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**TITLE: Exploration of the practices and experiences of sole fathers who combine work and care**

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How families manage paid work and care on a day-to-day basis is important. Research which explores fathers' experiences of care is often focused on dual-income couples and concentrates on how tasks are allocated between partners, generally finding that mothers are taking on the majority of the day-to-day parenting activities. However, it has also been found that when mothers are not available for an extended period of time, fathers will take on additional responsibilities (Doucet, 2006). There has been limited qualitative research into sole fathers with caring responsibilities in Australia. This presentation explores how working sole fathers with primary carer responsibilities managed and experienced combining paid work and care. In this presentation I outline preliminary findings from my fieldwork which utilised semi-structured narrative interviews with 10 working sole fathers and 17 working sole mothers. This presentation explores some of the key differences and similarities between the fathers and the mothers' experiences, and in doing so highlights the fathers' greater sense of achievement, the gendered expectations regarding paid work and their similar approaches to managing the day-to-day parenting practices.