



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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IN THIS ISSUE...

Views & news from Families Australia: Federal Budget response; National Families Week a success.

Top stories: Transitioning from Care (Young People's survey); Disability Parking Scheme; Family Support Program; National Health Survey.

VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

Federal Budget 2009

10 May: The 2009 Federal Budget was handed down. Families Australia's media release is at:

<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/publications/pubs/mediareleases/mr2009budget.pdf>

National Families Week 2009

National Families Week 2009 was 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 was 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. Over 125,000 people participated in 800 events held across Australia. More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>

TOP STORIES...

Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2007-08

6 May: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication provides estimates of apparent consumption of alcohol based on the availability of alcoholic beverages in Australia. The publication provides estimates of the quantity of beer and wine available for consumption and estimates of the quantity of pure alcohol available for consumption from beer, wine, spirits, and ready to drink pre-mixed products. The publication also provides estimates of apparent per capita consumption. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4307.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

Caring for oral health in Australian residential care

12 May: This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) indicates that, as the Australian population ages, and as more older Australians retain their natural teeth, more people living in residential aged care are developing complex oral disease and dental problems. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/den/den-193-10711/den-193-10711.pdf>

Transitioning from Care (Young People's survey)

The CREATE Transitioning from Care Young People's survey for 15-25 year olds is now live and open until 30 June 2009. Young people can follow the link from the CREATE front page www.create.org.au. The report card page shows the web survey option on the left or the download hard copy (two versions) in the middle and right hand boxes.

The report card page is at http://www.create.org.au/content/09_Report_Card_Survey/. The report arising from the survey will be published in mid-November.

The Family Support Program Consultation Process

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is holding public consultations about the new Family Support Program. The Family Support Program brings together a number of existing family, children and parenting services that share a common interest in supporting Australian families, parents and children. Interested parties can make a submission or attend a forum.

Forum details at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/familysupport/Pages/default.aspx#6>.

A discussion paper is at:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/familysupport/Documents/Departmental_DiscussionPaper-FSP.pdf

Experimental Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2005–2007

25 May: The ABS has introduced a new method to produce the 2005-2007 life tables. While the underlying method of construction of the life tables remains the same (that is, age/sex-specific death rates are derived from numbers of Indigenous deaths and the Indigenous population), the method for accounting for under-identification of Indigenous deaths has changed. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003?OpenDocument>

National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2007-08

11 May: The ABS has released the National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2007-08. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4364.0?OpenDocument>

'Still Putting In: Measuring the economic and social contributions of older Australians'

5 June: This report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre states that the economy loses more than \$10 billion a year by failing to use the skills and experience of older Australians who want to keep working. The report calls on governments, unions and businesses to tackle workplace age discrimination and recognise the contributions made by over 55s to the nation's well-being. More at:

<http://www.productiveageing.com.au/userfiles/file/StillPuttingIn.pdf>

Changes to income tests

The Tax Office advises that, from 1 July 2009, a number of income tests will be expanded to include additional items such as net investment losses, reportable superannuation contributions and reportable fringe benefits. These changes will affect a range of government support programs, certain tax offsets and the Medicare levy surcharge threshold calculation. Overview of the changes can be found at: <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/00189164.htm>

Information about the inclusion of reportable super contributions after 1 July is at: <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/00189189.htm>

Information to assist employers to understand their new obligations, changes to payment summaries and payroll systems and reportable employer super contributions: <http://www.ato.gov.au/businesses/content.asp?doc=/content/00189411.htm>

Disability Parking Scheme

26 May: The Australian Government launched a discussion paper and national public consultations about the new Australian Disability Parking Scheme. The announcement follows a \$3 million commitment by the Government in the 2009-10 Federal Budget to develop the Scheme across Australia by the end of 2010. The Government will hold public consultations throughout June 2009 in each capital city, plus Alice Springs, Cairns and Townsville, to allow all Australians the opportunity to provide input and feedback on the direction of the new scheme. More at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/disability_parking_scheme/Pages/default.aspx

An overview of chronic kidney disease in Australia, 2009

27 May: This AIHW report explains what chronic kidney disease is and describes its extent and patterns in the Australian community. Chronic kidney disease contributed to nearly 10% of all deaths in Australia in 2006 and over 1.1 million hospitalisations in 2006-07. Risk factors for chronic kidney disease are highly prevalent in Australia, and the number of Australians at risk is increasing. Indigenous Australians in particular are at high risk. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10681>

Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2007-08

28 May: Although SAAP agencies accommodate large numbers of people every day, they cannot always meet all the requests for SAAP accommodation. This AIHW bulletin summarises the demand for SAAP accommodation information contained in the 'Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2007-08 report' (internet only release), with a focus on the total people turned away from SAAP accommodation. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10773>

Third Sector News

This publication, from the office of Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens, contains updates on the National Compact, National Volunteer Week and other items of interest to the community sector. More at: <http://thirdsector.ursulastephens.com/>

Mabo Day marked by boost to native title

3 June: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, announced that Native Title Representative Bodies are set to receive \$45.8 million in additional funding to help address the backlog in native title claims. More at:

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/mabo_day_03jun09.htm

Alice Springs town camps

4 June: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, announced a revised timetable for the proposal for the Australian Government to move towards compulsory acquisition of the Alice Springs town camps. The period during which written submissions can be received has been extended to 28 July 2009. More at:

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/as_towncamps_04jun09.htm

Grand plans

This article by Susan Harris Rimmer, researcher at ANU's Regulatory Institutions Network and president of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, appeared in *Inside Story*. It draws links between recent Rudd Government major reports and argues that, although the Rudd government is tackling some of the most difficult areas of social policy, we may need to borrow fresh thinking from our New Zealand neighbours. More at: <http://inside.org.au/grand-plans/>

OPPORTUNITIES...

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?conferecld=59&area=control

Siblings Australia 'Creating Connections' conference

The 2nd National Siblings Australia conference, 'Creating Connections', will be held in Adelaide, Nov. 18-20. More at:

<http://sapmea.asn.au/conventions/siblings09/index.html>

2nd LSAC Research Conference – 3-4 December 2009

The 2nd *Growing Up in Australia: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) Research Conference* will be held at Rydges Carlton, Melbourne, on Thursday 3 - Friday 4 December 2009. The pre-conference LSAC Data-users' Workshop will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2009. The conference will provide a forum for the discussion of research based on LSAC data. Please direct all conference enquiries to Ren Adams on 03 9214 7888 or lsac09@aifs.gov.au

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