

What's New?

Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People Current Awareness Bulletin

January 2015

Contents Ctrl + Click to follow links in table of contents below - or scroll to Contents heading

From the Web	1
Recent journal issues and articles.....	13
Forthcoming conferences and events	16

From the Web

CHILD PROTECTION

Preliminary results from a child sex offenders study [video]

Associate Professor Tony Krone et al.

17 December 2014

The Australian Institute of Criminology has published a video of a seminar presented by Associate Professor Tony Krone, "Relationships and risk in online and offline child exploitation material (CEM) offending: The results of an exploratory Australian study". It examines the nature of the offenders; their offending; and the features that distinguish those offenders who are also known to commit contact and grooming offences.

[YouTube video](#)

2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC)

November 2014

UNODC Global Report 2014 is the second of its kind mandated by the General Assembly. It covers 128 countries and provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2010 and 2012 (or more recent). The report shows that one in three known victims of human trafficking is a child - a 5 per cent increase compared to the 2007-2010 period. Girls make up 2 out of every 3 child victims, and together with women, account for 70 per cent of overall trafficking victims.

[Full-text](#)

Fearing Wrong: Why What Doesn't Scare Us Should

Ipsos Reid & World Vision

December 2014

AUSTRALIANS believe child violence is a common, growing and under-reported problem, says a new study released by child-focused organisation World Vision. The report also reveals that Australians as

well as people around the globe have misconceptions about where child violence occurs, how and when – and that these misunderstandings may be putting children at risk.

[Fearing Wrong global report](#)

[Fearing Wrong Australia report](#)

Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014

4 December 2014

These bills implement Australian Government election commitments to enhance online safety for children, including:

- establishing a Children’s e-Safety Commissioner (Commissioner) to take a national leadership role in online safety for children; and
- implementing an effective complaints system, backed by legislation that will get harmful cyber-bullying material targeted at an Australian child down quickly from large social media sites.

The bills were developed following substantial public and stakeholder consultation, including consideration of more than 80 submissions received in response to the public discussion paper ‘Enhancing Online Safety for Children’ released in January 2014.

[Full-text](#)

CHILD RIGHTS

Children's rights report 2014

Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner

October 2014

The report outlines work the National Children's Commissioner has undertaken throughout 2013-14 to promote discussion and awareness of matters relating to the human rights of children and young people in Australia. The report also discusses the progress of the recommendations made in the Children's Rights Report 2013.

The annual report also cites new research revealing that each week in Australia, one child under the age of 18 dies from suicide and that up to 60 children are admitted to hospital each week due to self-harm. The findings from the Australian Human Rights Commission, which were presented to parliament, have called for national research into the policies and support available for children.

[Report](#)

[Summary article](#)

NOTE: Print copy displayed on table adjacent to Tony’s workstation

Child Participation: From Rights to Reality: KidsRights Report 2014

KidsRights

November 2014

Despite increased awareness of child participation, there are major obstacles which still stand in the way of its realisation. Among those who are aware of it, there remains a lack of clarity about what exactly child participation is, and why it is significant. This report provides detailed recommendations for the realisation of children’s participation rights.

[Full-text](#)

Marking the 25th anniversary of the CRC

CRINmail

November 2014

Universal Children’s Day on 20 November 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). CRINmail marks the 25th anniversary by looking at 25

new or neglected issues in children's rights advocacy. The online report lists five issues which demonstrate the long way children's rights have to go before children are recognised as full and independent human rights holders. Following these issues 20 other children's rights issues are noted as a sample of those which require greater attention.

[Full-text](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Family Violence (VIC)

20 January 2015

Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, has announced the proposed Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

[Full-text](#)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Formative evaluation of the NSW Proud Schools Pilot: Stage 2 Final Report

ARTD Pty Ltd

June 2014

The Proud Schools initiative, implemented in 12 public schools between 2011 and 2013, was designed to help schools fight homophobia and build a safe and inclusive environment for same sex attracted and gender questioning students. The NSW government abandoned the model at the end of the pilot. However this independent evaluation found the program was successful and could bring about positive change if replicated in other schools. Two-thirds of the students surveyed agreed the program had a positive impact on their school, reducing homophobic language and encouraging greater acceptance of gay, lesbian, transgender and intersex students.

[Full-text](#)

Home Schooling in NSW (Final Report)

NSW Select Committee on Home Schooling

December 2014

The Select Committee on Home Schooling has made a number of recommendations that aim to improve the registration process and educational opportunities for home schooled children. The inquiry and report followed a 10,000 signature petition submitted to Parliament in May 2014 in which many people in the home schooling community voiced concerns about the regulation of home schooling by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards

[Full-text](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Understanding employer engagement programs for disadvantaged jobseekers: an exploratory study

John van Kooy, Dina Bowman and Eve Bodsworth; Brotherhood of St Laurence

December 2014

'Employer engagement' covers a wide range of approaches to assisting disadvantaged jobseekers. This preliminary study proposes that there is a continuum of approaches from welfare-oriented to labour-market oriented. It identifies common features of some current programs involving employers

in Australia and not-for-profit labour market intermediaries and discusses the motivations of employers and labour market intermediaries that are involved in these approaches.

[Full-text](#)

SVA Employment Dialogue 2014 Communiqué - Brighter Futures: Building better futures for those experiencing long-term unemployment

Social Ventures Australia , Mission Australia and Brotherhood of St Laurence

December 2014

Employment experts have claimed that creating a specialist approach for young people with complex needs is required to tackle Australia's unemployment. The Employment Dialogue, held by Social Ventures Australia, Mission Australia and Brotherhood of St Laurence, sought the insights of leaders across government, business and the social purpose sector, looking specifically at innovative approaches to tackling long-term unemployment in a changing job market. In the Communiqué emerging from the Dialogue, six principles were identified as critical to solving Australia's long-term unemployment challenge.

[Full-text](#)

We can work it out – Australia's changing workforce

AMP.NATSEM

November 2014

The 36th AMP.NATSEM report takes a look at the current state of the Australian labour market – what we do, how much we earn, youth unemployment and how we compare internationally. It describes how recession has changed the global labour force with industries closing down, job lay-offs and increasing unemployment. In addition, the report notes, Australia has experienced significant structural and technological change that has seen the move from an agricultural based economy to a service based economy.

[Full-text](#)

Australia today: a million new adults, just 385,000 new jobs

Tim Colebatch

Inside Story, Swinburne University of Technology

22 January 2015

In a little over three years from early 2005 to May 2008, Australia's working age population, as officially defined, grew by just under a million people. The number of people with jobs grew by a 940,000. Half a decade later, in the three years to December 2014, Australia's working age population grew by just over a million people. Yet this time the number of jobs grew by only 385,000. For every one hundred extra adults, in other words, just thirty-eight new jobs were generated. This compared to the ninety-four new jobs created for every one hundred extra adults just before the global financial crisis.

[Full-text](#)

FAMILY & SOCIETY

2014 Youth Survey

Mission Australia

November 2014

Australia's young people have bold dreams for the future but many fear goals such as career success and financial independence might be out of reach, the country's biggest youth study shows. Almost 14,000 youngsters aged 15-19 were asked about their hopes, aspirations and concerns as part of

Mission Australia's 2014 Youth Survey. More than 80 per cent of those surveyed said they wanted a good job and financial independence but only about 60 per cent felt they were achievable goals.

[Media release and Report download](#)

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth annual report 2013

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

17 December 2014

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) program is an evidence base for youth policy, providing information on the key transition points in young people's lives up to the age of 25 years. The first edition of this annual report provides an overview of the LSAY program and presents information about young people using the latest LSAY data. Key transition points and changes across the LSAY cohorts, as well as differences among the subgroups of interest (for example, gender, geographic location and socioeconomic status) are explored.

[Full-text](#)

Youth transitions in Australia: a moving picture

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

December 2014

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) program provides information on the key transition points in young people's lives up to the age of 25. This publication highlights the key elements from the LSAY annual report 2013. Using LSAY data and research findings, it demonstrates how transitions for young Australians continue to change. It covers a broad range of topics, including student aspirations, the importance of schools, increasing educational participation, and the challenges faced by young people as they begin their working lives. Changes in living arrangements, marriage and satisfaction with life are also explored.

[Full-text](#)

Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children 2012–13 Annual Report

Department of Social Services

September 2014

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) investigates the impact of social, economic and cultural environments on the children's development, wellbeing and lifecourse trajectories. A major aim of the study is to identify policy opportunities for improving prevention and support for children, youth and families. This 2012-2013 Annual Report provides information on Wave 5 data collection which was completed in early 2013. Information regarding the Life at 7 documentary series and the development of the LSAC Child Health CheckPoint study are available in this report.

[Full-text](#)

A Picture of ACT's Children and Young People 2014

ACT Government

October 2014

A Picture of ACT's Children and Young People complements the work being undertaken nationally and within jurisdictions across Australia to measure outcomes for children and young people.

This report incorporates nationally recognised indicators of children and young people's health, wellbeing, learning and development along with ACT specific indicators. This is the fourth year the ACT Government has compiled this key data in one report. It is a key initiative supporting Canberra as a child and youth friendly city. The ACT Children's Plan 2010–2014 and ACT Young People's Plan 2009–2014 are the key policy documents, providing the strategic direction in achieving this goal.

[Full-text](#)

ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey 2014

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)

15 December 2014

Findings from the ACOSS survey reveal that 80% of frontline agencies are unable to meet current levels of demand with the resources they have. The Australian Community Sector Survey presents findings from a survey conducted by the ACOSS of almost 1,000 community service workers from around the country. The survey reports from a grassroots level on the quality of life of community members, service provision, community priorities, and service priorities through the perspective of sector staff.

[Full-text](#)

Early childhood flexibility practices and patterns

Early Childhood Australia

December 2014

The early childhood flexibility practices and patterns report highlights recommendations and future directions for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services in providing flexible arrangements for families and local communities. The Report was informed through sector surveys, interviews with early childhood services and a Reference Group of sector leaders.

[Full-text](#)

Findings from the 2013 survey of Victorians' attitudes to race and cultural diversity

VicHealth

December 2014

Findings from this Victorian study indicate that prejudice, racebased discrimination and intolerance remain common, resulting in negative health, social and economic consequences for affected individuals and groups and for the wider community. In particular there is a link between exposure to selfreported discrimination and poor mental health.

[Full-text](#)

Girls' Attitudes Survey 2014

Girlguiding UK

December 2014

This UK survey canvassed the opinion of 1200 girls and young women aged 7 to 21 on a wide range of issues. Findings include: 59% of 13-21-year-olds have experienced sexual harassment at school, college or work in the last year.

[Full-text](#)

GOVERNMENT

New South Wales Auditor-General's report: volume thirteen 2014 focusing on education and communities

Audit Office of New South Wales

December 2014

The audit opinions on all the Education and Communities agencies' 30 June 2014 financial statements were unqualified. No significant matters were identified. Over the last five years, reported misstatements identified during the audit have fallen significantly. Agencies in the Education and Communities cluster were largely successful in performing early close procedures mandated by NSW Treasury. This facilitated early resolution of accounting issues and enabled the financial statements to be submitted earlier than the previous year.

[Full-text](#)

Report on Government Services 2015

Productivity Commission

January 2015

The annual Report on Government Services (RoGS) provides information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia. This report is progressively released between 28 January - 6 February 2015. The report covers 16 separate service areas and includes sections on child protection; youth justice; health; child care; education and training; disability and homelessness.

[Full-text](#)

Outcomes frameworks: a guide for providers and commissioners of youth services

UK Cabinet Office

The UK Cabinet Office has published an overview of the most widely applicable outcomes frameworks for providers and commissioners of services for young people. Topics addressed in the guide include why it is necessary for youth services to demonstrate their impact; how to better understand whether an initiative is having an impact; what role does an outcomes framework play; what outcomes frameworks are available and being used in the youth sector in the UK and building support in your organisation.

[Full-text](#)

An independent review of the role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Welsh Government

December 2014

Issues covered in the review included: the impact of the role, accessibility, participation, legislation, and value for money. The report reflects a comprehensive call for evidence that included an on-line survey, a questionnaire, workshops, commissioned searches and many face-to-face interviews across Wales, the UK and further afield. The views of children and young people themselves were central throughout.

[Full-text](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Stress and Wellbeing in Australia Survey 2014

Australian Psychological Society

November 2014

One in four Australians reported moderate to severe levels of distress this year, with the highest levels of stress and distress reported by young Australians (18-25 and 26-35 year age group). The 18-25 year age group also reported the lowest levels of wellbeing.

[Full-text](#)

New Directions: Mothers and Babies Services 2012-13 : Assessment of the program using nKPI data,

December 2012 to December 2013

15 December 2014

This report finds an improvement in 7 out of 8 of the national child and maternal health measures in organisations receiving New Directions funding.

[Full-text](#)

Health and wellbeing of women aged 18 to 23; Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

Gita Mishra et al.

May 2014

This report published by Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health compares findings between two cohorts of women: women aged 18 to 23 in 1996 and women aged 18 to 23 in 2013 . The research covers a range of health indicators, including: risk factors (tobacco use, alcohol consumption, BMI status, etc); physical health; psychological distress; violence; sexual and reproductive health; and access to health services. This study of women's health finds that a younger generation of women are more physically active but have higher levels of psychological stress.

[Full-text](#)

Measuring the wellbeing of children in the 'middle years': international perspectives on adolescent health and development (Seminar transcript and video)

Professor Candace Currie OBE

Seminar, 1 December, Canberra ACT

Professor Currie, International Coordinator and Principal Investigator with Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC), the global survey of health and wellbeing for older children and adolescents shared insights on the importance of sound research and statistical analysis in health and health-related behaviour of adolescents. Professor George Patton (Centre for Adolescent Health, University of Melbourne) also spoke on Australian and Global trends in health and development. They were joined by Associate Professor Gerry Redmond (Flinders University), who spoke on the Australian Child Wellbeing Project, a new survey of Australian young people in their middle years which includes several questions from the HBSC questionnaire.

[Seminar transcript and video](#)

Alcohol marketing and young people, with world expert David Jernigan [Podcast]

Australian Drug Foundation

December 2014

This is the first podcast in the series discusses alcohol marketing and young people in an interview with David Jernigan, PhD, the Director of The Centre on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

[Podcast](#)

The impact of gambling problems on families

Nicki Dowling

Australian Gambling Research Centre (AGRC) Discussion Paper No. 1

November 2014

This discussion paper summarises the available research about how gambling problems affect family relationships and family members, how families cope with gambling problems, and the assessment and therapy options available to the family members of people with gambling problems.

[Full-text](#)

CAYRing: Youth news from the Asia-Pacific region

Flipboard magazine CAYRing, featuring news on young people in the Asia Pacific region, is published by the Centre for Applied Youth Research (CAYR). CAYR is an international centre that promotes engagement between Australian and Asian-Pacific youth researchers and practitioners and the sharing of research, policy and practice expertise for the benefit of young people throughout the Asia Pacific region. It has associations with both the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies and the University of Tasmania, and with researchers and youth service providers across Asia. CAYR is

currently developing its major research communication tool – the online Journal of Applied Youth Studies (JAYS), which will incorporate the journal Youth Studies Australia.

[More about CAYR](#)

[View Flipboard magazine CAYRing](#)

Listening to children: improving communication with your child

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), UK

December 2014

Guide to help parents and carers to understand and communicate with children. Includes sections on listening to a baby, listening as a child grows up, listening to older children and communicating with children with disabilities.

[Full-text](#)

Young People into 2014

SHEU - School and Student Health Education Unit, UK

November 2014

The SHEU survey report contains over 100 health-related behaviour questions and answers from over 30,000 pupils between the ages of 10 and 15 about what they do at home, at school, and with their friends. It found that the self-esteem of teenage girls has fallen significantly since the start of the economic downturn 7 years ago and the boom in the use of social media.

[Summary](#)

That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence

Dr Elly Hanson and Dez Holmes; Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) Families, Children and Young People Committee, UK

November 2014

Research in Practice evidence scope

The review looks at the serious and negative risks that face some adolescents in the UK today, focusing in particular on those risks that involve maltreatment by self and others. These serious risks – such as neglect, running away, sexual exploitation and offending – are often thought about separately. In this report these risks are intentionally considered together so that common themes can be drawn out to inform a distinctive adolescent-centred approach to protection, prevention and the promotion of adolescent resilience.

[Full-text](#)

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

What's ya story: the making of a digital storytelling mobile app with Aboriginal young people

Fran Edmonds ; Institute for a Broadband-Enabled Society; Australian Communications Consumer Action Network

25 November 2014

In 2013-2014, the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) provided funding for a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Melbourne to collaborate with young Aboriginal participants (aged between 15 and 26) and their mentors from the Korin Gamadji Institute (KGI) at Richmond Football Club, Victoria. This collaboration led to the development and design of a prototype digital storytelling mobile application to be used by Aboriginal young people: the What's ya Story app (the WYS app). The majority of the Aboriginal population in Victoria is aged 25 and under and among the highest users of mobile phones: actively engaging in social media and

using digital technologies, especially mobile devices and the internet, to produce and tell their stories in ways determined by them.

[Full-text](#)

Promoting Indigenous child health and wellbeing: "Get a piece of paper honey, no-one can take that away from you" [slides, audio and transcript of webinar]

Kerry Arabena et al.m, Child Family Community Australia

November 2014

The slides, audio, slide outline and audio transcript of this recent webinar from Child Family Community Australia are now online. The speakers provided an overview of Indigenous understandings of child health within the context of community, and discussed strengths-based, holistic and family-focussed approaches and strategies for promoting child safety within this framework.

[Webinar slides, audio and transcript](#)

LAW AND JUSTICE

Young but not so restless: trends in the age-specific rate of offending

Don Weatherburn, Karen Freeman, Jessie Holmes; NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

2 December 2014

Discussion of trends in age-specific rates of offending for property crime, robbery and serious assault. Using descriptive statistics and graphical displays the researchers concluded that there is good reason to expect a continuation of the downward trend in rates of property crime and robbery in NSW. The future course of trends in serious assault will likely depend on whether the current fall in alcohol misuse by young people continues.

[Full-text](#)

Youth detention population in Australia 2014

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

November 2014

Review of the youth detention population in Australia, focusing on quarterly trends from June 2010 to June 2014. On an average night, close to 1,000 young people were in detention, about half of whom were unsentenced. Nationally, numbers and rates of young people in detention remained relatively stable over the 4 years; but trends varied among states and territories. About half of all young people in detention on an average night were Indigenous. Statistics showed that almost 60 per cent of children aged 10 to 17 in detention were aboriginal, and yet they make up only 5.5 per cent of Australia's 10 to 17-year-olds.

[Full-text](#)

Using the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set to measure returns to sentenced youth justice supervision: stage 2

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

January 2015

This is the second of two reports presenting measures of returns to sentenced youth justice supervision using data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set.

[Full-text](#)

Art and change: one in two: juvenile injustice [Video]

Sophie McNeill, Scott Rankin, Allery Sandy, Peter McBain, Barbara Baikie

Wheeler Centre; Presented in partnership with Melbourne Festival 2015

19 January 2015

Every second young person in detention in Australia is Indigenous. The human impact of this confronting statistic is the destruction of families, the weakening of communities and the inadvertent creation of a training ground for young criminals.

This forum looks at the work of arts company Big hART, using its practical approach as a jumping-off point for a discussion of effective ways to tackle the tragic reality of juvenile incarceration.

[Video](#)

Realising Ambition: lessons on replication and evidence-based interventions - mid-program report

Tavistock Institute for Human Relations UK

December 2014

Realising Ambition aims to help young people avoid re-offending by promoting a strong, replicable evidence-base, and sharing the project findings. The Realising Ambition program is a five-year UK initiative that is designed to help young people avoid pathways into offending. A portfolio of 25 of the best available evidence-based programs and promising interventions were identified, with the aim of replicating these programs across the UK.

[Full-text](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-2024

NSW Mental Health Commission

December 2014

The Strategic Plan sets out actions and future directions for reform of the mental health system in NSW. The Plan does not directly govern the operation of services but instead lays out directions and principles for reform which agencies and service providers must find ways to embed in the supports they offer to people in the community.

[Full-text](#)

Suicide and hospitalised self-harm in Australia: trends and analysis

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

3 December 2014

Male rates of suicide by hanging have more than doubled since the early 1980s. Female rates show a similar pattern, although at lower levels. Suicide death rates for males, adjusted for age, fluctuated around 20 deaths per 100,000 population per year in the period 1921 to 2010. Rates for females were about 5 deaths per 100,000 population per year in most of this period, peaking above twice that rate in the 1960s. Suicide rates for males in the Baby Boomer generation (those born from 1946 to 1965), Gen X (those born from 1966 to 1975) and Gen Y (those born from 1976 to 1985) rose more rapidly with age in their early adult years than occurred in the generations of their fathers and grandfathers.

[Full-text](#)

A family affair: job loss and the mental health of spouses and adolescents

Melisa Bubonya et al.; University of Melbourne

October 2014

This study examines the impact of involuntary job loss on the mental health of family members using confidentialized unit-record file data from the HILDA Survey. The mental well-being of wives declines following their husbands' job loss, but only if it results in a sustained period of non-employment or if the couple had already experienced financial hardship or relationship strain. A negative effect of

parental job loss on the mental health of co-resident adolescent children is also found, but appears to be restricted to girls. However there is little evidence of any negative spillover effect on the mental health of husbands as a result of their wives' job loss.

[Full-text](#)

Talk to me 2, a draft suicide and self-harm prevention strategy and action plan for Wales : consultation document

Welsh Government

December 2014

Talk to Me 2 sets out the strategic aims and objectives to prevent and reduce suicide and self harm in Wales 2014-2019. It identifies priority people, places and actions and sets out how to deliver action nationally and locally. The plan focuses on vulnerable groups including children and young people.

[Full-text](#)

PARTICIPATION

Youth participation kit for young people: 'Get Heard. Make a Difference'

WA Department of Local Government and Communities

July 2014

Kit providing advice to young people to enhance their input and contributions to community life. The information sheets in 'Get Heard. Make a Difference' contain practical tips on how young people can get involved in organisations and the community, and on how to start and manage projects.

[Full-text](#)

Youth participation kit for organisations: 'Rejuvenate your organisation: involving young people to increase your success'

WA Department of Local Government and Communities

July 2014

Organisations wanting to know how to include young people in consultations and on boards or committees can refer to these help sheets containing advice about rejuvenating your organisation, important factors to consider for successful youth participation, how to conduct one-off consultations, using social media to involve young people in an organisation and useful resources.

[Full-text](#)

POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

Bridging our growing divide: inequality in Australia : the extent of income inequality in Australia

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

16 December 2014

The Committee has found that income inequality has increased in Australia since the mid-1980s. The extent of income inequality in Australia, the impact of income inequality on access to services and entrenching disadvantage, and the impact of income inequality on disadvantaged groups is explored. The 2014–15 Budget impact on income inequality and the principles that should underpin social security payments and practical measures to address inequality are also addressed in the report.

[Full-text](#)

Specialist homelessness services 2013–14

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

December 2014

The AIHW report reveals that in 2013-14 around 254,000 Australians accessed specialist homelessness services, with 33% of all clients seeking help from domestic & family violence. This is the third annual report of the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection. Over the past three years, agencies have supported more than half a million Australians who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

[Full-text](#)

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2014

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), UK

November 2014

In this recent report on poverty in the UK the proportion of pensioners in poverty is at record low levels while young adults have become increasingly impoverished over the last decade. In the 2012-13 financial year, 13% of pensioners were living in low-income households compared to 24% ten years earlier. For working age adults the proportion has risen from 19% to 21%. The trend is particularly bad for the 16-19 year old and 20-24 year old age brackets, for which 34% and 29% are in low-income households respectively. Both groups have faced an increase of 6 percentage points over the preceding decade.

[Full-text](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Bridging the digital disconnect: Exploring parents' views on using technology to promote young people's mental health

Dr Aleisha M Clarke et al.

September 2014

This is the second in a series of reports that will help inform the development of online mental health resources. Report is produced by the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland Galway and Inspire Ireland Foundation in collaboration with the Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, Melbourne, Australia. The report outlines key findings from a needs assessment survey carried out with youth workers, education, health and mental health professionals in Ireland.

[Full-text](#)

Recent journal articles

For a copy of any of these articles contact Barbara Glass, Information Coordinator at barbara.glass@kids.nsw.gov.au or Ext. 7294

Virtually impossible: limiting Australian children and adolescents daily screen based media use

Stephen Houghton et al

BMC Public Health, Vol.15 No.5

The study surveyed 2,620 Australian children between the ages of eight and 16 at 25 schools. Paediatric recommendations to limit children's and adolescents' screen based media use (SBMU) to less than two hours per day appear to have gone unheeded. Given the associated adverse physical and mental health outcomes of SBMU it is understandable that concern is growing worldwide. However, because the majority of studies measuring SBMU have focused on TV viewing, computer use, video game playing, or a combination of these the true extent of total SBMU (including non-sedentary hand held devices) and time spent on specific screen

activities remains relatively unknown. This study assesses the amount of time Australian children and adolescents spend on all types of screens and specific screen activities.

[Full-text](#)

30-Year Journey of Monitoring Fitness and Skill Outcomes in Physical Education: Lessons Learned and a Focus on the Future

Garry Tester, Timothy R. Ackland, Laurence Houghton

Advances in Physical Education, 2014, 4, 127-137

The aims of this paper are to provide normative data for primary school-age children from various regions in Australia, to identify secular trends in the data over three decades, to focus on results for selected schools that have adopted varied levels of commitment to the physical education program and finally, to demonstrate a way forward to improve the fitness and skill levels of children. Children's physical (PQ), fitness (FQ) and skill (SQ) quotient data were collated from over 30 years (1981-2012) of program implementation, with individual data from 27,571 students aged 6 - 12 years. Compared to the initial cohort of children from whom the sub-scale was created (1981- 1989), mean PQ data were consistently 10 - 15 points lower for both boys and girls over the past three decades.

[Full-text](#)

Coming of age: Australia's flagship longitudinal studies

Family Matters, No.95 2014

This issue of Family Matters presents a range of articles describing significant longitudinal studies conducted in Australia on families and family wellbeing.

[Full-text](#)

Students plan research and action on mental health

Central Coast Student Voice Alliance, NSW

Connect No.10, December 2014 p.3-4

Students from the public secondary schools on the NSW Central Coast are planning action to identify and improve student mental health and wellbeing in their schools and communities. They met recently to identify their specific topics of concern, learn how to investigate these, and begin to plan the initiatives they can take. The Central Coast Student Voice Alliance Conference Day in mid November brought together about 60 students (with their teachers) from these schools located across the Central Coast area of NSW.

[Full-text](#)

Distressed bullies, social positioning and odd victims: young people's explanations of bullying

Robert Thornberg

Children and society (Vol.29, Iss.1) January 2015 pp 15-25

Explores children's views on the reasons why school bullying takes place in terms of three categories of explanations: the "odd victim", the bully's social positioning or the distressed bully. Findings were based on a questionnaire completed by 350 adolescents in 3 Swedish secondary schools. Although the teenagers tended to agree with all three types of explanations for bullying, they were more inclined to think that that bullying occurs because the bully wants power or status. Girls were more likely than boys to think that bullying took place because the bullies had their own problems.

[Full-text](#)

Socioeconomic disadvantage and onset of childhood chronic disabling conditions: a cohort study

Spencer, N. & Strazdins, L .

Archives of Disease in Childhood; published online September 2014

This paper looked into the relationships between socioeconomic status and chronic disabling conditions (CDCs) in childhood. CDCs cover a broad range of physical and mental conditions such as sight problems, hearing problems, learning difficulties, and ADHD. The researchers found that family socioeconomic disadvantage when children are aged 6/7 is associated with their development of a chronic disabling condition over the next 4 years and with adverse effects on household income.

[Abstract](#)

Making the most of obesity research: developing research and policy objectives through evidence triangulation

Oliver, Kathryn; Aicken, Catherine; Arai, Lisa

Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice, Volume 9, Number 2, May 2013, pp. 207-223(17)

Drawing lessons from research can help policy makers make better decisions. If a large and methodologically varied body of research exists, as with childhood obesity, this is challenging. The authors present new research and policy objectives for child obesity developed by triangulating user involvement data with a mapping study of interventions aimed at reducing child obesity. The results suggest that enhancing mental wellbeing should be a policy objective, and greater involvement of peers and parents in the delivery of obesity interventions would be beneficial. It is proposed that exploiting the evidence base through triangulation is a useful and valid method.

What is the impact of mental health-related stigma on help-seeking? A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative studies

S Clement, O Schauman, T Graham, F Maggioni, S Evans-Lacko, N Bezborodovs, C Morgan, N Rüsç, J S L Brown, G Thornicroft

Psychological Medicine 2015, 45 (1): 11-27

This systematic review addressed the overarching question: What is the impact of mental health-related stigma on help-seeking for mental health problems? Subquestions were: (a) What is the size and direction of any association between stigma and help-seeking? (b) To what extent is stigma identified as a barrier to help-seeking? (c) What processes underlie the relationship between stigma and help-seeking? (d) Are there population groups for which stigma disproportionately deters help-seeking?

Five electronic databases were searched from 1980 to 2011 and references of reviews checked. A meta-synthesis of quantitative and qualitative studies, comprising three parallel narrative syntheses and subgroup analyses, was conducted.

The review identified 144 studies with 90 189 participants meeting inclusion criteria. The median association between stigma and help-seeking was $d = -0.27$, with internalized and treatment stigma being most often associated with reduced help-seeking. Stigma was the fourth highest ranked barrier to help-seeking, with disclosure concerns the most commonly reported stigma barrier. A detailed conceptual model was derived that describes the processes contributing to, and counteracting, the deterrent effect of stigma on help-seeking. Ethnic minorities, youth, men and those in military and health professions were disproportionately deterred by stigma.

[Abstract](#)

Approaches to maximising the accuracy of anthropometric data on children: review and empirical evaluation using the Australian Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children

Thurber KA, Banks E, Banwell C.

Public Health Research & Practice. November 2014; 25(1)

Despite the burgeoning research interest in weight status, in parallel with the increase in obesity worldwide, research describing methods to optimise the validity and accuracy of measured anthropometric data is lacking. Even when 'gold standard' methods are employed, no data are 100% accurate, yet the accuracy of anthropometric data is critical to produce robust and interpretable findings. To date, described methods for identifying data that are likely to be inaccurate seem to be ad hoc or lacking in clear justification. This paper presents a probabilistic approach to identifying anthropometric measurements that are likely to be implausible. This systematic, practical method is intended to be reproducible in other settings, including for validating large databases.

[Full-text](#)

Applying a performance monitoring framework to increase reach and adoption of children's healthy eating and physical activity programs

Louise Farrell, Beverley Lloyd, Rhonda Matthews, Andrea Bravo, John Wiggers, Chris Rissel

Public Health Research & Practice. November 2014; 25(1)

Describes the model developed in NSW to monitor state-wide programs for the central component of the Healthy Children Initiative (HCI), the Children's Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Program, and present the

model's application to early childhood education and care services and primary schools, including results to March 2014.

[Full-text](#)

Reconnecting urban planning with health: a protocol for the development and validation of national liveability indicators associated with noncommunicable disease risk behaviours and health outcomes

Giles-Corti B, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Bull F, Boruff B, et al.

Public Health Research & Practice. November 2014; 25(1)

Discussion of The National Liveability Study which aims to build the capacity for systems research relating to the built environment and health, and to develop a set of national indicators that can be used to monitor progress towards creating healthy and liveable communities. It builds on research involving the development of built environment GIS indicators and validation with health behaviours and outcomes conducted by the research team and collaborators. Such a program of work requires involvement from many stakeholders and disciplines: an approach well aligned with the shared objectives and aspirations of TAPPC and the CRE in Healthy, Liveable Communities.

[Full-text](#)

Comorbidity and Continuity of Psychiatric Disorders in Youth After Detention: A Prospective Longitudinal Study

Karen M. Abram et al.

JAMA Psychiatry. Published online November 26, 2014

Psychiatric disorders and comorbidity are prevalent among incarcerated juveniles. Research was conducted to determine the comorbidity and continuity of psychiatric disorders among youth 5 years after detention. Although prevalence rates of comorbidity decreased in youth after detention, rates remained substantial and were higher than rates in the most comparable studies of the general population. Youth with multiple disorders at baseline are at highest risk for disorder 5 years later. Researchers concluded that only a concerted effort to address the many needs of delinquent youth will help them thrive in adulthood.

[Abstract](#)

Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

New events added since the last issue of What's New are highlighted in red

FEBRUARY 2015		
7-8 February	Canberra ACT	Seen and heard : children and the courts
10-12 February	Sydney	Asia-Pacific Conference on Gendered Violence and Violations
18-19 February	Sydney	Bureau of Crime and Research Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference
18-20 February	Glenelg SA	Early Development Census National Conference – <u>Bridging the Divide: Linking data to action in schools, communities and governments across Australia,</u>
19-20 February	Sydney NSW	Men's Mental Health: building a healthier future

24 February	Sydney	The hidden harm: Alcohol's impact on children and families: The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) report launch
MARCH 2015		
15-19 March	Oxford, UK	International Conference on Childhood Education
17 March	Melbourne Vic	Pathways for Vulnerable Children : Reforming systems to improve service delivery & quality of care
17-20 March	Brisbane Qld	Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference
19 March	Melbourne Vic	Innovation in Community Development
19-20 March	Philadelphia, USA	Society for Research in Child Development
23-24 March	Sydney NSW	Dr. Bessel van der Kolk 2015: The Body Keeps the Score
25-26 March	Sydney NSW	Community Engagement Conference: Successful engagement for smarter decision making
29 March-1 April	Auckland NZ	Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
30 March-1 April	Copenhagen Denmark	Journal of Youth Studies conference: Contemporary youth, contemporary risks
APRIL 2015		
12-15 April	Scotland, UK	BASPCAN Congress 2015 : New Directions in Child Protection and Well-being
29-30 April	Melbourne Vic	Social Media for the Public Sector Conference 2015 in conjunction with the Strategic Communications or the Public Sector Conference
MAY 2015		
4-7 May	Athens, Greece	International Conference on Sociology
8-9 May	Adelaide SA	Early Childhood Australia Reconciliation Symposium
11-14 May	Cairns Qld	Creating Futures: Evidence and Creativity in Tropical and Remote Settings
18-19 May	Melbourne, Vic	2015 Child Aware Approaches conference
18-19 May	Gold Coast, Qld	Eating Disorders and Obesity conference
JUNE 2015		

4-5 June	Melbourne, Vic	5th ACFID University Network Conference : Evidence and practice in an age of inequality
10-11 June	Sydney NSW	Happiness & Its Causes
10-11 June	Ottawa Canada	Families in Canada Conference 2015
11-12 June	Sydney NSW	Positive schools – mental health and wellbeing conference
24-26 June	Hobart, Tasmania	Coming together for Australia's Children, ARACY Early Years Chapter and the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Call for abstracts closes 23 February 2015
24-26 June	Perth, WA	Third National Conference on Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
29-30 June	Gold Coast Qld	No2 Bullying Conference
JULY 2015		
5-9 July	Perth WA	International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology
6-8 July	Sydney NSW	24th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills' – Youth; Pathways; Skills
8-10 July	Brisbane NSW	Crime, Justice and Social Democracy Conference
8-11 July	Wellington NZ	Australasian Human Development Association Conference - Growing Healthy Young People, Children and Families
19-20 July	Albany WA	Building capacity – growing our children together
AUGUST 2015		
25-28 August	Canberra ACT	The Mental Health Services (MHS) Conference 2015: Translating best practice into reality
SEPTEMBER 2015		
6-9 September	Hobart Tas	Population Health Congress 2015
14-17 September	Perth, WA	SNAICC Conference
28-30 September	Kensington NSW	Australian Social Policy Conference : Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity

Contributions to *What's New* and book suggestions for library are welcome.
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