



Families Australia, a 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

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VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

Families Australia Inaugural Oration to be delivered by Governor-General

Families Australia is pleased to announce that the inaugural Families Australia Oration will be delivered by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, at the Australian National University on 16 October 2008. The Oration is being held in conjunction with a symposium being organised by Families Australia and the Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia entitled 'Meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families - dreaming the extraordinary, doing the extraordinary', on 16-17 October 2008. More information can be obtained by contacting Families Australia on 02 6273 4885.

National Child Protection Framework: update

An extensive consultation process has been undertaken in the past few months to inform the development of the National Child Protection Framework. Around 200 public submissions have been received by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and a number of face-to-face consultations have been held with carers, young people, researchers and representatives of community sector organisations. Families Australia, as part of the 62 member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, continues to work closely with the Australian Government to try to ensure that the Framework is well balanced, practical and effective. The Council of Australian Governments has decided that it will announce the Framework in December 2008. More information is available by contacting Families Australia on 02 6273 4885.

Forgotten Australians: 4th anniversary of Senate report

30 August 2008 marked four years since the Senate released its report, *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children*. Four years on, the national coalition, the Alliance for Forgotten Australians, says the responses from governments are still uneven and inadequate. The Alliance, the peak body representing people who were raised in orphanages, Homes or other

forms of out-of-home care in the 20th century, called for an immediate, positive and comprehensive response to all 39 Senate Inquiry recommendations. Families Australia is providing secretariat support for the Alliance. More at:

www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

TOP STORIES...

Australia's Future Tax System

The Australian Government is reviewing Australia's tax system. The review will look at the current tax system and make recommendations to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The Australia's Future Tax System Review Panel invites submissions from the public as part of the broad strategy for consulting with the Australian community. The call for submissions follows the recent release of Treasury's Architecture of Australia's tax and transfer system paper and the Pension Review background paper. The Review Panel wants to ensure views and ideas from a wide cross-section of the community are considered and urges interested Australians to take advantage of the opportunity to participate. The closing date for submissions is Friday 17 October 2008. More at:

http://www.taxreview.treasury.gov.au/Content/Content.aspx?doc=html/media_releases/01.htm

The Pension Review

11 August 2008: A comprehensive review of the pension system is being conducted as part of the Australian Government's broader review of Australia's Future Tax System. The Review will investigate measures to strengthen the financial security of seniors, carers and people with disability, by considering the appropriate levels of income support and allowances, the frequency of payments, and the structure and payment of concessions or other entitlements. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/pension_review_5aug08.htm

Changes to the Child Support Scheme

7 August: The Child Support Scheme and parts of family assistance have changed to better balance the interests of parents and be more focused on the needs and costs of children. From 1 July 2008 all child support payments have been reassessed against a new child support formula. More at:

<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/childsupport.htm>

Disability Employment Assistance

8 August: The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, announced \$2.6 million to fund 278 new supported employment places for people with a disability. The new services will be in locations where demand for places is high and the new places would provide job opportunities for people with disability across Australia in a variety of businesses, ranging from hospitality to food manufacturing to property maintenance. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/services-disab_employ_assist.htm

Not-for-profit Organisations, Australia, 2006-07

5 August: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication presents results for the 2006-07 reference year from a survey of not-for-profit organisations. This is the first time that the ABS has conducted a survey of not-for-profit organisations. Data includes

number of organisations, employment, volunteers, income, expenses, operating surplus before tax and industry value added, with breakdowns by type of not-for-profit organisation. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/8106.0Explanatory%20Notes12006-07?OpenDocument>

People with a Need for Assistance - A Snapshot, 2006

5 August: The 2006 Census was the first Census to include questions on a person's need for assistance in one of the three core activities of communication, self-care and body movement. This snapshot examines the age, sex, Indigenous status, state/territory, remoteness index, living arrangements, proficiency in English, labour force participation and occupation of people with a need for assistance. It also contains a brief assessment of the comparability of the data with the core-activity limitation data from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and incorporates links to related information. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4445.0Main%20Features12006?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4445.0&issue=2006&num=&view=>

Who receives priority housing and how long do they stay?

13 August: This publication from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare looks at priority allocations to public housing from 2004-05 to 2006-07. It makes comparisons between priority allocations, other allocations and the general population. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10595>

Disability in Australia: trends in prevalence, education, employment and community living

28 August: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare bulletin provides an overview of disability trends over two decades, including trends in need for and receipt of assistance with specific basic activities of daily life. It also examines trends in three major areas of people with a disability: education, employment and community living. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10495>

Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2006-07 Australia

31 July: This is the 12th annual report of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection. It provides an overview of assistance given to clients and their children by the Program in 2006-07. SAAP provides transitional supported accommodation and related support services to help homeless people, including women and children escaping domestic violence, achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10523>

Juvenile justice in Australia 2006-07

27 August: Juvenile justice in Australia 2006-07 is the fourth report on young people in juvenile justice supervision in Australia. It includes information on the characteristics of young people in community-based supervision and detention in 2006-07 and the type and length of supervision they experience, as well as patterns of supervision over time and analyses of trends. The report provides data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set, which is based on the experience of the young person within supervision rather than on legal orders and contains data from 2000-01. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10645>

National Child Protection Week

7–13 September: The theme for National Child Protection Week 2008 is *Children See Children Do Make your influence positive*. NAPCAN believes that a critical factor in breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect is positive behavioural change at the individual level with all Australians accepting their personal responsibility to be positive role models for children. More at: <http://www.napcan.org.au/NCPW/index.htm>

People trafficking: an update on Australia's response

22 August: This Research Paper from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library provides an overview of the people trafficking problem in Australia, Australia's responses to date and the likely effectiveness of those measures. It also provides access to a range of key documents and relevant electronic resources on the issues. More at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/2008-09/09rp05.pdf>

Preventing Youth Disengagement and Promoting Engagement

August: The purpose of this review is to help clarify the problem of youth disengagement and look to solutions across policy and practice. Commissioned by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth it aims to determine the nature, magnitude, issues and trends associated with youth disengagement. The paper includes a comprehensive literature review, an analysis of individual and social pathways to youth disengagement, and an analysis of 'what works best' across five case studies: substance abuse, community violence, school disengagement, civic participation and youth mental health reform. More at:

<http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/ARACYPaper-PreventingYouthDisengagementandPromotingEngagement-BurnsJetalAugust2008.PDF>

Families Through Life – Australian Institute of Family Studies conference papers

August: Conference papers/presentations from the Australian Institute of Family Studies' 10th Conference, *Families Through Life*, are now available. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afrc10/index.html>

Family Relationships Quarterly

August: This edition of Family Relationships Quarterly, the newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC) includes: a summary of the results of the AFRC survey and stakeholder consultations; reports on research conducted by the Barwon Regional Parenting Service to examine client dropouts, and how the results were applied to service delivery; an article outlining some of the challenges associated with delivering marriage and relationship education; and a detailed conference report about the combined 1st National Indigenous Family and Community Strengths Conference and 5th Australian Family and Community Strengths Conference. A seminar report is also provided which highlights the most recent Family Alcohol and Drug Network seminar, addressing support for families facing dual diagnosis issues. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/newsletter/newsletter9.html>

Celebration of Refugee Lives: Stories of Strength and Resilience

August: The Centre for Refugee Research has produced a community education toolkit designed to dispel myths about resettling refugee communities and highlight the

inspiring contributions and successes of refugees within Australia. The toolkit will be launched in Sydney on 15 September. More at: mailto:kate_kimber@hotmail.com

Social Inclusion Agenda

4 August: The Australian Government's Social Inclusion Agenda is a whole-of-government approach to addressing disadvantage and reducing social exclusion so that all Australians have an opportunity to play a full role in all aspects of Australian life. The agenda recognises the critical role the not-for-profit sector plays in delivering services, advising and developing social policy, and advocating on behalf of marginalised groups. A strong relationship between the Government and the sector will be crucial to the success of the agenda and related reforms. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is now calling for comment on the development of a national compact between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/Internet/facsinternet.nsf/News/4_aug_australian_compact.htm

National Compact

August: The Australian Government has asked the Australian Council of Social Service to consult not-for-profit organisations, and the people who use them, about a compact and prepare a report for the Government and the Sector. This is the first stage of the development of a National Compact. The Sector and the Government will use the results of this consultation to decide how best to move ahead on the development of a compact, including consulting on a draft National Compact. More at:

<http://acoss.org.au/Events.aspx?displayID=99&articleID=4696>

Agreeing to Disagree: Maintaining dissent in the NGO sector

August: The Australian Government has made a commitment to introducing a national compact with the community sector and is currently consulting with NGOs regarding the development of such an agreement by 2009. This report from The Australia Institute considers whether a formal agreement is the right way for the government and the community sector to go about building an ongoing positive and constructive relationship. More at: <https://www.tai.org.au/>

Community Treasurers' Awards

August: The Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan has launched the Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards to recognise the efforts of the thousands of community treasurers across the country who volunteer their time to keep community groups financially healthy. The awards will provide prizes of \$5000 in the categories of small, medium and large organisations. Importantly, the awards provide the opportunity for groups to say publicly that they recognise and appreciate the work the treasurers do for them. Nominations close 10 September. More at:

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial/financial_article.jsp?articleId=3568

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