

# Advocate for Children and Young People

## Current awareness bulletin

### October 2015

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## From the web

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### CHILD PROTECTION

#### **Hear no evil, see no evil: Understanding failure to identify and report child sexual abuse in institutional contexts; A report for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

Professor Eileen Munro and Dr Sheila Fish  
September 2015

The report draws on two of the Commission's case studies, highlighting how individual and organisational factors contribute to the failure to protect children. These factors include the difficulty that inexperienced staff face in detecting grooming behaviours and the need for more support for staff to identify and report child abuse.

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#### **Overseen but often overlooked: Children and Young People 'Looked After at Home' in Scotland**

Vicki Welch, Jennifer Lerpiniere, Emma Young, et al.; The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS)  
October 2015

The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) has published a set of reports examining home supervision for looked after children and their families. The overall study has found that these children's needs are often overlooked and makes a case for multi-level and sustained change to systems and service provision.

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#### **Thriving communities: a framework for preventing and intervening early in child neglect**

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)  
October 2015

The NSPCC has published a framework for national and local decision-makers and commissioners. It sets out actions across five levels of society - children, parents, communities, universal services and local government - to help stop child neglect. Informed by evidence from new NSPCC research on universal services, the

framework focuses on taking action before the need for intervention from children's social care at a Child in Need or Child Protection level.

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### **Realising the potential: tackling child neglect in universal services**

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

October 2015

The NSPCC has published a report drawing on the views of health visitors, school nurses, GPs, midwives, teachers, early help practitioners and young people exploring what help is currently provided by universal services to tackle child neglect, what the barriers are to providing early help and what stakeholders' views are on how services can be better supported to provide early help. It sets out a model for early help for neglect in universal services and makes recommendations for what is required to get there.

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## **DISABILITY**

### **Whatever happened to the village? The removal of children from parents with a disability**

Office of the Public Advocate in Victoria

September 2015

Explores how current legislation and policy can be improved to avoid the removal of children from parents who have a disability.

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### **Rebuilding the village: Supporting families where a parent has a disability**

Office of the Public Advocate in Victoria

September 2015

Explores the over-representation of families where a parent has a disability in Victoria's child protection system from the perspective of families and to make recommendations that will begin to remedy this situation. The report examines issues raised in earlier reports about child protection in the light of developments over the past ten years.

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## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Literature review of the impact of early childhood education and care on learning and development**

Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

September 2015

Early childhood education and care is a key priority for the Australian Government in recognition that ECEC programs play a vital role in the development of Australian children and their preparation for school, and enabling parents to work. This review explores the literature on the complex relationship between attendance at early childhood education and care programs and developmental outcomes for children.

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### **ASG parents report card 2015**

Australian Scholarships Group (ASG)

October 2015

The ASG Parents Report Card investigates the state of education in Australia from parents' perspectives. The ASG Parents Report Card measured parents' perceptions of the state of education in the two countries using three indexes: the Aspirations Index; the Educational Resources Index, and the Learning Resources Index. Undertaken by ASG and the Faculty of Education at Monash University, the report reveals parental aspirations are the strongest factor in their child achieving academic success.

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### **Educational outcomes for children in care: Linking 2013 child protection and NAPLAN data.**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

October 2015

Report presents a snapshot of the academic performance of Australian children in the care of child protection services in 2013. Findings are based on the linkage of data from the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set and the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy. This report shows that the proportion of children in care meeting the national minimum standards (NMS) for literacy and numeracy varied (ranging from 44% to 83% across assessment domains and year levels).

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### **School transitions for vulnerable young people: re-engaging students through local initiatives**

Stephen Crump, Roger Slee; The Victoria Institute for Education, Diversity and Lifelong Learning

September 2015

A review of research, key government reports and local approaches to support primary to secondary school transitions. Includes an audit and action guide. This Report was commissioned by the School Focused Youth Services program covering the Cities of Stonnington, Port Phillip and Glen Eira. The request was to review issues around, and examples of, primary to secondary school transition programs occurring within the three LGAs. All three Cities are actively committed to working through their own youth services and with other local community agencies to alleviate difficulties faced by young people in this day and age.

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### **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance; An Update for Primary Schools**

Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)

September 2015

This guide on RSE for primary schools in Northern Ireland reflects new legislation, technological advances and societal changes which affect how schools deal effectively with these sensitive issues and provides a useful context for how these areas should be addressed within schools and why. It also aims to help schools create a meaningful policy for RSE and help principals and teachers manage potentially challenging situations.

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### **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance; An Update for Post-Primary Schools**

Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)

September 2015

This guide on RSE for primary schools in Northern Ireland reflects new legislation, technological advances and societal changes which affect how schools deal effectively with these sensitive issues and provides a useful context for how these areas should be addressed within schools and why. It also aims to help schools create a meaningful policy for RSE and help principals and teachers manage potentially challenging situations.

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### **Opening Doors: A guide to good practice in countering gender stereotyping in schools**

Institute of Physics, UK

October 2015

Research in schools in the UK has found that sexist language and gender stereotyping of subjects in schools is still common, and that while schools have policies to counter discriminatory language placed 'somewhere' on their websites, teachers' awareness of the issue is patchy and sexist 'banter' is treated less seriously than racist or homophobic language.

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## **FAMILY AND SOCIETY**

### **2015 State of the Family report: Who is being left behind?**

Anglicare Australia

October 2015

The 2015 State of the Family report is framed Living Standard Trends in Australia, the national research Anglicare Australia commissioned from NATSEM that confirms the growing income inequality in Australia, and incorporates the key findings of Anglicare Sydney's Profile of deep and persistent disadvantage, which takes a closer look at who constitutes those most at risk. It features a number of short stories about the people Anglicare services work with across our network. They are stories both of hardship and of hope. They illustrate how the right kind of support – housing, health or education – can make a vital difference for people who are being excluded from mainstream Australia, and point to the hard edges of our inequitable society.

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### **The distributional impact of the GST**

Ben Phillips and Matthew Taylor; National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)

October 2015

The Australian Council of Social Service says new data shows increasing the GST should be one of the Government's last options for an overhaul of the tax system. ACOSS commissioned this research by NATSEM which confirms the widely held view that increasing the rate or base of the GST would hit low income earners the hardest. The peak welfare body says the disparity becomes even worse if the extra revenue is spent on cutting personal income tax.

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### **Freedom from Discrimination: Report on the 40th anniversary of the Racial Discrimination Act. National consultation report**

Tim Soutphommasane, Ting Lim and Anna Nelson, Australian Human Rights Commission

November 2015

The consultations found strong support for the Act and educational measures aimed at reducing discrimination. However, there were also community concerns about limited protections against anti-Muslim discrimination and significant institutional racism against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Recommendations include convening an annual national forum on racial tolerance and community harmony; advocating for the national school curriculum to ensure adequate education about racism and strategies for embracing diversity and inclusion and exploring work to improve the treatment of cultural diversity in the media.

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## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **New data display helps track safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

October 2015

The release of a new series of 'dynamic data displays' from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) will better allow governments, decision makers, and members of the public to understand and track Australia's progress in keeping children and young people safe and well. The online data displays present data relating to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (the National Framework)-a long-term plan to promote and enhance the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

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### **NSW Child Death Review Team Annual Report 2014**

NSW Child Death Review Team, NSW Ombudsman

October 2015

Report concerns 485 children whose deaths were registered in NSW in 2014. The rate of child deaths in 2014 – 28.41 deaths per 100,000 children – is the second lowest annual report since 2000, and continues the significant decline in infant and child mortality rates over the last 15 years.

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### **Methamphetamine: focusing Australia's National Ice Strategy on the problem, not the symptoms**

John Coyne, Vern White and Cesar Alvarez; Australian Strategic Policy Institute

October 2015

This report argues that Australia's National Drug Strategy 2010–2015 is not able to minimise the harm to the country caused by ice, and discusses an alternative strategic framework to respond to the challenge. The authors argue that law enforcement should not be focused on arrests, prosecutions, custodial offences or seizures, as none of those will have a guaranteed impact on the problem. The focus needs to be on means to reduce the availability of drugs, the disruption of user behaviour and the integration of education and health initiatives.

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## INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

### **Improving health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and young children: A literature review**

Petra T Bywood, Melissa Raven and Katrina Erny-Albrecht; Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS)

August 2015

This literature review, published by the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS), synthesises evidence related to programs and initiatives to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and young children. It includes an examination of workforce needs and challenges in this area, particularly in the context of working with vulnerable families and across different sectors.

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## LAW AND JUSTICE

### **A predictable and preventable path: Aboriginal people with mental and cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system**

Eileen Baldry et al., University of New South Wales

November 2015

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with mental and cognitive disabilities are significantly over-represented in Australian criminal justice systems. However there has been a lack of critically informed evidence, analysis and co-ordinated policy and service response on this most pressing human rights issue. The Indigenous<sup>1</sup> Australians with Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disability in the Criminal Justice System (IAMHDCD) Project<sup>2</sup> brings an innovative Indigenous-informed mixed method research approach that provides, for the first time, a critical analysis of systems interactions and responses to the complex needs of Indigenous people with disability in criminal justice.

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### **Pathways through youth justice supervision; Further analyses. Juvenile justice series no. 19**

Kirsten Morgan, Josh Sweeney and Shayan Shahid; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

September 2015

Report looks at the complete youth justice supervision history of 24,102 young people in Australia, who experienced supervision, both in the community and in detention, between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2014 when they were aged 10-17. More than one-third (37%) of young people experienced the most common pathway of sentenced community-based supervision only. Report includes information on young people with extensive supervision histories, differences among the states and territories, and trends over time. Data on six birth cohorts are available - for young people born between 1990-91 and 1995-96.

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### **Youthlaw 'Reach Out and Connect' project 2014-15**

Youthlaw: Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc.

July 2015

This action research and evaluation project assessed Youthlaw's legal education methods and resources for young people. Feedback was obtained on how to deliver and develop more effective legal education and resources. The resources included short animated clips on authorities and the law, a mobile friendly website

for smartphone use called StreetSmart, and fact sheets. Over forty legal education sessions were conducted with a diverse range of young people across Victoria with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Recommendations were made for promoting the service, the scope of the resources and the mix of online, telephone, group and individual delivery of information.

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### **Unheard voices: the involvement of children and vulnerable people in the family justice system**

Sir James Munby

June 2015

The annual lecture of The Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People delivered by Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division at the College of Law, Swansea University on 25 June 2015. Explores the issue of the inadequate representation of the child's views in the family justice system. Considers the following questions about the family justice system: is the traditional approach is right? is it meeting the UK's international obligations (e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)? how can the system be justified when so many countries adopt a very different approach? How can the system be justified when so many representatives of the child's voice are pressing for change?

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## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Youth Survey Mental Health Report 2015; Young people's mental health over the years - Youth Survey 2012-14**

Mission Australia and Black Dog Institute

October 2015

A joint report by Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute revealed young women are at a higher risk of mental illness than young men. An annual survey, conducted by Mission Australia, found one in five young people aged 15-17 have a level of psychological distress which indicates a probable mental illness. Young females were identified as being almost twice as likely as young men to have a mental illness with 26.5 percent of females and 13.5 percent of men at risk. In the three year period between 2012 and 2014, the prevalence of mental illness among young people increased from 18.2 percent to 20 percent.

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### **The Insights into Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing report**

UK Office for National Statistics

October 2015

Mental health problems in children can affect their overall well-being in both the immediate and longer-term. The Children's Well-being 2015 publication includes a new measure of children's mental ill-health. This is in response to feedback from stakeholders who identified mental health as missing from the initial set of measures for children. The new measure uses the total difficulties score from the child self-completion aspect of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) from the UK Household Longitudinal Survey (Understanding Society). This article provides an in-depth look at why mental health is an important aspect of children's well-being, outlines the reasons why the SDQ was chosen and looks at what the data tells us about the prevalence of mental ill-health and how it relates to other factors, such as bullying and family relationships.

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### **Preventing Suicide by Young People: Discussion Paper**

BoysTown

October 2015

BoysTown is a service provider and advocate for children and young people and is committed to increasing the effectiveness of responses to young people at risk of suicide. BoysTown believes that researchers often fail to recognise the lived experience of young people. This discussion paper aims to focus a spotlight on the unique experience of young people. It does this by providing a critical analysis of existing policy and evidence based responses relevant to young people. The analysis subsequently identifies the existing gaps in knowledge and

promising but emerging intervention strategies that could be built on to improve the support young people receive.

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### **Measuring mental wellbeing in children and young people**

Public Health England

September 2015

The document outlines the importance of measuring mental wellbeing in children and young people. The measures presented in this guide have been selected to provide a broad overview of mental wellbeing and its environmental risk and protective factors. It has been developed using a life course approach and concentrates on the mental wellbeing of children and young people. They are intended to enable comparison of mental wellbeing between local populations; allow comparison of levels of risk and protective factors between local populations; support learning around what localities with good mental wellbeing look like and inform decision making about priorities for action.

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### **Daisy Chain - Animated Film narrated by Kate Winslet**

Galvin Scott Davis, Protein One

October 2015

Kate Winslet narrates this anti-bullying tale that follows Buttercup Bree and her tale of magical Daisy Chains. The animation features a voice over from the Academy Award winning actress, melodic soundtrack and compliments the Book and App available at the website. The project was financed with the assistance of Screen Australia.

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## **OUT OF HOME CARE**

### **Pathways of care longitudinal study: outcomes of children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW**

Australian Institute of Family Studies; Department of Family and Community Services (NSW)

September 2015

The Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS) is the first large scale prospective longitudinal study on out-of-home care (OOHC) in Australia. It will follow 4,126 children aged 0-17 years old entering OOHC in New South Wales, to examine the developmental wellbeing of children and young people under the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. This chapter reports on the children and young people's wellbeing and development at wave 1/baseline, with data collected, on average, 17 months after the child's first entry into out-of-home care.

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## **PARTICIPATION**

### **Conversations Report 2015: Rights and a Commissioner for Children and Young People - A summary for children and young people**

The Council for the Care of Children. Save the Children Australia and the Department for Education and Child Development, Adelaide

September 2015

This short report, in easy to read language especially for children and young people, summarises the feedback discussed in the full report of conversations with children and young people in South Australia about their rights and a Commissioner for Children and Young People.

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### **Commissioner's Face to Face report for 2014-2015**

Western Australia (Acting) Commissioner for Children and Young People

September 2015

WA Commissioner for Children and Young People reports back to the children and young people of Western Australia on what they have told her throughout the year, at meetings, events and through consultations, and what the Commissioner has done with the information they shared with her.

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### **What worries Australian children? A survey has asked 20,000 of them**

Clare Blumer, Mamamia Women's Network News

5 October 2015

A report about the survey conducted by ABC's current affairs program for kids Behind the News. 20,000 Australian children were surveyed to find out what makes them happy and sad. Research shows parents underestimate how worried kids are about a number of life issues. The survey found 43 per cent of the children were worried about their future most or all the time. Although children are turning to their parents more than anyone else when they need help, nearly one in five kids said they didn't tell anyone when they were feeling worried.

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## **POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION**

### **Children's Contact Services: Key issues**

Joanne Commerford and Cathryn Hunter; CFCA Paper No. 35

October 2015

Children's Contact Services (CCSs) are designed to provide a safe, supervised environment for children to spend time with the parent they do not live with, or to facilitate the transfer of children from one parent to another, in circumstances where parents are not able to manage their own parenting time arrangements. This paper is intended for those working in CCSs as well as those working in areas that intersect with CCSs such as family mediation, family law and counselling. It identifies the characteristics of families using CCSs, and key issues in service provision.

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### **Measuring the difference we make: The state-of-play of outcomes measurement in the community sector in Western Australia**

Sarah Adams et al., The University of Western Australia Centre for Social Impact; Bankwest Foundation

October 2015

This is the third report from the Bankwest Foundation Social Impact Series, which investigates outcomes measurement across the community sector in WA. It is based on the mapping of outcomes measurement in the community sector in Western Australia and a series of discussion groups conducted with community sector stakeholders in Perth in August 2015. The study finds outcomes measurement at a tipping point in Western Australia. It reports that many community sector organisations, as well as funders, are implementing or seeking to implement a systematic, well-grounded outcomes measurement framework in their organisations and through their funding programs.

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## **POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS**

### **Beyond statutory homelessness**

Youth Homelessness Databank UK

September 2015

This UK report investigates what happens to young people when they seek to access help because they are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The research highlighted the paucity of data and inaccuracies in official homelessness figures. This analysis is based on the most complete dataset currently available, which took thousands of hours to collect, clean and compile. The researchers' overriding conclusion is that central government and local authorities are making policy in the dark. Until they have a clear picture of the problem,

government can't expect to tackle youth homelessness or give local authorities adequate funding to ensure they help young people in need.

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### **Youth Homelessness: The Impact of Supportive Relationships**

Sara Gasior, Western University Masters of Science in Nursing. Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repository. Paper 3233

October 2015

This Canadian research thesis found that the network of service providers, perceived social supports and perceived family relations explained 21.8% of the variance in homeless youth perceptions of recovery. Perceived social support and family relations were significantly, positively correlated to perceptions of recovery. Network of service providers was not significantly correlated to perceptions of recovery.

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### **The effects of exposure to better neighborhoods on children [electronic resource] : new evidence from the Moving to Opportunity experiment**

Chetty, Raj; US National Bureau of Economic Research

May 2015

The Moving to Opportunity (MTO) experiment offered randomly selected families living in high- poverty housing projects housing vouchers to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods. The findings of this experiment imply that offering vouchers to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods to families with young children who are living in high- poverty housing projects may reduce the intergenerational persistence of poverty and ultimately generate positive returns for taxpayers.

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## **RADICALISATION**

### **Radicalisation awareness information kit**

Australian Government Living Safe Together; Building Community Resilience to Violent Extremism

This kit has been produced to raise awareness and help all Australians understand the radicalisation process and how to respond if they are concerned about someone they know. The kit includes five information sheets and a detailed booklet to advise on radicalisation and how to help. The kit, being distributed to schools across the country. Critics say it may help further alienate young people who are already susceptible.

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### **The role of youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace**

Professor Scott Atran

April 2015

On 23 April, 2015, Prof. Scott Atran addressed the UN Security Council where he spoke to the Ministerial Debate on 'The Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace.' His presentation on youth radicalization drew on his experience as an anthropologist gained from wide ranging experimental and ethnographic research on young people who have joined violent extremist movements.

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### **Radicalisation cases in the family courts**

Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division, Family Court UK

October 2015

The President of the Family Division Sir James Munby has issued guidance for judges and advocates involved in radicalisation cases in the family courts in the UK. It is noted that increasing numbers of children cases are coming before the Family Division and the Family Court in which there are allegations or suspicions that children are planning or attempting or being groomed with a view to travel to parts of Syria controlled by the so-called Islamic State; children have been or are at risk of being radicalised; or children have been or are at risk of being involved in terrorist activities either in this country or abroad. The President has decided that all cases falling within this description are to be heard by High Court Judges of the Family Division.

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## TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

### **Teens, Technology and Romantic Relationships**

Amanda Lenhart, Aaron Smith and Dana Page; Pew Research Center  
October 2015

A new report from Pew Research Center shows the role social and digital media play in adolescent romantic relationships. It covers the results of a national survey of teens aged 13 to 17. Findings showed that social media is a top venue for flirting, that digital flirting has “entry-level” and more sophisticated elements for teens, depending on the nature of the relationship and their experience with virtual flirting strategies, that girls are more likely to be targets of uncomfortable flirting tactics and that social media helps teen daters to feel closer to their romantic partner, but also feeds jealousy and uncertainty.

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### **Social investment in the digital era: improving social outcomes through predictive analytics and managing the emerging moral hazard and ethical challenges**

Brian Lee-Archer and Thomas Boulton; The SAP Institute for Digital Government (the SIDG)  
November 2015

The National Disability Insurance Agency has joined two Australian universities as founding members of a new privately funded research institute that aims to explore revolutionary models of public service delivery underpinned by big data and digital transformation. The \$150 million SAP Institute for Digital Government, was launched in October 2015 at the agency’s NDIS New World Conference in Brisbane. The SAP Institute for Digital Government (the SIDG) is examining predictive analytics in the context of social investment. The purpose of this discussion paper is to raise awareness, promote discussion and encourage research on the challenge of moral hazard and ethical issues from the use of predictive analytics in decision making in social protection policy making and administration.

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## VIOLENCE

### **Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012: Key findings and future directions. Compass (research to policy and practice paper) Issue 2**

Dr.Peta Cox; Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited (ANROWS)  
October 2015

This ANROWS research project provides substantial additional analysis of data collected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2012 Personal Safety Survey (PSS). The PSS is the most comprehensive quantitative study of interpersonal violence in Australia. The survey is administered by the ABS and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. More than 17,000 women and men completed the 2012 survey.

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### **Sexual assault and domestic violence in the context of co-occurrence and re-victimisation: State of knowledge paper**

ANROWS  
October 2015

Examines the intersection between sexual assault and domestic violence, focusing on two forms of concurrent victimisation: re-victimisation (when a woman, over her lifetime, experiences both sexual assault and domestic violence) and intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV). The paper looks at the complexity of these experiences to identify the common impacts of domestic violence and sexual assault, and to critically examine how re-victimisation and IPSV can shift the ways in which we think about, and provide services for, women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

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## **Evaluation of the 2012 family violence amendments; Synthesis report**

Rae Kaspiew et al.; Australian Institute of Family Studies

October 2015

The report sets out the overall findings of the Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments. The evaluation research program had three different elements. The findings from these three projects are described separately in the following reports: Experiences of Separated Parents Study; Responding to Family Violence: A Survey of Family Law Practices and Experiences; Court Outcomes Project.

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## **Recent journal articles**

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### **Secondary school teachers' perceptions of student misbehaviour: a review of international research, 1983 to 2013**

Michael Crawshaw

*Australian Journal of Education*, November 2015 vol. 59 no. 3 293-311

This literature review of secondary school teachers' perceptions of student misbehaviour from 1983 to 2013 comprised studies from various countries including Australia, China, Greece, Jordan, Malta, the United Kingdom and the United States. Identified materials enabled international comparisons and the analysis of changes over time. Of the 20 papers included in the final review, most were categorised as looking at perceptions of serious student misbehaviours or high frequency student misbehaviours. The main conclusions were that teacher perceptions of high frequency misbehaviours and serious misbehaviours were largely consistent over time and between countries.

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### **Peer mentors as a transition strategy at university: why mentoring needs to have boundaries**

Sandra Egege, Salah Kutieleh

*Australian Journal of Education*, November 2015 vol. 59 no. 3 265-277

Peer mentoring is often considered the single most effective strategy for increasing student retention and student satisfaction. As a consequence, mentoring programs have been implemented at most universities and are an essential feature of best practice transition programs. This article argues that terminology does matter and that elucidating what mentoring entails is crucial to the comparative evaluation and improvement of mentoring practice as well as the identification of best practice. The article goes on to suggest how mentoring boundaries might be set by drawing on experiences from an Australian University.

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### **Apparently I've Got Low Self-Esteem: Schoolgirls' Perspectives On a School-Based Public Health Intervention**

Sofia Kvist Lindholm and Karin Zetterqvist Nelson

*Children & Society*, 05/2014 Vol.29 (5) 2014

This article focuses on a psycho-educational programme, DISA, currently practised in the Swedish schools to prevent girls from developing depressive symptoms. We draw on group interviews with schoolgirls to explore how they describe DISA and how an understanding of the programme is constructed through their arguments. We demonstrate how the girls' version of DISA highlights a contradiction in the intervention that is traceable to the theoretical underpinnings of the programme and the mix of traditions — treatment and prevention — that constitute the intervention. We discuss problematic aspects of DISA and outline implications for policy practice.

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### **Young people's perspectives on participatory ethics: agency, power and impact in domestic abuse research and policy-making**

Claire Houghton

*Child abuse review*, Vol.24, Iss.4 July-Aug 2015 pp 235-244 Examines young people's participation in domestic

abuse policy-making and challenges the exclusion of the child's voice from the development of ethical practice.

Outlines a participatory ethical approach that the inclusion and empowerment of young people who have experienced family violence. The approach is co-developed by young expert advisors on Scottish domestic abuse policy (2009-11). Presents key messages for practitioners, including: children have an essential voice in risk assessment; they are competent decision-makers; participation can be a powerful therapeutic tool.

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### **Young people as moral beings: childhood, morality and intergenerational relationships**

Joanne Britton

*Children and society* (Vol.29, No.5) September 2015 pp 495-507 Outlines a study of 20 young people aged between 12 and 17 years-old looking at how they presented a moral self. The intergenerational study included interviews with 17 older people aged more than 55 years-old to identify similarities and differences that apply to the everyday life of people belonging to the two age ranges. Concludes that young people reflect critically on their behaviour and that of other young people and adults to present a moral self.

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### **A critical exploration of staff perceptions of Aboriginal boarding students' experiences**

David J Mander, Lynne Cohen, Julie A Poole

*Australian Journal of Education*, November 2015 vol. 59 no. 3 312-328

This exploratory study investigated how staff at four private boys' boarding schools in Perth, Western Australia, constructed meaning and understanding around the experience of studying away from home and family for Aboriginal students from regional and remote communities. Interviews were conducted with 16 participants recruited from the four schools.

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### **The role of perceived peer norms in the relationship between media violence exposure and adolescents' aggression**

Karin M. Fikkersa et al.

*Media Psychology*, (In Press) October 2015

This study investigated the role of a social context variable, perceived peer norms, in the relationship between media violence exposure and adolescents' aggressive behavior. This was informed by a need to better understand whether, how, and for whom media violence exposure may affect aggression. Three hypotheses were tested with peer norms as moderator, as mediator, and as both moderator and mediator in the relationship between media violence and aggression. The study shows that only some teens are susceptible to media violence. Among teens who consume much media violence and perceive more aggression (hitting, kicking) among their peers, their perceptions about approval of aggression change. These teens conclude that their friends find aggressive behavior more acceptable, and are then more likely to act aggressively themselves. Surprisingly, among teens who grow up in a non-aggressive environment (who do not perceive their peers to be aggressive), the opposite happened. These teens do not seem to integrate the violent messages in the media with the behavior of their friends and are less likely to become aggressive after playing violent games or watching violent TV shows.

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### **What is the relationship between risky outdoor play and health in children? A systematic review**

Mariana Brussoni et al.

*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2015, 12(6), 6423-6454

The researchers conducted a systematic review to examine the relationship between risky outdoor play and health in children, in order to inform the debate regarding its benefits and harms. They identified and evaluated 21 relevant papers for quality using the GRADE framework. Included articles addressed the effect on health indicators and behaviours from three types of risky play, as well as risky play supportive environments. The systematic review revealed overall positive effects of risky outdoor play on a variety of health indicators and behaviours, most commonly physical activity, but also social health and behaviours, injuries, and aggression.

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## Characteristics of suicide notes of children and young adolescents: An examination of the notes from suicide victims 15 years and younger

Anne Freuchen, Berit Grøholt

*Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, April 2015 vol. 20 no. 2, 194-206

Analysis of suicide notes left by children 15 years and younger in an attempt to gain insight into the process leading to suicide and characteristics of the note writers. Examines 23 suicide messages left by 18 adolescents whose death was classified as suicide in Norway from 1993-2004 and compares note writers to non-note writers. Results show key messages were to explain the reasons for suicide, to declare love and leave instructions. Note-writers had showed suicidal behaviour more frequently than non-note writers. In the notes, young people presented themselves as fully responsible and without confusion or overwhelming despair.

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## Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

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

NOVEMBER 2015		
11-13 November	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Youth Health Conference 2015</a>
17-18 November	Kelvin Grove Qld	<a href="#">Prevention of violence against children: research, policy and practice symposium</a>
19 November	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">The School Counsellors &amp; Psychologists (SCAP) Conference</a>
20 November	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">Rights of the Child Consumer - Presented by the Australian Children's Commissioner in partnership with ACCM : Early bird registration now available</a>
25-27 November	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">12th Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference</a>
25 November	National, State and Territory events	<a href="#">White Ribbon Day : Australia's campaign to stop violence against women</a>
25-27 November	Adelaide SA	<a href="#">Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference</a>
25-27 November	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Social Media for Gov: Building Participative Governments</a>
27-29 November	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">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</a>
30 November - 1 December	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">Second Australasian Conference on Islam: Radicalisation and Islamophobia Roots, Relationships and Implications in Religiously Diverse Societies</a>
DECEMBER 2015		
1-3 December	Cairns Qld	<a href="#">National Indigenous Health Conference</a>
2-3 December	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Youth Employment Pathways</a>

7 December	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">SmartHealth: 7th International Workshop on Technologies for Health and Wellbeing</a>
7-8 December	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">Livin' It: Let's Work With It. People, Employment and Mental Health</a>
7-9 December	Canberra ACT	<a href="#">Stop Domestic Violence Conference</a>
<b>JANUARY 2016</b>		
14 January	London, UK	<a href="#">Guns, Gangs and Knives: Working in Partnership to Tackle Serious Youth Violence</a>
<b>FEBRUARY 2016</b>		
23-25 February	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">ANROWS Inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and their Children</a>
<b>APRIL 2016</b>		
12-13 April	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Think Outcomes 2016: Centre for Social Impact (CSI) and Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA)</a>
18-19 April	Gold Coast Qld	<a href="#">No to Bullying Conference</a>
<b>MAY 2016</b>		
23-24 May	Brisbane Qld	<a href="#">2016 Child Aware Approaches Conference</a>
<b>JUNE 2016</b>		
6-10 June	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Second Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference</a>
<b>JULY 2016</b>		
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference.</a>
19-23 July	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">22nd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA)</a>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>		
8-10 September	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Early Childhood Intervention Australia Conference</a>
26-28 September	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Conference 2016 - Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health - looking to the future</a>

If you have a query about any of the content please contact Barbara Glass at:  
Email: [barbara.glass@acyp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barbara.glass@acyp.nsw.gov.au) or Ph. 9286 7294