



**Families Australia publishes *National Family News* (NFN) ten times per annum. NFN contains information about latest major developments in national family policy, services and research.**

***Australia Fair Pay Commission***

The Australian Fair Pay Commission invites written submissions from interested groups and individuals to help inform its first minimum wage determination.

In setting the minimum wage, the Commission will consider:

- The capacity for the unemployed and low paid to obtain and remain in employment;
- Employment and competitiveness across the country;
- Providing a safety net for the low paid; and
- Providing minimum wages for junior employees, those in training, and employees with a disability to ensure those employees are competitive in the labour market.

These points should be addressed in submissions. The closing date for submissions is Friday, 28 July 2006. More at:

<http://www.fairpay.gov.au/fairpay/Submissions/>

***Work, Families and Wellbeing Forum***

4-5 May: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Work, Families and Wellbeing Forum was held at The Australian National University on 4-5 May 2006. It was an initiative of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and Families Australia.

The principal aims were to showcase latest Australian research and, by involving representatives from business, government, academia, unions and the community sector, generate a well-balanced discussion to encourage greater public debate and uptake of practical ideas to enhance

the balance between work and family life.

With 50 high level participants from public, private, community, union and academic sectors from Australia and overseas, issues raised included: the looming problem in elder care, access to children's services, the relationships between job quality and wellbeing (for adults and children), and the importance of cross-government and cross-sectoral approaches.

A full report will be available in the Families Australia Bulletin due out in July. For more information contact Families Australia on 02 6273 4885.

***HREOC – Guide to holding accessible events***

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has published a helpful and informative guide to holding accessible events for people with disabilities. The guide can be found at:

[http://www.meetingevents.com.au/news/morenews.php?start\\_from=6&ucate=&archive=&subaction=&id=&](http://www.meetingevents.com.au/news/morenews.php?start_from=6&ucate=&archive=&subaction=&id=&)

***Snapshot of Australian Families with Adolescents***

18 May: To support 2006 National Families Week, the Australian Institute of Family Studies has prepared a Fact Sheet about families with adolescent children aged 12 to 18 years - the group given special emphasis in this year's celebrations. "Snapshots of Australian families with adolescents" provides statistics on areas such as: parents' employment circumstances; residential location and country of birth; and, family type. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/snapshots/adolescents.html>

***2005 Child Care Survey***

22 May: The Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2005 Child Care Survey was released. The Child Care Survey is a continuation of a series of surveys on this topic conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 2002. The 2005 Child Care survey provides information in relation to children aged 0-12 years, and their families, about the use of formal and informal child care, and requirements for additional child care. Information was also collected on patterns of attendance, child care costs, the use of the Child Care Benefit, parental income and working arrangements used by parents to help care for their children.

Two major changes were made to the survey in 2005. The scope was changed to include children aged 12 years. Previous surveys covered children aged 0-11 years. The definition of formal care was also changed to exclude preschool. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mediareleasesbyCatalogue/A5A54ED11F1DBCC5CA257175007A1133?OpenDocument>

***National Child Protection Clearing House***

18 May: Recent publications relating to information on child abuse have been updated on the web site of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. Information available at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/afsapubs.html>

### **Hospital Statistics 04 -05**

31 May: Australian hospital statistics 2004-05 continues the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's series of summary reports describing the characteristics and activity of Australia's hospitals. It presents an overview of hospitals and hospital activity in Australia, further data on public hospitals, hospital performance indicator data, information on non-admitted patient care provided in public hospital emergency departments, and summary data on elective surgery waiting times for patients admitted to public hospitals.

More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10305>

### **Women in Sport - Senate Inquiry**

The Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee is conducting a public inquiry into women in sport and recreation in Australia. The Committee is interested in:

- The health benefits of women participating in sport and recreation activities;
- The accessibility for women of all ages to participate in organised sport, fitness and recreation activities;
- The portrayal of women's sport in the media; and
- Women in leadership roles in sport.

Submissions are due on 16 June. More at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/womeninsport/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita_ctte/womeninsport/index.htm)

### **BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2002-2003**

Breast cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in Australian women. The BreastScreen Australia Program aims to reduce mortality and morbidity from breast cancer by maximising early detection. BreastScreen Australia's monitoring report 2002-2003 is the seventh annual report based on key program activity, performance and outcome

indicators to monitor the achievements of the BreastScreen Australia Program. The report presents the most recent information on participation in breast screening, cancer detection, program sensitivity and recall to assessment and re-screening rates. In addition, the report presents national breast cancer incidence and mortality data to provide a context for these indicators of screening activity. Where possible, the data are presented by State and Territory as well as nationally. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication/index.cfm/title/10273>

### **Child Care Measures**

May: The 2006-07 Budget saw some major changes to childcare. From 1 July 2006, Outside School Hours Care and Family Day Care places will be uncapped. There will also be increased checking of services to make sure they are passing on the full value of CCB payment to families. Increased funding is available for Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care Fee Assistance, which provides assistance with child care fees to some families on income support payments and, as previously announced, from 1 July 2006, the Child Care Access Hotline will have information on where child care is available in a local area. More information about the measures childcare measures is available at:

[http://www.facs.gov.au/child\\_care\\_measures/overview.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/child_care_measures/overview.htm)

### **Moving into Work**

1 June: The new income support rules start on 1 July 2006 and may apply to people on Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment and Disability Support Pension. The Federal Government launched its Welfare-to-Work advertising campaign, called "moving into work" and a website of the same name is also available.

<http://www.movingintowork.gov.au/>

### **Interview with Minister Brough**

18 May: The transcript of an interview with The Hon. Mal Brough MP, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, with

John Laws on Thursday 18th May 2006, regarding Indigenous issues is available at:

[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/2ue\\_transcript\\_18may\\_06.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/2ue_transcript_18may_06.htm)

### **Forgotten Australians**

5-6 June: A national conference entitled 'healing the past - building the future' was held in Sydney to focus attention on issues facing those who have been in institutional or out-of-home care. The conference for the 'Forgotten Australians' enacted one of the Federal Government's responses to the 2004 report of the Senate Inquiry on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children. The conference was opened by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Hon. Mal Brough MP, and heard from care-leavers, not-for-profit organisations such as Relationships Australia and Families Australia, and service providers including several church groups. It is envisaged that care-leavers will form a national coalition to lobby government for further recognition of the issues facing care leavers. More at: [www.facs.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/govt\\_response\\_forgotten\\_austs.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/govt_response_forgotten_austs.htm)

### **Child Protection**

27-28 June: A national conference on 'Protecting Vulnerable Children: a National Challenge' will be convened in Melbourne as part of the Federal Government's response to the report in 2005 of the Senate Inquiry into children in institutional or out-of-home care. The main aims of the conference are to develop a national approach to child protection, perhaps in the form of a framework, and to consider ways of maximising cooperation across levels of government and across borders, and to build on work already being done through Federal, State and Territory intergovernmental forums. More at : [www.facs.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/govt\\_response\\_forgotten\\_austs.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/govt_response_forgotten_austs.htm)

