



CELEBRATI

A group of 350–400 adolescents and their families gathered for afternoon tea on Sunday 26 November 2000 to meet the researchers and to celebrate the first 18 years of a landmark longitudinal research study of children’s development, the Australian Temperament Project.

It was also the occasion for the launch of a book about the study, *Pathways from Infancy to Adolescence*, published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The book provides an overview of the temperament study and a summary of the wide range of issues investigated.

This unique study, which commenced in 1983, and involved more than 2000 children and families from all parts of Victoria, has followed the children’s development from

infancy to early adulthood, with twelve waves of data collected at roughly 18-month intervals. The study made a detailed investigation of the children’s progress, focusing on the contribution of within-child characteristics such as temperament, social skills, behaviour and health, as well as contextual factors such as relationships with parents and friends, and family constellation, to child and adolescent adjustment and school functioning.

In officially launching the book, the Hon. Ann Henderson, Presiding Member of the Board of Directors Australian Institute of Family Studies, highlighted the major conclusions emerging from the study and their implications for families, schools and the wider community.

AUSTRALIAN TEMPERAMENT PROJECT PARTY AND BOOK LAUNCH



The research team is photographed after the Hon. Ann Henderson launched *Pathways from Infancy to Adolescence* at the Australian Temperament Project party. From left: Diana Smart, Margot Prior, Ann Henderson, Ann Sanson, and Frank Oberklaid.



Researcher Diana Smart (second from left) meets some of the participants in the Temperament study.

NG THE FIRST 18 YEARS

The participating adolescents and families were welcomed by the principal researchers: Professor Margot Prior, Director of Psychology, Royal Children's Hospital; Associate Professor Ann Sanson, Acting Research Manager, Australian Institute of Family Studies; Mrs Diana Smart, Research Officer, Australian Institute of Family Studies; and Professor Frank Oberklaid, Director of Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital.

Families had travelled from as far away as Perth, Boort, Tawonga, Stawell and Gippsland to attend. For many, this was their first opportunity to meet the researchers and other teenagers and parents participating in the project. It was a lively and happy occasion, in which a light-hearted

history of the project was given and plans for the future outlined.

The launch sparked a considerable amount of media interest, and was reported by local and interstate newspapers and radio, and by television programs such as the *Today* show, the *7.30 Report*, and *Today Tonight*.

Pathways from Infancy to Adolescence: Australian Temperament Project 1983–2000 is written in an accessible and non-technical style suitable for parents, teachers, and other professionals.

The book is available from the Australian Institute of Family Studies at a cost of \$16.50. Order your copy(ies) now by filling in and returning the order form on p. 87.



Some of the adolescents who participated in the Australian Temperament Project gather together for a "photo opportunity" during the launch of the Australian Temperament Project book.



Researcher Ann Sanson chats with one of the fathers.