

Family Relationships Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse

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In this issue

Welcome to the third edition of *Family Relationships Quarterly*, the newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse. The team at AFRC would like to wish all of our readers a happy and prosperous new year.

This edition, our first for 2007, features the executive summary of a recent research report, by *Jennifer McIntosh* and *Caroline Long*, which examined the outcomes from child-focused and child-inclusive post-separation family dispute resolution. The study compared outcomes for two groups of separated parents who attended mediation services and either engaged in a child-focused or a child-inclusive intervention. Implications for practice are discussed.

Suzanne Vassallo, Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, reviews a recent article by eminent psychiatrist and researcher, *Michael Rutter*, on the preliminary evaluations of *Sure Start*. The *Sure Start* initiative aims to reduce child poverty and social exclusion by providing a range of services to children and families in socially disadvantaged areas in England. The outcomes of the preliminary evaluation are of interest to providers and policy makers who advocate for the adoption of universally targeted services.

In our continuing focus on family statistics and trends, *Lixia Qu* and *Robyn Parker* examine trends in the choice of a celebrant for couples who are getting married. There has been a significant rise in the number of couples who opt for a civil celebrant. *Elly Robinson* reports on the 5th Australian and New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference, held in Sydney in November 2006. The report includes a review of *Professor Victor Strasburger's* keynote address on the impact of media on adolescent health.

Our regular highlights include conference abstracts from the 6th Annual Conference of the Australian Psychological Society Psychology of Relationships Interest Group, held in Melbourne in November 2006. Literature highlights focus on the effects of parental conflict on children, and upcoming conferences and events are included.

As always, the AFRC team is keen to receive feedback on how it can better meet the needs of the range of professionals working in the field of family relationships. Feedback and ideas for future *FRQ* articles can be emailed to afrc@aifs.gov.au. The AFRC also publishes a range of briefing papers, which can be found on our website at www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/pubs.html, and in-depth issues papers will be added to the site in the coming months. AFRC is an entirely electronic-based clearinghouse, and all our publications are freely available online.

We look forward to your feedback as we continue to grow in 2007.

Elly Robinson
Manager

Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse