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The following selection of books 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.



***Children, family and the state: Decision-making and child participation*, by Nigel Thomas, Policy Press, Bristol, 2002. Price: UK 18.99.**

This book begins with a discussion of the different theories of childhood, children's rights and the relationship between children, their parents and the state. It then goes on to focus more specifically on these issues in relation to children in state care. Questions discussed include how children in care can take part in the decisions made about their lives, and how this can conflict with the wishes of adults. This book would make essential reading for professionals who work with children in care settings.



***Surviving rape: A handbook about sexual violence for survivors, family, friends and workers*, by NSW Rape Crisis Centre, Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, Redfern, 2002. Price: \$35.00.**

This handbook provides practical advice about sexual violence.

Individual chapters cover: myths and realities of sexual violence; medical treatment; reporting the assault to the police; going to court; victim compensation; making a complaint; children who have been sexually abused; and strategies for safety. Particular mention is made of victims who may have special needs, such as older people, sex workers, and people with a disability. Although the handbook has a specific New South Wales focus, especially with regards to the list of relevant helping organisations, and the legal procedures explained, the general advice given in the book is applicable to all readers.



***Building community: The shared action experience*, by Linda Beilharz, Solutions Press, Bendigo, 2002. Price: \$50.00.**

This book relates the experiences of the Shared Action Project, a community development project run in rural Victoria. Initiated by the local agency, St Lukes, the project aimed to promote the safety and wellbeing of the local children by working with adults and groups within the community. A strengths-based approach was used for the project. This approach is based on values of social justice,

which recognise the strengths of people and their community, and which facilitates their application to achieve self-determined goals. Individual chapters discuss the planning and implementation of the project, and the difficulties encountered. This book would make informative reading for anyone involved with community development projects.



***Children caring for parents with mental illness: Perspectives of young carers, parents and professionals*, by Jo Aldridge and Saul Becker, Policy Press, Bristol, 2003.**

In this book the authors challenge the claim that children and young people are damaged by caring for a parent with a mental illness. Instead they argue that, with adequate support, children can be helped to cope with their parent and their caring role. The research drew on data from interviews with 40 families where a child provided care to a parent with a severe mental illness, and with the mental health professionals involved with the family. Initial chapters present the perspectives of the parents, professionals, and most importantly, say the authors, the children themselves. It was found that many of these young carers felt that they gained positive experiences from caring for their parents. In contrast, most mental health

professionals saw the children's caring role as having a negative impact upon them. The authors argue that the needs and wishes on children need to be taken more into account by mental health professionals. This book would make important reading for anyone working in the mental health field.



***Making contact: How parents and children negotiate and experience contact after divorce,* by Liz Trinder, Mary Beek and Jo Connolly, Joseph, Rowntree Foundation, 2002.
Price: UK 12.95.**

This report from the United Kingdom is based on a study which interviewed 61 families about their child contact arrangements. The aim of the study was to examine how adults and children negotiate contact, what their experience of contact is, and what factors shape contact arrangements. Families which had privately arranged contact as well as families which had court arranged contact were included. Contact was found to place significant demands on all family members (both adults and children), and that it is a combination of the actions, attitudes and interactions of all family members that shape contact. In families where conflict exists, the authors argue that legal interventions may not be the most helpful form of

intervention; rather, a wide range of services (including therapeutic services) need to be made available to families. All professionals involved with family law and family justice would find this report fascinating reading.



***My house and Going to Fair Day,* by Brenna and Vicki Harding, B & V Harding, Sydney, 2002.
Price: \$14.95 (each).**

These two colourful picture books, telling the story of a little girl and her two Mums, is aimed at readers aged five to seven years. *Going to Fair Day* describes all the fun and excitement of a family outing, and *My house* relates a day in the life of the family and the adventures of their three household pets. These Australian books are not only relevant for children with same sex parents, but they also provide valuable insights for the wider community of children and their parents.

Carole Jean is the Reference Librarian in the Institute's Family Information Centre.

***Papunya school book of country and history,* by Papunya School, Allen and Unwin, Crow's Nest, 2001.**

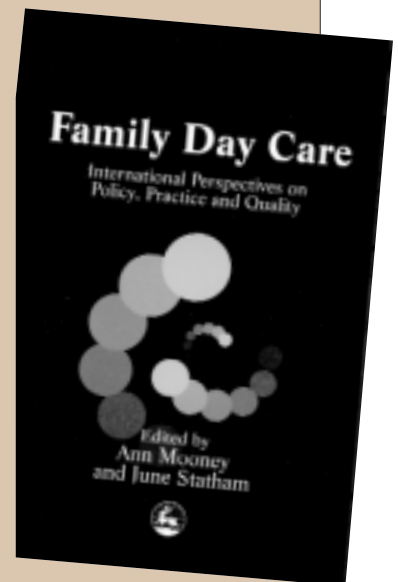
This beautifully presented and illustrated picture book was created by the students and staff at the Papunya School in Central Australia. It tells the story (in words and illustrations) of how the Anangu came to live together at Papunya, the impact of white settlement on the community, the struggle for land rights, and details of the Papunya art movement. The history, role, and future vision of the Papunya school is emphasised. This award winning book gives readers (both adult and



children) a valuable insight into the lives of the Papunya people and their vision for the future.

***Family day care: International perspectives on policy, practice and quality,* edited by Ann Mooney and June Statham, Jessica Kingsley, London, 2003.**

While much attention has focused on children in formal day care settings, little has been given to family day care. This book is a collection of papers which give an international perspective to the care of children in family day care settings. Individual countries covered include Hungary, Germany, New Zealand, Britain, Israel, France and Australia. Chapters look at the role of the child-minder; quality and standards in family day care; and providing care for "children in need". A chapter by Institute researchers, Ann Sanson and Sarah Wise, examines the use of family day care by parents from diverse cultural backgrounds, and explores how these parents look for child



care that reflects their own cultural values and practices. This book would make useful reading for all concerned with child care policy and provision.