

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), Care and Public Policy

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Presentation for the

'Back to work' or 'babysitting the economy'? – Advancing public health and productive work through investments in maternity protection and childcare

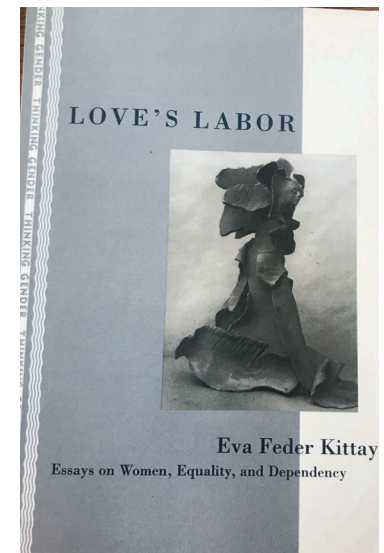
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Women in Social & Economic Research

A possible framing: Love's Labour and Dependency

- ❖ There are the inevitable, species typical dependencies associated with infancy, illness, disability and frail old age
- ❖ And there are secondary dependencies that arise for those who respond to the inevitable dependencies by providing care





A possible framing: Love's Labour and Dependency

- ❖ Our societal response to inevitable dependencies is pretty important
- ❖ As a species, we don't have a choice about responding to the inevitable dependencies associated with infancy, disability and old age
- ❖ The way we respond to secondary dependencies is also important
- ❖ If we don't respond we undermine the chances (and add to the costs) of responding to inevitable dependencies



Gender equity and dependency

- ❖ In most societies, the task of responding to inevitable dependencies is largely assigned to/taken up by households
- ❖ And within most households the pattern of secondary dependency is governed by traditional gender norms
 - ❖ In most societies the incidence of secondary dependency is highest amongst women.
 - ❖ In many countries, including Australia, secondary dependency often takes the form of women being financially dependent on their partners.

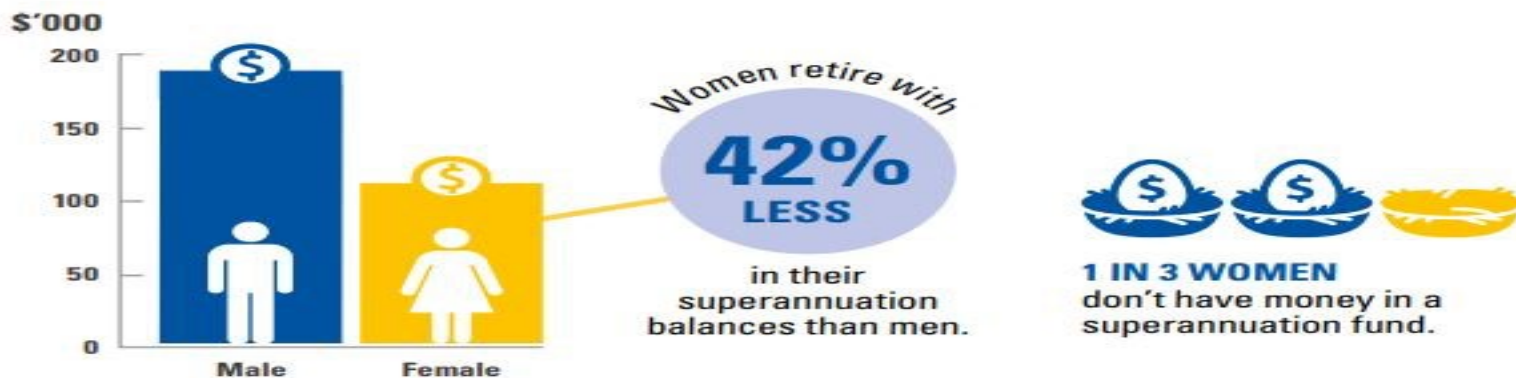


The state, public policy and dependency

- ❖ The form and extent of secondary dependencies are also shaped by notions of the legitimate boundary between the public and private spheres
- ❖ The secondary dependencies associated with breast feeding can be mitigated by state-provided payments to carers, the provision of high quality, affordable and accessible child care, and/or through the regulation of paid work arrangements, including access to flexible work, the regulation of work hours, etc

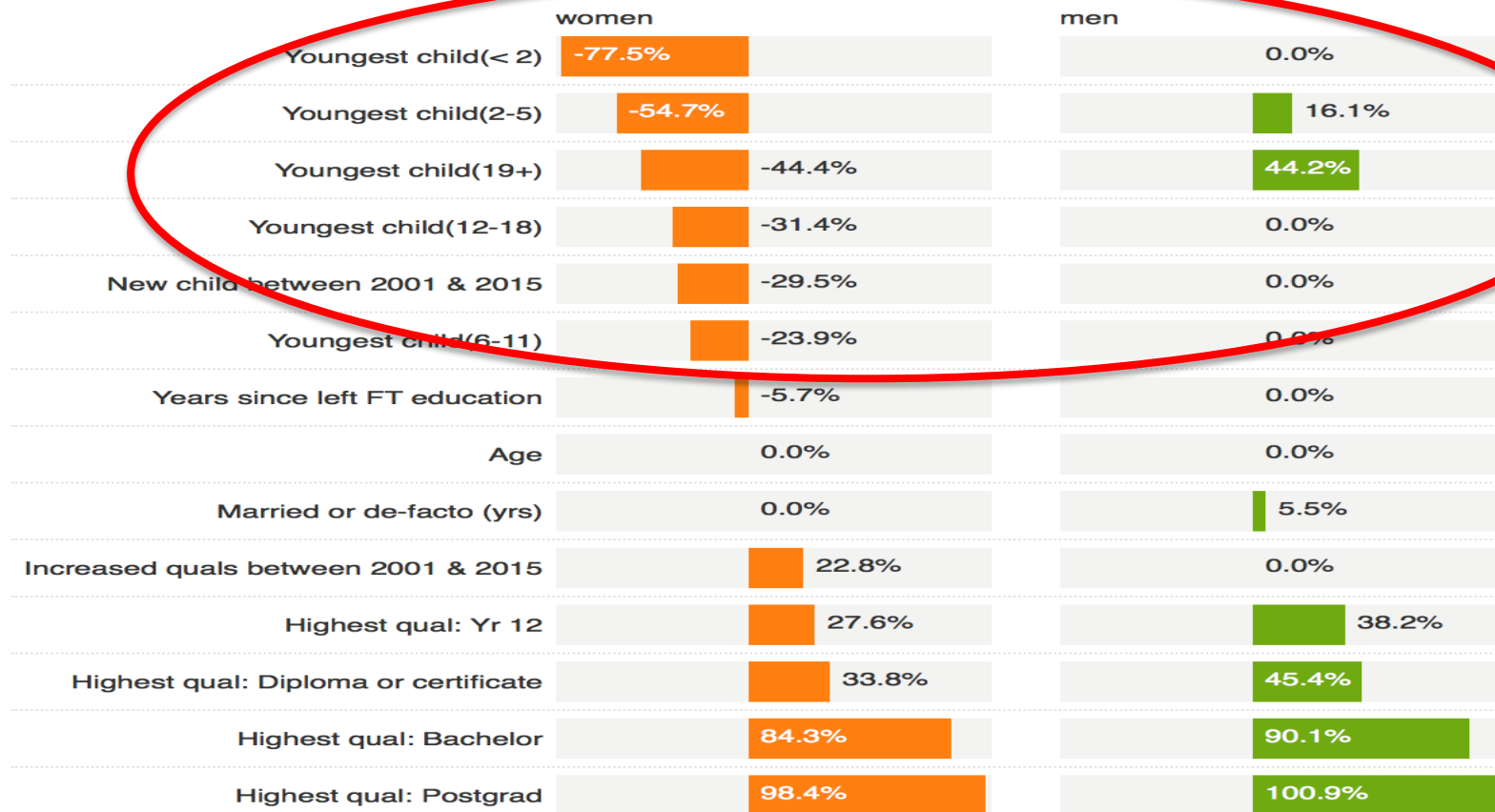
“Reading” budgets and policies through the dependency lens

- Australian retirement income policy
 - Increasing the links between retirement income and labour market earnings
 - Prioritising and subsidizing superannuation, at a huge cost to the budget
 - Producing large gender gaps in retirement income



Penalising the first responders

Percentage Change in the Long-Term Earnings of Australian Men and Women, by Contributory Factor



Results of OLS regression of log long-term earnings, summed over 2001-15

Source: authors' calculations from HILDA data

Policy responses?



Image: robertsharp, file photo: www.flickr.com

'A Husband is not a Retirement Plan': report advises on improving women's savings

By: Peta Donald

- ❖ Encourage women's participation in paid work, to boost their economic *independence*
- ❖ Promoting a more gender-equal distribution of paid and unpaid work across the life course
- ❖ A universal age pension
 - ❖ Must be part of any policy/budget framework that aims to protect and promote breastfeeding and gender equity