

Framework for Child Abuse Prevention

Annette Michaux

The New South Wales Child Protection Council has recently developed a *Framework for Child Abuse Prevention*. Building on the 1993 National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Abuse, the Framework will assist policy and decision makers to develop comprehensive plans to prevent child abuse and neglect and give options to those working in the field on ways in which their work can contribute to the overall prevention effort.

The Framework document details how child abuse and neglect can be prevented by recognising the many factors which contribute to it at societal, community, family and individual levels and targeting interventions to change or ameliorate these.

The overall aim of the Framework is to build a child-friendly society which supports families throughout the child rearing process and provides a healthy environment for children's development.

The Framework will help to identify the factors at the societal, community, family and individual levels which increase the risk of child abuse and neglect, and those which help protect against them (that is, protective or resiliency factors). It will also help to identify programs and strategies which help to reduce child abuse and neglect by reducing the risk factors or strengthening the protective factors.

In developing the Framework the Council worked collaboratively with the

National Child Protection Clearing House. Two projects were commissioned by the Council and undertaken by the Clearing House.

The first project was a discussion paper describing the structural barriers to prevention and innovative practice which may assist in overcoming these barriers. The Council believed it important to situate the Framework within the broader social context to avoid a situation which discounted the impact of the 'big issues' such as poverty and unemployment on the ability of families to care adequately for their children.

The second project was a statewide audit of prevention programs in New South Wales, designed to give the Council a better picture of the spread of services and to identify any obvious gaps in service provision.

The *Framework for Child Abuse Prevention* document, discussion paper and audit report have been presented to the New South Wales Government through the Minister for Community Services and their release is anticipated in the near future. Interested readers may contact Annette Michaux at the New South Wales Child Protection Council for further information about the Framework.

Annette Michaux is the Executive Officer of the New South Wales Child Protection Council.

OF THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION NETWORK!

Clearing House at the Australian Institute of Family Studies serves as an information, research and training hub for professionals in the child abuse prevention field. It collects and disseminates information, and provides a two-way involvement for professionals and the community concerned with child abuse prevention.

To participate in the work of the Clearing House –

- send us materials relevant to child abuse prevention;
- complete and return a questionnaire on research and program activities relevant to child protection with which you are involved;
- join the National Clearing House mailing list – you will receive two newsletters and two issues papers free of charge each year.

Please fill in details overleaf ►