



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.

National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

4 August: National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD) is celebrated on 4 August each year, having been established by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) in 1988. The aim of NAICD is to demonstrate how important children are to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Through focussing on a different theme each year NAICD draws attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and major issues SNAICC is pursuing on their behalf. The theme for this year is "My culture is Me – I'm Proud and Strong", to emphasise the positive influence of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders child's culture on their wellbeing. More at: <http://www.snaicc.asn.au/>

We're living longer, working harder and using more energy – Australian Social Trends

20 July: *Australian Social Trends 2006* provides a snapshot of life in Australia and how it is changing over time, including for the first time, an examination of the wealth of Australians. Released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, this is the 13th edition of an annual series that presents information on contemporary social issues and areas of public policy concern. By drawing on a wide range of ABS statistics, and statistics from other official sources, the report describes aspects of Australian society, and how these are changing over time. The full report is available at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4102.02006?OpenDocument>

Census Night

8 August: More than 130 high profile Australian organisations and individuals have joined the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its quest to get every Australian to participate in the Census on Tuesday, 8 August. The Official Census Supporters Group is an initiative of the ABS that engages the support and involvement of respected Australian businesses, community organisations and individuals. The role of the group is to publicly support the 2006 Census in order to raise awareness and maximise national participation. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/dd0ca10eed681f12ca2570ce0082655d/84ae191a02ac2853ca2571b900055ee9!OpenDocument>

Census 2006 – Counting the Hidden Carers

31 July: For the first time, the ABS Census of Population and Housing will include a question that will give more information about Australia's estimated 2.6 million carers. Carers Australia believes that the current measures of the level of care being provided by family and friends to people who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged are likely to underestimate the contribution of 'hidden' carers as many carers don't associate with the term 'carer' and often only see themselves as parents, partners, children or some other relative or friend and consider their caring role as being no more than their normal family responsibilities. More at: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/>

Disability Updates: Children with Disabilities

14 July: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Bulletin No. 42 updates information on disability among Australian children (aged up to 14 years). It draws mostly on the 2003 ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and describes the number of children with disabilities, the types of disability they have, their experience in school, and the needs of their carers. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10340>

Children: Unintended Victims of Legal Process.

July: The Victorian Association of Care and Resettlement for Offenders (VACRO) and Flat Out Inc. published a discussion paper entitled *Children: Unintended Victims of Legal Process*. The paper reviews the policies and legislation affecting children when their parents experience criminal legal processes resulting in imprisonment. More at: www.vacro.org.au/Children_Unintended_Victims

The Ins and Outs of Residential Respite Care

26 July: Bulletin No. 43, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, reports that residential respite care is central to the aged care system, with many people who use community care programs also accessing residential respite care, and many people entering permanent residential aged care having previously used such respite care. The Bulletin also examines a number of questions that are of interest when looking at how residential respite care fits into the aged care system.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10299>

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2004-2005: report on the national minimum data set

27 July: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report on the National Minimum Data Set presents national, state and territory data on publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services and their clients, including information about the types of drugs for which treatment is sought and the types of treatment provided. This is the fifth report in the series of annual publications on the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set. The full report is available at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10268>

National Youth Survey 2005: Rural and Regional Responses

July: Mission Australia released its 2005 National Youth Survey highlighting the differences and similarities between young people living in rural/regional Australia and those in metropolitan areas. More at: <http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/cm/index.aspx>

Work and Family Life Balance

July: The Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, has issued a Policy Brief on Work and Family Life Balance, as part of their Policy Brief series, *Translating early childhood research evidence to inform policy and practice*. The Brief provides a summary of research on the impact of changing workplace conditions on the capacity of working parents to meet their caring responsibilities to children. More at: http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/ccch/PB3_Work-family_balance1.pdf

National Evaluation of the Aged Care Innovative Pool Dementia Pilot

28 July: The evaluation report, Aged Care Series No.10, issued by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, describes the range of new care choices for older Australians with dementia and their carers that emerged from the Innovative Pool Dementia Pilot and presents evidence that these new service offerings have helped clients to remain at home for as long as possible. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10288>

Communities, Families and Children Australia

31 July: *Communities, Families and Children Australia* is a new journal developed by the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners (ACCFPP). The Journal will have two editions a year with the main purpose to encourage thinking and reflection beyond current models of child protection policy and practice. For more information email accfpp@bigpond.net.au

Towards a Better Future for Children

July: The Queensland Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN Foundation) released a research paper that explores the need and options for a comprehensive community response to preventing abuse "before it happens". Based on an ecological model, the paper draws on research evidence to explore the effectiveness of different approaches to child abuse prevention advocating the need for a greater focus on "primary" prevention. More at:

http://www.napcan.org.au/documents/TowardsABetterFuture_000.pdf

From Tolerance to Respect: Cultural Competence in Practice

July: The Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA) and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) are hosting a two-day conference focusing on practical approaches to working with people from diverse backgrounds. The Conference will provide local, national and international perspectives on best practice in responding to community diversity and competing needs. The Conference is being held in Sydney on 7 - 8 September 2006. More at:

<http://www.mdaa.org.au/culturalcomconference.html>

If you no longer wish to receive National Family News, please send an email to admin@familiesaustralia.org.au to unsubscribe.