

# Family Relationships

The Newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse Quarterly

ISSUE 1 2006

## Welcome

Family relationships are the foundation of the nation. The decision to establish the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC), within the Australian Institute of Family Studies, reflects the Australian Government's commitment to supporting and strengthening family relationships.

The Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has funded the Clearinghouse for two years. The Clearinghouse aims to enhance family relationships across the lifespan by offering a centralised resource and information point for providers of family relationship and support services, policy makers and members of the research and broader communities.

Key messages from the Australian and International research evidence base on family and relationships will be translated into valuable information for services funded by the Family Relationship Services Program and other interested audiences. Consistent with the Institute's charter, the material disseminated by the Clearinghouse will aim to increase an overall understanding of factors influencing families, family relationships and wellbeing.

Dissemination will be via electronic means through the AFRC website in the form of quarterly newsletters, *Family Relationships Quarterly*, and six brief papers and two in-depth issues papers each year. *Family Relationships Quarterly* will carry a variety of content including articles on topics of interest and importance to target audiences; explorations of the changes and developments in family related policy; reviews of the research literature; family related demographic trends and other statistics of interest; reviews of programs and websites; notices of upcoming conferences and events and abstracts from recent conferences. The website will also provide easy access to resources such as bibliographies, links to the websites of other organisations, online publications and conference papers.

Practitioners, service providers and other interested parties can join the AFRC by simply completing the website form. As a member of AFRC, subscribers will receive alerts for new publications and information and invitations to join a moderated e-discussion list, *e-relating*.

I am delighted that Elly Robinson has joined the Institute to lead the AFRC team. Elly brings a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience in the translation of research and theory for practitioners, students and the general public. An external reference group comprising experts in family and relationships research, policy and practice supports and assists the functions of the AFRC. Both the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department are represented on the reference group.

I congratulate all who have been involved in the establishment of AFRC. This represents a groundbreaking initiative that promises to be of great benefit to Australian families and their relationships.

**Professor Alan Hayes**  
Director  
September 2006

