



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's Health 2006

22 June: The tenth biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, provides an authoritative source of information on national patterns of health and illness, determinants of health, the supply and use of health services, and health services expenditure. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10321>

Indigenous Health

21 June: The full copy of the speech presented by the Hon Tony Abbott when launching the report *Australia's Health 2006* at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Conference is available at:
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abbsp210606.htm>

National NAIDOC Week 2 – 9 July

Respect the Past - Believe in the Future is the theme for this year's NAIDOC week. Celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has become the name of the week itself. The week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous community, but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces. More at: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

Cost of Housing in Diverse Indigenous Communities In Australia

This study by Dr Jon Hall and Professor Mike Berry of the AHURI RMIT NATSEM Research Centre, analyses the real costs for governments and non government organisations providing long term Indigenous housing. According to the study both state owned and managed Indigenous housing organisations (SOMIH) and Indigenous community housing organisations (ICHOS) experience operating deficits greater than those of mainstream public housing agencies. This deficit is due to poor quality and high maintenance housing stock, low rental streams, poor dwelling maintenance, poor management practices, and remote locations. More at: <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/>

Petrol sniffing in remote Aboriginal Communities

22 June: The report from the senate inquiry into petrol sniffing in remote Aboriginal communities, by the Community Affairs Committee is now available. The report argues that measures to deal with the problem are now well known: the priority is to harness Commonwealth, state and territory governments and Indigenous community members to implement strategies that will really make a difference. More at: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/petrol_sniffing/report/index.htm

Funding to develop "age-friendly" communities

26 June: The Australian Government has announced initial funding of \$250,000 to boost government and industry action to help develop "age-friendly" communities. More at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ss-san057.htm>

Social barometer: challenges facing Australian youth

June: The Brotherhood of St Laurence will launch the second report in its Social Barometer series – the Youth Barometer – at a half-day conference on Friday 18 August in Melbourne. The Youth Barometer aims to show how well equipped Australian youth are (or are not) to negotiate the important transition from school to the next phase of their development, including further study, training or work. It presents indicators of young people's capabilities covering seven key dimensions of life from physical and mental health to education and employment. More at: www.bsl.com.au

30% Child Care rebate

June: The Government has announced a 30% child rebate for out-of-pocket expenses for childcare for the 04 –05 tax year. More information about the Child Care Rebate can be found at:
<http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/52998.htm&pc=001/002/004/009/003&mmu=1203&mfp=001/002>

Future demands for housing assistance

20 June: Research & Policy Bulletin of the Australian Housing and Urban Institute reports that the growth in demand for housing assistance amongst renters will exceed the growth rate for households from 2003 to 2011. Growth will take place mainly in major



cities, but higher rates of growth will occur in non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory. More at: <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p30205>

Volunteer Small Equipment Grants

June: Grants of up to \$3,000 are available through FACSIA to assist community organisations to purchase small equipment items, such as computers or ergonomic office furniture, that will make the work of their volunteers easier, safer and/or, more enjoyable. Submissions are due by Friday 21 July. Full details available at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-vseg_2006.htm

Suicide Bereavement Project

25 June: The National Activities on Suicide Bereavement Project is an initiative of the Australian Government. Since February 2006, a consortium lead by Corporate Diagnostics Pty Ltd and including United Synergies Ltd and the University of Queensland has been developing a series of projects to improve the understanding and support being provided to people bereaved by suicide throughout Australia. The project now needs information and feedback from people bereaved by suicide, Suicide Bereavement Support Groups, Service Providers to people bereaved by suicide, peak bodies, researchers, academics and organisations involved in this field.

More at: <http://www.unitedsynergies.com.au/index53.php>

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

15 June: The safety of older Australians, both in residential aged care and in the community generally, is a priority for the Government who is introducing a range of measures, in conjunction with the residential aged care sector, to increase security and reduce the opportunity for institutional abuse, in response to the isolated but troubling cases that came to light earlier this year. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ss-san056.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2006&mth=6>

A community for all ages – building the future

26 June: The Final Report on the findings and recommendations on the National Speakers Series, the program of seminars and workshops held over the past nine months to highlight the links between built environments and the health and wellbeing of older Australians, was released by the Minister for Ageing on Monday, 26 June 2006. The series took *A Community for All Ages, Building the Future* as its theme. More at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/ageing-agefriendlybuilt-report.htm>

Recent developments in the collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare statistics 2005

26 June: Good quality data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed to assess the effectiveness of programs and interventions, and to evaluate policies that are designed to improve the status of, and service delivery to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This paper is an addendum to 'The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2005' and has been jointly prepared by The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10251>

Family Relationships Online

3 July: A new website, Family Relationships Online, provides all families (whether together or separated) with information and advice about family relationship issues. It allows families to find out about services that are funded by the Government that can assist them to build better relationships. It also provides information on the Government's reforms to the family law system to help families focus on the needs of their children. More at: <http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

Population by Age and Sex Australia

29 June: The ABS has released the latest estimates of the resident population (by age and sex) of Australia at 30 June 2005, Estimated resident population (ERP), the official measure of the population of Australia, is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months. Full details at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3235.0.55.001Main+Features1Jun%202005?OpenDocument>

Community Aged Care packages in Australia 2004-05

30 June: This report, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, presents key statistics on the levels of service provision of the Community Aged Care Packages Program and the Extended Aged Care at Home Program funded by the Australian Government. Detailed statistics on the sociodemographic characteristics of package recipients and the patterns of the recipients' admissions and separations are also provided. The data presented in this report are a useful resource for those involved in policy development, policy review and the planning of aged care services, with a specific interest in community aged care. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10302>

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