



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.

Creating a child friendly Australia – National Child Protection Week

3 – 9 September: Run by NAPCAN Foundation, the theme for National Child Protection Week 2006 is: *Young Visions for a Child Friendly Australia*. This year NAPCAN is inviting Australian adults to give children and young people the opportunity to share their visions of child friendly communities by “asking kids” what they really need to grow up well. The aim is to show children and young people that they are valued, and that as a community, we are prepared to give them a voice, and listen to what they have to say. More at: <http://www.napcan.org.au/NCPW/index.htm>

Evaluation of Fixing Houses for Better Health Projects 2, 3 and 4

8 August: The Fixing Houses for Better Health (FHBH) Projects target the improvement of houses and household living conditions in remote and rural Indigenous communities, using a method known as 'housing for health', which recognises the connection between a series of healthy living practices and the quality and condition of housing. This paper, an evaluation of the FHBH Projects 2, 3 and 4, includes a discussion on the context and design of the FHBH Projects, analysis and findings, a series of recommendations for future FHBH Projects and more detailed information from case study communities. More at: <http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops14.htm>

Personal Safety Australia - 2005

11 August: This publication presents the results of the 2005 Personal Safety Survey (PSS) which was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) throughout Australia from August to December 2005. Information was collected from persons aged 18 years and over about their safety at home and in the community. In particular, information was collected about experiences of physical and sexual violence, the nature and extent of the violence against women and men, actions taken after experiencing violence and the effect on their lives. Additional information was collected about incidents of abuse, stalking and other forms of harassment. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4906.02005?OpenDocument>

Electronic Medicare Claiming

13 August: The Australian Government announced it will be introducing new arrangements to make it easier for people to claim their Medicare rebate. The system, expected to be available in the second half of 2007, will allow patients to directly claim a Medicare rebate at their doctor's surgery. Through these arrangements, patients will pay for a doctor's visit and then swipe their Medicare card and EFTPOS card to receive their rebate back directly into their bank account. The new claiming process will not affect bulk billed patients. More at: http://www.pm.gov.au/news/media_releases/media_Release2071.html

HREOC helps you to 'Work out your Rights'

14 August: Since the introduction of the Australian Government's new *WorkChoices* industrial relations laws earlier this year, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has been reminding people that Federal and State laws still prohibit employers from dismissing people on the basis of race, sex, disability and age through its '*Work out your Rights*' campaign. Information and resources for employees and their advocates can be found on the '*Work out your Rights*' section of the Commission's website at: www.humanrights.gov.au/info_for_employees

New Deal for Disabled Young People

15 August: Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Hon. Mal Brough welcomed the signing of bilateral agreements with South Australia, Queensland and Victoria to assist young people with a disability to move out of residential aged care facilities, the only long-term residential care available to young people with a disability. These agreements with the States follow on from a decision at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in February this year, to jointly fund and develop a \$244 million program over the next five years. More at: http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/minister3.nsf/content/ypirac_15aug06.htm

Dealing with Separation – CD Rom

15 August: This interactive CD-Rom, *Dealing with Separation*, was developed by the Child Support Agency (CSA) to help separated parents with the complexities and issues of separation. It includes internet links to other government and community services that support separated parents. The CD can be viewed on the Raising Children website at raisingchildren.net.au/separation.html or a free copy can be ordered through the Child Support Agency at <http://www.csa.gov.au/publications/cd.php>.

Socioeconomic differences in children's dental health: the Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 2001

17 August: The Child Dental Health Survey provides yearly information on the dental health of children attending school dental services in Australia. Dental statistics and research series No. 33 released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare describes and discusses the survey and presents analyses for 2001. The data cover 110,834 children from all States and Territories except for New South Wales. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10277>

Social Barometer: Challenges Facing Australian Youth

18 August: Launched by the Brotherhood of St Laurence the 'Youth Transition Social Barometer' throws new light on the experiences of young people, particularly the socially disadvantaged, in areas such as health, economic resources and education.

More at: http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=95338

Cancer in Australia: A Snapshot, 2004-05

22 August: Released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, this publication provides an overview of the incidence of the types of cancer suffered, prevalence and other characteristics, cancer screening practices, trends in morbidity and mortality in Australia. The registration of all cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) is required by law in each of the States and Territories and data about people with newly diagnosed cancer from hospitals, pathologists, radiation oncologists (cancer specialists), cancer treatment centres and nursing homes are collated by cancer registries. This article presents information from a number of sources, including the 2001 and 2004-05 ABS National Health Survey (NHS), 2004 Causes of Death data, and national cancer registry data published by the AIHW. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4822.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

Diabetes in Australia: A Snapshot, 2004-05

22 August: This article, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, provides an overview of the prevalence, co-morbidity and mortality, risk factors, actions taken and health costs of diabetes mellitus, using data from the National Health Survey (NHS) 2004-05. This paper focuses on diabetes reported by respondents as a current and long term condition.

More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4820.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

Homeless children in SAAP 2004-2005. (Bulletin 48)

25 August: This bulletin, the fifth thematic report from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection, focuses on children aged 17 years and under in SAAP. It is well documented that children who are homeless, whether as part of a family unit or on their own, experience a number of negative social and health consequences. SAAP is a major part of the Australian Government's overall response to homelessness and represents a broader social safety net designed to help people in crisis in the community. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10280>

Future Planning for Sons and Daughters with Severe Disability

August: The major component of the package, announced by the Federal Government, in 2005 to assist parents and immediate family wishing to make private financial provisions for the current or future accommodation and care of a son or daughter with severe disability, will allow parents and immediate family members from 20 September 2006, to place up to \$500,000 into a trust for the future care and accommodation of the person with severe disability, without being affected by social security means test and gifting rules. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/carers-future_planning.htm

Poverty Lines: Australia

August: Many Australians receiving government welfare benefits are still living below the poverty line, according to the latest issue of *Poverty Lines: Australia*, a quarterly newsletter issued by the University of Melbourne, that updates the Henderson Poverty Line as defined in the 1973 Commonwealth Commission

of Inquiry into Poverty. The Poverty Lines are standard reference material for those concerned with social welfare policy in Australia. Poverty lines are presented for a range of family sizes, giving the minimum income required by a family in order to avoid a situation of poverty. The updated Poverty Lines take into account changes in the average income level of all Australians, reflecting the idea that poverty is relative. Each issue includes a table indicating changes in the purchasing power of the poverty line. More at: <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/labour/inequality/poverty/>

Sports Leadership Grants for Women Program 2006-2007

August: The Sport Leadership Grants for Women Programme is a joint initiative of the Australian Government Office for Women and the Australian Sports Commission and is aimed at providing women with the opportunity to undertake sports leadership training. Grants of up to \$5,000 for individuals and up to \$10,000 for incorporated organisations are available in five key areas: high performance coaching and officiating; Indigenous women; women in disability sport; women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and women in general sport leadership. Closing date for applications is 15 September. More at: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/women/grants.asp>

Funding for Communities and Community Organisations - ANAO Report No 47

The Australian National Audit Office has undertaken a performance audit of *Funding for Communities and Community Organisations* by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in accordance with the authority contained in the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. The report is available at:

<http://agimo-cache.funnelback.com/search/cache.cgi?collection=fed-gov&doc=http://www.anao.gov.au/website.nsf/publications/e153aa2622cbbb51ca25718f006e2e31/default.fun.html>

Job Placement and Matching Services - ANAO Report No 49

The Australian National Audit Office has undertaken a performance audit of *Job Placement and Matching Services* by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in accordance with the authority contained in the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. The report is available at:

[http://agimo-cache.funnelback.com/search/cache.cgi?collection=fed-gov&doc=http://www.anao.gov.au/website.nsf/publications/9a128aa4fd11afe6ca25719500710679/\\$file/audit%2520report%252049.pdf.pan.txt](http://agimo-cache.funnelback.com/search/cache.cgi?collection=fed-gov&doc=http://www.anao.gov.au/website.nsf/publications/9a128aa4fd11afe6ca25719500710679/$file/audit%2520report%252049.pdf.pan.txt)

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