



Families Australia, the national independent, peak, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the interests of families, publishes *National Family News* each month (except January). *NFN* contains information about the 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:

- ▶ Indigenous Issues
- ▶ Costs of Children
- ▶ Juvenile Justice
- ▶ Multiculturalism
- ▶ National Child Protection Week
- ▶ Women and WorkChoices
- ▶ Australian Social Trends
- ▶ Families Australia
 - 100 policy ideas for enhancing family wellbeing
 - National Access Card
 - Toward a National Child Protection Strategy
 - Paid maternity leave

Australian Government intervention in Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory

15 August 2007: The Australian Government Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, delivered a speech at the National Press Club outlining the Australian Government's strategy to address child abuse in Indigenous communities. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/minister3.nsf/content/speech_nter_15aug07.htm

Costs of children

August 2007: Based on research commissioned by the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support and published through the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Occasional Paper 18), this paper is a collection of three reports on the costs of children in Australian families: "The estimated costs of children in Australian families in 2005–06"; "Updated costs of children using Australian budget standards"; and "Costs of children and equivalence scales: a review of methodological issues and Australian estimates". More at:

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops18.htm>

New In-Home Care Places

20 August 2007: The Australian Government Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, announced an additional 1,200 In Home Care places for families unable to access existing child care services due to their location or working hours. This form of child care enables approved carers to provide care in the child's home and is particularly targeted to parents working shift or non-standard hours, or those located in rural or remote regions. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/minister3.nsf/content/ihc_places_20aug07.htm

Juvenile Justice in Australia 2005 - 2006

10 August 2007: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report is based on the latest data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set. The report includes information on age, sex and Indigenous status and patterns of supervision over time. The report also includes an analysis of trends in community-based supervision and detention since 2000-01. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10497>

National Child Protection Week

2 September 2007: National Child Protection Week 2007 runs until 8 September. Launched by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the week's ongoing theme is to 'Build a Child Friendly Australia, encouraging all Australians to make their community child-friendly'. More at:

<http://www.napcan.org.au/NCPW/index.htm>

Australian Social Trends 2007

7 August 2007: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. Articles are organised into eight chapters: population; family and community; health; education and training; work; economic resources; and housing, as well as a chapter of articles covering other areas of social concern. The annual series, as it builds up over time, will provide an invaluable historical perspective of social change in Australia. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4102.0Main%20Features9992007?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4102.0&issue=2007&num=&view=>

Multiculturalism builds bridges between communities

17 August 2007: The Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Mr Tom Calma, has issued a position paper on multiculturalism. More at:

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/multiculturalism/

Raising Children DVD

20 August 2007: The Australian Government announced an increase in funding of \$2.7 million over the next four years for the development and distribution of key national parenting information resources, the Raising Children DVD and the Raising Children website. The Raising Children DVD will be provided free via an Australian Government New Parent Kit to every parent of a newborn for the next two years. The DVD will enable those without a computer to access information on everything a parent needs to know about raising a child, from birth through to 5 years of age. More at:

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media_Release24505.cfm

Older People Speak Out – National People's Choice Media Awards

August 2007: The Older People Speak Out (OPSO) National People's Choice Media Awards are part of the OPSO Media Awards introduced to draw attention to issues concerning older people. The OPSO People's Choice Awards provide an opportunity to recognise items in the media that accurately depict senior Australians as leading rich and fulfilling lives. Nominations are due by 10 September 2007. More at:

<http://www.opso.com.au/mediaawards/2007peoplestemp.htm>

New National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre Management Committee

30 August 2007: A new management committee has been created to support the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre. The Committee will help develop innovative approaches to delivering treatment for people with cannabis problems, including dependency, as well as providing education about the dangers of cannabis use. The chair of the Committee is former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Ms Trish Worth. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-cp-pyn096.htm>

Women and WorkChoices - Impacts on the Low Pay Sector

13 August 2007: This national report, aimed at examining the impact of changes to the industrial relations laws, documents interviews with over 120 low-income women across all mainland States and the ACT working in sectors such as retail, hospitality, aged care and child care. The report was commissioned by the National Foundation for Australian Women, Women's Electoral Lobby Australia and the YWCA Australia and was undertaken by leading industrial relations researchers. More at:

<http://www.nfaw.org/media/2007/07-08-13.html#fn1>

Long work weeks in Australia

16 August 2007: Using data collected over the first five waves of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, this presentation, by Professor Mark Wooden, examines the working hours of Australians, focusing on: trends in long working hours; how Australia compares internationally; the extent to which long hours of work are in accord with worker preferences; and the consequences of long hours of work, particularly in terms of job and life satisfaction and marital separation. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/2007/wooden.pdf>

Draft Client Service Standards

August 2007: The Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship is seeking comments and suggestions from its clients and stakeholders about its draft service standards. Comments must be provided on the Community Consultation Form and are required by 14 September 2007. More at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/about/dept-info/standards/index.htm>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Family Relationship Services Program

August 2007: The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is calling for applications from service providers to apply for new funding under the Family Relationship Services Program. Applications close on 2 October 2007. More at: http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/frsp-selection_process.htm

Combat People Trafficking

3 August 2007: The Australian Government Office for Women invites suitably qualified organisations to apply for the provision of case management services for the Support

for Victims of People Trafficking Program. Applications close 14 September 2007. More at: http://ofw.facsia.gov.au/international/combating_people_trafficking.htm

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

100 policy ideas for enhancing family wellbeing

24 August 2007: Families Australia released seven policy statements containing 100 policy recommendations in the areas of family wellbeing, grandparenting, child protection, substance abuse, work and family, Indigenous people, and the Forgotten Australians. This is the first tranche of policy statements in an ongoing policy series. More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/policy/index.htm>

National Access Card

21 August 2007: Following member consultation, Families Australia provided a formal submission to the Department of Human Services in relation to the proposed National Access Card. More at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/pubs/accesscardsubmission.pdf>

Toward a National Child Protection Strategy

August 2007: The National Child Protection Forum was held in Melbourne in June 2006 in response to the second report on the Senate inquiry into children in institutional or out-of-home care, the 'Protecting vulnerable children: a national challenge' report. Arising from the Forum a Working Group drafted a paper on main elements for a National Child Protection Strategy, based on the vision, principles and six key priority areas agreed at the Forum. The draft paper, entitled 'Toward a National Child Protection Strategy' is available for comment. More at:

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

Paid maternity leave

30 August 2007: Families Australia announced its support for the call by the National Foundation for Women for political leaders to: commit to establish on forming Government an expert committee to examine and advise on the options to achieve a cost-effective universal system of paid maternity leave for Australian families; publish the report of the expert committee; and undertake to implement the recommendations of the expert committee within two years. More at:

<http://www.nfaw.org/social/maternity/support.html>

If you no longer wish to receive National Family News, please send an email to admin@familiesaustralia.org.au to unsubscribe.

To reproduce any NFN materials for internal publications, please go to www.familiesaustralia.org.au and click on 'National Family News'.