



# ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

## SEMINAR

**Wednesday, 21 May 2008, 1100-1200**

Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre

Building 62a, Eggleston Road

The Australian National University, Canberra

### **Be wealthy to stay healthy: an analysis of older Australians using HILDA survey data**

**Dr Lixin Cai**

**Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (The University of Melbourne)**

#### **The Speaker**

Lixin Cai is a Senior Research Fellow at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne. Before joining the Melbourne Institute, Lixin worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and was one of the contributors to the construction of the 2001 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA). Lixin's research interests are in microsimulation modelling of the effect of tax and transfers on labour supply, the relationship between health and labour market activity and outcomes, and simultaneous equation and dynamic models of limited dependent variables.

#### **Abstract**

Using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey data, this study examines the effect of wealth, as measured by net worth, on health transitions of older Australians. By focusing on health transitions instead of health status itself, the study avoids potential endogeneity of wealth arising from the reverse effect of health on wealth. Two health indicators are used to define health transitions: self-reported general health status and the existence of long-term health conditions. The results show that, for both health indicators, wealthy people are less likely to experience a transition from good to poor health, suggesting that wealth might have a causal effect on health.

#### **Parking**

A campus map for ANU can be viewed on the University's web site.\* Visitors to the campus are advised to take a taxi to the venue if possible. The closest Pay Parking is at University House (pay at the meter in the quadrangle). Access to the Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre is by direct entry into Building 62a off Eggleston Road, or by entry through Building 62 off Mills Road.

\*<http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/>

**For enquiries about this seminar contact Rowena Harvey ([ACERH@anu.edu.au](mailto:ACERH@anu.edu.au) or +61 2 6125 3688) or Professor Jim Butler ([jim.butler@anu.edu.au](mailto:jim.butler@anu.edu.au)).**