



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:

- Child Protection
- Australia's Welfare 2007
- Community Housing in Australia
- Education and Work
- Babies and Bosses
- Young Australians
- National Families Week May 2008

Advancing the National Child Protection Framework

30 January: The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children welcomed the commitment by the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, the Australian Government Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, to proceed urgently in the development and implementation of the National Child Protection Framework. More at:

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

Child Protection Australia 2006–07

23 January: *Child Protection Australia 2006–07* provides comprehensive information on State and Territory child protection and support services. The report contains data for 2006–07, as well as trend data on child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out-of-home care. For children on care and protection orders there are data on types of orders and living arrangements, and for children in out-of-home care there are data on types of placements and length of time in out-of-home care. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10566>

Homelessness: a new approach

27 January: The Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, and the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, announced the Australian Government's new approach to tackling the problem of homelessness in Australia through the development of a comprehensive, long-term plan. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/new_approach/\\$File/homelessness_a_new_approach.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/new_approach/$File/homelessness_a_new_approach.pdf)

Supporting the wellbeing of families and children

17 January: The Australian Government announced the opening of seventy-five new services across Australia this year to support the wellbeing of families and children. The new services include twenty-five Family Relationship Centres, fourteen Children's Contact Services and twenty-two new early intervention services: More at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/robertmc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_FirstQuarter_17January2008-Supportingthewellbeingoffamiliesandchildren

Social Inclusion

3 December: Senator Ursula Stephens has been appointed the Australian Government Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and is responsible for implementing the Australian Government's Social Inclusion Agenda. More at:

<http://news.ursulastephens.com/default.asp?active=82&v=1>

Australia's Welfare 2007

6 December: *Australia's Welfare 2007* is the eighth biennial welfare report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It is the most comprehensive and authoritative source of national information on welfare services in Australia. Topics include children, youth and families; ageing and aged care; disability and disability services; housing for health and welfare; dynamics of homelessness; welfare services resources; and indicators of Australia's welfare. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10527>

Forgotten Families – raising children with disabilities in Tasmania

December: This Anglicare Tasmania report details the experiences of people living with disabilities in Tasmania and explores the links between childhood disability and family poverty. It investigates the difficulties families have in accessing the support they need in order to sustain their caring responsibilities. More at:

http://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=155&Itemid=81

Mission Australia 2007 National Survey of Young Australians

4 December: Mission Australia launched its sixth consecutive annual survey of young Australians. The primary purpose of the survey is to identify the important and emerging issues of young people. More at:

<http://www.missionpromotion.com/youth/NYS%202007%20National%20and%20Indigenous%20summaries.pdf>

Babies and Bosses - Reconciling Work and Family Life: A Synthesis of Findings for OECD Countries

December: This report compares the different approaches that the 30 OECD countries take to help parents balance their work and family commitments. The report analyses tax and benefit policies, parental-leave arrangements, childcare, out-of-school-hours care, and workplace practices, such as access to part-time and flexible working hours. The findings are then compared with key indicators, such as the level of child poverty, the gender pay gap and the birth rate: More at:

http://www.oecd.org/document/45/0,3343,en_2649_37419_39651501_1_1_1_37419,00.html#Obtain

National stepfamily training for practitioners

January: The Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc (SAVI) is offering training to practitioners in the Family Relationship Services Program and broader sector to increase responsiveness to and understanding of the needs of Australian stepfamilies. SAVI will be conducting one-day *Repartnering With Children* workshops nationally between February and June. More at:

<http://www.stepfamily.org.au/pages/what-we-do/training-for-professionals.php>

Out-of-Home Care Research Briefs

January: The Australian Institute of Family Studies Out-of-Home Care Research Briefs provide a focused discussion on specific issues identified in the out-of-home care literature such as the characteristics of natural families when children enter care, issues relating to reunification, and many others. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/brief/menu.html#research>

Community housing in Australia 2005–06: findings from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement data

15 January: This Australian Institute for Health and Welfare publication presents a summary of findings from the 2005–06 community housing trial collection of unit record level organisation and dwelling administrative data. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10544>

Parliamentary Library Briefing Book: Key Issues for the 42nd Parliament

8 January: This Briefing Book has been written to assist Senators and Members of Parliament to prepare for significant issues that are expected to arise in the early months of the 42nd Parliament. It presents a brief introduction to areas of key public policy concern, outlines the context for those concerns and discusses possible new policy and legislative directions. The issues are introduced in summary form. More at:

<http://www.apf.gov.au/library/pubs/BriefingBook42p/index.htm>

Preventing violence before it occurs: A framework and background paper to guide the primary prevention of violence against women in Victoria

December: This framework is designed to provide a sound theoretical and evidence base to support future government, community and corporate sector activity to prevent violence against women. It identifies priority strategies, settings and population targets. More at: <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/preventingviolence/>

National Youth Week April 5–13

January: 'Shout. Share. Live. Unite' is the theme for the ninth annual National Youth Week, where thousands of events, concerts and competitions will be held to celebrate Australia's youth. National Youth Week 2008 is a joint Australian, State, Territory and Local Government initiative. More at: <http://esvc000585.wic026u.server-web.com/>

Protecting Children from Tobacco

January: Ash Action is a growing alliance of health, medical, child welfare, educational, church, social equity, community and research organisations that want to see children protected from tobacco. More at: http://www.ashaust.org.au/lv3/action_POS.htm

Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2005-06: summary

19 December: This bulletin summarises the demand for SAAP accommodation information contained in the *Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2004-05* report with a focus on the total number of people turned away from SAAP accommodation. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10490>

2008 Minimum Wage Review

January: The Australian Fair Pay Commission invites interested groups and individuals to make a submission to its 2008 Minimum Wage Review. The closing date for submissions is 14 March. More at: www.fairpay.gov.au

Education and Work, Australia, May 2007

18 December 2008: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents information about the educational experience of persons aged 15–64 years, especially in relation to their labour force status. Information collected in the survey includes: participation in education in the year prior to the survey, and in the survey month; labour force characteristics; type of educational institution; level of education of current and previous study; highest year of school completed; level of highest non-school qualification; level of highest educational attainment; unmet demand for education in current year; and selected characteristics of apprentices. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/556A439CD3D7E8A8CA257242007B3F32?OpenDocument>

Overweight and Obesity in Adults, Australia, 2004-05

25 January: This publication presents information about adults who were classified as being overweight or obese in the 2004-05 National Health Survey (NHS), and compares this to results from previous surveys in 1989-90, 1995 and 2001. In the NHS, overweight and obesity are defined using the body mass index, which is based on height and weight information reported by survey respondents. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/B74F385A774F9977CA2573DA0016E439?OpenDocument>

Movement from hospital to residential aged care: preliminary results

21 January: The interface between acute hospital care and residential aged care has long been recognised as an important issue in aged care services research. Current hospital and residential aged care national data sets have been designed primarily to provide data on the specific program rather than to examine program interfaces. However, using event-based data linkage it is possible to link the two data sets thereby allowing analysis of the hospital and aged care interface. This report provides preliminary results from this linkage process when applied to data for four states and two territories for 2001-02, and investigates a particular issue - the use of residential aged care for interim care following a period in hospital. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10565>

Summary of Observations following the Inspection of Mainland Immigration Detention Facilities in 2007

January: The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission released its 'Summary of Observations following the Inspection of Mainland Immigration Detention Facilities'. The report covers immigration detention centre visits conducted between August and November 2007. More at: www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/idc

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

National Families Week: "Work and Family – Getting the Balance Right"

January: National Families Week will be held between 11 and 17 May 2008. The theme for the Week is "Work and Family – Getting the Balance Right".

More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>

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