



NATIONAL *Family* NEWS



Think Families, Strengthen Families, Celebrate Families

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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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## IN THIS ISSUE...

Views & news from Families Australia: Apology and Government Response to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants.

Top stories: Productivity Commission study into disability support; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008; Income management scheme.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

### ***National Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants***

16 November: The text of the speeches delivered by the Prime Minister and the (then) Leader of the Opposition on the occasion of the Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants on Monday 16 November is available at: [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/apology\\_forbidden\\_au/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/apology_forbidden_au/Pages/default.aspx), along with more information about the Apology. The Prime Minister also made several announcements, and information about the history projects is at: <http://forgottenaustralianshistory.gov.au/index.html>. Families Australia has been assisting Forgotten Australians since 2006 through its auspicing of the Alliance for Forgotten Australians – please see [www.forgottenaustralians.org.au](http://www.forgottenaustralians.org.au).

### ***Government response to Forgotten Australians***

26 November: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, and Minister for Ageing, the Hon Justine Elliot MP, jointly announced the release of the Australian Government's Response to the Senate inquiry report *Forgotten Australians and Lost Innocents Revisited*. Media release at: [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/print/forgotten\\_au\\_revisited\\_26nov2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/print/forgotten_au_revisited_26nov2009.htm). Government Response at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/recs\\_lost\\_innocents\\_forgotten\\_aust\\_rpts/gov\\_response/gov\\_response.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/recs_lost_innocents_forgotten_aust_rpts/gov_response/gov_response.pdf)

## OTHER TOP STORIES...

### ***Productivity Commission study into disability support***

23 November 2009: The Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, announced at the National Disability Awards ceremony in Parliament House that, as part of the National Disability Strategy, the Productivity Commission has been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study into long-term care and support for people with disability in Australia. More at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/feasibility\\_study.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/feasibility_study.aspx)

### ***2009 National Disability Awards***

23 October: Recipients of the 2009 National Disability Awards were announced at the awards ceremony held in the Great Hall of Parliament House. More at: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/awards.asp>

### ***National Companion Card Website***

23 October: The National Companion Card scheme brings together state and territory programs that enable eligible people with disability to participate at venues and activities without incurring the cost of a second ticket for their attendant carer. More information, including website links for each State and Territory, can be found at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/companioncard/Pages/default.aspx>

### ***Income management scheme***

25 November: Minister Jenny Macklin announced that the Australian Government will introduce a new income management scheme from 1 July 2010. More at: [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/welfare\\_reforms\\_protect\\_children\\_25nov2009.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/welfare_reforms_protect_children_25nov2009.htm)

### ***Moving or Staying Put? Deciding where to live in later life***

26 November: This report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre is based on a survey of over 3,000 members of NSA in Western Australia. The survey was designed to explore factors which influenced decisions about moving and staying put. This research found that two in three Australians are moving home between the ages of 55 and 75, challenging the traditional view that seniors stay put in later life. More at: [www.productiveageing.com.au](http://www.productiveageing.com.au)

### ***Deaths, Australia, 2008***

25 November: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) release presents statistics on deaths and mortality for Australia, states and territories, and sub-state regions. Information on characteristics of the deceased includes place of usual residence, age at death, sex, Indigenous status and country of birth. Information is also provided on infant deaths, life expectancy and death rates. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3302.02008?OpenDocument>

### ***National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008***

30 October: This ABS publication presents summary results from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The survey was

conducted from August 2008 to April 2009, collecting information from approximately 13,300 Indigenous Australians living in private dwellings in remote and non-remote areas, including discrete communities. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0?OpenDocument>

### **Northern Territory Emergency Response Redesign Consultations**

25 November: The Report on the Northern Territory Emergency Response Redesign Consultations and the CIRCA Report on the NTER Redesign Engagement Strategy and Implementation have been released, along with a policy statement. More at:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/news/Pages/nter\\_redesign\\_consultations.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/news/Pages/nter_redesign_consultations.aspx)

### **Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, Apr 2009**

28 October: This ABS survey reflects data collected in the 12 months to April 2009 on children's activities, including sport, internet and mobile phone use, cultural activities and attendance at cultural venues and events. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/4901.0~Apr+2009~Main+Features~Introduction?OpenDocument>

### **Research Paper: Children's Participation in Organised Sporting Activity, Oct 2009**

29 October: This ABS release analyses the data from surveys on Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2006. Factors which may have influenced children's participation in organised sporting activities are identified. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1351.0.55.028?OpenDocument>

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

17 November: This biennial report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows that, while most Australians enjoy a good standard of living, many are struggling to care for people with a disability or confronting issues related to ageing, homelessness, children and families. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10872>

### **Juvenile justice in Australia 2007-08**

4 November: Each day, around 6,000 young people are under juvenile justice supervision in Australia. This AIHW report is the fifth in the series on young people under juvenile justice supervision. It shows that the number of young people in detention on an average day increased by 17% over four years from 2004-05 and that over half of those in detention on average day in 2007-08 were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. The report contains information on the characteristics of young people under community-based supervision and in detention as well the type and length of their supervision. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10853>

### **Closing the Gap Clearinghouse**

The Clearinghouse is now online at AIHW. It provides access to a collection of quality information on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage. This will provide policy makers and program managers with an evidence base for achieving the Closing the Gap targets and related Indigenous reforms. Indigenous Australians will benefit through the delivery of policies and services which address Indigenous disadvantage more effectively. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/>

### **Problem gambling amongst those seeking homelessness services**

27 November: This AIHW report shows that, in 2007-08, there were 2,462 Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) support periods where the client was identified as having gambling-related issues. This represented 1.2% of the total support periods under the SAAP program. Compared with all SAAP clients, clients with gambling-related issues were more likely to be older and more likely to be male. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11214>

### **Medicare Bulletin**

Medicare has developed an online Bulletin Board. Bulletin Board online will only be sent to subscribers, so any members who currently receive Bulletin Board will need to go online and subscribe to the new publication. To view the publication or to subscribe, go to: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/pubs/news/bulletin/index.jsp>

### **Education News - October, 2009**

13 October: This ABS newsletter highlights the latest curriculum related teaching resources, student activities and statistical tools that have been developed by ABS Education Services as well as other ABS resources that are useful for schools. More at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1330.0?OpenDocument>

### **FaHCSIA Annual Report 2008–2009**

FaHCSIA's latest Annual Report is available at: [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/Documents/2009\\_Annual\\_Report/default.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/Documents/2009_Annual_Report/default.htm)

### **Social Inclusion Week**

23 November 2009 marked the beginning of Australia's inaugural Social Inclusion Week. A forum was hosted by the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University in collaboration with Dr Jonathon Welch AM, best known for his work as the Founding Music Director of the Choir of Hard Knocks. Details of the Social Inclusion Week (23-29 November 2009) and the National Street Party (28-29 November 2009) can be obtained at: ([www.socialinclusionweek.com.au](http://www.socialinclusionweek.com.au)).

## **OPPORTUNITIES...**

### **FaHCSIA funding rounds**

Applications are currently being sought in the areas of Gambling & Drugs, Housing & Homelessness, Indigenous People and Women. FaHCSIA's Grants and Funding page is at:

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

### **Family Support Program - Kids in Focus – Family Drug Support**

FaHCSIA has called for applications for a funding round which close on 15 December 2009. \$3.1m is available over three years. This funding is linked to the Family Support Program and the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. *Kids in Focus* is an early intervention, family focused approach to dealing with the effects of substance misuse on families. Contact: 1800 733 923 or email

[KidsInFocusFamilyDrugSupport@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:KidsInFocusFamilyDrugSupport@fahcsia.gov.au)

### **Centre for Leadership for Women (CLW)**

Applications for the Advancement of Women in the Workplace Award close 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009. The award is announced on International Women's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Eligibility criteria and details for award categories are at: <http://www.leadershipforwomen.com.au>

### **Australian Social Policy journal**

13 November: FaHCSIA's Research and Analysis Branch is calling for papers to include in the next issue of Australian Social Policy. Deadline for notification is Friday 27 November 2009, and papers will need to be submitted by Friday 29 January 2010. More at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2009/Pages/CallforpapersASP.aspx>

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