



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:

- Housing Affordability
- Out of Home Care
- Family Law
- Subjective Wellbeing
- Father Inclusive Practice
- Social Justice
- National Families Week 2008

Out of Home Care for Children in Australia: A Review of Literature and Policy

March: The aims of this study conducted by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales were to review trends in out of home care, both in the numbers of children being placed in different types of care in Australia and in the ways of organising and supporting such care. The study also involved identifying emerging models of care and the drivers of change, and reviewing evidence on the outcomes of different models. More at:

[http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/2008/Out%20 of Home Care.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/2008/Out%20of%20Home%20Care.pdf)

A decent quality of life - Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians

March: The report of the Senate Community Affairs Committee's Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians is now available. More at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac ctte/older_austs_living_costs/report/repo
rt.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/older_austs_living_costs/report/report.pdf)

Lessons learnt about strengthening Indigenous families and communities,

March: This report from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs discusses what has been learned from the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2000–2004 about how to strengthen Indigenous families and communities. The report provides insights into critical factors that explain the success of some projects and some of the frustrations experienced by others. More at:

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops19.htm>

FaHCSIA Research News

March: *FaHCSIA Research News* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' Research and Analysis Branch. It provides an overview of, and update on, research within FaHCSIA, with a focus on key findings and outcomes. Each edition contains brief summaries of completed research, project updates, contact details,

forthcoming events and coverage of important research events, plus details of recently released departmental publications. More at:

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/v1A/research_news/\\$file/researchnews30.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/v1A/research_news/$file/researchnews30.pdf)

Australian Council for International Development - Code of Conduct

March: This Code of Conduct sets out standards and requirements to which signatories to the Code are bound and against which complaints and compliance are assessed. More at: <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/acfid-code-of-conduct>

Growing Up in Australia: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children Research Conference

March: The inaugural Growing Up in Australia: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) Research Conference was held in Melbourne on 3-4 December 2007. The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for the discussion of research based on LSAC data and to highlight its research potential. Presentations from the conference are now available. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/conf/conference2007.html>

Subjective wellbeing and families: Issues of measurement and data interpretation

18 March: The subjective wellbeing of the Australian population using the Personal Wellbeing Index has been monitored since April 2001. This presentation by Professor Robert A. Cummins is part of a series of Australian Institute of Family Studies seminars, which are designed to promote a forum for discussion and debate. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/seminarpapers.html#cummins>

Fertility and family policy in Australia

March: This paper by the Australian Institute of Family Studies provides an overview of trends in fertility in Australia and the potential implications of these trends. The various explanations that have been provided for fertility trends and key family policies are also discussed. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/rp41/rp41.html>

Family Law Reform Evaluation

March: The Australian Institute of Family Studies is undertaking an evaluation of the family law reform package, on behalf of the Australian Government. The evaluation will assess how the new family law system is working, and how families are faring under this new system. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/research/projects.html#fle>

Father-inclusive practice and associated professional competencies

March: This Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse briefing paper examines the research relating to fathers' involvement with children. Evidence of effective practice for including fathers is summarised. Also discussed are the factors that influence fathers' involvement with services and the competence of practitioners to engage with fathers when they do come into contact with the services. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing9.html>

Providing Culturally Appropriate and Inclusive Aged Care

March: The Australian Multicultural Foundation, in partnership with UnitingCare Ageing NSW, has developed a manual entitled *Providing Culturally Appropriate and Inclusive Aged Care*. The manual provides increased understanding through information, practical activities and case study analysis. More at:

http://www.amf.net.au/aged_institute_providingManual.shtml

Drug testing in schools evidence, impacts and alternatives

March: The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction was commissioned by the Australian National Council on Drugs, in March 2007, to undertake an independent, comprehensive and critical examination of all relevant issues involved in drug detection and screening in the school setting. More at:

http://www.nced.org.au/publications/pdf/rp16_drug_testing_in_schools.pdf

Expenditure on health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2004–2005

March: This report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provides a comprehensive analysis of expenditures on health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and examines expenditure in 2004-05 on health for Indigenous Australians, comparing this with health expenditure for the rest of the Australian population. The report examines health resource distribution and funding by levels of government, the private sector, by region and by primary and secondary/tertiary health care. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10546>

Wherever I lay my debt, that's my home

18 March: This report by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling examines housing affordability in Australia. It highlights the changes in house pricing in Australia over the last twenty years and examines the impact of mortgage stress on Australians across generational lines. More at:

http://media.corporate-ir.net/media_files/irol/21/219073/home.pdf

Making Housing Affordable Again

3 March: The Australian Government's approach to improving housing affordability for Australians, including an expanded National Rental Affordability Scheme and a \$30 million investment to streamline development approvals and move them on-line, is now available. More at:

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

Good times and Philanthropy: Giving by Australia's affluent

March: The central aims of this report are to assess the robustness of giving by the affluent in Australia and to identify areas of greatest opportunity to lift philanthropy by this group. In particular, it asks the question, 'To what extent are affluent Australians giving to community causes, and how do they compare with other countries?' More at:

http://www.bus.qut.edu.au/research/cpns/documents/GoodTimesandPhilanthropyGivingByAustraliasAffluent_March2008.pdf

Social Justice Report 2007

20 March: This report, produced annually by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Tom Calma, considers the impact of government activity on the exercise and enjoyment of Indigenous people's human rights. The focus of this year's report is family violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. More at: http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport07/index.html

Our Culture: A Strength to Build on

March: The First National Indigenous Family and Community Strengths Conference is being held on 14 to 16 April 2008 in Newcastle. The conference is being convened by:

The Family Action Centre and The University of Newcastle in partnership with the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Incorporated. More at: http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news/view_article.cfm?id=54&loadref=8

Children's Art Competition

March: The Family Court of Australia invites school-aged children to enter into an art competition. The theme of the competition is: 'Reaching out to those who are important to you'. Artwork that highlights a person or people who are important in the child's life, such as family members or other special people, or even themselves, is encouraged. Entries close 11 April. More at: http://www.familycourt.gov.au/presence/connect/www/home/about/media_centre/media_art_competition

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA LATEST NEWS

National Families Week 11-17 May 2008

National Families Week is Australia's main annual celebration of the importance of families. The central aim of National Families Week 2008 is to encourage all Australians to do practical things to more effectively balance work and family responsibilities. The slogan is: "Work and Family - Getting the balance right". The main messages of National Families Week 2008 are: effectively balancing work and family responsibilities makes for stronger families, workplaces and communities, and all Australians, particularly working parents and employers, are urged to find ways to generate ideas and take actions which will improve work-family balance for themselves and others. If you are planning to hold an event for National Families Week it is important that you register it with Families Australia. This will enable us to send out promotional products to assist with celebrating your event. Registration is available online. Please register by **11 April** to ensure you receive promotional products in time to celebrate your event. Further information about National Families Week 2008, including ideas for events, is available on our website: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/nfw08.htm>

Booklet on the Forgotten Australians

Families Australia has produced, on behalf of the Alliance for Forgotten Australians, a free booklet: *Forgotten Australians: Supporting survivors of childhood institutional care in Australia*. The booklet aims to give health and other professionals the background information they need to recognise, relate to and assist people who are experiencing long-term trauma because of a childhood spent in orphanages or homes. The people who identify as Forgotten Australians are survivors of the approximately 500,000 children who found themselves in orphanages or homes in Australia between 1930 and 1970. A 2004 Senate Inquiry report revealed a history of neglect and cruelty, abandonment and exploitation that has left large numbers of Australians and child migrants physically and psychologically scarred as adults. To obtain copies, call Families Australia on 02 6273 4885. For further information on the Forgotten Australians, go to www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

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