



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

This edition includes latest information about:

- Resources for families
- Drug use in families
- What young people are thinking
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Young Australians: their health and wellbeing
- Families Australia
 - ▶ National Family Wellbeing Symposium
 - ▶ Grandparenting: Senate motion adopted
 - ▶ National Families Week 2007 success

Keys to Living Together

15 May: The Australian Government Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Mal Brough MP, launched a new resource to help families build stronger relationships. *Keys to Living Together*, released as part of National Families Week, is a series of three DVDs, each with its own magazine/workbook that is tailored to particular family circumstances. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/Family/keys_info.htm

Child Support Agency - Community Information Sessions

May: The Child Support Agency regularly conducts community information sessions for parents around Australia. These sessions provide information about the Child Support Scheme and help parents examine their options and make choices to support the financial and social wellbeing of their children. Parents are also provided with information about the new Child Support Scheme changes which begin on 1 July 2007.

More at: <http://www.csa.gov.au/services/cis.aspx>

Allegation of family violence and child abuse in Family Law children's proceedings

May: This research was commissioned by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department to provide baseline information to assist in informing the Australian Government's Family Law Violence Strategy. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport15/main.html>

Drug use in the family: impacts and implications for children

May: The Australian National Council on Drugs has released a major report that focuses on the impact of parental substance misuse, specifically alcohol and illicit drug use, on children aged between two and 12 years. More at:

http://www.ncd.org.au/publications/pdf/rp13_drug_use_in_family.pdf

Building relationships between parents and carers in early childhood

May: Research conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) and elsewhere suggests that carers do not always initiate practices to share caregiving information with parents, and that conflict with parents in matters of children's care are commonplace, particularly in culturally diverse early childhood settings. This paper outlines several strategies that professionals may employ to support and strengthen parent/carer partnerships. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing5.html>

What young people are thinking

May: This Newspoll Youth Report provides insight into young Australians' attitudes, opinions and experiences in relation to work and study. It reveals a positive picture about young Australians' general life satisfaction and their optimism about their personal future. More at: <http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/195.htm>

Young Australians: their health and wellbeing

30 May: Using a set of key indicators of health and wellbeing of young people, this report brings together the most up-to-date national data on the health status of Australians aged between 12 and 24 years and the factors influencing their health. This report also includes a special section on the health and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10451>

Profile of nutritional status of children and adolescents

15 May: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) *Profile of nutritional status of children and adolescents* presents new analysis on data from the 1995 National Nutrition Survey. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10370>

Commitment to Young Australians web pages

May: The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) website now includes a series of web pages dedicated to the *Commitment to Young Australians*. More at: http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Statement_of_Commitment

A Snapshot of How Australian Families Spend their Time

15 May: This Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) report investigates how social, economic and technological change has altered the way in which families spend time together. Important changes include increases in maternal employment, part-time employment and the number of people living alone. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/snapshots/familytime.html>

State of the World's Mothers

8 May: This annual *State of the World's Mothers* report (including data from Australia) examines the latest data and trends in the field of child survival among children under the age of five years. Published by Save the Children Australia, the report is largely focused on the developing world. However, the report acknowledges that maternal health has a major bearing on the health of the mother's offspring no matter where a child is born. More at:

http://www.savethechildren.org.au/australia/publications/mothers_report/mothers_report.html

Fertility Project

May: Business and Professional Women Australia are conducting a national project focused on raising women's awareness about how their fertility declines with age. More at: <http://www.bpw.com.au/Projects/fertility.htm>

Bringing Them Home

22 May: *Bringing them Home* is the report of the 1997 National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families. As part of its activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the report, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has developed a range of web resources, including an interactive timeline and an events calendar. More at:

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/bth/>

Reconciliation Action Plan

21 May: The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs developed a Reconciliation Action Plan to commemorate the 1967 Referendum. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/via/indigenous/\\$file/reconciliation_plan.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/via/indigenous/$file/reconciliation_plan.pdf)

Inquiry into Workplace Relations (Restoring Family Work Balance) Bill 2007

May: The Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Education is inquiring into the Workplace Relations (Restoring Family Work Balance) Amendment Bill 2007. The Bill aims to return and protect conditions related to public holidays, meal breaks, penalty rates, overtime and access to redundancy benefits. More at: http://www.apf.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/wr_rfwb/index.htm

Carer Payment (Child) Review Taskforce

25 May: The Australian Government has appointed an independent expert taskforce to review the Carer Payment (Child). Families Australia is represented on the taskforce. Submissions are due by 27 July 2007. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/minister3.nsf/content/carer_payment_25may07.htm

FECCA - New website

14 May: The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia has launched a new website. Feedback on the site is welcome. More at:

<http://www.fecca.org.au/default.cfm>

Distribution of Funding for Community Grants Programs

24 May: The Auditor-General Audit Report No.39 2006-2007, *The Distribution of Funding for Community Grant Programmes The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*, is now available. More at:

http://www.anao.gov.au/uploads/documents/2006-2007_Audit_Report_39.pdf

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2007

25 May: These grants, which are available through the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, provide funding of up to \$3,000 to help not-for-profit community organisations buy small equipment items to support volunteers whose work contributes to developing stronger families and communities. This year, the grants include a new initiative, VSEG – Sport, providing funding to assist volunteer organisations, particularly those that support the involvement of children, to help cover costs involved in running community-based physical activities that contribute to community sporting participation and health. Applications close on 22 June 2007. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-vseg_2007.htm

Healthy Active Australia

May: The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is seeking proposals from eligible organisations to undertake projects or activities that promote healthy living at the local level. Grants valued at between \$10,000 and \$200,000 will be available for a funding period of up to 18 months. Applications close on 26 June 2007. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/grantgranthaacs07>

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

National Family Wellbeing Symposium

Leading Australian and overseas experts will speak at the National Family Wellbeing Symposium in Canberra on 20 and 21 June 2007. The Symposium is being hosted by Families Australia in conjunction with The Australian National University. A limited number of places are still available. More at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/whatsnew.htm>

Senate passes motion on grandparenting

10 May: The Australian Senate passed a motion entitled 'Parenting by Grandparents' which highlighted the issues faced by many grandparents and referred to Families Australia's January 2007 report *Grandparenting: present and future*. More at

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

National Families Week 2007 success

13-19 May: National Families Week 2007 set new records in terms of the number of people participating in community events, the number of events and the number of participating organisations. More than 110,000 people participated in 1,000 events organised by 750 organisations or their subsidiaries. On average, a National Families Week event was held somewhere in Australia every 10 minutes during the Week to celebrate the theme of 'families investing in time together'.

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