



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](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

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## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

### **National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children**

Families Australia has continued to work closely with the 63-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children to advocate for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. It is expected that COAG will announce the Framework in late March 2009. In January 2009, the Coalition made public calls for Federal and State/Territory Governments to announce a package of initiatives valued at least \$500 million for child protection and safety over the first three years of the Framework. More information: [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

## TOP STORIES...

### **Child protection Australia 2007-08**

21 January: The latest report, *Child protection Australia 2007-08*, from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) provides comprehensive information on state and territory child protection and support services. The report contains data for 2007-08, as well as trend data on child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out-of-home care. Detailed information on the characteristics of children in the child protection system is presented, specifically data on their age, sex and Indigenous status. In addition, for child protection substantiations, data on the family type and the source of notification are included. For children on care and protection orders, there are data on types of orders and living arrangements, and for children in out-of-home care, there are data on types of placements and length of time in out-of-home care. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10687>. Media release from the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Housing and the Minister for the Status of Women:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/child\\_protection\\_report\\_21jan09.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/child_protection_report_21jan09.htm)

### ***Families in Australia: 2008***

10 December 2008: This report by the Office of Work and Family, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, provides a summary of the key issues and trends facing Australian families. It examines a selection of key topics, including fertility, caring responsibilities, economic wellbeing of families, health of family relationships and how Australians are balancing work and family responsibilities. More at: <http://www.dpmc.gov.au/publications/families/index.cfm>

### ***Seniors speak up***

February 2009: The Victorian Government is developing policies that respond to population ageing. The Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians conducted consultations in May and June 2008 to allow members of the community to contribute their ideas about how to make Victoria a better place for older people. More than 1500 people participated in community forums. Seniors were also invited to contribute their views in writing. More than 270 questionnaires were completed. More at: [http://www.seniors.vic.gov.au/Web19/osv/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/report+to+the+Minister/\\$file/Seniors+Speak+Up+Report+of+Key+Findings+to+Minister+for+Senior+Victorians.pdf](http://www.seniors.vic.gov.au/Web19/osv/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/report+to+the+Minister/$file/Seniors+Speak+Up+Report+of+Key+Findings+to+Minister+for+Senior+Victorians.pdf)

### ***US study finds Australia's Triple P-Positive Parenting program lowers child abuse injuries and foster placements***

**27 January:** A US study has found that The University of Queensland's Triple P – Positive Parenting Program can significantly lower rates of child abuse injuries and foster care placements when offered to parents community-wide. Results of the five-year study, funded by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, were published in the online edition of the *Prevention Science* journal. More at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/a737l8k76218j7k2/?p=587ecf68cf6745058cb3e636889cdf70&pi=0>

### ***Report on government services 2009***

3 February: This Productivity Commission report examines the performance of all Australian governments providing education, justice, emergency management, health, community services and housing services. <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2009>

### ***Australia's mothers and babies 2006***

December 2008: This AIHW report presents demographic, pregnancy and childbirth factors of women who gave birth in 2006, along with the characteristics and outcomes of their babies. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10634>

### ***Pensions, purchasing-power risk, inflation and indexation***

4 February: This paper, from the Edward R. Whitehouse / OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, notes that most OECD countries have automatic adjustment of pensions in payment, but these indexation rules have often been overridden. The paper examines indexation policies and actual practices using data for 18 countries and asks policy questions, such as: Should pensions be indexed? If so,

should they be linked to prices or earnings? More at:

[http://www.oelis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000A3E/\\$FILE/JT03258853.PDF](http://www.oelis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000A3E/$FILE/JT03258853.PDF)

### ***Effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality***

December 2008: This report from the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee examines the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality and makes a series of (majority supported) recommendations for strengthening the Act. More at: [http://www.apf.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/sex\\_discrim/report/index.htm](http://www.apf.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/sex_discrim/report/index.htm)

### ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health performance framework 2008 report: detailed analyses***

19 January: This AIHW report contains detailed analyses underlying the summary data presented in the policy report *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2008*, produced by the Department of Health and Ageing. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10664>

### ***Measuring the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples***

30 January: This AIHW report provides a picture of the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians using data from the 2004-05 *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)* and a range of administrative datasets. The report also assesses the interim module that was developed to measure social and emotional wellbeing used in the 2004-05 NATSIHS and makes a number of recommendations to improve measures of social and emotional well-being. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10685>

### ***A picture of the nation: the Statistician's report on the 2006 Census***

29 January: This Australian Bureau of Statistics report analyses information collected in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and presents stories about contemporary society and trends that affect the lives of Australian people. More at: [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/LookupAttach/2070.0Publication29.01.091/\\$File/20700\\_A\\_Picture\\_of\\_the\\_Nation.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/LookupAttach/2070.0Publication29.01.091/$File/20700_A_Picture_of_the_Nation.pdf)

### ***The wellbeing of Australians - differences between statistical sub-divisions, towns and cities***

This report from the Australian Centre on Quality of Life describes the wellbeing of Australians as represented by the averages within the 180 Statistical Sub Divisions of Australia. It also explores the relationship of various demographic characteristics, as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to these wellbeing averages. More at: [http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index\\_wellbeing/index.htm](http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index_wellbeing/index.htm)

### ***Coming forward: The underreporting of heterosexual violence and same sex partner abuse in Victoria***

December 2008: This report from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society reports on the responses of 390 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (GLBT) Victorians to an online survey asking them about their experiences

of heterosexist violence and same sex partner abuse. More at: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcs/hs/assets/downloads/reports/ComingForwardReport.pdf>

### ***The state of the world's children 2009: Maternal and newborn health***

December 2008: This UNICEF report examines the current state of maternal and neonatal health, explores the fundamentals of a supportive environment for mothers and newborns and outlines ways to strengthen efforts in support of primary health care. More at: [http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_47127.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_47127.html)

### ***The childcare transition: a league table on early childhood education and care in advanced countries***

2008: A study released by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, says that a far-reaching change is coming over childhood in the world's richest countries: a majority of the rising generation in economically advanced societies is now spending a significant part of childhood in out-of-home childcare. More at: [http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc8\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc8_eng.pdf)

### ***Social inclusion of the hard to reach***

2008: This report from the Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, is intended as a practical resource for local councils wishing to engage their communities in decision making and planning. The focus is on how to broaden the range of people represented in council processes, especially those who are reluctant to participate in traditional consultation methods. [http://sisr.net/cag/docs/htr\\_final.pdf](http://sisr.net/cag/docs/htr_final.pdf)

### ***Social security payments for people caring for children, 1912 to 2008: a chronology***

29 January (revised): This report from the Parliamentary Library provides a short history of the development of government payments for children and child carers and a chronology of changes to each payment from their introduction to the present day. More at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bn/2008-09/children.htm>

### ***2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: detailed findings***

December 2008: This AIHW report extends the analysis presented in the 2007 *National Drug Strategy Household Survey: first results* by providing more detailed information on drug use prevalence, drug-related behaviours and incidents, and support for drug-related policy and legislation. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10674>

### ***Carbon Trading: will it work to reduce emissions?***

2 February: In an article in *Inside Story*, Richard Dennis outlines some of the problems with the planned emissions trading scheme, arguing that the structure prevents efforts by individuals and governments from reducing total emissions. More at: <http://inside.org.au/making-life-easier-for-emitters/>

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