

# News in brief



## New AFRC publications

**Family issues in suicide postvention.** Louise Flynn, Jesuit Social Services and Elly Robinson, Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse. AFRC Briefing No. 8. [www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing8.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing8.html)

**Prevention and early intervention in strengthening families and relationships: Challenges and recommendations.** Elly Robinson and Robyn Parker, Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse. AFRC Issues No. 2. [www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/issues/issues2.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/issues/issues2.html)

**Strengthening Aboriginal family functioning: What works and why?** Roz Walker and Carrington Shepherd, Kulunga Research Network, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. AFRC Briefing No. 7. [www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing7.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing7.html)

## New AIFS publications

### Family Matters No. 77

This issue of *Family Matters* contains several articles pertaining to the recent family law reforms, and includes three responses to the Institute's recently published research report on allegations of family violence and child abuse in family law children's proceedings. Other articles in this edition focus on stepfamilies, marriage and relationship education, and father's long work hours.

*Family Matters* is available on subscription. See: [www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2007/fm77.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2007/fm77.html)

**Cooperation and coordination: An evaluation of the Family Court of Australia's Magellan case-management model.** Daryl J. Higgins, Australian Institute of Family Studies. October 2007.

Magellan is an interagency collaborative model of case management in the Family Court of Australia for cases where serious allegations are raised about sexual or physical abuse of children in post-separation parenting matters. Based on a successful pilot project, Magellan has been rolled out across the Family Court of Australia's registries since 2003. The aim of the current study was to evaluate Magellan against its intended goal of being an effective mechanism for responding to such allegations.

The report is available for download at: [www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/magellan/index.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/magellan/index.html). Limited hard copies are available from the AIFS library. Email requests to: [publications@aifs.gov.au](mailto:publications@aifs.gov.au).

**Fertility and family policy in Australia.** Matthew Gray, Lixia Qu and Ruth Weston, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

A previous version of this paper was presented to the policy forum *Facing the Future: Policy Challenges in the Ageing Era*, Seoul, Korea, 13–14 September 2006. The fertility rate in Australia, like almost all OECD countries, is below the level required for population replacement. This has resulted in an increasingly active debate surrounding possible reasons behind the fall, future likely trends, and a realistic strategy to stem it. This paper provides an overview of trends in fertility in Australia and the potential implications of these trends. The various explanations that have been provided for fertility trends, and key family policies, are discussed.

The report is available at: [www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/papers/2006/gray.pdf](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/papers/2006/gray.pdf)

## **Does it take a village? Neighbourhood influences on young children' development**

Dr Ben Edwards' presentation from his October 2007 seminar, in which he presented findings from his research into neighbourhood influences on Australian children's development, is now available at: [www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/seminarpapers.html#edwards](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/seminarpapers.html#edwards)

## **Other reports and publications**

**Intergenerational reliance on income support: Psychosocial factors and their measurement.** Helen Berry, Emma George, Peter Butterworth, Bryan Rodgers and Tanya Caldwell. Social Policy Research Paper No. 31.

This report outlines a finely tuned and rigorous review of the concepts and measures employed in the study of intergenerational transmission of reliance on income support. Nine factors pertaining to young people and/or their parents were identified as likely to play a powerful role in whether a young person will become reliant on income support, and each is individually examined. Several themes recurred across these factors, providing an overall view of how reliance on income support is related to these risk factors as a whole, and what they mean for policy and service provision.

The report is available at: [www.facsia.gov.au/research/prp31/sprp31.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/research/prp31/sprp31.pdf)

**Multicultural youth in Australia: Settlement and transition.** Steve Francis and Sarah Cornfoot, Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, Melbourne, Victoria, October 2007.

**Working with multicultural youth: Programs, strategies and future directions.** Steve Francis and Sarah Cornfoot, Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, Melbourne, Victoria, October 2007.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) commissioned two reports from the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI). The first of these papers reviews the research literature to identify the experiences and needs of multicultural youth, whether they are migrants, refugees or second-generation members of CALD communities. The second paper examines current responses to those needs by policy makers and service providers, identifies key issues in the sector, notes where there are gaps in service provision, and outlines approaches and recommendations for good practice.

Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues: [www.cmyi.net.au](http://www.cmyi.net.au)

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth: [www.aracy.org.au](http://www.aracy.org.au)

The first report is available at: [www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/Topical%20Papers/YouthSettlement.pdf](http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/Topical%20Papers/YouthSettlement.pdf)

The second report is available at: [www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/Topical%20Papers/MulticulturalYouth.pdf](http://www.aracy.org.au/AM/Common/pdf/Topical%20Papers/MulticulturalYouth.pdf)

**Wellbeing, stress & burnout: A national survey of managers in alcohol and other drug treatment services.**

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University.

Recruitment and retention of workers is a significant issue in the family services sector. This report outlines a national survey of the health and wellbeing of 280 managers of government and non-government agencies specialising in the provision of alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services. Respondents reported on various aspects of their jobs, including sources of pressure, management roles and responsibilities, relations with colleagues and staff, performance recognition and reward, their physical work environment, and professional development and organisational support. Their wellbeing was measured via reported job satisfaction, organisational commitment, level of burnout, and intention to leave the job. Findings are discussed in terms of factors that enhance or detract from managers' wellbeing.

The report is available at: [www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/projects/workforce\\_development/documents/wellbeing\\_book.pdf](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/projects/workforce_development/documents/wellbeing_book.pdf)

**Parenting after separation: A literature review prepared for the Australian Psychological Society.** Susie Burke, Jennifer McIntosh, and Heather Gridley, August 2007.

Drawing on a project undertaken by the APS in 2006 about the impact of separation and divorce on children, this report summarises the research findings on the impact of separation and divorce on various aspects of the lives of separating parents and their children, including their physical, psychological and emotional health, the financial and

social impact, and the effect on the parenting role. The report also analyses the impact of separation and divorce on children at different developmental stages, noting the key issues to consider at each stage and the signs and symptoms of distress. Interventions to ameliorate the effects of divorce on children are also considered.

The report is available at: [www.psychology.org.au/publications/position\\_papers/parenting\\_separation](http://www.psychology.org.au/publications/position_papers/parenting_separation)

**The winnable war on drugs: The impact of illicit drug use on families.** House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services. Commonwealth of Australia, September 2007.

This inquiry focused on how illicit drug use affects families. Personal stories from families affected by illicit drug use comprised 45% of the 188 submissions made to the Committee. The report covers the issues of the prevalence, social, personal and financial impacts of illicit drug use in Australia, policy approaches and strategies, the role of prevention and education, and treatment issues such as access and uptake of services and dual diagnosis. Thirty-one recommendations are made.

The report is available at: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/illicitdrugs/report.htm)

## International reports, publications and resources

**Evaluating evaluations: Evaluating recent evaluations of Sure Start, Home-Start and Primary Age Learning Study.** Helen Barrett, Family and Parenting Institute, 2007.

This report critically examines the measures, procedures and analyses employed in three evaluations of prevention and early intervention programs in the United Kingdom, and comprehensively discusses the complexities of program evaluation and the reasons why interpretation of the findings of these three studies is problematic.

The report is available at: [www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/FPI\\_Eval\\_Hi\\_\(2\).pdf](http://www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/FPI_Eval_Hi_(2).pdf)

**Families and neighbourhoods.** Claire James and Sally Gimson, Family and Parenting Institute, 2007.

The report outlines the findings of a UK survey of 2,105 parents about their neighbourhoods. While parents reported generally positive views about their neighbours and the neighbourhoods in which they lived, the effects of socioeconomic inequality were clear. The authors make several policy recommendations to address issues such as the need to focus on communities as well as individuals and families, engaging young people, the need for safe and affordable facilities and services, and the differing needs of urban and rural families and communities.

The report is available at: [www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/families\\_neighbourhoods.pdf](http://www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/families_neighbourhoods.pdf)

A range of resources for practitioners working with families is also available from the Family and Parenting Institute website, including:

**Listening to parents: A short guide.** [www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/listening\\_to\\_parents.pdf](http://www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/listening_to_parents.pdf)

**How to help families in trouble: A short guide.** [www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/PW07guide.pdf](http://www.familyandparenting.org/Filestore/Documents/publications/PW07guide.pdf)

## Other Clearinghouse publications and resources

### Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse (ADFVC)

[www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au](http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au)

The Summer edition of the *DVIRC Newsletter* is now available. Articles include an interview with the new Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, and a feature article on “Diverse and Inclusive Practice: Redrawing the Boundaries. National Forum on Domestic Violence, Disability and Cultural Safety”, including recommendations from the event.

The newsletter is available at: [www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/newsletters.htm](http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/newsletters.htm)

**Exploring the use of domestic violence fatality review teams.** Nadia David, Prosecutor, NSW Police. ADFVC Issues Paper No. 15, October 2007.

Domestic violence fatality review teams have been operating in the United States since the early 1990s. In this article, Police Prosecutor Nadia David discusses the value of these teams and the issues to consider in their possible introduction in Australia.

The paper is available at: [www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/issues\\_papers.htm](http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/issues_papers.htm)

## **National Child Protection Clearinghouse (NCPC)** **[www.aifs.gov.au/ncpc](http://www.aifs.gov.au/ncpc)**

**Responding to children and young people's disclosures of abuse.** Dr Mel Irenyi, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, October 2007.

This Practice Brief from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse addresses issues relating to disclosures of abuse and suggestions for effective ways of responding. The publication has information relevant for individuals and organisations working with children.

The report is available at: [www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/brief/pb2/pb2.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/brief/pb2/pb2.html)

### **Promising practice in out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their carers series**

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse has released a series of papers examining the issues relating to out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. The papers are available online at: [www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/promisingpractices/summarypapers/menu.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/promisingpractices/summarypapers/menu.html)

#### *Strengths and barriers: Summary papers 1–7*

Paper 1: *Why is there a shortage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers?* Bromfield, L. M., Higgins, J. R., Higgins, D. J., & Richardson, N. (2007).

Paper 2: *Barriers, incentives and strategies to enhance recruitment of Indigenous carers.* Bromfield, L. M., Higgins, J. R., Higgins, D. J., & Richardson, N. (2007).

Paper 3: *Why standard assessment processes are culturally inappropriate.* Bromfield, L. M., Higgins, J. R., Richardson, N., & Higgins, D. J. (2007).

Paper 4: *Training carers.* Richardson, N., Bromfield, L. M., Higgins, J. R., & Higgins, D. J. (2007).

Paper 5: *Supporting carers.* Higgins, D. J., Bromfield, L. M., Higgins, J. R., & Richardson, N. (2007).

Paper 6: *Children with complex needs.* Higgins, J. R., Higgins, D. J., Bromfield, L. M., & Richardson, N. (2007).

Paper 7: *Voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care.* Higgins, J. R., Higgins, D. J., Bromfield, L. M., & Richardson, N. (2007).

### **Promising practice in out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their carers: Profiling promising practice**

Based on a series of papers summarising the issues in out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children and young people, a series of resource booklets have been created that detail examples of promising practice in supporting carers and young people. The booklets are available online at: [www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/promisingpractices/booklets/menu.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/reports/promisingpractices/booklets/menu.html)

Booklet 1: *Characteristics of promising Indigenous out-of-home care programs and services.* Dr Jenny Higgins and Nikki Butler (2007).

Booklet 2: *Assessing, training and recruiting Indigenous carers.* Dr Jenny Higgins and Nikki Butler (2007).

Booklet 3: *Comprehensive support for Indigenous carers and young people*. Dr Jenny Higgins and Nikki Butler (2007).

Booklet 4: *Indigenous responses to child protection issues*. Dr Jenny Higgins and Nikki Butler (2007).

## **Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA)**

[www.aifs.gov.au/acssa](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa)

### *ACSSA Publications release*

#### **ACSSA AWARE Newsletter** No. 15, September 2007

Articles in this issue examine perspectives on the treatment of men and boys who sexually abuse, and elder abuse and sexual assault.

#### **“Feeling heavy”: Vicarious trauma and other issues facing those who work in the sexual assault field.**

ACSSA Wrap No. 4, September 2007

This paper is about vicarious trauma, a normal response to repeated exposure and empathetic engagement with traumatic material. It describes what vicarious trauma is, how it may be experienced, and what may predict it occurring.

## **Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia (CAFCA)**

[www.aifs.gov.au/cafca](http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca)

The Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia (CAFCA) is funded by the Australian Government to support the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS). CAFCA provides information and advice to policy makers, researchers and practitioners in the fields of early childhood and community development. The Clearinghouse has an emphasis on young families, early learning and care, support for families and parents, child-friendly communities, and family and children’s services working effectively. CAFCA also has a role in the National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

## **Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS)**

[www.acys.info](http://www.acys.info)

This a not-for-profit project funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. ACYS operates at the University of Tasmania under the direction of Professor Rob White, School of Sociology and Social Work. ACYS provides reader-friendly and user-friendly information on the complex and wide-ranging issues that affect young people today, from early adolescence to the early adult years, and produces a range of publications, including the peer-reviewed journal (*Youth Studies Australia*), a free electronic monthly newsletter (*Youth Field Xpress*), and fact sheets on a range of topics.

### **Youth Studies Australia, 26(4)**

Articles in this issue include sibling death and how it impacts on surviving siblings at a social level, sexuality education, rural youth and multimedia, and participation by refugee young people. Electronic summaries of journal articles are available at: [www.acys.info/journal](http://www.acys.info/journal) (full access requires subscription).