



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.

#### **Parenting and Men Posters**

October: The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and the Aboriginal Children's Centre in Hobart have developed a series of national and local posters that highlight the positive role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in raising children. The posters, launched in August, feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men with the children in their families. The posters were developed with local communities in Tasmania, ACT, Northern Territory and Queensland. The five national posters are available free from SNAICC. More at:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/srs/projects/parentingandmen/posters.html>

#### **Australian Family Relationships Clearing House**

October: The Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC) has been established at the Australian Institute of Family Studies with funding from the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to: support family relationship services; increase access to relevant research; and showcase innovative and effective service delivery. The AFRC will provide a catalogue of relevant research, electronic journals, a database of useful abstracts, and the translation of key messages from the latest early intervention and prevention research. Relevant future conferences, forums, and training opportunities will also be listed. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/>

#### **Supporting Carers of Other People's Children**

October: *Supporting Carers of Other People's Children* is a handbook on support for foster, relative and kinship carers and the children and young people in their care. The handbook was developed by the Australian Foster Care Association Inc. funded by the Australian Government under the Stronger Families and Communities strategy. The report will be available soon at:

<http://www.fostercare.org.au/pubs.html>

#### **Breast Cancer in Australia – Cancer Series No.34**

16 October: Authored by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and National Breast Cancer Centre, this report provides a comprehensive statistical overview of breast cancer in females and males. The report provides data for breast cancer incidence to 2002 with projections to 2011, prevalence to 2002, mortality to 2004, survival to 2002, screening to 2002-2003, hospital admissions to 2003-04, Medical Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule services to 2004-05 and expenditure in 2000-01. The report, commissioned by the National Breast Cancer Centre, will be an important reference for anyone interested in breast cancer and women's health. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10389>

#### **Transformations Conference – Culture and the Environment in Human Development**

October: The *Transformations Conference*, hosted by the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils Australia (FECCA) is being held at the Australian National University in Canberra, from 27-29 November 2006. The focus of this conference is on global and local trends in cultural diversity and sustainable development. Main speakers will include leading thinkers in the field, and these will be supported by paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners. More at:

<http://dt6.cgpublisher.com/welcome.html>

#### **Measures To Improve Settlement Outcomes For Humanitarian Entrants - Discussion Paper**

October: The Department for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs is seeking community feedback on *Measures to Improve Settlement Outcomes for Humanitarian Entrants* – a new discussion paper. The Discussion Paper has been developed in line with recommendations of the Australian Government's Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) on Humanitarian Settlement, which was convened in April 2006 to develop a whole-of-government strategy to improve settlement outcomes for humanitarian entrants. Submission are being accepted until 24 November 2006. More at: [http://www.dimia.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement\\_discussion.htm](http://www.dimia.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement_discussion.htm)

### ***The Australian Fair Pay Commission***

October: The Australian Fair Pay Commission was established under the *Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Act 2005* to set and adjust the Federal minimum wage. The Australian Fair Pay Commission has announced its Federal Minimum Wage decision for October 2006. The decision and associated documents, a series of fact sheets and commissioned research are available on the Commission's website. More at: <http://www.fairpay.gov.au/>

### ***National Framework for Father Inclusive Practice***

October: A new website launched by the University of Newcastle is the first in Australia dedicated to showing how family services and organisations can better include fathers. Support for the inclusion of fathers in early intervention services comes from a number of approaches. More at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/fac/efathers/includingfathers/>

### ***Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Australia, 2005***

23 October: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication provides summary information compiled from the Pregnancy and Employment Transitions Survey (PaETS), conducted throughout Australia in November 2005 as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey collected information from birth mothers aged 15 years and over, usually resident in private dwellings in Australia, with at least one child less than two years of age living with them at the time of interview. The information collected included the mother's age, marital and employment status, the leave arrangements associated with the birth of their most recent child under two years of age, and where appropriate, reasons for commencing employment after that most recent birth. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4913.0Main+Features1Nov%202005?OpenDocument>

### ***The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index***

October: The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index monitors the subjective wellbeing of the Australian population. This Report concerns the 15th survey, undertaken in May 2006. Each survey involves a telephone interview with a new sample of 2000 Australians, selected to represent the national population geographic distribution. These surveys comprise the Personal Wellbeing Index, which measures people's satisfaction with their own lives, and the National Wellbeing Index, which measures how satisfied people are with life in Australia. The specific topic for Survey 15 is the extent to which people feel that their source of income is secure. More at: [http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index\\_wellbeing/Survey\\_15\\_Part\\_A.pdf](http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index_wellbeing/Survey_15_Part_A.pdf)

### ***Help to plan for the future for disabled sons and daughters***

13 October: The Australian Government will provide funding of \$4 million to assist nearly 9,000 ageing parents or family members caring for disabled sons or daughters plan for the future. Under the Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) seven organisations have secured funding over three years to deliver information, support, counselling and mediation services. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/family\\_counselling\\_13oct06.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/family_counselling_13oct06.htm)

### ***Behind every person there is a long journey***

October: The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing has announced its 2007 National Conference at the Sofitel Melbourne from 7-8 June. The Conference theme is Behind every person there is a long journey - Meeting the aged care needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse community. The call for papers is now open. More at: <http://www.culturaldiversity.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=58>

### ***UN Study on Violence against Children***

11 October: The United Nations Secretary-General's report on Violence against Children was presented to the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly, by the Independent Expert, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. The study has been a global effort to paint a detailed picture of the nature, extent and causes of violence against children, and to propose clear recommendations for action to prevent and respond to it. More at:

<http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/English.pdf>

### ***Indigenous Australians and Oxfam International Youth Partnerships***

October: The Oxfam International Youth Partnerships (OIYP) is looking for 15 Indigenous young people from Australia. These young people will be from all walks of life and all areas (remote, regional and city communities) and will join other young people from around the world who are creating changes in their community to improve the situation of their people. This is an opportunity for young people to support each other, exchange ideas, gain skills and learn about the issues affecting communities in Australia and around the world. Application close 31 January 2007. More at:

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/world/pacific/australia/oiyp.html>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### • **Indigenous Small Grants**

October: The Foundation for Young Australians has small grants, up to \$5000, available for initiatives that enhance youth participation or create opportunities for the development of Indigenous young people aged 12 - 25. Applications can be made by non-profit organisations (including local government and schools) with the next round of funding closing on 4 December 2006. More at:

[http://www.youngaustralians.org/fund/ya\\_fund\\_indigenous.asp](http://www.youngaustralians.org/fund/ya_fund_indigenous.asp)

### • **Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault**

The Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative is an Australian Government Office for Women funding program that aims to reduce the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault on the Australian community. Applications are now open for 2007-08. Suitably qualified non-profit, community-based organisations and service providers are invited to apply for funding for time-limited projects that address, respond to, or prevent domestic and family violence and sexual assault. More at:

[http://ofw.facs.gov.au/womens\\_safety\\_agenda/domestic\\_fam\\_violence\\_projects07-08.html](http://ofw.facs.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/domestic_fam_violence_projects07-08.html)

## FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

### • **Grandparenting Forum**

Families Australia convened an Expert Forum on Grandparenting at the Australian National University on 24 October. Thirty-five participants gathered to discuss the main issues facing grandparents. The Forum report will be finalised by mid-November and circulated to Government and Families Australia Members. A focus group for grandparents as primary carers was held at Marymead Family Centre, Canberra, prior to the Forum.

### • **The Forgotten Australians**

Families Australia has been working with the 'Forgotten Australians' – people who have been in institutional or out-of-home care – to forge a national alliance as the basis for seeking greater recognition of the issues faced by that group.

### • **Family Wellbeing Symposium 2007**

The Family Wellbeing Symposium will be held in late June 2007 hosted by Families Australia. The main aims will be to: showcase latest Australian and international policy and research on family wellbeing, including findings from *Growing Up in Australia*, a national study of families with young children; identify current and emerging influences on family wellbeing in Australia; provide a forum for discussion of family wellbeing definitions, models and frameworks, with an emphasis on ways of measuring wellbeing; identify areas for further policy development or research; and, produce findings which will be presented to governments, business, the media, the community sector and other relevant stakeholders for action. Overall, the Symposium will aim to reach agreement on the main elements of a family wellbeing framework.

### • **Annual General Meeting**

The 24 October AGM elected the new Families Australia Board. The new Board comprises:

- Sandie de Wolf, Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
- Bev Orr, Australian Foster Care Association
- Anne McLeish, Grandparents Australia
- Adam Blakester, NAPCAN Foundation
- Jennie Hannan, Family Services Australia
- Marie Leech, Mission Australia
- Mary Mertin-Ryan, Relationships Australia National
- Bob Nicholson, YMCA Australia
- Paul Rajan, Chief Ministers Department, NT Government (co-opted)
- Prue Warrilow, National Association of Community Based Children's Services
- Sharron Williams, Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

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