



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 latest information which is relevant to families as drawn from government and the non-government sources. Back issues can be viewed at: [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

This edition includes latest information about:

- Child care
- Suicide prevention
- Indigenous Mothers
- Marriages
- Disability services
- Stepfamilies
- Migrant statistics
- Families Australia
  - ▶ Challenges facing the not-for-profit sector
  - ▶ Alliance for Forgotten Australians

### **Child Care: Who Benefits?**

24 October: This *New Issue Analysis* from the Centre for Independent Studies argues that there is insufficient evidence to believe that high-quality formal child care in the early years is either beneficial or harmful to children in the long term. More at: [http://www.cis.org.au/issue\\_analysis/IA89/ia89.pdf](http://www.cis.org.au/issue_analysis/IA89/ia89.pdf)

### **Living is For Everyone**

17 October: The revised *Living is For Everyone* (LiFE) framework provides updated information to mental health professionals and the wider community to enhance the understanding and prevention of suicide and self harm in Australia. It is an updated version of the first LiFE framework that was developed and published in 2000. The updated framework also incorporates the latest national and international research into suicide prevention. More at: <http://www.livingisforeveryone.com.au/LiFEFramework.asp>

### **Australia@Work: The Benchmark Report**

October: This report by the Workplace Research Centre at The University of Sydney provides an overview of results from the first survey that gathered data on working conditions in March 2006 (before the implementation of the WorkChoices legislation) and 2007. More at:

[http://www.wrc.org.au/O01P002/A01/V01/\\_Assets/\\_Documents/Australia@Work%20The%20Benchmark%20Report.pdf](http://www.wrc.org.au/O01P002/A01/V01/_Assets/_Documents/Australia@Work%20The%20Benchmark%20Report.pdf)

### **Migrant Statistics News**

11 October: *Migrant Statistics News* is the half-yearly newsletter of the National Migrant Statistics Unit within the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The newsletter highlights developments in migrant and ethnicity related statistics, and provides relevant information for researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in this field. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3413.0Main%20Features1Oct%202007?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3413.0&issue=Oct%202007&num=&view>

***What's the Score? A survey of cultural diversity and racism in Australian sport***

16 October: This report from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission aims to provide the basis for sporting organisations to consider future policy strategies aimed at both addressing racism within sport, as well as promoting an inclusive and non-discriminatory attitude by players, supporters and the public. More at: [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial\\_discrimination/whats\\_the\\_score/pdf/whats\\_the\\_score\\_report.pdf](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial_discrimination/whats_the_score/pdf/whats_the_score_report.pdf)

***Stepfamilies: Understanding and Responding Effectively***

October: This Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse Briefing No. 6 discusses problems in defining and quantifying the number of stepfamilies, the complexities inherent in the contemporary stepfamily, and key differences between stepfamilies and nuclear families. Some ideas for change and early intervention strategies are outlined, and resources for stepfamilies are highlighted. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing6.html>

***Cooperation and coordination: An evaluation of the Family Court of Australia's Magellan case-management model***

October: *Magellan* is an interagency collaborative model of case-management in the Family Court of Australia for cases where serious allegations are raised about sexual or physical abuse of children in post-separation parenting matters. Based on a successful pilot project, *Magellan* has been rolled-out across the Family Court of Australia's registries since 2003. The aim of this study was to evaluate *Magellan* against its intended goal of being an effective mechanism for responding to such allegations. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/magellan/index.html>

***Responding to children and young people's disclosures of abuse***

October: This paper from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse within the Australian Institute of Family Studies discusses the topic of children and young people's disclosures of abuse. It outlines what is known through research and practice about how, why, what and when children and young people are likely to disclose. It offers suggestions for responding to children and young people at the time of disclosure and in the longer term. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/brief/pb2/pb2.html>

***Alfred Deakin Lecture***

2 October: The Australian Government Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP delivered the 40th annual Alfred Deakin lecture at the Melbourne University on the Federal Government's intervention into Northern Territory Indigenous Communities. More at: [http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/Minister3.nsf/content/alfred\\_deakin\\_02oct07.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/Minister3.nsf/content/alfred_deakin_02oct07.htm)

***Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004***

24 October: This Australian Institute for Health and Welfare report provides information on births to Indigenous mothers in Australia from perinatal data collections for each State and Territory. The report presents demographic, pregnancy and childbirth factors of Indigenous women who gave birth in 2001–2004. The report also contains

information on demographic and birth trends over the period 1991–2004 and a chapter on the quality of Indigenous status data in the State and Territory perinatal data collections. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10458>

### ***The Indigenous Child Care Services Plan***

October: The *Indigenous Child Care Services Plan* and the consultation summary document *Towards an Indigenous Child Care Services Plan* developed by the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs are now available. The Plan aims to guide the way in which the Australian Government designs and delivers programs that support child care and other early childhood services. The primary focus of the Plan is to increase the participation of Indigenous children and families in high quality, culturally responsive children's services, including child care. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/indigenous/programs-child\\_care\\_svs](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/indigenous/programs-child_care_svs)

### ***Marriages Australia 2006***

4 October: This electronic report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides information on marriages registered in Australia during the 2006 calendar year and includes key indicators of marriages at the national and state level. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/CF55893EF956832ACA257110007F4DCA?OpenDocument>

### ***Disability support services 2005-06: National data on services provided under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement***

26 October: Australian Institute for Health and Welfare's *Disability support services 2005–06* report contains data collected as part of the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006. The NMDS provides information relating to CSTDA funded service outlets and users of these services, including support needs of users and informal carer arrangements. Trends in data over the past three years are presented, describing changes in the profile of CSTDA service users during that period. This report includes for the first time a special chapter focusing on service users with Autism, their service use and characteristics in comparison with other service users during 2005–06. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10488>

### ***Mental Health National Respite Development Fund***

8 October: The Australian Government announced more than \$35 million in funding to build and expand respite services for people with severe mental illness/psychiatric disability, people with intellectual disability and their carers. The funding will allow 52 organisations across Australia to provide a range of flexible respite options which include creating new respite centres, expanding existing centres, training and paying respite workers and funding 24 hour flexible in-home assistance. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/mentalhealth/respite\\_fund\\_july07.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/mentalhealth/respite_fund_july07.htm)

### ***Australian Government Consultation Blog Discussion Paper***

October: The Australian Government is inviting community feedback on how the government can utilise new internet technologies, such as blogs, to better consult with people. A discussion paper is available and responses can be submitted up to 1

December 2007. More at:

[http://www.agimo.gov.au/publications/2007/september/consultation\\_blog\\_discussion\\_aper](http://www.agimo.gov.au/publications/2007/september/consultation_blog_discussion_aper)

### ***Australia Fair: Update on those missing out***

October: This report by ACOSS releases new figures for 2005–2006 that show that over one in ten Australians are living at or below the poverty line. More at:

[http://www.australiafair.org.au/upload/site/pdf/publications/3517\\_Australia%20fair%20numbers%20and%20stories.pdf](http://www.australiafair.org.au/upload/site/pdf/publications/3517_Australia%20fair%20numbers%20and%20stories.pdf)

## **FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS**

### ***Challenges facing the not-for-profit community sector in Australia***

October: This Families Australia Working Paper, based on focus groups and an expert roundtable, discusses key challenges facing the not-for-profit community sector and makes several recommendations. Comments on the paper are welcome. More at:

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

### ***Alliance for Forgotten Australians launched***

16 October: The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) was launched by Democrat Senator Andrew Murray on 16 October at Parliament House, Canberra. The people who identify as Forgotten Australians are survivors of the institutional care system, which was the standard form of out-of-home care in Australia until the 1970s. At least 500,000 children grew up, or spent long periods of time, in orphanages or Children's Homes between 1930 and 1970. Families Australia is auspicing the Alliance during its establishment phase. More at:

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

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