

Advocate for Children and Young People

Current awareness bulletin

September 2015

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From the web

CHILD PROTECTION

Keep Your Child Safe resources released

NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
September 2015

The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian has launched a new poster and fact sheet for parents to help raise awareness about child safe environments.

[Full-text](#)

'Keeping kids safe' resource kit

Daniel Morcombe Foundation
September 2015

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation collaborated with a number of agencies and stakeholders to assist them in compiling material that would suit the needs of children with special needs and children and young people with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. By telling stories relevant to indigenous and special needs children and using language that is appropriate the resource aims to provide a unique combination to assist these most vulnerable children. This new educational DVD will be supplied free of charge to schools and community groups around Australia. It has a series of menu prompts that are in alignment with the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum and reinforce the key safety words; Recognise, React and Report.

[More information](#)

Working with children checks report

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
July 2015

This report presents recommendations to improve Working With Children Checks (WWCC) schemes in Australian states and territories based on consultations with a range of stakeholders. Among its recommendations, the report calls for the creation of a standardised approach so that key aspects of WWCC

schemes are dealt with in the same way allowing WWCCs to be portable across jurisdictions and improving information sharing so that there is continuous monitoring of WWCC cardholders.

[Full-text](#)

Creating Child-Safe Organisations - Report on consultation with children and young people

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

June 2015

A total of 365 children and young people from diverse backgrounds participated in the consultation. Ages ranged from four to 18 years with the majority aged nine to 12 years. Nearly two-thirds of the participants were female. The project has reviewed the existing work being done by organisations to improve child-safe principles and practices. The project has also undertaken a consultation with children and young people to find out what helps them to feel safe when they are participating in organisations or activities outside of home, and what they need organisations and people to do to ensure that they can raise their concerns about feeling unsafe.

[Full-text](#)

CHILD RIGHTS

Conversations Report 2015: rights and a Commissioner for Children and Young People

Madden, M. and Chapman, S.; The Council for the Care of Children in partnership with Save the Children Australia and the Department for Education and Child Development, Adelaide

September 2015

The conversations with young South Australians from 4-18 years about their rights and a future Commissioner for Children and Young People (Children's Commissioner) in South Australia concluded on 30 June 2015 with a total of 1,654 responses. The responses included 917 rights quizzes, 682 Commissioner quizzes, 52 self-mailers, two short stories (one about rights and the other about a Children's Commissioner) and a written submission from the Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Group. The report contains a single recommendation, namely, that the feedback from children and young people in South Australia be used to inform the recruitment, selection and subsequent work of a Children's Commissioner in South Australia.

[Full-text](#)

DISABILITY

The National Disability Insurance Scheme – Highlights, hurdles and hopes

The Council for the Care of Children, South Australia

September 2015

The report reflects in-depth conversations with four children and young people with disability, and the answers to specific questions of 14 others and 66 families. Children and young people aged from birth to 14 years of age were involved in the Trial. The conversations with children, young people and their families highlighted that more needs to be done in terms of capacity building to make it possible for children and young people with disability to participate in mainstream education. The research also highlighted a need to simplify the complexities of the whole system. Difficulties associated with accessing and navigating it, long waiting times following registration, variability in planners' knowledge, skill and empathy were among the issues cited as hindering effective access and assistance.

[Full-text](#)

Current models of health service delivery for people with intellectual disability: literature review

Gianfranco Giuntoli, B. J. Newton, Karen R. Fisher; Social Policy Research Centre (UNSW)

September 2015

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) conducted a literature review on current models of health service delivery for people with intellectual disability. The review was commissioned by the New South Wales Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Intellectual Disability Health Network as part of the Blueprint that ACI is developing to deliver improved health services for people with intellectual disability in NSW. This document reports the

findings of the literature review. The review identified nine models of health service delivery for people with intellectual disability, seven from the UK and two from Australia. All the models identified in the literature review stress the need for interagency collaboration.

[Full-text](#)

Everyone Counts: why language services matter

National Disability Services (NDS)

May 2015

Report is published by NDS as part of the Use of Language Services Project. The purpose of the project is to gain greater understanding of the current policies, practices, knowledge and skills of disability service providers in NSW in relation to meeting the language needs of people from CALD backgrounds with disability and their families. The report identifies the issues as presented by the industry, showcases good practice within organisations which others may find helpful, provides resources for organisations that want to meet the language needs of CALD communities, and makes recommendations for the industry as a whole as well as for individual services.

[Full-text](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Children and young people at risk of disengagement from school; literature review

Kirsten J. Hancock and Stephen R. Zubrick; Telethon Kids Institute; University of Western Australia

June 2015

This literature review and report completed for the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA provides an overview of current evidence on the profile, extent, and impact of disengagement in children and young people from school, along with evidence of programs and strategies to reduce disengagement and promote re-engagement.

[Full-text](#)

Mindfulness in schools research project: exploring teachers' and students' perspectives; preliminary report

Karen Ager, Angela Bucu, Jacqueline Albrecht et al.; RMIT University

September 2014

Children and teachers discuss their thoughts, feelings, and experiences of participating in a mindfulness program in a school in Auckland, New Zealand.

[Full-text](#)

Targeted earlier intervention; students, computers and learning: making the connection

OECD Development Centre

September 2015

Report examines how students' access to and use of information and communication technology (ICT) devices has evolved in recent years, and explores how education systems and schools are integrating ICT into students' learning experiences. Based on results from PISA 2012, the report discusses differences in access to and use of ICT and examines the relationship among computer access in schools, computer use in classrooms, and performance in the PISA assessment.

[Full-text](#)

University fees: what students pay in deregulated markets

Andrew Norton and Ittima Cherastidtham; Grattan Institute

August 2015

For many years, university fees have been deregulated for international students and domestic postgraduate coursework students. This report looks at how much these students pay for their courses, and analyses differences between these fees.

[Full-text](#)

Completing university in a growing sector: is equity an issue?

Daniel Edwards and Julie McMillan; Australian Council for Educational Research
August 2015

In a time of rapid growth in the Australian higher education system, resulting in expanded opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, it is critical to understand which characteristics are linked to a lower likelihood of completion, in order to target retention policies for 'at-risk' groups at the national and institutional levels.

[Full-text](#)

Free to choose charter schools: how charter and for-profit schools can boost public education

Trisha Jha and Jennifer Buckingham, Centre for Independent Studies
August 2015

This report examines the policies and research on charter schools and their equivalents in five countries –USA, Sweden, Chile, England and New Zealand. Research shows that certain types of charter schools have a strong positive impact on the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. For-profit schools have mixed results on average, but some school management companies have been successful. The authors suggest that Australian governments should consider introducing charter schools, with careful attention to the policy and regulatory lessons from the experience in other countries.

[Full-text](#)

Charter schools would only make our school system's problems worse

Dean Ashenden; The Conversation,31 August 2015
August 2015

Dean Ashenden, Honorary Senior Fellow, Melbourne Graduate School of Education at University of Melbourne argues that there are serious flaws in the analysis and recommendations for Australia to adopt the charter schools model implemented in other countries. These recommendations were proposed by Centre for Independent Studies researchers in the report 'Free to choose charter schools: how charter and for-profit schools can boost public education'.

[Full-text](#)

Expenditure on education and training in Australia 2015

Peter Noonan, Gerald Burke, Andrew Wade et al.; Mitchell Institute for Health and Education Policy
August 2015

There are currently major debates about funding in each of the sectors of Australian education and training, but there is little consideration of the pattern of expenditure between the sectors and how collectively they can best meet our future population requirements and workforce needs.

[Full-text](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Employer toolkits: towards inclusive employment?

John van Kooy; Brotherhood of St Laurence
September 2015

Employer toolkits are designed to help employers remove barriers for particular jobseekers, including young people, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups and mature-age workers. This study of 20 toolkits examined the propositions used to engage employers and the tools provided, in order to assess the role that toolkits can play in overcoming labour market disadvantage.

[Full-text](#)

Child labour: everybody's business

Martijn Boersma, Gabrielle Lynch and Jo-anne Schofield; Catalyst
October 2014

At first sight child labour may not appear to be a material issue for Australian companies and investors: Australia has labour laws that prescribe the minimum school-leaving and employment age. Increasingly, global

unions and non-government organisations (NGOs) have joined companies and investors to find ways to minimise the risks of child labour in global supply chains. This report draws on extensive expert opinion and interviews to highlight steps that are being taken and challenges confronted along the way. It is a unique report in the Australian context, in that its central goal is not to expose bad behaviour but to inform and embolden companies and investors who want to take action about this issue with an evidence base upon which to act.

[Full-text](#)

Social enterprises for employment outcomes: addressing the needs of people with mental health issues

Sandy Blackburn-Wright and Anna Bowden, Social Outcomes; funded by Queensland Mental Health Commission

August 2015

The discussion paper aims to stimulate discussion and increase understanding about the potential for social enterprises to increase the employment opportunities for people with mental illness and problematic substance use issues.

[Full-text](#)

Super connected jobs; understanding Australia's future workforce

Bernard Salt; KPMG Demographics

September 2015

Connectivity, entrepreneurialism and a rising population will shape three million new jobs by 2030, argues this study by Bernard Salt which has uncovered the distinct skill sets which represent Australia's future jobs in the digital age. Developed by KPMG Demographics and commissioned by nbn, the report explores how the potential for universal access to fast broadband can shape the future Aussie workforce and liberate employees from the confines of set working hours or places.

[Full-text](#)

The new work order: ensuring young Australians have skills and experience for the jobs of the future, not the past

Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)

August 2015

The Foundation for Young Australians previous report in this series, *Renewing Australia's Promise*, clearly identified we are not investing in our young people to meet the challenge of future work prospects with 30% currently unemployed or underemployed and a generation more in debt and unable to access home ownership than their parents. The *New Work Order*, shows that more issues are ahead for young people as the most significant disruption in the world of work since the industrial revolution begins to have an impact in the next decade. FYA is calling for a national enterprise skills strategy to ensure young people are prepared for the economy of the future and equipped with the tools to drive economic and social progress.

[Full-text](#)

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children annual statistical report 2014

Australian Institute of Family Studies

August 2015

This is the fifth volume in the LSAC Annual Statistical Report series, which uses data from the fifth wave of the study for the first time. The purpose of these reports is to provide a snapshot of some of the data from the study and to address policy-relevant questions about aspects of Australian children's lives and development. The report makes use of the longitudinal nature of LSAC data to describe the dynamics of change as children develop, and how their families and lives change as they grow older.

[Full-text](#)

State of Australia's fathers

Melissa Wells, Dr Dakhina Mitra, Karen Flanagan; Save the Children Australia

September 2015

Major changes in both the workplace and households are bringing changes to men's participation as caregivers. Yet, men's involvement has too often been missing from policies, programs and efforts to promote the best interests of children in Australia. In this report the latest international and Australian research on fathers is reviewed and new evidence on what Australian fathers believe to be their role in parenting is presented.

[Full-text](#)

Living standard trends in Australia

Ben Phillips; National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), University of Canberra

September 2015

This research for Anglicare Australia focusses on the changes in living standards for a broad range of family types in Australia between 2004 and 2014. The report also projects where these living standards will be by 2024 taking into account the current trajectory of Budget policy, expected demographic and socioeconomic change.

[Full-text](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Life satisfaction across life course transitions

Lixia Qu and David de Vaus; Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian Family Trends No. 8

September 2015

The researchers look at how life satisfaction changes as we pass through various life transitions on the pathway from adolescence through young adulthood, middle age and into old age. It explores how leaving home, commencing a relationship, having children, separating, entering the "empty nest" phase, retirement and widowhood affect life satisfaction.

[Full-text](#)

Better lives for vulnerable teens - FACS review; summary paper

Dr Leanne Dowse; NSW Family and Community Services

September 2014

The review aimed to identify potential reforms that could deliver improved outcomes for the cohort of highly vulnerable teenagers nine to 24 years of age in NSW who are at high risk of disconnection from their families and communities, and at high risk for well documented, interrelated risk factors such as homelessness, drug addiction and crime. This review includes developing a strategy specific to the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and identifying broader systemic changes or reforms.

[Full-text](#)

Targeted earlier intervention programs sector consultation paper

NSW Family and Community Services

August 2015

This paper is part of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services consultation on targeted early intervention to help families so that they do not reach crisis point. The Department have developed a Sector Consultation Paper for comment, along with a number of relevant resources including the report, Better Systems, Better Chances: A Review of Research and Practice for Prevention and Early Intervention, from ARACY. Feedback on the consultation paper closes 16 October 2015.

[Full-text](#)

Transitioning from childhood to adolescence

Response Ability; Murdoch University Research Institute

April 2015

Fact sheet summarising the challenges of the transition from childhood to adolescence. There are brain and physical changes, social and emotional changes, and the onset of puberty all of which may affect the mental and physical health of young people. Guidance is provided about the role teachers can play in supporting young people during this transition.

[Full-text](#)

Trends in hospitalised injury, Australia: 1999–00 to 2012–13

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Flinders University
August 2015

This report describes trends in the occurrence of injuries requiring hospitalisation in Australia from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2013. The annual number of cases rose from about 327,000 to 447,000 during this period.

[Full-text](#)

National youth information framework

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
2015

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show that overall, young Australians are doing well. Rates for smoking, single-occasion risky drinking and illicit drug use are decreasing; however, overweight and obesity rates remain high, and fruit and vegetable consumption remains low. The Youth indicators data portal allows the user to examine the progress made over time in the health and wellbeing of young people aged 12 to 24 years in 38 key areas of health and social determinants including death and suicide rates, rates of self-harm, substance use, obesity and physical inactivity rates and educational outcomes. As recognition of the importance of this life period, the National Youth information Framework agreed by the National Youth Information Advisory Committee (NYIAG) is designed to focus policy attention on identified priority areas for young people aged 12–24. The National Youth Information Framework covers 5 key areas (or tiers), with a total of 38 indicators across 16 sub-domains in this 2015 release.

[Full-text](#)

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
September 2015

Provides the latest available information, as well as trends on the 6 health-related indicators in the partnership agreement. Key findings include: The gap in low birthweight rates between babies of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers narrowed substantially between 2000 and 2010 and the infant mortality rate for Indigenous infants between 2001 and 2011 declined by 55%, but remained almost twice as high as for non-Indigenous infants.

[Full-text](#)

Bringing them home: scorecard report 2015

J Rule and E Rice; National Sorry Day Committee (NSDC)
June 2015

This report examines the current status of 54 recommendations made in the 'Bringing them home' report, with its primary focus being the national stage. It is a summary of extensive consultations conducted between January 2014 and January 2015. The approach taken was to examine available literature on the progress of the recommendations over the past 17 years, using libraries, the Internet and a strategic search of peer-reviewed publications.

[Full-text](#)

Empowered communities: review of the empowered communities design report

Elise Klein; Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University
September 2015

This paper raises questions about a report, Empowered Communities: Empowered Peoples Design Report, proposing a new model of Indigenous empowerment and development in Australia. The Report sets out short term and long term goals for Indigenous development across Australia. The author suggests there are some inconsistencies within the conceptual and methodological frameworks used, raising questions of the overall logic of the Empowered Communities model, as well as its prospects for achieving Indigenous-led emancipatory development in Australia.

[Full-text](#)

The first 1000 days of childhood: maximising protective factors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families [AIFS Seminar transcript and audio]

Professor Kerry Arabena

June 2015

Professor Arabena reviews her experience as chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Council that led to her focus on investment in the first 1000 days and her thinking about protective factors within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

[Transcript and audio](#)

Enhancing the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: policy and practice considerations

Fiona Arney, Marie Iannos, Alwin Chong et al.; Child Family Community Australia, Australian Institute of Family Studies

August 2015

This paper outlines the contemporary understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, and reviews the barriers at the policy and practice levels that impede its implementation.

[Full-text](#)

LAW AND JUSTICE

What works in reducing reoffending in young adults? A Rapid Evidence assessment

Professor James McGuire; National Offender Management Service, UK Ministry of Justice

July 2015

The key findings from the report found that: the Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) identified 10 studies that evaluated interventions with young adults (aged 18 to 25); 6 studies observed an impact on recidivism; there is evidence of reductions in criminal recidivism of several types following prison-based offending behaviour programmes; there is evidence of reductions in criminal recidivism from a structured high-intensity detention regime; and there is some evidence that following victim–offender conferences there are reductions in reoffending particularly on property crimes.

[Full-text](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

What mental health issues do children going through family courts experience?

Cafcass Policy Team and National Improvement Service, UK

March 2015

Cafcass has used unique UK data and insight obtained from direct work with children and families for a small-scale study into the types of issues commonly encountered within family proceedings. The study begins to explore the prevalence and variety of child mental health issues within the family courts. The first stage, which is planned to form part of a larger research project, was recently presented at Cafcass' bi-annual open board meeting on the subject of child and adolescent mental health.

[Full-text](#)

Suicide: Fact sheet

Response Ability; Murdoch University Research Institute

July 2015

This fact sheet for pre-service teachers covers three key areas around suicide: Facts and statistics about suicide in Australia; Guidelines for responding to a young person who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts; and Whole school approaches to suicide prevention.

[Full-text](#)

OUT OF HOME CARE

Achieving emotional wellbeing for looked after children: a whole system approach

Louise Bazalgette, Tom Rahilly and Grace Trevelyan; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), UK

June 2015

Report provides recommendations and evidence for how the care system can be changed to prioritise and achieve good emotional wellbeing for all looked after children and care leavers.

[Full-text](#)

Children in Care report card

Anglicare Victoria

August 2015

The 2015 Anglicare Victoria Children in Care Report Card highlights the various gaps that exist between children and young people in care and their peers in the broader community. As in previous years, the report card draws attention to the disparities in these children's outcomes, especially in physical and mental health, educational engagement and pathways into young adulthood. The information is drawn from the Looking After Children (LAC) assessments of 353 children and young people conducted between January 2013 and January 2015.

[Full-text](#)

"...as a good parent would..."; inquiry into the adequacy of the provision of residential care services to Victorian children and young people who have been subject to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation whilst residing in residential care

Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria

August 2015

This Inquiry report explores the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in residential care and how services can be improved. The inquiry examines the adequacy of the provision of residential care services to Victorian children and young people and has called for an urgent redevelopment of residential care services in Victoria and the development of specialised care options for children.

[Full-text](#)

Out of home care; Senate Inquiry

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee

August 2015

This inquiry addresses the complex issues involved in improving Australia's child protection systems to ensure positive outcomes for children. The report examines why so many children and young people, particularly from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, are entering and remaining in out-of-home care. The committee examines how children and young people can be better supported to remain with their families, where possible. The report makes 39 recommendations to Australian governments to address the core issues of concern in Australia's out-of-home care system.

[Full-text](#)

Professional foster care as an alternative to residential care: it makes economic sense

Brett Inder and Kathryn Gor; Commission for Children and Young People (Vic)

December 2014

Experience internationally suggests that placing children who have a high level of need and behaviour issues into home-based care is problematic. Describing a Professional Foster Care Model, based on variations of existing models developed both in Australia and internationally, this report presents an analysis of its economic viability as compared to the current system.

[Full-text](#)

POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Implementing Routine Outcome Measurement in Community Managed Organisations

Tully Rosen, Tim Coombs, and Rosemary Dickson; Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network; Community Mental Health Australia

August 2015

Guidebook providing advice on how to collect routine outcome measurement information in community managed mental health services. It suggests measures that may be used, along with the opportunities and challenges faced in the implementation of routine outcome measurement.

[Full-text](#)

Multicultural Access and Equity; Building a cohesive society through responsive services; 2014-2015

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)

August 2015

Summary of the perspectives and broader feedback received through consultations with culturally and linguistically diverse communities and service providers around Australia, regarding the design and delivery of Australian Government services. The report aims to discuss diverse community perspectives relating to the accessibility and quality of service delivery, highlighting gaps, key issue areas, models of good practice and opportunities for continued development and reform. This report addresses two of the dimensions in the Government's Multicultural and Access and Equity – responsiveness and engagement.

[Full-text](#)

The FACS Statistical Report 2013-14

Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), NSW

September 2015

The FACS Statistics Report 2013-14 summary publication provides a range of performance highlights of the Department, with case studies in relation to outcome areas. The report demonstrates how FACS is meeting its objectives.

[Full-text](#)

FACS Statistics

Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), NSW

September 2015

FACS has transformed the way statistical and performance information is presented to the public to enhance transparency, accountability and awareness of progress in improving outcomes for clients and communities. FACS Statistics consolidates all key data sets under the 'one roof', providing the public with a comprehensive and detailed collection of FACS Statistics released to date. FACS Statistics presents data visually against the six FACS strategic objectives. The data can be assessed and customised through FACS Statistics under each of its six objectives. Visiting each objective provides the data and statistics for that area of work. Different data options can be selected to create a personalised report.

[Full-text](#)

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

Families Australia

September 2015

The theme of the conference was 'Innovations in early intervention, community collaboration and partnership beyond the child and family welfare sector'. The conference provided a platform for sharing innovative practices and resources and contributed to the national campaign to make the wellbeing and safety of Australia's children.

[Full-text](#)

The importance of a 'Human Connection': helpful relationships with service users and linking social capital

Dr Justin Barker, Lorraine Thomson and Erin Barry; The Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS): Research to Practice Series 9

September 2015

Issue 9 of the ICPS Research to Practice series examines what makes helpful and productive relationships between clients and services. It addresses the need for a human connection and how this relates to the role of service providers by drawing on the concept of 'linking social capital' to better understand the dynamics of this relationship.

[Full-text](#)

Better systems, better chances: a review of research and practice for prevention and early intervention

Dr Stacey Fox, Angela Southwell, Neil Stafford et al.; Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

August 2015

This report from ARACY reviews the evidence on prevention and early intervention programs for better outcomes for children and youth. It has used available research to synthesise the factors that promote positive child development and to highlight factors that enable effective prevention and early intervention at a system-wide level. The report finds that there is a strong and growing evidence-base that supports the effectiveness of many prevention and early intervention programs and approaches, and consistent evidence about the features of service systems that contribute to poorer outcomes. It is published as part of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services consultation on targeted early intervention to help families so that they do not reach crisis point. The Department has developed a Sector Consultation Paper for comment, along with a number of relevant resources including this report from ARACY. Feedback on the consultation paper closes 16 October 2015.

[Full-text](#)

Summary of Prevention and Early Intervention Local Case Studies Project Report

NSW Family and Community Services

August 2015

Report summarising how the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) service delivery works in practice, identifying good practice and barriers to effective outcomes and identifying recommended improvements so that the existing system could be better aligned to have an earlier impact. In total 39 agencies/organisations were consulted including health agencies, police, education and family services.

[Full-text](#)

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation Awareness Information Kit

Australian Government Attorney-General's Department

September 2015

The Hon Michael Keenan MP, the Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism, has announced a new online resource – The Radicalisation Awareness Information Kit – designed to help all Australians understand what radicalisation is, and how they can act to help someone who is at risk. He has written to all State and Territory Education Ministers encouraging them to share and promote the information kit in their schools.

[Full-text](#)

Dealing with Jihadists the Danish way and will it work in Australia [audio]

Geraldine Doogue , ABC Radio National Saturday Extra

5 September 2015

Geraldine Doogue interviews Alan Aarslev, Superintendent with the East Jutland Police, Denmark and Hussain Nadim, Coordinator of the South Asia Study Group, the University of Sydney about a Danish program run by the police that is working despite its simplicity. Hussain Nadim explores whether the Danish model would work in Australia?

[Audio](#)

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Social media and the wellbeing of children and young people: a literature review

Swist, T., Collin, P., McCormack, J. et al.; Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney
July 2015

This literature review examined literature published since 2010 on children and young people's use of social media and effects on their wellbeing. It was completed for the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA and provides a high level snapshot of the evidence of children and young people's social media use and the effects on wellbeing. It shows the effects are broadly positive, but are mediated by the social contexts, shared communication and familial conditions in which children and young people live and grow up. While the existing literature provides for some insights on difference according to gender and socio-economic advantage, there is a lack of close analysis on other aspects of lived experience (such as geographical location and culturally and linguistically diverse background).

[Full-text](#)

Understanding why teenagers sext [podcast]

Michael Mackenzie, ABC RN Afternoons 19 August 2015
August 2015

The Australian Institute of Criminology has just completed the largest sexting survey amongst young people ever undertaken in Australia. In this interview Murray Lee, Associate Professor of Criminology, Sydney University Law School discusses the data researchers collected from 1200 young people who filled out an anonymous online survey distributed through Facebook, Twitter and the radio station Triple J. They also interviewed 60 young people in qualitative focus groups.

[Podcast](#)

VIOLENCE

Young Australians' attitudes to violence against women; Findings from the 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey for respondents 16–24 years

Anita Harris, Nikki Honey, Kim Webster et al.; Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
September 2015

The National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey was developed by VicHealth in partnership with The University of Melbourne, the Social Research Centre and experts across Australia, and supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services as part of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022. This report focuses on the responses given by 1,923 young people aged between 16 – 22 years who participated in the larger National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey.

[Full-text](#)

Understanding agency and resistance strategies: children's experiences of domestic violence

Jane E. M Callaghan and Joanne H. Alexander; Understanding Agency & Resistance Strategies (UNARS);
University of Northampton
September 2015

Report published by the Understanding Agency & Resistance Strategies (UNARS) project based in Europe reviews interviews with over 100 children in which children were able to articulate their experiences of violence, and of coping with violence. Children described the impact of domestic violence on their lives, and were able to articulate a range of strategies they used to cope with these experiences. Researchers report that it was clear from children's interviews that they did not experience themselves as passive witnesses to domestic violence, rather they were active in making sense of and coping with the experience of violence in their lives.

[Full-text](#)

Safe homes, safe families; Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015–2020

Tasmanian Government

August 2015

The Action Plan is part of the Tasmanian Government's new, coordinated, whole-of-government action plan to respond to family violence. The actions were developed in consultation with stakeholders and the community and are based on current research and evidence. The Government has committed to allocating an additional \$25.57 million to new and direct actions over the next four years in order to build their response to family violence.

[Full-text](#)

Domestic violence in Australia; Senate Inquiry

The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

August 2015

This report covers a range of issues relating to domestic violence, including its range of effects, prevalence, data collection systems and early intervention and prevention measures. The report lists 25 recommendations to all levels of government to address the issues raised in the inquiry. Among its recommendations, the report calls for appropriate leave provisions for victims of domestic violence, improved data collection and a prioritisation of primary prevention.

[Full-text](#)

Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland

Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland

February 2015

The Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, chaired by the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO, former Governor-General of Australia, was established on 10 September 2014. The Taskforce was requested to examine Queensland's domestic and family violence support systems and make recommendations to the Premier on how the system could be improved and future incidents of domestic violence could be prevented. The Taskforce conducted extensive, state-wide community engagement and consultation during the course of the review.

[Full-text](#)

Hearing her voice: report from the kitchen table conversations with culturally and linguistically diverse women on violence against women and their children

Department of Social Services (Australia); Department of Social Services (Australia)

September 2015

In 2014-15, CALD women leaders hosted 29 kitchen table conversations throughout Australia with women from more than 40 ethnic and cultural backgrounds to discuss violence against women and their children. This report provides an overview of the key issues and some suggested responses raised by participants in the conversations.

[Full-text](#)

Advocacy for safety and empowerment: state of knowledge paper

Dr Robyn Holder, Dr Judy Putt and Ms Cath O'Leary; Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS)

September 2015

This work is part of the ANROWS Landscapes State of knowledge papers. This paper analyses critical, policy, service and research literature on responses to Aboriginal women experiencing family and domestic violence in Australia. The discussion focusses on non-legal and non-clinical services and women's specialist services in regional and remote settings.

[Full-text](#)

VOLUNTEERING

Definition of Volunteering

Volunteering Australia

September 2015

Volunteering Australia has announced a new definition of volunteering. This follows a review that included the release of an issues paper, national stakeholder information sessions and an online survey to gauge community views. The result is a broader and more inclusive definition that reflects the diversity of volunteering activities undertaken nationally. The new definition states that 'volunteering' is time willingly given for the common good without financial gain. The definition is accompanied by a set of explanatory notes providing clarity on what is in and what is out.

[Information and downloads](#)

Youth volunteering in Australia: an evidence review

Walsh, L. and Black, R.; The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme; Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

September 2015

Review of evidence on the extent and impact of young people's volunteering and social participation in Australia. The report also provides an analysis of effective interventions and policy options to strengthen volunteering among young people aged 12 to 25 years.

[Full-text](#)

Volunteering Australia's national review of the definition of volunteering in Australia; issues paper

Claire Ellis, Kirsten Holmes, Lisel O'Dwyer et al.;

December 2014

A National Steering Committee was brought together in late 2013 to facilitate the National Review of Volunteering Australia's definition of volunteering. A sub-committee of researchers produced this Issues Paper to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the dimensions of volunteering both here in Australia and globally.

[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 phone 9286 7294

Effective interventions and strategies for improving early child development

Bernadette Daelmans, Maureen M Black, Joan Lombardi et al.; World Health Organization (WHO)

British Medical Journal, Special supplement: Analysis - Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health, September 2015

The survival, health and well-being of women, children and adolescents are essential to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. The renewed Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health 2015–2030 is a road map to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents by 2030 and to improve their health. A series of papers, co-authored by the World Health Organization, is published in this special supplement in *British Medical Journal*.

[Full-text](#)

Online Peer-to-Peer Support for Young People With Mental Health Problems: A Systematic Review

Kathina Ali, Louise Farrer, Amelia Gulliver, Kathleen M Griffiths; National Institute for Mental Health Research, The Australian National University

JMIR Mental Health, Vol. 2 Issue 2 2015

This review systematically identified available evidence for the effectiveness of online peer-to-peer support for young people with mental health problems. Previous systematic reviews have targeted Internet support groups for adults with mental health problems, including depression. However, there have been no systematic reviews examining the effectiveness of online peer-to-peer support in improving the mental health of adolescents and young adults. Studies were included if they investigated an online peer-to-peer interaction,

the interaction discussed topics related to mental health, the age range of the sample was between 12 to 25 years, and if the study evaluated the effectiveness of the peer-to-peer interaction. An overall lack of high-quality studies examining online peer-to-peer support for young people was identified and the research team concluded that there is an urgent need to determine the effectiveness of peer support alone as an active intervention.

[Full-text](#)

Review and evaluation of mindfulness-based iPhone apps

Mani M, Kavanagh DJ, Hides L. et al.

JMIR mHealth uHealth, Vol.3(3) July-September 2015

While there is growing evidence for the positive effects of face-to-face mindfulness-based training programs, it is unclear if mindfulness apps can provide the same benefits. A search for studies in various databases (ERIC, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Web of Science, ProQuest) only identified one randomized controlled trial examining the efficacy of a mindfulness training app. The present study conducted a systematic review of mindfulness-based mobile apps, evaluated the quality of these apps using an expert rating scale, and described features of the highest-scoring apps.

[Full-text](#)

Media exposure, extracurricular activities, and appearance-related comments as predictors of female adolescents' self-objectification

Slater, A., Tiggemann, M.

Psychology of Women Quarterly, September 2015 vol. 39 no.3

Examination of three potential predictors of self-objectification in female adolescents, namely media exposure, extracurricular activities, and appearance-related comments (both positive and negative). Participants were 1,087 female adolescents ranging in age from 12 to 16, who completed questionnaire measures of media exposure (television, magazines, Internet, and social networking), time spent on extracurricular activities, positive and negative appearance-related comments, self-objectification, self-surveillance, body shame, and disordered eating. In particular, the results suggest that positive appearance-related comments (compliments) may be just as, or even more, likely to give rise to self-objectification as negative appearance-related comments. The findings suggest practical strategies for the potential protection of the development of self-objectification and its deleterious consequences.

[Abstract](#)

Child and adolescent exposure to alcohol advertising in Australia's major televised sports

Sherilene Carr, Kerry S. O'Brien, Jason Ferris et al.

Drug and Alcohol Review, Published online 14 September 2015

Young people in Australia were found to be exposed to about 50 million alcohol advertisements every year when watching AFL, NRL and cricket on TV. A new study shows that 47 per cent of the advertisements appear on TV during children's daytime viewing. Moreover, an international study suggests that alcohol ads could lead children and adolescents to earlier and more problematic alcohol consumption.

[Full-text](#)

Eventually you just get used to it: an interpretative phenomenological analysis of 10-16 year-old girls' experiences of the transition into temporary accommodation after exposure to domestic violence perpetrated by men against their mothers.

Laura Bowyer, Jennifer Swanston and Arlene Vetere

Clinical child psychology and psychiatry, (Vol.20, No.2) April 2015 pp 304-323

Qualitative research addressing how girls aged 10-16 experience the transition into temporary accommodation following exposure to domestic violence. Semi-structured interviews were carried out with the five participants. Three themes emerged from the children's experiences: powerlessness, constantly feeling unsafe and coping mechanisms. Calls for more research into the experiences of children in refuges and temporary accommodation in order to support them in gaining control, developing mother-child relationships and addressing the impact of exposure to domestic violence.

[Abstract](#)

Understanding ecological factors associated with bullying across the elementary to middle school transition in the United States

Dorothy L. Espelage, Jun Sung Hong, Mrinalini A. Rao et al.

Violence and victims, (Vol.30, No.3) 2015 pp 470-487

Examines sociodemographic and socioenvironmental factors associated with bullying during the transition from elementary to middle school in the United States. Using cluster analysis findings indicate that increases in bullying were associated with decreases in school belongingness and increases in teacher dissatisfaction. Students who reported decreases in bullying also reported decreases in victimisation. Findings suggest that changes across students' relations to school and their teachers are predictive of changes in bullying.

[Full-text](#)

School-based programmes for prevention of child sexual abuse

Kerryann Walsh, Karen Zwi, Susan Woolfenden et al.

The Cochrane Library, April 2015

According to the results of this review of studies worldwide, children who are taught about sexual abuse prevention at school have more knowledge and greater skill levels than children not exposed to programs. They may be more likely than others to tell an adult if they had, or were actually experiencing sexual abuse. This review included 24 studies, conducted with a total of 5802 participants in primary (elementary) and secondary (high) schools in the United States, Canada, China, Germany, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey.

[Full-text](#)

Lessons lost in sentencing: welding individualised justice to indigenous justice

Thalia Anthony, Lorana Bartels, Anthony Hopkins

Melbourne University Law Review, 39(1) 2015 (advance copy)

Discusses the complex interrelationship between individualised justice and Indigenous circumstances in the sentencing of Indigenous offenders. Indigenous offenders are heavily over-represented in the Australian and Canadian criminal justice systems. In the case of *R v Gladue*, the Supreme Court of Canada held that sentencing judges are to recognise the adverse systemic and background factors that many Aboriginal Canadians face and consider all reasonable alternatives to imprisonment in light of this. The High Court in Australia has fallen short of applying the Canadian principle that sentencing should promote restorative sentences for Indigenous offenders, given their oft-present deprivation and their over-representation in prison. The authors cite Australian case studies including the High Court case of *Bugmy v The Queen*, that represent a failure to apply the Canadian principle.

[Full-text](#)

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

Louise Farrell, Beverley Lloyd, Rhonda Matthews et al.

Public Health Research & Practice, November 2014

The allocation of a significant amount of new funding for health promotion in Australia through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (2009–14) created a unique opportunity to implement a comprehensive approach to the prevention of chronic diseases and demonstrate significant health improvements. Building on existing health promotion infrastructure in Local Health Districts, the NSW Ministry of Health adopted a scaled-up state-wide capacity-building model, designed to alter policies and practices in key children's settings to increase healthy eating and physical activity among children. NSW also introduced a performance monitoring framework to track implementation and impacts. This paper describes the model that NSW developed for monitoring state-wide programs in the Children's Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Program and presents the model's application to early childhood education and care and primary school settings, including current results.

[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

OCTOBER 2015		
2-4 October	Brisbane Qld	Youth for Change conference: Creating a better future
8 October	Sydney	Targeted Earlier Intervention consultation : event will be livestreamed
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
11-17 October	National, State and Territory events	Anti-Poverty Week 2015 (*Noted in ACYP Policy and Research Events Calender)
13 October	Melbourne Vic	Housing, transport and family hardship [AIFS Seminar/Webinar]; Register for the webinar
14-15 October	Melbourne Vic	Ending domestic and family violence conference: taking the next steps
16 October	Melbourne	The impact of early childhood experienced - Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) ; Guest speaker: early childhood expert Professor Edward Melhuish, University of Oxford
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
27 October	Perth WA	Addressing bullying behaviour in children and young people; forum
28-30 October	Sydney NSW	NSW Youth Work Conference – hosted by Youth Action
28-30 October	Perth, WA	National Housing Conference 2015
28-31 October	Brisbane Qld	International Life Course Conference; Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course inaugural conference
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
4-6 November	Sydney NSW	National Youth Employment Forum
5-6 November	Sydney NSW	FECCA 2015 National Biennial Conference - Multiculturalism in Action: Building a better future for all Australians
6-7 November	Singapore	Positive Schools Singapore 2015
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
10-13 November	Melbourne Vic	NATSIEC 2015; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference – celebrating knowledge as power
11-13 November	Melbourne Vic	Youth Health Conference 2015
17-18 November	Kelvin Grove Qld	Prevention of violence against children: research, policy and practice symposium
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 : Early bird registration now available
25-27 November	Sydney NSW	12th Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 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
25-27 November	Melbourne Vic	Social Media for Gov: Building Participative Governments
27-29 November	Sydney NSW	Australian and New Zealand Regional Conference of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation : Broken structures, broken selves: complex trauma in the 21st century
DECEMBER 2015		
1-3 December	Cairns Qld	National Indigenous Health Conference
2-3 December	Melbourne Vic	Youth Employment Pathways
7 December	Melbourne Vic	SmartHealth: 7th International Workshop on Technologies for Health and Wellbeing
7-9 December	Canberra ACT	Stop Domestic Violence Conference

APRIL 2016		
12-13 April	Melbourne Vic	Think Outcomes 2016: Centre for Social Impact (CSI) and Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA)
JUNE 2016		
6-10 June	Melbourne Vic	Second Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference
JULY 2016		
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference.
19-23 July	Sydney NSW	22nd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA)
SEPTEMBER 2016		
8-10 September	Melbourne Vic	Early Childhood Intervention Australia Conference
26-28 September	Melbourne Vic	International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Conference 2016 - Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health - looking to the future

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