

# Family Relationships Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse

ISSUE 8 2008

## Welcome

Welcome to the eighth edition of the AFRC newsletter, *Family Relationships Quarterly*.

In this edition, Professor Richard Chisholm and Dr Jennifer McIntosh summarise an upcoming journal article on the difficulties faced by the family law system in judging what is best for children in shared care arrangements. The reported research findings suggest that a significant number of children emerge from Family Court proceedings with arrangements that can place them under psychological strain and/or compromise their attachment security. The article is a reminder that shared care arrangements need to proceed according to children's needs, not parental rights.

This edition's "Family Statistics and Trends" article looks at men's and women's attitudes towards marriage and cohabitation, following a further decline in the proportion of registered marriages in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The summary notes that the endorsement of marriage as an institution still appears to be widespread, although cohabitation is also widely approved. Age and gender differences in responses are noted.

Other articles include a "Program Spotlight" on the Partnership program in Western Australia, which includes marriage preparation and enrichment programs, and a conference report on the Sixth Australian and New Zealand Youth Health Conference. A review of the *Raising Children* DVD is included, along with a book review of *"Remember Me": Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report*. "Literature Highlights" focus on articles relating to later-life divorce and living alone.

The AFRC offers many ways to share information with fellow service providers, practitioners and policy makers, as well as other professionals. Contributions of articles and reviews are always welcome for the newsletter—see our author guidelines on page 23 for details. In addition, Family Relationships Practice Profiles<sup>1</sup> are aimed at increasing an understanding of family and relationship issues and responses to these issues. Profiles may relate to programs and/or practices conducted throughout Australia that would be of interest to other service providers or practitioners. Suggestions and comments are always welcome at [afrc@aifs.gov.au](mailto:afrc@aifs.gov.au), which helps to maintain communication between the family and relationships services sector and the AFRC.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/practice/practice.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/practice/practice.html)