



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](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

This edition includes latest information about:

- Human Rights Day
- Women's Housing
- Australia's Mothers and Babies
- Older Australia
- Inequalities in Oral Health
- Social Disadvantage
- Children and Youth News

### ***Human Rights Day***

22 November: The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has developed a collection of activities designed to assist students to learn about and celebrate Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day was established in 1950 and is celebrated around the world on 10 December each year to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights, which took place on 10 December 1948. More at: [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/hr\\_day/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/hr_day/index.html)

### ***Closing the Space Between Us - The Rights of Aboriginal Children***

2 November: The 2007 Human Rights and Social Justice Lecture, addressing the rights of Aboriginal children, was delivered by Jeff McMullen at the University of Newcastle. More at: <http://www.antar.org.au/content/view/585/1/>

### ***The State of the Australian Middle Class***

November: This discussion paper by the Australia Institute uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey to test a number of popular views about the state of the Australian middle class against the statistical data. More at: <http://www.tai.org.au/documents/downloads/DP98.pdf>

### ***Social Barometer Spotlights Working Years***

November: The Brotherhood of St Laurence Social Barometer is a regular report that deals with the key phases in people's life cycle. *The working years* is the third report in the series and examines how well equipped Australians of working age are for full economic and social participation in a rapidly changing world. It presents indicators of their capabilities covering eight key dimensions of life from employment and education to health and social involvement. The barometer concentrates on national data and pays particular attention to people with socio-economically disadvantaged and Indigenous backgrounds. More at: [http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/BSL\\_Social\\_Barometer\\_working\\_years\\_1.pdf](http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/BSL_Social_Barometer_working_years_1.pdf)

### **Too Big To Ignore: Future Issues for Australian Women's Housing 2006-2025**

November: This report considers the future of housing for women in Australia. It looks both at current patterns and emerging trends in order to paint a picture of Australian women in 2025 and the housing they will occupy, including the types of dwellings in which they will live, how much they may pay for their housing, their tenure arrangements and their household structure. More at:

<http://www.ssn.flinders.edu.au/ahuri.src/docs/toobigtoignoreReportFINAL2.pdf>

### **Towards New Indicators of Social Disadvantage: Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Australia**

November: This report by the Social Policy Research Centre builds on the insights produced by the earlier report, *Experiencing Poverty: The Voices of Low-Income Australians*. It presents a comprehensive picture of the problems faced by those without the financial resources to have and do the things that others in society take for granted. The findings provide new insights into the nature, causes and consequences of Australian poverty. More at:

[http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/ARC\\_Exclusion\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/ARC_Exclusion_FinalReport.pdf)

### **Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia, 2005-06**

9 November: This publication presents a summary of findings about household wealth and wealth distribution in Australia, compiled from the 2005-06 *Survey of Income and Housing*. The survey collected detailed information about the income, assets, liabilities and household characteristics of persons, aged 15 years and over, resident in private dwellings throughout Australia. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6554.0Explanatory%20Notes12005-06?OpenDocument>

### **Australia's mothers and babies 2005**

23 November: *Australia's mothers and babies 2005* provides information on births in Australia from perinatal data collections for each State and Territory. The report presents demographic, pregnancy and childbirth factors of women who gave birth in 2005 and the characteristics of, and outcomes for, their babies. This edition also includes a chapter on socioeconomic status of mothers. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10471>

### **Older Australia at a glance**

22 November: This fourth edition of *Older Australia at a glance* provides insights into the diversity of the older population of Australia, where they are living, what they are doing, how healthy they are and the services they are using. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10402>

### **Inequality in oral health in Australia - Australian Review of Public Health**

November: This paper explores the theme of a universal dental scheme in Australia. The paper claims that while the existence of inequalities in oral health has been accepted, their fundamental character has been less well understood, leading to a misinterpretation of the information on inequalities and a failure to act on their causes. More at: [http://www.australianreview.net/digest/2007/election/spencer\\_harford.html](http://www.australianreview.net/digest/2007/election/spencer_harford.html)

### **Health at a Glance 2007**

13 November: This fourth edition of *Health at a Glance 2007* provides the latest comparable data and trends on different aspects of the performance of health systems

in OECD countries. It provides evidence of large variations across countries in indicators of health status and health risks, as well as in the inputs and outputs of health systems. This publication also includes a chapter on new comparable indicators of quality of care, showing variations across countries in measures such as survival rates after heart attack, stroke and cancer. More at:

[http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_39614578\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3343,en_2649_201185_39614578_1_1_1_1,00.html)

### **'Getting the big picture': A synopsis and critique of Australian out-of-home care research**

November: The aim of this project was to extend the *Audit of Australian out-of-home care research* (Cashmore & Ainsworth, 2004) by reviewing the research identified in the audit, as well as new research published after the release of the audit in 2004, to determine: what is known from Australian out-of-home care research; the quality of the evidence base; research gaps and duplication (if any); and priorities for future research. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/issues/issues26/issues26.html>

### **Children and Youth News**

29 November: This newsletter from the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides information on a large range of statistical releases, developments and events relevant to children and youth. It also presents some interesting findings from the *General Social Survey* and *Survey of Voluntary Work*. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4105.0Main%20Features1Nov%202007?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4105.0&issue=Nov%202007&num=&view=>

### **Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey**

28 November: This publication presents information from the 2006 *Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey* (ALLS). The results from ALLS will assist in answering questions of whether Australians' literacy skills are adequate for the challenges they face in work and daily life. The ALLS provides information on knowledge and skills of 15 to 74 year olds in the following four domains: prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy and problem solving. A fifth domain measuring health literacy proficiency was produced as a by-product of the above domains. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/887AE32D628DC922CA2568A900139365?OpenDocument>

### **Health and welfare expenditure series no. 31**

21 November: This report provides estimates of welfare expenditure in Australia for the period 1998-1999 to 2005-2006. Welfare expenditure comprises cash payments and expenditure for services specifically directed to families and children, older people, people with disabilities and other groups such as widows, refugees and migrants. In 2005-2006, this expenditure totalled \$90 billion, \$61 billion being for cash benefits and the remaining \$29 billion for welfare services. Funding of welfare services by the eight State and Territory governments is compared. This publication also contains estimates of social tax expenditures by the Australian Government and a special chapter on residential aged care expenditure. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10530>

***Combining work and caring***

16 November: The Taskforce on Care Costs, in conjunction with Families Australia, issued a report entitled "The hidden face of care: combining work and caring responsibilities for the aged and people with a disability". The report found that carers currently feel undervalued, and that their experiences are often misunderstood by employers and co-workers. 34% of carers surveyed said that their job/career had suffered because of the competing demands of their caring responsibilities. The report gives employers insights as to what to do to create more inclusive workplaces, as well governments on creating the supportive infrastructure. More at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/pubs/TOCCreportNov2007.pdf>

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