



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.

Anti Poverty Week

15 - 21 October: Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day held on October 17. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to: strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. More at: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

Carers Week

15 – 21 October: Carers Week is a national awareness week held across Australia during October each year. The theme for Carers Week 2006 is *Anyone, Anytime* and is about recognising that becoming a carer is often unexpected. Fortunately, there is support available, and Carers Australia would like carers and their families to become aware of it. Carers Week activities will be taking place across the country (excluding NT which celebrated Carers Week in July). More at: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=83>

State of the Family – Life on a Low Income

25 September: Anglicare Australia launched its 2007 State of the Family Report – Life on a low income. The report examines why, in a time of increasing prosperity for many Australians, so many people – including families with children – need to supplement their income with 'emergency relief' like food, clothing and help to pay the bills. More at: <http://www.anglicare.asn.au/>

A duration analysis of the time taken to find the first job for newly arrived migrants in Australia

September: A discussion paper released by the Centre for Economic Policy Research examines the time taken for newly arrived migrants in Australia to find their first job. This paper by Prem Jung Thapa and Tue Gørgens extends the traditional static focus of research on the labour market assimilation of migrants in Australia by analysing the dynamics of job search and actual time taken to find the first job after arrival in Australia. More at: <http://econrsss.anu.edu.au/pdf/DP527.pdf>

Life expectancy and disability in Australia 1988 to 2003

1 September: This report, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, explores whether the number of years lived with illness or disability has fallen or risen as overall life expectancy has lengthened by focusing on years lived with disability. The report updates previous estimates of 'health expectancies' in Australia and examines the changes over a period of 15 years, from 1988 to 2003. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10357>

Citizenship Testing Discussion Paper

September: The Australian Government has issued a discussion paper on citizen testing. Submissions must be received by 17 November. More at: http://www.citizenship.gov.au/news/DIMA_Citizenship_Discussion_Paper.pdf

Welfare Expenditure Australia 2003 - 2004

7 September: Welfare expenditure Australia 2003 - 2004 provides estimates of expenditure on welfare services and social security benefits in Australia for the period 1998-99 to 2003-04. Welfare services expenditure are benefits in kind to families and children, older people, people with disabilities, and other target groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and migrants. This expenditure totalled \$20 billion in 2003-04. Estimates are reported by source of funding, whether from governments, from individuals in the form of fees for services or from non-government community service organisations. Funding of welfare services by the eight state and territory governments are compared. This publication, authored by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, also contains estimates of social tax expenditures by the Australian Government and is an important reference for policy makers and those working in the community services sector. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10365>

Health Expenditure Australia 2004 - 2005

29 September: Health expenditure Australia 2004-05 examines expenditure on health goods and services in Australia for 1994-95 to 2004-05. It shows that Australia spent over \$87 billion on health in 2004-05, an estimated rise of \$8 billion since 2003-04. This report presents expenditure estimates by area of health expenditure, as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP), on a per person basis, by state and territory, by comparison with selected OECD and Asia-Pacific countries, and by source of funding (Australian Government, other governments and the non-government sector). This report, authored by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, will be helpful to anyone interested in studying, analysing and comparing estimates of health expenditure in Australia. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10350>

The Attitudes of Australians to Happiness and Well-being

September: Based on a new national opinion poll, this paper released by The Australia Institute makes a contribution to the current debates on personal happiness, by exploring some public attitudes to personal and national happiness. The paper considers what Australians consider to be most important to their own happiness. More at:

http://www.tai.org.au/WhatsNew_Files/WhatsNew/Attitudes%20to%20Happiness%20webpaper.pdf

The Child Support Legislation Amendment (Reform of the Child Support Scheme - New Formula and Other Measures) Bill 2006

14 September: The Hon. Mal Brough, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, has introduced *The Child Support Legislation Amendment (Reform of the Child Support Scheme - New Formula and Other Measures) Bill 2006* into Parliament. More at:

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/childsupport.htm>

FaCSIA Research News

25 September: Issue 26 of *FaCSIA Research News* is now available. The quarterly newsletter produced by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Research and Analysis Branch provides an overview of and update on research within FaCSIA, with a focus on key findings and outcomes. Each edition contains brief summaries of completed research, project updates, contact details, forthcoming events and coverage of important research events, plus details of recently released departmental publications. More at:

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/researchnews.htm>

Culture Health and Parenting in Everyday Life

September: Family structures and ways of parenting can influence the relationships between health workers and parent/carers from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This study by Sharon Chalmers presents the results of focus groups and individual interviews with parents/carers from Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese-speaking communities, three of the largest culturally diverse groups that access Sydney Children's Hospital. More at:

http://www.uws.edu.au/download.php?file_id=16945&filename=Chalmers_PP_report_Aug_06_Final.pdf&mimetype=application/pdf

Centre for Leadership for Women - Leadership Achievement Award 2007

1 September: The Australian Virtual Centre for Leadership for Women (CLW) Leadership Achievement Award has been established to recognise women in the community who use their own initiative to create and implement projects for the benefit of the community and in collaboration with the community. It aims to encourage leadership of Australian women and to advance the rights and status of women in Australia. Applications, open to all Australian women 18 years and above, close on 22 December. More at:

http://www.leadershipforwomen.com.au/CLW%20Leadership%20Award/Clw_Leadership_Achievement_Award.htm

Welfare-to-Work Case Study Library

September: ACOSS has launched its Welfare-to-Work case study library for all ACOSS and State COSS members. The library will gather information about the impacts of recent Welfare-to-Work changes over the next year or two. Case studies lodged on the online library will be available to those participating in entering data. A feature of the library is that users can search other case studies by 30 fields to locate the most relevant case studies for their purposes. Before any case study can be lodged the consent of the subject of the case study must be confirmed and a privacy form/fact sheet is provided. More at:

www.acoss.org.au

Updated Cost of Raising Children – March Quarter 2006

September 30: A new report released by the University of Queensland Social Policy Unit claims that for average one-income earning households across Australia's capital cities the absolute cost of raising a child to 18 is at least about \$250,000, just for the basics. More at: www.uq.edu.au/swahs/costofkids (to be activated 6 October)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

• National Homeless Strategy

12 September: The National Homelessness Strategy assists governments and services to build new and innovative ways to help people who are vulnerable to homelessness. Organisations wishing to apply for funding under the Strategy need to register an expression of interest by Friday 13 October. More at: www.facsia.gov.au/homelessness

• Family Relationship Centres

September: The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department are seeking proposals from suitable applicants to establish and deliver: family relationship centres (including Indigenous and rural outreach); early intervention services; parenting order programs; and children's contact services. Applications must be lodged by 2.00pm Monday 30 October. More at: www.ag.gov.au/tenders

• Settlement Grants Program

September: The Settlement Grants Programme (SGP) is an Australian Government grant program which provides funding to organisations to help new refugees and migrants settle in Australia. If you would like to apply for funding, and are not a currently funded organisation you must complete a registration form to register your interest by 15 October. More at: www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-grants

• National Youth Mental Health Foundation

September 30: **headspace**[™], Australia's new National Youth Mental Health Foundation announced its first funding round for the Youth Services Development Fund. Organisations are invited to submit applications for funds to establish a Community of Youth Services or a small grant to assist with the preparation of a submission for subsequent funding. Applications for submissions and small grants are due on Monday 6th November. More at: <http://www.headspace.org.au/default.aspx?page=10>

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