“Professional Social Science - Serving Research and Policy”

The Work Programme of COMPASS Research

8th Research Colloquium
Statistics New Zealand
10 July 2014
Mission

- Conduct and support fundamental and applied social science research, with specialisation in advanced methodologies and policy application.

Structure

- Faculty research centre
- Historically, approx. $1 million income p.a. (HRC, FoRST/MSI/MBIE)
- Major Departmental ties
  - Sociology/Political Studies; Statistics/Computer Science; Population Health
- Allied entities
  - NZ Social Statistics Network; NZ Social Science Data Service

Personnel

- Director, Peter Davis; Associate Director, Barry Milne (also SRF)
- Centre Manager, Gerry Cotterell (also Business Development)
- 2 Senior Research Fellows; 2 Research Officers
- 2-3 graduate students
Organisational philosophy: “Public Practice of Professional Social Science”

- Creating Knowledge
- Sharing Data
- Building Skills
- Engaging Communities

COMPASS Research Centre
FACULTY OF ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
Social Policy

- **Indicators/data analysis (FoRST)**
  - Early 2000s – Used Census to construct NZ Socio-Economic Index
  - 2000s – Used Census to create well-being monitor of families

- **Simulation modelling (Marsden, MSI/MBIE)**
  - 2002 – Modelling partnership patterns across Censuses
  - Recent – Using existing studies to model family dynamics as policy tool
  - Current – Enhance policy tool as knowledge laboratory

Health Policy

- **Evaluation/data analysis (HRC)**
  - Early 2000s – National hospital safety and family doctor studies
  - 2000s – hospital restructuring and hospital outcomes studies
  - Current – health inequalities and the life course.

- **Simulation modelling (HRC)**
  - 2000s – modelling primary care in an ageing society
  - Recent – modelling health and social care needs among elderly
Adding Value to Publicly-funded Data

10.15 Preliminaries – Peter Davis
- Introduction
- Valuing Social Science

11.15 The use of public data
- Adjusting for linkage bias in the Census longitudinal cohort
  Dr. Barry Milne, Senior Research Fellow (Associate Director)
- Rebalancing the care for older people
  Roy Lay-Yee, Senior Research Fellow

12.30 LUNCH BREAK
[including demonstration of policy tool]

13.15 Modelling and software development
- Simario: An R package for dynamic micro-simulation
  Jessica McLay, Research Officer
- A knowledge laboratory of the early life-course
  Dr. Barry Milne, Senior Research Fellow

14.45 CONCLUSION