

THE ROLE OF HOUSEHOLDS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND NETWORKS IN SOCIAL STATISTICS

This project will determine the importance of accounting for households, spatial proximity and social networks in the design, estimation and analysis of social statistics. Criteria indicating when it is necessary to account for lack of independence between people and methods to identify the important sources of dependence between people will be developed. It will create new methods to appropriately incorporate households and other groups and networks in the analysis of social survey data. The implications for the design of social surveys will be determined.

The project involves Professor David Steel, Professor Ray Chambers and Dr Robert Clark, Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology, University of Wollongong and Dr Mark Tranmer and Dr Mark Elliot of the Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester. It is funded by a grant under the Linkage International Social Sciences Collaboration between the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the UK Economic and Social Research Council, with combined funding of \$390,000.

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