



NATIONAL *Family* NEWS



Think Families, Strengthen Families, Celebrate Families

No. 50 March 2010

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: Announcing National Families Week May 2010 – register your event!

Top stories: Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector; Report by the UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous peoples; Review of the National Standards for Disability Services.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

### ***BREAKING NEWS!!! National Families Week May 2010: “The best start: supporting happy, healthy childhoods”***

Families Australia is pleased to announce that National Families Week will be held between 15-21 May this year. The aim of National Families Week 2010 is to celebrate the vital role that families play and particularly to highlight the importance of giving every child a happy and healthy childhood. This year's theme is: *“The best start: supporting happy, healthy childhoods”*. Tens of thousands of people participate in National Families Week activities each year. To find out more or register your event, go to [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

### **OTHER TOP STORIES...**

#### ***Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector***

11 February: The Productivity Commission released its report into the contribution of the not-for-profit sector. The Australian Government had asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a research study on the contributions of the not-for-profit sector, with a focus on improving the measurement of the sector's contribution. More at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/not-for-profit/report>

#### ***Bringing Them Home oral history interviews***

12 February: The National Library of Australia's oral history collection on the Stolen Generations is now available online (55 interviews). The Bringing Them Home Oral

History Project was carried out from 1998 to 2002 to preserve the stories of Indigenous people and others involved in, or affected by, children being forcibly removed from their parents. More at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/bringing-them-home-online.html>

### ***Report by the UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous peoples***

9 March: A report containing the observations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous people, Professor James Anaya, on the situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia has been released today. The report is available at: <http://www.un.org.au/files/files/United%20Nations%20Special%20Rapporteur%20-%20Feb%202010.pdf>

### ***Review of the National Standards for Disability Services***

25 February: Following the signing of a new National Disability Agreement, Disability Services Ministers have agreed to develop a National Quality Framework (NQF) for Disability Services in Australia, beginning with a review of the current National Standards for Disability Services. From March to July 2010, consultations will be held in every state and territory to enable all key stakeholders to provide input into the National Standards. Participation is particularly welcomed from: people with disability who access disability services; their family members and carers; disability service providers funded under the NDA; advocacy organisations; and relevant disability sector peak bodies. Details regarding the NQF and the upcoming consultations are available on the Victorian Government Department of Human Services website: [http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/improving\\_supports/national-quality-framework](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/improving_supports/national-quality-framework)

### ***National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance***

9 March: Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, and Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, announced the establishment of a new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance. The Australian Government will provide \$600,000 over three years for the creation of the new alliance. More at: [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jm\\_tp\\_m\\_indigenouswomenvoice\\_9march2010.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jm_tp_m_indigenouswomenvoice_9march2010.htm)

### ***New arrangements for blind and vision impaired electors***

9 March: Special Minister of State, Senator Joe Ludwig, announced new measures providing a legal framework for blind and vision impaired electors to cast a secret vote at the next federal election. More at: [http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/billshorten.nsf/content/shorten\\_blindelectors\\_9march2010.htm](http://www.billshorten.fahcsia.gov.au/Internet/billshorten.nsf/content/shorten_blindelectors_9march2010.htm)

### ***Making Good Connections: How community participation enriches learning, wellbeing and a sense of identity in older men***

February: This report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre is based on a survey conducted by the University of Ballarat and considers the role community organisations play in enhancing the wellbeing of older men and also helping them learn and develop new skills. More at: <http://www.productiveageing.com.au/site/publications.php>

### ***Kinship Care in NSW: Finding a way forward***

The Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA), NSW, recently released a research report in partnership with UWS about Kinship Care in NSW:  
[http://www.acwa.asn.au/downloads/publications/Kinship\\_Report\\_080110.pdf](http://www.acwa.asn.au/downloads/publications/Kinship_Report_080110.pdf)

### **ASCA speaker**

April: Mike Lew, M.Ed., an expert in men's recovery from childhood trauma, will be touring Australia, hosted by Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) in collaboration with the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault. The sessions are for health professionals who work with male survivors. Sessions: Sydney, 9 April; Melbourne, 15 April; Perth, 23 April; Darwin, 27 April. [www.asca.org.au/mikelew](http://www.asca.org.au/mikelew)

### **Perceptions of how child protection authorities work**

Australian National University (ANU) research invitation: research is being conducted by ANU with the aim of describing how child protection authorities engage with other groups in order to provide care and protection for children. Understanding how working relationships are established and maintained is important knowledge to have in order to build a fair and effective child protection system. For further information, please contact Mary Ivec on (02) 6125-4438 or [mary.ivec@anu.edu.au](mailto:mary.ivec@anu.edu.au)

### **Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010**

3 March: This Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication describes a framework to map statistical information about Indigenous people, in the context of the interrelationships with their social and physical environments. It also provides the means to identify potential data gaps. More at:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4703.0Main%20Features12010?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4703.0&issue=2010&num=&view=>

### **Review of TaxPack 2009 Research**

The Tax Office revised the TaxPack publication in 2009. Roy Morgan Research was commissioned to undertake a telephone study of TaxPack users in order to assist with the evaluation of the new version. The main objectives of this research were to evaluate client opinion towards TaxPack 2009 and the TaxPack 2009 supplement and to assess the changes made to the TaxPack product itself. Download the Review of TaxPack 2009 Research:

<http://ato.gov.au/corporate/content.asp?doc=/content/00226880.htm&pc=001/001/024/02&mnu=39508&mfp=001&st=&cy=1>

### **\$10.7M funding for anti-tobacco strategies**

9 March: Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, announced that fourteen sites across the country will receive \$10.7M funding to promote innovative anti-tobacco campaigns and prevention strategies under the Australian Government's *Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative*. More at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws015.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=3SNIPPET>

### **Living on the edge: social and emotional wellbeing risk and protective factors for serious psychological distress among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

4 March: This paper, prepared by the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) for the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, aims to generate discussion around the determinants of Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing and to provide a range of recommendations for addressing the current gap in social and emotional wellbeing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. More at: <http://www.craah.org.au/publications/downloads/DP10-Living-on-the-Edge-Kelly-et-al-AIPA.pdf>

### **AIFS conference**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies' (AIFS) 11th Conference, *Sustaining Families in Challenging Times*, is being held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, 7 to 9 July 2010. The conference will explore the latest research, policy and practice as well as considering emerging social trends and their impact on Australian families. For further information, please visit <http://conference.aifs.gov.au>

## **OPPORTUNITIES...**

### **FaHCSIA funding rounds**

FaHCSIA's Grants and Funding page is at:

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

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