

# Family Relationships Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse

ISSUE 7 2008

## In this issue

In this edition of *Family Relationships Quarterly*, parental substance abuse and its effects on families is highlighted. Professor Sharon Dawe from Griffith University provides essential information on judging the impact of substance abuse on parenting, including the difficult issue of how to deal with substance abuse in the context of family and relationship services. Ren Adams provides a report on the recent Family Alcohol and Drug Network (FADNET) conference, and literature highlights include parental substance abuse, as well as internarratives and prisoners and their families.

Michael Voumard, Manager of the Hobart Family Relationship Centre (FRC), provides an entertaining summary of an action research approach to improving engagement with Hobart FRC's clients who have children. Michael will be contributing updates about their action research project in future editions of *Family Relationships Quarterly*, which may help other service providers consider ways of implementing this approach to answer burning questions in practice.

Other articles and resources in this edition include an agency spotlight on Anglicare WA, an article on the late discovery of adoptive status by Queensland University of Technology PhD student Helen Riley, news in brief, website reviews, a review of the recent MARENC conference and upcoming conferences.

As we move into the new year, it is timely to reflect on the first full calendar year of operation of the AFRC. By the end of 2007, fourteen new publications were added to the website and more than 140,000 pages were downloaded from the site. Our acceptance into and impact on the family and relationship sector is reflected in these impressive figures.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank AFRC staff members for their tireless work in 2007 to gain these results. We look forward to 2008, having been refreshed from the end-of-year break.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of *Family Relationships Quarterly*.