Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

Social exclusion in Boroondara

Stage One: Scoping published data on child poverty in Boroondara and Recommendations for Stage Two

Janet Stanley, Cassandra Eadie and Carole Baker

September 2005

Supported by

Camcare supporting community

Project of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn

foundation boroondara giving back

Acknowledgments

This research was funded by the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, whose concern about people 'doing it tough' in Boroondara is appreciated. The researchers are grateful for the support of Margaret Banks at Camcare and Ben Bodna of the Boroondara Foundation. They would also like to thank Professor Bob Birrell for making available Centrelink data and Deborah Patterson for her invaluable editing of the report.

Brotherhood of St Laurence
67 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy Vic. 3065
ABN 24 603 467 024

Ph: (03) 9483 1183

Internet: www.bsl.org.au

© Brotherhood of St Laurence 2005

Foreword

It will be a surprise to many to learn that there is a significant percentage of children and young people living in Boroondara who are growing up in poverty. Numbers of children are excluded from many activities, with the result that the common birthright of a 'fair go', so valued by Australians for children, is prejudiced locally.

These children increasingly come to the attention of agencies like Camcare which endeavour, with limited resources, to work towards some equity. But the general issue, despite the best efforts of these agencies, persists.

This study, commissioned by Camcare, the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, and Foundation Boroondara, is an attempt to quantify the problem in Boroondara. Yet it is only the beginning of a process.

Our aim is to challenge the community of Boroondara and to bring stakeholders into discussion and decision making on how best to assist these children.

The next steps, after the launch of this report at a public meeting, will be to further characterise the ways in which poverty and social exclusion impact on the lives of these children; discover where the gaps in service and support exist; and then implement strategies that will enhance the opportunities available to these children.

This process will not only involve various levels of government but also seek to stimulate a local community commitment in Boroondara. It will only happen with the active support, cooperation, and advocacy of all who want a better future for children.

Ben Bodna, Foundation Boroondara
Margaret Banks, Camcare
Noel Halford, Rotary Club of Hawthorn

Contents

Acknowledgments **2**

Foreword **i**

Background **1**

Introduction **1**
The dimensions of poverty or social exclusion 1
Overview of City of Boroondara 3

Measures of social exclusion **5**
Challenges to measurement 5
Risk factors for childhood social exclusion 6
Sources of information 6
Size of the population in Boroondara in the various risk categories 6
Unemployment 9

Conclusions **13**
Information gaps 13
Estimate of number of children in poverty 14
The policy context] 14
The way forward 14

References **16**

Appendix **18**

Background

The aim of this project was to scope the availability of published data on the incidence and extent of social exclusion of children in the City of Boroondara. The project also outlines a proposal for further research (Stage Two) to provide greater understanding about the issue of social exclusion of children in Boroondara and engage the community in taking measures to address the problem.

This brief report (Stage One) was commissioned by the welfare agency, Camcare, The Rotary Club of Hawthorn and Foundation Boroondara. The Rotary Club of Hawthorn funded the study.

Introduction

The dimensions of poverty or social exclusion

There are a number of dimensions associated with the concept of social exclusion, as outlined below.

Social exclusion

This exploration employs the term 'social exclusion' rather than 'poverty' when exploring the extent of disadvantage amongst children in Boroondara. Social exclusion, now widely used in a policy context, can be defined as the existence of barriers which make it difficult or impossible for people to participate fully in society (Social Exclusion Unit, 2005). It is considered that the term 'social exclusion' enables a broader understanding of the multiple dimensions of poverty. In this case, poverty refers not just to a lack of adequate income but also to other factors such as access to resources. Thus, other forms of disadvantage which may lead to social exclusion include disability, lack of educational opportunity, inadequate housing, ethnic minority status, long-term parental unemployment. Current research suggests that traditional income-based measures are no longer sufficient in helping us to identify and understand the wide variety of factors which contribute to social suffering (Scutella, 2005).

Thus, the logic of using the concept of social exclusion is that the way of 'including' people experiencing disadvantage is not only, or even necessarily, to give them more money but also to specifically address the source of their disadvantage. However, all this said, published data on social exclusion is still almost exclusively income-based, and thus only this type of measure will be reported in this brief scoping exercise.

Relative and absolute social exclusion

Social exclusion can be 'absolute' (for example, a child is unable to access sufficient food) or 'relative' (for example, a child is comparatively excluded in that he or she doesn't share the same level of resources as peers). Both forms of exclusion would feature in relation to the experience of some children in Boroondara. Indeed, in the case of Boroondara, relative measures of poverty are of particular significance. Boroondara rates as highly advantaged in terms of socio-economic measures such as income, educational attainment and people in employment, when compared with other local government areas (ABS, 2001a).

The Senate Committee report, *A Hand Up Not a Hand Out*, identified that relative measures of poverty are particularly important when examining levels of social exclusion amongst children (Senate Committee Report, 2004). The Report argues that 'there is

often social isolation and exclusion through lack of funds for school excursions, sporting activities and what many Australians regard as normal social activities' (2004, p. 252). Income inequality has been found to create reduced opportunities and lead people to poor psycho-social and health pathways, as well as to result in diminished social cohesion and increased inter-group conflicts (Subramanian, 2005). Thus, relative poverty may be of particular significance in an area where many are well resourced and few are not, as in Boroondara.

Entrenched and transitory poverty

The length of time a child spends in poverty, or socially excluded, impacts on the extent of disadvantage experienced by the child (Hill & Jenkins, 1999, reported in Ridge, 2002). While transitory poverty may have a severe impact on a child, the researchers found that entrenched or chronic poverty leads to extended periods of disadvantage, and therefore needs greater attention.

Social exclusion of children in Australia

There is a growing body of evidence which suggests that social exclusion amongst children in Australia is increasing (Senate Committee Report, 2004; Fincher & Saunders, 2001). A UNICEF report identifies that this phenomenon is occurring in the majority of the world's developed economies and that 14.7% of Australia's children are in families living below the poverty line (UNICEF, 2005). Social exclusion is considered to be an intergenerational phenomenon, where a child from a socially excluded family is more likely to become a socially excluded adult (Social Exclusion Unit, 2005).

Overview of City of Boroondara[1]

The City of Boroondara, as shown in Figure 1 below, is located in Melbourne's inner and middle eastern suburbs approximately 10 kilometres from the Melbourne GPO. Bounded by the City of Stonnington to the south, the Cities of Monash and Whitehorse to the east, the Cities of Manningham and Banyule to the north and the City of Yarra to the west, the City of Boroondara includes the suburbs of Ashburton, Balwyn, Balwyn North, Camberwell, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Hawthorn East, Kew, Kew East and parts of the suburbs of Glen Iris and Surrey Hills. Several suburbs cross municipal boundaries. Surrey Hills is split between the Cities of Boroondara and Whitehorse, whilst Glen Iris is split between the Cities of Boroondara and Stonnington.

Figure 1: Map of the City of Boroondara

The City of Boroondara, a predominantly residential municipality, has experienced relatively stable or slightly increased populations in most suburbs. Between 1996 and 2000, small increases in average household sizes or the addition of some new dwellings in existing areas have contributed to small population increases in Ashburton, Balwyn, Surrey Hills, Kew East, Hawthorn and Glen Iris, and to a greater extent in Camberwell, Balwyn North and Hawthorn East. The populations of Canterbury and Kew remained relatively stable during this period.

According to the 2001 Census (ABS, 2001b), the City of Boroondara had a population of 148,532 people, comprising 70,163 males and 78,369 females. Approximately 70 per cent (105,011) of the population were Australian-born. Overseas residents were predominantly from the United Kingdom (6,094), Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (5,881), China (2,581),

[1] Information in this section was drawn primarily from the website of the City of Boroondara, <www.boroondara.vic.gov.au> viewed 4 July 2005

New Zealand (2,385), Macedonia (2,391), Greece (2,151), Hong Kong (1,644) and India (1,453). Recent overseas arrivals indicate a changing immigration profile. In the period 1 January 2000 to 1 January 2005, more than 60 per cent of arrivals to the City of Boroondara were from India (760), China (722), Malaysia (524), Indonesia (396) and the United Kingdom (367). Small numbers have recently arrived from Africa and Asian locations. (See Table 3 for further details).

Housing in the City of Boroondara ranges from Victorian to post-war development, with different suburbs having considerable variation in housing styles. The older parts of Boroondara, Hawthorn and East Hawthorn have many older dwellings and a significant number of flats, while North Balwyn, a more recently established area, consists primarily of post-war dwellings. Ashburton's south-east includes a post-war subdivision around Alamein station, much of this constructed by the then Housing Commission. Ashburton's proportion of public rental housing (8.9 per cent) is significantly higher than that for the City of Boroondara overall (0.8 per cent) (ABS, 2001b).

The suburbs of Ashburton and Kew East have the highest numbers of children less than four years of age, whilst Surrey Hills, Canterbury, Glen Iris, Balwyn North and Balwyn have the largest populations of children between 5 and 17 years of age. Hawthorn has a large student population resulting from the location of the main campus of the Swinburne University.

The area is well served by a train service including the Lilydale–Belgrave and Alamein railway lines and by a number of tram services. Services for families and children are comprehensive and include a Maternal and Child Health service, a group for new parents, child care, preschools, before-and-after school and school holiday programs, respite care, playgroups, toy libraries, and support services for families.

Measures of social exclusion

Challenges to measurement

A number of challenges are faced when attempting to measure the extent of social exclusion of children. These relate to the restricted data available, as well as the boundaries around collected data and community catchment areas.

The exclusion of child statistics

Measuring the social exclusion of children is a new area of research, and yet to be fully explored. The income poverty of children as such is not a concept that is measured in national statistics. Children's well-being is subsumed with the well-being of adults, measured either on the basis of a household (such as household income) or an individual adult (such as employment/unemployment status). Thus, there is an assumption that the child's well-being mirrors the family's well-being. In most situations this assumption is likely to hold. An exception would be in the situation of child neglect, the incidence of which is not measured in Australia.

Information boundaries

Statistical subdivisions in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data do not precisely coincide with the municipal boundaries of Boroondara, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Relationship between postcodes in the statistical subdivision of Boroondara and the municipal boundary of Boroondara

Locations defined in the ABS statistics as being within the statistical division of Boroondara in 2001	% of the ABS statistical areas which are within the City of Boroondara in 2005
3101 Kew	100
3102 Kew East	100
3103 Balwyn	100
3104 Balwyn North	100
3122 Hawthorn	100
3123 Hawthorn East	100
3124 Camberwell	100
3126 Canterbury	100
3127 Surrey Hills	50
3146 Glen Iris	50
3147 Ashburton	50
3125 Burwood	0

Thus, there will be some inaccuracy in the data, and this tends to be in the areas where children in poverty are more likely to be located – Ashburton and Burwood.

From Camcare's perspective, the actual Boroondara boundaries may not encompass the distribution of the population who use the services of Camcare. People may be located near to a Camcare office and use their services, although they officially live in a neighbouring municipality, or they may travel a longer distance to use the services. Similarly, people from within Boroondara may travel to other municipalities to use

services. The extent of this usage partly depends on the presence (or absence) of services in neighbouring municipalities.

Risk factors for childhood social exclusion

As discussed above, there is a need to rely on indirect measures of childhood social exclusion. The literature offers some guidance on measurable risk factors which would provide some insights.

Ridge (2002), drawing on research, outlines the key factors which make children particularly vulnerable to experiencing social exclusion. These are being part of:

- a sole-parent family
- an ethnic minority, refugee or new migrant family
- a large family
- a family with an adult or child with a disability
- a family with no-one in employment or a low-pay household.

Australian researchers Harding, Lloyd and Greenwell (2000) add:

- a female-headed household
- a family where government benefits are the main source of income
- a family in public rental accommodation
- a family whose head was born in the Middle East, North Africa or South & Central America.

McClelland (2000) reminds us of the poverty associated with Indigenous Australians. Many families may experience multiple disadvantages which intersect and reinforce each other.

Sources of information

The authors explored possible sources of published data on social exclusion. Useful information was drawn from Census data (ABS, 2001b), Centrelink data (DSS, Pension recipient file, 2001), Henderson poverty line data (Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, December 2004), the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) settlement database[2].

Size of the population in Boroondara in the various risk categories

Information available on the size of the population categories at greatest risk of experiencing childhood social exclusion is outlined below.

Numbers of families below the poverty line in Boroondara

The Henderson Poverty Line has been used to provide a measure to determine absolute levels of income poverty, or the disposable income required to support the basic needs of a family. It is recognised that more inclusive models of social exclusion are being developed. However, the application of these models is limited in the context of scoping existing published data sources. Different measures were used for couple parent families and sole parent families. At December 2004, the cut-off figure below which a family of two adults with two children is said to be in poverty is $503.37 per week; the cut-off figure for a sole parent family with two children is $486.44 per week.

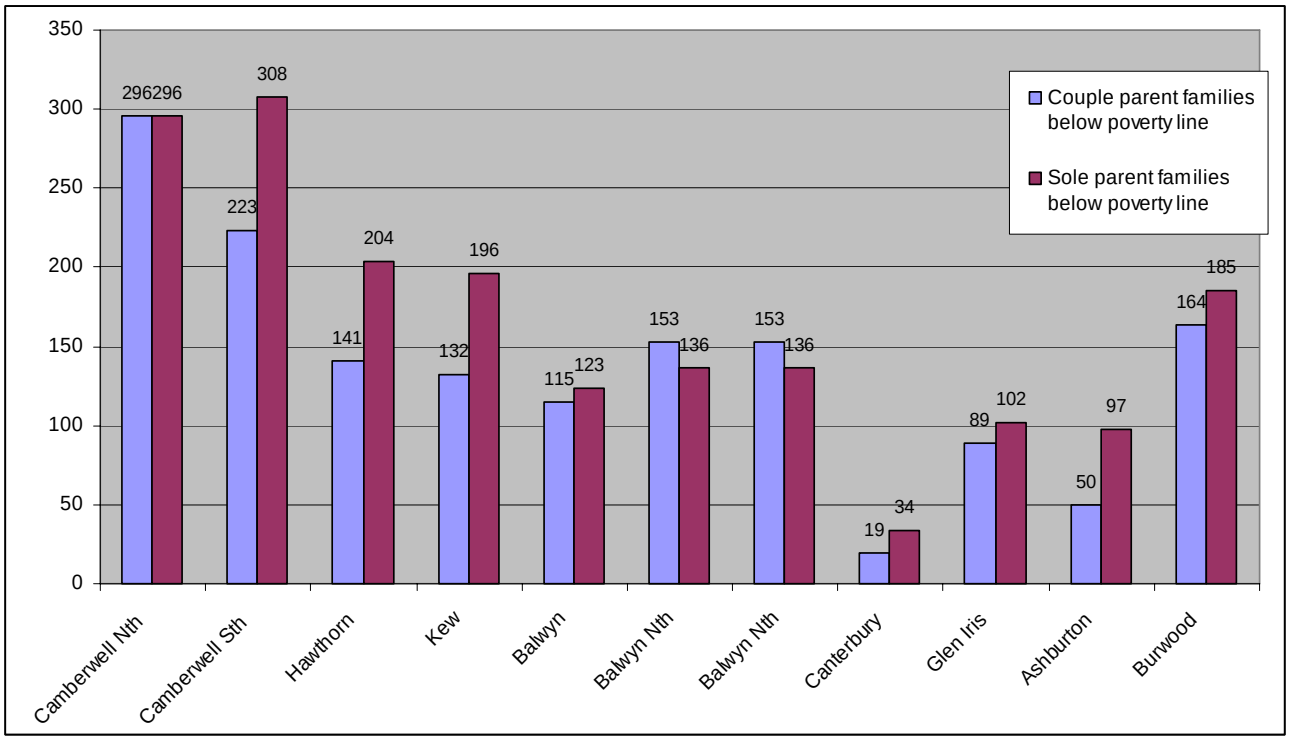
[2] Other data sources explored included the Vinson study (2003) and the NATSEM database, as well as BSL library databases. The Department of Human Services was not able to make available the child protection referral statistics for Boroondara.

There are approximately 3,063 families in Boroondara living below the poverty line. This figure comprises 1,382 couple families and 1,681 sole parent families.

These figures are only approximate, as there is a two-year discrepancy in the figures being compared (Census data is 2001, while poverty line data is 2004). Also, the poverty line figure used is the benchmark for two children families, whereas families will vary in size.

Figure 2 gives a breakdown of the statistical divisions where people below the poverty line live. Camberwell North and South have the greatest number of people below the poverty line. However, these figures do not indicate the varying size of the statistical areas.

Figure 2: Approximate numbers of families who are experiencing income poverty according to statistical divisions in Boroondara

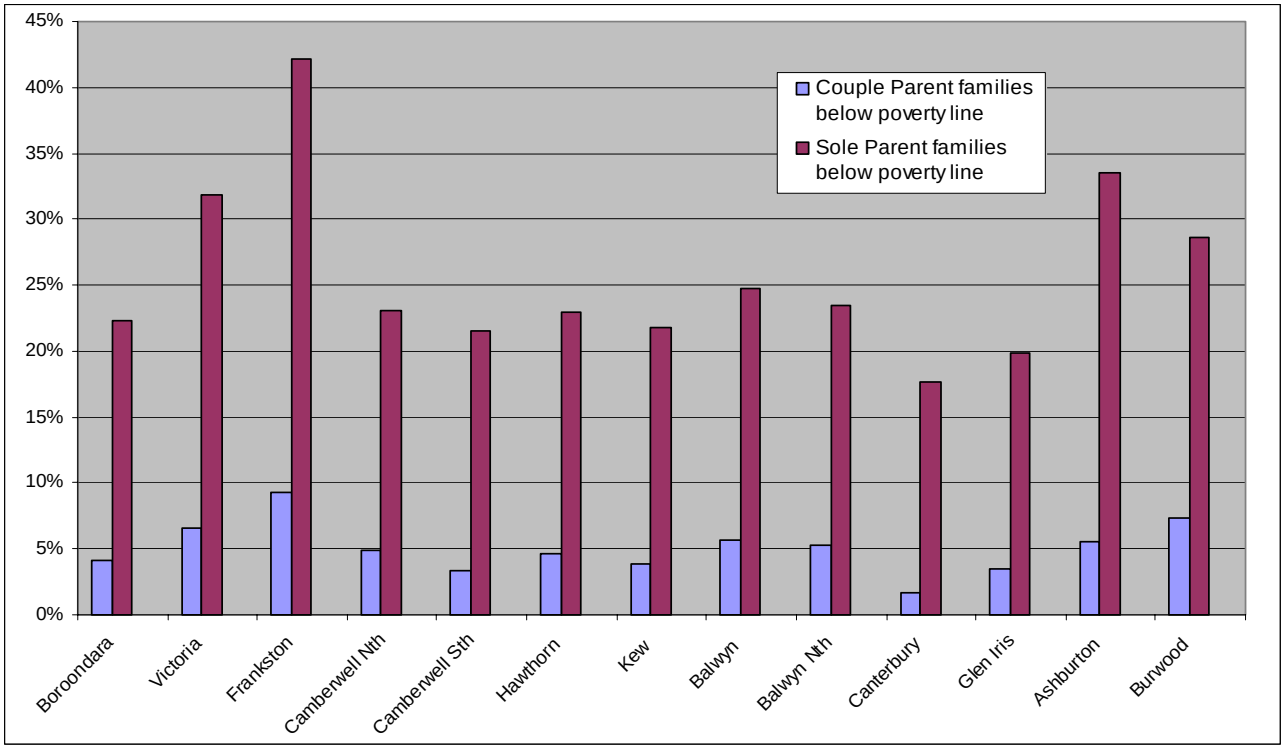


Source: Data drawn from ABS 2001b & Poverty Lines: Australia 2004

Relative comparisons of families below the poverty line

Figure 3 illustrates the relative income disadvantage of families. Boroondara is compared with Victoria as a whole, and with Frankston, a municipality known to have high levels of disadvantage. A comparison is also given between the various statistical divisions within Boroondara. Boroondara has relatively less income poverty than Victoria as a whole. However, this is possibly of little comfort to the estimated 3,063 families in Boroondara who are experiencing income poverty! Of particular note is the significantly higher proportion of sole parent families than two parent families who experience poverty.

Figure 3: Percentage of couple and sole parent families within each area whose income is below the poverty line



Source: Data drawn from ABS 2001b & Poverty Lines: Australia 2004

Sole parent families

Children in sole parent families, of which 83% are female-headed, are said to be particularly at risk of experiencing poverty (ABS, 2001b; de Vaus, 2004). An Australian survey shows that over half (51.3%) of sole parents did not receive any financial support from a non-residential parent (de Vaus, 2004, reporting HILDA survey data). They are the most likely to experience life reliant on the lowest levels of means-tested benefits; and life on benefits also means experiencing poverty for a long duration (Ridge, 2002). In Australia, the period of income support dependence for a person who begins to receive a sole parent benefit is likely to be at least 12 years (de Vaus, 2004).

Sole parents are a growing group in our population, but the extent of poverty in this group has declined since the mid 1980s (de Vaus, 2004). It is interesting to note that while this group is a high proportion of the population in other countries (such as Sweden), the

provision of services such as child care and access to work leads to lower rates of poverty in this group than are found in other countries (Ridge, 2002).

The following information was obtained from the 2001 Centrelink data. Centrelink payments are both income and assets tested. A sole parent (with one child) is eligible for a full payment if he or she earns less than $146 a fortnight, or for partial payments if earnings are under $1351.85 per fortnight. Thus, the families who receive payments are sitting just above the poverty line. However, they also tend to experience long-term low income, and particularly when living in Boroondara, relative poverty.

The number of sole parent households in Boroondara who have children 15 years or under and who receive a parenting payment is 1,227. This is 7% of the total number of family households who have children under 15 years.

The highest number of sole parent families on a Centrelink payment are located in Ashburton (213), followed by Burwood (167) and then Glen Iris (114) (see Table 6 in the Appendix).

Unemployment

Unemployment in a household is a major risk for poverty for children. Lack of employment in a household leaves children more vulnerable to stress and tension at home, and long-term joblessness means children have no role model of workforce participation.

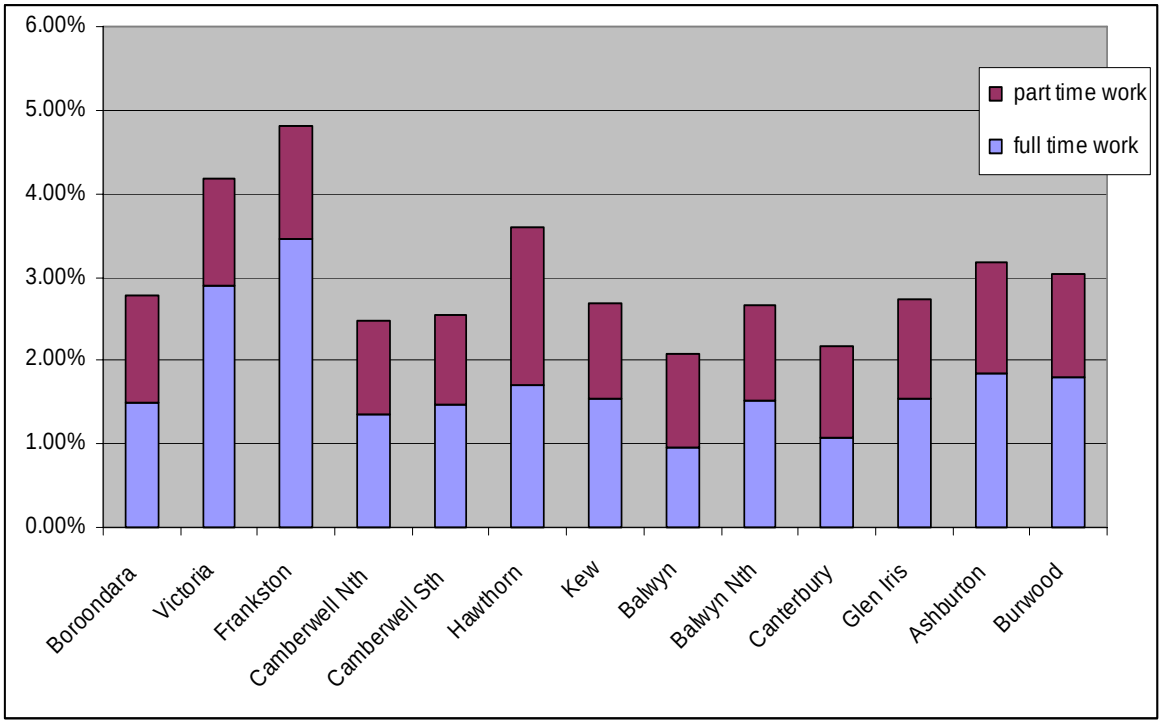
Households with no-one employed are more likely to be in poverty than households where one or more than one person is employed. According to Professor Peter Saunders from the University of NSW, the national poverty rate is 13.6% (1998–99 figures). 30.4% of households with a member working part-time, are in poverty and 35.7% of households where no-one is employed, are in poverty (reported by Smyth, *The Age*, 10 June 2005).

In the UK, ethnic minority groups are more vulnerable to unemployment, being three to four times more likely to be unemployed than the mainstream population. There are suggestions that this trend is present in Australia, with high unemployment amongst newly arrived migrants and refugees. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs reports an unemployment rate of 43% eighteen months after arrival (DIMIA 2003). In 2001, those who entered Australia with humanitarian or refugee visa status had significantly higher unemployment rates than the general population even three and a half years after arrival (Richardson, Robertson, & Ilsey 2001).

The number of people looking for work in Boroondara is 1,833 looking for full-time work and 1,569 for part-time work, totalling 3,402 people. Whether these people are supporting children is not known. It is also possible that some employed people earning a low income are in poverty.

Boroondara has a lower rate of people looking for full-time work (1.5%) than the state average (2.9%), although Boroondara sits on the state average for those looking for part-time work (1.3%) (Figure 4). All areas in Boroondara are under the state average for those looking for either full or part-time work, with Hawthorn having the highest total rate of people looking for work, followed by Ashburton and Burwood.

Figure 4: Rate of people looking for work in various Victorian sites



Source: ABS 2001b

Housing

Housing 'unaffordability' is a problem for sole parents and unemployed couple parent families, who spend 69% and 53% respectively of their income on housing (Social Housing Policy, 2004). The National Housing Strategy (1991) has indicated that those households paying more than 25% to 30% of their income on housing costs are considered to be at risk of housing related poverty.

Private rent results in significantly higher living costs for families and housing markets contribute to patterns of disadvantage (Randolph & Holloway 2004). Table 2 shows that the majority of families in Boroondara who receive parenting benefits are living in private rental dwellings. The data is shown according to postcode in Table 7 in the Appendix. Problems relating to housing costs refer to the incidence of low to moderate income households whose housing costs are not affordable, and who are thus in 'housing stress' (NATSEM, 2004). The Social Housing report from Boroondara Council (City of Boroondara, 2004) explains that a loss of public housing has occurred as a result of gentrification and identifies the need to provide more affordable housing. Boarding and apartment housing has declined significantly over the past four decades, from 53 houses (786 beds) to 13 houses (350 beds).

Harding et al. (2000) identified that housing costs are very important in terms of contributing to child poverty. As a significant proportion of family income is spent on meeting housing costs, there is a need for an after-housing measure of income.

Table 2: Those households in receipt of parenting benefits in each type of dwelling in Boroondara

Those on parenting benefits	
Private rental	527
Government rental	208
No rent paid	147
Lodging	45
Unknown	295
Other	5

Source: DSS data 2001 (ABS, 2001b)

Recent migrant arrivals and refugees

The following table shows the countries of birth of the 5,017 settlers, arriving in Australia between 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2005, who live in the City of Boroondara (DIMIA, 2005).

Table 3: Country of origin of migrants and refugees who arrived in Australia between 1 Jan 2000 and 1 Jan 2005 and live in Boroondara.

Country of origin	Number of settlers
India	760
China	722
Malaysia	524
Indonesia	396
UK	367
Taiwan	183
Singapore	161
South Africa	144
Sri Lanka	109
Others	1,134
Not known	413
Total	**5,017**

Source: DIMIA Settlement Database (DIMIA, 2005)

Table 3 includes 96 settlers who arrived under the Humanitarian Program, 36 of whom were from Sudan. This data does not include people on Temporary Protection Visas or bridging visas, some of whom are known to be in Boroondara, being supported by local church communities.

Family size

Large families are often an indicator of the children being in poverty, children with two or more siblings are more likely to be in poverty than those with one or no siblings (Ridge 2002). Table 4 gives the size of families in Boroondara who are in receipt of a sole parent benefit[3].

Table 4: Size of families in receipt of a sole parent benefit in Boroondara

Sole parent family size/type	No. of families
5 children under 13	2
4 children under 13	13
3 children under 13	63
2 children under 13	295
1 child under 13	656
children only between 13 and 15 years	198

Source: DSS data 2001 (DSS, 2001)

Table 4 suggests that family size is not a significant factor associated with child poverty in Boroondara. However, data is not available for youth 13 to 18 years of age. Inclusion of this information would be likely to increase family sizes. The largest families are located in Burwood and Balwyn North, although this trend is not very marked.

Family size varies within the group of new settlers. The following table shows the family size distribution for new settlers to Boroondara between 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2005. Unfortunately these statistics do not distinguish between adult and child family members.

[3] Information on family size for couple families is also readily available.

Table 5: Family size of new settlers to Boroondara between 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2005

Family size	No. of families
1	1,207
2	226
3	158
4	146
5	71
6	24
7	4
8	3
Total family size known	1,839
Unknown	15
Total	**1,854**

Source: DIMIA Settlement database (DIMIA, 2005)

While it is not clear what proportion of these families is one or two parent families, there are some indications that the new settler families are larger than other Australian families and that many are sole-parent families.

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders

There are 193 people in Boroondara who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. They include 55 children under 18 years of age.

Conclusions

Information gaps

The information available has a number of data gaps:

- youth 14 to 18 years are often excluded from data sets.
- people on Temporary Protection Visas
- families with a person with a disability in the household. Households with a child with a disability are reported as often being 'the poorest of the poor', while disability and long-term reliance on benefits lead to significant poverty (Ridge, 2002, p. 25).
- homeless families and homeless individual young people. The 1996 Census revealed that Boroondara had one of the highest rates of homelessness in metropolitan Melbourne. Over 49% of the homeless population were in boarding houses on a long-term basis and 47.7% moving between households. The number of children in this group is not known[4]

While a few measures of double disadvantage (e.g. sole parenthood on a benefit and family size) have been given, the impact of multiple disadvantage is not presented in published statistical data. Such a perspective would need to come from a survey of the clients of service agencies in Boroondara. Such a survey might also raise additional

[4] The authors have been advised that Boroondara Council has recently produced a new report on homelessness.

factors which create and maintain poverty, such as domestic violence, gambling and substance abuse.

Estimate of number of children in poverty

Thus, a conservative estimate suggests that there are approximately 3,063 families in Boroondara living below the poverty line. The 2001 census shows that there is an Australian average of 1.5 children aged 0 to 14 years of age, per family. Thus, it could be conservatively estimated that there are 4,594 children aged under 15 years living in poverty in Boroondara.

The policy context]

The Victorian Government's recent social policy statement provides significant levels of funding and attention to poverty in areas of multiple disadvantage located on the outer metropolitan fringe of Melbourne. It identifies the importance of community strengthening in places with a large concentration of public housing (Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2005). Without disregarding the needs of these areas, the problem of scattered poverty in areas of higher relative wealth should also not be overlooked. The state government's target towards resourcing areas with multiple disadvantage, along with the fact that scattered poverty is a more difficult issue to address through broad policy measures, present as additional complications when viewed from the perspective of Camcare. It increases the difficulties associated with raising government and community awareness about the great needs (and unmet needs) of many of their clients. Poverty and social exclusion have many other hidden costs in addition to personal distress. As the Senate Committee Report (2004) highlights, social exclusion 'robs people of their sense of connection to others and diminishes their motivation, energy and capacity to contribute to the wider community' (2004, p. 254).

The way forward

Definitive levels of the social exclusion of children in Boroondara will never be completely known. The precision of knowledge that is required will depend on the purpose for which the data will be used. One interpretation of 'enough' understanding is to have information which will:

- enable Camcare and other services to understand the demand for services and supply of services for planning purposes, both for welfare organisations and for the service delivery network, including the three levels of government.
- enable stakeholders to recognise that childhood exclusion does occur in Boroondara and be motivated to do something about it by supplying resources to address unmet need.
- enable stakeholders to counter two strong influences against resourcing Boroondara:
    - the perception that all citizens of Boroondara are advantaged
    - the new state government trend of committing resources to outer metropolitan areas with a higher proportion of citizens facing disadvantage.

Thus, the following recommendations are suggested:

- There is a need to 'flesh out' the statistics, to understand what they mean for people, to help the community understand the issues (emotionally as well as intellectually) and to add value in terms of information on service accessibility, combinations of disadvantage, other compounding factors (such as domestic violence) and redeeming factors (such as considerable resources in the community)
- It would be helpful to begin to engage others in the community with the problem.

- A conversation with key service providers and community members would add to the depth of understanding about the needs of socially excluded children in Boroondara and the ability of service providers to meet this need.

A possible way to achieve this would be to:

- identify a limited number of key service providers (say, 10)
- undertake a semi-structured interview to ascertain:
    - how they view needs
    - how comprehensively they are able to meet these needs
    - service gaps
    - ideas for how these gaps could be covered and their desire to be involved

  Ideally if would be useful for this to be complemented by some information from excluded children and their families, including some known to services and, if possible, those not accessing services.
- present the information collated from these interviews as findings to those interviewed, plus other stakeholders and community leaders, in the context of a half-day workshop to plan a response – Stage Three.

Stage Three of the project could have one or more objectives, such as:

- a community strengthening project
- a funding application for a service program
- an advocacy campaign
- seek engagement of local business to support further initiatives.

It is strongly recommended that the direction of Stage Three is defined prior to the commencement of Stage Two. This definition is necessary so that the clear outcomes desired from Stage Two can be understood and targeted in the data collection and process. It is also necessary to ensure that there are sufficient resources to guide the project through to the completion of Stage Three. Such resources might enable a project officer or key person to be paid to undertake the lead work of the project.

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2001a, *Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA)*, viewed 4 July 2005, <www.abs.gov.au>.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2001b, *Census basic community profile and snapshot*, viewed 4 July 2005, <www.abs.gov.au>.

City of Boroondara, 2004, *Social housing policy, Melbourne*, City of Boroondara, Melbourne.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), 2005, *Settlement database*, viewed 4 July 2005, <www.immi.gov.au>.

Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2005, *A fairer Victoria: creating opportunity and disadvantage*, viewed 4 July 2005, <www.dpc.vic.gov.au>.

Department of Social Security (DSS), 2001, *Pension Recipient File*, DSS, Canberra.

de Vaus, D. 2004, *Diversity and change in Australian families: statistical profiles*, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne.

DIMIA (Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs) 2003, *Report of the Review of Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian Entrants*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Aboriginal Affairs, Canberra.

Fincher, R. & Saunders, P., 2001, *Creating unequal futures? Rethinking poverty, inequality and disadvantage*, Allen & Unwin, NSW.

Harding, A., Lloyd, R. & Greenwell, H., 2000, *Financial disadvantage in Australia 1990–2000: The persistence of poverty in a decade of growth*, Smith Family, Melbourne.

Hill, M. & Jenkins, S., 1999, *Poverty among British children: chronic or transitory*, ESRC Research Centre of Micro-Social Change Working Paper 92–93, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, Colchester, UK.

McClelland, A., 2000, 'No child…': *Child poverty in Australia*, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fitzroy, Vic.

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (MIAESR), 2004, *Poverty lines: Australia: December quarter 2004*, University of Melbourne, Melbourne.

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), 2004, *'Housing unaffordability at the Statistical Local Area level: new estimates using spatial microsimulation,* NATSEM, Canberra.

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), 2002, 'Taxation statistics: measuring average taxable income', in *Income & Wealth Report*, Issue 1, NATSEM, Canberra.

National Housing Strategy, 1991, *The affordability of Australian housing*, Issues Paper No. 2, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Randolph, B. & Holloway, D. 2004, *Social disadvantage, tenure and location: an analysis of Sydney and Melbourne*, Urban Frontiers Program, Research Paper No. 12, University of Western Sydney, Sydney.

Richardson, S, Robertson, R, & Ilsey 2001, *The labour force experience of new migrants,* National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University, Adelaide.

Ridge, T., 2002, *Childhood poverty and social exclusion: from a child's perspective,* The Policy Press, Bristol.

Scutella, R., 2005, 'Who are the disadvantaged? Poverty measurement 30 years after Henderson', in *Brotherhood Comment*, April 2005, pp.4–5.

Senate Committee Report, 2004, *A hand up not a hand out: renewing the fight against poverty*, Commonwealth of Australia.

Social Exclusion Unit, 2005, *What is social exclusion?*, viewed 4 July 2005, <http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk>.

Subramanian, S.V., 2005, 'Income inequality and health', Paper presented at *New Developments in Social Determinants of Health: International and Australian Perspectives*, VicHealth and Key Centre for Women's Health, Melbourne.

UNICEF, 2005, *Child poverty in rich countries*, United Nations, Geneva.

Appendix

Table 6: Parenting (sole parent) payment recipient households as a percentage of total family households

Postcode	Family households	Total h'holds	Family h'holds as % total h'holds	Parenting payment recipients with children ≤ 15 years	All family h'holds with children ≤ 15 years	Parenting payment recipients with children ≤ 15 years as % of all family h'holds with children ≤ 15 years
3101	5070	7483	68	107	1779	6
3102	1921	2728	70	47	790	6
3103	3634	5107	71	93	1345	7
3104	5309	6714	79	105	2045	5
3122	4034	7895	51	90	1295	7
3123	2958	4992	59	57	1063	5
3124	3929	5450	72	88	1539	6
3125	4839	7014	69	167	1758	9
3126	1879	2563	73	25	764	3
3146	4754	7191	66	114	1914	6
3147	3337	4704	71	213	1316	16
Total	**45979**	**68033**	**68**	**1227**	**17499**	

Source: DSS pension recipient file 2001; ABS 2001 Basic Community Profile data

Postcode key[5]:

3101 Kew
3102 Kew East
3103 Balwyn
3104 Balwyn North
3122 Hawthorn
3123 Hawthorn East
3124 Camberwell
3125 Burwood
3126 Canterbury
3146 Glen Iris
3147 Ashburton

[5] For further explanation of geographical areas, see Table 1.

Table 7: Parenting Payment recipients, by type of rent for statistical divisions in Boroondara

Parenting payment recipients– single, by type of rent

Postcode*	Free board & lodging	Free lodging	Govt. rent	Lodging only	No rent paid	Other	Private	Unknown	Total
3101	0	0	3	5	13	0	59	27	107
3102	0	0	3	3	6	0	18	17	47
3103	0	1	5	3	14	1	48	21	93
3104	1	0	1	2	12	0	54	35	105
3122	0	0	7	1	18	0	50	14	90
3123	0	0	3	0	9	0	22	23	57
3124	0	0	3	5	10	0	42	28	88
3125	1	1	54	15	18	0	51	27	167
3126	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	9	25
3146	0	0	6	3	17	0	52	36	114
3147	0	0	122	3	15	0	44	29	213
Total	**2**	**2**	**208**	**45**	**147**	**1**	**527**	**295**	**1227**

Source: 2001 DSS pension file.

*Note: Please refer to postcode key, Table 6, and further explanations in Table 1.