



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 the 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

IN THIS ISSUE...

Views & news from Families Australia: child protection and working families

Top stories: homelessness, happiness, depression, relationships, disability

Funding opportunities: women in sport and women's NGOs

VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

Child protection

Families Australia welcomes the Rudd Government's moves to devise the National Child Protection Framework. It is anticipated that the Australian Government Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, will release a consultation paper in May 2008 as a first step, leading to the finalisation of the Framework in late 2008. Families Australia is part of a national coalition of NGOs and academics to help inform the development of the Framework.

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

Families Australia in review

Families Australia's CEO reports on Families Australia's recent achievements, especially efforts to promote national approaches on child protection and family wellbeing and to advance issues of grandparenting, disability, Indigenous Australians, substance abuse and the Forgotten Australians.

More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/pubs/faachievements2008.pdf>

Public comments focus on children and working families

Child protection and the Rudd Government's forthcoming Budget measures for working families were highlighted in Families Australia's media comments in April.

More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/inthenews.htm>

National Families Week, 11-17 May 2008

National Families Week is the nation's main celebration of the importance of families. This year's theme is "Work and Family – getting the balance right". Over 120,000 people from all over Australia are expected to participate in events to celebrate the Week. More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/nfw08.htm>

TOP STORIES...

Rural, regional and remote health: indicators of health status and determinants of health

31 March: This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare focuses on a comprehensive range of health issues concerning people living in rural, regional and remote Australia. It includes information relating to health status, such as rates of chronic disease, injury and mental health and determinants of health such as tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption, nutrition and physical activity. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10519>

SNAICC News

23 April: SNAICC News is the quarterly newsletter of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. Published quarterly, this issue includes a SNAICC update on child protection, a profile on family violence prevention and a special feature on the national apology to the Stolen Generations. More at:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/uploads/nwslt/00181.pdf>

Effective regional, rural and remote family and relationships service delivery

April: This briefing paper from the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse reviews recent demographic, social and economic trends in rural, regional and remote Australia in order to provide the contextual background to service delivery in the region. A number of enablers and limiting factors for effective rural service delivery are outlined, and considerable emphasis is given to workforce issues as a way of addressing service sustainability. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing10.html>

National Peak Overseas Adoption Support Group

31 March: Following a recommendation in the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services' report, *Overseas Adoption in Australia*, the Australian Government has established Australia's first National Peak Overseas Adoption Support Group. More at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/robertmc.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_FirstQuarter_30March2008-NewNationalPeakGrouponIntercountryAdoption

Translated information on depression

April: *Beyondblue* has partnered with Multicultural Mental Health Australia to provide information about depression in a number of languages. This information has been translated by accredited translators with input from mental health professionals and consumers. More at: http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=102

Obesity Inquiry

April: The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing is conducting an inquiry into the increasing prevalence of obesity in the Australian population, with a particular focus on future implications for Australia's health system. Submissions are due by 16 May 2008. More at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/obesity/tor.htm>

Australia's Homeless Youth

8 April: The National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Homelessness was an independent community inquiry funded by the Caledonia Foundation, a private

philanthropic foundation focused on sustainable futures for young Australians. More at: <http://www.nyc.net.au/>

What makes us happy?

April: The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index is Australia's most regular and comprehensive measure on how everyday Australians are feeling about themselves and their lives. This report provides the key findings from seven years of research into the lives and happiness of the Australian population. More at:

<http://australianunity.republicast.com/wbr2008/republicast.asp?page=1&layout=1&control=yes&zoom=100>

Migration Australia 2006–07

April: This publication from the Australian Bureau of Statistics brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. Australia's migration is described in the context of the Government's migration program and in comparison with international migration experienced by other countries. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/3412.0?OpenDocument>

Women Understanding Money

7 April: Women Understanding Money fact sheets are a joint initiative of the Office for Women (in consultation with Security4Women) and the Financial Literacy Foundation. There are 14 topics detailing real life stories that will provide women with essential and practical information on important financial issues, making the fact sheets relevant and easy to understand. Fact sheet topics include managing on a low income, superannuation, understanding financial terms, managing money when a relationship ends and the financial considerations when starting a family. More at:

http://www.ofw.facs.gov.au/publications/understanding_money.htm

Stories on 'growing up' from Indigenous people in the ACT metro/Queanbeyan region

April: This paper presents a summary of the information collected during the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' *Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children* community engagement qualitative trial undertaken in the Australian Capital Territory metropolitan region and the Queanbeyan region. It is based on focus group and in-depth interviews with key informants and community members, including: elders, parents, care givers, young people, prominent Indigenous organisations and government departments funding Indigenous programs. More at:

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops20.htm>

2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: first results

27 April: This report presents summary data collected in Australia's most comprehensive national survey of drug use and related issues. Comparisons with previous surveys are presented, along with population estimates of the numbers of consumers of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs. This report is the 20th in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Drug Statistics Series. Future reports in the series will cover extended analysis of the 2007 results and a comprehensive summary of major drug use statistical collections. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10579>

Key national indicators of children's health, development and wellbeing: indicator framework of 'A picture of Australia's children 2009'

1 April: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare bulletin previews the reporting framework and key national indicators that will be the basis of the report, *A picture of Australia's children 2009*, scheduled for release in 2009. This bulletin also contains the Headline Indicators for Children's Health, Development and Wellbeing. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10561>

Mapping Social Cohesion

April: *Mapping Social Cohesion* is a report on the first round of a major longitudinal survey of social cohesion in Australia, funded by the Scanlon Foundation and directed by Professor Andrew Markus of Monash University. The project has been undertaken as a partnership between the Scanlon Foundation, the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements and the Australian Multicultural Foundation. More at: <http://www.demo.com.au/FinalReport.pdf>

National Disability Awards 2008

April: The National Disability Awards celebrate and acknowledge the achievements and contributions that individuals with disability make to our community and also recognise individuals within our community who have contributed to the disability sector. Nominations for the 2008 awards close on 9 May 2008. More at: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/awards.asp>

Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards

April: The Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards recognise and reward programs designed to reduce crime or violence in the community. They include monetary awards totalling up to \$130,000 and are an opportunity to showcase best practice in the reduction or prevention of violence and other types of crime in the Australian community. Nominations for the 2008 awards close on 26 May 2008. More at: www.aic.gov.au/acvpa

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

April: *The health and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2008*, released by The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the health and welfare of Australia's Indigenous population, presenting the latest information on population demographics, housing circumstances, disability and carers, health status, and the provision, access and use of health and community services. More at: www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10583

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES...

Sport Leadership Grants for Women

2 April: The Sport Leadership Grants for Women Program is a joint initiative of the Australian Government Office for Women and the Australian Sports Commission. It provides grants to a range of sporting organisations and individual women across Australia to assist with sports leadership training and development for women in all aspects of sport, including: coaching, officiating, governance (boards/committees) and management/administration. Applications close on 15 May 2008. More at: http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/all/women/get_involved

Grants for National Women's Non-Government Organisations

12 April: Applications are invited from eligible national women's non-government organisations (NGOs) to undertake projects that contribute to public policy and/or service development or help national women's NGOs become more effective. Applications close on Friday 9 May 2008. More at:

http://www.ofw.facs.gov.au/leadership_development/womens_development_programme/wdp_07-08.html

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