



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

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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.

TOP STORIES...

National Child Protection Framework: update

At its meeting in Perth on 2 October 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed recommendations from the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference on improving information sharing on children and families at risk, including the development of new Commonwealth-State measures to help locate children at serious risk of abuse or neglect when their whereabouts are unknown. COAG agreed to develop a new protocol for information sharing between Centrelink and child protection agencies and to include Centrelink in the national "Child Protection Alerts System" by the end of 2008. COAG also noted the work underway on the National Child Protection Framework would be considered at its 17 November 2008 meeting.

Health expenditure Australia 2006-07

September: This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare examines expenditure on health goods and services in Australia for 1996-97 to 2006-07 and presents expenditure estimates. This report will be helpful to anyone interested in

studying, analysing and comparing estimates of health expenditure in Australia. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10659>

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services Policy

August: The SNAICC Service Development, Cultural Respect and Service Access Policy can be downloaded at: <http://www.snaicc.asn.au/uploads/rsfil/00208.pdf>

Who am I? Every Record Tells a Story

This project, led by the University of Melbourne, will see academic social workers, historians and archivists work with the community sector and Department of Human Services over the next three years to develop a digital archive consolidating the records of Victorian children's homes. The histories will be consolidated on to an electronic database which can be readily accessed by the homes' former residents and provide a model for how care organisations should keep their records in the future. More at: <http://www.cwav.asn.au/news/RecentEvents.html>

'It's Not Too Late To Care.'

Experiences of children who grew up in Victorian institutions have been documented in a new welfare report. The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare has released "It's Not Too Late To Care", a report looking at the lives of 77 Victorians raised in institutions until 1980. The report identifies mental health and accommodation problems in an effort to help agencies better look after these individuals as they get older. More at: <http://www.cwav.asn.au/news/RecentEvents.html>

Forgotten Australians

Two ABC programs recently addressed issues relating to childhood institutional care survivors and their call for an apology and redress. More at: <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2350695.htm> (PM) and: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2008/2373071.htm> (Life Matters).

Making progress: the health, development and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people

September: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report includes information on important issues such as mental health, disability, risk factors for chronic disease, mortality, education, homelessness, crime, jobless families and family economic situation. Particular attention is given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth, and to how Australia compares internationally. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10653>

Indigenous homelessness: place, house and home (positioning paper)

The aim of this research by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute is to understand the place, house and home needs of Indigenous peoples and how to address these needs through housing and other service responses that secure sustainable solutions and support stable life conditions. More at: http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=80368_pp

Health status determinants: lifestyle, environment, health care resources and efficiency

This OECD Economics Department paper aims to shed light on the contribution of health care and other determinants to the health status of the population and to provide evidence on whether or not health care resources are producing similar value for money across OECD countries. More at: <http://titania.sourceoecd.org/vl=2360878/cl=41/nw=1/rpsv/cgi-bin/wppdf?file=5kzg5s11ktwf.pdf>

Children see. Children do. Make your influence positive.

This Fact Sheet was prepared by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, in association with NAPCAN, to coincide with National Child Protection Week, 7-13 September 2008. It presents an overview of child protection in Australia, including how child abuse and neglect is defined, its prevalence, the costs of child maltreatment, and prevention and early intervention strategies. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/sheets/fs1/fs1.html>

Social inclusion and older people

September: This Brotherhood of St Laurence paper from the Social Inclusion Down Under symposium addresses the issues of social inclusion and older people. More at: http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/Naughtin_symposium_paper_26Jun08.pdf

Indigenous social exclusion: Insights and challenges for the concept of social inclusion

September: This Brotherhood of St Laurence paper from the Social Inclusion Down Under symposium addresses the social exclusion of Indigenous people. It argues that Indigenous disadvantage is multidimensional, differing from other forms of poverty in Australia in the incidence and depth of disadvantage experienced. More at: http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/Hunter_symposium_paper_26Jun08.pdf

Rural, regional and remote health: indicators of health system performance

This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report focuses on a comprehensive range of health issues concerning people living in regional and remote Australia. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10521>

Grandparents helping make children smarter

New research has confirmed what many Australian families already know – grandparents are unsung heroes in the community and they also have an influential role in the development of their grandchildren. Research commissioned by the Australian Government - *Growing up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children* - measures children's physical, learning and cognitive development plus social and emotional functioning. Its findings show that children aged between three and 19 months who are cared for by family and friends as well as their parents, have higher learning scores than those who just receive care from primary guardians. Much of this care is provided by grandmothers and grandfathers. More at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/prps-prps_36.htm

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