



Families Australia, the national independent peak organisation promoting 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:

- Australian Families and Children Council
- Indigenous Health
- Community Housing
- Community Workforce Village
- Australian Social Policy
- Wellbeing Index
- Family Carers and Mental Illness

Australian Families and Children Council

July 2007: The Australian Families and Children Council (AFCC) has been established by the Australian Government with effect from 1 July 2007. The Council replaces the Australian Council for Children and Parenting and the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Partnership.

AFCC will provide the Australian Government Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, with: advice on research and policy directions for early childhood and parenting in the context of developing strong families and supportive communities; advice on effective programs and interventions to improve outcomes for children and families, including innovative service delivery models; strategic advice on new and emerging issues in this area; and any other matters referred to it by the Minister. The Council's first meeting was held on 24 July 2007.

The Council comprises: Ms Elaine Henry OAM (Chair), Mr Brian Babington, Ms Muriel Bamblett AM, Mr Mark Brooke, Ms Pam Cahir, Dr Bronwyn Gould AM, Mr Toby Hall, Professor Alan Hayes, Professor Frank Oberklaid OAM, Professor Patrick Parkinson, Mr Simon Schrapel, Professor Stephen Zubrick, and Ms Vicki Rundle, Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (*ex officio* member).

Success Stories in Indigenous Health

June: Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) has released a booklet entitled "Success Stories in Indigenous Health". This publication shows that Indigenous-led health care initiatives often get the best results. The stories demonstrate that progress in improving Indigenous health is achieved when there is significant engagement with the Indigenous communities concerned and when appropriate funding and support is provided. More at:

http://www.antar.org.au/images/stories/PDFs/SuccessStories/success_stories_final.pdf

Work and Family Policy Roundtable

July: The Australian Work and Family Policy Roundtable is comprised of researchers with expertise on work and family policy. Its goal is to propose, comment upon, collect and disseminate relevant policy research to inform evidence-based public policy in Australia. More at: <http://www.familypolicyroundtable.com.au/pdf/benchmarksFINAL.pdf>

Mothers and fathers with young children: paid employment, caring and wellbeing

13 July: The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' Social Policy Research Paper No. 30 examines how child care usage, time parents spend with children, and parental wellbeing relate to parental employment. The analysis in this paper is based on the findings of Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/policy_research_paper_30.htm

Australian Social Policy 2006

17 July: This journal publishes current research and analysis on a broad range of issues topical to Australian social policy and its administration. The content is compiled by the Research and Analysis Branch of the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/research/austsocpolicy_2006/aust_soc_policy_2006.pdf

Community Housing Mapping Project

20 July: The Mapping Project was conducted during 2005-2006 by the Community Housing Federation of Australia. The aim of the project was to redress the lack of detailed data and up-to-date information on the community housing sector by providing a snapshot of the total size and make-up of the sector, particularly for organisations that do not receive funding through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. More at:

<http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/Community%20Housing%20Mapping%20Project%20May%202007.pdf>

Community Workforce Village

July: The 'Community Workforce Village' is an open community services website that is intended for use by non-government and government employers in the community services sector. The purpose of this website is to support networking and information sharing relating to challenges that are impacting on the attraction and retention of the community services workforce. More at:

<http://www.communityworkforcevillage.org.au/home>

Australian of the Year Awards

July: The Australian of the Year Awards program acknowledges the contributions of many outstanding Australians. The 2008 nominations are now open for: Australian of the Year; Young Australian, Senior Australian; and Local Australian Hero. Nominations close on 31 August 2007. More at:

<http://www.australianoftheyear.gov.au/pages/index.asp>

Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing) Bill 2007

6 July: The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has made a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for its Inquiry into the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing) Bill 2007*. More at:

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/legal/submissions/2007/aust_citizenship_amendment.html

Wellbeing Index

July: The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index monitors the subjective wellbeing of the Australian population. This report concerns the 14th survey (October 2005) by the Australian Centre on Quality of Life. More at:

http://acgol.deakin.edu.au/index_wellbeing/Survey_14_Part_A.pdf

HILDA Conference Papers

July: The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a household-based panel study which began in 2001. The HILDA Survey Research Conference was held on 19 and 20 July 2007 and the papers are now available. More at: <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/Biblio/conf2007papers.htm>

Sweet 16: Life chances and school transition

11 July: This paper draws on both the longitudinal data and the new data of stage 8 of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's *Life Chances Study* to explore the differences in school engagement and family life for the 16 year olds who have grown up in low-income families and those in higher income families, the links to the workforce for those who have left school early and those still at school, and the history and current situation of the 16 year olds who have already left school. More at:

http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Taylor_75.pdf

Family Carers and Mental Illness

July: This SANE Research Bulletin investigates the effects of caring for someone with a mental illness, and what needs to be done to support families in this role. More at:

http://www.sane.org/images/stories/information/research/0707_info_rb5.pdf

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2005-06

26 July: "Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2005-06: report on the National Minimum Data Set" presents national, State and Territory data on publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services and their clients, including information about the types of drugs for which treatment is sought and the types of treatment provided. This is the sixth annual report on the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10431>

Voluntary Work Australia, 2006

20 July: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication contains results from the national Voluntary Work Survey conducted throughout Australia from March to July 2006. This is the third detailed survey conducted by the ABS on this topic. The survey collected data on rates of participation in voluntary work, hours contributed, characteristics of people who volunteer, and the types of organisations they work for. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/124E5675AD3AED8CCA256A71000019C5?OpenDocument>

Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Education

14 June: The Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Education has completed inquiries into the provisions of the *Workplace Relations Amendment (A Stronger Safety Net) Bill 2007* and the *Workplace Relations (Restoring Family Work Balance) Amendment Bill 2007* (the latter being a Private Member's Bill

introduced by Senator Steve Fielding). More at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/eet_ctte/wr_rfwb/report/index.htm

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/eet_ctte/wr_ssnet/report/index.htm

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Ian Potter Foundation

July: The Ian Potter Foundation makes grants for general charitable purposes in Australia that advance knowledge and benefit the community in the areas of the arts, community wellbeing, education, environment and conservation, health, medical research and science. Applications for the final funding round for 2007 are due on 17 September. More at:

http://foundation.ianpotter.org.au/funding_principles.html

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

Forthcoming release of Families Australia policy statements

Families Australia is finalising, in consultation with its members, a series of policy statements on family wellbeing, work and family, grandparenting, substance abuse, Indigenous families, Forgotten Australians, and child protection. We plan to release the final statements in mid-August 2007. Further policy statements are under preparation on topics such as ageing and out-of-home care.

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