

Advocate for Children and Young People Current awareness bulletin July 2015

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From the web

CHILD PROTECTION

Study on the Effects of New Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children

United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

May 2015

The study identifies a lack of consistent and appropriate legislation across countries globally as a major impediment to successful investigations and prosecutions. To address these challenges, the Study covers the main forms of ICT-facilitated child abuse and exploitation, including the creation and distribution of child pornography, plus the commercial sexual exploitation of children, cyber-enticement, solicitation and grooming, cyber-bullying, cyber-harassment and cyber-stalking; as well as exposure to harmful content. Study is accompanied by a package of technical assistance tools and training.

[Full-text](#)

Conceptualising the prevention of child sexual abuse: Final report

Antonia Quadara et al.; Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

June 2015

This AIFS Research Report No.33 identifies the conceptual, policy and practice challenges that the prevention of child sexual abuse presents. A conceptual mapping of dynamics associated with child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and an outline of key directions that could be taken to strengthen prevention strategies are included in the report.

[Full-text](#)

How safe are our children?: the most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK

Sonja Jutte et al.; NSPCC

June 2015

Compilation of child protection data from government statistics and research findings to measure the extent of abuse and neglect in all four nations of the UK. Sets out 20 indicators covering: child deaths; recorded abuse offences; self-reported abuse; child protection actions; contacts with ChildLine and the NSPCC helpline; and

public attitudes. Prominent trends show: an increase in recorded sexual offences against children and an increase in contacts to the NSPCC about sexual abuse in 2014-15; neglect remained the most common form of maltreatment; and the number of children dying as a result of homicide or assault remained in long term decline. Concludes that more support is needed for victims; tackling neglect should remain a priority; and early intervention is key to preventing abuse and neglect.

[Full-text](#)

CHILD RIGHTS

Researching children's rights globally in the digital age; Report of a seminar held on 12-14 February 2015, London School of Economics and Political Science

Sonia Livingstone et al.

April 2015

Professor Sonia Livingstone of LSE's Department of Media and Communications has been working with UNICEF to research how children's rights to provision, protection and participation are being enhanced or undermined in the digital age. She recently convened a meeting with international experts in child rights, child protection, internet and mobile technologies and governance, cross-national survey and ethnographic methods, applied and policy-relevant research, and area specialists from the global North and the global South. The meeting extended the collaboration among the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), EU Kids Online and UNICEF.

[Full-text](#)

The UK's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: eighth report of session 2014–15

House of Lords, House of Commons, Joint Committee on Human Rights

April 2015

Reviews of the work of the government since the 2010 election in upholding children's rights. Looks at the government's 2010 UNCRC commitment and 2014 report to the UN Committee. Raises concerns that the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England is not as those in the other nations. Finds that government cuts disproportionately affected disadvantaged children. Points to areas of government policy including immigration, legal aid and children in custody which have worked against the interests of children.

[Full-text](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence typologies: What value to practice?

Hayley Boxall, Dr Lisa Rosevear and Dr Jason Payne; The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

June 2015

This AIC domestic violence report is based on studies that used Tasmanian police records and Family Violence Management System statistics. It examines the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with using of DVP typologies to respond to domestic violence.

[Full-text](#)

Prior offending among family violence perpetrators: a Tasmanian sample

Hayley Boxall, Dr Jason Payne and Dr Lisa Rosevear; The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

June 2015

This AIC domestic violence report is based on studies that used Tasmanian police records and Family Violence Management System statistics. It examines the six year offending histories of almost 2000 domestic violence perpetrators (DVPs). The research finds an association between the frequency of family violence incidents and other offence histories.

[Full-text](#)

Identifying first time family violence perpetrators: The usefulness and utility of categorisations based on police offence records

Hayley Boxall, Lisa Rosevear and Jason Payne; The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

June 2015

This AIC domestic violence report is based on studies that used Tasmanian police records and Family Violence Management System statistics. It examines official Tasmanian police records and police narratives around family violence to identify first time and recidivist offenders.

[Full-text](#)

Submission to the Royal Commission into family violence

Deborah Fewster; Melbourne City Mission

May 2015

Melbourne City Mission highlights the need for 'no wrong doors' for people seeking support for family violence and provides evidence of insufficient integration and coordination between the specialist family violence service system and service systems such as homelessness and disability.

[Full-text](#)

National framework for action to prevent alcohol-related family violence

Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

June 2015

A new national framework proposes policies and programs that Australian governments can implement which will have a real and tangible impact on preventing and reducing alcohol-related family violence.

[Full-text](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Creating TRUST in schools

Australian Child & Adolescent Trauma, Loss & Grief Network, ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment

March 2015

The trauma sensitive schools program is currently being piloted in the Australian Capital Territory. There has been an increase in the understanding that schools need to move towards becoming trauma informed and trauma sensitive. Schools, teachers and all school staff have a huge role in the lives of children. It is essential that they provide safe and supportive environments where the impacts of experiences of adversity and trauma are recognised and acknowledged.

[Full-text](#)

The Connected School: A Design for Well-Being - Supporting Children and Young People in Schools to Flourish, Thrive and Achieve

Colleen McLaughlin (editor)

April 2015

A series of essays exploring the importance of relationships and the significance of schools building a sense of well-being in pupils alongside academic achievement.

[Full-text](#)

Leading thinkers in conversation

Jo Earp; Teacher Magazine

June 2015

Summary of a conversation with a panel of international education experts, Professor Geoff Masters AO, Dr Michele Bruniges AM and Sir Michael Barber in which they explored the purpose of assessment, its relevance for teachers and students, and what assessment systems will look like in the near future.

[Full-text](#)

Universal Basic Skills - What Countries Stand to Gain

OECD: Eric A. Hanushek, Ludger Woessmann

May 2015

Using projections based on data from the OECD Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international student assessments, this report offers a glimpse of the economic and social benefits that all countries, regardless of their national wealth, stand to gain if they ensure that every child not only has access to education but, through that education, acquires at least the baseline level of skills needed to participate fully in society.

[Full-text](#)

The high cost of low educational performance: the long-run economic impact of improving PISA outcomes

Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

July 2015

This largest ever study of global school rankings finds that Asian countries rank in the top five places and African countries at the bottom. Singapore heads the table, while Australia ranks at number 14. The OECD economic think tank says the comparisons - based on test scores in 76 countries - show the link between education and economic growth.

[Full-text](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Youth Employment Strategy

Dr Matthew Thomas; Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Australia

May 2015

This Budget Review 2015–16 Index notes that unemployment among young Australians is significantly higher than that for the population as a whole, and has been rising since 2008 and the global financial crisis. In response to this ongoing problem, the Government has introduced a Youth Employment Strategy, which is made up of range of measures aimed at increasing young people's participation in education, training and employment and ensuring that they do not become long-term unemployed.

[Full-text](#)

Preparing young people for work – do we really have a crisis?

Kira Clarke; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

December 2014

A recent study of VET in Schools found vocational education programs in schools should be promoted as a pathway to higher-level post-school VET study, rather than as a pathway directly to jobs without further training. Schools need to ensure young people understand how to combine a VET in Schools program with their other school studies in a way that gives them the best chance of continuing in post-school training.

[Full-text](#)

Linking qualifications and the labour market through capabilities and vocational streams

Leesa Wheelahan et al.; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

June 2015

This report synthesises the findings from the three-year program of research – Vocations: the link between post-compulsory education and the labour market. The authors explore how building better links between education and work can help provide a more coherent approach to vocational development. They propose the use of vocational streams and productive capabilities in the education system and labour market to achieve this. The authors also highlight a number of short, medium and long term policy objectives.

[Full-text](#)

Fingerprint Me Employment Academy [website]

FM Foundation

July 2015

The FM Foundation is the not-for-profit arm of the Fingerprint Me Youth Employment Academy and has been developed to support disadvantaged young Australians aged 15-25 years to reach their education and career goals. . Founder and Executive Director, Peter Coronica, said he established the academy after realising young people were ill equipped for life in the workforce and this was affecting their overall happiness. The Fingerprint

Me Youth Employment Academy offers evidence-based intensive programs to help young people transition from study to work and then onto successful careers.

[Full-text](#)

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

General Social Survey 2014

Australian Bureau of Statistics

June 2015

The fourth General Social Survey (GSS), conducted by the ABS, reports on the wellbeing of individuals and communities, with a particular focus on social capital. These summary findings provide a snapshot of the data collected in the GSS, highlighting several themes emerging from the survey conducted with Australians aged 15 years and over. The themes include Australia's progress on aspects of social capital such as participation, support, feelings of safety and trust.

[Full-text](#)

Inequality in Australia: A nation divided

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Policy and Research team; Equity Economics & Development Partners Pty Ltd

June 2015

This is the first edition of 'Inequality in Australia', part of the 'Poverty and Inequality in Australia' series from the Australian Council of Social Service. The report uses the latest available information to explain in objective terms what is happening with income and wealth inequality, how big the gaps are, whether they are widening, and who is affected. The report has found that there is a big gap in incomes and wealth between different groups in society. Key findings show that inequality in Australia is higher than the OECD average and that a person in the top 20% income group has around five times as much income as someone in the bottom 20%. Strong employment growth over the past 17 years helped to reduce income inequality, as those at the bottom end of the income distribution had greater access to the workforce and worked more hours. However, wages growth was very unequal over the period and acted to increase income inequality.

[Full-text](#)

Spending, Saving and Debts; A detailed study of Australia's 18-29 year olds. White Paper 1

The Co-op and BDO; Future Leaders Index

May 2015

This study of the financial situation of young Australians aged 18-29 finds those living in Australia's capital cities have 38 times more disposable wealth than their peers from the bush; men aged 18 to 29 have three times more disposable wealth than women in this age group, and young people in Adelaide have only one-tenth of the disposable of those living in other cities.

[Full-text](#)

Reckless beyond words?

Andrew Leigh; Inside Story, Swinbourne University of Technology

May 2015

Andrew Leigh is the Shadow Assistant Treasurer and federal member for Fraser. This edited extract of his speech to the National Youth Conference in Canberra last month questions the commonly voiced criticisms about young people today by researching the indicators recording how young people today compare with their predecessors. Australian Bureau of Statistics collections of time-series data on things like school attainment rates, drug and alcohol use, teen pregnancy and crime were studied and on just about any indicator, he found that today's young Australians are better educated, more abstemious and less prone to crime than at any time in recent memory.

[Full-text](#)

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Selected Findings from Waves 1 to 12

Roger Wilkins; Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne

June 2015

Commenced in 2001, the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a nationally representative longitudinal study of Australian households. Brief statistical analyses of the first 12 waves of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA) are presented using data collected from the same households and individuals every year between 2001 and 2012. The report interprets information on a wide range of aspects of Australian life including household and family relationships, childcare, employment, education, income, expenditure, health and wellbeing, attitudes on a variety of subjects, and various life events and experiences.

[Full-text](#)

Better Beginnings. Better Futures: Fact Sheets

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)

2014

This series of four factsheets aims to provide a community perspective on some of the most pressing issues affecting new and emerging communities in Australia. The factsheets cover the following topic areas: a working description and specific characteristics of such communities; barriers to achieving positive educational outcomes for new and emerging communities, including the educational needs of people from new and emerging communities, support available to them, gaps in service delivery and availability; an overview of the key barriers to gaining and retaining meaningful employment for youth from new and emerging communities and tips on how to address them; and analysis of the funding programs accessible to new and emerging community organisations and how to access them, challenges to effective management of funds, as well as gaps in services and programs and tips on how to address them.

[Full-text](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Headline Indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing (Children's Headline Indicators)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

June 2015

The Headline Indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing (Children's Headline Indicators) are a set of 19 indicators endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference, Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference and the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee. The indicators are designed to focus policy attention on identified priority areas for children aged 0–12, with a focus on different groups of children (for example, Indigenous children, children living in remote areas). Dynamic data are available for the 15 Children's Headline Indicators where suitable data exists.

[Full-text](#)

Understanding recent trends in Australian alcohol consumption

Dr Michael Livingston; Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)

July 2015

This study on Australian drinking patterns finding that the number of underage teens who are binge drinking has decreased by half in 13 years, and the number of young abstainers has more than doubled. Understanding recent trends in Australian alcohol consumption draws insights from five waves of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) National Drug Strategy Household Survey (2001 to 2013) involving more than 120,000 respondents. The AIHW survey has been conducted by Roy Morgan Research every few years since the mid-80s, and it provides a large quantity of rich data which examines alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use in Australia. The report breaks down the AIHW's population wide findings by a range of demographic factors such as age, gender, location, socioeconomic status, and cultural background in order to provide a more complete picture of what's going on.

[Full-text](#)

Youth Concerns about Drugs and Alcohol; findings from the Youth Survey 2014

Mission Australia

July 2015

This study compared those who were highly concerned by alcohol and drugs against those expressing a low level of concern about these issues. These two groups of young people were compared across a range of questions from Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2014 including personal and national concerns.

[Full-text](#)

Drug and alcohol use among young people. What can parents and schools do to prevent the harms?
[Webinar]

Dr Lexine Stapinski and Dr Nicola Newton (Presenters)

June 2015

Research at the Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use shows that these harms can be reduced by school-based prevention programs. This webinar presents the latest research findings on drug and alcohol use among Australian teenagers. It reviews research evidence showing which strategies effectively prevent harm from drug and alcohol use.

[Webinar](#)

Seriously Awkward: How vulnerable 16–17 year olds are falling through the cracks

Iryna Pona et al.; Children's Society UK

June 2015

Explores the challenges facing 16-17-year-olds and what makes them particularly vulnerable. Based on analysis of official UK data and the longitudinal Understanding Society study; analysis of a poll of 1,004 16-17-year-olds and their parents and a comparison group of 1,000 10-17-year-olds; interviews with practitioners; and consultation with young people. Findings include that 16-17-year-olds are more at risk of abuse and neglect at home, and sexual exploitation and abuse from their partners than any other age group; and that gaps and inconsistencies in UK law leave 16-17-year-olds unprotected. Recommendations include increased and more flexible services and greater participation of young people.

[Full-text](#)

Preventing the onset of youth offending: The impact of the Pathways to Prevention Project on the behaviour and wellbeing of children and young people

Ross Homel et al.; Report to the Criminology Research Advisory Council

May 2015

The report presents some new findings from the Pathways to Prevention Project, utilising detailed data from a sample of 123 matched pairs of Grade 7 or 8 children, half of whom participated (via their families) in Pathways support activities, and half of whom did not. The focus is whether the holistic form of family support delivered in the Pathways Project, which is similar in many respects to services regularly delivered in communities across Australia, can improve the wellbeing and behaviour of children in the primary schools years (ages 5 to 12), and at the transition to high school, reducing the likelihood of involvement in youth offending.

[Full-text](#)

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Footprints in time - the longitudinal study of Indigenous children: Key Summary Report from Wave 5

Department of Social Services

February 2015

This study of Indigenous children is the most comprehensive source of longitudinal information on early childhood development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It 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. This report is the fifth in a series of reports produced for each wave of the data collection.

[Full-text](#)

LAW AND JUSTICE

Health inequality and access to justice: young people, mental health and legal issues

Professor Pascoe Pleasence et al.; Youth Access UK

June 2015

Findings from new analysis of English and Welsh Civil and Social Justice Panel Survey (CSJPS) data, of the relationship between mental illness and social disadvantage among young people, with a particular focus on the experience of those facing legal issues.

[Full-text](#)

Evaluation of the whole system approach to young people who offend in Scotland

The Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research

June 2015

The Scottish Government has published a new youth justice strategy to reduce the number of children and young people offending. It involves advancing the Whole system approach which has been in place since 2011 and prioritises early intervention.

[Full-text](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health: Perspectives of Young People aged 12–25 in the ACT

Youth Coalition of the ACT

May 2015

Report outlines the perspectives that young people aged 12 -25 in the ACT shared as part of the Youth Coalition's series of consultations with young people on mental health and wellbeing, held between October 2014 and February 2015. It outlines the key findings from the consultations and implications for policy and practice. The focus group consultations sought information about what aspects of mental health are important to young people, what young people know about seeking help in the ACT, and how young people wish to access support and information around mental health.

[Full-text](#)

Resilience in families where a parent has a mental illness

Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI)

May 2015

COPMI have released the latest in their 'Gateways to Evidence that Matters' (GEMS) series. This summary of recent Australian and international research concerning children (aged 0-18 years) of parents with a mental illness addresses the factors that promote family resilience. The GEMS series promotes the collection, interpretation and integration of valid, recent and relevant research from around the world, based on the views and experiences of those researching, working and living with parental mental illness.

[Full-text](#)

Talking about suicide [audio and transcript]

Wendy Zukerman, ABC Radio National Health Report

29 June 2015

In this Health Report, Wendy Zukerman speaks with health professionals and people living with depression, finding out that in fact we should be talking about suicide a lot more than we currently do. Findings from a recent review conducted by Nicola Fear, Professor of Epidemiology at Kings College in London, found that acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce suicidal ideation and lead to improvements in mental health.

[Audio and transcript](#)

The social determinants of young people's mental health

Youth Access UK

June 2015

Summary of research into the links between mental health, social welfare legal problems and inequality. Briefly sets out the gaps in the social determinants evidence base; the policy context; findings of the study; and the implications for policy and practice.

[Full-text](#)

Summer report 2015: school leaders' concerns about pupil wellbeing

The Key, UK

July 2015

A survey of 1,180 school leaders by school management support service the Key, reveals that mental health was at the top of their list of pupil health and safeguarding concerns. 67% of headteachers surveyed were concerned about mental health, 58% about domestic violence and 55% about cyberbullying.

[Full-text](#)

POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Innovation toolkit a practical guide: Introduction to horizon scanning in the public sector

Kate Delaney; Department of Industry and Science

June 2014

Horizon scanning is the structured process that captures, makes sense and assesses the significance of emerging issues, trends and developments that may influence policy, service delivery and practice. This guide introduces the technique and argues the case for its implementation.

[Full-text](#)

Baby steps or giant strides?

Deborah Brennan, Elizabeth Adamson; McKell Institute

June 2015

An assessment of childcare and family policies currently being reviewed by the Australian Parliament, and a comparison with best practice policies worldwide.

[Full-text](#)

Independence in the Not-for-Profit Sector: Research project report

ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS); South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS)

June 2015

Report sets out the findings of a research project investigating the meaning of independence in the community not-for-profit (NFP) sector. While frequently independence is a central concept in debate on the NFP sector, the meaning of independence is taken for granted. Three key definitions of independence are identified: freedom of voice or independence as freedom to publicly advocate on policy and practice issues; financial independence – interpreted generally as organisations having multiple funding streams rather than as not being in receipt of government funding; and organisational autonomy.

[Full-text](#)

Summary of 2015 Child Aware Approaches Conference, Melbourne 18-19 May 2015

Families Australia

July 2015

The theme of the conference 'Innovations in early intervention, community collaboration and partnership beyond the child and family welfare sector' provided a platform for sharing innovative practices and resources. The conference was attended by 326 delegates from community, government and academic sectors across Australia.

[Full-text](#)

Greens Senator Rachel Siewart on New Zealand's social welfare model on RN Breakfast [Audio]

Fran Kelly; ABC Radio National

30 July 2015

A review of Australia's welfare system by Patrick McClure proposed that Australia adopt the 'investment approach' to welfare used in New Zealand. The investment approach estimates the likely lifetime benefit costs for everyone on welfare - the so-called 'future liability' - and then targets resources at those with the highest future liability. Greens Senator Rachel Siewart visited New Zealand to take a first hand look at how the model is being implemented.

[Listen or download](#)

How can government improve results for our most vulnerable children and their families?

New Zealand Treasury

July 2015

In November 2014 the New Zealand Treasury put out a Request for Information (RFI) to help identify what could be done to make the biggest difference for the hardest to reach children and their families. The responses identified a wide range of initiatives already working well in communities across New Zealand to improve outcomes for at-risk children. These focused on effective ways of identifying and engaging the children and families most at risk of poor education, criminal justice and employment outcomes and how existing services or support could be improved to deliver better outcomes. Issues not currently being addressed and new interventions and services were also proposed.

[Full-text](#)

Building a brighter future: early years and childcare plan progress report 2014-15

Department for Education and Skills and Department for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government

July 2015

The Welsh Government has published a progress report for 2014-15 on their 'Building a brighter future' plan. It highlights measures taken over the last 12 months to improve life chances for under-7s. These include: extra funding for children's mental health services; and increased funding for under-5s from low income families through the extension of the Pupil Deprivation Grant.

[Full-text](#)

Review of Social and Emotional Skills: Call for Evidence

Jonathan Birdwell, Louis Reynolds; DEMOS, UK

March 2015

The Social and Emotional Skills Review, commissioned by the Early Intervention Foundation, the UK Cabinet Office and the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission looks at what works to build the social and emotional skills in childhood and adolescence that are then linked to a range of positive life outcomes. The University of Ireland Galway report, published as 'strand 2' of this Review, presents a comprehensive review of relevant programmes operating in the UK, and the strength of evidence demonstrating which programmes have a positive impact. Based on the Call for Evidence, and Demos' knowledge of the sector, this short report argues that the UK youth sector is currently undergoing a period of significant development with respect to evaluation.

[Full-text](#)

POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Voices of the vulnerable: Insights and concerns from young clients accessing our services 2014

Mission Australia

May 2015

Explores the results of the 2014 Mission Australia Youth Survey from the exclusive perspective of 542 young clients who are accessing employment, education, homelessness and drug and alcohol services, and reveals that disadvantaged youth place a much higher value on getting a job than other young people.

[Full-text](#)

Dropping off the edge 2015: Persistent communal disadvantage in Australia

Tony Vinson et al.; Jesuit Social Services; Catholic Social Services Australia

June 2015

In 2007, Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia commissioned ground-breaking research into place-based disadvantage across the nation. The resulting report, *Dropping off the edge*, built on previous work that Jesuit Social Services had engaged Professor Tony Vinson to undertake on its behalf. This report is in response to the many requests to update the findings and produce a new report tracking the wellbeing of communities in Australia over the intervening time. This current report drives home the enormous challenge that lies in front of policy makers and service providers, as many communities identified as disadvantaged in 2007 once again head the list in each state and territory.

[Full-text](#)

What is driving homelessness in Australia?

Gavin Wood et al.; Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 193
July 2015

The study used descriptive analysis and modelling techniques to understand the structural drivers of homelessness, using data from three Census periods (2001, 2006 and 2011).

[Full-text](#)

Getting the house in order: keeping homeless older teenagers safe

Iryna Pona and Richard Crelin
March 2015

This UK research into the provision of local authority support for homeless 16-17-year-olds in England was based on Freedom of Information responses from 259 councils; analysis of 74 case notes; and consultation with 8 young people and 15 practitioners. Findings include: approximately 12,000 young people present as homeless to their local authority every year; half receive an assessment. Estimates one in five are accommodated and accommodation is often unsafe, placing young people at risk of exploitation. Includes suggestions for improving practice, flowcharts and stories of young people's experiences with services.

[Full-text](#)

Social exclusion monitor bulletin No 5

Francisco Azpitarte and Dina Bowman; Brotherhood of St Laurence and Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
June 2015

In 2008–09, the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) collaborated with the Melbourne Institute (MIAESR) to develop a method to measure the extent and evolution of social exclusion in Australia. In contrast to one-dimensional measures of income poverty, the concept of social exclusion is multidimensional as it identifies disadvantage with deprivation across multiple life domains. This bulletin summarises the results of the social exclusion monitor, updated using 2012 data from wave 12 of the HILDA survey. The authors also present evidence on the contribution of the welfare domains to the levels of exclusion experienced by men and women and by different age groups.

[Full-text](#)

NCOSS Cost of Living Report

NSW Council of Social Service
June 2015

Researchers surveyed low to middle income families across New South Wales to gain a picture of how many were struggling to make ends meet. NCOSS chief Tracy Howe said indigenous children were greatly over-represented in the figures. "Country towns like Brewarrina (31.8%), Kyogle (28.2%), and Tenterfield (27.9%), and suburbs like Auburn (26.1%) and Canterbury (25.6%) - among others - have child poverty rates that far exceed the statewide average," she said.

[Full-text](#)

Estimating the scale of youth homelessness in the UK. Executive Summary

Anna Clarke et al.; Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research
July 2015

A Cambridge University study, commissioned by Centrepoin, has found that 83,241 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 were homeless in 2013-14. This figure is three times higher than the latest statutory homeless figures compiled by the Department for Communities and Local Government taken from local authority data. They put the figure at 26,852.

[Full-text](#)

Running the risks: the links between gang involvement and young people going missing

Rachel Sturrock and Lucy Holmes; Catch 22 Dawes Unit and Missing People

July 2015

This report provides evidence of links between gang involvement and going missing. Findings include: runaway and missing children are being used by gangs to expand inner city drugs empires into rural areas.

[Full-text](#)

Progress for Children: Beyond averages: learning from the MDGs

unicef

June 2015

This eleventh edition of Progress for Children, Beyond averages: learning from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is UNICEF's final report on the child-related MDGs. The report shows that while the MDGs helped drive tremendous advances in the lives of the world's children, development efforts in the past 15 years failed to reach millions of the most disadvantaged.

[Full-text](#)

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Australia's first Children's eSafety Commissioner July 2, 2015

Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner

July 2015

Australia's first Children's eSafety Commissioner, Alastair MacGibbon, has commenced work. He is responsible for leading online safety education for Australian children and young people, protecting them when they experience serious cyberbullying and managing complaints about offensive or illegal online content. The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner is a one-stop-shop for online safety. The Office provides Australians a range of up-to-date information and resources, coupled with a comprehensive complaints system to assist children who experience serious cyberbullying online.

[Full-text](#)

Fair game [podcast and transcript]

ABC Radio National Background Briefing

5 July 2015

Gambling techniques are permeating free online and mobile app games. Social casino games that mimic real slot machines are among the most popular, with no restrictions on children playing. The convergence of gambling and gaming is happening so quickly there's been little evaluation of it. Dr Sally Gainsbury, a senior lecturer at the Centre for Gambling Education and Research at Southern Cross University, has led a ground-breaking research project, commissioned by Gambling Research Australia. 'It's looking at how social media, gaming and gambling are all converging. It's really transforming the nature of gambling in Australia,' she says. The full report will be released by the federal government but preliminary findings have been made available to ABC Background Briefing.

[Podcast and transcript](#)

Children's media use study: How our children engage with media today

Colmar Brunton; NZ On Air

March 2015

This benchmark survey indicates that TV is still the dominant screen in New Zealand children's lives, but tablets and smartphones are now in daily use and Youtube has become one of their main sources of content.

[Full-text](#)

Youth and the internet: a guide for policy makers

Jonathan Rallings; Barnardo's UK

May 2015

Guide for policymakers on young people and the internet. Highlights concerns regarding the impact/potential impact of the internet on children and young people, based on two ideas garnering interest in public debate: that the impact of the internet age may represent a more fundamental divide in the 'generation gap' than that experienced by previous generations; and that teenagers' emotional needs may not have significantly altered in a generation but that the consequences of teenage behaviour are now radically intensified by the internet.

[Full-text](#)

VIOLENCE

Violence against young women in Australia: Briefing

Sheila Allison & Lynette McGaurr; Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

May 2015

Current data and research on the critical issue of violence against women as it affects Australian victims, perpetrators and bystanders aged 12 to 25 in contexts other than the family home. Report examines efforts at primary prevention in these contexts.

[Full-text](#)

Violence against young women in Australia: Snapshot

Sheila Allison & Lynette McGaurr; Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

June 2015

Provides statistics and background information as an overview of the issue of violence against young women in Australia.

[Full-text](#)

What does it take? Developing informed and effective tertiary responses to violence and abuse of women and girls with disabilities in Australia: State of knowledge paper

Patsie Frawley et al.; Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS); ANROWS Landscapes series, Issue 3

July 2015

This paper establishes the current state of knowledge on tertiary responses to violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities. The paper outlines the tertiary responses to violence and abuse for women and young women with disabilities and the evidence about the effectiveness of tertiary responses for women and young women with disabilities.

[Full-text](#)

Violence against women and girls crime report: 2014-2015

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

June 2015

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has published its annual report on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales for 2014/15. Findings include: there has been an 18.9% increase in the number of child sexual abuse convictions from 3,344 in 2013/14 to 3,975 in 2014/15, but a fall in the rate of child sexual abuse convictions from 76.5% to 73.8%.

[Full-text](#)

Recent journal articles

Most articles below are available in full-text via the weblink. For a copy of an article contact Barbara Glass, Information Coordinator at barbara.glass@acyp.nsw.gov.au or Ext. 7294

Healthy families, healthy children

Lawrie Moloney, Executive Editor

Family Matters, Issue No.96 June 2015

This edition published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies presents a range of articles based on research presented at the 13th AIFS Conference 2014.

[Full-text](#)

Ethical research involving children: Putting the evidence into practice

Anne Graham

Family Matters, No.96, 2015

Undertaking research with children and young people gives rise to a number of ethical challenges and dilemmas - both predictable and unforeseen. This article introduces the Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) project, which provides a best-practice framework for approaching such issues and ensuring that research involving children can justifiably be deemed 'ethical'. Researchers and policy makers are invited to access and contribute to the project's resources.

[Full-text](#)

A Youth Suicide Prevention Plan for Canada: A Systematic Review of Reviews

Kathryn Bennett et al.

Canadian journal of psychiatry, 06/2015; 60(6):245-57

The researchers conducted an expedited knowledge synthesis (EKS) to facilitate evidence-informed decision making concerning youth suicide prevention, specifically school-based strategies and nonschool-based interventions designed to prevent repeat attempts. Dr. Christopher Mushquash and colleagues (Lakehead University) have made six, broad-based recommendations from their review of 21 studies of suicide prevention initiatives, finding that several school-based programs appear to help reduce suicidal feelings and suicide attempts. The researchers recommended that care providers, governments and other decision-makers take culture into account when considering how to serve different communities.

[Full-text](#)

Sext education: pedagogies of sex, gender and shame in the schoolyards of Tagged and Exposed

Amy Shields Dobson and Jessica Ringrose

Sex Education: Sexuality, Society and Learning, published online 8 July 2015

In this paper, the authors explore how the term 'sext education' pedagogies intersect with young people's understandings of, and talk about, sexting through a feminist analysis of two cyber-safety campaign films: Tagged from Australia and Exposed from the UK. The films tell alarming stories about the ways in which teenage girls' digital interactions and representations can be misused by their peers. The authors explore the normative construction of schools as sites for policing sex and gender norms in the films and then investigate how young people take up, manage and sometimes question these gendered logics in their own digitally networked peer groups through an analysis of data from several school-based qualitative research projects on young people's digital sexual cultures and their responses to sexting in cyber-safety films in London, UK and Victoria, Australia.

[Abstract and full-text](#)

Cyberbullying and primary-school aged children: The psychological literature and the challenge for sociology

Lesley-Anne Ey et al.

Societies, 2015 (5); doi:10.3390/soc50x000x

A systematic literature review from the psychological and educational research domains related to this younger age group, to inform future research across the disciplines. Younger children require different methods of engagement. This review highlights the methodological challenges associated with this age group present in the psychological literature, and argues for a greater use of sociological, child-centred approaches to data collection. This review examined studies published in English, between 2009 and 2014, and conducted with children aged 5–12 years, about their experiences with cyberbullying.

[Full-text](#)

Changes in genetic and environmental influences on disordered eating between early and late adolescence: a longitudinal twin study

A K Fairweather-Schmidt, T D Wade

Psychological Medicine, 2015 July 2, : 1-10

The genetic and environmental contributions to disordered eating (DE) between early and late adolescence were investigated in order to determine whether different sources of heritability and environmental risk contributed to these peak times of emergence of eating disorders. Adolescent female twins from the Australian Twin Registry were interviewed over the telephone with the Eating Disorder Examination (EDE). Data were collected at 12-15 and 16-19 years (wave 1: N = 699, 351 pairs; wave 3: N = 499, 247 pairs). Assessments also involved self-report measures related to negative life events and weight-related peer teasing. The study found that two-thirds of the heritable influence contributing to DE in late adolescence was unique to this age group. During late adolescence independent sources of genetic risk, as well as environmental influences are likely to be related in part to peer teasing, appear key antecedents in growth of DE.

[Abstract](#)

Prevalence of Childhood Exposure to Violence, Crime, and Abuse: Results From the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence

David Finkelhor et al.

JAMA Pediatrics, 29 June 2015

Research to provide health care professionals, policy makers, and parents with current estimates of exposure to violence, crime, and abuse across childhood and at different developmental stages. The US National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) includes a representative sample of US telephone numbers from August 28, 2013, to April 30, 2014. Via telephone interviews, information was obtained on 4000 children 0 to 17 years old, with information about exposure to violence, crime, and abuse provided by youth 10 to 17 years old and by caregivers for children 0 to 9 years old. In total, 37.3% of youth experienced a physical assault in the study year, and 9.3% of youth experienced an assault-related injury. Two percent of girls experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse in the study year, while the rate was 4.6% for girls 14 to 17 years old.

[Abstract](#)

Is e-health the answer to gaps in adolescent mental health service provision?

O'Dea B, Calear AL, Perry Y

Current Opinion in Psychiatry, 2015 Jul;28(4):336-42

A review of evidence for whether online programs aimed at helping adolescents with depression and/or anxiety can fill the gap in mental health service provision. Findings show growing evidence for the effectiveness of online cognitive behaviour therapy interventions for reducing the level of anxiety and depressive symptoms in adolescents aged between 12 and 18 years, when delivered in school and clinical settings.

[Abstract](#)

Imperatives in schools funding: equity, sustainability and achievement

Lyndsay Connors, Jim McMorro; Australian Council for Educational Research

Australian Education Review, no. 60, 28 June 2015

Australian Education Review 60 takes the 2011 Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling as a vantage point, from which to consider the national funding of schools in Australia, past and future. Section 1 outlines the educational values and perspectives that have underpinned school funding policies and programs and describes major themes in the evolution of schools funding – quality, equity and choice – providing a general guide for subsequent analyses. Other sections provide a policy history of funding 1964 to 2011 and an examination of the Gonski Review. The authors argue that cumulative political compromises have left Australia

with a hybrid school system which is inequitable and unsuited to Australia's changing social and economic circumstances.

[Full-text](#)

Identifying good mental health practice in schools

Louise Kinnaird

Every child journal (Vol.5, No.1) 2015 pp 54-62

This UK based research looks at effective mental health practice in schools. Highlights the different types of mental health problems or disorders that children may display in school and summarises research looking at the effects poor mental health can have on educational attainment. Sets out recommendations for schools, arguing that they play an important role in relation to health and wellbeing. These include having a whole school approach to supporting pupils, implementing peer mentoring practices, addressing bullying and ensuring teachers are aware of mental health services and how children can access them. In the attached link scroll to title to view article. Also note other articles in this issue focussing on child mental health.

[Full-text](#)

Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

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

JULY 2015		
30 July	Sydney	Co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders: how do they affect young people? [Webinar]
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
13-14 August	Melbourne Vic	Australian Youth, Alcohol and other Drugs Conference
13-15 August	Canberra ACT	National LGBTI Health Alliance Health in Difference Conference 2015
16-18 August	Melbourne Vic	Research Conference 2015: Learning Assessments, Designing the Future
19 August	Highgate, SA	Marketing to Children: Resisting the Pressure – Parent Seminar
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)
5-9 September	Melbourne, Vic	AES 15: International Evaluation Conference
6-9 September	Hobart Tas	Population Health Congress 2015
6-12 September	National, State and Territory events	National Child Protection Week
9 September	Sydney	Using eHealth to treat co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in youth [Webinar]
10 September	National and international	World Suicide Prevention Day – coinciding with RUOK? Day in Australia
10 September	National	R U OK? Day
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	Sydney NSW	NSW Youth Work Conference – hosted by Youth Action
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
5-6 November	Sydney NSW	FECCA 2015 National Biennial Conference - Multiculturalism in Action: Building a better future for all Australians
8-11 November	Sydney NSW	IFCO 2015 World Conference: Tell Someone Who Cares: Caring for our children
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
20 November	Sydney NSW	Rights of the Child Consumer - Presented by the Australian Children's Commissioner in partnership with ACCM
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	Stop Domestic Violence Conference
JULY 2016		
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference.
SEPTEMBER 2016		
26-28 September	Melbourne Vic	International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Conference 2016 - Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health - looking to the future

If you have a query please contact me at:

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