



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...

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

As the facilitator of the 64-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, Families Australia has continued to play a leading advocacy role in the development of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. In the past month, we have engaged in discussions with Commonwealth and State/Territory officials aimed at refining the draft Framework. It is planned that the Council of Australian Governments will announce the final Framework in March 2009.

TOP STORIES...

Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW

24 November: The Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW was provided to the Governor on 24 November 2008 and was released by the Government on the same day. Hard copies will be available in about two weeks. The report is available to download at:

http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/Special_Projects/ll_splprojects.nsf/pages/cpsi_index

An update on household finances

30 October: The extraordinary developments in global financial markets over the past couple of months have, understandably, undermined households' confidence in their finances. This paper from the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia focuses on three key areas: household income; household balance sheets; and the housing market. More at:

http://www.rba.gov.au/Speeches/2008/sp_dg_301008.html

National Disability Awards finalists

11 November: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten MP, have announced the 15 finalists for the 2008 National Disability Awards. Details at: http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nat_dis_award_11nov08.htm

Face the facts: some questions and answers about indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees and asylum seekers 2008

November: Face the Facts has become a permanent feature of the Australian Human Rights Commission's contribution to informed factual public debate about race, Indigenous peoples and cultural diversity in Australia. This edition of Face the Facts draws on primary research information from a variety of sources to meet the continued demand for accurate and easy to understand information about Indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and to provide a reliable snapshot of some aspects of the social realities of Australia. More at: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/face_facts/

Projection of health care expenditure by disease 2003 to 2033

1 December: This AIHW report examines projections of Australian health care expenditure by disease for the period 2003 to 2033. Total expenditure on health is projected to increase from 9.4% of GDP in 2002-03 to 10.8% of GDP in 2032-33. This is an increase of 15% in the health to GDP ratio (or an annual growth of 0.5% greater than growth in GDP). This is an internet-only publication, available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10692>

"Just another manic Monday" The challenge of working with clients with alcohol and other drug issues in community service organisations

November: This research report from Anglicare Tasmania explores the experiences of workers in community service organisations working with clients with problematic drug use. More at: http://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=424&Itemid=81

Future governance options for federal family law courts in Australia: striking the right balance

November: This report, produced for the Attorney General's Department, proposes a single administrative and corporate service structure for the total federal family law system designed to meet the requirements of litigants and their families. More at: http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=240178

'Money, Dignity and Inclusion: The role of financial capability'

11 November: Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator the Hon. Ursula Stephens, launched this report produced for Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services. The report and the research are aimed at redressing financial disadvantage. The research addresses a concern that the emerging financial literacy strategies, especially those promoted by government, do not speak to the reality of women living on low incomes, and that resources for financial literacy have largely ignored the needs of women living on low incomes. More at: <http://www.goodshepvic.org.au/secure/downloadfile.asp?fileid=1003058>

Lives of diversity: Indigenous Australia

November: The Indigenous population is significantly younger and growing at a faster rate than the general population; cultural differences are apparent and there are discernible disconnections across the spatial dimensions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous lives. But this aggregate perspective does not tell the full diversity story, according to this paper from the

Academy of the Social Sciences in cooperation with the ABS. More at:
<http://www.assa.edu.au/Publications/OP/op42008.pdf>

Hospital separations due to injury and poisoning, Australia 2004-05

28 November: This report from AIHW presents national statistics on injuries that resulted in admission to hospitals in Australia. It includes cases discharged during the year to 30 June 2005. Unintentional falls, transport-related injury, intentional self-harm and assault are common causes of hospitalised injury in the Australian community. Injuries due to these and other causes are described, in terms of case numbers and rates, by age and sex, place of usual residence, length of stay in hospital and other characteristics. Injuries sustained while working for income or while engaged in sporting activities are also described. More at:
<http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2008/injcat117.php>

Freedom of religion and belief in the 21st Century: discussion paper

November: This discussion paper from the Australian Human Rights Commission provides the background and context to the Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century project which is currently calling for submissions. More at: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/frb/frb_2008.html

Physical activity and health in mid-age and older women

November: This report by the University of Queensland for the Office of Women in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs finds that, between 2001 and 2004, the percentage of mid-age women doing 30 minutes of physical activity on most days rose from 45 to 54 per cent. This was primarily attributed to walking. The benefits of physical activity can include the prevention of cardiovascular disease, some cancers, diabetes, mental health and musculoskeletal problems. More at:
http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/publications/physical_activity/default.htm

Written in the Land: the Life of Queenie McKenzie

24 November: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, launched Jennifer Joi Field's book about Queenie McKenzie, painter, traditional Law woman and custodian of the Barramundi Dreaming site in the Kimberley. More at:
http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/launch_written_224nov08.htm

Disability in Australia: intellectual disability

2 November: This bulletin from AIHW presents an overview of prevalence of intellectual disability and its related impairments, health conditions and activity limitations. The analyses focus on outcomes of participation in major life areas in children and young adults with intellectual disability as well as people ageing with intellectual disability. More at:
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/bulletin67/bulletin67.pdf>

Movement from hospital to residential aged care

26 November: The movement of people between acute hospital care and residential aged care has long been recognised as an important issue, but existing national data sets provide only limited information on such movement. This report from AIHW presents the first comprehensive statistical results into issues affecting movement from hospital into residential aged care, using linked hospital care and residential aged care data for 2001-02. In particular, factors affecting admission into residential care on discharge from hospital are examined. More at:
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10616>

EOWA awards applaud female friendly business

19 November: Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, congratulated the 2008 Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency Business Achievement Awards winners for their work in improving professional outcomes for women. The EOWA Business Achievement Awards recognise the efforts of businesses who have actively promoted equal opportunity in their organisations. More at:

http://www.eowa.gov.au/Business_Achievement_Awards/2008_Awards/2008_Awards.asp

Indigenous participation in regional labour markets, 2001-06

November: This paper from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research examines the extent to which Indigenous Australians have shared in the large expansion of the Australian workforce that is revealed by a comparison of 2001 and 2006 census results. More at:

http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/Publications/DP/2008_DP288.pdf

Housing: mirror and mould for Australian society

November: This paper from the Academy of the Social Sciences, produced in cooperation with the ABS, presents a snapshot of the evolution of Australian housing and highlights the changes in the way Australians buy and use housing. In particular, it looks the ways in which housing reflects broader societal change while at the same time moulding the future of our nation.

<http://www.assa.edu.au/Publications/OP/op52008.pdf>

Redesigning AHURI's Australian housing market microsimulation model

November: This Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute project redesigned AHURI's housing market microsimulation model that provides policy analysts with a capacity to anticipate the quantitative impacts of economic and policy changes on the drivers of housing supply and demand and housing tenure outcomes. More at:

http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=30396_rp

Community housing tenants: results from the 2007 National Social Housing Survey

19 November: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) bulletin looks at those community housing tenants that responded to the 2007 National Social Housing Survey and analyses the diversity of community housing tenants and households, their workforce participation and main sources of income as well as tenant pathways and their future expectations. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10652>

Eye health among Australian children

7 November: This AIHW report looks at the prevalence of eye problems among children, including vision disability, congenital anomalies and cancer. Statistics for children treated within the primary care sector, as well as in hospitals, are also presented. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/phe/ehaac/ehaac.pdf>

Dental practice activity by geographic location

3 November: This research report from AIHW provides information on the practice activity of dentists in Australia in relation to their geographic location. Data are presented on dentist age, type of practice, time worked per year, number of patient visits supplied, waiting time for an appointment, and perceived practice busyness by geographic location (classified as major city or regional/remote). More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/den/dpabgl/dpabgl.pdf>

New online journal: Inside Story

October 2008: Australian Policy Online has launched *Inside Story*, a new Australian online overview of contemporary politics, society and culture. *Inside Story* is edited at the Institute for Social Research at Swinburne University of Technology. More at: <http://inside.org.au/>

The cost of child abuse in Australia

18 November: *The cost of child abuse in Australia*, a report by Dr Joe Tucci of the Australian Childhood Foundation, Professor Chris Goddard from Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia at Monash University and Access Economics, has been launched. More at: http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/cost_abuse_18nov08.htm_.htm

Hospital procedures for diseases of the digestive tract in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians

Hospitalisation rates for diseases of the digestive system are lower among Indigenous peoples compared with other Australians. However, of those who are hospitalised with a disease of the digestive system, Indigenous people are less likely to have a procedure recorded than other Australians. The aim of this AIHW study was to examine patterns of undergoing a procedure for diseases of the digestive tract once in hospital for Indigenous Australians compared with other Australians, after adjustment for a number of explanatory variables. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/ihw/hpddtaatsi/hpddtaatsi.pdf>

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