



Welcome to the first National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter for 2004. In this edition we are pleased to feature overviews of the Queensland Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Foster Care (by Katie Kovacs), and treatment programs for sexually abusive young people in Australasia (by Karen Flanagan), as well as articles on the Parents Under Pressure Program (by Paul Harnett, Sharon Dawe and Vanessa Rendalls), and the links between animal abuse and family violence (by Nicola Taylor).

We would like to remind readers that the Clearinghouse welcomes contributions for publication. Authors can submit articles that describe current initiatives or policies, discuss aspects of child abuse and neglect, or highlight issues in preventing, or responding to, child abuse and neglect.

Staffing changes

There have been a number of staffing changes at the Clearinghouse this year. *Dr Janet Stanley* resigned in January to take up the position of Research and Policy Manager with the Brotherhood of St Laurence (Melbourne), while *Katie Kovacs* resigned in March 2004 to take up a position managing offender rehabilitation programs in the Victorian Department of Justice. Both Janet and Katie joined the Clearinghouse in 2001



Australian Government

Australian Institute
of Family Studies

National Child
Protection Clearinghouse

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse has operated from the Australian Institute of Family Studies since 1995. The Clearinghouse is funded by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services as part of the Australian Government's response to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The Clearinghouse collects, produces and distributes information and resources, conducts research, and offers specialist advice on the latest developments in child abuse prevention, child protection, and associated family violence.

In this issue

Editorial – Adam Tomison	1
Summary of the Queensland Inquiry into the abuse of Children in Foster Care	3
Latest child protection statistics	6
Child abuse in Australia: Future directions for NAPCAN	7
Program profile: Parents Under Pressure program	9
Summary of research on programs for intervention with sexually abusive young people in Australia and New Zealand	14
Child abuse, domestic violence and the use of animals	16
Two campaigns aim to prevent child abuse	18
Program profile: Women's Safety After Separation project	19
Professional development for workers in the child protection/child welfare area	22
Conferences and events	25
Literature highlights	27
Clearinghouse services	35
Clearinghouse publications	36
Clearinghouse membership form	36

© Australian Institute of Family Studies – Commonwealth of Australia 2004.

Views expressed in Clearinghouse publications are those of individual authors and may not necessarily reflect Clearinghouse or Institute policy.

National Child Protection Clearinghouse
Manager and Senior Research Adviser: Adam Tomison
Newsletter compiled and edited by: Nick Richardson

Australian Institute of Family Studies
300 Queen Street, Melbourne 3000 Australia
Phone: (03) 9214 7888 Fax: (03) 9214 7839
Internet: www.aifs.gov.au/

Designed by Double Jay Graphic Design
Printed by Almar Press

ISSN 1447-0039 (Print)
ISSN 1447-0047 (Online)

Print Post Approved PP349181/00604



and since that time they both have made significant contributions to the Clearinghouse. We wish them well in their new endeavours.

In March 2004, *Nick Richardson* joined the Clearinghouse team as a research officer. With a psychology background, Nick has previously been working at the Australian Institute of Family Studies as a researcher on the Australian Temperament Project, and specifically, as part of a collaborative project with Crime Prevention Victoria that has been exploring a range of issues around adolescent antisocial behaviour. Nick has also worked as a volunteer telephone counsellor and is already well-versed on the issues of child abuse and other family violence.

Tom Fooks has also been employed to provide administrative support for the Clearinghouse. As this issue goes to press, we are also recruiting additional research staff.

Finally, after nine years with the Clearinghouse, I (*Dr Adam Tomison*) will also be leaving at the end of May 2004. I have recently accepted an offer to be the Director of Research (Population and Evaluation) in the Northern Territory's Office of Aboriginal Health, Family and Social Policy, and have therefore resigned from the Clearinghouse and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. A key part of this role is to address the issue of child abuse and other family violence in Indigenous communities. Thus I will continue to remain active in the child abuse and family violence field. I am also pleased to continue to have an ongoing involvement with the Clearinghouse, via a position as Honorary Research Associate for the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

From modest beginnings. . .

From modest beginnings, the National Child Protection Clearinghouse has developed into a centre for excellence with a national and international reputation in the field of child abuse prevention and child protection. I am very proud of all that has been achieved by staff members and it is with a heavy heart that I am leaving.

With the current Clearinghouse contract extended for a further three years to June 2007, the Clearinghouse is poised to develop its services further to better meet the research and informational needs of stakeholders. I would encourage you to make the most of this valuable national resource, and to contact Clearinghouse staff if you have any ideas or opportunities that you feel might enable the Clearinghouse to better meet your needs or those of the child protection and child welfare/family support sectors.

I wish you well with your endeavours.

Adam Tomison