

The Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse is being reviewed

Whilst it seems like only yesterday that we began, it is time for us to consider our efficacy in supporting and informing the family and relationship services sector. As part of this review, we would like your opinion on how we are doing and how we can better meet the needs of our stakeholders. An online survey will be available on our website in the coming weeks, and *AFRC-alert* subscribers will be notified.

The Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC) is an information and advisory unit focused on the enhancement of family relationships for the duration of their lifespan. We provide services to policy makers, practitioners, researchers and others, including:

- The *AFRC Website*, your gateway to accessing all of the services and resources provided by the Clearinghouse, including 'Bibliographies', 'Resources', 'Conferences', and 'Links' to other useful websites.
- *AFRC Publications*, including *Family Relationships Quarterly*, Briefing Papers, Issues Papers and Resource Sheets.
- *Practice Profile Database*, a publicly accessible collection of profiles on family relationships practices, which aims to improve understanding of family and relationship issues and responses to these issues.

Our alert service, *AFRC-alert*, provides notification of new publications, resources, conferences and other important information concerning family relationships. *E-relate* is our e-discussion list that aims to provide a venue for discussion of research, policy and practice that contributes to the enhancement of family relationships in Australia.

We hope that these services and publications have assisted you in your work, and look forward to your responses to the survey.

In this latest edition of FRQ, Robyn Parker reviews the Break Through program, which offers couples an opportunity to seek relationship help that is offered at alternate venues to traditional professional relationship assistance outlets. We take a closer look at the family law reforms that came into operation in July 2007, introducing compulsory family dispute resolution for separating couples. Rae Kaspiw, lawyer and Research Fellow with the Australian Institute of Family Studies, provides a summary article on the changes, and implications of the changes are examined in accompanying articles.

Other items include an article review on marital disaffection, and our regular sections on News in Brief, literature highlights and conferences. We hope you enjoy the latest edition.