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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.



***Just like us: Parenting children with intellectual disabilities*, by Carol Martin, Lothian, South Melbourne, 2003. Price: \$24.95.**

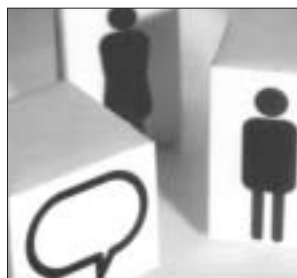
Written by the mother of two daughters with cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability, this book aims to raise community awareness of the problems faced by children with intellectual disabilities. As well as personal anecdotes, practical advice is given covering a range of topics including: early intervention; education; post-school options and employment; leisure and peer support groups; sexuality; and support for parents and carers. A substantial directory of Australian services (including government agencies, as well as support services) is included.



***The effects of parental drug use: Children in kinship care, and Parental drug use: The bigger picture*, by Nicole Patton, The Mirabel Foundation, St Kilda South, 2003. Price: free to download at www.mirabelfoundation.com/**

The Mirabel Foundation was established to assist children who have been abandoned or orphaned due to illicit drug use by their parents. These two literature reviews collate the

current literature on children and families affected by drug use. The first focuses on the position of kinship families who care for these children. Issues discussed include: the characteristics of kinship care; child protection; grief; parenting; financial and legal matters; and the support needs of carers. The second looks at broader issues including: the effects of prenatal exposure to illicit drug use; child protection issues; family preservation; and the rights of the child. These two literature reviews offer a good starting point for anyone concerned with this issue.



***Hearing the voices of children: Social policy for a new century*, edited by Christine Hallett and Alan Prout, Routledge Falmer, London, 2003.**

The authors of this collection of papers argue for the inclusion of children's wishes and opinions in the formulation of social policy. Four main themes are covered: hearing children's voices; discourses of childhood; children and services; and resources for children. Part one, Hearing children's voices, examines children's participation in policy making and children and community development. A description of the Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner in London is also included. Discourses in childhood (Part two) explores how children historically have (and have not) been included in social policy

decisions. Chapters cover examples from Finland, Germany and the United Kingdom. The third section, Children and services, has a focus on children becoming active participants in the services that are meant to be assisting them. Examples are drawn from a domestic violence service, and the Australian Family Court. The final section, Resources for children, is concerned with making children's interests visible in the social and political process. This volume would be important reading for policy makers concerned with children's issues as well as professionals working in the area of children's services.



***When a man is raped: A survival guide*, by Margaret Roberts, Education Centre Against Violence, Parramatta, 2002. www.ecav.health.nsw.gov.au**

This booklet, subtitled "Information for men who have been raped, parents, partners, spouses and friends" is designed to aid in the understanding about the rape of men, what professional support services are available, and to explain the legal process (with a New South Wales focus). Part One focuses on male survivors of rape. Issues discussed include: what we know about the rape of men, facts about offenders, common reactions men experience after rape,

medical care, counselling services and individuals' rights. Part Two offers information to family, friends and partners, looking at the role these people can play, addressing the survivors immediate concerns, and long-term communication strategies. The final section of the booklet gives details on



After adoption: Direct contact and relationships, by Carole Smith and Janette Logan, Routledge, London, 2003.

Based on UK research with adoptive parents, children and birth relatives, this book considers the impact on all concerned of children's post-adoption contact with birth relatives. The initial chapter looks at adoption in its historical context and summarises the legislative changes that have affected it over time. Brief discussion is also given to changes in adoption practice – for example, the openness in adoption arrangements. Openness in adoption is considered more fully in Chapters Two and Three. These chapters outline the practice of open adoption, issues surrounding adoption and identity, and what the research says about the impact of contact on birth and adoptive parents and children. Chapter Four focuses on the study undertaken by the authors, giving details of research issues and methods and the sample characteristics. The latter half of the book provides details of the

outcomes of the study. Chapter Five examines the role of adoption agencies in preparing both birth and adoptive families for open adoption. Individual chapters then focus on the views of adoptive parents, birth relatives and the adopted children themselves. This book would make essential reading for anyone involved with the out-of-home care of children.



When the children arrive: A resource book for carers, by The Mirabel Foundation, St Kilda South, 2001. Price: \$20.00.

This practical booklet was written to assist carers address and recognise some of the problems and issues that can arise when they become the primary carer of a child/children affected by parental drug use. The first section of the book covers topics such as the behavioural problems of the children, how to talk about drug issues with children, and grief. Excerpts from actual carers are a prominent feature of this section. The second part deals with practical issue such as the law relating to the care of children, and information on how to deal with government bodies such as Courts and Centrelink. A list of useful contacts (mainly Victorian based) is also included.

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

Ageing in Australia 2001, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, 2003. Price: \$33.00.

On Census night in 2001, 2.4 million Australians, (or 12.6 per cent of the population) were classified as older persons (65 years and over). This publication analyses the characteristics of Australia's older population drawing on 2001 census data.

The first chapter looks at the ageing of the Australian population, including age and sex structure, and the geographic distribution of aged people, and their mobility. Chapter Two examines the cultural diversity of the aged population, including indigenous status, place of birth, language and religion. As people age, their living and household arrangements often change, and this is examined in Chapter Three. The economic environment of older people, including their labour force participation and



income is the focus of the fourth chapter. Final chapters cover transport, education and the use of technology.

Ageing in Australia 2001 is clear and concise in its presentation, and will prove a valuable resource to all those who wish to understand the status and nature of Australia's aged population.

