



NATIONAL *Family* NEWS



Think Families, Strengthen Families, Celebrate Families

No. 45 September 2009

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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## IN THIS ISSUE...

Views & news from Families Australia: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children; apology to Forgotten Australians.

Top stories: Paid Parental Leave consultations; National Child Protection Week 2009; First Communities for Children Plus sites.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

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

September: The 68-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children has been working closely with Federal and State/Territory Governments to develop a plan for the implementation of the first three-year action plan under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, 2009-2020*. A number of Government-NGO consultative forums will be established in the coming months to advance the action plan, including a National Framework Advisory Committee, a National Framework Implementation Working Group and Working Groups on information-sharing and on performance and data. Families Australia is the secretariat for the Coalition. For more information, contact Families Australia on 02 6273 4885.

### ***Apology for Forgotten Australians***

30 August: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, announced that, by the end of 2009, the Australian Government will issue a formal statement of acknowledgment and apology, on behalf of the nation, to Forgotten Australians and former child migrants. The Government is also providing \$300,000 each to both the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) and the Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) over the next two years and will also fund two historical projects. Families Australia has been assisting the Alliance for Forgotten Australians since 2006. More at: <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0809/msfcs310.php>. The

Senate Committee's 2009 report is at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/recs\\_lost\\_innocents\\_forgotten\\_aust\\_rpts/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/recs_lost_innocents_forgotten_aust_rpts/index.htm)

## TOP STORIES...

### ***Paid Parental Leave Scheme – supporting working Australian families***

This booklet from the Australian Government provides more detail on the scheme. Discussions will be held with representative groups from August to October on issues relating to: eligibility criteria for the scheme; the role of employers; and administrative requirements and processes. Consultation participants may provide written submissions to the PPL mailbox ([ppl@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:ppl@fahcsia.gov.au)) by 30 September 2009. The booklet is at: [www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/overview/infocus/Pages/PaidParentalLeaveScheme.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/overview/infocus/Pages/PaidParentalLeaveScheme.aspx)

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

From the beginning of National Child Protection Week (6th September) to the end of Children's Week (1 November), the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) is conducting the largest ever survey of Australia's attitudes to child abuse and neglect. NAPCAN also has promotional material available at: [www.preventingchildabuse.com.au/resources](http://www.preventingchildabuse.com.au/resources), and the survey is at: [www.preventingchildabuse.com.au](http://www.preventingchildabuse.com.au)

### ***First Communities for Children Plus sites***

11 September: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, announced that the first Communities for Children Plus sites will be established in Launceston in Tasmania, Cardinia in Victoria and Ipswich in Queensland from early 2010, providing children and parents with intensive early intervention services. More at:

[http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/communities\\_children\\_11sept09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/communities_children_11sept09.htm)

### ***Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference Communiqué***

11 September: Community and Disability Services Ministers met in Canberra to progress the substantial reform agenda for disability services and to reaffirm their commitment to work together to reduce child abuse and neglect in Australia by endorsing the first implementation plan (2009-2012) for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. More at:

[http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/disab\\_confer\\_communique\\_11sept09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/disab_confer_communique_11sept09.htm)

### ***Tax in Australia: What you need to know***

This DVD and online resource from the Australian Taxation Office is designed to help migrants understand the Australian way of doing tax. Aimed at culturally and linguistically diverse audiences, it introduces Australia's tax and superannuation systems, explains tax file numbers and provides information people need to know when they start employment. There is no charge for the DVD, which will be available in 10 languages. More at:

<http://ato.gov.au/corporate/content.asp?doc=/content/00204055.htm>

### ***'The Power of PLAY' Conference***

November: Playgroup Australia's inaugural National Conference on "The Power of Play" will be held on the Gold Coast 5-7 November. The Conference will examine the importance of play in the early years and will include a varied program of keynote speakers, abstract presentations and interactive workshops. More at: <http://www.corporatecommunique.com.au/playgroup/home.html>

### ***My Generation: Are Australian baby boomers the retiring kind?***

26 August: this report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre brings together the research evidence on the retirement plans and expectations of Australian baby boomers from several key studies undertaken over the past four years. More at: [www.productiveageing.com.au](http://www.productiveageing.com.au)

### ***Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2007-08***

20 August: This report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides indicators of the level and distribution of after tax (disposable) household income, after adjusting for household size and composition. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6523.0?OpenDocument>

### ***Safe from the Start***

18 September: This new research project by the Salvation Army Tasmania, consisting of a training program and resource kit, will be launched by the Hon Lara Giddings, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Human Services. It focuses on the effect violence can have on young children's development and what resources professionals and parents can use for early intervention. More at: [http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/SALV/MEDIA/PC\\_62530.html](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/SALV/MEDIA/PC_62530.html)

### ***Incorporating HACC use into aged care pathways: a technical report for the PIAC project***

17 August: This release from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) addresses two complications with the Home and Community Care (HACC) data when integrating service use event data into care pathways and describes how these matters are being treated for the Pathways in Aged Care (PIAC) project. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10782>

### ***Disability in Australia: multiple disabilities and need for assistance***

9 September: This AIHW report examines the severity of disability and complex support needs of people with multiple disabilities in Australia. The analysis examines people with multiple disabilities in different age groups: children (0-14 years), people of working age (15-64 years) and older people (aged 65 years or over). More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10788>

### ***Mental health services in Australia 2006-07***

27 August: This is the eleventh in the series of AIHW's comprehensive annual reports on the characteristics and activity of Australia's mental health services and the availability of mental health resources. Details from a wide range of data sources for the 2006-07 period and, where available, 2007-08, are presented, as are changes over time. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10686>

### **FaHCSIA Community Grants Update**

August: The 'FaHCSIA Community Grants Update - August 2009' provides organisations with information on how the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is working to improve its business. More at: [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/Community\\_Grants\\_Update/Pages/community\\_grants\\_update\\_aug09.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/Community_Grants_Update/Pages/community_grants_update_aug09.aspx)

### **Trends in access to dental care among Australian children**

12 August: This AIHW report provides an analysis of the dental visiting patterns of children aged 5 to 17 years during the period 1994 to 2005. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10775>

### **New remote mental health services**

9 September: Minister Macklin announced funding of \$10.9 million over 3 years for seven new remote Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS) program services for people living with a mental illness in remote Australia. More at: [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/help\\_mental\\_illness\\_10sept09.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/help_mental_illness_10sept09.htm)

### **White Balloon Day**

7 September: Minister Macklin launched White Balloon Day to raise awareness of child sexual assault in our community. This year's theme, 'Break the Silence on Child Sexual Assault...It's ALL WHITE to Say No', encourages the community to take a stand against child sexual assault and help survivors speak up. More at: <http://www.whiteballoonday.com.au/>

### **New early learning centre to support children with autism**

7 September: A new Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre in Perth will give young West Australian children with Autism Spectrum Disorders access to specialist early childhood services to help them reach their full potential. More at: [http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/billshorten.nsf/content/children\\_autism\\_07\\_sept09.htm](http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/billshorten.nsf/content/children_autism_07_sept09.htm)

## **OPPORTUNITIES...**

Link to the FaHCSIA Grants and Funding page:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/grantsfunding/currentfunding/Pages/default.aspx>

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