

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The following selections from new additions to the Clearinghouse collection over the last six months may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library, via the interlibrary loan system. COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER.

Aboriginal families

A further perspective on kinship care: Indigenous foster care, by M. McHugh, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 8, Summer, 2003, pp. 14-24.

In light of the increasing reliance on kinship care of Indigenous children, the author examines the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous care and the resulting difficulties facing carers and the Indigenous agencies supporting them. The implementation of the Aboriginal (and Islander) Child Placement Principle (ACPP), intended to redress previous policies such as the forced removal of Indigenous children, is examined across each state, with increased compliance in most States noted for 2001-2002.

The human rights of Australia's Indigenous children: Pandora, how do we open the box? by J. Hammill, *Social Alternatives*, vol. 22, no. 3, Third Quarter, 2003, pp. 27-31.

Although the human rights of Australia's children are enshrined in the policy documents of governments, services and other educational organisations, in reality they have limited application. This paper highlights some of the main omissions of children's rights that adversely direct life outcomes for children who are unfortunate to fit within certain categories, particularly those children who are marginalised by their social and racial background.

Legal and political responses to the Stolen Generation: Lessons from Ireland, by C. Cunneen, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol. 5, no. 27, September 2003, pp. 14-19.

In Ireland political and legal actions have been taken since the 1990s to provide compensation to victims of the formerly widespread child removal practices and associated child abuse. The author describes the historical and legal background to these claims for compensation, the role of the Church, and the response of the government and the courts. While not suggesting that the Irish situation is directly comparable with that of the Stolen Generation, nor that the Irish response could be directly applied in Australia, the author does applaud the Irish government's commitment to acknowledging a past institutionalised wrong and addressing the concept of reparation.

Behaviour problems

Sexual abuse, antisocial behaviour and substance use: Gender differences in young community adolescents, by H.A. Bergen et al., *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 38, nos. 1 and 2, January-February 2004, pp. 34-41.

This article investigates gender specific relationships between self reported sexual abuse, antisocial behaviour and substance use in a large community sample of adolescents. A cross sectional study of students between 13 and 14 years of age from 27 schools in South Australia was undertaken, with a questionnaire including sexual abuse, frequency and severity of substance use, depressive symptomatology and antisocial behaviour. (Journal abstract, edited)

Child development

Atypical child development in context, by J.M. Empson, D. Nabuzoka & D. Hamilton, Houndmills, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

"This book considers the important issues of 'normality' and 'atypicality' in child development . . . With case studies throughout, this book offers the reader an understanding of the circumstances and conditions associated with children experiencing difficulties in development." (Cover)

Child neglect

Assessing child neglect, by R.M. Gershater-Molko, J.R. Lutzker & J.A. Sherman, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol. 8, no. 6, November/December, 2003, pp. 563-585.

This paper reviews the current tools which are used to measure the risk factors for child neglect. Two case studies are presented. The paper concludes with a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the current assessment process and offers suggestions for improvements in this process.

Child sexual abuse

Claimsmakers in the child sexual abuse "wars": Who are they and what do they want?, by J. Mildred, *Social Work*, vol. 48, no. 4, October, 2003, pp. 492-503.

This article discusses the range of different opinions and perspectives that have formed around the issue of child sexual abuse. Debates about child sexual abuse take place in the arena of larger social, political and scientific contexts. Social workers need to be trained so they can understand how the moral and political beliefs of researchers may influence both the research design and the research findings.

Differences in trauma symptoms and family functioning in intra- and extrafamilial sexually abused adolescents, by S. Bal et al., *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19 no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 101-123.

This study investigated whether abuse-related symptoms and family functioning were associated with

intra- or extrafamilial sexual abuse of adolescents. Findings indicated no difference in the abuse-related symptoms between the two groups. Lack of family cohesion, however, was found to contribute to internalising trauma-related problems.

Governing child sexual abuse: Negotiating the boundaries of public and private, law and science, by S. Ashenden, Routledge, London, 2004.

"The turn of the 1990s saw a number of high profile public inquiries into the handling of child sexual abuse cases in Great Britain. This book examines the implications of these inquiries on the regulation of relationships between families and the state . . . In particular, drawing on the work of Foucault and Habermas, it looks at: the liberal constitution of a boundary between public and private spheres, the legal and scientific determination of legitimate intervention, the relation between democracy and expertise in the governance of social life." (Book jacket)

What is child sexual abuse? Rethinking what we know, by J. Southwell, Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre, Collingwood, Vic, 2003.

Child sexual abuse has come to be a widely discussed issue, with most people assuming that they fully understand the issue. This discussion paper seeks to question such assumptions by analysing the meaning given to child sexual abuse and how such meaning informs perception and response to the issues. Terms discussed include incest, pedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, rape and sexual assault. The discussion includes consideration of the historical and theoretical frameworks of the meaning.

Costs

Financing medically-oriented child protection teams in the age of managed health care: A national survey, by A.P. Giardino, L.A. Montoya & J.M. Leventhal, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 25-44.

In this article the direct and indirect costs of child abuse are estimated. Results were compared with a similar survey in 1993.

Cross cultural studies

Child sexual abuse in Europe, co-ordinated by C. May-Chahal & M. Herczog, Council of Europe Pub, Strasbourg, France, c2003.

Drawing on case studies of child sexual abuse in Germany, Poland, Romania and England, this book discusses the prevention measures already adopted and the key issues still facing policy makers and practitioners in Europe.

Domestic violence

An analysis of current Australian program initiatives for children exposed to domestic violence, by K. Kovacs & A.M. Tomison, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 38, no. 4, November, 2003, pp. 513-539.

While services have been assisting women who have been victims of domestic violence for many years, it

has only been in recent times, that children exposed to domestic violence have begun to receive attention by service providers as clients in their own right. A number of specialised programs have now been designed to meet the needs of these children by domestic violence services and agencies that have a child protection or child welfare/family support focus. This paper aims to describe the types of programs currently in operation across Australia which cater specifically for the needs of children who have been exposed to domestic violence by analysing programs listed on the Child Abuse Prevention Programs Database developed by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. (Journal abstract, edited)

Making links: Domestic violence, child abuse and harm to companion animals, by N. Taylor, *Queensland Centre for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Newsletter*, vol. 2, no. 2, December, 2003, pp. 8-9.

This article discusses research showing links between domestic violence and animal cruelty. Companion animals may be subjected to violence by perpetrators of domestic violence; victims of child abuse may also turn to abusing animals. Another link between family pets and domestic violence is the reluctance women often feel to leave their pet when escaping from violence, delaying their seeking help at a refuge. The author argues for a collaborative framework to encourage animal welfare, child welfare and family welfare agencies to work together to detect and prevent family violence.

Silence breeds violence: Bursting the bubble on family violence, by D. Light, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 4, Summer, 2003, pp. 18-20.

The author discusses growing up with family violence, drawing on her personal experience as a child in a family with a violent father. She believes that women and children's silence about violence in the home must stop, to allow victims of violence and abuse to live without fear. Some effects of violence on young people are discussed, particularly that children may learn from their parents to associate violence with family relationships.

Evaluations

The Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment revisited, by V. Totsika & K. Sylva, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 25-35.

This article evaluates the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) scale. HOME has been successfully used to evaluate interventions and has been used extensively in research into the relationship between home environment and child development.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start local programs in England, by The NESS Research Team, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 2-8.

This article describes the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) programs. Sure Start local programs are comprehensive, community-based projects that are adapted to local needs and involve changes to existing services. NESS addresses the following questions: Do existing services change? Are delivered services improved? Do children, families and communities benefit?

An overview of research methodology in the development of family-focused treatment programs, by P. Harnett & S. Dawe, in R. Sullivan (ed.) *Focus on fathering*, Australian Council for Educational Research, Camberwell, Vic. 2003, pp. 191-210.

Program and service evaluation is increasingly popular in the area of family support services. The authors present an overview of research methodology, including single case designs, for practitioners who wish to evaluate the effectiveness of their own clinical practice, group designs, issues of measurement, and distinguishing efficacy and effectiveness research. They then discuss the development and evaluation of the Parents Under Pressure program, which was developed for multi problem, high risk parents.

Failure to thrive

Children who fail to thrive: A practice guide, by D. Iwaniec, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, England, 2004.

"The author has carried out the longest ever study on failure to thrive, following up on 198 clinical cases after a 20-year period. This extensive practical guide includes: numerous checklists and other instruments for use in assessment, four chapters on intervention and treatments, with a particular focus on multidisciplinary approaches, a comprehensive literature review alongside original research data, case studies drawn from the author's lengthy clinical experience." (Cover)

Family support services

The child in family services: Expanding child abuse prevention, by S. Wise, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 56, no. 3, September, 2003, pp. 83-196.

Child welfare concerns have drifted to an inappropriate focus on crisis intervention and a punitive approach to child protection intervention at the expense of community based preventive child welfare programs. Recent attempts to divert cases from the child protection system through differentiated response mechanisms have been criticised for failing to provide access to relevant services or preventing vulnerable families from re entering the child protection process. A tension inherent in providing both child protection and family support within the one agency is also identified as a barrier to effective service delivery. This paper discusses the value of the UK Children in Need approach as a model for enhancing support to children and families outside the statutory child protection system. (Journal abstract)

Evaluating family support: Thinking internationally, thinking critically, edited by I. Katz & J. Pinkerton, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, England, c2003.

"The delivery of effective family support is a key global child welfare issue, yet there is little consensus on what constitutes family support or what the best ways are to evaluate it . . . This book presents the current state of critical thinking alongside detailed international case studies." (Jacket)

Protecting children by strengthening families: A study of outcomes of intervention through children's family centres, by E. Fernandez, University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW, 2003.

This project, funded by the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Research Program, examined how a range of family support interventions provided by Barnardos Australia impacted on a number of at risk families in the areas of family functioning and parent child relationships and reduced involvement with child protective services. A range of families participated in the program, with all of them considered "at risk". It was found that over the six month project period, family functioning improved across several areas. The report provides the background to the study and discusses the profile of needs and circumstances of the families, the needs of the families and the children at the initial and six month assessments, and the perspectives of parents and workers on the impact of family support interventions.

Fathers' role

Evaluating a statewide home visiting program to prevent child abuse in at-risk families of newborns: Father's participation and outcomes, by A. Duggan et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 3-17.

This study explored the impact of a home visiting program on fathers' parenting skills. No difference in relation to the fathers' accessibility to the child, engagement in parenting activities or sharing responsibility for the child's welfare was noted.

Foster care

The experience of foster care: Relationship between foster parent disciplinary approaches and aggression in a sample of young foster children, by M. Tripp De Robertis & A.J. Litrownik, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 92-102.

This study discusses the theory that the disciplinary practices of foster parents may influence the aggressive behaviour of the children in their care. Kinship foster parents were found to be more likely than non-related carers to use harsh punishment.

Protecting children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care, Crime and Misconduct Commission, Brisbane, 2004.

The following key questions were considered by the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission's Inquiry under its terms of reference: Is the current system of responding to and dealing with allegations of abuse effective and sufficient to protect children,

including children in foster care? Is the Department of Families able to meet its obligations to protect children, including foster children, from abuse? Are foster carers adequately selected, trained, resourced, supported and monitored? Can accountability, complaint and review processes be improved? Are the needs of Indigenous children in foster care being adequately met? Are there alternatives to, or modifications of, family-based foster care that might better meet the future needs of children? The report provides details about the Inquiry and its background and procedures; relates some of the key themes and issues arising from the evidence before the public inquiry; outlines the Commission's recommended approach for responding to the needs of children in general, and those in the care of the state in particular; proposes a new Department of Child Safety and outlines its key operational features, and how it would operate with other relevant agencies. Also examined are some particular issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities who come into contact with the child protection system. A separate summary report is also available.

Grandparents

Grandparents raising grandchildren: A new class of disadvantaged Australians?, by M. Fitzpatrick & P. Reeve, *Family Matters*, no. 66, Spring/Summer, 2003, pp. 54-57.

This paper discusses some of the findings of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren study, conducted by COTA National Seniors (Australia). The study explored grandparents' views on their existing support mechanisms; what additional support they may require; the financial and legal issues they may be facing; and any concerns they may have about the wellbeing of their grandchildren. The authors state that the study has shown a failure of community support systems in regard to grandparents raising grandchildren. This failure has profound impacts on the lives of both grandparents and grandchildren – in the present and for the future.

Interagency collaboration

If it's such a good idea, how come it doesn't work? The theory and practice of integrated service delivery, by N. Atwool, *Children's Issues*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2003, pp. 31-35.

Integrated or joined up service delivery has been on the agenda for health, welfare, education, police and justice services for a number of years. At the policy level, it makes sense in terms of preventing overlap and ensuring the most effective use of resources. At the practice level, there is ample anecdotal evidence of the perils of uncoordinated multiagency involvement with families. In recent years there have been a number of national and regional initiatives based on the concept of integrated service delivery. Experience has demonstrated that these endeavours are often fraught with difficulty. This paper explores the obstacles to providing joined-up services. (Journal abstract, edited)

Legislation

Emergency removal of children for their care and protection, by R. Best, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol. 17, no. 3, November, 2003, pp. 247-269.

"The procedures that a State has to undertake to remove a child from the child's family, where that child is at risk of harm, were significantly altered by legislative reforms in New South Wales in 1998. Procedures for emergency removal balance the protection of children from acute harm while rendering the agency undertaking the removal accountable for its actions. This article examines the balance resulting from these reforms." (Journal abstract)

Protecting children: The Child Protection Outcomes Project: Final report for the Victorian Department of Human Services, by The Allen Consulting Group, Allen Consulting, Melbourne, 2003.

Under the Children and Young Person's Act 1989 the role of the Victorian child protection system is to provide an emergency service in cases of alleged abuse or neglect that is separate from social welfare programs. The Department of Human Services' Child Protection Outcomes project examined the appropriateness of existing legislative, policy and program frameworks in responding to the changing scale of child abuse and neglect in Victoria. This project report sets out proposed directions for reform of the child protection system to go beyond an emergency service response to accommodate intervention strategies in child protection.

Papers from the conference, "One child's reality, everyone's responsibility: Proceedings: 8th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Department of Human Services, 2001, Melbourne: Breaking down jurisdictional boundaries to protect children, by S. Lodge & S. Coventry, 14p.

Since 1996, Victoria has lead an Australian and New Zealand project known as the Cross Jurisdictional Project, which addresses problems in child protection across state boundaries and between Australia and New Zealand. The project involved the development of a model bill that related to the transfer of child protection orders and proceedings between the States and Territories of Australia and between Australia and New Zealand. It led to the development of a protocol relating to the transfer of child protection orders and proceedings and requests for interstate assistance. It also involved the development of a protocol for the management of interstate child protection warrants in Australia. (Author abstract, edited)

Children's evidence: the need for reform: Prosecuting paedophiles, by L. Davies, 28p.

The author investigates attitudes towards children giving evidence in legal matters, particularly in relation to the claim that they are unreliable witnesses. He discusses what he sees as the most pressing recommendations for amendment for each legislature, made recently by the Australian Law Reform Commission and aiming to provide safeguards for evidence given by child witnesses.

Cross border child protection interagency project southern area NSW and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), by K. Gimson & P. Mackey, 6p.

State and Territory borders, with their different legislative frameworks, present service collaboration challenges to professionals working in child protection. Interagency partners in the Southern Area of NSW, which borders the ACT, are facilitating a project to enhance child protection intervention across the borders when a joint response between departments is required. The Department of Community Services (DOCS) and the Southern Area Health Service (SAHS) are working together with other key service providers and agencies on defining referral pathways, assessment procedures and roles and responsibilities. (Author abstract, edited)

Family decision making and its application to child sexual abuse, by M. Meyer, 25p.

Family Decision Making (FDM) originated in New Zealand in the late 1980s in the child protection and juvenile justice fields. The technique developed as an alternative approach to the State's case planning for children within the welfare system. The Family Group Conference (FGC) is the technique by which the family participates in the decision making process. This paper assesses the effectiveness of using FDM with children and young people in matters of sexual abuse. (Author abstract, edited)

International responses to child sexual abuse, by M. Ilett, 11p.

The response to child sexual abuse in the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States is similar in involving law enforcement and the criminal justice system, medical assessment and the health system and social workers and the child protection system. There are also significant differences in the way in which these systems cooperate in the investigation and management of child sexual abuse. In addition to these there are some unique features within these systems, with the potential to enhance the response to children and families experiencing sexual abuse. Some features of the child protection systems in the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States are discussed, and similarities and differences to the Australian system(s) are highlighted. (Author abstract)

Legislative change and new directions in service delivery in Tasmania, by B. Baikie, 6p.

The introduction of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* has signaled an important change in the way that services are provided in Tasmania. The object of the Act is to provide for the care and protection of children in a manner that gives a high priority to supporting and assisting the family to carry out their responsibility for a child's care and protection, and maximises a child's opportunity to grow up in a safe and stable environment and reach his or her full potential. This presentation describes the changes to practice that have occurred with the introduction of the new legislation. (Author abstract, edited)

Management of abuse in care: Refinement of a model of practice based on legal and ethical duties, by A. Forward & S. Gray, 21p.

In 1995 South Australia adopted a new policy position for the management of allegations of abuse in care, in recognition that a minimalist child protection paradigm was inappropriate and ineffective in responding to the problem. The Special Investigations program was put into operation in 1997. A recent review of the program identified an improved understanding of legal and ethical responsibilities to children and young people and a greater acceptance of intervention. However, the goals of implementing a system based on shared accountability rather than individual blame and of better protecting children from systems abuse still remain organisational challenges. (Author abstract, edited)

Torn between two models: Therapy vs criminal justice, by A. McGregor & J. McIntyre, 5p.

The criminal justice system seeks to afford children and young people all the rights and safeguards that apply to adults; for example, protection from self incrimination, and legal professional privilege of communication. The Children's Protection Society established the Sex Offender Treatment program (or Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention program) in December 1994. This program provides assessment and counselling services to young people aged between 10 and 17 years who have perpetrated sexually abusive behaviours. The program offers only limited confidentiality, and the authors discuss the conflict that arises when what is in a client's best interest is not in their legal best interest.

Who listens to the children? The plight of the child within the legal system, by S. Lawler, J. Vann & J. Sheehan, 10p.

Many child victims of family violence are concurrently under jurisdiction of the *Crimes Family Violence Act* and *Family Law Act*. The authors outline the anomalies between jurisdictions in relation to the existence of an intervention order and the granting of access under the *Family Law Act*. A case study of a family from rural Victoria is presented, and the following issues identified: a lack of mediation or positive intervention prior to or during the legal process; the need for mandatory legal representation for children involved in family violence; lack of positive police intervention in relation to breaches of the *Crimes Family Violence Act* and the subsequent ramifications for children suffering intolerable family violence situations; and difficulties with the financial cap in relation to the accessibility of legal aid. The authors offer suggested recommendations to address such problems. (Author abstract, edited)

Male victims

Sexual abuse of males: The SAM model of theory and practice, by J. Spiegel, Brunner-Routledge, New York, NY, 2003.

"Based on the life histories of more than one thousand sexually abused boys and adult males with histories of childhood sexual abuse, [this book] examines the

myriad biological, psychological, interpersonal, familial, and social variables that underlie and impact the experience of childhood sexual abuse. Guided by research and informed by practice, this pioneering text presents an extensive review of the literature, a well-grounded theoretical model of abuse dynamics and effects, and a systematic model of treatment." (Jacket)

Men and violence

Men who batter and their children: An integrated review, by L. Guille, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol. 9, no. 2, March/April 2004, pp. 129-163.

This literature review covers fathering, men who batter and the effect of violence on child witnesses. It highlights the need to investigate and intervene in men's violence in order to stop the intergenerational transmission of violence.

Mental health

Child protection and mental health services: Inter-professional responses to the needs of mothers, by N. Stanley et al., Policy Press, Bristol, UK, 2003.

"This book examines interprofessional work with families where mothers have mental health problems and there are also child protection issues. Mothers' views and experiences are contrasted with professional perspectives. The book reports on a survey of 500 practitioners working in health, social services and the voluntary sector, presents data from in-depth interviews with mothers with severe mental health problems, identifies weaknesses in interprofessional coordination, suggests a new model for work with families" (Cover)

Non-offending mothers

Ambivalence of non-offending guardians after child sexual abuse disclosure, by R.M. Bolen & J.L. Lamb, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 185-211.

Non-offending mothers of sexually abused children may respond to the disclosure with ambivalence. This ambivalence may reflect the mothers' distress and conflict between wishing to support both the victim and the perpetrator. It is also a normative reaction to a situation where the costs of disclosure are high. Ambivalence may also be a precursor to and an effect of the trauma experienced by the mother at the time of the disclosure.

Parent education

Breaking the cycle: The Australian experience of NEWPIN, by L. Mondy & S. Mondy, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 8, Summer, 2003, pp. 26-35.

The New Parent Infant Network (NEWPIN) is an intensive, centre based parent education and support program developed in the United Kingdom to help families at risk of child abuse. This article outlines the aims of NEWPIN, the theoretical and practical frameworks for the program and costing and staffing implications.

An overview of child physical abuse: Developing an integrated parent-child cognitive-behavioural treatment approach, by M.K. Runyon et al., *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 5, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 65-85.

This article briefly outlines the literature on the benefits of cognitive behavioural therapy for parents and also children and in improving parenting skills and preventing child abuse, and then discusses the possible benefits of combined parent child interventions.

The Triple P-Positive Parenting Program: A universal population-level approach to the prevention of child abuse, by M.R. Sanders, W. Cann & C. Markie-Dadds, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 12, no.3, May/June, 2003, pp. 155-171.

The authors describe the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, an evidence based universal parenting intervention initiative that aims to make parenting programs more accessible to parents. They discuss the theoretical frameworks from which the program is drawn, how the program can enhance parental competence, and the principles of positive parenting which include ensuring a safe and engaging environment; creating a positive learning environment; using assertive discipline; having realistic expectations; and taking care of oneself as a parent.

Physical injuries

Blunt abdominal injury in the young paediatric patient: Child abuse and patient outcomes, by M. Trokel et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 111-117.

The causes of blunt abdominal injury and the outcomes for the patients are evaluated in this article. Car crashes, falls, and child abuse are the main causes of such injuries. Although this type of injury is fairly uncommon mortality rates are high. Injuries associated with abuse more often result in death than injuries associated with falls.

Where the explanation doesn't fit the injury: Child protection and infant harm, by C. Cousins, *Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearing-house Newsletter*, vol. 11, no. 2, Spring, 2003, pp. 4-13.

The issue of serious injuries with discrepant explanations (SIDE), or unexplained incidents of child abuse where the perpetrator has not been identified, is gaining increasing attention. Alongside case studies, this article outlines some of the difficult issues that arise in dealing with SIDE cases. Complex personalities and family dynamics, the absence of the overt high risks associated with contextual pressures, the complexities of interagency work, the issue of leverage with semi voluntary clients, building responsibility and working positively with at risk families, and improving parental education in the areas of emotional skills are discussed in relation to the particular difficulties presented by SIDE cases.

Prevalence studies

Prevalence and demographic correlates of childhood maltreatment in an adult community sample, by C. Scher et al., *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 8, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 167-180.

An adult community sample was surveyed on the prevalence of five retrospectively reported child neglect and abuse categories. The results were then examined in relation to a range of demographic variables. Approximately 30 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men reported childhood abuse, many reported multiple types of abuse. This highlights the need for more research on the prevalence of and risk factors for multiple types of child abuse.

Profiles of child sex offenders

Attachment styles and psychological profiles of child sex offenders in Ireland, by F. Marsa et al., *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 228-251.

In this Irish study child sex offenders were found to have a significantly less secure adult attachment style than violent and non-violent offenders and a community control group. Low levels of parental care and high levels of parental overprotection were reported by the child sex offender group. Emotional loneliness was another significant factor for the child sex offender group. Anger management, however, was closer to the non-violent offender and community groups than the violent offender group.

A comparison of relational attitude and personality disorders in the explanation of child molestation, by S. Bogaerts, G. Vervaeke & J. Goethals, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 37-47.

This Belgium study compared parental sensitivity, relational attitude and personality disorders in a sample of child molesters and a control group. Significant differences between the two groups were found on relational attitude and personality disorder measures.

An exploratory study of child molesters' relationship patterns using the core conflictual relationship theme model, by M. Drapeau, Y. de Roten & A.C. Korner, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 264-275.

This study describes the relationship pattern of child abusers and compares the results to the relationship patterns of a control group. The child abusers reported wanting to help others and to be close and accepting. They presented a pattern of being rejected and controlled by others. However, they described themselves as being self-controlled and self-confident. These contradictory reports may reflect cognitive distortions or the use of defence mechanisms. The article concludes with a discussion of the findings.

Understanding denial in sexual offenders, by S.L. Schneider & R.C. Wright, *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 5, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 3-20.

This article describes multiple facets of denial in detail and how the non-acceptance of responsibility for their thoughts and actions may undermine the treatment of sex offenders. It concludes with a discussion of treatment strategies designed to assess and treat different expressions of denial.

Protocols

The Judicial Case Management Protocol: A good practice tool?, by L. Goldthorpe, *Childright*, January/February, 2004, pp. 5-7.

The Protocol for Judicial Case Management in England is reviewed in this article. The Protocol is a research-based document. It was developed as a response to concern about delays in the system and the effects of these delays on children and their families.

Resilience

Resilience, by A. Deveson, *Auseinetter*, no. 19, November, 2003, pp. 3-5.

The ability to handle adversity with courage and optimism is examined by the author, who provides an overview of theories over the past 50 years relating to the cause of resilience. The work of Garnezy on children at high risk who showed a range of survival mechanisms is shown to have revealed the important role resilience plays in mental health. Werner's concurrent studies on the high level of natural resilience and the importance of community and family as a source of support and healing which creates resilience is also examined. The impact of Western medicine's bias toward psychopathology is discussed, as is the shift toward a view of the person as a system possessing a natural balance towards good health.

Vulnerability or resilience to intergenerational sexual abuse: The role of maternal factors, by M. Leifer, T. Kilbane & S. Kalick, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 78-91.

This study examined the question of intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse. Four groups of mothers and their children, in a variety of dyads of abuse and non-abuse, were compared. Mothers who had broken the cycle of abuse were found to function as well as mothers who had not been abused. Sexually abused mothers with sexually abused children presented more disturbed functioning than the other groups.

Risk factors

Predicting infant maltreatment in low-income families: The interactive effects of maternal attributions and child status at birth, by D. Blunt Bugental & K. Happaney, *Developmental Psychology*, vol. 40, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 234-243.

This article attempts to address the complex issue of child abuse during the first year of the child's life. Some of the characteristics of the children and their parents at birth that may combine to predict abuse or neglect are explored.

Risk factors associated with the chronicity of high potential for child abuse and neglect, by L.S. Ethier, G. Couture & C. Lacharite, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 19, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 13-24.

In this study the relationship between psychosocial variables of the mother (both in the past and the present) and a high or chronic potential for child abuse

were analysed. Variables that were significantly linked to chronic child abuse were identified.

Risk for intimate partner violence and child physical abuse: Psychosocial characteristics of multi-risk male and female navy recruits, by L.L. Merrill et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 18-29.

Male and female navy recruits were assessed on a range of psychosocial characteristics to determine their potential for physically abusing their intimate partner and / or child. Individuals at risk of both partner and child abuse were characterised by the combined predictors of both types of violence risk.

The vulnerabilities of children whose parents have been sexually abused in childhood: Towards a new framework, by C. Hooper & J. Koprowska, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 34, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 165-180.

The paper draws on qualitative research with adult survivors of child sexual abuse to develop a framework for understanding possible vulnerabilities of their children. Within different contexts, likely factors are identified, and ways of supporting both survivors and their children are suggested.

Service use

Accessibility issues in child abuse prevention services, by J. Stanley & K. Kovacs, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2003, (Child Abuse Prevention Issues no.18, Spring, 2003).

Increasing recognition is being given to the importance of preventing the maltreatment of Australian children. Programs designed to achieve this aim have to be both effective and accessible to those most in need of a prevention service. This issues paper examines accessibility to prevention programs by reporting on a small exploratory study undertaken by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. (Author abstract)

Sibling incest

Sibling sexual abuse prevention project: A research project on the nature and characteristics of sibling sexual abuse, Children's Protection Society, Heidelberg West, Vic, 2003.

This study compares a group of young people who had abused their siblings with a group who had abused non-related children. It explores the abusive behaviours, backgrounds and experiences of young people who sexually abuse their siblings. The report describes the Children's Protection Society's sexual abuse counseling and prevention program and then covers the project methodology and background. It discusses the findings, including: abuser and victim information; abuse related information; access and opportunity; legal outcome; familial characteristics and continuity of care; nature and quality of familial relationships; reports of abuse or harm by parents; documented problem behaviours; and documented peer relationship difficulties.

Staff screening

Vetting for childcare posts: issues raised after the Soham trial, by T. Thomas, *Childright*, January/February, 2004, pp. 3-4.

This article examines problems associated with the vetting, screening and reporting procedures in regard to people who apply for positions working with children in England. After his conviction for the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, it was discovered that the police knew Ian Huntley was not a suitable person to work with children.

Suicide

A comparison of child-sex-abuse-related and mental-disorder related suicide in a six-year cohort of regional suicides: The importance of the child protection-psychiatric interface, by C. Pritchard & E. King, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol.3 4, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 181-198.

The study used Coroners' inquest files over a six-year period to compare mental-disorder-related suicide rates with those of child sex abuse victims and perpetrators. Results confirm the over-representation of people with mental disorder among suicides and child-sex-abuse-related suicides, particularly perpetrators.

Sexual abuse and suicidal behaviour: A model constructed from a large community sample of adolescents, by H.A. Bergen et al., *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol. 42, no. 11, November, 2003, pp. 1301-1309.

This study used data from a survey of Australian high school students to examine relationships between self reported sexual abuse, depression, hopelessness and suicidal feelings among adolescents. The authors found that sexual abuse is associated with suicidal feelings, hopelessness is more strongly associated with sexual abuse in boys than girls and depressive symptoms are more strongly associated with high suicide risk in girls than boys.

Treatment for child sex offenders

Approach versus avoidance goals in relapse prevention with sexual offenders, by R.E. Mann et al., *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 65-75.

This study evaluated and compared two treatment programs for sex offenders. Findings indicated that the positively orientated approach-focused program produced better treatment engagement and outcomes than the traditional avoidance-focused program. Implications for treatment programs are discussed.

Engagement, denial, and treatment progress among sex offenders in group therapy, by J.S. Levenson & M.J. Macgowan, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 49-63.

The relationship between engagement, denial and treatment progress of male sex offenders was explored. Findings indicate that denial is a major determinant of treatment progress and outcomes. The article concludes with strategies for increasing engagement and reducing denial.