

## LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

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COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER, REFERENCE

### Abuse free contact campaign

**The National Abuse Free Contact Campaign**, by M. Hume, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 1, Autumn 2004, pp. 21-23.

The National Abuse Free Contact Campaign is a coalition of organisations that advocate on behalf of women and children going through the Family Court system, in cases where there are concerns about domestic violence and child abuse. The campaign aims to make the government prioritise the need for safety from violence for children in contact arrangements. This article presents background information on the current position of the Family Court, and makes recommendations in the areas of the Family Court and child protection systems, legal aid, training and education, and custody arrangements.

### Adult survivors

**Treating the long-term effects of childhood maltreatment, a brief overview**, by J. Briere, *Psychotherapy in Australia*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2004, pp. 12-18.

The psychological treatment of abuse effects is likely to be complex and require specialized skills and information. John Briere outlines the central principles of the "self-trauma model", a therapeutic approach to child abuse-related issues in adults. This perspective calls upon cognitive-behavioral and relational research and theory to address the many cognitive, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal effects of child maltreatment. The critical balance between exposure to traumatic history and the consolidation of safety and stability is explored. Implicit to this model is the importance during trauma processing of internal (or "self") capacities such as the skills of affect tolerance and affect modulation. Some clients may require extensive "self-work" before any significant trauma-focused interventions can occur. [Journal abstract]

### Asylum seekers

**Forgotten children**, by L. McKay, *Eureka Street*, vol. 14, no. 5, Jun 2004, pp. 22.

A number of unaccompanied children come to Australia as refugees. This article examines the processing of these children, the granting of Temporary Protection Visas and the denial of the right to apply for family reunification. It is argued that this system must be amended.

**Fortress Australia**, by S. Nicholes & L. Ruddle, *Law Institute Journal*, vol.78, no.9, Sept 2004, pp. 43-45.

In April 2004 the High Court reversed a decision of the Full Court of the Family Court that the jurisdiction of the latter extended to the protection and release of children in immigration detention. This

article discusses this case, *B and B v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs*, and considers whether Australia is in breach of ratified international treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**Immigration and the Family Court, the High Court speaks**, by R. Chisholm, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol.18, no.2, Jul 2004, pp. 193-207.

The High Court has stated that the Full Court of the Family Court was wrong to hold that it could release children from immigration detention. This article provides some background information in order to better understand the case. The case that is discussed in this article is *MIMIA v B*, in which a family had been unsuccessful in obtaining a visa to allow them to stay in Australia. The judgments by the majority of Justices conclude that as a matter of construction of the Family Law Act, the Family Court had no jurisdiction to order the release of children held in detention.

### Best practice

**Best practices in family preservation**, by M. Berry, *Developing Practice, The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 10, Winter 2004, pp. 13-23.

Focusing on the tension between family preservation and child safety faced by professionals working in the child protection area, this article discusses five key elements of best practices in preserving families. Time matters – this element says that spending direct time with families is critical, and that time must be allowed for progress to occur. Results get results – early progress is important, so easily solved problems should be dealt with immediately; be aware of the implications of interventions, and ensure that adequate support services are available. Uncommon solutions for uncommon problems – be accepting of individual family circumstances and needs and work to accommodate them. Stand beside, not between – support family relationships, and encourage family participation in decision-making. Tell the truth – clarity and fairness through communicating accurate information and transparent decisions build the family's trust in the service provider.

### Child protection policy

**Caring well, protecting well, investing in systemic responses to protect children in WA, report for the Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection, Western Australia**, by M. Harries et al., Perth, WA, Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection, 2004.

In late 2003 the Western Australian Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection commissioned a

consortium from the Discipline of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Western Australia, and the Centre for Social and Community Research, Murdoch University, to provide an analysis of how best to manage the change from reactive service provision to an early intervention approach for child protection. Their report puts forward a framework for long term provision of child welfare and child protection services that employ an integrated, holistic approach. It establishes the social and economic context of child protection in Western Australia and other background information about the current system, and then sets out the proposed framework which is founded on giving children a voice, employing a whole of society approach, and providing high quality, targeted services for children at risk. It explains the structure, process and values underpinning the revised system. The appendices include three papers that helped inform the report and its recommendations, Indigenous psychological services, by T.G. Westerman and S.D. Hillman; Community responses in listening to children, by Rae Walter; Economic analysis of programs, by Daniel D. Reidpath.

**Investing in childhood or moving the deck chairs, a glimpse at the Protecting Children report**, by D. O'Neil, *Just Policy*, no. 32, Jun 2004, pp. 44-46.

The recent review of child protection by the Victorian government still takes the approach of fixing the problem rather than aiming to improve the lives of all children, this article argues. It suggests a rights based approach to the wellbeing of all children and an investment in the development of childhood rather than a focus on child abuse.

**The report of the panel to oversee the consultation on Protecting Children, the Child Protection Outcomes Project**, by A. Freiberg, P. Kirby & L. Ward, Melbourne, Vic, Department of Human Services, 2004.

The role of the Panel of the Victorian Child Protection Outcomes Project was to consult, analyse, and identify messages from a number of stakeholders in response to the Protecting Children report, which reviewed potential directions for reform of the child protection system. This, the Panel's report, contains feedback from the consultations on: issues for the Indigenous community; a unifying framework; community partnerships; an intake and assessment model; a wider range of responses; and reducing out of home care and increasing stability for those in care. The second part of the report discusses directions for reform.

### Child protection workers

**Becoming a social work supervisor, a significant role transition**, by C. Cousins, *Australian Social Work*, vol.57, no.2, Jun 2004, pp. 175-185.

The move from social work practitioner to supervisor can cause a crisis in identity for some social workers, a point at which professional values, roles and commitment are questioned and re-analysed. Yet it is an area in which there appears to be little written to assist the worker to normalise their fears and anxieties, or to assist with making the process smoother for both supervisor and supervisee. Drawing on practice experience in a range of health and community service

settings, the present study examines some of the feelings, issues, challenges and dilemmas faced by new social work supervisors. It also explores the preparation of supervisors, the use of power in the supervisory relationship and the need for training. It then discusses tips and conditions for improving the supervisory relationship. [Journal abstract]

**An evaluation of an innovative audiotape method for keeping social care staff up to date with the latest research findings**, by A. Hagell & L. Spencer, *Child & Family Social Work*, vol. 9, no. 2, May 2004, pp. 187-196.

This article describes the evaluation of an innovative use of audiotapes to keep social workers informed of the latest research findings. The results indicated that informal, conversational styles of presentation were preferred to more formal presentations.

**Violence, threats and intimidation in the lives of professionals whose work involves children**, by F. Briggs, D. Broadhurst & R. Hawkins, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2004.

This paper reports the findings from a recent research project which investigated the occurrence, and impact on health, work and wellbeing, of violence, threats and intimidation in the lives of professionals engaged in the protection of children who have been abused or where abuse/ neglect are suspected. The study was based on a survey of 721 participants from a variety of professions involved in child protection. Findings indicate the extremely stressful nature of working in situations that involve child protection. Of concern was the perception by almost three-quarters of respondents that nothing in their training had prepared them for exposure to threats and violence in the workplace. The effects of intimidation, threats and violence were reported as predominantly psychological, with the majority of respondents (74 percent) reporting emotional and/or health effects as a result of experiencing abusive behaviours. Over two thirds of respondents reported feeling burnt out by their work. The study poses a significant challenge to employers to improve management response to workers who encounter abuse and intimidation. [Author abstract, edited]

### Commissioner for Children

**A toothless watchdog, shortcomings of the mandate for the Children's Commissioner**, by R. Harvey, *Childright*, Apr. 2004, pp. 4-6.

The problems and shortcomings of the Children's Commissioner in England are discussed in this article. Comparisons with other parts of the UK are drawn.

**A voice for children, the Office of the Commissioner for Children in New Zealand 1989-2003**, by J. Barington, Wellington, NZ, Dunmore Press, 2004.

New Zealand's Office of the Commissioner for Children was created in 1989 to protect children's rights and welfare. The author tells the story of its creation and development under Commissioners Ian Hassall 1989-1994; Laurie O'Reilly 1994-1997; Roger McClay 1998-2003; and Cindy Kiro 2003- present. He discusses formative influences and several issues along the way including, the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act; getting started; autonomy for the Office; the

education sector; abuse; no hitting of children; the health sector; reviewing child deaths; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the legal and justice system; research; fathers; child mortality; advocating for children; Children's day; monitoring and reviewing the 1989 Act; films, videos, television and publications; international links; greater independence; and current and future directions.

### Community education

**The social marketing approach, a way to increase reporting and treatment of sexual assault**, by A. Boehm & H. Itzhaky, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, no. 3, Mar. 2004, pp. 253-265.

This paper presents a case study of a social marketing strategy that was successfully employed in a Jewish community in Israel. An informal campaign of silence had developed around the sexual abuse of teenage boys by a teacher. The adoption of a social marketing approach helped break this silence and change the attitudes and behaviour of the community members. The paper recommends the integration of social marketing principles in community education programs.

### Fathers

**The importance of fathers in building stronger families**, by J. Fleming, *Children Australia*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2004, pp. 30-34.

Fathers and father figures in child welfare and child development have often been neglected as a focus of interest and research, yet they are often recognised as being a key to the functioning of the family. In addition to this concept, parenting beliefs and practices inevitably influence those of child development and child rearing. By beginning to unravel the differences between role and gender and looking at the diverse dimensions of fatherhood, it is contended that there is no definitive discourse regarding fatherhood in the same way as it is suggested about motherhood. Whoever these men are, and whichever ethnic group or culture they may originate from, it is argued that they have often been ignored or avoided in child welfare work. It is hoped that by identifying some of the key concepts in this overlooked area, intervention can be planned to engage fathers more constructively. (Journal abstract)

### Female offenders

**Battered mothers who physically abuse their children**, by C. Coohey, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, Aug. 2004, pp. 943-952.

To understand why some battered mothers physically abused their children four cohorts of mothers were compared. The cohorts consisted of mothers who were, both battered and abused, neither battered nor abused, only battered, and only abused. The most significant predictor for a mother physically abusing her child was having been physically abused by her own mother.

**Mother-daughter incest, a guide for helping professionals**, by B.A. Ogilvie, Binghamton, NY, Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, 2004.

"[This book] illuminates the rarely examined phenomenon and aftermath of mother-daughter incest,

focusing on the victim's perception of and reaction to her experience. This unique book integrates psychological theory and practical interventions with the words of the survivors themselves." [from book cover]

**Offender and victim characteristics of registered female sexual offenders in Texas, a proposed typology of female sexual offenders**, by D. Vandiver & G. Kercher, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 2, Apr. 2004, pp. 121-137.

This article examined victim and offender characteristics of all registered adult female sexual offenders in Texas. A complex relationship between victims and offenders was uncovered. Six types of female sexual offenders were identified.

### Foster care

**Paternal and familial characteristics of family foster care applicants**, by J. Orme, ...[et al]. *Children & Youth Services Review*, vol. 26, no. 3, Mar. 2004, pp. 307-329.

This study in the US examined a range of psychosocial functioning characteristics of 161 applicants for foster parenting. The implications of the findings for the recruitment, assessment, training and support of foster parents are discussed.

**Concurrent planning, meeting the needs of younger looked after children**, by E. Monck, *Childright*, Apr. 2004, pp. 9-11.

This article evaluated the Concurrent Planning program, which aims to reduce the number of moves younger children in care experience. Plan A looks at returning the child to the birth family. Plan B places the child with a family that have been assessed for both fostering and adoption. If the child cannot return to the birth family then the foster family adopts the child.

**A description and analysis of multi-sectoral fostering practice in the United Kingdom**, by C. Sellick & D. Howell, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 34, no. 4, June 2004, pp. 481-499.

This article describes innovative foster care practice across a range of categories in the UK. The categories examined include foster carer recruitment, training and retention, and user evaluation.

**Providing specialist psychological support to foster carers, a consultation model**, by K. Golding, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*, vol. 9, no. 2, May 2004, pp. 71-76.

In this paper a consultation service for foster carers is described. The foster carers reported being highly satisfied with the service.

**The systematic abrogation of practice standards in foster care**, by R. Gilbertson & J. Barber, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 57, no. 1, Mar. 2004, pp. 31-45.

Over the past decade, a number of reviews of the alternative care system in South Australia identified various shortcomings in the system. An extensive restructure and outsourcing of alternative care services in the mid 1990s was reported to have done little to rectify the problems. Between 1998 and 2001 the statutory agency, Family and Youth Services, conducted three internal surveys to measure social workers' compliance with a range of practice standards for children and

young people in foster care. The authors of this paper obtained the survey reports and, using data extracted from the reports, constructed a picture of the type of social work service provided to children and young people in care. Where variables were directly comparable, the authors conducted secondary data analysis to identify changes in compliance on a number of practice standards over time. It was found that young people under state protection may not be receiving adequate levels of care. Of particular concern was the high number of cases in which statutory obligations with respect to health, case review, and involvement of young people in decision-making, were not being met. [Journal abstract]

### Grooming

**A comparative study of demographic data relating to intra-and extra-familial child sexual abuses and professional perpetrators**, by J. Sullivan & A. Beech, *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, vol. 10, no. 1, Mar. 2004, pp. 39-50.

This article examines the findings of a study that interviewed 41 "professional perpetrators" who abused the children with whom they worked. Many of the perpetrators had chosen their profession because they could gain access to children. The grooming and manipulation techniques employed by these perpetrators are described.

**Getting to grips with sexual grooming? The new offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003**, *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, vol. 26, no. 2, 2004, pp. 147-159.

The author examines the new sexual grooming law in England. Difficulties associated with proving the existence of harmful ulterior intent are discussed. The author argues that the new law will provide better protection for children.

**Internet grooming, the new law**, by A. Gillespie, *Childright*, Mar. 2004, pp. 10-11.

This article describes the new law in England against sex offenders contacting children over the internet, grooming them and sexually abusing them. The term "grooming" is defined. The problem of detecting and preventing grooming prior to sexual abuse is discussed.

### Health care workers

**An overview and pilot study of the dental practitioner's role in child protection**, by A. Cairns, M. Murphy & R. Welbury, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 13, no. 1, Jan-Feb 2004, pp. 65-72.

This article examines the role of dentists in identifying and reporting cases of suspected physical child abuse. Many non-accidental injuries occur in the orofacial region and the dentist may be the first, or only, healthcare worker to see the child, either during a routine check-up or an emergency visit.

**Registered nurses' communication about abused children, rules, responsibilities and resistance**, by R. Nayda, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 13, no. 3, May-Jun 2004, pp. 188-199.

This study gathered data from hospital records and interviews with nurses relating to the communication

of registered nurses about abused children. Participants were asked to respond to vignettes of suspected child abuse. This article discusses three issues that emerged from these sessions, which reduced the participants' degree of involvement by handing responsibility over to colleagues, or by lack of reporting of potential child abuse, codes of communication; acts of resistance; and systematic malpractice.

**Why are professionals failing to initiate mandated reports of child maltreatment, and are there any empirically based training programs to assist professionals in the reporting process?** by K. Alvarez et al., *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, vol. 9, no. 5, Aug. 2004, pp. 563-578.

This paper examines the reasons for the failure of professionals to report suspected child abuse. It also evaluates current training programs for mandated professionals.

### Help seeking behaviour

**An analysis of children and young people's calls to ChildLine about abuse and neglect, a study for the Scottish Child Protection Review**, by S. Vincent & B. Daniel, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 13, no. 2, Mar-Apr 2004, pp. 158-171.

This paper describes one part of a ministerial multidisciplinary review of child protection that was carried out in 2001 across Scotland in response to the murder of a young child by her stepfather. This part of the Review collected data from ChildLine Scotland in order to assess the views of children who had been abused but had no contact with child protection agencies. Significant levels of abuse were described and many of the children had told no one of the abuse. The implications for the child protection system are discussed.

### Indigenous families

**Child maltreatment investigations among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families in Canada**, by C. Blackstock, N. Trocme & M. Bennett, *Violence Against Women, An Interdisciplinary Journal*, vol. 10, no. 8, Aug. 2004, pp. 901-916.

In this study important differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families in the child protection system in Canada are identified. Aboriginal children are overrepresented at every decision point and are more likely to be placed in out-of-home care. A fuller understanding of why Aboriginal children are overrepresented and what can be done to address these issues are discussed.

**Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council welcomes State and Territory legislation that will protect Aboriginal children from abuse**, by J. Lloyd, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol. 6, no. 1, Mar-Apr 2004, pp. 28-29.

The advocacy role of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council is outlined, and the continuing commitment of many members to many aspects of customary law, beliefs and practices is noted. The author explains that it is particularly concerning issues of personal safety that members seek protection from law enforcement

agencies and state and territory legislation, and that the women look to criminal codes and the justice system to protect vulnerable young girls and to reflect their customary beliefs that children must be protected.

**Seven priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families**, by M. Cadd, *Developing Practice, The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 10, Winter 2004, pp. 9-11.

Seven policy priorities for extending improvements made in the areas of health, welfare and education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are identified in this article. The priorities are: a national apology; healing and education (towards healthy relationships); fewer contemporary removals (of Indigenous children from their families); child protection reforms; early childhood programs; capacity building; better planning.

**Working together, toward a national policy for child protection and recovery**, by M. Cadd, *SNAICC Newsletter*, Mar. 2004, pp. 1-4.

This paper delivered by the Chairperson of the Secretariat of the National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) at a recent national summit on child abuse examines the underlying causes of abuse and violence stemming from the historical legacy of abuse towards Indigenous people and then describes the situation today. Investing in the development of children and listening to the voices of Indigenous people are highlighted as essential to any attempt to start addressing the causes of child abuse and neglect. The article concludes with a summary of the key reforms proposed by SNAICC to improve the situation for Indigenous children.

### Institutional abuse

**Liability for institutional child sexual assault, where does Lepore leave Australia?** by J. Wangmann, *Melbourne University Law Review*, vol. 28, no. 1, Apr. 2004, pp. 169-202.

The High Court of Australia in *Lepore* was asked to decide whether an educational authority could be held liable for the sexual assault of a pupil by a teacher. Two possible bases of liability were argued, that sexual assaults by a teacher are a breach of the authority's non-delegable duty of care, vicarious liability is the more appropriate method of locating liability. A majority of the Court advocated the latter approach. This article explores what the High Court said about institutional child sexual assault and argues that this decision does not bode well for victims in future cases. In a number of ways the High Court reveals a lack of appreciation of the role of power in child sexual assault, a narrow focus on frameworks of "intimacy" and residential care situations, and a failure to consider the child's point of view. This lack of understanding is contrasted with recent decisions in Canada and England that have held that an organisation can be vicariously liable for the sexual assaults of a child in the care of the organisation by an employee. In so doing, these courts delivered judgments that demonstrated a more thorough understanding of the nature of child sexual assault. (Journal abstract)

**Professional credibility and public trust in those working with young people**, by J. Bessant, *Children Australia*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2004, pp. 5-13.

The author argues that restoring public trust in the institutions and services where child abuse has taken place, and may still be occurring, is an issue of considerable importance. She critically reviews the conditions necessary for restoring public trust. Those conditions include improved governance and systematic improvements in the intellectual and professional education of youth workers to ensure that they have the requisite capabilities such as critical insight, advocacy skills and political resolve. The value of establishing a code of professional practice ethics is also considered. Finally it is argued that advocating for young people's rights is another means of securing their wellbeing and workers' professional standing. The author points out, however, that the rights option is somewhat limited because, although it obligates, it does not specify who owes the obligation, and for this reason, rights talk too often remains ineffectual because it is abstracted. The author suggests that the identification of obligations is also necessary for securing public trust and young people's wellbeing because, unlike rights, they specify who is bound and to whom the obligation is owed. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Mandatory reporting

**Expectations and reality, non-government child and family workers' experience of mandatory reporting**, by N. Spence et al., Sydney, NSW, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, 2004.

The introduction of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection Act) 1998 brought about many changes in the NSW child protection system. One of the most significant changes was the extension of mandatory reporting to a greater number of occupational groups. In response to the level of concern about the response to calls made by mandatory reporters, surveys were conducted in 2001 by a consortium of agencies. The aim of these surveys was to gain an understanding of the experience of non-government agencies in making reports of children at risk of harm and the perceived effectiveness of the new system. Continuing widespread concern with the NSW child protection system including public and media criticism resulted in the announcement of a Parliamentary Inquiry into child protection in mid 2002. Within this context, Australian Children's Welfare Agencies undertook to investigate further the factors which influence the making of reports by non government child and family service providers, the expectations of reporters when they make a report, and their views as to whether or not children are better protected by the new NSW child protection reporting system. This involved in-depth interviews with child and family services workers, focusing on factors that influence the decision to report; expectations of what will happen as a consequence of making a report; and their understanding of the difference in reporting to DoCS and the requirements to report to the Ombudsman, all of which are reported on in this publication.

**Workers' experiences of mandatory reporting**, by L. Mulroney, *Developing Practice, The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 9, Autumn 2004, pp. 33-37.

The Association of Children's Welfare Agencies conducted a research project to investigate the experiences of 39 non-government child and family workers with mandatory reporting. The author discusses the findings and presents comments from the participants on the following: communication immediately following a report; coordinated work following a report; inter-agency guidelines and protocols; and factors that increased interagency collaboration.

### Model programs

**Looking for and replicating model programs for "at risk" children and families**, by F. Ainsworth, *Children Australia*, vol. 29, no. 1, 2004, pp. 31-36.

At the present time there is a need for a new generation of programs to address the needs of "at risk" children and families. This is an issue that is exercising the minds of service planners in both government and non-government community service organisations. This need arises from the fact that many existing programs have yet to be rigorously evaluated and are of questionable effectiveness. This lack of evidence of effectiveness does not sit well in the current climate of accountability. It also runs contrary to the increasingly strident calls for evidence based practice. Many new programs arrive in Australia from the US, as this country is often the source of program innovation as illustrated by the importation in the 1980s and 1990s of family preservation and family reunification programs. In the US, promotion of "model programs" has taken another step and a systematic effort at program replication is now in evidence. The question is, how might model programs from overseas be successfully replicated in Australia? And what is required, if anything, to replicate these models effectively taking account of our different cultural traditions? [Journal abstract]

### National strategy

**It's time for a national strategy**, by A. Meuronen, *Developing Practice, The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 10, Winter 2004, pp. 11-12.

There were over 40,000 substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect in Australia in 2002- 2003. This article argues that current State and Territory child protection systems are failing to cope with the crisis proportions of the problem and calls for a coordinated national approach to the rising incidence of abuse, in which federal, state and territory governments would work together to effect change. The article discusses the Families Australia campaign, Our Children, Our Concern, Our Responsibility, and reports the resolutions made at the Families Australia National Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect held in Canberra in June 2004.

### Parent satisfaction

**The Parent Satisfaction with Foster Care Services Scale**, by S. Kapp & R. Vela, *Child Welfare*, vol. LXXXIII, no. 3, May/June 2004, pp. 263-287.

This evaluation of the Parent Satisfaction with Foster Care Services Scale found it to be reliable and flexible.

The authors suggest it may be useful for social work researchers, practitioners and administrators.

**Parents' views on social work interventions in child welfare cases**, by T. Spratt & J. Callan, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 34, no. 2, Mar. 2004, pp. 199-224.

The study obtained the views of parents who were subject to child welfare interventions. While parents were apprehensive, in most cases successful relationships were formed with the social workers involved. The writers argue that the workers display considerable skill in both engaging with the parents and managing potential risks. These skills are not easily captured by performance indicators.

**The unheard client, assessing the satisfaction of parents of children in foster care**, by S. Kapp & R. Vela, *Child & Family Social Work*, vol. 9, no. 2, May 2004, pp. 197-206.

In this article the development of a client satisfaction tool for parents with children in foster care is described. Findings from a large survey that presents the experiences of these parents are also described.

### Personal safety

**Protective Behaviours, a personal safety program**, by J. Lowndes, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 2, Winter 2004, pp. 29.

*Protective Behaviours*, a personal safety program, is described in this article. The program is a primary prevention strategy relevant to the prevention of sexual and physical abuse and bullying, which teaches children and adults an awareness of safety and how to seek assistance when necessary. The program emphasises that everyone has the right to feel safe all of the time.

### Poverty

**The link between childhood and adult abuse among long-term welfare recipients**, by M. Derr & M. Taylor, *Children & Youth Services Review*, vol. 26, no. 2, Feb. 2004, pp. 173-184.

Women on long-term welfare benefits reported high rates of childhood and adult abuse. A connection between past abuse and being an abusive parent was identified.

**Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Examining the relationship between child neglect and poverty**, by D. McSherry, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 34, no. 5, July 2004, pp. 727-733.

In this article the conundrum of the chicken and the egg is used to describe the current debate over child neglect and poverty. The author concludes that the resolution may be found in understanding that the relationship is circular and interdependent.

### Record keeping

**You wrote what?! Dangers and dilemmas in record keeping**, by C. Cousins & S. Toussaint, *Developing Practice, The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 10, Winter 2004, pp. 38-45.

Research shows that clinical practitioners undervalue their own and colleagues' note taking, and often fail to

make use of the available written evidence in their assessments of clients. This article discusses the value of record keeping practices. It covers: the purpose and role of recording information from the client's, practitioner's and agency's point of view; what to record; how to record; timing; corrections to files; storage; confidentiality and privacy issues; client access to records.

## Research

**Building research strategies in child welfare, a research and evaluation framework for policy and practice**, by M. Connolly, *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, no. 22, Jul. 2004, pp. 119-127.

While sound public policy development is built on rigorous research, research tends to occur in an ad hoc way, with little strategic attention being paid to identifying research information needs as they interact across a system of policy interest. The development of research strategies that address integrated information needs can help to ensure that the best possible advantage is gained from current and future research. This paper discusses the collaborative development of a research strategy that responds to the information needs of the statutory care system in New Zealand. The strategy addresses the contextual, operational, evaluative and developmental needs of the child welfare statutory care system. The paper discusses the way in which the research strategy was developed, broadly describes the menu of projects that emerged, and considers the implications of the strategy for social policy and practice development. (Journal abstract)

**The limitations of using statutory child protection data for research into child maltreatment**, by L. Bromfield & D. Higgins, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 57, no. 1, Mar 2004, pp. 19-30.

Child protection legislation has undergone a number of changes since its inception, changes that have redefined the population of children in need of protection. However, child protection data on notifications and substantiations remain the most common source of data for statistics on the rate of maltreatment and the breakdown of specific maltreatment types. In the present study, three factors are identified that have compromised the accuracy of child protection data reporting the incidence of child abuse and neglect (i) the legislative changes that mandate child protection services to protect children from harm rather than from identifiable adult actions; (ii) the shift from the Harm Standard to the Endangerment Standard; and (iii) the assignment of responsibility solely to parents. The examples in this paper are drawn from Australian legislation, however, the legislative changes that have created these issues are evident internationally, rendering child protection data an unreliable and invalid source for statutory or research data on the rates of child maltreatment. [Journal abstract]

## Research based practice

**Helping abused children and their families, towards an evidence-based practice model**, by C. Trotter, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen and Unwin, 2004.

Drawing on national and international research, the

author shows that rates of re-abuse and client and worker satisfaction can be improved with an evidence based approach to intervention. He develops his research based practice model, including role clarification, problem solving, pro-social modelling and client worker relationship skills, and uses case studies to show how this model can be used in a range of situations. He aims to show how child protection workers can help parents to provide better care for their children, and how both children and their parents can be assisted in what have often become proceduralised and forensic child protection systems.

## Resilience

**At risk but not antisocial, changes from childhood to adolescence**, by S. Vassallo et al., *Family Matters*, no. 68, Winter 2004, pp. 13-20.

While much is known about the risk factors associated with adolescent antisocial behaviour, less is known about the factors that might promote resilience against this outcome. This article explores this issue, drawing on data from the Australian Temperament Project analysed as part of a collaborative project between the Australian Institute of Family Studies and Crime Prevention Victoria. Two main questions are explored: Why do at-risk individuals differ in their susceptibility to antisocial behaviour? What individual, familial or environmental strengths help some vulnerable individuals to withstand risk and avoid progressing to antisocial behaviour? Amongst the findings are the salience of the early adolescent years; the powerful influence of peer relationships; importance of parenting and the family environment; and influence of school attachment and adjustment.

**BRITA project successfully builds resilience in young people from culturally diverse backgrounds**, by K. Lermerle, *Synergy, Newsletter of the Australian Transcultural Mental Health Network*, no. 2, 2004, pp. 16-17.

The pilot phase of Queensland's "BRITA" project targets culturally specific resilience enhancing factors in young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This article presents a background to the project and discusses its rationale, development, key findings of the Phase one pilot, and future directions.

**Psychological resilience in disadvantaged youth, a critical overview**, by J. Harvey & P. Delfabbro, *Australian Psychologist*, vol. 39, no. 1, Mar. 2004, pp. 3-13.

This paper provides a critical review of research into the notion of psychological resilience and its implications for studies of disadvantaged young people. A number of significant conceptual and methodological challenges are examined, the most important of these being the difficulties associated with the operationalisation of resilience, the development of culturally relevant thresholds and the circularity inherent in commonly used definitions. The limitations and potential value of integrated theoretical models, such as Bronfenbrenner's ecological model and Bandura's self-efficacy theory are considered, along with suggestions for methodological strategies to enhance the validity and comprehensiveness of resilience research. [Journal abstract]

**Resilience, the zoom lens factor**, by M. Griffin, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy*, vol. 25, no. 3, Sept. 2004, pp. 122-124.

This paper uses the metaphor of a zoom lens on a camera to explore notions of resilience. The narrative tracks the journey of a thirteen-year-old boy in therapy as he learns to disengage from escalating family conflict and to attain a broader, more optimistic outlook on life. Although the paper is in the form of a story, it springs from a cognitive-behavioural model of therapy and only descends to photographic metaphors with reluctance. The view of resilience that emerges is in the tradition of Seligman's learned optimism and Meichenbaum's stress inoculation approach. Along the way, though, intrusions arise from attachment theory, temperament research, a plethora of psychotherapies and, of course, the zoom lens factor. If finding a new perspective is important, life really is a camera. Most of all, this is one boy's story of a long and often difficult journey. The therapist is responsible for all the extra baggage. [Journal abstract]

**A time to simply "be", building resilient and happy children through relaxation techniques**, by P. Thomas, *Every Child*, vol. 10, no. 3, Winter 2004, pp. 24-25.

Western society is slowly coming to understand that health and wellbeing are more than an absence of disease or illness. This article outlines how relaxation techniques can empower children and help them to develop and maintain a positive balance in their lives.

**Up we grew, stories of Australian childhoods**, by P. Bone, Carlton, Vic, Melbourne University Press, 2004.

Why do some children in difficult circumstances seem able to cope with life, while for others, life is a struggle? Are Australian children generally less resilient than they used to be? In this book, the author explores these questions through her own experience as a daughter, sister and mother. She takes as her starting point her own story of growing up in a small town on the Murray River after the war, and illuminates the influences of family, friendships and school that shape people. Then through a series of interviews, she considers how some famous and less well-known Australians have coped with the death of a parent, divorce, being different, having talent, opportunity money or the lack thereof. The subjects of the book include Jurgen Nelles, June Factor, Abdulkadir Muse, Mark Latham, Helen Coonan, Natasha Stott Despoja, Michael Leunig, Maurice Strandgard, Joanna Murray-Smith, Terry Lane, Max Gillies, Norman Lacy, Marlene Burchill, Muriel Cadd and Mungara Brown.

### Sibling abuse

**An integrated theoretical model of sibling violence and abuse**, by K. Hoffman & J. Edwards, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 19, no. 3, June 2004, pp. 185-200.

This article draws on different theoretical perspectives to examine adolescent sibling violence and abuse. A new model of sibling conflict is proposed. This new model will enable researchers to examine sibling violence in a more holistic way.

### Stepfamilies

**Child abuse in stepfather families, do people think it occurs more often than it does in biological father families?**, by S. Claxton-Oldfield & L. Whitt, *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, vol. 40, no. 1/2, 2003, pp. 17-33.

This paper explored the opinions of 186 university students about the likelihood of children being abused by a step- or biological father. The reasons for the abuse are also explored. It was noted that the media contribute to the belief that abuse in stepfamilies is more likely to occur than in biological families.

**Methods of filicide, stepparents and genetic parents kill differently**, by V. Weekes-Shackelford & T. Shackelford, *Violence & Victims*, vol. 19, no. 1, Feb. 2004, pp. 75-81.

This article compares the methods used, and motivations for, the killing of a child by stepparents and genetic parents. Findings indicate that more children are killed by stepparents than by genetic parents

### Suicide

**Sexual abuse and suicidal behaviour**, by R.K. Oates, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, no. 5, May 2004, pp. 487-489.

Sexual abuse is a risk factor for suicidal behaviour. This article looks at several Australian studies that investigated suicidality and reports of sexual abuse amongst adolescents and young people. It concludes that more attention should be given to early intervention with young people who exhibit clinical or emotional problems.

**Sexual abuse and suicidality, gender differences in a large community sample of adolescents**, by G. Martin et al., *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, no. 5, May 2004, pp. 491-503.

This study of South Australian adolescents examined gender specific relationships between self-reported child sexual abuse and suicidality. The findings strongly suggest that sexual abuse is associated with suicide ideation and behaviour, and that there is a marked difference between girls and boys in the rates of making suicide plans and suicide attempts. The article recommends that health professionals, should be alerted to an increased risk of suicidal behaviour among adolescents with a history of sexual abuse, especially among boys.

### Theories

**The space in-between, bringing together feminist and psychological theories on child sexual abuse**, by M. Purvis, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 2, Winter 2004, pp. 12-17.

In this paper, the author puts forward a potential solution to the problem concerning the separation of intellectual ways of understanding child sexual abuse, specifically the separation of feminist and psychological theories. Psychological theories have dominated the approach to targeting and dealing with child sexual abuse and sexual offenders. The author argues that we can improve our chances of reducing child sexual abuse by understanding the differences between feminist and psychological approaches and joining their best features through a public health approach. [Journal abstract]