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Action research

Action research literature, themes and trends, by B. Dick, *Action Research*, vol. 2, no. 4, 2004, pp. 425-444.

In this article the author provides a literature review of recently published books on action research. He begins with an overview of recent appreciative inquiry. This is followed by an examination of action science, systems approaches and action learning. A major part of the article is organised under headings of some common applications, for example community partnerships, health, education and organisations. The author also identifies relevant journals and identifies some trends and needs in these sectors.

Reticence in action, reflections on people-centred research, by M. Parnell, *ALAR Journal, Action Learning & Action Research*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2004, pp. 65-80.

The paper explores an action research approach adopted in a program to investigate the interrelationship of culture, learning and technology in the sustainable development of small communities. The research takes an action oriented, people centred approach to data collection and is based on respect for local viewpoints and a meaningful exchange of service. The paper discusses the research framework, the community development context and the intent of the researcher, ethics and data ownership in the community context, data collection methodologies, and difficulties and rewards associated with the researcher's attitude of reticence.

Alcohol use

Parenting influences on adolescent alcohol use, by L. Hayes, ...[et al], Melbourne, Vic, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2004.

Alcohol use is widespread among Australian adolescents, and high

risk use is a serious and growing problem. A range of individual, family, peer, school and community characteristics has been shown to be risk factors for the development of adolescent alcohol use and misuse. This report reviews and synthesises the research and interventions concerning the impact of parenting factors on adolescent alcohol use. It focuses particularly on recent Australian research and research with Indigenous and other cultural subgroups, but also includes influential research conducted in other countries. It concludes with discussion of implications for research and policy, highlighting key conclusions that may be drawn from the findings reviewed.

Churches and social capital

Faith based agencies and civil society, is there a place for social enterprise? by G. Winkworth & P. Camilleri, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 4, 2004, pp. 37-44.

Programs offered by Catholic Social Services and the advocacy role of the organisation are discussed in this article. The article considers the contribution of faith based agencies to a strong civil society and argues that church providers have contributed to the building of a strong civil society in four ways, their contribution to building social capital through the active civic involvement of volunteers; their network of diverse programs in local communities to address social exclusion and increase participation; their innovative responses to vulnerable groups regardless of government policy; and their advocacy role in mediating the interests of the least powerful groups in society with those of the government and the market.

Community development

The Australian Early Development Index, Building Better Communities for Children, by M. Sayers, *Every Child*, vol. 10, no. 4, 2004, p.30.

The Australian Early Development Index, Building Better Communities for Children project aims to

enable up to 60 communities around Australia to better understand how their children are developing by the time they reach school age. This article describes the project's principles and long term goals.

Behind the rhetoric of community development, how is it perceived and practiced?, by K. Hudson, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 39, no. 3, 2004, pp. 249-265.

State and local governments in Western Australia increasingly identify 'community development' as a key approach for the delivery of community services. In this paper the author explores how the concept of community development is understood and practiced by workers in the context of government community services. While definitions are most often presented as a universally understood approach, the author's key argument is, that there are instead, community development 'discourses' that are variously applied to diverse situations. Foucauldian notions of discourse and power are used to propose that, while there may be core and recognisable traits found within the language of community development, in any given situation these combine with a number of variables (most notably stemming from the organisation responsible for community services) to form a 'situated' community development discourse. (Journal abstract)

Community capacity building, community development - what's in a name? Reflections from the recent National Community Development, Human Rights and the Grassroots Conference, by C. Kyne, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 43-46.

There is concern that the language of local activists has been replaced with terminologies which are subtly controlling and/or domesticating community action. Referring to comments from other participants about the reconfiguring of

the 'language' of community development, and to the authors' own workshop at the recent national community development conference, the author discusses how the current, capitalist invasion of consciousness through a new language of community building is in a position to diminish communities' self direction, silencing dissent and resistance and replacing the language of cooperation and vision with 'social cohesion' and 'target outcomes'. The author argues that the right to practice democratic citizenship should not be reduced to the currently favoured consensus, or harmony/complicity model, provides examples of community-colonizing practices, and highlights the dangers of sidelining activists and critical thinkers.

CDEP under DEWR, the flexibility challenge, by W. Sanders, *Impact*, Summer, 2005, pp. 7, 20.

In 2004, the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, which funds Indigenous organisations to employ community members part time, was transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). This article considers what this means for the CDEP and the DEWR and argues that DEWR will have to work to keep the scheme flexible.

If you can't kill the guru: sustaining communities in the face of bureaucratic dominance, by J. Martin, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 4, 2004, pp. 9-12.

This article examines the Victorian Government's approach to community building and considers the following, the reasons state governments engage in community building; how effective the community building programs are; and what state governments can do for positive community building activities. The article proposes closer intergovernmental relations between the state government and local governments.

Mobilising local capacity and knowledge, a South African case study, by J. Cartwright, M. Jenneker & C. Shearing, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 12-16.

A deliberately model-building experiment was conducted in the rural town of Worcester, Western Cape, South Africa to explore ways of successfully integrating state/civil society resources through viable partnerships. With a focus on safety and security, and on poor communities where the state does not have the resources to provide an adequate level of service and the residents do not have the resources to pay private security instead, the model involved two main processes, peacemaking and peacebuilding. This paper provides information about the model, its processes and outcomes, and relations with state agencies. By August 2004, there were 21 Peace Committees in South Africa and they had facilitated the resolution of over 11,000 peace-gatherings.

Community participation

Communities, capacity and disadvantage, by M. Mitchell & G. Macfie, *Impact*, Autumn, 2004, pp. 8-9.

Community capacity building is a concept with fuzzy and shifting boundaries. This article discusses the growth of the idea of capacity building as a way of dealing with community disadvantage, and illustrates community capacity building in action through a description of NEWPIN, a UnitingCare Burnside early intervention, family support program.

Community visioning, facilitating informed citizen participation in local area planning on the Gold Coast, by M. Cuthill, *Urban Policy & Research*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2004, pp. 427-445.

A community vision approach to local area planning can yield benefits in its balance between a healthy society, environment and economy. However, its development can be constrained by the conflicting motivations and objectives of participants. This article describes the design, implementation and results of a community visioning process for a local area planning project on the Gold Coast. It discusses successful operational initiatives and constraints relating to the project implementation.

Deprogramming planning, collaboration and inclusion in new urban development, by B. Gleeson, *Urban Policy & Research*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2004, pp. 315-322.

Ideas canvassed in this practice review include the notion of a 'new social yearning' - the desire for a secure place in social networks based on reciprocity, trust and mutual respect. The author highlights the elevation of the political and institutional significance of 'community' and the interest in community generation and not just community renewal. He notes that masterplanning is the principal technique for delivering the community commodity, but that its ability to create community has not been rigorously assessed. Do we find evidence of a healthy collective purpose and lasting social ties in many masterplanned estates? Are we attempting to be too programmatic in masterplanning? The author proposes a participatory or collaborative model where new residents are invited to take on some of the planning tasks themselves. He suggests that giving people the chance to be part of a social project, the masterplanning of a new development, eventually a community, could be a very attractive commercial product and one which is more easily reconciled with public values than are many contemporary approaches. A participatory model of masterplanning is more likely to create community rather than incidental associations of residents. The author calls for a renewed commitment to the provision and protection of public realm in all new urban developments; and a determination to achieve socio-cultural balance - meaning a socially representative diversity - in new urban developments.

PRISM, mounting a community-randomised trial, Establishing partnerships with local government, by R. Small, ...[et al], *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 28, no. 5, 2004, pp. 471-475.

This paper describes initial partnership development in PRISM (Program of Resources, Information and Support for Mothers), a community randomised trial to improve maternal health in the first year after birth conducted in Victoria in the period 1998-2003. First, the authors discuss the principles underpinning community recruitment methods in PRISM that guided both their initial approaches

to, and their continuing relationships with, communities. Second, they outline the strategies used to recruit communities and to establish groundwork for ongoing partnerships over the projected six years of the study. (Journal abstract)

Revisiting the sense of community index, a confirmatory factor analysis, by P. Obst & K. White, *Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 32, no. 6, 2004, pp. 691-705.

The validity of the Sense of Community Index (SCI) as a measure of Psychological Sense of Community (PSOC) is assessed in this paper. The paper examines the factor structure of the SCI against data recording community memberships such as neighbourhood, student and interest group communities. In its original factor structure the SCI did not adequately fit the data, but when items believed to measure place attachment rather than PSOC were replaced with indicators identified through confirmatory factor analysis, the revised SCI proved a better fit.

A study of community guides: lessons for professionals practicing with and in communities, by M. Ungar, ...[et al], *Social Work*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2004, pp. 550-561.

This article examines the work of local, nonprofessional community helpers and their contribution to community building. In order to make the best use of both professional (outsider) and nonprofessional (insider) staff this study supports the repositioning of the professional social workers in ways that align them with the nonprofessional staff.

Supporting the inclusion of people who experience homelessness through the State government's Community Support Grants, by H. Rich, *Parity*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2005, pp. 86-87.

The Victorian Community Support Grants are designed to foster community initiatives that strengthen communities. This article explains how the grants are awarded and then describes four grant projects that assist people who are homeless to maintain and develop involvement in the community. They are, the Big Issue regional expansion; Brophy Family and Youth Services; YP4 consortium (Hanover Welfare Services, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Mel-

bourne Citymission and Loddon Mallee Housing Services); Homeless People's Association projects.

Consumer participation

Community participation, a bottom up approach, by B. Mutton, *Health Issues*, no. 81, Summer, 2004, pp. 19-21.

Genuine community/ consumer involvement in its activities has been an aim of the Mallee Division of General Practice for some years. The problem was how to ensure that a range of diverse communities across 100,000 square kilometres could be included in a meaningful way. The last thing the Division wanted to do was to introduce a community participation strategy that was tokenistic. Winning the Australian Divisions of General Practice National Divisions Achievement Award for Community Participation in 2003 suggests that we may have got the process right. This article describes how a strategy, that started with just nine focus groups has led to a network of ongoing groups working, and succeeding at improving health and health services over several years. (Journal abstract)

How much consumer participation is there in quality activities in Victoria?, by T. McBride, ...[et al], *Health Issues*, no. 81, Summer, 2004, pp. 7-9.

The Victorian Quality Council commissioned Health Issues Centre and the National Resource Centre for Consumer Participation in Health to undertake a needs assessment to inform increased consumer and community participation in quality and safety in the acute health sector. This study found a surprising range of consumer and community participation activities happening, and being appreciated, in Victoria. However, consumer and community participation is far from being a uniform or normal practice, and further expansion of consumer involvement is still facing some considerable barriers. (Journal abstract)

Domestic violence

Empowering men to be who we know they are, by J. Krieg, *PARC Update*, no. 14, 2004, pp. 6-7.

This article describes a program that took a group of Aboriginal men on a three day camp in Western Australia to address issues of domestic violence. The changes in

the group over the three days are discussed, as well as some outcomes relating to Aboriginal drinking and domestic violence in the town that the men come from.

Silence won't stop the violence, Mount Isa workshops, by L. Reilly, *Queensland Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research Newsletter*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2004, pp. 6-8.

Two workshops at Mount Isa's domestic and family violence forum, Silence won't stop the violence, are described in this article. It discusses precipitating causes, situational factors, underlying factors, and the role and well being of Indigenous men.

Family wellbeing

Family wellbeing, my story, by T. Gibson, *Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal*, vol. 28, no. 6, 2004, pp. 3-5.

The Family Wellbeing program was developed by a group of Indigenous people to create a setting where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders could gather, talk about issues and gain support. This article describes how the program works, the challenges and highlights, and the impact of the program on one of the project officers.

Housing

Collingwood, a community in control (and loving it!), by K. Nagle, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 31-32.

The Welcome process on the Collingwood public housing estate aims to welcome new residents, introduce them to local services, increase social connectedness in the local community and provide a cost effective method of building a sustainable community. This article describes the development of the initiative, how it works and some outcomes.

Challenging the stigma of public housing, preliminary findings from a qualitative study in South Australia, by C. Palmer, ...[et al.], *Urban Policy & Research*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2004, pp. 411-426.

Many poorer Australian suburbs with a higher than average concentration of public housing suffer poor reputations as well as material disadvantage, which can add to residents' social exclusion. This article presents findings from qualitative research undertaken in Adelaide that investigated ways that

such residents resist negative stereotypes. The article looks at some of the historical changes that have happened within public housing in South Australia and the construction and communication of stigma about public housing areas. It explores three main ways that residents challenge negative assumptions about their area, defining themselves as living in a different part of the suburb; participating in a range of social and civic activities; and challenging those who perpetuate the stereotype through resident action and confrontation.

Community housing as an alternative to public housing, by C. Croce, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 40-41.

Benefits of community housing and factors that differentiate it from public housing are discussed in this article. The following points are covered, choice in secure accommodation; diversity and strong communities; participation by tenants; high quality tenancy management; high levels of tenant satisfaction; and its not for profit status.

Creating Capable Communities, a commitment to partnership, by M. Ellis & A. Normanton, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 26-32.

Creating Capable Communities (CCC) aims to develop an integrated and holistic community-centred initiative for highly disadvantaged families and children residing in public housing neighbourhoods, by strengthening the resourcefulness and capacities of families and the broader context in which they live. This profile of CCC, an initiative of Southern Family Life Victoria, includes the core principles which drive the project, and how they have shaped it. It provides information to show how social capital within the communities is increasing over time, the strategies which have been engaged, and the evidence of this in the lives of families and their community. The future of the project is also discussed.

Decision making challenges in social housing, by L. Esdaile, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 27-28.

What can be done to ensure providers of social housing are more responsive and more accountable? This article considers issues of social housing decision

making quality and accountability. It asks whether decision making in social housing can be fair and consistent and how it can be made more transparent.

Homelessness or homefulness?, by C. House, *Parity*, vol. 17, no. 7, 2004, pp. 49-50.

Is there a local government role in the process of reducing homelessness? This article discusses the following factors that affect inner city homelessness, gentrification and affordable housing; services; transport; architecture; Indigenous cultural issues; service coordination and continuity; crisis accommodation; and re design of inner city areas. It then discusses local government limitations in helping the homeless.

Indigenous access to mainstream public and community housing, by P. Flatau, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 19-20.

The aims and methodology of a research project, which will examine the issue of Indigenous access to mainstream public and long term community housing programs and the sustainability of Indigenous tenancies in these programs, are discussed in this article. The article looks at the significance of the social housing sector for Indigenous Australians and the severity of Indigenous housing need.

Looking back, looking forward, the City of Sydney homelessness strategy, by F. Reynolds & D. Thorpe, *Parity*, vol. 17, no. 7, 2004, pp. 21-22.

The City of Sydney and the South Sydney City Council were amalgamated in early 2004. This article discusses programs that have made up the City's homelessness strategy in the last few years. It outlines the following principles that underpin the new strategy, right to shelter; vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; commitment to direct service provision; use of public spaces; Indigenous people; research and policy; advocacy; right to participate; key roles of other levels of government; and partnerships and service coordination.

Prioritising public housing estate renewal projects: a business case approach, by M. Spiller, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 36-37.

Neighbourhood renewal is critical to the future of public housing.

This paper presents a business case model that seeks to document the commercial viability implications of a neighbourhood renewal project and the wider social, economic and environmental implications of the project.

Tenant participation in Queensland, by M. Rowler, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 29-30.

The aim of the tenant participation program in Queensland is the achievement of a partnership between government, tenants and communities to achieve better housing outcomes for all parties involved. This article reflects on the development, successes and challenges of the program since the early 1990s and discusses two examples of the Queensland public tenants association working in a partnership.

Indigenous communities

Democracy, governance and service delivery, beyond ATSIC, by J. Huggins, *Impact*, Summer, 2005, pp. 5-6.

In the absence of the demise of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission the author looks to the way forward and considers that democracy and good governance will be essential elements to what is the broadly accepted direction in Indigenous affairs, better coordination in the work of governments; and, engaging and empowering Indigenous communities to run their own affairs and find their own solutions.

A place for Indigenous economic self-sufficiency in a reconciled Australia, by L. Armstrong, *Journal of Indigenous Policy*, no. 4, 2004, pp. 2-14.

One pathway to a reconciled Australia, this paper proposes, is through the promotion of economic self sufficiency for Indigenous Australians. True partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians cannot be achieved without sustainable economic equality for Indigenous Australians. For this to happen, there needs to be, improved Indigenous corporate leadership so that issues in the Australian corporate environment can be properly debated; national economic development policy to improve governance and partnership development; improved school retention and school to work transition; flexibility in the design and imple-

mentation of local economic development policy that acknowledges local and regional interests.

Searching for a common language, non-Indigenous contributions towards Indigenous community cultural development, by Z. de Ishtar, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 33-36.

Other-than-Indigenous community development workers will continue to work in Aboriginal communities, states the author, and we must learn how to engage with our Indigenous hosts in culturally respectful ways. Addressing the imperative to find ways of forging a common language (collaborations and partnerships) with Indigenous peoples that advance their aspirations for cultural revitalisation and maintenance, the author describes a successful women's project, the Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre, and promotes the notion of "Living Culture", based on the experience of living with women elders from Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert.

Indigenous parents

Parenting project report, by SNAICC *News*, September 2004, pp. 6-7.

The SNAICC Parenting Information Project, which developed recommendations for government on parenting information and programs for Indigenous families, was completed in June 2004. This article covers the research process and the key findings of the project.

Young Aboriginal fathers, the findings and impact of a research project undertaken in the Hunter Valley, NSW, by C. Hammond, ... [et al.], *Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal*, vol. 28, no. 5, 2004, pp. 5-7.

In Australia, there has been very little systematic investigation into the needs of young Indigenous men in their fathering roles. For many young males who become fathers, the compounding issues of being adolescent, Indigenous and male have serious implications for positive outcomes in their role as fathers. If young Aboriginal men are to be more involved in family life, identified barriers need to be removed and services need to be redesigned to support fathers' involvement. Although the literature on Indigenous fathers is sparse, there is clear evidence that traditional Indigenous cultures involved

examples of intimate, caring, involved father roles. However, it is equally clear that colonisation undermined and devalued the role of the father in the family and that Indigenous fathers are deserving of specific support in reconstructing a culturally appropriate, contemporary fatherhood. Within the Hunter region of New South Wales, Indigenous and non-Indigenous family-related services have been established to meet family health, welfare, housing, education, training and employment, and cultural needs of the Indigenous community. It is important that providers recognise the need for culturally appropriate provision of services that they incorporate consultation with the Indigenous stakeholders.

Learning circles

Scratching the surface of cultural learnings, by C. King, *PARC Update*, no. 14, 2004, pp. 2-3.

The learning circles through which stories are passed from generation to generation in Aboriginal communities have played a major role in the attainment of positive mental health for Aboriginal people, this article says. It considers Indigenous learning models and resilience and discusses a case study that illustrates the importance of instilling strength and resilience in children.

Literacy

Literacy for life, a scoping study for a community literacy empowerment project, by R. Schwab & D. Sutherland, Enfield, NSW, Fred Hollows Foundation, 2004.

This scoping study is the first stage of a long-term project that will aim to enhance health, education and employment outcomes in the Katherine region in the Northern Territory through a community literacy program. The report gives a profile of the region and discusses the following, community consultations on literacy; examples of best practice models for community literacy; intervention options; and future directions for life long literacy.

Local partnerships

Building better contexts for partnership and sustainable local collaboration, a review of core issues, with lessons from the 'Waitakere way', by D. Craig, *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, no. 23, 2004, pp. 45-64.

In Waitakere City, New Zealand, collaborative activity in social sectors is based on a tradition of community activism, interagency collaboration and city council facilitation. Through these processes, a number of lessons have been learnt, and a language and new processes of collaboration have been developed. Drawing on these lessons, and on international literature and wider New Zealand policy developments, this paper explores a number of critical areas for policy around collaborative planning and partnership working. It discusses, the need to be clearer about the mandates that are to be managed locally; appropriate funding; shared accountability structures; the need to recognise and resource the roles of "strategic brokers"; the need to enable community networks and forums to achieve better 'mandated representation' and to support better coordinated action around shared outcome indicators. It suggests the formation of local "common accountability platforms" as a sustained basis for substantive local and regional collaborative action. (Journal abstract, edited)

Centrelink and social entrepreneurship in local communities, by G. Winkworth & E. Todorova, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 37-42.

This article explores the defining historical and contemporary features of social entrepreneurship. It then examines how Centrelink, the Australian government's largest service delivery agency, is working with others to create opportunities for participation through innovative, small scale, local partnerships that have the essential features of social entrepreneurship. The paper seeks to demonstrate that the national reach and local presence of a large public sector organisation, and its capacity to share its substantial physical, human and social assets with local communities, warrants a reassessment of the role of government as social or indeed, civic entrepreneur.

Involving and engaging citizens, the Doveton and Eumemmerring Neighbourhood renewal program, by T. Fallows, ... [et al.], *Brotherhood Comment*, November 2004, p. 10.

The Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) program, established in 15 sites around Victoria, aims to narrow the gap between disadvantaged

and more privileged communities. This article describes initiatives under the NR scheme at the Doveton and Eumemmerring site.

Local partnerships create opportunities for unemployed people and their communities, by J. Goddard, Jodi *SACOSS News*, Summer, 2004-2005, pp. 10-11.

The South Australian Council of Social Service and the University of South Australia are conducting a three-year project that is examining the changing arrangements of employment services in South Australia. This article describes the project and the Commonwealth's Job Network scheme. It discusses job-seekers' responses to the existing arrangements and what this feedback means for state governments and community organisations.

Neighbourhood renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal, revitalising disadvantaged communities in Victoria, by H. Klein, *Public Administration Today*, no. 1, 2004, pp. 20-29.

This article describes the processes and outcomes of Victoria's Neighbourhood Renewal, a social investment strategy that combines community strengthening, place management and joined up government. The article discusses, pride and participation; housing and the environment; employment, learning and enterprise; crime and safety; health and wellbeing; and government responsiveness.

Urban renewal, a new role for social housing providers in creating sustainable communities?, by B. Randolph, *HousingWorks*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2004, pp. 33-35.

Social disadvantage is increasing in the post war middle suburban suburbs of Australia's cities, and these areas represent the next big housing policy challenge. The author argues that the housing market is critical to the problem and could make things worse. He considers what this means for social housing policy and what the options are.

A view of community building from the inside, by R. Nabben, P. Crossley & S. Bruen, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2004, pp. 47-49.

This presentation explores what happens when a group of people get together in the context of



contemporary Australia to do "community building". The three authors have worked together for two years in the Darebin Community Building Demonstration Project. Adopting a role play mode, they explore the dynamics of the relationships, the unfolding interactions between people over time, the workings of institutions, and the importance of reflecting on the lived experience of "doing" community building.

Nutrition and health

Birth to elders, nutrition for life, Pika Wiya Health Service, by C. Edwards, *Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal*, vol. 28, no. 6, 2004, pp. 22-23, 27.

The Birth to Elders nutrition program, which began in March 2002, aimed to establish integrated, sustainable and culturally appropriate nutrition advice across a range of clinical and health programs at the Pika Wiya Health Service in Port Augusta, SA. This article describes some of the health promotion initiatives undertaken.

Making it easier for school children to be active and eat well, by A.C. Bell & T.R. Bryar, *Health Education Australia Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2004, pp. 32-35.

The Be Active Eat Well Project, in a rural Victorian town, is a whole of community effort that aims to improve the health and well being of children aged two to twelve years through healthy eating and promotion of physical activity. This article describes the project and its strategies, which are designed to enhance sustainability. It discusses awareness raising, capacity building, the active play strategy, the Walking School Bus, efforts to make hot chips healthier, and future project activities.

Problem solving

The engagement approach to real-world problem solving: Toward a coherent soft-systems-based theoretical platform for real-world problem solving, by L. Houghton & P. Ledington, *Systemic Practice & Action Research*, vol. 17, no. 5, 2004, pp. 497-510.

An approach to understanding problem solving and innovation from the perspective of engagement is described in this article. The article explains the use of soft systems methodology in approaches to problem solving. It

then presents the engagement model, which is based on a soft systems platform.

Resilience

Creating resilient families, by A. Fuller, Camberwell, Victoria, Australian Council for Educational Research, 2004, 40 activity cards.

This resource offers parents practical solutions to common problems of parenting adolescents. It is comprised of a pack of 40 topic sheets, based on the authors book, *Raising Real People*, on the following subjects, parents over time; teenage bedrooms; bullying; chores; communication; computer use; concentration; depression; dieting; drugs and alcohol; fathers; fears, worries and anxieties; arguments; friendships; getting your teenager out of bed; grief; guilt; homework; chronic illness; jealousy; money; mothers; motivation; parties; pocket money; resilience; running away; school; school refusal; school transitions; self esteem; separation and divorce; sex and romance; siblings; single parents; telephones; television; temper; blended families.

Rural communities

Community news, by N. Smith, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 4, 2004, pp. 25-26.

The near closure of a local rural Victorian newspaper and its subsequent saving by a community cooperative is the subject of this article. The article discusses how the new management ran the newspaper's production, funding, what community ownership meant, and the idea for the development of an association of community newspapers to support, promote and advocate for community newspapers.

Comprehensive community initiatives, a rural perspective, by L. Messinger, *Social Work*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2004, pp. 535-54.

In this article comprehensive community initiatives (CCI) in an urban and a rural location were compared. CCIs are described in most of the literature as urban strategies. However, substantial similarities were found between the urban and rural CCIs, suggesting the need to broaden the discussion on CCIs to include research on rural initiatives.

Local values and knowledge shaping community involvement, role of regional university, by H. Sheil, L. Gay & T. Pugliese, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 4, 2004, pp. 13-20.

There is a need for flexibility in programs and policies across regional communities. Two case studies - the Latrobe City Council's Strengthening Seven Small Communities project and the Nindern Quaranook central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Cooperative - are presented in the article. Both projects utilised the Graduate certificate in regional community development, which helped skill workers undertaking community engagement.

The return of community to rural human services?, by M. Lynn, *Rural Society*, vol. 14, no. 3, 2004, pp. 228-244.

The paper examines the changing social and political context within which social welfare operates, and reports on two research projects that have explored the approach to community engagement of rural human service workers. The first project in 2000 commenced with the premise that the Kennett years in Victoria had led to the de-funding and devaluing, not only of communities and community development, but of most forms of networking and collaboration between organisations. Ten social welfare practitioners were interviewed to establish whether the rediscovery of community was resulting in any revival of community engagement in human service organisations. The second project involved regular meetings over an eighteen-month period in 2002-2003 with a group of staff within a human service organisation, culminating in the creation of a community development policy for the organisation. The policy provides one way that rural human services can extend their relevance to the broader community, beyond their immediate service users. (Journal abstract)

Social capital

Beyond the local, extending the social capital discourse, by K. Healy, A. Hampshire & L. Ayres, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 39, no. 3, 2004, pp. 329-342.

Social capital and community capacity have become key concepts in social policy responses to marginalised individuals and commu-

nities. Policy making has occurred in the context of heated debate about the roles of government and business institutions in strengthening community capacities. In this paper, the authors explore theoretical positions about the role that these institutions play in building local social capital. They argue that the dominant conceptions of social capital in Australia fail to recognise the potential for non-local institutions to strengthen local community capacity. Drawing on a study of four geographically diverse communities they show that a substantial proportion of community members were disconnected from non-local government and business institutions. They conclude with some initial suggestions for extending the social capital discourse to recognise and build the role of non-local institutions in strengthening local communities. (Journal abstract)

Social capital and community building through an electronic network, by L. Hopkins, ...[et al], *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 39, no. 4, 2004, pp. 369-379.

This paper describes a social policy experiment that explores current and potential links between trends in Australian public policy. The central example is provided by the implementation of a wired community set up in a low-income public housing estate by an entrepreneurial not-for-profit internet service provider, InfoXchange. "Reach for the Clouds", the wired community being established at Atherton Gardens in Fitzroy, Melbourne, is attractive to policy-makers and funding bodies, combining community-building, public-private partnerships, self-help and place-based management. However, although the project is promoted as an exercise in community-building through technology, many of the key assumptions are untested. It seems self-evident that low-income people who are socially and economically excluded would benefit from greater "connectedness" with one another. However, it is not clear that such exchanges, online or offline, will build "community". The paper attempts to establish some distinctions between online communities of interest and place based communities, untangling the relationship between social connectedness and models of social capital. (Journal abstract)

Work family relationship

Long work hours and the wellbeing of fathers and their families, by M. Gray, ...[et al], *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2004, pp. 255-273.

The average hours worked by full-time employees in Australia have increased since the late 1970s. This, combined with increases in female labour force participation, has led to concerns about the impact of long work hours on family life. This paper explores the relationship between fathers' work hours, their own wellbeing and that of their families using data from the HILDA survey. Overall, satisfaction with work hours decreases as the number of hours worked increases beyond the standard working week. However, long hours are not necessarily, or even on average associated with pervasively lower wellbeing. Work hours are negatively related to only two of the thirteen measures of wellbeing examined. For fathers working very long hours, their satisfaction with their work hours is found to be very important to the relationship between work hours and wellbeing. (Journal abstract)

Yarning

The power of healing in the yarn, working with Aboriginal men, by L. Towney, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy & Community Work*, no. 1, 2005, pp. 39-43.

The author has been developing culturally appropriate ways of working that are relevant and helpful to Aboriginal men. The work he discusses in this article is based on narrative approaches to healing that have been used recently with men and men's groups in different parts of New South Wales. "The power of healing in yarn" refers to an approach to conversations with Indigenous Australian men that involves the use of culturally-appropriate narrative practices.

Yarning for better health, improving the health of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, by L. Begley, *Australian Family Physician*, vol. 34, nos. 1-2, 2005, pp. 27-29.

The Yarning for Better Health program, run by the Brisbane South Division of General Practice, aims to improve knowledge of health issues and preventive health and increase awareness of the role of the

general practitioner in an Indigenous community. This article describes the goals, methodology and development of the program and ongoing evaluation and revision of the program.

Yarning up and working with communities, by L. Reilly, *Queensland Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research Newsletter*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2004, pp. 3-5.

Observations of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Seisia, Queensland are given in this article. The article focuses on the role of men, attempts to establish a men's group, and family violence.

Youth participation

National Youth Participation Strategy, by D. Smith-McCue, *Child Abuse Prevention, National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2005, pp. 30-31.

The Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association is developing a national youth participation strategy on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The youth participation strategy is intended to provide a voice for young people in the development of programs funded under the National Mental Health Strategy and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This article outlines the process and aims of the youth participation strategy and what has been done so far. It invites the involvement of interested young people or people who work with them.

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 Queensland 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. (Journal abstract, edited)

Taking young people seriously, creating change in your community, a handbook for young people, by Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Melbourne, Victoria, Office for Youth, Department for Victorian Communities, 2004.

There are many ways that young people can participate in their communities and in the decision-making processes that affect them. This handbook discusses how change happens, provides examples of young people's activities throughout Victoria and contains practical advice and resources to help young people plan and create change in their communities.

Taking young people seriously, consulting young people about their ideas and opinions, a handbook for organisations working with young people, by Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Melbourne, Victoria, Office for Youth, Department for Victorian Communities, 2004.

Youth participation involves young people being active in decision making processes and issues that

affect them. This handbook aims to provide information to support young people's participation in their communities. It provides resources to assist in planning, undertaking and evaluating a consultation.

Taking young people seriously, young people on boards and committees, a handbook for organisations working with young people, by Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Melbourne, Victoria, Office for Youth, Department for Victorian Communities, 2004.

The benefits and importance of having young people on boards and committees are explained in this handbook, which aims to increase young people's participation in their communities. It describes some models of young people's participation and presents six worksheets that can aid organisations to recruit young people. The handbook also describes evaluation methods.

Youth work and community development, kissing cousins or comrades in arms?, by T. Corney, *New Community Quarterly*, vol. 2, no. 3, Spring 2004, pp. 17-20.

The issue of whether youth work can legitimately be viewed as a valid form of community development is the focus of this paper. Historical perspectives are offered, and recent research regarding the training of youth workers is discussed. The conclusion reached is that if Australian perspectives on youth work concur, as both the literature and research suggests, then community development theory and practice underpins both the recent and current training and practice of youth work in Australia.

