



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:

- Indigenous issues
- Census 2006 Results
- Views of children and young people
- Disability Assistance Package
- National Disability Awards
- Children's television standards review
- Housing and social cohesion
- Families Australia – National Family Wellbeing Symposium

#### ***Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarie "Little Children are Sacred"***

June: The Report by the Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse, established by the Northern Territory Government to find better ways to protect Aboriginal children from sexual abuse, is available at:

[http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquiry/aac/pdf/bipacsa\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquiry/aac/pdf/bipacsa_final_report.pdf).

The Australian Government's response to the Report is summarised at:

<http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2007/Speech24394.cfm> and

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/phaseone\\_26jun07.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister3.nsf/content/phaseone_26jun07.htm)

#### ***Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: key indicators 2007***

1 June: In April 2002, the Council of Australian Governments commissioned a Steering Committee to produce a regular report against key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The long-term objective of this report is to inform Australian governments about whether policy programs and interventions are achieving positive outcomes for Indigenous people and to help guide where further work is needed. More at:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2007/index.html>

#### ***Older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: a snapshot, 2004 - 05***

29 May: This snapshot provides an overview of the health and social circumstances of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Topics covered include family and community, culture and language, health status, long-term health conditions, disability, health risk factors, immunisation, service use, hospitalisation rates and mortality. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4722.0.55.002?OpenDocument>

#### ***The health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a snapshot, 2004-05***

15 May: This snapshot provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Topics covered include health status, long-term health conditions, mortality, health risk factors, exposure to violence, social and

emotional wellbeing, health-related actions and health screening and contraception.

More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/17F05E41BC13F1D0CA2572D8001C1110?OpenDocument>

### ***What Women Want***

2 June: Based on national consultations conducted by the National Foundation for Australian Women, this report examines the pay conditions of women compared with men in the current industrial relations system. More at:

<http://nfaw.org/media/2007/07-06-02.html>

### ***10 essentials to 'Make Australia Fair'***

June: This ACOSS report outlines the results of online and local community consultations and features new telephone polls conducted by Roy Morgan research. It forms a snapshot of the essentials Australians believe are needed to make Australia fair and the values that concern them in relation to opportunities for all and our national identity. More at:

[http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/1544\\_10%20Essentials%20Report\\_Australia%20Fair.pdf](http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/1544_10%20Essentials%20Report_Australia%20Fair.pdf)

### ***Disability Assistance Package***

28 June: The Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard MP, announced details of the Disability Assistance Package delivering \$1.8 billion in new funding over five years. The Disability Assistance Package aims to provide practical support to older carers of people with disability, assist families of children with disability and further assist disability business services. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/assistance\\_package.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/assistance_package.htm)

### ***National Disability Awards***

2 June: International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD), celebrated worldwide on 3 December each year, was established in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly to promote awareness of disability issues and the abilities of people with disability. IDPwD celebrations in 2007 will include the inaugural National Disability Awards. The awards will celebrate and acknowledge the outstanding contributions and achievements that individuals with disability make to our community, as well as recognise individuals within our community who have contributed to the disability sector. Nominations close 20 July. More at: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/awards.asp>

### ***The right to education of persons with disabilities***

June: This UNESCO report focuses on the need for intensified efforts in the field of inclusive education for people with disabilities. It addresses the obligations, duties and rights of all education stakeholders, challenges to implementation and recommendations for action by governments and UN agencies. More at:

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=37885&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=37885&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### ***Income poverty, subjective poverty and financial stress***

4 June: This paper focuses on financial disadvantage among Australians using data from the first two waves (2001 and 2002) of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey. More at:

[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/policy\\_research\\_paper\\_29.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/policy_research_paper_29.htm)

### **Housing and Social Cohesion**

June: This final report of an Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) research project identifies three dimensions of social cohesion: social connectedness, inequality and cultural environment. More at: <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/>

### **Defining a bilingual worker**

June: This paper by the Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health explores how bilingual workers engage within workplaces across a range of sectors. It has been developed to stimulate discussion and elicit responses from stakeholders on key questions formulated in the development of a working definition of a bilingual worker. More at: <http://www.ceh.org.au/>

### **Caring within families**

29 June: This edition of *Family Matters* highlights the range of different ways that families care for each other, including the care families provide for people with disabilities, people who have been victims of violence or neglect and families caring for children. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/media/mediamenu.html>

### **Same Sex: Same Entitlements Report**

21 June: This Report is based on the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's 2006 National Inquiry into discrimination against people in same-sex relationships in the area of financial and work-related entitlements. The Inquiry held public hearings and community forums around Australia and received 680 submissions covering a range of topics, many of which described the impact of discriminatory laws on same-sex couples and their children. More at: [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human\\_rights/samesex/report/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/samesex/report/index.html)

### **Ask the Children**

June: The 'Ask the Children' series by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People makes children's views available to the public and decision makers. Through this series, the Commission lets people know what children's views are about important areas of their lives. More at: [http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/ATC\\_wellbeing.pdf](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/ATC_wellbeing.pdf)

### **Growing Up in Australia**

June: This paper presents a discussion of the data management policy and procedures for Wave 2 of Growing Up in Australia - the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/pubs/dp5/dp5.html>

### **First Results from 2006 Census**

27 June: The first results from the 2006 Australian Census of Population and Housing are available. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has posted data that provide an in-depth picture on specific topics as well as comparisons with Census data from 1996 and 2001. The data can be accessed both numerically and graphically according to neighbourhood, capital city, State or Territory as well as nationally. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/Home/census>

### **Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2007**

30 May: This is the third national statistical report to be compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on the health and wellbeing of young people aged 12-24. Based on a key set of indicators, data are included on health status and other measures of wellbeing. It also reports on social and environmental factors which may impact on both dimensions. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10451>

### **Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders: a pilot study**

14 June: This Australian Institute for Health and Welfare report provides a snapshot of the academic performance, as assessed by literacy and numeracy test scores, of children on guardianship or custody orders in 2003. The educational performance of these children is compared with all children sitting these tests, and differences in academic performance between particular subgroups of children on guardianship/custody orders are also examined. This pilot project involved interdepartmental linkage (education and community services departments) of administrative data across multiple jurisdictions - the first Australian study in this field to have done so. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10426>

### **Review of children's television standards**

June: The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is undertaking a review of the Children's Television Standards (CTS) to ensure that they are operating effectively in the current environment and to identify the building blocks required to position the CTS for the future media environment. A paper highlighting the key issues that ACMA seeks to address during the course of the review is available. Submissions, due by 17 August, are invited from individuals and organisations. More at:

[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD//pc=PC\\_310262](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD//pc=PC_310262)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **Mental Health Community Based Program**

June: Funding is available through the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for the *Mental Health Community Based Program*. This program is targeted at supporting families, carers, children and young people affected by mental illness and is linked to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Action Plan on Mental Health outcomes. The Program will include projects that meet the special needs of Indigenous families and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/mentalhealth/mhcbp\\_round1.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/mentalhealth/mhcbp_round1.htm)

## **FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS**

### **National Family Wellbeing Symposium**

20-21 June: the National Family Wellbeing Symposium was held in Canberra in partnership with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University College of Medicine and Health Sciences. Over 120 participants heard talks by overseas and Australian experts on the meaning and measurement of family wellbeing. A full report on the Symposium will be issued in the

coming months. Papers from the Symposium are available at:  
<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/symposiumreportandpresentations.htm>

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