of a potential unfulfilled”.

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Sharing research data

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Bruce noted that in January this year, the OECD adopted the *Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding*.

“The declaration provides a robust rationale for data sharing and a set of commonly agreed principles to facilitate optimal cost-effective access to digital research data from public funding. The development of a set of guidelines is on the agenda.” (see www.oecd.org)

He said the HRC looked forward to working with the other key stakeholders and to engaging in the New Zealand contribution to the OECD initiative.

“The event raised the issue of how New Zealand can retain its standing internationally when big science developments can gain a momentum that could easily pass us by”.

Peter said the positives for data saving and sharing included cost effectiveness, transparency, scientific asset management, and maximising the potential of new technology. However, the overseas experience

showed there were also some “snags and snares”. “These include the importance of funding agencies taking their scientific communities with them, and the importance of encouraging informed public debate to cover the issues of law and ethics and privacy issues.”

Peter said digital archiving applied as much to qualitative as to quantitative data. “Protecting data applies not just to matters of research interest but right across the cultural spectrum, and qualitative data are likely to outweigh quantitative and more traditional scientific items in this respect.”

He said the HRC’s hosting of the workshop was a positive move. “I am looking forward to the Health Research Council continuing to lead the science sector by example in this area of saving and sharing research data; there are few other agencies able to match the HRC for its expertise and track record in funding and nourishing high-quality research of national importance, and this is a natural extension of that role.”

Technological changes give data saving new impetus

Changes in technology have led to the current push to change ways of preserving and accessing data, says Data Archivist Sophie Holloway.



Sophie Holloway

Sophie presented at the HRC hosted workshop as the Senior Data Archivist at the Australian Social Science Data Archive. She draws on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada definition of a data archive. Under that definition, a data archive must be a system that is trusted by depositors, in terms of protecting confidentiality and rights, and it must be trusted to set standards and be unbiased.

Sophie said such trust is difficult to build, and government backing, supported by the UNESCO charter, is essential.

Privacy is also important. “Archives must set standards and protect the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents at all times, in line with national privacy legislation,” she says. “Data archives should also educate users about their responsibilities to acknowledge intellectual property”.

The definition also highlights the need for the archive to be accessible and comprehensive and allow researchers

to “locate, request, retrieve and use data resources” in a simple, seamless and cost-effective way.

Sophie said that if access is by self-service, then simplicity is the key. She also said access must not be dependent on the latest technology or the fastest machines and any cost to the user must be low enough not to discourage use.

Preservation is the “building block” that allows access. “Access can be sold, but preservation cannot, and therefore it needs to be protected,” she says.

She said the ideal is a government funded central archive, as that can ensure standards, gain trust and funding, and allow topical archives to emerge “each with specialist knowledge and the ability to add increased value and better serve the user”.

Window of opportunity for data sharing

It is important for data from publicly funded social science research to be widely available and accessible, says Australian academic Deborah Mitchell.

Deborah Mitchell says New Zealand has a window of opportunity of about two or three years to link into international grid arrangements.

Deborah, Director of the Centre for Social Research at the Australian National University, was a keynote speaker at the Health Research Council and SPEaR-sponsored workshop on data saving and data sharing last December.

She said work undertaken by researchers in higher education institutions was a major source of social, economic and health data, and the research was “usually funded by a national research council – and usually expensive”.

“There are strong imperatives to maximise the outputs and outcomes from the data beyond an individual’s published output,” she said.

She suggested that, as a minimum, grants and contracts should include a preservation clause. “These should now be specified more closely as ‘digital preservation’ requirements, to promote migration to new formats,” she said. “One of the traditional problems for data preservation is that a data set may be preserved in one form, for example, punch cards, floppy disks, even CD-ROMS, and within a few years these storage media can become obsolete. Archiving data in a digital format overcomes this problem.

“Once preservation is in place, dissemination, secondary usage and re-analysis becomes clearer. New statistical methods, such as longitudinal and time series methods, means we can extract new value from ‘old’ data.”

Deborah said leading-edge social science research had public policy implications which were often ahead of any agenda identified by government agencies. Data collected to address leading-edge issues at the research stage can then be accessed and re-analysed at a later point when problems and issues “mature” and require policy responses.

Also, the historical aspects of data collected for “cross-sectional” purposes “is often not appreciated at the time, but it can provide important evidence about slow moving changes, such as social preferences,” Deborah said.

Deborah suggested that New Zealand could follow the example of the Australian Centre for Social Research, which facilitated the establishment of research networks

around data collections of national interest, such as the Australian Electoral Survey, Australian Survey of Social Attitudes and the Negotiating the Life Course Project.

In these instances, no single individual controlled the data, and the networks encouraged the prompt processing, preservation and release of data. “When large public investments are made in research, data cannot ‘belong’ to an individual. Closing access on the basis of privacy, especially for secondary analysis, is both spurious and wasteful,” she said.

She said international comparative research required New Zealand to “play the game” on lodging and exchanging data. “Currently New Zealand is outside of many of the key comparative international research projects in the social science arena, and does not have representation on the major data exchange networks,” she said.

There was also the need to observe UNESCO’s digital heritage conventions and the obligations that resulted from WTO negotiations on intellectual property and research.

Deborah concluded with some comments about the impact of data grids and new technologies.

She said IT software and middle-range hardware meant there was less need for “supercomputer” facilities. “Distributed data storage and processing is an affordable alternative for small nations such as Australia and New Zealand.”

If New Zealand made the decision to take up the technology now, it would mean it could link into international grid arrangements. “There’s a window of opportunity open now for technology transfer. But it will be closed in two to three years’ time”.

She urged New Zealand to act now and to “bring something to the table” by way of data, software or middleware, and get into these grid partnerships.

“Distributed data storage and processing is an affordable alternative for small nations such as Australia and New Zealand.”

Cross-sectoral statistics programme to proceed

A new social statistics programme has been given the go-ahead by Government.

In November last year, Cabinet agreed in principle to the components of a comprehensive whole-of-government programme of official social statistics. "The programme, developed by Statistics New Zealand in collaboration with social sector agencies, will provide a more coordinated and integrated body of official social statistics that takes into account the multi-dimensions and interrelatedness of issues across different areas of social concern," said Denise Brown, Manager Social Statistics.

"The programme will provide for repeat surveys and new uses of administrative data. Statistics will be produced regularly on topics of such as education, health, crime, literacy, income, wealth, housing, labour market, disability and Māori wellbeing. The programme will also be able to produce statistics on new and emerging topics of interest."

The programme will provide a more coherent picture of social issues and social change in New Zealand. This will provide a more robust foundation for strong research and evaluation to support evidence-based social policy, allowing:

- better monitoring of social outcomes for individuals, families and communities
- improved alignment of cross-sectoral policies and programmes
- improved targeting of policy interventions.

Funding is being sought in the 2004 Budget to begin implementation of the unfunded elements of the programme in the 2004/2005 financial year. If the budget bid is successful, the first components of the programme to be implemented will be a Disability Survey and a General Social Survey.

The Disability Survey will be conducted as a post-censal survey immediately following the 2006 Population Census. The survey will be an important source of information for monitoring the implementation of the Government's Disability Strategy.

The General Social Survey, planned for 2007, will be the first national survey of its kind in New Zealand, and will provide information across a range of social concerns, such as education, health, labour market, crime and safety, and social participation. It will also allow analysis of cross-sectoral linkages, such as the relationship between housing and health outcomes, as well as the development of measures of coincidence (eg people experiencing multiple disadvantages).

In addition to improving the statistical information base for research and evaluation, a more practical outcome of

the programme is that researchers will have easy access to official social statistics.

People in R & E



Dallas Welch has relocated south to take up the position of Statistics New Zealand's General Manager, Christchurch, after six years in Wellington as Deputy Government Statistician.

In her new position, Dallas has direct responsibility for regional and environment statistics and for the work of SNZ's classifications and standards division. As General Manager she also takes an overview of Christchurch's activities and functions, and represents South Island interests in official statistics. She is also programme manager for SNZ's Capability Programme, which covers a range of initiatives that will enhance the performance of the department. Dallas says that although she has moved some way from her previous work in social statistics, she will maintain close links with the R&E community through membership of the Social Science Research Centre Advisory Board at Canterbury University. "And I am still very interested in the progress of our Social Statistics Programme." She says SNZ is embarking on an ambitious programme that will facilitate the greater and better use of official statistics in research and evaluation. "Although challenging, it is achievable."



David Archer was appointed Acting Deputy Government Statistician – Population and Social in December 2003, replacing Dallas Welch who has returned to the department's Christchurch office. During 2003 David has been leading the Top Down review of the official statistical system with Treasury and the State Services Commission. The review, which has now reported to Cabinet, emphasised the opportunities for a whole-of-government approach in statistics. David is looking forward to progressing this thinking in his new role. Prior to taking up his new position, David was General Manager Dissemination, responsible for the public face of SNZ and for making SNZ outputs accessible to all New Zealanders.

Apply now for Linkages Awards

The SPEaR Secretariat is seeking applications for fellowships, scholarships and grants under Round 4 of the Linkages Programme.

The Linkages Programme supports social policy research and evaluation in the seven Knowledge Theme Areas (see www.msd.govt.nz/publications/docs/improving-the-knowledge-base.pdf).

“We are funding events and activities that build a culture of evidence-informed social policy R&E,” said SPEaR Project Manager, Paul Honeybone. “We are particularly interested in applications that build capacity and capability in the areas of Māori and Pacific peoples social R&E.”

The five categories for awards are: Research Methods Workshops; Postgraduate Scholarships; Visiting Speaker Awards; Social Policy Research Awards and Visiting Research Fellowships.

Twenty-seven awards have been made to date. Applications for Round 4 close 7 May 2004. For more information, go to: www.spear.govt.nz

BRCSS assessments under way

Six proposals for the Building Research Capability in Social Sciences (BRCSS) initiative were submitted to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) by the closing date (26 March 2004). This was on the back of TEC having received nine Registrations of Interest last year.

“The process has advanced smoothly and TEC has now convened a panel of experts to assess the bids. We will communicate the results once the TEC Commissioners have made final funding decisions in late April,” BCRSS Project Manager Nik Green said.

BRCSS is a key initiative in the Government’s plan for building capacity and capability in social science research. It is administered by TEC, which, along with SPEaR, sponsored a forum in October last year which allowed the social science sector to provide feedback to TEC on the development of BRCSS (see *Commission refines BRCSS criteria*, *SPEaR Bulletin*, November 2003).

Call for SPRE conference papers

Organisers of the second Social Policy, Research and Evaluation Conference are calling for abstracts for papers.



Peter Hughes

The conference, to be held in Wellington on 25 and 26 November, will have a practical focus. “We aim to encourage the use of research and evaluation in social policy and practice,” said Peter Hughes, Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development.

The theme running through the keynote addresses and seminars for the conference is ‘What Works?’ to improve social outcomes for New Zealanders. “This will help us to explore the factors that impact on social outcomes and the contribution social development makes to economic growth,” said Peter. Papers must be based on research or evaluation that fits with at least one of the knowledge theme areas and is able to inform social policy development and service delivery.

The conference organisers are particularly interested in research and evaluation that focuses on improving social outcomes, and on papers that have relevance for Māori and Pacific outcomes, or that focus on an issue of importance for other communities of interests.

The knowledge theme areas are: the changing nature of work; developing human capacities; disparities between groups; enhancing positive social outcomes; measuring and understanding social wellbeing; social connectedness; and social and cultural identities.

The annual postgraduate social research students’ poster competition will also be held as part of the conference.

The deadline for abstract submissions is 28 May 2004.

For more details, go to: www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference



Focus on youth transition research

Researchers working in the area of youth transition gathered in Christchurch last year to share information and strategies about their projects and discuss ways it could be used in policy.

Duncan Shaw/Brown



Left to right: Professor Johanna Wyn, Professor Linda Tuhiwai-Smith, Dr Jane Higgins and Dr Karen Nairn at the recent workshop on youth transition research.

The two-day research methods workshop, *Enhancing the Contribution of the Research Community to Improving Educational Outcomes for Young New Zealanders*, was sponsored by the SPEaR Linkages Programme and hosted by Dr Jane Higgins of Canterbury University's Social Science Research Centre (SSRC) in November last year.

"The workshop, which was attended by researchers from New Zealand and Australia, focused on research and evaluation related to how young people manage the process of leaving school and moving into the post-school world," Jane said.

"It highlighted the innovative research methods being employed in the field of youth research, particularly the extent to which young people are being involved in the design and the carrying out of research. For example, researchers heard how young people helped to design youth-oriented computer-based interactive surveys, sat on expert panels hearing submissions in youth tribunals, and worked as researchers gathering data about youth identity from their peers."

The two keynote speakers were Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Director of the International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education, University of Auckland and Professor Johanna Wyn, Director of the Youth Research Centre, Melbourne University.

"Both speakers outlined projects involving young people not only as research 'subjects' but also as advisers. The projects were committed to participatory processes with young people advising on relevance of research design."

Linda's address focused on methodological issues associated with the Marsden-funded Youth First project. The key question the researchers were asking was 'What does it mean to be a young New Zealander at the end of 20th century and the beginning of the 21st?'

Johanna spoke about some key findings from the Life Patterns Project, a longitudinal study (1991–2004) in Victoria, Australia that involved a representative sample of 2,000 from 10,000 school leavers, blending survey and in-depth interview methods.

Those attending the workshop presented a summary of their current or intended projects, paying particular attention to methods used and identifying significant methodological questions for discussion during the workshop.

Jane said having both government and academic researchers attending the event helped build an emerging community of practice in a key social policy area.

"We asked questions about our role as researchers in relation to policy and how we can be constructive in this. We also discussed the importance of revisiting policy and research relating to it, so that policy can always be informed by the latest research.

"A key element that emerged was the importance of building networks among researchers, between researchers and policy makers and between researchers and communities.

"There was certainly support for maintaining links within the informal network formed at this workshop and for holding a similar event in a year's time."

For more information: jane.higgins@canterbury.ac.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml>



Improving the justice system

Forecasting and modelling has an important part to play in improving the criminal justice system, says Christopher Clark, research adviser in the Ministry of Justice's Research and Evaluation Unit



Christopher Clark

"Forecasting and modelling allows different policy options to be tested, and their impacts estimated, before they are implemented, in order to improve the delivery of justice – bringing more offenders to justice, aligning sentences with public expectation and identifying areas where investment can be best targeted," Christopher said.

An area where this has been done with success is the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom, through the work of Paul Henderson, Head of Modelling and Analysis at the Criminal Justice Performance Directorate in London.

Paul was attending a conference in Australia, and with the help of a SPEaR Linkages Visiting Speaker Award, the Ministry of Justice was able to bring him to New Zealand to present a seminar on the UK model. The seminar was held in November 2003.

"He described the development of what is a complex simulation model that can test the effects of a policy change in one agency on other agencies further down the chain," Christopher said.

This allows users to more easily test the impact of a particular policy change. "This type of modelling allows us to take a whole-of-system view of changes that are specific to a single area of the criminal justice system, and it helps to avoid unintended consequences. A simulation model also makes it easier to assess the resource implications of a policy change.

"His presentation has broadened people's minds about various forms of modelling, and has increased communications between agencies involved in the justice system. The Collections Unit in the Ministry of Justice has a project under way to build a simulation model for their work, and the Community Probation Service are considering modelling options that they might take."

Christopher said he was also reviewing the Ministry of Justice's modelling programme that had been in place for almost 10 years. "At the moment it is flow-based, but I'm looking at putting it into a simulation package. We were looking at this before Paul's visit, but he has provided ideas on how to go about it."

For more information on Paul's presentation, *Developing and Using an Agent-based Model of the Criminal Justice System in Policy Analysis*, go to www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml

People in R&E



Dr Patricia Laing, formerly Senior Adviser, Research and Evaluation at Child, Youth and Family, is now Senior Analyst, Research and Evaluation at the Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC). Patricia took up her new position at the beginning of November 2003. It

involves managing and participating in the evaluation of the Rural Housing Programme. "This is a complex and large programme with challenges for the evaluators who need to ensure the evaluation results are useful and timely. We are using an action research approach so that it will be a resource for the participants and for HNZC as it progresses." The programme is a partnership between HNZC and CRESA, with the evaluation team comprising members from both partners. "The reason for this approach is to minimise the weaknesses of doing an evaluation that is either wholly in-house or wholly contracted out. Hopefully we have set it up so that we will have the best of both approaches. Many of the research participants, programme implementors and stakeholders are Māori and this raises additional issues for the evaluation team that includes both Māori and non-Māori in it."



Brenda Wallace has joined the SPEaR team as project administrator on a part-time contract for 6 months. Brenda has several years' experience working on administration, recruitment and communications projects, largely with the Ministry for the Environment and including

secondments to Parliament and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. She is currently also co-ordinating the Annual Report to Parliament for the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission and edits a quarterly magazine for the Association of Administrative Professionals (AAPNZ).

Wide mandate for housing research centre

The recently established Centre for Housing Research Aotearoa New Zealand (CHRANZ) has a mandate to carry out broad-ranging research in the housing sector.



Terrence Aschoff

CHRANZ was established by the Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) Board and launched in August last year.

“Our goal is to address the research needs and gaps in the total housing market,” says CHRANZ Manager Terrence Aschoff. “Notwithstanding HNZC’s initial sponsorship of CHRANZ we should not be confused with HNZC’s Research and Evaluation unit, which meets the

Corporation’s specific policy and operational issues. We have a wider stakeholder base, covering public, private and third sector researchers, policy analysts and providers. This is reflected in the membership of our Board”.

The centre’s core business includes setting housing research priorities for the total housing market and investing in independent research. It has six key areas of research set within its two strategic priorities for 2003/2004 of the changing structure of the housing sector and the future of home ownership.

“This is the framework and guide for the research we want to invest in. Our research areas include access issues, housing demand and need for vulnerable populations, changing attitudes to tenure, housing investment, alternative providers, and the performance of housing in urban and rural environments,” Terrence said.

“It is a framework that is relevant to the total housing market. We are not here to produce a library of research reports. Our medium-term goal is to identify, commission, deliver and promote policy-relevant research on housing, and see it implemented at the policy and operational level.”

Research projects under way include an analysis on the changing structure of the housing sector, research on the future of home ownership, and an analysis of supported accommodation options for older people.

CHRANZ has worked with HNZC to set up a housing research database which contains a register of New Zealand-based researchers interested in housing and community development, and a reference list of New Zealand housing research. The database was launched internally to HNZC in December 2003, and CHRANZ is investigating options for making the reference component of the database publicly available. CHRANZ is currently also seeking tenders for a range of scoping projects.

The centre also funds annually four research fellowships of \$3000 to support graduate students to develop their research skills and interests in housing. “It is important that we support postgraduates in this way, so we can build capacity and capability in housing research,” Terrence said.

“Based on New Zealand’s dispersed and limited housing research capacity, it is unlikely that any one organisation will be able to provide all of the research inputs for many of the research projects CHRANZ wishes to commission. So we are promoting alliances and collaboration across organisations, involving teams of researchers, including tertiary, private sector and independent research providers,” Terrence notes.

For more information on CHRANZ and its current tender round, go to: www.chranz.co.nz

The permanent CHRANZ Board, which took over from the establishment board which was responsible for overseeing the development of the Centre, was appointed for a three-year term in August 2003. Its members are:

Prof. Nigel Haworth, University of Auckland (Chairman)

Mr Brian Donnelly (New Zealand Housing Foundation)

Dr Robin Kearns (University of Auckland)

Major Campbell Roberts (The Salvation Army)

Ms Maryan Street (HNZC Board)

Mr Sam Knowles (Kiwibank)

Prof. David Thorns (University of Canterbury)

Ms Raewyn Stone (Manukau City Council)

Mr Rau Hoskins (Design Tribe and Unit)

Quality relationships for healthy families

To focus attention on the ways in which emerging knowledge from social research can help strengthen families, the SPEaR Linkages Programme supported a one-day conference in November on Strengthening Family Relationships.

Hosted by Victoria University's Roy McKenzie Centre for Family Studies and the Ministry for Social Development, the conference featured keynote addresses by international speakers Thomas Bradbury, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of California; Paul Amato, Professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University; and Graeme Russell, Associate Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University, Australia, followed by panel discussions.

"The day stimulated informed discussion on the issue of family relationships," said Allen Gomes, of MSD's Centre for Social Research and Evaluation.

"The conference looked at issues, such as the role of non-resident fathers of families going through separation and divorce, and the need to support good outcomes."



Jan Pryor and Allen Gomes

"We heard how family relationships were understood by the Māori and Pacific panel members, and the importance, from a policy perspective, of whānau, and the importance, in the context of Pacific peoples, of community," Allen said.

Co-organiser Jan Pryor, Director of the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families, said the day highlighted factors in family relationships that were universal, but also showed differences between New Zealand and other countries.

"This provided New Zealand researchers with valuable connections with international researchers. Overall, it was a very good initiative for bringing together people to discuss New Zealand policy and practices, and to include overseas experts. It opens up debate and keeps us moving our ideas and practice along."

Supporting families

Policy interventions should bolster families' natural strengths, says Thomas Bradbury, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of California.

Thomas, one of the speakers at last year's *Strengthening Family Relationships* conference, told the *SPEaR Bulletin* that relationships within families can be difficult to sustain, and are often vulnerable to the vicissitudes of the larger social institutions.

"If we value families, as I do, then I think we must also value interventions that can bolster the natural strengths that exist within families," he said.

"There is a lot to be gained from anticipating difficulties that might arise in families, and from implementing small low-cost changes so that larger more expensive problems are less likely to occur."

To understand how to intervene to strengthen families requires an understanding of how families operate and change, which required a basic research agenda "so when we turn to intervene we will have a reasonably accurate understanding of what will need to be done".

In practical terms this meant developing good measures, refining research designs, and working with broad populations so findings were applicable on a broad basis.

"I also feel interventions are strongest when we understand families through three different but interrelated lenses: the processes that occur within families, the contexts that families inhabit, and the histories that partners bring to their relationships."

Thomas said that, in a sense, interventions were about trying to create new histories for people, by altering how they related to their future mates and their children, and by enabling them to create and operate within healthier environments, "whether that be through better education, better health care, lower crime in our neighbourhoods, and more literacy and better schools".

"This is no small task, of course."

Thomas said the conference also provided him with an insight into New Zealand and its unique cultural history.

Linkages support for equity conference

The National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women (NACEW) is convening a two-day conference on Pay and Employment Equity for Women on 28–29 June 2004 in Wellington.

Suzanne Snively, Chair of NACEW, said the conference had attracted the world's best-informed speakers on the practicalities of pay and employment equity. "It's an opportunity to think about a way forward for pay and employment equity in New Zealand that successfully achieves the outcomes of fairness and sustainable economic development."

Speakers, all of whom are supported by a Linkages Visiting Speaker Award, include:

- Dr Pat Armstrong (York University, Toronto, Canada)
- Mary Cornish (Senior Partner, public interest law firm – Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre and Cornish, Toronto, Canada)
- Philippa Hall (New South Wales Department for Women)
- Dr Heidi Hartmann (Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, DC, USA)
- Professor Aileen McColgan (King's College, London; Barrister, Matrix Chambers)
- Barbara Pocock (University of Adelaide)

To register for the conference visit www.nacew.govt.nz or contact Lee Harrison: phone (04) 801 5385 or email lee@event.org.nz

People in R&E



Dr Angelique Praat has joined the Ministry of Social Development's Centre for Social Research and Evaluation to manage the Ministry's Social Investment Research Programme. Angelique started her career at the Ministry of Education.

She then moved to the UK where she worked on a range of research and evaluation projects in local government, academic and community sectors before returning to New Zealand to take up her new post in the Research Evaluation Strategy Unit. "Working on this programme represents a huge challenge and opportunity for me. I am looking forward to working with non-governmental and government agencies to contribute to the excellent work already undertaken in the social well-being area," Angelique says.

Diary notes

Seminars

International Developments in Policy-Related Work on Social Capital. Thursday 8 April, 2.00-4.00pm. An interdepartmental seminar by SPEaR Linkages Visiting Speaker Tom Healy, to be held at the Ministry of Social Development.

Tom Healy is Senior Statistician at the Department of Education and Science in Ireland. Limited places available - please contact Fiona Cameron (fiona.cameron003@msd.govt.nz) to register.

"Lessons Learned for Social Policy: Evidence from the Christchurch Health and Development study." Motu Public Policy Seminar Series - Presenter: Tim Maloney, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Auckland and Motu Associate. Wednesday 14 April, 12.30-2.00pm, Lecture Theatre 2 (ground floor) Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay Wellington. For more information on the Motu Public Policy Seminar Series go to <http://www.motu.org.nz/teaching.htm#MotuPublicPolicySeminarSeries>.

Please check <http://spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml> for up-to-date information on what's happening in the sector. You can submit events for listing to info@spear.govt.nz

Jobs and contracts

See <http://www.spear.govt.nz/scholarships-and-opportunities/opportunities.shtml>

Please register jobs, scholarships and contract opportunities with info@spear.govt.nz

This space will expand as the site develops.

Website changes

The SPEaR website will be changing and extending over the coming months. Currently "Phase 2" is in development which will see increased functionality at a number of levels... watch this space!

SPEaR Linkages – award winners

Awards made in 2003 in Round 3 of the Linkages Programme are:

Research methods workshops

Probabilistic and Micro-Simulation Population, Family and other Demographic Projection Methodologies for Social and Economic Policy, to be run by Professor Ian Pool, Demography Department, University of Waikato, in November 2004 (subject to confirmation).

Training in user-friendly evaluation for community service providers, to be run by Trish Young, Contract Research and Evaluation, and held in Rotorua and Hamilton, March and April 2004.

Introducing evidence-based activity and building bridges between research and practice, to be run by Dr Christa Fouche, School of Social and Cultural Studies, Massey University Albany, and held at Albany in April and May 2004.

Postgraduate Scholarships

Patrick Nolan, PhD candidate at the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington, on *The optimal design of family and employment tax credits in New Zealand*.

Visiting Speaker Awards

Professor John Micklewright from the School of Social Sciences, University of Southampton, UK, hosted by MOTU Economic & Public Policy Research Trust, for two public seminars on *Wellbeing of children and educational disadvantage*, to be held during 28 June to 9 July 2004.

Professor Stephen Jenkins, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, UK, hosted by MOTU Economic & Public Policy Research Trust, for two public seminars on *Transitions between low pay and unemployment* and *The gender gap in private pensions in Britain*, to be held during 28 June to 9 July 2004.

Tom Healy, Senior Statistician, Department of Education and Science, Ireland, hosted by David Robinson, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University, for a presentation on *International developments in policy-related work on social capital*, to be held in Wellington, April 2004.

Six speakers hosted by National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women at the conference on *Pay and Employment Equity for Women*, Wellington, June 2004: Barbara Pocock (Director Centre for Labour Research, Adelaide University), Professor Aileen McColgan (King's College, London), Mary Cornish (Senior Partner, Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish, Canada), Heidi Hartmann (Women's Studies, The George Washington University, USA), Philippa Hall (New South Wales Department for Women), and Pat Armstrong (Health Services and Nursing, York University, Canada).

Visiting Research Fellowships

Charles Crothers, Professor of School of Social Sciences, Auckland University of Technology, working on *Using the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) to map the New Zealand social science sector*, hosted by Eric Pyle (Ministry of Research, Science and Technology), April–May 2004.

Social Policy Research Awards

Jon Foley, Senior Analyst, Ministry of Health, working on *Understanding the social and medical reasons for discontinuous primary health care relationships and the implications for the design and delivery of care*, hosted by the Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, January–September 2004.

Round 4: Closes 7 May 2004. For more information, go to: www.spear.govt.nz