

## LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

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### Adult survivors

**The questions posed by our work with women who have experienced sexual abuse**, by S. Mann, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy & Community Work*, no. 4, 2004, pp. 3-12.

The author focuses on complex and challenging questions that arise in work with women who have experienced sexual abuse as children. She describes the principles that shape her approach in this work, as well as responses to questions about sex work and sexual identity that have arisen in her conversations with women. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Child advocacy

**In the best interests of the child**, by H. Johnston, Pluto Press, North Melbourne, Victoria, 2004.

In this autobiographical account of her family life, both as a child and then as an adult, the author describes the circumstances and effects of the discovery that her seven-year old daughter was being sexually abused. She discusses her decision to become a child protection activist and her work since then as an advocate for children's rights and protection against child abuse within the family, school and church.

### Child health in immigration detention

**Psychiatric assessment of children and families in immigration detention: Clinical, administrative and ethical issues**, by S. Mares & J. Jureidini, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 28 no. 6, December, 2004, pp. 520-526.

This paper reports the clinical, practical and ethical issues arising in the assessment of ten consecutive referrals from a remote Immigration Reception and Processing Centre to a Australian child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) between February and August 2002. The sixteen adults and twenty children (age range 11 months to 17 years) were comprehensively assessed by allied health clinicians and child psychiatrists. All children were also assessed by the statutory child protection agency. Very high levels of psychopathology were found in child and adult asylum seekers. Much was attributable to traumatic experiences in detention and, for children, the impact of indefinite detention on their caregivers. Multiple obstacles to adequate service provision are

identified. Adequate clinical intervention and care was not possible. The impact on the clinicians involved, is discussed.

### Child maltreatment frequency and severity

**Differentiating between child maltreatment experiences**, by D. Higgins, *Family Matters*, no. 69, Spring/Summer, 2004, pp. 50-55.

Is differentiating between maltreatment sub types helpful in explaining outcomes for victims or survivors of child maltreatment? Results from an analysis of parent report data and adult self-report data suggest that the degree (frequency and severity) to which young people experience abuse and neglectful behaviours is more important than the particular sub type of maltreatment in explaining subsequent psychological problems.

**Chronic and isolated maltreatment in a child protection sample**, by L. Bromfield & D. Higgins, *Family Matters*, no. 70, Autumn, 2005, pp. 38-45.

Researchers and practitioners in the field of child maltreatment often consider child abuse and neglect as a single or repeated series of isolated events. However, such an approach fails to acknowledge that some children's development is characterised by repeated incidents of maltreatment over a prolonged period of time. It also fails to address the cumulative impact of repeated victimisation on children's physical, psychological and developmental outcomes. In this paper, the experience of maltreatment is explored using data from a statutory child protection service, and a new conceptual approach for describing chronic maltreatment is proposed.

### Child poverty

**The state of the world's children 2005: Childhood under threat**, by C. Bellamy, UNICEF, 2004, New York, USA.

Millions of the world's children are missing out on a healthy childhood because of poverty, armed conflict and disease. This report contains information on children in countries all over the world in relation to the following issues: childhood under threat; children living in poverty; children caught up in conflict; and children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. It discusses the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children's rights, the Millennium

Development Goals, education, gender issues, and child trafficking. It also contains case studies of individual children's stories and child protection and welfare programs.

### Child protection policy and practice

**Child protection: A public health model**, by D. Scott, in, *Summit on child abuse: toward a national policy for child abuse & recovery*, AMA Child and Youth Health Committee Canberra, ACT, 2004, pp. 14-24.

This paper provides a summary of the history of the child protection movement is presented in this paper. The paper covers the first wave in the latter part of the 19th century and the second wave, which began in the 1960s. It discusses the incidence of child abuse and neglect, the nature of child maltreatment, weaknesses in the current system, where the system is, and should be heading, the role of maternal and child health services, early childhood education, primary schools, general practitioners and specialist services for adults. The paper expresses a wish that the third wave of the child rescue movement can be one based on public health and prevention.

**National comparison of child protection systems**, *Child Abuse Prevention Issues*, no. 22, Autumn 2005, by L. Bromfield & D. Higgins, Melbourne, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2005.

This paper is a national snapshot of Australian statutory child protection services. Data were collected in each state and territory via policy documents, procedure manuals and telephone interviews with relevant child protection personnel. Topics covered are: who is responsible for child protection; intake procedures; who notifies concerns to child protection services; and the process of providing child protection services in Australian states and territories (intake, risk assessment, investigation and case management). Similarities and differences across states and territories in each of these areas are highlighted. Despite different legislative frameworks and some operational differences, Australian state and territory statutory child protection services are providing very similar models of intervention. Implications are explored with regard to: competency standards, training and professional development; and cross jurisdictional issues.

**SPLAT: A model of young people's participation that moves beyond the rhetoric to empowerment**, by W. Daly, C. McPherson & L. Reck, *Children Australia*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2004, pp. 20-26.

Children and young people in care have often been the targets of public policy, the subjects of research projects and the focus of practice aimed at protecting them but not necessarily involving them. Children and young people have much to offer researchers and policy makers by giving their opinions and expressing their views about a range of matters that concern them. This paper discusses a Department of Families' initiative that invites children and young people to be

part of the community of practice. It explores the journey of placing the voice of children and young people at the centre of the child protection system.

### Child pornography

**Child pornography in an Australian context: The problem, the legislation and the offenders**, by A.B. Patterson, *Australian Police Journal*, vol. 58, no.4, December, 2004, pp. 182-188.

The significance of child pornography to the wider area of child sexual abuse and exploitation is discussed in this article. It outlines the Australian legislation relating to the possession of child pornography and some critiques of the current legislative regime. The article then presents results of a Western Australian research study that examined facets of offenders convicted for possession of child pornography and which found a link between this type of offender and those who sexually abuse children.

### Child safe organisations

**Choose with care: Building child safe organisations: a parent's guide to choosing child safe organisations**, by K. Flanagan, *Child Wise*, South Melbourne, Victoria, 2004.

The Choose with care program aims to minimise the risk of child abuse within organisations working with children. This booklet aims to help parents and caregivers make informed decisions and to establish how child safe an organisation is. It covers the following: understanding child abuse; child protection policy; recruitment, selection and screening; code of conduct; staff support, supervision, training and education; managing complaints; and empowerment of children and young people.

### Child sexual abuse

**Child sexual abuse in China: a study of adolescents in four provinces**, by J. Chen, M.P. Dunne & P. Han, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, 2004, pp. 1171-1186.

A study examining child sexual abuse in China surveyed Year 11 and 12 students in four Chinese schools. The study investigated child sexual abuse and associations with demographic factors, health and youth risk behaviour. This paper reports the study methodology and results, concluding that although child sexual abuse experiences differ in their nature between Eastern and Western societies, the psychological and behavioural profiles of Chinese young people who have suffered abuse are similar to those found in other cultures.

**Child sexual abuse**, by J. Healey (ed.), Thirroul, NSW, Spinney Press, 2005.

Current information about child sexual abuse from diverse sources including newspapers, magazines, websites, government reports and other organisations is collected in this publication. It is divided into two main sections: Victims of child sexual abuse and Child sex

offenders. The following subtopics are covered: incidence and impact; myths; facts about sexual assault; sibling sexual abuse; rise in sex abuse between children; the link between pornography and young sex offenders; indicators of child sexual abuse; effects; reporting child sexual abuse; children and counselling; information for survivors; offender characteristics and modus operandi; paedophile database; the right to silence of the accused and abuse of children under five years; protecting your child; children stalked on the internet; child abusers abroad; child sexual abuse within the church; and why offenders abuse children.

**Every school's worst nightmare: Child sexual abuse: 2005 AW Jones Oration**, by F. Briggs, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, 2005.

Ways of uncovering and investigating sexual abuse in schools are discussed in this paper. The paper looks at the size of the problem, normal sexual curiosity versus evidence of sexual abuse, the value of children's drawings in the identification of sexual abuse, why sexual abuse cannot be ignored, the economic cost of child abuse, the importance of teachers in child protection, the cost of negligence, the importance of school based child protection curriculum, the special needs of boys, risks to children with disabilities, the abuse of Indigenous children and young people, and school child protection policies. The paper argues that education is the key to child protection.

**The impact of perpetrator gender on male and female police officers' perceptions of child sexual abuse**, by D. Kite & G.A. Tyson, *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2004, pp. 308-318.

Research in America, Canada and England indicates that professionals involved in the investigation of sexual abuse cases have differing perceptions of seriousness, punishment and impact on the child, based on the professional's gender and the perpetrator's gender. The aim of this study was to investigate if such effects are prevalent in Australian child-abuse investigators, specifically the police. To assess this, 361 Australian police officers responded to a self-report questionnaire relating to a vignette describing child sexual abuse questions examined the police officer's perception of seriousness of the incident, the police action they would take and the perceived impact on the child. The vignette described the perpetrator as either male or female, with 172 police officers responding to the female perpetrator vignette and 189 responding to the male perpetrator vignette. The results indicated that, unlike overseas research findings in this area, the police officers' gender did not influence their perception of child sexual abuse, their perceived impact on the child, or the police action they would take. The gender of the perpetrator did however influence these factors, with a gender bias in favour of the female perpetrator. This finding is consistent with overseas research and is a factor that those working in the area should be aware of to ensure incidents involving female perpetrators are not underestimated or dismissed.

## Child wellbeing

**Children and young people: Indicators of wellbeing in New Zealand**, by New Zealand. Ministry of Social Development Wellington, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand, 2004.

This report presents data on 35 indicators of the social well being of children and young people in New Zealand: low birth weight; infant mortality; hearing failure at school entry; obesity; smoking at 14 to 15 years; under 18 birth rate; suicide; relationships with parents; child abuse and neglect; low income families; low living standards; food security; unemployment; earnings; injury mortality; intimidation at school; criminal victimisation; youth perceptions of safety; road casualties; early childhood education attendance at ages 3 to 4 years; reading achievement at Year Five; reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy of 15 year olds; school truancy; school leavers with no qualifications; tertiary qualification completion; young people voting in national elections; police apprehensions of 14 to 16 year olds; cases proved in the Youth Court; young Maori who can speak te reo Maori; internet access in the home; participation in sport and leisure; household crowding.

## Children's rights

**Resilience, refugees and the rights of children: An immorality play**, by M. Rayner, *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2004, pp. 350-358.

This article discusses the legitimacy of migration laws and judicial processes that do not protect the rights of children, especially asylum-seeking detainees, as they did not protect indigenous children's rights not to be separated from their culture and families, creating generations of traumatised families and children. The author advocates an Australian human rights regime is required in a civilised society.

## Children's services

**Children's and family services working together**, by J. Woodruff & J. O'Brien, *Australian Journal of Early Childhood*, vol. 30, no. 1, March, 2005, pp. 49-57.

This paper is based on keynote addresses by Jane Woodruff CEO, Uniting Care Burnside to the National Association of Community Based Children's Services, University of Wollongong, April 2004; and to the Mobile Children's Service Association Conference, Oubbo, August 2003. It offers the perspective of one NSW child and family welfare agency on reasons for children's and family services to work more closely together. These include a shared concern for the early years; the need to address common risk and protective factors; and research which suggests combining approaches will achieve better results for children and families. Drawing from current practice and policy initiatives, the paper then suggests three main areas where children's and family services can pursue greater cooperation.

**Measuring outcomes in child and family services**, by G. Izmir, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 11, Summer, 2004, pp. 13-16.

The ability to measure and compare outcomes from different child and family services is essential, this article says. It looks at outcomes based frameworks, including the Results Based Accountability Framework adopted by the human services sector government agencies in New South Wales, and considers those items necessary to remember when developing outcome measures.

#### Court procedures

**On not speaking: The right to silence, the gagged trial judge and the spectre of child sexual abuse**, by K. Biber, *Alternative Law Journal*, vol. 30, no. 1, February, 2005, pp. 9-23.

Should anything be inferred by the silence of the accused in legal cases? Comments by trial judges to the jury about the failure of the defendant to give evidence, particularly in the cases of *Jones v Dunkel* and *Dyers v The Queen*, are considered in this article. The article discusses the response of the High Court to the right to silence principle, and the implications for child sexual abuse prosecutions.

#### Domestic violence

**Living conditions of women who experience violence from their partners: Norway and Australia comparisons**, by G.S. Hutchinson & W. Weeks, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 39, no. 4, November, 2004, pp. 393-407.

This article briefly explores the comparative ways in which the Australian and Norwegian welfare systems support women and children escaping violence, when they are seeking to become established independently. The two welfare systems are compared with regard to family structure, women and the labour market, women and income, support for crisis accommodation and housing, and child care. It demonstrates that Norway provides a more woman-friendly welfare state.

#### Families

**Untreatable families? Suggestions from literature**, by K. Brydon, *Australian Social Work* vol. 57, no. 4, December, 2004, pp. 365-373.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight insights from literature, which suggest that some families are unable to respond to intervention and treatment. Discussion of this aspect of family functioning is notably missing from the discourse on family preservation. An outline is offered of the factors that may contribute to this reality, one consequence being that children wait indefinite periods of time for lasting arrangements to be formulated for their future. Suggestions are offered as to how concurrent planning approaches may help to achieve timely decision making and lasting outcomes for children.

#### Family courts decision making

**Psychological evaluation of the child's best interests: The interpretation of data in the preparation of child welfare reports in the New Zealand family court**, by J.M. Fitzgerald & N. Moltzen, *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2004, pp. 214-225.

Section 29a of the New Zealand Guardianship Act (1968) makes provision for a judge in the New Zealand Family Court to commission a specialist psychological report when considering the best interests of a child. The purpose of such a report is to obtain expert opinion on a child's current psychological, emotional and social functioning, and to consider the likely psychological implications of various custody and access options. Research within New Zealand and internationally has demonstrated the variability in the content of custody evaluations completed by psychologists, and the extent to which psychological information has an impact on decision-making within the family court system. This article reports data from a survey of psychologists who write s. 29a reports. The focus of the survey was on collecting data that could be compared with those collected by Moltzen (1993) so that changing trends could be observed and, more generally, to gain insight into case characteristics that influence case formulation and recommendations, where/these are made.

#### Family law

**Review of family violence laws: Consultation paper**, by Victorian Law Reform Commission, Melbourne, Victoria, 2004.

This consultation paper forms part of the Victorian Law Reform Commission's review of the Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987. The consultation paper aims to: inform the community of the scope and nature of the inquiry; outline concerns and problems with the intervention order system as it currently operates; and invite community comment to inform final recommendations to the Victorian Government.

**Family law processes in South Africa: Multiculturalism in a developing country and some comparisons with Australia**, by J. Sinclair, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol. 18, no. 3, December, 2004, pp. 219-257.

Family breakdown, child abuse, the emergence of alternative lifestyles and family forms, poverty and multiculturalism combine to confront South Africa with major challenges not only to the content of its laws, but also to the processes for dealing with substantial societal dysfunction. While vastly different, Australia shares a common colonial past and manifests, increasingly, similar societal changes and problems, albeit in more muted ways. Critically analysing the processes in place and evolving in the two countries, in an effort to provoke dialogue that may enrich the debates in both, is the central focus of this piece. Ultimately, it seeks to make a contribution to the betterment of the protection afforded to the family and its members, upon which so much depends.

## Fatherhood research

**Fatherhood research in Australia: Research report**, by R. Fletcher, H. Fairbairn & S. Pascoe, Family Action Centre, NSW, University of Newcastle, 2004.

The Engaging Fathers project at the University of Newcastle initiated the Fatherhood Research in Australia Report to make available a description of recent research on fathers in Australian populations. The aim of the project was to: a) Describe the knowledge base available to support policies, programs and practices addressing fathers' contribution to families; b) Initiate links between researchers from different disciplines who are examining aspects of fatherhood; c) Encourage future research on families to include fathers as a core component; and d) Identify research to support early intervention with fathers. The report explains the study methodology and presents information on the demography of Australian fathers. It then discusses the findings in the following sections: family formation; fathers and child development; fathers and family separation; work and family balance; fathers of young adults; illness; fathers with an illness or substance abuse; culturally and linguistically diverse fathers; and gay fathers. It looks at information about fathers in the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), and the Negotiating the Life Course Survey, and at research on program and service development and effectiveness. The report identifies the following individual researchers that have expertise in different aspects of fatherhood - Professor Colin Binns, Dr Robyn Dolby, Professor John Condon, Professor David de Krester, Joye McLaughlin, Dr Jan Nicholson, Em. Professor Pat Noller, Margot Northey, Shawn Phillips, and Bruce Smyth, and papers by some of them are included.

## Indigenous families

**Protecting children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care**, by Queensland. Crime and Misconduct Commission, *Australian Indigenous Law Reports*, vol. 8, no. 4, 2004, pp. 81-93.

Issues faced by Indigenous children and their families when they come into contact with Queensland's child protection system are discussed in this article. A historical overview of the treatment of Indigenous people is given, and the following topics are discussed: child protection today, the Child Protection Act 1999, key concerns raised at the Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care, the role of Aboriginal and Islander child care agencies, the Indigenous child placement principle, placement with non Indigenous carers, placement options, children and biological parents, issues from Cape York, the Gulf and Torres Strait regions, and case management plans.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection: key reform issues**, by M. Cadd, in *Summit on child abuse: toward a national policy for child abuse & recovery*, AMA Child and Youth Health Committee, Canberra, ACT, 2004, pp. 26-31.

The legacy of harsh treatment of Indigenous Australians in relation to child protection policies is discussed in this paper. The paper looks at the current situation and discusses the need to invest in the development of children and considers where the child protection system has gone wrong in relation to Indigenous clients. It then outlines key reform proposals to the child protection system made by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care.

## Infant head injuries

**Preventing shaking injuries in infants: A brief communication**, by D. Biron, *Children Australia*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2004, pp. 34-35.

Fifty-two cases of infant abusive head trauma, investigated by the Queensland Police Service over a ten year period, were examined for information on victim and offender demographics. The mean age of victims was 2.6 months. The study demonstrated that abusive injuries was most likely to be caused by a primary caregiver, such as a biological or step parent. It was hypothesised that to assist in prevention, some form of written caution on the dangers of infant shaking should be provided to all parents immediately prior to their child's departure from the maternity ward. (Journal abstract, edited)

## Mental health

**Complexity, conflict and uncertainty: Issues in collaboration between child protection and mental health services**, by Y. Darlington, J.A. Feeney & K. Rixon, *Children & Youth Services Review*, vol. 26, no. 12, December, 2004, pp. 1175-1192.

Data from a statewide survey that examined the collaborative practices of statutory child protection workers, adult mental health workers and child mental health workers is analysed in this article. The article discusses the results in relation to the nature of child protection needs and parental mental health; the extent of collaboration; the impact of uncertainty on collaboration; and positive experiences and difficulties with collaboration.

## Out of home care

**Critical review of Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry into abuse of children in foster care: Social work's contribution to reform**, by B. Lonnie & J. Thomson, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 58, no. 1, March, 2005, pp. 86-99.

This paper profiles Queensland's recent Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry into the abuse of children in foster care. The authors welcome the outcome as an opportunity to highlight the problems encountered by child protection jurisdictions in Australia and internationally, and they applaud some of the Inquiry's findings. However, the paper argues that the path to reform is hampered by insufficient accountability by government and management, and an inadequate challenge to the ideologies underpin-

ning contemporary child protection policy and practice. The authors conclude with a call to value and assert social work's contribution to child protection systems so as to vastly improve outcomes for children and families. (Journal abstract)

**Foster care in Australia in the 21st century**, by A. Butcher, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 11, Summer, 2004, pp. 42-54.

Are foster carers being well enough prepared, trained and supported? This article reports on a Queensland study that investigated this issue. It looks at foster carer demographics, training, support through payment for training, preferred training topics, other support, and volunteerism and professionalism in foster care.

**Queensland government actions to compensate survivors of institutional abuse: A critical and comparative evaluation**, by B. Mathews, *Queensland University of Technology Law & Justice Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2004, pp. 23-45.

In Queensland the Forde Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Institutions and a subsequent Inquiry into the abuse of children in State foster care identified endemic emotional, physical, sexual and systems abuse as well as breaches of statutory obligations. The author acknowledges advances in knowledge and social policy and improvements in government action in investigating complaints and in protective action, but concludes that the occurrence of child abuse and neglect is still appalling. However, the focus of this article is on the responses of the State to people who have been abused and neglected in its institutions specifically on the compensation of survivors of State institutional abuse in Queensland and the question of amendment of statutory limitation periods to enable civil suits. The article discusses redress schemes in Canada, Ireland and Tasmania, the Queensland government response, compensation through the Queensland court system, the Limitation of Actions Act and the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act.

### Outcomes

**Child abuse: It's not just a children's issue**, by G. Vimpani, in, *Summit on child abuse: toward a national policy for child abuse & recovery*, AMA Child and Youth Health Committee, Canberra, ACT, 2004, pp. 32-62.

This presentation provides information and statistics on child abuse in Australia and overseas and examines the potential long-term effects of child abuse. It covers: incidence of abuse; comparative data on investigations and substantiations from Australia, Canada and the United States; types of maltreatment; ratio of Indigenous cases; family structure; increase in child abuse; trauma, biology, experience and brain development; memory; brain function; cortical modulation; developmental neglect; adverse childhood experiences; effective strategies for reducing abuse; and the need for strategic national leadership to improve child protection.



**Child protection and children's rights**, by L. Newman, in, *Summit on child abuse: toward a national policy for child abuse & recovery*, AMA Child and Youth Health Committee, Canberra, ACT, 2004, pp. 64-91.

Information on various aspects of child abuse is presented in this paper. The paper looks at trauma and the brain, children's rights, and the effects of mandatory detention on child asylum seekers. It includes case studies and illustrations done by child detainees. It looks at health service, legal and societal approaches for abused children.

**Forgotten Australians: the report of the Senate Inquiry into children in institutional care**, by J. Penglase, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 11, Summer, 2004, pp. 32-37.

The 2004 report of the Senate Inquiry into children in institutional care provides recognition of the damage done to many children. The article discusses the traumatic consequences of institutionalisation for children, the conclusion and recommendations of the inquiry, and the objectives of Care Leavers Australia network and other support services for older care leavers.

### Parents of children in out of home care

**Climbing the mountain: The experience of parents whose children are in care**, by L. Mather & L. Barber, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy & Community Work*, no. 4, 2004, pp. 13-22.

The experience of parents whose children have been removed from their families by child protection services is rarely considered. This paper was created from interviews with the parents of the Connect Parenting/Playgroup. This paper describes the work of a parenting / playgroup for parents whose children are in care. The principles which inform this group are described and the experiences of the parents themselves are conveyed. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Parent education

**Engaging the community in child protection programs: The experience of NEWPIN in Australia**, by L. Mondy & S. Mondy, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 13, no. 6, 2004, pp. 433-440.

NEWPIN, a centre based intensive child protection and parent education intervention program for children under five years and their parents, has been operating in three disadvantaged areas of western Sydney and two sites in Tasmania and Victoria since the late 1990s. This article describes ways in which NEWPIN has set out to engage communities with regard to child protection issues. It discusses joint advocacy, the media and ethical issues.

## Parents with learning difficulties

**Parents with learning difficulties, care proceedings and the family courts: Threshold decisions and the moral matrix**, by T. Booth, W. Booth & D. McConnell, *Child & Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 16, no. 4, 2004, pp. 409-421.

A large percentage of the children of parents with learning difficulties are placed outside the home. This article draws on the findings of a two year investigation into the ways social services and the courts handle child protection cases involving parents with learning difficulties. It focuses on the outcomes of care proceedings for these parents under Great Britain's Children Act 1989 through the eyes of legal professionals. The article discusses the threshold criteria for intervention under the Act, support for parents, and discrimination.

## Rural communities

**NCOSS visits far west NSW: Broken Hill, Lightning Ridge, Walgett & Moree**. by D. Wadiwel, *NCOSS News*, vol. 31, no. 11, December, 2004, pp. 6-7.

The Council of Social Service of New South Wales conducted regional visits to Broken Hill, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Moree in July 2004 to make contact with communities and gather data for its pre budget submission to Government. This article presents information on conditions in these areas in relation to: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic and family violence; children and young people at risk; education and employment; health; housing and homelessness; Aboriginal people and law and order; and transport.

## Sex offenders

**Managing sex offender risk**, by H. Kemshall & G. McIvor, (eds), Jessica Kingsley, London, England, 2004.

This book aims to present relevant research for the effective management of sex offenders. With a predominantly UK focus and not solely restricted to intervention strategies and programs it provides a broad overview of the typologies and characteristics of offenders as well as strategies for managing different kinds of offender including children and young people who are sexually aggressive. Included in the section on 'Assessment and Effective Interventions' is a chapter by Australians Tony Ward, Mayumi Purvis and Grant Devilly on 'Relapse prevention: theory and practice'.

## Spirituality

**Wrapped in angels**, by M. McVeigh, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 11, Summer, 2004, pp. 26-31.

The principle of Non Overlapping Magisteria (NOMA), described by Stephen Jay Gould, allowed the author of this article to place the clinical and spiritual on an equal footing. The author explains the NOMA concept and demonstrates how she uses it in

her work with children, young people and their families who have experienced violence and abuse. She focuses on trauma, resilience and the help of angels.

## Therapy

**Therapeutic collaboration: Bridging the gap between statutory and therapeutic work**, by M. Robinson, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 57, no. 4, December, 2004, pp. 374-380.

This paper considers the clinical effectiveness of child and youth mental health workers and child protection workers employing a therapeutic collaborative model for practice when engaged with extremely at risk and vulnerable families. It is argued that this approach has the potential to assist professionals to work in a meaningful way that enhances therapeutic containment and subsequent engagement with families. The author advocates for a model that does not demarcate statutory from psychological thinking. Indeed, such a split it is argued, promotes barriers that impede and fragment the helping process. Various examples are discussed using this practice model, including the need for greater flexibility and professional goodwill across government and non government agencies. (Journal abstract)

## Violence to animals

**Attitude to animals: An indicator of risk of interpersonal violence?** by N.Taylor & T. Signal, *Journal of the Home Economics Institute of Australia*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2004, pp. 9-12.

Recent research has highlighted links between violence to animals and violence to people. Drawing on data investigating links between aggression and attitudes to animals, this paper assesses the utility of such theories, in particular addressing links between domestic violence, child abuse and harm to companion animals. We conclude that whilst causal relationships between attitudes to animals and violent behaviour cannot be established as yet, animals may well provide an insight into the cycle of abuse and therefore attitudes towards animals may be utilised to develop early intervention and prevention measures. (Journal abstract)

## Working with men

**Checklist for organisations working with men**, by A. King, S. Sweeney. & R. Fletcher, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 11, Summer, 2004, pp. 55-66.

According to the authors of this article many programs for men are moving from deficit to non deficit approaches for understanding male involvement in families. They discuss the benefits of a non deficit approach and look at four key areas necessary for the effective delivery of services for men: environment, language, initial contact and marketing, and service provision. The article includes the Working with men checklist, which can help organisations review their practice in working with men.