

Blossoming of Our Children, Kia Puawai Ngā Tamariki

Leah M. Bromfield

10th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (14–16 February 2006)

In February this year, Dr Daryl Higgins and Dr Leah Bromfield from the Clearinghouse attended the 10th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Wellington, New Zealand, where they gave three presentations. Copies of these papers can be downloaded from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse website www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/presentations.html

Highlights from the conference included the keynote addresses by:

- Professor Dorothy Scott, titled 'Sowing the seeds of innovation', in which Professor Scott challenged conference delegates with the argument that current child protection systems are unsustainable and harmful to children and went on to discuss the four steps which she considered necessary to 'turn the tide' in child protection; and
- Associate Professor Joan Durrant discussed the Swedish child rights perspectives that have shaped that country's corporal punishment laws, and the broader policy context.

Highlights within the concurrent sessions included:

- Tony Stanley's presentation, in which he presented data from his study exploring the constructions of 'risk' in child protection practice;
- a presentation by Mary Ann Carver, Karen Dixon and Margaret Nippert describing a model for interdepartmental collaboration, using South Australia as a case study; and
- Margaret Roberts' analysis of multiple data sources to answer the question: 'Are sexually assaulted children receiving justice in NSW?'

The 10th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect conference organisers have arranged for these and many more conference presentations to be available for download at www.nzfvc.org.nz/acan/papers-presentations

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