

# National Centre for Longitudinal Data



## Welcome to the first eNewsletter for the NCLD



The Department of Social Services aspires to be Australia's pre-eminent social policy agency, and the studies that are managed by our recently launched National Centre for Longitudinal Data (NCLD) will help us reach this goal.

The importance of longitudinal data cannot be overstated. Data collected throughout individuals' lives provide us with in-depth knowledge of how we can best improve the lifetime well-being of people and families in Australia. In turn, this provides us with a sound evidence base, through which we can develop and evaluate policy.

In this, the first eNewsletter for the NCLD, you will find information on the Centre itself, and data highlights from a variety of recent analyses, which I hope you enjoy.

*Finn*

**Finn Pratt, Secretary  
Department of Social Services**

## A message from Sean Innis, NCLD Group Manager

I am delighted to present the first newsletter of the National Centre for Longitudinal Data (NCLD).

The mission of the NCLD is to promote a longitudinal evidence base that informs policies and practices to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia.

To achieve this mission, the NCLD will:

- develop a national framework (or architecture) for government investment in longitudinal data
- produce and manage quality longitudinal data sets and encourage their use
- foster collaboration between longitudinal survey developers, researchers and policy makers
- facilitate broader use of longitudinal data



The Centre aims to assist the Australian government to achieve greater analytical value from longitudinal data assets to develop policies across the life course in an efficient and well-coordinated way. This will be achieved by the bringing together of policy makers and researchers to assess the status of current longitudinal assets and to develop a framework for longitudinal data moving into the future.

The Centre will initially build on the established strength of existing data assets by bringing together the four longitudinal studies managed within the Department of Social Services. More information on these studies can be found on the following page.

To find out more about the National Longitudinal Data Centre, and the important role that the Centre's data plays in understanding what causes people's circumstances to change and to identify opportunities to improve their lives, visit the [Department of Social Services website](#).

## Latest news on our studies!

### Building a New Life in Australia (BNLA)

Wave 1 dataset will be released on 31 July 2015. [Apply for access to the data](#). Wave 2 data collection was completed in February. Pilot testing for Wave 3 commenced in mid-May and the main fieldwork will be conducted from October 2015 to February 2016. Wave 3 will include a new child module which asks questions about, and to, children under the age of 15. For more information visit the [BNLA website](#).

### The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA)

Wave 13 was released in December 2014, and is available on the [University of Melbourne website](#). The [ninth volume of the HILDA Statistical Report](#) was released on 15 July 2015. Collection of Wave 15 data will commence in August 2015. To find out more about HILDA, visit the [University of Melbourne website](#).



### Growing up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)

1. Wave 6 interviews have finished and the initial mini-wave of Wave 7 interviews will begin in mid-2015. New content is included to capture the diverging pathways of our 16-17 year old K-cohort covering educational and work pathways, leaving home, romance, gambling and driving. The special Child Health Checkpoint assessment for the 11-12 year old cohort started in February and will continue throughout 2015. To find out more about LSAC, visit the [Growing Up in Australia website](#).



### Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC)

Wave 8 interviews commenced in March. We hope to repeat the success of Wave 7 which saw the attrition of participants reversed. [Wave 6 data is now available](#). The Wave 5 report was released on 5 February 2015 and is available electronically on the [Footprints in Time website](#).



## News in brief – new NCLD research summaries and data highlights

In addition to managing longitudinal studies, researchers from the Centre are involved in analysing data to inform policy discussion and development.

### Data Highlight – Financial hardship in Australia

By Laura Bennetts Kneebone

Severe poverty amplifies the effects of other misfortunes of life. Illness is much worse for the very poor than it is for others. This product uses data from HILDA, LSAC, LSIC and BNLA. It provides insights into the experiences of these populations, each with its own characteristics.

Note: data highlights provide brief descriptive statistics from Centre data.

Find out more on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

### Research Summary – Multiple disadvantage

By Deborah Kikkawa

This research summary examines the extent to which multiple disadvantage affects social and emotional outcomes for 6-7 year old Indigenous Australian children. It uses data from *Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australia Children* and *Footprints in Time: the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children*.

Note: research notes provide in-depth statistical analysis of current policy-relevant issues

Find out more on the [Department of Social Services website](#).