



**Dr Jennifer Skattebol. -- 10 June 2021 – Balmain Institute**  
(Introduction: Dr Margaret Vickers)

Dr Skattebol is a senior researcher at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. Much of her research focuses on issues related to social inequality in education. These inequalities have huge effects on our children and it was shocking to see how much they were amplified by the school lockdowns during 2020.

The Grattan Institute actually found that the achievement Gap widened at three times the usual rate during these lockdowns

We also learned that many vulnerable students just vanished from our schools last year and have not returned. I was sad to see this but not surprised as thru my own research I have met young people for whom school was the only safe place in their lives

The effects of Covid 19 linger on in the lives of these students. Will they ever catch up? What will that take? What do they feel about their own futures? These are some of the difficult questions that Dr Skattebol and her colleagues have been working on.

In NSW we are now feeling fairly safe, but its not over, as Mary Louise Mclaws so eloquently pointed out at our last Balmain Institute event. We may be at the end of the beginning but me we are a certainly not at the end. We need to be much better prepared

I cannot think of anyone better to carry us into this complex issue then Dr Skattebol. In addition to her extensive research on these topics she has also dealt with this directly as a mother of two teenagers who found the loss of face-to-face social interaction was not a happy thing. We thank her for presenting to us, and for providing her slides for inclusion in our post-meeting report

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**Key Current Projects**

Engaging Families in Early Childhood (ARC Linkage Program)

Well-being in Adolescence (ARC Discovery Program)

Resource landscapes for young people in AOD treatment (ARC Discovery Program)

**Recent Publications:**

Skattebol, J., Blaxland, M., & Adamson, E. (2021). *The Five Aspects of Effective Engagement in Early Childhood Education: Approachability, Acceptability, Availability, Affordability, Appropriateness*. Sydney: UNSW Social Policy Research Centre. doi:10.26190/5fa0c6861b8af

Seymour, K., Skattebol, J., & Pook, B. (2020). Compounding education disengagement: COVID-19 lockdown, the digital divide and wrap-around services. *Journal of Children's Services*. doi:10.1108/JCS-08-2020-0049

Fenech M; Skattebol J, 2019, 'Supporting the inclusion of low-income families in early childhood education: an exploration of approaches through a social justice lens', *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2019.1597929>

Skattebol J; Redmond G, 2019, 'Troubled kids? Locational disadvantage, opportunity structures and social exclusion', *Children's Geographies*, vol. 17, pp. 76 - 89, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2018.1487031>