



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:

- Older People and the Law
- Supported Disability Accommodation
- Indigenous Housing
- Australian Divorces
- New Mental Health Website
- Parental Substance Abuse and Child Protection

Carers Week 2007

14–20 October: Carers Week is a national awareness week held across Australia during October each year. The theme for Carers Week 2007 is *Anyone, Anytime*. More at: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=83>

Anti-poverty Week

14–20 October: Anti-Poverty Week is an Australia-wide initiative that coincides with the United Nation's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on 17 October. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to: strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. More at: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

Impact of illicit drugs use on families

13 September: The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services Committee tabled its report on the inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families entitled, *The winnable war on drugs*. More at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/report.htm>

Child Responsive Program

September: This report describes a follow-up study of the Child Responsive Program piloted in the Family Court of Australia Registries of Melbourne and Dandenong in 2006. More at: http://www.familycourt.gov.au/presence/resources/file/eb00174f35b4753/CRP_Follow_up_Report_2007.pdf

Face the Facts

September: *Face the Facts* is a package of teaching resources and worksheets for use in Australian classrooms, developed by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as part of its human rights education program. Newly updated educational materials are now available. More at: http://www.hreoc.gov.au/education/face_facts/index.html

Unlocking Doors: Muslim communities and police tackling racial and religious discrimination together

5 September: This Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission project brought Muslim communities and police together to discuss incidents of racial and religious discrimination and abuse. More at:

www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/unlocking_doors/index.html

Supported Disability Accommodation Discussion Paper

September: The Australian Government is seeking input into the development of the *Disability Supported Accommodation Program* that is part of the recently announced Disability Assistance Package. People with disability, their older carers, potential providers, all levels of government and interested community groups are welcome to participate in this consultation process to ensure that families have choice and are supported in their decision making processes. The closing date for submissions is 26 October 2007. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/supported_accommodation.htm

Research News no 29

September: The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs *Research News no 29* is now available. This issue includes longitudinal research updates from the *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey*, new publications, FACSIA seminars and upcoming conferences. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/research_news/\\$file/researchnews29.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/research_news/$file/researchnews29.pdf)

In Home Care draft standards

7 September: In Home Care (IHC) is a flexible form of child care where approved carers provide care in the child's home. IHC is targeted to families unable to access existing child care services, such as families working shift or non standard hours or those located in rural or remote regions of Australia. The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has developed draft standards to ensure care is focused on quality outcomes for children and relationships between carers, children and their families. Consultation on the draft standards closes 2 November 2007. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/ihc_draft_standards.htm

New mental health website

20 September: The Australian Government launched a comprehensive web site that provides up-to-date information on mental health and wellbeing, including information on the Government's mental health programs. The *Mental Health and Wellbeing* web site provides important information on Government health programs, funding opportunities, publications and policies and includes information updates on a range of initiatives, such as the *Better Access* and the *Personal Helpers and Mentors* programs. More at: www.mentalhealth.gov.au

Older people and the law

20 September: The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs tabled its report entitled *Older people and the law*.

More at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/olderpeople/report/fullreport.pdf>

Parental Substance Abuse and Child Protection

September: Presentations made at the June 2007 seminar, co-hosted by Odyssey House Victoria and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, on *Parental Substance Abuse and Child Protection—Developing National Guidelines and Strategies* are now available. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/substanceuse-forum07/menu.html>

Centre for Leadership for Women

1 September: The 2008 National Leadership Achievement Award for Women is now open at The Australian Virtual Centre for Leadership for Women. The award was established to recognise self-appointed women leaders in the community who use their own initiative to create and implement projects for the community and in collaboration with the community. Nominations close 22 December 2007 and are open to all Australian women 18 years and above. More at:

<http://www.leadershipforwomen.com.au/CLW%20Leadership%20Award/2008%20CLW%20Leadership%20Achievement%20Award.htm>

Supporting the housing of people with complex needs

28 September: This Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute report focuses on the issue of providing housing and support to people with complex needs, specifically people with physical disability, people with intellectual disability and people with mental illness. The research was conducted between August 2005 and August 2006. More at:

<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/>

Divorces Australia

30 August: This electronic product from the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides information on divorces granted in Australia in 2006. Key indicators of national and state divorces are included. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3307.0.55.001Main+Features12006?OpenDocument>

National Indigenous Housing Guide

September: The third edition of the *National Indigenous Housing Guide*, a practical resource to support the planning and development of Indigenous housing is now available. The Guide is a resource to assist in the design, construction and maintenance of housing for Indigenous people. The Guide is a resource for everybody involved in providing housing to Indigenous people and was developed by the Australian Government together with communities, housing design consultants, builders and architects and health workers. It is supported by research and meets technical building standards. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/indigenous/indigenous_housing_guide.htm

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Long Day Care Capital Funding Program

17 September: The Australian Government has committed \$3 million over three years to assist eligible Long Day Care (LDC) operators to expand their existing facilities. This funding is targeted to existing, eligible LDC services that require upgrades or expansion of existing facilities and infrastructure in order to meet additional demand for child care

from the community. Applications close 30 November 2007. More at:
http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/ldc_funding.htm

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