



University of
South Australia

Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies

Experience. The Difference.



Professor Alan Mayne



'Hawke Hub' – Research and administrative staff outside the Institute's heritage listed Murray House

Welcome to 'the Hawke'

Few research institutes can genuinely claim they were created to fulfil a vision. I believe we can.

Since its inception, the University of South Australia has been committed to the concept of social sustainability and to the value and relevance of the humanities and social sciences in helping society to set directions and solve problems.

The Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies is its way of confirming that commitment, and the model was created to give us the very best chance of success.

Some within the University refer to us as its social conscience, and it is precisely because the University does have a social conscience that it has allocated such significant financial and academic resources to the Institute. It believes in what the Hawke Research Institute does, and what it can achieve.

Our aim is not just to inform research, but to initiate it, lead it and apply it where possible and appropriate. Science, medicine and economics are vital in addressing issues thrown up globally by crowded cities, drought, unstable employment, ageing populations and the barriers of disadvantage, prejudice and inequity, but always there is a social context that can make things easier or harder, or simply demand a new approach.

The 70 researchers within our institute have expertise spanning social policy, education, work place change, gender, identity, ethics, reconciliation and conflict management. They collaborate with government agencies, non-government organisations, community groups and businesses. They also have strong links with researchers of like mind nationally and internationally.

It's an invigorating place to work.

Professor Alan Mayne
Director

Our mission

The mission of the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies is to deliver excellent cross-disciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences that supports an ecologically diverse and sustainable world of tolerant and inclusive democratic societies.

In so doing, the Institute aims to sustain an open, inclusive and supportive working environment for all its researchers, which nurtures their careers, celebrates their achievements, and promotes research innovation.

The Hawke name and legacy

Bob Hawke was Australia's second longest serving Prime Minister – and arguably its most popular – when he stood down in 1991 after more than eight years at the helm.

A former Rhodes Scholar and union leader renowned for his love of sport and a "common touch", his greater legacy was a dream of an equitable and inclusive nation that valued education, ideas, diversity and a sense of community. He was respected at home and abroad as a conciliator, and epitomised the Australian ethos of a fair go for all.

In 1997 the University of South Australia established the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre as a focus for public learning and debate on issues close to Hawke's own heart. Its international patron is Nelson Mandela.

The Hawke Research Institute was created to conduct applied, interdisciplinary research of like kind, and in 2004 it was renamed the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies and identified as one of the University's flagship institutes.

The interaction between the Institute and the Centre remains central to the success of both.



The need for research in the area of social sustainability increases as societies globally grapple with changing workplaces, crowded cities, declining rural and remote regional areas, ageing populations, entrenched disadvantage, and environmental and social degradation.

*Professor Rhonda Sharp, Dr Lia Bryant,
Professor Brian Cheers, Professor Alan Mayne,
Associate Professor Suzanne Franzway*



Social sustainability has a values base, and acknowledges the need for stronger ethics and values to ensure social inclusion and support for all in our societies.



Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw and Professor Elisabeth Porter

4 Core themes

Four core themes have emerged through our research that encapsulate key elements of Bob Hawke's career:

- Effective environments: belonging and well-being in urban and rural societies
- Cultural diversity in a post-colonial world
- The role of education in building capabilities for an equitable and inclusive society
- The responsibilities of public intellectuals in building democratic societies.



Professor Alan Mayne, Professor Roger Harris, Dr Judy Peters

Sustainability is achievable

Sustainability is a national and international research priority. To date the focus has been on economic and environmental sustainability, but there is a growing realisation and acceptance that social sustainability is not just important, it underpins the others.

It is people who make economic and environmental decisions, and are affected by the decisions of others. Understanding why they decide, how they react, and how things could be different is the domain of the humanities and social sciences.

Social sustainability can be broadly defined as strengthening societies in terms of inclusivity, social justice and participatory democracy. It has a values base and acknowledges the need for stronger ethics and values to ensure social inclusion, support for all in our societies, and the maintenance of trust in institutions as varied as government, corporations, schools and families.

Its practitioners include educators, sociologists, economists, social administrators, historians, ethicists and those with expertise and ideas in areas as diverse as globalisation, cultural change, workplace dynamics and what makes communities work.

We urgently need models for the wellbeing of communities in order to ensure that social change is a partner in, not a victim of, major economic and technological change. Even more importantly, we need to develop, use and promote these models to address real and specific issues, not simply provide an academic explanation.

It is a complex task but, we believe, an achievable one.

Our approach

The shape of the Hawke Research Institute has been evolving since its inception and has gathered pace with its designation as one of the University's flagship institutes.

Our strengths include:

- education and literacy
- work and life
- conflict management
- integrity and governance
- equity and gender issues
- post-colonial studies
- social policy

Within and across these areas – and across the University's broader expertise in such fields as urban development, the environment, public health, business and information technology – researchers work in a number of networks and clusters to address specific issues.

Some are client-driven, others flow naturally from ongoing partnerships, and others test and extend the limits of social research. The common threads are the Hawke ethos and a clear understanding of why social sustainability is important.

The flexibility of this structure, combined with a diverse skills base and a large critical mass, allows us to initiate and extend projects that traditionally have not been considered the province of the humanities and social sciences.

Our partners

The Hawke Research Institute has strong partnerships in Australia with business, government and community organisations and other research organisations, including:

- Social Inclusion Unit; SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- David Uniapon College of Indigenous Education and Research
- Australian Centre for Child Protection
- Centre for Comparative Water Policies and Laws
- De Lissa Research Centre
- Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre
- Centre for Rural Health and Community Development
- Ethics Centre of South Australia
- Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies
- Rail Cooperative Research Centre
- Irrigation Futures Cooperative Research Centre
- Water Quality and Treatment Cooperative Research Centre

A full list of our partners can be viewed at the Hawke Institute website.

The Institute's research network extends overseas, and has formal links with universities in Finland, Germany, India, and Sweden.

A taste of what we do

These are just six of the current programs at the Hawke Research Institute that have developed and grown around key research capabilities.

Eco-social sustainability

This program seeks to develop a series of interdisciplinary models of best practice in social and environmental sustainability. The initial focus is an examination of local and regional sustainability projects in the Murray-Darling Basin area. We are looking at the role of education and the arts in sustainability studies and we are examining the potential to make Indigenous knowledge central to the discourse of sustainability.

Changing workplaces and workers in the twenty-first century

This program links closely with the theme of strategic sites and processes for change: how global influences affect work and workplaces; access to work; work and family issues; equitable directions for workplace change; the role in workplace change of workplace interrelationships and communities of practice, education and training systems, labour movements and global worker federations; learning in workplaces and organisational learning, and organisational ethics.

Educating for open, multi-literate and just societies

Significant research agendas that make up this program include: critical academic and research literacies; English for speakers of other languages; educational policy, governance and ethics; learning and social movements; young people, education and identities; learning and families; pedagogical theory and practice; school reform; learning in various settings, higher and further education workplaces; inter- and trans-cultural education, and equity and diversity in education.

Re-affirming citizenship and identity in a globalising world

The tension between the local, national and global is highlighted by this program, which includes: movements of people, resources and ideas; internationalisation, cosmopolitanism and the changing nature of the state; caring for the vulnerable and aged; social and retributive justice and the maintenance of civil liberties, and negotiating citizenship/identity of multiple domains.

Re-imagining the social

This research agenda includes: strategic sites and processes for change; place-based research in high poverty areas; social justice in communities of loss; cultures and processes of reconciliation; re-imagining communities through social and special planning; mapping change; rethinking relations of age, gender and ethnicity in changing communities; the impact of new technologies on social processes including the exploration of cyber-cultures and popular cultures and corporate cultures.

Postcolonial view of a sustainable future

Postcolonial studies have been reinvigorated in recent years, generating new and important ways of looking at major intellectual and political issues. Our research harnesses the breadth of that approach – bringing together disciplines as diverse as anthropology, sociology, media and theology – to examine questions of power and representation that impact on the development of sustainable modern societies.



Our research projects have impact and collaborate with government and industry – these projects are shaping new ways to think about how education will work now and in the future.





Our interdisciplinary research projects address changing workplaces and workers in the 21st century.

Some key projects

These are only a few of the funded projects being undertaken by Hawke Research Institute researchers, often with industry or community partners:

- Water scarcity and rural social hardship: can water markets alleviate the problem? (ARC Linkage Project)
- Engineering diversity: an investigation of gender, workplace culture and change (ARC Discovery Project)
- Rural labour markets for the mining and food industries (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation)
- Doing social sustainability: the utopian imagination of youth on the margins (ARC Linkage Project)
- Integrated end-of-life care: a Health Canada synthesis research project (Health Canada)
- Palliative care in aged care facilities for residents with a non-cancer disease (NHMRC)
- Pathways or cul-de-sacs: the causes, impact and implications of part-time senior secondary study (ARC Linkage Project)
- Literacy and the environment (ARC Linkage Project)
- Redesigning pedagogies in the north (ARC Linkage Project)
- Parent's networks: the curriculum of knowledge about children's literacy learning (ARC Discovery Project)
- Learning pathways for young people (National Centre for Vocational Education Research)
- Rethinking reconciliation and pedagogy in unsettling times (ARC Discovery Project)
- Children and families in transition project (Telstra Foundation)
- Social and cultural factors in Indigenous enterprise management and governance (ARC Linkage Project)
- Social mix and social exclusion in disadvantaged communities (ARC Discovery Project)
- Land of the black stump: a history of Australia's inland corridor (ARC Discovery Project)
- Waralungku Crossing: cross-generational capacity building in a remote Indigenous community (Telstra Foundation)
- Telling about the country: life stories from the Waralungku art movement (AIATSIS)
- Changing work-life patterns of Australian women, men and children, households and communities (Queen Elizabeth II fellowship)
- Education investments in Australian schooling: servicing public purposes (ARC Linkage Project)

Research without borders

The Hawke Research Institute was established as a place to get things done without limitations imposed by geography, discipline or established thinking. We see it as research without borders.

We believe our achievements to date and our growing links with others around the globe – from India to Scandinavia – can form the basis for genuine international collaboration that will foster a seamless movement of ideas and opinions, making for both a productive and an enviable research environment.

The Institute is an integral part of the University, complementing and extending its divisional structure and ensuring that research and teaching inform each other.

The University has a number of campuses, and while the Institute is based administratively on the Magill campus in the foothills just east of Adelaide's CBD, you will find our researchers on our two city campuses, at Mawson Lakes to the north, and in the important regional city of Whyalla.

Ideas for all

We believe ideas should be shared if they are ultimately to be of value. The Hawke Policy website provides access to research undertaken at UniSA that has implications for social and public policy.

This enables policy makers from all levels of government, those who are affected by that policy and other researchers to access the latest research.

Visit:

www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/hpw

Publications

Hawke Institute researchers sit on the editorial boards of leading national and international journals, and the Institute has a particularly close relationship with the Routledge journal *Social Identities*. Our researchers publish widely in academic and professional journals and in publication houses in Australia and overseas. Recent publishers include Federation Press, Melbourne University Publishing, Pearson Education, Wakefield, and University of New South Wales Press in Australia; and Ashgate Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Peter Lang, Palgrave Macmillan, and Routledge overseas.

Visit the website for further details of the Institute's publication series and partnerships.



We urgently need models for the sustenance of communities in order to ensure that social change is a partner in, not a victim of, major economic and technological change.

Dr Margaret Peters, Associate Professor Gerry Bloustien, Dr Howard Harris



The Institute aspires to lead the social sustainability debate, with researchers skilled in social and educational practice and policy, conflict resolution, issues of social justice, and ethical social and business practices.



Dr Sue King, Dr Susan Luckman, Dr Lana Zannettino

Engage with us

There are many ways to engage with the Hawke Research Institute – as an industry partner or adjunct researcher informing and benefiting from our research programs, as a postgraduate student looking for tailored research opportunities and committed supervisors, or simply as someone looking for stimulating discussion and debate.

Politically non-partisan and strongly endorsed by current and past public leaders for its role in promoting understanding of democratic processes and civic obligations, the Hawke Research Institute challenges Australians to consider ideas and develop solutions for a sustainable society.

The Hawke Institute website provides further details on our elaborate network of researchers and staff within the Institute. View profiles of our researchers and use our directory of research expertise to find an authority on a specific subject matter.

Keep up-to-date with the latest events at the Hawke Research Institute and subscribe to receive a weekly calendar of events via email. Subscription is free, simply email hawkeinstitute@unisa.edu.au

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