



Families Australia, the national independent peak organisation representing the interests of families, publishes *National Family News* on the first week of each month (except January). *NFN* contains information about latest major developments in national family policy, services and research from across government and the non-government sectors. Back issues can be viewed at: [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

This edition includes latest information about:

- Work and family
- Women in Australia
- Suicide
- Men at risk
- Racism
- Families Australia
  - ▶ Illicit drugs
  - ▶ National Families Week

#### ***'It's About Time: Women, men, work and family'***

7 March: The report 'It's About Time: Women, men, work and family' was launched by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, resulting from two years of research and national community consultation. The report contains a suggested framework for reform which recognises changing family and carer responsibilities across the life cycle. More at:

[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex\\_discrimination/its\\_about\\_time/index.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex_discrimination/its_about_time/index.html)

#### ***'An Unexpected Tragedy'***

March: This Relationships Forum Australia report discusses the links between changing Australian working patterns and relationships, particularly those in families and the broader community. More at:

<http://www.relationshipsforum.org.au/report/index.html#download>

#### ***'Women in Australia 2007'***

8 March: This report by the Australian Government Office for Women measures women's progress in education and training, labour force participation, economic resources and safety. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/ofw/downloads/pdfs/WIA\\_2007.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/ofw/downloads/pdfs/WIA_2007.pdf)

#### ***'Homeless SAAP clients with mental health and substance use problems 2004 - 2005.'***

15 March: This bulletin, the sixth thematic report from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection (NDC), highlights mental health and/or substance use problems amongst SAAP clients. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10347>

### ***Men at Risk – eLearning Tool***

10 March: In Australia, men are four times more likely to die by suicide than women. Developed by the Crisis Support Services, this program 'Suicide Assessment and Intervention: Men at Risk' provides a resource for professionals who work with men who may be at risk of self-harm.

More at: <http://www.crisissupport.org.au/suicideelearning.html>

### ***'Suicides Australia 2005'***

14 March: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents summary statistics on deaths registered in Australia where the underlying cause of death was determined to be suicide. Data are presented for suicide deaths registered in the years 1995 to 2005, by sex and age group, and method of suicide. State and Territory death rates from suicide are also presented. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3309.0Main+Features12005?OpenDocument>

### ***Dental statistics and research***

17 March: Drawing on the findings from the 2004-06 National Survey of Adult Oral Health, this report describes levels of oral disease, perceived oral health and patterns of dental care for the nation, and among socio-demographic subgroups. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10417>

### ***Eliminating Racism: Valuing Diversity Conference***

21 March: Coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Harmony Day is an Australian Government initiative that brings together Australians and encourages them to say 'no' to discrimination and racism. The Valuing Diversity Conference held on that day was addressed by Mr Tom Calma, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and acting Race Discrimination Commissioner. More at:

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/speeches/race/2007/Eliminating\\_racism210307.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/speeches/race/2007/Eliminating_racism210307.html)

### ***'Family Matters'***

1 March: The latest edition of 'Family Matters' published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies focused on Indigenous children, families and communities. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2006/fm75.html>

### ***Awards for Excellence in Community-Business Partnerships 2007***

March: Nominations for the next round of the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community-Business Partnerships close on 27 April 2007. More at:

[http://www.partnerships.gov.au/awards/awards\\_2007.shtml](http://www.partnerships.gov.au/awards/awards_2007.shtml)

### ***'The Role of Further Education and Training in Relation to Welfare to Work Policies'***

March: This paper by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) focuses on the training and education needs of jobless Australians with limited education and skills. More at:

[http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/2152\\_Paper%20146%20Further%20Education%20and%20Training%20in%20Welfare%20to%20Work.pdf](http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/2152_Paper%20146%20Further%20Education%20and%20Training%20in%20Welfare%20to%20Work.pdf)

### ***Kids Help Line***

March: Kids Help Line announced it will be expanding its counselling services as a result of a decision by the Australian Government to provide \$5.035 million over two and a half years to further assist the service. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-cp-pyn021.htm>

### ***'Juvenile Justice in Australia 2004-05'***

28 March: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report provides data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), developed by the AIHW and the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators. The Juvenile Justice NMDS includes information on all young people in juvenile justice supervision in Australia, both in the community and in detention. The report includes data on the characteristics of the young people under supervision such as age, sex and indigenous status, and their patterns of supervision. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10363>

### ***Mental Health Liaison Project***

March: The Mental Health Liaison Project (MHLP) takes a multidisciplinary approach that seeks to "fast-track" referral for parents experiencing mental health difficulties, with the aim of assisting them to continue to care safely for their children. The project evaluation, which was conducted in 2006 by the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia, examined the views of workers, supervisors, managers and parents about what worked well, and what could be done differently, when including a mental health worker with child protection services. More at:

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/childprotection/documents/MHLPPFINALReport.pdf>

### ***Early Intervention Through Playgroups Conference: May 2007***

March: The Early Intervention Through Playgroups Conference has been planned for staff of community agencies and Australian, State and Local Government organisations working in early childhood development and health, early intervention and family support, and Stronger Families and Communities Strategy funded programs. The Conference is being organised by Playgroup Queensland and will be held on 11 May 2007.

More at: <http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/qld/index.cfm?objectID=FC5B2273-E7F2-2F96-309CDF81B7049278>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Sidney Myer Fund***

March: The Myer Foundation Small Grants Program in Poverty and Disadvantage is now accepting applications for project funding up to \$10,000. There are no specific closing dates and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

More at: <http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/105.asp>

### ***Youth off the Streets – Scholarship Program***

March: The Youth Off The Streets Scholarship Program aims to celebrate the gifts and strengths of young people who exhibit determination and potential but who lack the personal support networks and resources that would allow them to fulfil that potential. Scholarships of \$5,000 are offered to pursue further education, training or development. Nominations close 11 May 2007. More at:

<http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/scholarship/index.html>

## FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

### ***Inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families***

On 28 March 2007, Families Australia gave evidence before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Families and Human Services on the impact of illicit drugs on families. The submission, which is available at <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/pubs/submission-illicitdrugs.pdf>, was informed by a national level expert forum and two focus groups involving professionals working in the area of drug treatment and family support, as well as families affected by substance abuse. The media release by the Chairman of the Standing Committee is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/media/media06.pdf>. Thank you to all Families Australia Members who provided input to the submission.

### ***National Families Week May 2007 – ‘Families Investing in Time Together’***

National Families Week 2007 will be held from Sunday 13 May to Saturday 19 May 2007 (coinciding with Mothers’ Day on 13 May and the UN International Day of the Family on 15 May). This year’s slogan is: FITT Families- “Families Investing in Time Together”. Further information about National Families Week, including details about how to register an event, can be found at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>

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