

BOOK NOTES

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The following books and journals on family-related topics are recent additions to the Institute's Family Information Centre. They are available through Libraries, through the Family Information Centre via the Inter Library Loan system, or for purchase from good book shops. Prices are given as and when supplied.



***A Certain Age: Women Growing Older*, edited by Marilyn Poole and Susan Feldman, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1999. Price: \$24.95.**

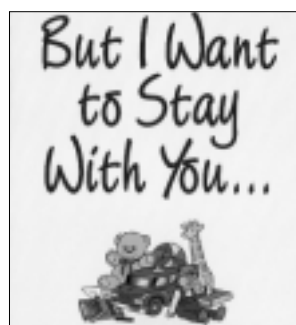
This collection of papers examines a range of issues concerning older women in Australian society. Topics include: health – women and menopause, older women and fitness programs; employment – older women in small business, the careers of older women, volunteerism; and relationships – older women and intimacy, widowed women. Other papers look at the portrayal of older women in the mass media, and the meanings of 'home' to older women. The collection is a celebration of the lives of older women; it presents a positive view of the ageing process as well as raising the visibility of older women as active members of society and community. *A Certain Age* should prove valuable to older people, those who work with older people, policy makers in the area of ageing, and students of the social sciences.



***When My Parents Split Up*, edited by Tricia McGeachie, (2nd edition), Children's Interests Bureau, Adelaide, 1999. Price: free of charge.**

This booklet, written with the assistance of young people themselves, aims to provide practical information to young people who are experiencing the divorce of their parents. In

the opening chapter 'Understanding your feelings', topics discussed include coping with your parents, how to handle your own feelings, and finding people you can talk to. A discussion of the legal situation surrounding young people and divorce is discussed in two chapters. These chapters outline the role of the Family Court, and explain how counsellors, mediators and the legal profession can help both parents and children. A brief discussion of the law as it applies to children is also provided – for example, how decisions can be made with regard to which parent a child lives with. The final chapter, 'Changes in your life', talks about blended families, and the changes that can occur in a child's life after divorce, such as seeing less of one parent. A list of helpful agencies, and their contact details is included. It should be noted that while the information contained in the booklet is of a general nature, the list of agencies is specific to South Australia.



***'But I Want to Stay With You': Talking with Children about Separation and Divorce*, by Jill Burrett, Simon and Schuster, East Roseville, 1999. Price: \$19.95.**

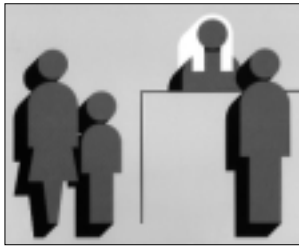
This book gives practical advice to parents on the emotional topic of how to discuss separation and divorce with children. The author, a psychologist with experience in divorce resolution and post-divorce parenting, believes that parents need to learn to talk with and respond to their children about all of the issues surrounding divorce. These issues can encompass how to tell your children about the separation, how to introduce a new partner to your children, or the creation of stepfamilies. Using real-life examples, the author outlines possible problems

that will be faced in separating families, the typical reactions of children, and how parents can go about responding to these problems. Although written specifically with issues of divorce and separation in mind, much of the advice given in this book could be applied generally to other situations in families, where parents need to communicate effectively with their children. A small list of suggested readings is included, as is a list of agencies who can help with issues or information regarding separation, divorce or parenting in general.



***First Steps in Parenting the Child Who Hurts: Tiddlers and Toddlers*, and *Next Steps in Parenting the Child Who Hurts: Tykes and Teens*, both by Caroline Archer, Jessica Kingsley (for Adoption UK), London, 1999. Price: UK 11.95 and 13.95.**

Written by an adoptive parent, these two handbooks aim to give practical advice and parenting tips to other adoptive, and long-term foster parents. The author's basic premise is that all children who have been adopted or placed in long-term care have undergone some type of psychological hurt. She argues that while some children will be more resilient to this hurt than others, many children will need their hurt to be acknowledged by their parents/carers, and be allowed to grieve for their losses in order to move on to a life of greater well-being and fulfilment. Both books begin by examining issues such as bringing a child home, child development, and what do when things 'don't seem quite right'. Other issues covered are the effects of trauma on the child, and how to handle specific difficulties that may arise with an adopted child. The two books are written in a clear, easy to read format, and contain a list of references for further reading.



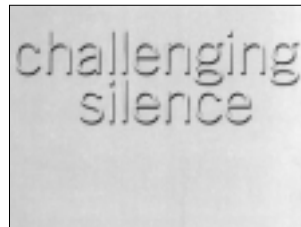
Fathers, Marriage and the Law, by Ros Pickford, Family Policy Studies Centre, London, 1999. Price: UK 10.95

This report from the United Kingdom examines the issues surrounding fatherhood and marriage, especially the differences in legal status between married and unmarried fathers. A total of 219 fathers were surveyed for the study, comprising a cross-section of both cohabiting and married fathers. Fathers were asked questions about their home life, relationships and involvement with children; arrangements about property; the couple's relationship prior to the birth; and attitudes to being a father. Questions were also asked about their attitudes towards cohabitation, marriage, and the relationship between the two. Both groups of fathers were also asked questions about their knowledge of the law, and how it applied to them. It was found that the majority of both groups of fathers were unaware that there was a difference in legal standing between married and unmarried fathers. Unmarried fathers especially felt there was a lack of information available to them about their legal situation in relation to the child, and the child's mother. The report concludes with a discussion on the policy implications of the findings of the report. This includes discussion on current government policy surrounding marriage and cohabitation, as well as the relevant laws and notions of parental responsibility as applicable to unmarried fathers.

Children of Parents with Mental Illness, edited by Vicki Cowling, ACER, Camberwell, 1999. Price: \$24.95.

This book examines the often forgotten issue of children whose parents suffer from mental illness. While the parents may be receiving treatment for their condition, the children often have to deal

with the symptoms of their parents' illness, as well as professional interventions which they may not understand. This collection includes papers by workers in the mental health system, as well as parents with a mental illness, and their children. The five sections of the book cover clinical issues concerning mental illness; research perspectives; mental health and the law; programs available to parents and children; and the need for collaboration between agencies. A list of resources, which covers professional material as well as books suitable for children and young people, is included.



Challenging Silence: Innovative Responses to Sexual and Domestic Violence, edited by Jan Breckenbridge and Lesley Laing, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1999. Price: \$35.00.

This collection of papers examines contemporary Australian research and practice into family and sexual violence. The book is divided into two sections. Papers in Part One look at how various institutions can silence victims of violence, specifically child sexual abuse allegations in Family Court matters; the experiences of women in court as victims of sexual assault; violence, legal remedies and consent; culturally appropriate sexual assault services; sexual abuse in psychiatric institutions; and recovered memories of abuse. Part Two examines practices that challenge secrecy and denial in matters relating to violence and sexual assault. Papers cover: treatment programs for offenders; men as victims of domestic violence; adolescent survivors of sexual assault; disability and sexual assault within aboriginal communities; and models of intervention. This collection of papers would make important reading for students and professionals in the areas of child protection and family violence. A detailed bibliography is included.

Australian Social Policy 1999, Issue 1
Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, bi-annual.
Price: \$14.95 single issue. Two-year subscription (4 issues) \$54.95.



For many years, the Department of Social Security published the journal *Social Security Journal*. With the creation in October 1998 of the Department of Family and Community Services, the journal changed name, and has become *Australian Social Policy*. Contributors to the journal consist of Departmental staff, and those within the academic community.

The current issue contains a number of papers presented at the *Income support, labour markets and behaviour* conference which was held in Canberra in November of last year. Convened jointly by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Economics Program at the Australian National University, seven papers from the conference are included in this issue. These encompass the areas of:

retirement income policy; labour market, retirement and disability; households, individuals and low wages; and the impact of social policy changes in the United States. Book reviews are also included.

This bi-annual publication looks set to follow the tradition of its predecessor and continue to publish high quality research on Australia's social policy system.



Relationships into the New Millennium: Papers to Celebrate 50 Years of Relationships Australia, edited by Gail Bateman and Dawn Lamont, Relationships Australia, Deakin, 1999. Price: \$18.00.

This collection celebrates 50 years of service to Australian families by Relationships Australia (formerly, the Marriage Guidance Council). Written by both Relationships Australia staff, and other key commentators in the field, papers cover a range of topics, divided into five sections. The first section looks at 50 years of service and social change in Australia, with papers covering the history of Relationships Australia, and that organisation's 1998 Relationships Indicators survey. The second section, on the future of

relationships, contains three papers – relationships in the new millennium, is marriage going out of fashion, and the shaping of relationships in the 21st century. In the third section, issues surrounding family policy are examined in papers which cover changing family structures, the impact of economic and social factors, family and relationship services in the Asia-Pacific region, and parenting after separation. The issues which challenge services offering relationship support are the focus of the fourth section of papers: children and mediation, organisational change, and organisational responses to domestic violence prevention are all discussed. The fifth and final section, implications for professional practice, examines therapy, gender and men, developing a practice framework, same-sex counselling, and attachment theory. This collection of papers would make valuable reading for all involved in relationship therapy or counselling.

Carole Jean is the Reference Librarian in the Family Information Centre of the Australian Institute of Family Studies.