



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 2009-2020 announced

30 April: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 was announced by the Council of Australian Governments. The Framework is the first such national plan for child protection and wellbeing. The Framework contains details of an initial three year action plan. Families Australia played a significant role in the development of the Framework through the 64-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children. View the National Framework and Families Australia's comments at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au>.

National Families Week 2009 countdown!

National Families Week 2009 will be held from Sunday 10 May to Saturday 16 May 2009 (coinciding with UN International Day of Families on Friday 15 May and Mothers' Day on 10 May). The central aim of *National Families Week 2009* is to encourage all Australians to think about and celebrate the many different people who make families united and strong and the many different types of families across society, each deserving respect and acknowledgement. The theme is: *National Families Week – Celebrate how everyone makes a difference*. More, including calendar of events, at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>

TOP STORIES...

Child Protection Grants

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, has announced that the Australian Government will provide \$1.9 million in immediate funding to several non-government organisations for projects

aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect as well as supporting those who have experienced abuse. The Minister's media release is at:

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/child_abuse_28apr2009.htm

Inverting the Pyramid: Enhancing Systems for Protecting Children

28 April: A report commissioned by ARACY on the need for systems change to move from the current child protection model to a prevention-focused family service orientation was launched by ARACY and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP. More, including the report, at: http://www.aracy.org.au/index.cfm?pageName=protecting_children. Speech at: http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/aracy_report_29apr2009.htm

National Volunteer Week

11-17 May: National Volunteer Week this year runs from the 11th to the 17th of May. It is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia. It offers an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than five million Australians who volunteer. More at Volunteering Australia: http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_cat_id=357&nav_top_id=55&dsb=9916

If your organisation has exceptional volunteers that you would like to see acknowledged with a volunteer certificate from Senator Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and Parliamentary Secretary for the Voluntary Sector, please submit the volunteer certificate nomination form by Wed 6 May; it can be found at: <http://thirdsector.ursulastephens.com/article.asp?active=109&v=49&qid=684&sid=1>

Time for Action

29 April: The Australian Government today released *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021*. This is the major report of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The report makes recommendations designed to tackle the unacceptable levels of sexual assault and domestic and family violence in Australia.

More, including the report, at:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/Pages/default.aspx

How young Indigenous people are faring

30 April: This report, produced by the Dusseldorp Skills Forum and Reconciliation Australia, uses ABS Census data to examine and comment on changes in the education and labour force participation of young Indigenous people (15 to 19 year-olds, 20 to 24 year-olds and 25 to 29 year-olds). This paper is complemented by a second publication, *Keeping up*, which provides case studies and identifies improvements that can be made. More at: <http://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/Faring.pdf>

Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre

The Australian Government has taken the first steps towards establishing a national Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre, one of the ideas to emerge from the 2020 Summit. Initially, a feasibility study will be undertaken to decide the form and role of an Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre. More at: http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indigenous_culture23apr09.htm

Inquiry into better support for carers - report

1 May: The report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's inquiry into better support for carers was released by the Chair of the Committee, Ms Annette Ellis MP. The report is available at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fchy/carers/report.htm>

Australian Social Inclusion Board Meeting

2 April: The Australian Social Inclusion Board met in Gawler, South Australia. More at: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Australian Disability Enterprises Website

24 April: The Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services and Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, launched this website, an initiative of Australian Disability Enterprises designed to help boost employment opportunities for people with disability. The website is at: <http://www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au/>. Speech and media release at: <http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/billshorten.nsf>

National Sorry Day

The theme of National Sorry Day 2009 is "Sharing a Journey of Healing". The National Sorry Day Committee is asking organisations to hold a morning tea or lunch on Tuesday May 26 to help to Commemorate National Sorry Day and to further celebrate the Apology to Indigenous people and the Healing process it has initiated. More at: www.nsd.org.au

Third Sector Pulse

Third Sector Pulse is an online space created for community organisations to get together to discuss those things that are most important to the sector as a whole. To sign up and participate, go to: <http://thirdsectorpulse.socialgo.com/members/profile/4>

National Disability Insurance Scheme

The concept of a National Disability Insurance Scheme was submitted to the Australian Government's 2020 Summit in April 2008. The scheme was supported at the Summit, and three organisations – Yooralla, Disability Services Australia and The Spastic Centre – have since developed a submission for the National Disability Strategy to promote the idea and enlist support amongst people with a disability, their families and the disability service sector. More at: <http://www.natdis.com.au/index.htm>

Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours – Preliminary Findings

7 April: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication contains preliminary statistics on the composition and distribution of employee earnings, as well as information on how employees' pay is set - by award or pay scale only, collective agreement or individual arrangement. The statistics are based on the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours conducted in respect of August 2008. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6305.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

Perspectives on Migrants, 2009

15 April: These ABS articles examine various aspects of Australia's migration program, predominantly utilising data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3416.0?OpenDocument>

Early childhood learning and care: data sources, gaps and opportunities, 2008

8 April: This information paper reports on a data mapping pilot project undertaken by the ABS (in collaboration with several other agencies) with the aim of improving the evidence base on early childhood. The project investigates the existing range of data sources relevant to identified high priority policy questions in the area of early childhood care and education. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4105.0.55.0012008?OpenDocument>

Working in disadvantaged communities

29 April: The purpose of this study from Australia and New Zealand Health Policy was to develop a generic workforce needs assessment tool and to use it to identify the competencies needed by the public health workforce to work effectively in disadvantaged communities. More at:

<http://www.anzhealthpolicy.com/content/pdf/1743-8462-6-10.pdf>

Right to an Ordinary Life – Speech

1 April: The Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services and Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, delivered a speech at the National Press Club about the rights of people with disabilities:

http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/billshorten.nsf/content/right_to_ordinary_life_01apr09.htm

Transparency Award for Oxfam

23 April: Senator Ursula Stephens presented the award to Oxfam for its outstanding reporting practices and the runner-up award to World Vision. The Transparency Awards were initiated by PricewaterhouseCoopers to recognise the quality and transparency of reporting in the third sector. More at:

http://www.ursulastephens.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/ursulastephens.nsf/content/transparency_awards_23apr09.htm

Is 'Close the Gap' a useful approach?

This article in the *Australian Review of Public Affairs* argues that the pursuit of statistical equality for Indigenous Australians is not a novel or particularly promising approach to addressing Indigenous disadvantage, health status and life expectancy. More at: http://www.australianreview.net/journal/v9/n2/pholi_etal.html

OPPORTUNITIES...

Call for submissions: Indigenous Community Support Service funding process 2009-2012

4 April: Funding for the provision of the Indigenous Community Support Service was advertised in major metropolitan newspapers on Saturday 4 April and in a range of smaller regional and Indigenous newspapers from that date. Applications close 7 May. More at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/communities/community_support.htm

Communities in Control 2009 - Community Conference in Australia

The annual Communities in Control Conference – *Crisis, Catastrophe, Community: Rebuild, Renew, Recharge* – will be held on the 15th and 16th of June in Melbourne, providing an opportunity for the community sector to come together to exchange ideas and wisdom. More at: https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/secure/event/event_sign_up.form?conferenceld=59&area=control

Grants for Australian Advocacy

The Australian Government will provide up to \$100,000 to national women's non-profit organisations to increase women's representation and advocacy. The grants will support women's organisations to work with diverse groups of women in the community and assist them to engage in current policy debates. Their objective is to promote stronger engagement between women in the community, women's organisations and the Government. Applications close at 3:00pm Friday 8 May 2009. Application Guidelines and Form at: www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au

Workshop Micro-Grants - Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Kit: call for expressions of interest

The SNAICC Resource Service (SRS) is calling for expressions of interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to run workshops addressing family violence. The deadline is 15 May. More at: http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news/view_article.cfm?loadref=8&id=126

Jobs Fund grants program

The guidelines for the Jobs Fund grants program for non profit organisations are now available. \$100 million is available in the first call for proposals under the Local Jobs and the Get Communities Working streams of the Jobs Fund. Funding will be in the form of one-off grants for projects up to \$2 million that are ready to begin from July 2009. The closing time and date for proposals is 4.30pm EST Friday 22nd May 2009. More at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx>

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