



NATIONAL *Family* NEWS



Think Families, Strengthen Families, Celebrate Families

No. 51 April 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: National Families Week May 2010 – register your event!; Launch of Families Australia's 2010 Federal election proposals; National Compact.

Top stories: 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Australian support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Australian social trends; health and wellbeing of young people.

## VIEWS & NEWS FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA...

### **REMINDER - National Families Week 15 -21 May 2010: "The best start: supporting happy, healthy childhoods"**

National Families Week aims 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". Join the tens of thousands of people participating in National Families Week activities around the country. To find out more or register your event, go to [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

### **ANNOUNCING - Families Australia 2010 Federal election proposals**

Families Australia's 2010 Federal election proposals were launched in April and cover a wide range of issues relevant to the wellbeing of families and children:

- Our *overarching proposals* are: a substantial increase in resources devoted to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020; growth in real terms in the Federal Family Support Program over the next four years; a substantial increase in funding for all Federal Government 'Closing the Gap' programs and for programs to be designed and delivered in an ongoing and close partnership with Indigenous peoples; and an improvement in the overall remuneration of community sector workers as a result of the Pay Equity Test Case 2010.
- *Specific proposals* include: the establishment of a pilot parenting program for young mothers and fathers with special attention to the needs of Indigenous

people and those in, or leaving, out-of-home care; a national grant program for local grandparent and other kinship carer support groups; the placement of dedicated grandparent / kinship / foster care liaison officers in at least 20 Centrelink offices around Australia; free TAFE or university training for young out-of-home-care leavers; a doubling of the Transition to Independent Living Allowance; support services (referrals, advice and support, training and drop-in centres) for Forgotten Australians in every State and Territory; and a pilot child and family support program which identifies the needs of, and provides targeted support for children and families of offenders.

### **Families Australia signs National Compact**

18 March: The Chair of Families Australia, Sandie de Wolf AM, was one of the signatories at the launch of the National Compact, at Parliament House on the 17 March 2010. It is anticipated that the Compact will enhance working relationships between government and the not-for-profit sector to improve community wellbeing and collaborate for a more inclusive society. More at:

<http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/LatestNews/Pages/NationalCompactLaunch.aspx>

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

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Australian support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 3 April 2010**

2 April: Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, called on agencies and staff working with Indigenous peoples to adopt the Human Rights language and practice aspirations of the UN Declaration so as to promote Indigenous voice and capacity to influence decision making, law and policy development. More at:

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social\\_justice/declaration/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/declaration/index.html)

### **AIHW releases the framework and key indicators for report on the health and wellbeing of Young Australians**

30 March: AIHW Bulletin #77 releases the 71 key national indicators of young people's health and wellbeing as well as proposed additions and their justifications. The framework and indicators will form the basis of the report due out in 2011. More at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11294>

### **Gender brief**

22 March: This OECD Social Policy Division report provides an overview of gender differences in OECD countries and offers a range of statistics related to family structures, women's employment and income status and public policies towards families. More at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/31/44720649.pdf>

### **Australian Social Trends, March 2010**

16 March: This quarterly Australian Bureau of Statistics publication presents analysis and commentary on a wide range of social issues. The March 2010 edition includes articles on the labour market during recent economic downturns; whether young people are earning or learning; health and socioeconomic disadvantage; income support for people of working age; and repeat imprisonment. More at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4102.0Main%20Features1Mar%202010?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4102.0&issue=Mar%202010&num=&view=>

### ***National Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum***

16 March: The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR), in partnership with the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and Charles Darwin University (CDU), is holding a National Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, Alfred Street, Mackay on May 19 and 20, 2010. More at: <http://www.noviolence.com.au/forum2010/registration.html>

### ***Adoptions Australia 2008-09***

5 February: This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) contains comprehensive information relating to adoptions in Australia, including characteristics of adopted children, adoptive families and birth mothers. It includes information about inter-country adoptions. More at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10858>

### ***Recognising, preventing and responding to abuse of older people living in the community***

18 March: This publication by the Benevolent Society, in conjunction with the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, is a resource for community case workers. More at: <http://www.bensoc.org.au/uploads/documents/research-to-practice-briefing3-abuse-of-older-people-mar2010.pdf>

### ***Impact of past adoption practices - report released***

30 March: FaHCSIA commissioned the Australian Institute of Family Studies to investigate the literature on Australian systemic and societal attitudes to adoption practice and the potential for lifelong consequences on the mother, child, extended family and those adopting. More at: [http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/past\\_adoption/Pages/default.aspx](http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/past_adoption/Pages/default.aspx)

### ***Families of teens 'not the enemy' – Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse***

29 March: This report highlights that there has been growth in understanding of risk and protective factors affecting teens and families during relationship transitions from dependence to inter-dependence and beyond. Recommendations suggest that it is time to increase 'family based treatment' in combination with appropriate workforce training. More at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing16.html>

### ***Refugee Council of Australia reports on refugee and humanitarian entrants contributions to Australia's civic, social and economic outcomes***

18 March: The positive impact of these contributions in terms of labour supply, economic growth and service delivery and particularly in rural and remote areas is detailed. More at: [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Contributions\\_of\\_refugees.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Contributions_of_refugees.pdf)

### ***Senate Review of Government Compensation Payments***

17 Feb: This review looks at compensation payments by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to those adversely affected by government policies, legislation and unlawful actions. Submissions are due by 4 June 2010. More at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/govt\\_comp/info.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/govt_comp/info.htm)

### **National Child Protection Clearinghouse releases new resource sheets**

#### **[NCPC Resource Sheet: Prevalence of child abuse and neglect](#)**

This Resource Sheet summarises the state of knowledge on the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Australia. It provides an overview of Australian studies that have estimated the prevalence of the different forms of child maltreatment (i.e., physical abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, the witnessing of family violence, and sexual abuse).

#### **[NCPC Resource Sheet: Corporal punishment: key issues](#)**

This Resource Sheet provides a brief overview of research literature on the use of corporal punishment towards children and the legal landscape regarding corporal punishment as a means of disciplining children in Australia. The paper also examines the distinction between corporal punishment and physical abuse, and the relationship between corporal punishment and discipline.

#### **[NCPC Resource Sheet: Images of children and young people online](#)**

This Resource Sheet provides information about safety and good practice when images of children and young people are displayed online.

The full suite of Resource Sheets can be viewed on the NCPC website at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/sheets/menu.html>

## **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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