

Conferences and events

Conferences and events are updated weekly on the web. For the most recent information, visit the National Child Protection Clearinghouse website at: www.aifs.gov.au/nch

Compiled by Susan Fooks, Web Officer

6th National Intensive Family Support Symposium, Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, Qld

29–30 March 2007

Anglicare Strengthening Families Service presents this symposium with the theme of “Family centred practice: Innovation, controversy and imagination”. The symposium will have three streams: practice, leadership and research. Practice workshops will be held on 28 March.

Further information: IFSS2007@tracc.org

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities, Portland, Oregon, USA

16–21 April 2007

The conference theme, “Protecting children, promoting healthy families, and preserving communities”, aims to ensure that every child enjoys a healthy family life in a nurturing community. It emphasises the need to create safe havens for our children, enabling them to thrive at home and in their neighbourhood. Further, the theme promotes the idea of communities joining to establish collaborative relationships and strategies to prevent child maltreatment, and providing responsive treatment and services.

Further information: Children’s Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, www.pal-tech.com/cbconference

Their Lives, Our Work—Building Hope Through Practice Excellence, Brisbane, Qld

15–17 May 2007

The CAFWAA and PeakCare Queensland 2007 National Symposium is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for those working with children, young people and families with complex needs. International keynote speakers plus presenters from around Australia will showcase dynamic practice perspectives.

Further information: Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (CAFWAA), www.cafwaa.org.au/Symposium2007.html

Borders and Bridges, Melbourne, Vic.

20–22 May 2007

You are invited to attend the second national conference of the Australian College for Child and Family Protection

Practitioners (ACCFPP). The conference theme, “Borders and Bridges”, reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Workforce roles across states and territories are similar, but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

Further information: Australian College for Child & Family Protection Practitioners, www.relatehumanservices.com.au/events.htm

International Helplines Conference, Surfers Paradise, Qld

23–25 May 2007

The International Helplines Conference is hosted by Lifeline Australia, and will be a three-day event with both plenary and breakout sessions focusing on the process skills required for best-practice operation in the area of community service helplines. Objectives of the conference are to promote: networking between organisations delivering helpline services, best-practice service delivery, sharing knowledge, and the value of helplines to individuals in a changing world.

Further information: AST Management, www.vision6.com.au/ch/79wsd3/139185/437a4v4vz.html

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Summer Research Institute, Ithaca, NY, USA

30 May – 3 June 2007

NDACAN will sponsor its 15th Summer Research Institute for child maltreatment researchers at the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York. Conducted annually since 1993, the Summer Research Institute is an intensive experience in secondary data analysis that combines colloquia with hands-on computing time. The primary goal of the Institute is to facilitate secondary analysis projects from which researchers can publish their findings. In addition, the Institute provides child maltreatment researchers with an invaluable opportunity for networking and collaboration.

Further information: National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, www.ndacan.cornell.edu/NDACAN/Workshops/SRI2007.html

Indigenous Voices in Social Work: Not Lost in Translation, Oahu, Hawaii, USA

4–7 June 2007

This inaugural conference will focus on the intersection between social work and Indigenous peoples. The conference is designed to bring together diverse people committed to Indigenous practice and research. Topics include new paradigms for social work practice in areas such as family services, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, child welfare, mental health, and intergenerational cycles.

Further information: University of Hawaii School of Social Work, <http://vrchawaii.org/IVSW>

ISCI Inaugural Conference—Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal, Chicago, Illinois, USA

26–28 June 2007

This first conference of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) will explore how child indicators can be used to improve the development and wellbeing of children. Topics will include: theory and conceptual frameworks of child indicators; measurement, data, and methods; child indicators as measures of present or future child wellbeing; dissemination of child indicators; advocacy using child indicators; policy development using child indicators; children's participation in the development and implementation of indicators; child indicators with cultural variations; child indicators across borders; and information technology and child indicators.

Further information: ISCI, www.childindicators.org

World Mental Health Congress: Impact of Culture on Mental Health—East Meets West, Hong Kong

19–23 August 2007

The biennial congress of the World Federation for Mental Health brings together the Federation's international members with local mental health workers, educators, consumers, carers and professionals to look into education, scientific and technological knowledge, examples of good practice and fellowship in mental health. This year, the theme of the congress is the impact of culture on mental health.

Further information: Congress Secretariat, www.wmhc2007.com

What Works with Women Offenders: Challenging Stereotypes and Achieving Change, Prato, Tuscany, Italy

10–12 September 2007

It is widely recognised that the number of women serving prison sentences has increased significantly and is a worldwide phenomenon. Justice systems are under increasing pressure to protect the community and punish offenders, while concurrently providing care and rehabilitation. The inherent tension between these goals makes this a complex area for practitioners, policy makers, educators and women offenders themselves and their families. The conference will aim to address

how the professionals who work with, and have an interest in, helping women offenders are bringing about change, or hope to bring about change. It will explore the services and opportunities provided to women offenders to reduce their risk of re-offending and assist them in rebuilding their lives with the support of their community.

Further information: Monash University, School of Social Work, www.med.monash.edu.au/socialwork/conference

SNAICC National Conference: For Our Children, Adelaide, SA

19–21 September 2007

This conference is for service providers, policy makers, researchers and others working with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. The focus is on practical approaches to working with people from these communities.

Further information: Secretariat, National Aboriginal Islander Child Care (SNAICC), www.snaicc.asn.au/news/NationalConference2007.html

National Foster Care Conference—Fostering Change, Melbourne, Vic.

5–7 October 2007

The Australian Foster Care Association sponsors the National Foster Care Conference. AFCA is a membership-based voluntary organisation supporting and representing the voices of foster carers, their families and the children they care for throughout Australia. AFCA works in partnership with other community organisations in the child and family welfare sector to provide the support necessary to achieve better outcomes for children and young people unable to live at home. Possible areas for presentations include: policy issues, communication, supporting quality care in placements, working with Indigenous people, caring for the carer, legal issues and allegations of abuse.

Further information: Conference Organising Committee, email: conf2007@bigpond.com

World Summit on Child Labour and Child Exploitation, Cairns, Qld

14–17 October 2007

The World Summit will evaluate the progress and achievements made in relation to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour and will explore the challenges ahead in securing rights for children in the 21st century and meeting the UN Millennium Goals by 2015. The summit will focus on the role of organisations representing employers and workers, non-government organisations, and governments. There will be four broad themes: economic, social, cultural and health issues; legal and political measures; commercial and corporate responses; and public awareness and education initiatives. Papers are invited on topics relevant to the broad themes of the conference.

Further information: Children's Rights International website, www.childjustice.org/wsecl