

What's New?

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

May-June 2015

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From the Web

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection Australia 2013–14

May 2015

AIHW

This report contains comprehensive information on state and territory child protection and support services in 2013-14, and the characteristics of Australian children within the child protection system. This report shows that: - around 143,000 children, a rate of 27.2 per 1,000 children, received child protection services (investigation, care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care); - three-quarters (73%) of these children had previously been the subject of an investigation, care and protection order and/or out-of-home care placement; - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were 7 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.

[Full-text](#)

Understanding adult sex offenders in youth-oriented institutions

Benoit Leclerc and Jesse Cale; Australian Institute of Criminology, Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice No.497

June 2015

Evidence on sexual victimisation experiences of offenders and offending patterns presents findings from a sample of 23 convicted Canadian sex offenders. Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the report explores the nature of the offender's involvement with institutions; their own prior sexual victimisation experiences; factors influencing the selection of victims; and the locations where the sexual assaults occurred.

[Full-text](#)

Implementation of recommendations arising from previous inquiries of relevance to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Parenting Research Centre

May 2015

The Parenting Research Centre has prepared a report, commissioned by the Royal Commission, that assesses the extent to which 288 recommendations from previous relevant inquiries have been implemented. The report also highlights factors that determined, contributed to, or were barriers to successful implementation.

[Full-text](#)

Child Maltreatment 2013: Summary of Key Findings (USA)

The Children's Bureau (USA)

The findings show a decrease in child victimisation rates and an increase child protection response rates over the last 5 years.

[Full-text](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Line Campaign: summary of research findings

Hall & Partners; Open Mind; prepared of Our Watch

May 2015

A quarter of people aged 12-24 did not consider a male insulting or verbally harassing females to be serious, while 15 per cent also believed it was OK for males to pressure a girl for sex if they were both drunk, the survey found. And one in four young men feels that controlling and violent behaviours are symbolic of male strength. The research of 3000 people was commissioned by anti-violence foundation Our Watch to launch a new campaign for The Line, to encourage respectful relationships among young people, with ex-AFL star Luke Ablett as ambassador.

[Full-text](#)

The Line Campaign - Launch

Our Watch

May 2015

The Line is an initiative under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022 and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

[Full-text](#)

Working with children and young people: Policy Brief No.5

Our Watch

May 2015

This policy brief outlines approaches for working with children and young people – from early childhood to young adulthood – to prevent violence against women and their children, and explores the opportunities and challenges of this work.

[Full-text](#)

Domestic and family violence

Chris Angus; NSW Parliamentary Research Service Briefing Paper No 5/2015

May 2015

This briefing paper defines domestic and family violence, outlines NSW Government strategies, and, provides a snapshot of recent developments federally and in Queensland and Victoria.

[Full-text](#)

Will somebody listen to me?

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre; Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner

April 2015

Report outlining the experiences of local women who participated in 190 court-based surveys at Bendigo, Echuca and Maryborough, Kyneton and Swan Hill Magistrates' Courts. The report calls for improved early intervention and prevention programs, including increased availability of men's behaviour change programs, an increase in the applicability of Part V of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic.) to all Victorian courts so that offenders can be ordered to attend counselling if deemed suitable and consideration to judicial monitoring of offender participation in men's behaviour change programs by delaying the finalisation of matters.

[Full-text](#)

Domestic/family homicide in Australia

Tracy Cussen & Willow Bryant; Australian Institute of Criminology, Research in practice no. 38
May 2015

Report of domestic/family homicides categorising incidents by relationship. The data described in this paper are drawn from the AIC's National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) which includes data collected from all state and territory police services regarding murders and manslaughters in each jurisdiction (excluding culpable driving causing death), as well as information collected from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

[Full-text](#)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Early Education Report 2014: Public policy shapes early childhood programs

Atkinson Centre, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto University
November 2014

Under the leadership of Professor Jane Bertrand, Canadian researchers have developed a report that benchmarks government policy and investment in early education and care – including federal and provincial investments in integrated governance, funding, access, the provision of high-quality learning environments and accountability. The Early Childhood Education Report has tracked and contributed to substantial improvements in early education and care over time in Canada.

[Full-text](#)

Young Australians, illness and education: Report on the national database project

Julie White & Karen Rosauer; Victoria Institute
May 2015

The report provides a summary of education, health and demographic information about Australian children and young people who live with significant health conditions. The report notes that chronically-ill children who need to take extended absences from school are not being acknowledged or supported to keep up in the education system.

[Full-text](#)

Lessons that matter: what should we learn from Asia's school systems?

Yong Zhao; Mitchell Institute for Health and Education Policy
May 2015

Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, and Shanghai have some of the world's highest ranked education systems - however they are currently undergoing major reforms. In this report, Mitchell Professorial Fellow Yong Zhao investigates three decades of education changes in East Asia and draws out the lessons that really matter for Australia and other nations.

[Full-text](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Australia's future workforce?

Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA)
June 2015

More than five million jobs, almost 40 per cent of Australian jobs that exist today, have a moderate to high likelihood of disappearing in the next 10 to 15 years due to technological advancements, this CEDA report has found. Australia and the world is on the cusp of a new but very different industrial revolution and it is important to plan now to ensure the Australian economy does not get left behind, CEDA Chief Executive Professor the Hon. Stephen Martin said when the report was released. Professor Martin said as part of the report, NICTA researchers have examined the probability of job losses due to computerisation and automation in Australia and in each local government area (including Sydney and Melbourne) across the country.

[Full-text](#)

No ordinary disruption [Audio download]

ABC Radio National, Saturday Extra 15 June 2015

President of the Business Council of Australia Catherine Livingstone argues a 10 year plan is needed to assist Australian business and society adapt for a dramatically different future. She refers to the recent CEDA analysis 'Australia's future workforce' and stresses the urgent need to address the issues.

[Audio download](#)

Working together: a report on the Youth Collaboration Trial - Research summary

Sharon Bond; Brotherhood of St Laurence

April 2015

The Youth Collaboration Trial at three sites in suburban Melbourne demonstrated both the advantages and some challenges of linking local services to ensure that young people aged 15–24 are prepared for, and can sustain, employment.

[Full-text](#)

What's the difference? Jobseeker perspectives on employment assistance: Insights from Victoria's Work and Learning Centres

Eve Bodsworth

2015

Employment services need to help people looking for work overcome considerable challenges in today's labour market. The experiences of jobseekers themselves shed light on what can make a difference. Eve Bodsworth's qualitative study illustrates the challenges that jobseekers face. Drawing on insights from service users, the report outlines the contrasting approaches taken by Australia's mainstream employment services and the five Victorian Work and Learning Centres.

[Full-text](#)

Budget 2015-2016: Youth Employment Strategy

Australian Government

The 2015–16 Federal Budget included provision for a new government-funded Youth Employment Strategy designed to give young people the skills and assistance to get into the workforce. The new strategy has been allocated \$330 million in funding in order to help specific groups of young people transition into work; it aims to stave off the risk of long-term unemployment for young people who are in danger of becoming welfare dependent. The funding will cover a \$212 million Youth Transition to Work program, which will help young people who are disengaged from work. In addition to this there will be a \$14 million Early School Leavers program and Intensive Support Trials for Vulnerable Job Seekers (\$106 million). This last program will include assistance for disadvantaged young people with mental health concerns as well as vulnerable young migrants.

[Full-text](#)

OECD Skills Outlook 2015 - Youth, Skills and Employability

OECD

May 2015

In some OECD countries, one in four 16-29 year-olds is neither employed nor in education or training. The OECD Skills Outlook 2015 shows how improving the employability of youth requires a comprehensive approach. While education, social, and labour market policies have key roles to play, co-ordination between public policies and the private sector is also crucial. The publication, which builds on the results of the 2012 Survey of Adult Skills presented in the first edition of the Skills Outlook, also presents examples of successful policies in selected countries.

[Full-text](#)

FAMILY & SOCIETY

The national standards for volunteer involvement: 2015

Volunteering Australia

May 2015

Volunteering Australia's new national standards for volunteer involvement update standards produced in 1998 and 2001 and provide a sound framework for supporting the volunteer sector in Australia.

[Full-text](#)

In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All

OECD

May 2015

This free online book highlights the key areas where inequalities are created and where new policies are required, including: the consequences of current consolidation policies; structural labour market changes with rising non-standard work and job polarization; persisting gender gaps; the challenge of high wealth concentration, and the role for redistribution policies.

[Full-text](#)

Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2013-14: ABS Cat. 4307.0.55.001

Australian Bureau of Statistics

May 2015

Recently released data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that alcohol consumption in Australia has declined steadily from the mid-2000s to its lowest point since the 1960s, driven almost entirely by reductions in youth drinking. These figures are confirmed by findings in two of Australia's leading sources of population level data on alcohol consumption, the National Drug Strategy Household Survey and the Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug Survey.

[Full-text](#)

Annual alcohol poll 2015: Attitudes and behaviour

Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education's (FARE)

April 2015

An in-depth analysis of Australians' attitudes towards alcohol, their drinking behaviours and their perspectives on key alcohol policies.

[Full-text](#)

Cultural diversity: Suggestions for families and educators

KidsMatter, Early Childhood initiative

May 2015

Parents are often faced with challenges when parenting across cultures. It is often difficult for families to feel a sense of belonging to any community. A sense of belonging is particularly important for children and a strong cultural identity supports their mental health and wellbeing. The paper outlines many ways to help families develop a sense of belonging.

[Full-text](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

How do young people beat the odds against disadvantage in regional Australia?

Jennie Brockie, Insight 2015 Ep15 - SBS ONE

26 May 2015

Shepparton, in rural Victoria, is one of many Australian communities at a crossroads. How do young people beat the odds against disadvantage in regional Australia? (An SBS Production).

[Full-text](#)

Teenage boys more vulnerable to junk food ads

Cancer Council; National Heart Foundation

May 2015

Research released by Cancer Council Australia shows that Australian teenage boys consume more fast food and snacks high in salt compared with their female peers and are more susceptible to junk food marketing. Data

from the National Secondary Students' Diet and Activity Survey, being presented at Cancer Council's Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference, showed that teenage boys were more likely to be regular consumers of fast food (46% compared with 34%) and sugary drinks (28% compared with 14%) than girls.

[Full-text](#)

The impact of living in regional and remote areas on the wellbeing of WA children and young people

Commissioner for Children and Young People (WA)

May 2015

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia developed the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework to monitor and report on the wellbeing of Western Australia's children and young people. In 2012 around 27 per cent (27.1%) of all children and young people lived in regional and remote areas of WA. Around 60 per cent (61.6%) of Aboriginal children and young people 0 to 19 years live in regional and remote areas. Generally speaking, children and young people in remote and regional areas do not have the same access to facilities and services as those in the metropolitan area. In a number of important areas, the wellbeing of children and young people living in regional and remote areas is behind their counterparts in the metropolitan area.

[Full-text](#)

Trends in injury deaths, Australia: 1999–00 to 2009–1

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

May 2015

The report describes trends in the occurrence of injury deaths in Australia from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2010 and provides a summary of injury deaths in 2009-10. The information is based on all causes of death recorded on death certificates - that is, the underlying cause of death and any other causes.

[Full-text](#)

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Aboriginal children and young people's education

Commissioner for Children and Young People (WA)

May 2015

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia developed the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework to monitor and report on the wellbeing of Western Australia's children and young people. This policy brief presents key information from the Framework reports related to education and Aboriginal children and young people in Western Australia. Education is a key influence on a child's life. While there have been improvements in some educational outcomes, Aboriginal students continue to be the most educationally disadvantaged student group in Australia.

[Full-text](#)

Footprints in time - the longitudinal study of Indigenous children: report from Wave 5

Department of Social Services

26 February 2015

This study shows how early childhood experiences can impact on later life and provides policy makers with information about 'what matters' and 'what works' for producing improved Indigenous outcomes.

[Full-text](#)

What works in effective Indigenous community-managed programs and organisations

Child Family Community Australia, Australian Institute of Family Studies; CFCA Paper No.32

May 2015

Many Indigenous organisations in urban, rural and remote areas are successfully managing a broad range of programs and services for their communities. This paper reviews available literature on Indigenous community-managed programs and organisations and summarises what is working in successful community-managed programs. It also considers some literature about the use of community development approaches and how they support successful Indigenous community-managed programs.

[Full-text](#)

The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: 2015

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

June 2015

Examines the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as well as differences by factors such as age, sex and, in particular remoteness.

[Full-text](#)

A brighter tomorrow: keeping Indigenous kids in the community and out of detention in Australia

Amnesty International

June 2015

The most recent data, from 2013–14, shows that Indigenous young people are 26 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous young people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people make up just over 5 per cent of the Australian population of 10–17 year-olds but more than half (59 per cent) of those in detention. This report details the nature of this crisis, and makes practical recommendations on ways the Australian Government can reduce these escalating rates. It is based on field and desk research carried out between 2013 and early 2015 by Amnesty International.

[Full-text](#)

LAW AND JUSTICE

E-cigarettes: regulatory and policy options

Gareth Griffith; NSW Parliamentary Research Service

May 2015

This paper offers an overview of the legal position in respect to e-cigarettes, along with a summary of research findings and viewpoints in the contemporary debate.

[Full-text](#)

Bullying

Claire Jago; Tasmania Law Reform Institute Issues Paper No.21

May 2015

This issues paper examines the adequacy of current legal frameworks in Tasmania that are potentially able to address bullying behaviours, including cyberbullying. Topics covered include: Responses to Cyberbullying in Other Jurisdictions; Educational Response of Other Jurisdictions and School Regulation.

[Full-text](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

A way forward: equipping Australia's mental health system for the next generation

Reachout.Com; EY Australia

May 2015

This is the third in a series of reports produced by ReachOut and EY examining the current and future states of mental health and mental health service provision in Australia. The first report, Counting the Cost, examined the economic impact on the Australian economy of young men with mental illness, while Crossroads looked at the cost to the health-care system of meeting predicted demand using current models of care, indicating a compelling need to redesign the system. Australia's National Mental Health Commission has recently completed a wide-ranging review of the country's entire mental health system, examining the efficiency and effectiveness of existing programs and services.

[Full-text](#)

A case for change: Position Paper on seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in mental health services

National Mental Health Commission

May 2015

Jackie Crowe, a Commissioner at the National Mental Health Commission released the NMHC position paper on seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in mental health at the 10th National Seclusion and Restraint Forum in Melbourne on 29th May 2015. The position paper has been informed by an international literature review, surveys and focus groups with people who have a lived experience of seclusion and restraint. This work was undertaken by the University of Melbourne, and in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and key Australian partners, including the Safety and Quality Partnerships Subcommittee, Australian Human Rights Commission, and interested state mental health commissions.

[Full-text](#)

Seclusion and Restraint Project: Overview

Melbourne Social Equity Institute, University of Melbourne
2014

This document provides an overview of the research findings and options for reform relating to reducing and eliminating the use of seclusion and restraint on people with mental health issues. A more extensive and detailed Report was provided to the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC). Both reports can be accessed at the link below.

[Full-text](#)

PARTICIPATION

Good practice when working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds [Webinar recording or slides and transcript]

13 May 2015

This webinar explored good practice when working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, using the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network's soon-to-be released national Youth Settlement Framework (YSF). A practitioner resource is also available: Working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) adolescents.

[Full-text](#)

POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

National economic & social impact survey 2015

The Salvation Army
May 2015

This Economic and Social Impact Survey (ESIS) 2015 is the fourth consecutive report by The Salvation Army exploring the levels of deprivation and disadvantage experienced by those who access Emergency Relief (ER) services. ESIS 2015 provides a detailed analysis of 2,406 responses to the survey distributed through 262 Salvation Army ER and community support services across Australia during February 2015. The results from the study reveal a bleak picture of entrenched and persistent poverty and disadvantage for a significant proportion of people who access Salvation Army ER and support services. Individuals and their families struggle to meet everyday expenses, essential items and financial commitments.

[Full-text](#)

Couch surfing students: the Yarra Ranges youth homelessness prevention project

Monica Thielking et al.; Swinburne University of Technology

The study investigates the experiences of, and perceptions toward, couch surfing secondary students in the Yarra Ranges Shire. It seeks to provide evidence to better understand how to intervene earlier rather than later, and to ensure that services, like Anchor and OELLEN, are more able to effectively support the needs of schools who are at the 'coalface' of early stage homelessness in youth.

[Full-text](#)

Housing assistance in Australia 2015

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
May 2015

The report examines trends in social housing, which covers public, community and Indigenous housing. Supplementary data is provided.

[Full-text](#)

Exploring transitions between homelessness and public housing; 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW); Cat. no. HOU 277.
May 2015

This study was conducted among specialist homelessness services clients and public housing tenants in New South Wales and Western Australia in order to gain a better understanding of longer term outcomes and the intersection of homelessness services and public housing programs.

[Full-text](#)

The Wesley report: facing financial stress

Wesley Mission
May 2015

Findings from recent research on the prevalence of financial stress in New South Wales show that 44 per cent of households in NSW were classified as being in financial stress, compared to 37 per cent in 2010.

[Full-text](#)

The power of high expectations

Dr Aden Ridgeway
May 2015

The Families Australia Oration was delivered by Dr Aden Ridgeway (HonLit) at the 3rd National Child Aware Approaches Conference 18 May, Melbourne. Dr Aden Ridgeway reflects on the indigenous disadvantage, the power of high expectations, and possible ways forward for all disadvantaged communities.

[Full-text](#)

Children who are homeless with their family: A literature review

Dr Derek Bland & Dr Linda Shallcross; Children and Youth Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology; Commissioner for Children and Young People WA
March 2015

Review outlines the scholarly evidence in relation to causes and extent of children's homelessness in Western Australia (and Australia), including pathways leading to family homelessness. The impact of homelessness on children's near-term and long-term wellbeing and service and support needs of children and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness are among the issues addressed.

[Full-text](#)

Supportive housing to address homelessness; final report

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, University of Queensland Final Report No.240
May 2015

The research found that supportive housing models were generally effective at supporting tenants — many of whom had a history of chronic homelessness — to sustain tenancies and make improvements in their life.

[Full-text](#)

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Quality Play and Media in Childhood Education and Care [eBook]

Dr Kate Highfield; Professor Margaret Sims; Dr C. Glenn Cupit et al.
February 2015

This eBook deals with the impact of using digital technology on how children are developing. Is it harming them or is it helping them? What is the role of parents and caregivers? The eBook is available on Google Play, iTunes and AmazonKindle.

[Information](#)

YouTube ranked as the top site for US tweens and teens

Daniela Fisher

May 2015

YouTube has been deemed the top online site for children aged 8 to 15, with 22% of children subscribing to up to 20 channels. With its plethora of short-form content, gaming-focused videos and music offerings, YouTube ranked as the top site for US tweens and teens in the latest report from US market research firm KidSay. In its 2015 Spring Trend Tracker, KidSay surveyed approximately 1,000 kids and teens ages eight to 15 in the US. It found kids are increasingly flocking to the video-sharing platform. The report looked at kids likes and dislikes, including favorite TV shows and apps, how they use tablets and their choice of screen.

[Full-text](#)

How the game impacts the brain

MyFoxBoston

May 2015

Dr. David Bickham discusses violent video games and aggression and the new research with a group of 13-18 year old boys. Brain scans showed activity in the amygdala, the part of the brain responsible for emotion, including aggression, spiked while the part of the brain that processes self control and decision making dropped immediately after playing in the group who played violent video games. In the control group playing non-violent video games there was no similar activation of the amygdala region of the brain.

[Full-text](#)

A generation schooled and skilled in graphic violence

Josh Jennings, Sydney Morning Herald

27 April 2015

Educational experts are watching closely the impact of violent video games on a generation of school children, particularly boys. This article reviews the debates about the harmful effects of violent video games on teenage school children in Australia.

[Full-text](#)

Youth Manifesto for a Better Internet

PanEU Youth

April 2015

The Youth Manifesto publication, which outlines the ten key principles that European youth have identified as essential to creating a better internet for the future, is now available online. The Manifesto is specifically aimed at European policy makers, industry and other key stakeholders and was publicly launched on 18 March 2015 during a high-level breakfast event in Brussels.

[Full-text](#)

Children's safety on the internet: a guide to stakeholders

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

May 2015

2015

LSE has published a diagram and detailed analysis showing the key players/stakeholders in the online child safety space.

[Full-text](#)

Keep It Tame: Promoting respect online; Safe And Well Online Pilot Study: Evaluating the design, engagement and impact of a social marketing approach aimed at 12 to 18 year olds

Dr Barbara Spears et al.; Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre

May 2015

The Safe and Well Online project brought together researchers, digital strategists, young people, creative agencies and industry partners to specifically examine how online social marketing-styled campaigns could address attitudes and behaviours which could compromise young people's safety and cause harm.

[Full-text](#)

Recent journal articles

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

Individual Differences in Reward and Somatosensory-Motor Brain Regions Correlate with Adiposity in Adolescents

Kristina M. Rapuano et al.

Cereb. Cortex, published online May 20, 2015

The prevalence of adolescent obesity has increased dramatically over the past 3 decades, and research has documented that the number of television shows viewed during childhood is associated with greater risk for obesity. In particular, considerable evidence suggests that exposure to food marketing promotes eating habits that contribute to obesity. The present study examines neural responses to dynamic food commercials in overweight and healthy-weight adolescents using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

[Abstract](#)

The Role of Technology in Peer Harassment: Does It Amplify Harm for Youth?

Kimberly J. Mitchell et al.

Psychology of Violence, Online First Publication, June 1, 2015

Research examined the features and emotional impact of peer harassment incidents based on degree of technology involvement. Telephone interviews were conducted with a national sample of 791 youth in the United States, ages 10–20. Findings show that compared with in-person incidents, technology-only incidents were less likely to involve multiple episodes and power imbalances. They were seen by victims as easier to stop and had significantly less emotional impact.

[Full-text](#)

School-based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse

Keyyann Walsh et al.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, April 2015

This review found evidence that school-based sexual abuse prevention programmes were effective in increasing participants' skills in protective behaviours and knowledge of sexual abuse prevention concepts

[Full-text](#)

Prevalence of Sexual Violence Against Children and Use of Social Services — Seven Countries, 2007–2013

Steven A. Sumner et al.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 5 June 2015, Vol.64(21)

Sexual violence against children erodes the strong foundation that children require for leading healthy and productive lives. CDC, as a member of the global public-private partnership known as Together for Girls, collaborated with Cambodia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe to conduct national household surveys of children and youths aged 13–24 years to measure the extent of violence against children. This report summarizes findings from those surveys.

[Full-text](#)

Prevention system mediation of Communities That Care effects on youth outcomes

Brown, E. C. et al.

Prevention Science, 2014(15), 623-632

Recent research suggests that the Communities that Care (CTC) approach improves youth outcomes by encouraging communities to use a science-based approach to prevention. The CTC model is what's known as

an “operating system” for community-based prevention. Through five stages of implementation, the model intends to give coalitions of community leaders the tools that they need to successfully improve outcomes for children and young people in their communities. It was developed by the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington, Seattle, and tested in 24 communities in the US. Using data from a randomized trial, researchers analyzed youth substance use and other problem behaviors in CTC areas four years after implementing the model.

[Further information](#)

Evaluating Industry Self-Regulation of Food Marketing to Children

Dale L. Kunkel et al.

American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Published online 7 May 2015

This US study assesses the efficacy of industry self-regulation by comparing advertising content on children’s TV programs before and after self-regulation was implemented. Findings indicated that no significant improvement in the overall nutritional quality of foods marketed to children has been achieved since industry self-regulation was adopted. In 2013, 80.5% of all foods advertised to children on TV were for products in the poorest nutritional category, and thus pose high risk for contributing to obesity. This clearly indicated that other policy actions are needed to effectively reduce children’s exposure to obesogenic food advertising.

[Full-text](#)

Alcohol Use in Films and Adolescent Alcohol Use

Andrea Waylen et al.

Pediatrics, Vol. 135 No. 5 May 1, 2015

Researchers investigated whether exposure to alcohol use in films (AUFs) is associated with early alcohol use, binge drinking, and alcohol-related problems in British adolescents. This cross-sectional study of 5163 15-year-olds from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children in the United Kingdom found evidence to support the argument that a review of film-rating categories and alcohol ratings for all films may help reduce problem-related alcohol consumption in young people.

[Full-text](#)

Cognitive Aspects of Young Children's Experience of Economic Disadvantage

Amy E Heberle, Alice S Carter

Psychological Bulletin, 2015 March 30

Studies of the mechanisms by which disadvantage impacts children to date have predominantly focused on mechanisms that are external to the child (e.g., parental depression, marital conflict). Very few studies have examined the internal, cognitive aspects of the experience of economic disadvantage, and almost none have considered how the effects of disadvantage on children's functioning might be mediated through cognitive processes. This article provides a framework for research into cognitive and social-cognitive mediators of economic disadvantage operating in early-to-middle childhood. The article includes a review and summary of the extant literature on childhood poverty and its effects.

[Abstract](#)

Editorial: Diet and children's behaviour problems—disentangling urban myth from clinical reality

Edmund J S Sonuga-Barke

Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, and Allied Disciplines 2015, 56 (5): 497-9

This Editorial focuses on diet and behaviour problems - seeking to disentangle the modern urban myth of the toxic effects of the modern diet on children's brains from the reality of its actual effects on behaviour. It suggests we need to navigate a course between these two opposing extremes.

[Full-text](#)

Poor, Unsafe, and Overweight: The Role of Feeling Unsafe at School in Mediating the Association Among Poverty Exposure, Youth Screen Time, Physical Activity, and Weight Status

Carolyn Côté-Lussier, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Louise Séguin, Tracie A Barnett

American Journal of Epidemiology, 2015 April 28

This study applied socioecological and cumulative risk exposure frameworks to test the hypotheses that 1) the experience of poverty is associated with feeling less safe at school, and 2) feeling less safe is associated with

engaging in poorer weight-related behaviors, as well as an increased probability of being overweight or obese. Data were from the ongoing Québec Longitudinal Study of Child Development, initiated in 1998 with a population-based cohort of 2,120 Québec (Canada) infants 5 months of age and their parent or primary caregiver. Measures of youths' (age, 13 years) self-reported feelings of safety, screen time, physical activity, and objectively assessed not overweight/obese (70%), overweight (22%), and obese (8%) weight status were collected in 2011.

[Abstract](#)

Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

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

JUNE 2015		
24-26 June	Hobart, Tasmania	Coming together for Australia's Children, ARACY Early Years Chapter and the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation ** Full program now available >>
24-26 June	Perth, WA	Third National Conference on Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
24-26 June	Cairns, Qld	Suicide & Self-harm Prevention Conference
25-26 June	Sydney NSW	ACOSS National Conference: Advancing the Common Good
29-30 June	Gold Coast Qld	No2 Bullying Conference
29-30 June	Canberra ACT	Australian Youth Mentoring Conference
29-30 June	Newcastle NSW	RYDON Youth Conference – Inspiring, practical and inventive approaches to working with & engaging young people
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 July	Melbourne Vic	Safe Cities Conference
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
15–17 July	Western Sydney NSW	Advancing Community Cohesion Conference
16-17 July	Western Sydney NSW	What's Up West? Youth Conference 2015
19-20 July	Albany WA	Building capacity – growing our children together

20-21 July	Brisbane Qld	Youth Violence Conference
23 July	Sydney NSW	Emeritus Professor Jacqueline Goodnow Research Symposium
24 July	Sydney NSW	The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People - Generation Next
26-29 July	Hobart Tas	National Suicide Prevention Conference
29-30 July	Melbourne Vic	Community Work 2015 : Working together for the community
30-31 July	Hobart Tas	Insecurity, Innovation, Insight : Meeting the Challenges Facing Youth in the Asia and the Pacific – Inaugural symposium of the Centre for Applied Youth Research (CAYR) The <i>Journal of Applied Youth Studies (JAYS)</i> , a key CAYR initiative, will be launched at the Symposium. Note: CAYR has been set up in the wake of the defunding of Australian Clearinghouse of Youth Studies from 30 June 2015.
AUGUST 2015		
6 August	Melbourne Vic	2015 Beyond Tomorrow – Early Childhood Conference
12-14 August	Surfers Paradise Qld	International Mental Health Conference
13-15 August	Canberra ACT	National LGBTI Health Alliance Health in Difference Conference 2015
25-28 August	Canberra ACT	The Mental Health Services (MHS) Conference 2015: Translating best practice into reality
31 August – 6 September	All States	National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2015 (*Noted in ACYP Policy and Research Events Calender)
SEPTEMBER 2015		
2 September	All States	Indigenous Literacy Day (*Noted in ACYP Policy and Research Events Calender)
4 September	All States	Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards for school aged children (*Noted in ACYP Policy and Research Events Calender)
6-9 September	Hobart Tas	Population Health Congress 2015
6-12 September	National, State and Territory events	National Child Protection Week
10-11 September	Cairns Qld	2015 Early Years Conference – Today’s Children Tomorrow’s Future – Strengthening collaboration and practice across the early years
14-17 September	Perth, WA	SNAICC Conference - Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
15-17 September	Adelaide SA	National Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Conference

17-18 September	Melbourne, Vic	Victorian Homelessness Conference 2015
21-23 September	Prato, Italy	Young people and the law: international approaches to care, corrections and intervention
25-26 September	Melbourne Vic	Infants and Toddlers: Practice, Pedagogy & Research 2015
28-30 September	Kensington NSW	Australian Social Policy Conference : Rights and Entitlements in Times of Austerity
OCTOBER 2015		
2-4 October	Brisbane Qld	Youth for Change conference: Creating a better future
7-9 October	Gold Coast Qld	National Indigenous Say No to Domestic Violence Conference: Focus on a Brighter Future
8-10 October	Montreal, Canada	3rd International Conference on Youth Mental Health
20 October	Canberra ACT	Children's Week Council of Australia Inc. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 25 years on : Australia's children yesterday today tomorrow
24 Oct-1 Nov	National, State and Territory events	2015 Children's Week
26-28 October	Creswick Vic	7th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium
28-30 October	Perth, WA	National Housing Conference 2015
NOVEMBER 2015		
4-6 November	Melbourne Vic	Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) 7th Biennial International Research Theory & Practice Conference
9-10 November	Melbourne, Vic	Australian Long-Term Unemployment Conference
11-13 November	Melbourne Vic	Youth Health Conference 2015
19 November	Melbourne Vic	The School Counsellors & Psychologists (SCAP) Conference
25 November	National, State and Territory events	White Ribbon Day : Australia's campaign to stop violence against women
25-27 November	Adelaide SA	Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference
DECEMBER 2015		
1-3 December	Cairns Qld	National Indigenous Health Conference

7-9 December	Canberra ACT	<u>Stop Domestic Violence Conference</u>
JULY 2016		
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	<u>14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference.</u>
SEPTEMBER 2016		
26-28 September	Melbourne Vic	<u>International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Conference 2016 - Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health - looking to the future</u>

If you have a query please contact me at:

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