

Launched

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

The New South Wales Minister for Community Services recently presided at the official launch of a new NSW Child Abuse Prevention Framework. The Framework is designed to help policy and decision makers develop comprehensive plans to prevent child abuse and neglect. As such, it has both state and national significance.

The Framework was released as part of a three document package – the Framework document was supported and informed by two further texts, both written on behalf of the New South Wales Child Protection Council by Adam Tomison, Research Advisor for the National Child Protection Clearing House, based at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Structural Barriers to Child Abuse Prevention

The first paper provides a comprehensive literature review on the structural barriers to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in New South Wales and nationally, and identifies some innovative approaches to prevention which attempt to counter some of these structural barriers and to enhance the health and wellbeing of children.

Placing structural barriers at the centre of any analysis of child abuse prevention is crucial for understanding the constraints on prevention. At the very least, identifying such barriers, in conjunction with a discussion of various innovations in practice, raises community awareness of the relationship between child maltreatment and other social forces and provides the professional and wider communities with issues for further consideration when developing prevention programs.

Tomison, A. (December 1997), 'Overcoming Structural Barriers to the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect', NSW Child Protection Council, Sydney.

Prevention Programs Audit

The second paper presented the results of an audit of existing New South Wales child abuse prevention programs focusing, in particular, upon primary and secondary prevention programs.

The Audit was based on an assessment of 453 discrete New South Wales child abuse prevention programs gathered from the National Clearing House Child Abuse Prevention Programs database and the results of a statewide mailout and information campaign.

Analysis of the programs reflected the pattern found in previous national audits. Family support and community education programs predominated, and it was apparent that the majority of family support programs had adopted a family focused approach to prevention – that is, the programs work with children and their families rather than with the child alone. Also apparent was a low number of offender programs, which targeted 'at risk' young males and/or adult males who had a propensity to sexually or physically commit assault, reflecting the relatively recent development of interest in this field.

Overall, the findings of the Audit indicated the development of a strong, statewide base of child abuse prevention activity in New South Wales. Importantly, prevention initiatives were associated not only with large government departments or non-government agencies, but had also been developed at the 'grass roots' level by community groups or small agencies, often with the assistance of Local Area Committees. It was clear that substantial progress has been made in modifying for Australian conditions concepts and programs developed overseas, resulting in the creation of a range of innovative programs.



It is hoped that the Audit will act as a reference for both government and non-government sectors in New South Wales and other Australian states and territories, stimulating and shaping further child abuse prevention initiatives. The Audit process undertaken in New South Wales will form a benchmark for a subsequent national audit, to be undertaken by the National Child Protection Clearing House in the near future.

Tomison, A. (December 1997), 'Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect in NSW: Findings from a State Audit', NSW Child Protection Council, Sydney.

How to obtain copies

Both texts are available at a cost of \$5 from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, or the NSW Child Protection Council, 447 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Phone (02) 9286 7276. Fax (02) 9286 7267. Email nswcpc@world.net. The Framework is available from the Council for \$10.

◀ For details see overleaf

APPLICATION FORM

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CLEARING HOUSE

- Please send questionnaire concerning my research. Please add my name to your mailing list
 Please send questionnaire concerning my program activities.

Title _____ Full name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____ (Postcode) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____



Send your application to:

National Child Protection Clearing House,
Australian Institute of Family Studies, 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia.
Phone: (03) 9214 7888. Fax: (03) 9214 7839. Internet: <http://www.aifs.org.au/>