



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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Funding opportunities: mental health conference funding; funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander playgroups

VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

Governor-General delivers Inaugural Families Australia Oration

16 October 2008: The Inaugural Families Australia Oration was held in the Great Hall at University House in Canberra. This was the first in a series of annual Orations by prominent Australians to highlight important family issues and future directions. The inaugural Oration was delivered by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. In her speech, the Governor-General highlighted the needs of vulnerable families and children, saying that:

“Our economy has prospered while our most vulnerable children and families, in particular, our Indigenous, have failed to thrive.

The pressures – of raising children and grandchildren, caring for kin, coping with inadequate income, limited language skills, mental illness, disability, the unceasing demands of modern life – are for some, too great to humanly bear.

Their solutions will span generations to come, as their origins were fostered through generations past.”

For further information, including the text of the speech, see:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/oration/index.htm>

Symposium on Cross-Sectoral Collaboration in Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children and Families

16-17 October 2008: Families Australia and the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia held a Symposium in Canberra entitled: *Meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families: dreaming the extraordinary, doing the extraordinary*. More than 70 leaders from government and non-government sectors discussed effective ways of building bridges between different service sectors to meet the needs of vulnerable children, families and communities. More at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/conference/ncpc.htm>

TOP STORIES...

Mother and Infant Attachment Theory and Domestic Violence: Crossing the Divide

September 2008: This paper from the Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse explores how abuse by a father or father figure at the time of birth and during infancy can impact on early mother and infant attachment patterns, and considers the implications for practitioners working with women and infants. It also addresses some ways in which practitioners can assist women to build and repair their infants' secure attachment patterns, despite the effects of domestic violence. More at:

http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Stakeholder%20Paper_5.pdf

Cross-cultural training and workplace performance

October 2008: This study investigates the contribution made by cross-cultural training to the workplace performance of vocational education and training (VET) graduates and examines current practice in its delivery of VET. The study also sought the views of employers on cultural competence and the role of cross-cultural training. More at:

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2027.html>

ARACY Report Card on the Wellbeing of Young Australians

21 October 2008: The ARACY Report Card presents a summary of the wellbeing of Australia's young people. It provides an international perspective and sets a baseline for future monitoring. The Report Card has eight domains on the health and wellbeing of young Australians. They are: material wellbeing; health and safety; education, training and employment; peer and family relationships; behaviours and risks; subjective wellbeing; participation; and environment. More at:

http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=ARACY_Report_Card

A Profile of Carers in Australia

14 October 2008: This report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides an overview of the characteristics and activities of people who provide informal assistance to someone with a disability or long-term health condition or to an older person (aged 60 years and over). Information was drawn from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and from three ABS surveys: the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; the 2006 General Social Survey; and the 2006 Time Use Survey. More at:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4D0A63D991E01ED3CA2574E1000DF871/\\$File/final%20pdf%204448.0.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4D0A63D991E01ED3CA2574E1000DF871/$File/final%20pdf%204448.0.pdf)

Don't wait: Carers say listen and act now

24 October 2008: The Carers Virtual 2020 was an online summit held by Carers Australia that encouraged online participants to come up with ideas for the future of carers. The summit examined a wide range of areas, including: financial security; health and wellbeing; carers in the workforce; recognition and respect; and models of care. The report of the summit is now available. More at:

http://www.carers2020.com.au/documents/2020_SummaryReport_LowRes_001.pdf

National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results, 2007

23 October 2008: This publication presents a summary of results from the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from August to December 2007. The survey provides information on the prevalence of selected lifetime and 12-month mental disorders by three major disorder groups: Anxiety disorders (eg Social Phobia), Affective disorders (eg Depression) and Substance Use disorders (eg Alcohol Harmful Use). It also provides information on the level of impairment, the health services used for mental health problems, physical conditions, social networks and care-giving, as well as demographic and socio-economic characteristics. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4326.0?OpenDocument>

AIHW Annual report 2007-08

20 October 2008: The Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) Annual Report for 2007-08 gives a corporate overview and outlines the AIHW's mission and values, staffing profile and highlights of the year. It reports on progress in national information and policy coordination, as well as on health information and welfare-related information. It also reviews the activities of the AIHW in economic and business services, legislation and publications, and shows its financial performance for the year. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10672>

The Value of Volunteering

September 2008: The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth has issued a discussion paper on volunteering in the community and welfare sector. The discussion paper addresses changing rates and patterns of volunteering and the challenges faced by organisations that are finding it difficult to attract and retain volunteers. More at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fchy/vol_report/report.pdf

Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2006-07

10 October 2008: This report provides information about the level of unmet demand for SAAP accommodation, including how the estimates are calculated. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10655>

Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century

October 2008: The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has issued a discussion paper and is inviting submissions on issues of Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century in Australia. The closing date for submissions is 31 January 2009. More at: http://www.hreoc.gov.au/frb/frb_2008.html

Towards Recovery: Mental Health Services in Australia

25 September 2008: The report of the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Australia is now available. More at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/mental_health/report/index.htm

FaHCSIA Annual Report 2007–2008

14 October 2008: The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has released its Annual Report for 2007-2008. More at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/annualreport/2008/default.htm>

Paid Parental Leave: Support for Parents with Newborn Children

29 September 2008: The Productivity Commission has released a draft inquiry report examining the economic and social costs and benefits of paid parental leave. The Commission is inviting examination of the draft report and written submissions. The closing date for submissions is 14 November. More at:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/parentalsupport/draft>

Independent Social Security Handbook

October 2008: The 6th edition of the Independent Social Security Handbook is written and published by the Welfare Rights Centre. This edition incorporates all the major changes to Social Security and Family Assistance law and policy since the publication of the 5th edition in 2004. More at:

<http://www.welfarerights.org.au/pages/ISSH%20insert.pdf>

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2006-07: report on the National Minimum Data Set

17 October 2008: This AIHW report presents national, state and territory data on publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services and their clients, including information about the types of drugs for which treatment is sought and the types of treatment provided. This is the seventh report in the series of annual publications on the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10590>

Grow a mo' in November

October 2008: During the month of November men are encouraged to grow a moustache to raise funds for men's health. The Movember Foundation has partnered with *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia for this event. Funds raised during the month will help *beyondblue* increase awareness of depression in men and encourage men to talk about depression and seek treatment. More at: http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=59.1076

White Ribbon Day

25 November 2008: The White Ribbon Foundation of Australia aims to eliminate violence against women by promoting culture change around the issue. The major strategies to achieve this are: a national media campaign; and education and male leadership programs aimed at men and boys around Australia. All funds received by the White Ribbon Foundation will support the implementation of these strategies. More at:

<http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/Welcome-29.aspx>

Creative Tension

13 October 2008: Anglicare Australia has released its 7th annual State of the Family Report, *Creative Tension*. The title of the report refers to the natural tension between economic and social policy, especially in difficult economic times. More at:

<http://www.anglicare.asn.au/documents/StateoftheFamily2008.pdf>

Social Inclusion - Origins, concepts and key themes

October 2008: The purpose of this paper prepared by the Australian Institute of Family Studies for the Social Inclusion Unit, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, is to provide an overview of the origins of the concepts of social inclusion and exclusion and of key themes and emerging debates about social inclusion in Australia and selected overseas countries.

More at: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/AD43AF87-AEE5-4D04-8A93-645843C804F7/24461/AIFSsocialinclusionreportOct2009.pdf>

Family Relationships Quarterly 10

14 October 2008: The latest issue of Family Relationships Quarterly is now available. Articles include: using routine data collection at Family Relationship Centres to examine the ways in which mothers and fathers utilise services; the interplay between the wellbeing of a sole parent and that of their child(ren); program spotlight on the *Well Ways* and *Well Ways Duo* programs provided by the Mental Illness Fellowship; and trends and statistics on relationship and parenting skills, using data from the General Population of Parents Survey. More at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/newsletter/newsletter10.html>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES...

Mental Health Conference Funding Program

October 2008: The Mental Health Council of Australia has limited funding to support conferences that have a theme on mental health or suicide prevention. Applications for the next round of funding close on 5 November. More at: <http://www.mhca.org.au/>

Open Competitive Selection Process for Early Intervention Services, Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Services and a Regional Family Dispute Resolution Service.

13 October 2008: The Australian Government, represented by the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), invites applications from organisations seeking to assist families in regional Australia. FaHCSIA is seeking applications from community organisations to deliver Early Intervention Services in Geelong. AGD is seeking applications from community organisations to establish and deliver Post Separation Cooperative Parenting services in 14 locations across regional Australia. AGD is also seeking applications from community organisations to establish and deliver a Regional Family Dispute Resolution service in Broken Hill, NSW. Applications close 8 December 2008. More at:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/frsp-eis_open_competitive_select_process.htm

Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Financial Management Resource Support Units

25 October 2008: The Australian Government is inviting funding applications from suitably qualified organisations to provide Commonwealth Financial Counselling and/or Financial Management Resource Support Units. Up to twenty Commonwealth Financial Counselling services will be funded in high need areas, improving access to free

financial counselling for people experiencing personal financial difficulties. Applications close 25 November 2008. More at:
http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/communities/financial_management_program.htm

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