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FAMILY STUDIES

THE FAMILY ACTION CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA



February 2016

Welcome to the **Family Studies Newsletter**. In this issue, commencing students can find details about an online 'get started' event, and everyone can find out a little of what's on in Family Studies at the Family Action Centre.

Four things you should do now...

1. **All students:** Enrol in your Sem 1 courses, Semester starts Monday 22 Feb.
2. **Commencing students:** Attend the “[ask about Family Studies](#)” Facebook event, and ask us anything you need to know about your new degree
3. **All:** Visit the Master of Family Studies program page on Blackboard. Find it under 'My Course Sites'. See more in this Newsletter
4. **All:** LIKE the [Family Action Centre Facebook page](#) to get our newsfeeds

What's on?



New Professor's Talk

Last year we heralded the arrival of our new Distinguished Professor Alan Hayes; now you can hear his New Professor's Talk, *Framing Futures for Australian Families – Confronting the challenges of rapid change in the context of constraint*. The talk will be given on 30th March, 6.30 p.m. at The Newcastle Museum.

Family Action Centre program highlight

The Family Action Centre has a vibrant community outreach service. In 2015, the Uni4You project team was awarded the VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE. Building on their successes, the team have created an additional project, Uni4You 'Out of Home Care



Project – Carer Workshop'. The complexity of trauma, and developmental impacts of abuse and neglect, often lead to disrupted educational pathways. This Uni4You project recognises the important role played by *carers* of these children in fostering their learning potential and it seeks to maximise the ripple effect upon the carers' own educational journey. The project will support carers in their role as educational mentor and champion for children and young people in their care. In addition, the program invites the carer to begin their journey into a UON enabling program.

During the workshops carers will:

- * connect and network with other carers
- * reflect on their own experience of learning and education
- * tap into their current personal hopes, dreams or goals in relation to study
- * sit in their important role as mentor and role model who supports growth in learning and education,
- * share their existing strengths in this area, recognising things which are not so good and discover how they can build on what is going well.

For more information, contact Project Leader, [Jane Mitchell](#)

Tips for online learning

Writing coherently, logically and persuasively is an art, and something worth working at.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning at UON is offering Academic Learning Skills workshops. If you're a new student, you might find it helpful to learn more about the expectations and conventions of academic writing. If you're a returning student, you might want to improve your academic writing this year.

At Callaghan this semester, the Assignment and Academic Writing workshops are designed for all coursework students, at undergraduate or postgraduate level, domestic or international. However, Tuesday workshops are intended specifically for Masters coursework students, and there is a series of workshops with an English language focus for NESB students.

All students can log in to Blackboard>My Other Sites>Learning Development>Workshops & Online resources to sign up. See also the [Study Skills for students](#) pages.

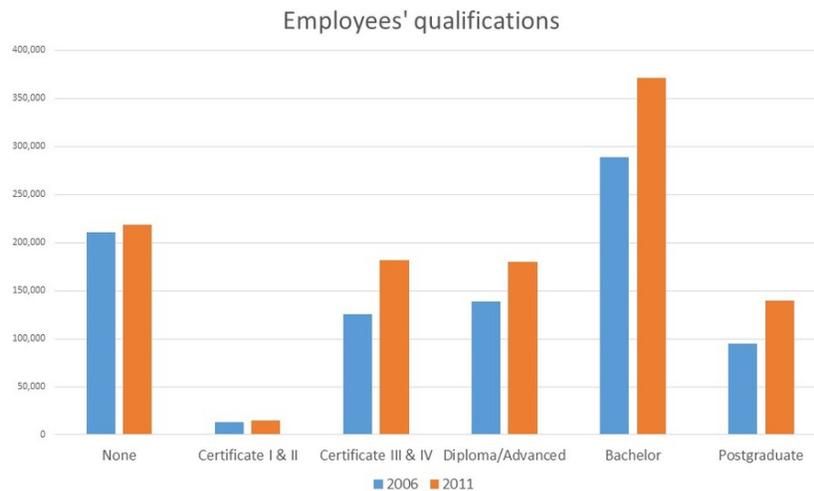
Did you know that there is a Program page in Blackboard for Family Studies?

It's available to all Grad Cert and Masters students, and is a source of information about the program.

Workshop dates, program plans, and relevant events are posted regularly on the site. You can use the Discussion Board to contact the Program Convenor (Jennifer StGeorge). Find it on your Blackboard, under My Course Sites.



Sector bytes



The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council last year conducted a 'scan' of the sector. You can find the full report [here](#), but you might like this graphic that shows the increase in sector employees who have masters' qualifications. You might also like to know that there is a predicted growth of one in 4 jobs, about 18% over the next 5 years in the community services and health workforce. Predictions are not reality, but this is encouraging!

This newsletter is prepared by the Program Convenor, Dr Jennifer StGeorge, in order to provide a snapshot of Family Studies at the Family Action Centre, and suggestions are welcome. Contact me through the Discussion Board on Blackboard or [email me](#). Better still visit me in the Academic Office Block, Room 32. Use the [Lost on Campus app](#) to find me!

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