



Families Australia, the national, independent, peak organisation promoting the interests of families, publishes *National Family News* in 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 the government and non-government sectors. Back issues can be viewed at: [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

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Top stories: Identifying the priorities for a national child protection research agenda; Virtual 2020 Summit for Carers; new ABS releases; 2006 Census of Child Care Services; Autism package; Anti-Poverty Week.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

### ***Helping to devise the National Child Protection Framework***

Families Australia has been actively involved in consultations designed to produce a National Child Protection Framework, assisting the Australian Government through our role on the Australian Families and Children Council and as convenor of the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children. Our policy statement, recent media releases and media coverage received during the consultation period are available on our website at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/policy/campaigns.htm#ncpf>

### ***Families Australia Board meeting in Darwin***

Families Australia's Board held its July meeting in Darwin. We met with some Territory officials and with some Families Australia members, and we thank them for their time and the information they provided. The Board also appreciated the opportunity to visit two Aboriginal Town Camps, Knuckey and Palmerston Village. We thank those community leaders and workers who welcomed us, showed us around and talked to us about the difficulties they face in obtaining even basic services. The unsafe and overcrowded conditions, in which people are still living so close to a major city, brought home to us again the need for continued advocacy and service delivery and for acceptance of responsibility by governments at all levels.

### ***Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) receives further funding***

Families Australia will be able to continue to provide support for AFA for another year, thanks to an Australian Government grant. More about Forgotten Australians and the Alliance at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/policy/campaigns.htm#afa>

## TOP STORIES...

### ***Developing a road map for research: Identifying the priorities for a national child protection research agenda***

July: This publication, from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, summarises the findings from the national audits of child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care research; synthesises the research priorities relevant to vulnerable children and families that have been identified at the various national forums held over the past four years; and

presents the findings from a new national survey of policy makers and practitioners regarding their views on the research priorities for child abuse prevention, child protection and out-of-home care. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/issues/issues28/issues28.html>

### ***Housing stress and the mental health and wellbeing of families***

July: This paper from the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse explores the relationship between housing affordability, housing stress and mental health and wellbeing. The relevance of these issues to family and relationship service provision is explored, and ideas for service responses are provided. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing12.html>

### ***Australian Social Trends, 2008***

23 July: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. Articles are organised into eight chapters representing the following broad areas of interest: population; family and community; health; education and training; work; economic resources; and housing, as well as a chapter of articles covering other areas of social concern. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4102.0Main%20Features99992008?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4102.0&issue=2008&num=&view=>

### ***Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2006-07***

July: This Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents results from the 2006-07 Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey and compares them to results from the 2003 and 1997 Family Characteristics Surveys, providing information about changing patterns of family and household composition in contemporary Australia. Information on family transitions such as relationship history, relationship expectations, children born and fertility expectations is also presented. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4442.0?OpenDocument>

### ***Where have all the children gone?: Trends in the childlessness of professional women in Australia***

June: This paper examines childlessness in both working women (using occupational categories) and all women (using educational attainment) aged between 20 and 44. The paper focuses on women working in, or qualified for, some selected high prestige professions - doctors, lawyers, dentists and vets - as well as on women with other tertiary qualifications and working in other professional or managerial occupations. The findings suggest that, between 1986 and 2006, childlessness has grown at a slower rate for women with tertiary education than for all women, although these women continue to have the highest rates of childlessness. More [here](#).

### ***Timing of mothers' return to work after childbearing: Variations by job***

July: This paper from the Australian Institute of Family Studies explores the timing of mothers' return to work, using data from the 2005 Parental Leave in Australia Survey, which was nested in the Wave 1.5 collection of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/rp42/rp42.html>

### ***The role and nature of universal health services for pregnant women, children and families in Australia: Literature review***

July: This literature review prepared on behalf of the Collaboration for Research into Universal Health Services for Mothers and Children explores and critiques the evidence related to the role and effectiveness of children and families and aims to determine how well these services respond to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families. More at:

[http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/2-07-04-2\\_SF2\\_Seed\\_Funding\\_Lit\\_Review\\_Final\\_Schmied.pdf](http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/2-07-04-2_SF2_Seed_Funding_Lit_Review_Final_Schmied.pdf)

### ***The effects of non-standard employment on work-family balance***

July: Using data from the first wave of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia project, this article from the University of Queensland Social Research Centre explores whether non-standard employment is associated with greater or reduced work-family conflict among employed parents and whether experiences vary by gender. The article focuses on three types of non-standard employment: part-time hours, casual and fixed-term contracts and non-standard scheduling practices. More at:

<http://www.uqsrc.uq.edu.au/publications/HoskingWestern2008.pdf>

### ***Parenting and families in Australia***

July: This Social Policy Research Paper 34 from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs explores a number of topic areas in relation to infants and children in Australian families, including: parenting styles and family functioning; factors influencing parents' feelings and perceptions about the way they parent their children; the roles and contributions of parents who do not live with their children; feelings of stress and sources of social support for parents; and the relationship of parenting practices to child outcomes. The researchers used Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children dataset. More at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/research/prp34/>

### ***Family Matters No. 79 2008***

July: This edition of Family Matters focuses on the valuable work of Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), which is managed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and was initiated by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. LSAC is now into Wave 2, and the articles in this edition illustrate the range of topics that can be investigated with longitudinal data on child development. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2008/fm79.html>

### ***2006 Australian Government Census of Child Care Services***

July: The Australian Government Census of Child Care Services has been conducted regularly since 1986. The information provided in the Census is the most comprehensive data available on Australian Government approved and funded child care. It is used extensively for monitoring growth and operation of services and assisting in policy formulation and planning. The most recent Census was conducted in May 2006. More at:

[http://www.oceccc.gov.au/child\\_care/2006\\_Australian\\_Government\\_Census\\_Child\\_Care\\_Services.htm](http://www.oceccc.gov.au/child_care/2006_Australian_Government_Census_Child_Care_Services.htm)

### ***Child social exclusion: an updated index from the 2006 Census***

July: This report from NATSEM goes beyond the research about child poverty and disadvantage that provides national estimates of child wellbeing and explores the increasing body of evidence that suggests there can be major differences in wellbeing between children living in different geographic areas. More [here](#)

### ***Delivering improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and maternal health***

July: This report from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research evaluates the results from the five-year Rio Tinto Child Health Partnership and states that the partnership has allowed strong relationships to be forged between researchers, Aboriginal communities, health services, government agencies and departments and corporate Australia. More at: [http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/files/user6/RTCHP\\_Final\\_Report\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/files/user6/RTCHP_Final_Report_Web.pdf)

### ***Marriage breakdown in Australia: social correlates, gender and initiator status***

July: This Social Policy Research Paper 35 from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs aims to obtain a better understanding of marriage breakdown in the Australian context, with a particular focus on gender differences in the social correlates of marriage breakdown. The report analyses retrospective data from all persons who were currently or had been previously married at Wave

1 of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey (2001). More at: <http://www.facsia.gov.au/research/prp35/>

### ***Analysis of the 2005 Personal Safety Survey***

July: This report provides a detailed analysis of data about violence in the community and in families, drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey of 2005 and the Women's Safety Survey from 2006. More at:

[http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/downloads/pdfs/5077905\\_1.pdf](http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/downloads/pdfs/5077905_1.pdf)

### ***Young people and alcohol: the role of cultural influences***

July: This National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction report consists of a comprehensive literature review addressing a wide range of social and cultural factors that potentially impact on young Australians aged 14-24 in relation to their use and non-use of alcohol. More at:

[http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/documents/Young\\_People\\_and\\_Alcohol\\_report.pdf](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/documents/Young_People_and_Alcohol_report.pdf)

### ***Helping Children with Autism***

1 July: The Australian Government has committed \$190 million for the four years to June 2012 to deliver the *Helping Children with Autism* package. The package will help address the considerable need for support and services for children with autism spectrum disorders. More at: [http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/services-help\\_child\\_autism.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/services-help_child_autism.htm)

### ***Living Is For Everyone: Research and Evidence in Suicide Prevention***

July: This report sets the context for suicide prevention activity, summarising current research, evidence and statistics relating to suicide and suicide prevention in Australia. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-l-liferes>

### ***Empowering refugees: a good practice guide to humanitarian settlement***

July: This guide from the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship presents government and non-government initiatives in health, education, employment, law and community harmony, as well as those focusing on youth, family and women. More at:

[http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/settle/empowering\\_refugees/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/settle/empowering_refugees/index.htm)

### ***Adult Migrant English Program Review Discussion Paper***

July: A review of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) commenced in February 2008. The Review aims to address a number of issues associated with the delivery and administration of the Program. A Discussion Paper, which focuses on key issues raised in focus groups, has been prepared for the Review's consultation process. Written submissions, in response to the Discussion Paper, are being sought. More at:

[http://www.diac.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/amep\\_discussion\\_paper.pdf](http://www.diac.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/amep_discussion_paper.pdf)

### ***Anti-Poverty Week 12–18 October 2008***

July: Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, including in Australia. Its main aims are to: strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship; and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Last year, over 300 organisations and more than 10,000 people were involved around the country. More at: [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au)

### ***What's the big idea?***

July: Carers Australia is holding a virtual 2020 Summit in August to look for ideas for Australia's carers. Carers Australia is asking groups interested in carers to present their ideas and are also inviting carers to comment or suggest ideas of their own. More at: [www.carers2020.com.au](http://www.carers2020.com.au).

### ***Bring it! Young Carer Forum 2008***

July: Carers Australia's *Bring it! Young Carer Forum 2008* will be held over two days in Canberra in November. The forum will be showcasing the latest research and will also feature

workshops with service providers, policy makers and young carers to develop future young carer policy. More at: [www.bringit2008.com.au](http://www.bringit2008.com.au)

### **National Carers Week 19-25 October 2008**

July: The theme for National Carers Week 2008 is ...*because I care*. The theme explores the idea that anyone, anytime could be a carer and what this means. It also looks at how caring affect people: the carers, their families, their communities. More at: [www.carersweek.com.au](http://www.carersweek.com.au)

### **Australian Social Policy**

22 July: This annual journal from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs publishes current research and analysis on a broad range of issues topical to Australia's social policy and its administration. Regular features include major articles, social policy notes and book reviews. More at: <http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/asp-nav.htm>

### **National community services data dictionary version 5**

21 July: The National community services data dictionary is a national resource which community services authorities use to ensure the consistency and comparability of all data collected under the scope of the National Community Services Information Agreement. The data dictionary contains definitions and value domains that are endorsed as national standards for use by those collecting community services data in Australia. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10609>

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