The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course

- National research Centre established in 2014.
- Investigating the factors underlying disadvantage to provide life-changing solutions for policy and service delivery.
- A collaboration between 4 Australian universities + partnerships with government and non-government organisations, international universities and research affiliates.
Our Research Program

Differences
Experiences
Choices

People
Places
Opportunities

Context
Environment
Circumstances

Employment
Education
Family
Data sources

- Ethnographic
- Survey
- Experimental
- Administrative
- Spatial
- Transactional
- Biosocial
Data for Policy...

- Data Resource Workshop
- Data for Policy Workshop
- Longitudinal Data Conference
- Data for Policy Workshop
- International Workshop Government Admin Data for Research with Stanford University
- Data for Policy Workshop
- Data for Policy Symposium

Projects:
- Not in Employment, Education or Training Project
- Try, Test & Learn
- Higher Education Transitions
- Early Childhood Education & Care
- Adult English Migrant Program Evaluation
Some Key Projects

Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP)
- Higher education and vocational training trajectories and equity
- Transition into the labour market
- Adult Migrant English Program outcomes

Early Childhood Education & Care (Goodstart)
- Data linkage with Department of Education, Queensland.
- Collaboration with Goodstart Early Learning, Australia’s largest childcare provider to 70,000 families

Mission Australia (Service delivery records)
- Assess outcomes of people who use their homelessness services – what works?

Try, Test and Learn (DOMINO)
- Interventions addressed vocational and non-vocational barriers to workforce participation
- Linked administrative data to evaluate outcomes
- Longitudinal Study of Life Opportunities

Linked govt and NGO data next frontier
Try, Test and Learn Fund

The Government will provide data and funding to turn policy ideas into action.

Community, business and government will develop new policy responses.

Innovative policy trials to find effective ways to support people at risk of long-term welfare dependence.

New evidence on what works.

Thorough policy evaluation.

Inform future policy and program approaches.

Improve the wellbeing of individuals and families in Australian communities.

Increasing people's capacity to work and live independently of welfare.

Address the risk of intergenerational welfare dependence.

Reduced costs and more sustainable welfare system – maintaining safety net for those in need.

DATA

EXPERTISE & LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

IDEAS

WORLD-CLASS APPROACH

$500 MILLION
Try, Test and Learn

52 Projects

8 Priority groups

2 Tranches

Tranche 1
- Young Parents: 4 projects
- Young Students: 3 projects
- Young Carers: 4 projects
- At-risk Young People: 16 projects
- Working Age Migrants and Refugees: 7 projects
- Older Unemployed People: 6 projects
- Working Age Carers: 1 project
- Other: 11 projects

Tranche 2
A modern welfare system that supports individuals and families in Australian communities to live independently of welfare, improving their lifetime wellbeing, while maintaining a sustainable welfare safety net for those unable to fully support themselves.

**Long-term outcomes (24+ months)**

- Increased health and wellbeing
- Improved social and emotional wellbeing
- Improved quality of life
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Improved physical wellbeing

**Improved educational participation & attainment**
- Increased participation in traineeships
- Increased social connections and peer or mentor networks
- Improved cultural connections

**Improved social connections**
- Increased uptake of mental health services
- Improved functional language proficiency

**Increased support from the community**
- Increased support from the community/society networks
- Improved stability (e.g., housing) to participate in the workforce

**Increased workplace participation**
- Increased workforce participation
- Improved job readiness

**Improved job readiness**
- Increased support to access public transport or obtain driver licence
- Increased support to engage with work/study

**More cultural/disability aware work/educational environments**
- More cultural/disability aware work/educational environments
- Increased professional networks

**More sustainable, cost-effective welfare system for those who need it**
- Sector more capable of designing, delivering & assessing outcomes-based services
- Decreased risk of high average lifetime welfare costs
- Improved evidence-based practices

**Cost-effective approaches**
- Shared learning across sector
- Interventions based on the needs of the target cohort

**Non-vocational barriers**
- Co-design & co-development of future interventions
- Accessing support networks
- Government processes

**Outputs of TLT projects**
- Social emotional support
- Social connections
- Health management support
- Professional, peer & mentor networks
- Job search skills
- Business & financial plan
- Industry knowledge to develop & manage social enterprises
- Linked to jobs that are aligned to interests & demand
- Work experience placements, traineeships
- Soft skills (e.g., time management, financial literacy)
- Education/training goals set
- Exposure to vocational pathways
- Employer & school staff trained in cultural awareness, disabilities
- Non-vocational barriers identified & mitigated
- Referrals to other support services
- Monitoring & evaluation systems, infrastructure & data availability

**Priority groups, projects & activities**

- **YOUNG PARENTS**
  - Young people aged under 25 who claimed Parenting Payment when aged under 19 and are still receiving an income support payment

- **YOUNG CARERS**
  - Young people aged under 25 who have moved, or are at risk of moving, from study (post-secondary/tertiary) and have been in receipt or a student payment to an extended period of an unemployment payment.

- **YOUNG STUDENTS**
  - Young people aged under 25 who have moved, or are at risk of moving, from study (post-secondary/tertiary) and have been in receipt or a student payment to an extended period of an unemployment payment.

- **WORKING AGE CARERS**
  - Carers aged 16 to 64 years and receiving Carer Payment

- **MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**
  - Migrants and refugees aged 16 to 64 years and receiving working age payments

- **AT-RISK YOUNG PEOPLE**
  - At-risk young people aged 16 to 21 and receiving income support

- **OLDER UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE**
  - Newstart Allowance recipients aged 50 and over (with a focus on those who have been out of the workforce for longer than 12 months)

- **OTHER**
  - Other vulnerable groups at risk of long-term welfare dependence

**Activities include mentoring, work placements & training, referrals**

**Priority groups identified through Priority Investment Approach data as being at risk of long-term welfare dependence**

**Projects: 52 co-designed interventions developed in collaboration with stakeholders and target groups**

- TTL Funding
- Stakeholder & community consultation
- Participating service providers
- Co-design/co-development workshops
- Data quality training & support
- Recruited & engaged participants to receive services
- Resourcing for service implementation
- Government processes, leadership & management
- Time for implementation
TTL Data Sources

- **Data Exchange (DEX) data**
  - DEX session data
  - DEX Standard Client Outcomes Reporting (SCORE) measures data

- **Data Over Multiple Individual Occurrences (DOMINO) data**
  Curated income support receipt database compiled from the department’s administrative datasets

- **Data Exchange (DEX) Client Survey data**
  An online survey that TTL service providers could distribute to TTL clients to complete at 2 or 3 time points

- **TTL service provider group interviews**
  90 minute semi-structured interviews conducted via videoconferencing software at 2 time points

- **TTL client telephone interviews**
  60 minute semi-structured telephone interviews conducted at least 3 months after client commenced in the project

- **TTL Fund documentation**
  - TTL projects’ Activity Work Plan (AWP) and reports
  - Two TTL Fund Post-Implementation Reviews (PIR)

- **Priority Investment Approach (PIA)**
  A synthetic dataset derived from underlying subset of administrative data of Centrelink recipients and their partners (currently as of 30 June 2018)
Data Challenges

- Impact analyses restricted to DOMINO
- Additional data on TTL clients from surveys and interviews, but no matched comparison group
- Small sample sizes, participants self-selected, not representative
- Short observation period for outcomes
- Inconsistencies in collection and reporting of DEX SCORE data
- Changes to design, rollout, timing, recruitment (COVID)
- Linkages to other govt data (education, health) not achieved in time for evaluation
- Limited measures of barriers such as education outcomes, health and wellbeing, housing instability, aspirations, non-vocational, non-cognitive
- Data access restricted to Australian citizens
What data systems would work well for users?

- Linked
- Accessible (time and cost)
- Well-designed
- Different types
- Cross-jurisdictional
- Cross-agency/sector
- Usable & reusable

- Data sovereignty
- Social licence
- Ethics
- Skills/capacity
- Safety
Thank you

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