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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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Top stories: *A Healthier Future* report; National Child Protection Week 2009; National Work-Life Balance Awards; Aged Care complaints review.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

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

July 2009: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children was announced by the Council of Australian Governments on 30 April 2009. Recently, Federal, State and Territory Governments and the NGO sector have been jointly discussing plans for the implementation of the first three-year action plan under the Framework. Families Australia is the secretariat of the 67-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children. More at: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au>

### **Hearing from Families Australia members in Brisbane**

August 2009: The Families Australia Board met a number of Families Australia members during a visit to Brisbane in early August. As part of ongoing member consultations around Australia, the Board and staff heard a wide range of policy and practice ideas, including on the issues facing young people leaving care and on rising medical costs for families. An online survey seeking Families Australia members' policy ideas will be launched in September 2009. Other face-to-face member consultations are being planned for the coming months. For more information, contact us at Families Australia on 02 6273 4885.

## TOP STORIES...

### ***A healthier future for all Australians***

27 July: The Final Report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission has been released and can be accessed at:

<http://www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/nhhrc-report>

### ***National Child Protection Week 2009***

National Child Protection Week begins on 6 September 2009. The National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) aims to get the whole Australian community involved in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The centrepiece of the campaign is the largest attitudinal survey ever conducted in this country, to be launched on 6 September and run until 1 November. Event Registration for National Child Protection Week 2009 is at: <http://events.napcan.org.au/>

### ***International Day of the World's Indigenous People***

9 August: On 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People shall be observed on 9 August every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. A further resolution in 2004 proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014) and decided to continue observing the International Day of Indigenous People every year during the Second Decade, in New York, Geneva and other offices of the United Nations. More at: <http://www.un.org/events/indigenous/2008/index.shtml>

### ***National Work-Life Balance Awards***

10 August: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, today launched the 2009-10 National Work-Life Balance Awards. This national initiative is part of the Australian Government's commitment to making Australian workplaces more flexible and family-friendly. The Awards will acknowledge leaders in various industry sectors who excel in offering work, life and family initiatives. Applications for the Awards close 4 September 2009. More at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/worklife>

### ***Aged Care - Public Input Sought for Complaints Review***

The Australian Government is seeking public input on its review of the operation of the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme, introduced in May 2007 to allow people with a concern about the service or quality of care being provided to elderly Australians receiving Commonwealth funded aged care services to have their concerns investigated. Public submissions close on Friday 28 August 2009. A Consultation Paper is available on the Department of Health and Ageing website at: <http://www.health.gov.au/oacqc>

### ***'Experience Works: The Mature Age Employment Challenge'***

30 July: This report from National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre gives a snapshot of mature age employment in Australia. It outlines the distinctive barriers faced by older workers, draws on overseas approaches and presents potential policy responses. More at: <http://www.productiveageing.com.au/site/publications.php>

### ***Guidelines for Providing Mental Health First Aid to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person***

These Mental Health First Aid guidelines describe how members of the public should provide first aid to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who may be developing a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis. This research was undertaken by ORYGEN Research Centre Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne funded by beyondblue. Although these guidelines are copyright, they can be freely reproduced for non-profit purposes provided the source is acknowledged. Guidelines for other cultures are also available. More at: <http://www.mhfa.com.au/Guidelines.shtml>

### ***Counting the homeless 2006***

9 July: This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) publication includes eight state and territory reports on the homeless, based on information collected from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census. The reports include statistics on accommodation types, age, sex, Indigenous identification and geographical distribution. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10832>

### ***Indigenous housing indicators 2007-08***

30 July: This AIHW report provides current national data across all housing assistance programs on a range of key Indigenous housing indicators, including: connection to services; dwelling condition; overcrowding; affordability of housing; rents collected and charged; and recurrent and capital expenditure on Indigenous housing. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10701>

### ***Estimating the impact of selected National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) reforms on health care expenditure, 2003 to 2033***

5 August: This AIHW report aims to give an indication of the medium-to-long-term effects of certain proposed National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) reforms on growth in health expenditures and includes estimates of the expenditure effects of selected reform proposals. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10932>

### ***Oral health impacts among children by dental visiting treatment needs***

This report from AIHW provides information on the oral health impacts experienced by Australian children during the period 2004–06. It investigates differences in parent-reported toothache, eating difficulties and poor oral health perception between children with different dental visiting patterns and treatment needs. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10780>

### ***Better Support for Women with Postnatal and Antenatal Depression***

24 July: The Australian Government will invest \$5.1 million over three years to enable four specialist organisations to provide telephone-based support for women experiencing postnatal or antenatal depression or grief following the loss of a baby. More at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr111.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=7>

### **Greater Fairness and Equity in the Taxation of Special Disability Trusts**

4 August: The Australian Government released this discussion paper on proposed reforms to the tax treatment of special disability trusts to ease the financial burden on people with disabilities as well as their carers and families. The proposed reforms were announced in the 2009-10 Budget. This discussion paper is a guide on how the decisions announced by the Government would operate and how they might be implemented. Interested parties are invited to comment on the paper. More at:

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=037&ContentID=1567>

### **Self-employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, 2006**

7 July: This snapshot from the ABS describes the characteristics of Indigenous people who indicated they were self-employed in the 2006 Census. Characteristics for analysis include: age; sex; hours worked; income; industry of employment; and occupation. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4722.0.55.009?OpenDocument>

### **General Practice in Australia, health priorities and policies 1998-2008**

This report looks extensively at changes in the activities of GPs from 1998 to 2008 in the light of numerous government initiatives and changes in the GP workforce and in the population. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10721>

### **'Child Abuse and Neglect: Looking Through the Lens of Prevention' Conference**

November: The 8th ISPCAN Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, incorporating the 12th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, will be held in Perth, Western Australia from the 15th to 18th November 2009, coinciding with International Child Abuse Prevention Day 2009 (19 November). The conference provides a unique opportunity for contribution by researchers and professionals working across the very broad spectrum of prevention and early intervention strategies.

More at: <http://www.apccan2009.org.au/index.html>

### **'Australia's welfare 2009' Conference**

November: The AIHW holds conferences to coincide with the release of its biennial reports on Australia's health and Australia's welfare. *Australia's welfare 2009* is a one-day conference to be held in Canberra on Tuesday 17 November 2009. This conference brings together the nation's leading thinkers and the latest statistics, providing a forum for discussion and debate on issues around social inclusion, addressing how well the needs of all Australians are being met by government services and discussing programs designed to promote well-being. More at: <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=7be89b98-74da-47c9-bca4-a617198cc580>

### **'Creating Connections' Conference**

November: The 2nd Siblings Australia conference, 'Creating Connections', is being held between 19 and 20 November 2009 in Adelaide. This conference is an important event for anyone interested in families of people with special needs (disability or chronic illness). The conference will showcase current programs, provide an opportunity to learn about research developments and explore future directions in sibling support. More at: [www.sapmea.asn.au/siblings09](http://www.sapmea.asn.au/siblings09)

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