

Advocate for Children and Young People

Current awareness bulletin

January 2016

Contents

From the web	1
Recent journal articles	14
Forthcoming conferences and events	18

From the web

CHILD RIGHTS

One in Three: Internet Governance and Children's Rights

Sonia Livingstone, John Carr and Jasmina Byrne; Global Commission on Internet Governance Paper Series No.22
November 2015

An estimated one in three of all internet users is under the age of 18. This paper argues that Internet governance bodies give little consideration to children's rights, despite growing calls from international child rights organizations to address their rights in the digital age.

[Weblink](#)

CHILD PROTECTION

Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 - Third Action Plan 2015-2018

Department of Social Services

December 2015

The Council of Australian Governments endorsed the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 (the National Framework) on 30 April 2009. The National Framework is being implemented through a series of three-year action plans. The Third Action Plan was developed through close collaboration between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and the non-government sector, through the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children. The Third Action Plan comprises three overarching strategies that prioritise efforts on early intervention and prevention and highlight action on critical areas of children's wellbeing. The Department has released a range of resources that can be used to support the strategies of the Third Action Plan.

[Weblink](#)

Supporting quality contact visits for children in out-of-home care

Dr Tim Moore, Prof Morag McArthur and Erin Barry; Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), Australian Catholic University

January 2016

Based on a literature review and broader ICPS research, this ICPS Research to Practice Series Issue 10 discusses the ways in which children in out-of-home care, parents and foster carers can be supported to participate in contact visits. The work is based on a literature review on supervised contact between children in out-of-home care and their parents, and draws upon the broader ICPS study; kContact: Keeping Contact between Parents and Children in Care.

[Weblink](#)

Being Safe and Feeling Safe: Children's Conceptualisations of Interpersonal Safety

Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), Australian Catholic University

December 2015

This ICPS Research to Practice Series Issue 11 explores children and young people's conceptualisations of interpersonal safety, and what gives rise to these perceptions. The review is based on the findings of the first part of a study conducted by ICPS, commissioned by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which examined children's experiences and perceptions of safety in institutions.

[Weblink](#)

DISABILITY

Access to real learning: the impact of policy, funding and culture on students with disability

The Senate Education and Employment References Committee

January 2016

The national inquiry by the Senate Education and Employment References Committee received almost 300 submissions from families of children with a disability, education experts and disability advocates, outlining a culture of low expectations for children with a disability. The inquiry found that the school system is failing children with a disability, that they are routinely refused enrolment, bullied and abused and the Committee was "shocked and saddened" by evidence children were being denied their right to an education.

[Weblink](#)

Resilience / thriving in post-secondary students with disabilities : an exploratory study

Rahul Ganguly, Charlotte Brownlow, Jan Du Preez et al.; National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education
November 2015

This study explores the lived experiences of students with a self-disclosed disability enrolled at a regional university in Australia. In stage one, a web-based survey was used to gather data on socio-demographics, disability characteristics, career optimism, wellbeing, academic satisfaction, and resilience from students with self-disclosed disability at one regional Australian university. In stage two, interviews were conducted with 30 students with self-disclosed disabilities to gain an in-depth understanding of the strategies used by these students to negotiate barriers to participation in higher education settings.

[Weblink](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Children's exposure to domestic and family violence : Key issues and responses

Monica Campo ; Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS). CFA Paper No. 36

December 2015

This paper presents an overview of the effects of domestic and family violence on children, and outlines a range of evidence-based responses. It reviews international evidence on the effect of such violence on children. Anne Hollands, Director of the AIFS, says children who grow up with violence at homes are more likely to experience other forms of maltreatment like sexual, physical and emotional abuse, which effect every part

of their development. She says adult mental health problems like anxiety and depression, also homelessness can become issues.

[Weblink](#)

Responding to family violence: A survey of family law practices and experiences ; Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments

Rae Kaspiew, Rachel Carson, Melissa Coulson et al. ;
October 2015

This study is the first component of a three-part research program, the Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments, that examines the effects of amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) (FLA) that came into operation on 7 June 2012.

[Weblink](#)

Domestic and family violence in regional, rural and remote communities : An overview of key issues

Monica Campo and Sarah Tayton ; Australian Institute of Family Studies ; CFCA Practitioner Resource
December 2015

An overview of the issues unique to domestic and family violence in regional, rural and remote communities.

[Weblink](#)

Intimate partner violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer communities: Key issues

Monica Campo and Sarah Tayton ; Australian Institute of Family Studies ; CFCA Practitioner Resource
December 2015

Outlines the issues around intimate partner violence in LGBTIQ communities and describes implications for practice.

[Weblink](#)

The economic costs of child abuse and neglect

Australian Institute of Family Studies ; CFCA Resource Sheet
December 2015

This paper examines expenditure related to child abuse and neglect by departments responsible for child protection services in Australia. The broader long-term costs of child abuse and neglect to society are also discussed.

[Weblink](#)

Adolescent violence in the home: How is it different to adult family violence?

Jo Howard, Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) Australian Institute of Family Studies
December 2015

Short article describes the issue of adolescent violence in the home, and outlines how it is similar to but distinct from other forms of family violence. Adolescents who abuse their parents use similar strategies to violent men to gain control and power. They often coerce, threaten and intimidate, destroy property and possessions and physically assault their parents. Global research indicates most victims are mothers and most offenders are males - a gendered presentation similar to adult family violence (Howard 2011). However, female adolescents are also offenders and fathers and other family relatives may be victims.

[Weblink](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Amplifying Human Potential: Education and Skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Future Foundation ; Infosys
January 2016

Report provides insight into a generation that is positive about technology, keen on success-oriented learning, and not entirely satisfied about their formal education. The study, commissioned by Infosys and conducted by independent research agency Future Foundation found that young Australians are the least prepared for the digital revolution. The global report was released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) and ties in with the

WEF's theme "The Fourth Industrial Revolution". More than 9,000 students globally, including 1,000 Australians aged 16-25, were surveyed about the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills gap issue. The report showed a great divide between developed and developing economies is emerging globally, with Australia trailing behind both. Countries surveyed were Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

[Weblink](#)

Learning Curve 10 - Effective Leadership

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, NSW Education
November 2015

A snapshot of the current workforce profile of principals in NSW government schools. It also outlines the research evidence on what makes an effective principal and the best ways to identify, develop and support aspiring school principals. Key messages include that high-performing school systems proactively identify candidates and place them on a leadership development track and that formal mentoring and coaching is an important component of leadership preparation, and is a feature of the best pre-service and in-service leadership development programs.

[Weblink](#)

Building Our Nation Through Public Education

Professor Alan Reid, University of South Australia
November 2015

Research paper outlining the history and consequences of the inequity between funding for public and private schools in Australia. It calls for greater support to strengthen Australia's public schools and recognise the benefits of public education for children.

[Weblink](#)

Student outcomes 2015

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
December 2015

A snapshot of graduate outcomes from Australia's government-funded VET sector for 2015, six months after training; and employers' use and views of the VET system in 2015. Government-funded VET is broadly defined as all activity delivered by government providers and government-funded activity delivered by community education and private training providers.

[Weblink](#)

Young people in education and training 2014

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
December 2015

Summary of statistics relating to young Australians aged 15 to 19 years who participated in education and training during 2014. It brings together data on young people in education and training from multiple sources. It is estimated that, as at August 2014, 82.7% of young Australians aged 15 to 19 years old participated in education and training. The estimate suggests: 55.8% were at school, and of these 14.6% participated in VET in Schools programs. 15.9% of young Australians aged 15 to 19 years old were enrolled in higher education, 4.7% were undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship, which was not part of a VET in Schools program and 6.1% were enrolled in other VET programs.

[Weblink](#)

EMPLOYMENT

The Future of Jobs: Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution : Global Challenge Insight Report

World Economic Forum (WEF)
January 2016

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report seeks to understand the current and future impact of key disruptions on employment levels, skill sets and recruitment patterns in different industries and countries. Data and research collected and analysed by WEF's researchers indicate that a Fourth Industrial Revolution is underway and will cause widespread disruption not only to business models but also to labour markets over the next five years, with enormous change predicted in the skill sets needed to thrive in the new landscape. This revolution includes developments in previously disjointed fields such as artificial intelligence and machine-learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3-D printing, and genetics and biotechnology.

[Weblink](#)

The Future of Jobs: Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution : Executive Summary

World Economic Forum (WEF)

January 2016

This is an executive summary of the key information and findings presented in the Global Challenge Insight Report, The Future of Jobs: Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The research collected and analysed by WEF's researchers indicate that a Fourth Industrial Revolution is underway and will cause widespread disruption not only to business models but also to labour markets over the next five years, with enormous change predicted in the skill sets needed to thrive in the new landscape. This revolution includes developments in previously disjointed fields such as artificial intelligence and machine-learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3-D printing, and genetics and biotechnology.

[Weblink](#)

The Industry Gender Gap: Women and Work in the Fourth Industrial Revolution : Executive summary

World Economic Forum (WEF)

January 2016

As the Fourth Industrial Revolution takes hold in different industries and job families, it will affect female and male workers in distinct ways. By their very nature, many of the major drivers of transformation currently affecting global industries have the potential to enable the narrowing of industry gender gaps that continue to be widespread in most industries today, aggravating hiring processes and future workforce planning due to a more restricted talent pool. The report seeks to understand the future impacts on gender equality and finds that views concerning the barriers to women's workforce participation vary by industry and often reflect different industry cultures in addition to overarching economic and societal factors.

[Weblink](#)

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

How do intergenerational transfers affect housing and wealth? Briefing paper

Garry Barrett, Stephen Whelan, Gavin Wood et al.; Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

December 2015

This project quantifies wealth transfers from Australian parents to their children, models their impact in aiding home ownership for recipients, and estimates its impact on broader economic outcomes such as wealth distribution.

[Weblink](#)

State of Australian Cities conferences: a collection of online papers 2005 - 2013

Australian Policy Online

December 2015

Australian Policy Online has announced that a new collection of all available papers from SOAC conferences from 2005 to 2013, have been brought together in one place for download. The State of Australian Cities (SOAC) national conferences have been held biennially since 2003 under the aegis of the Australian Sustainable Cities and Regions Network. To find papers relating to children and young people enter 'children' in the search window. Topics covered include Walkability and children's quality of life; transitions to independent mobility; children's participation in urban planning etc.

[Weblink](#)

Faith, ethnicity, place: young people's everyday geopolitics in Scotland

Peter Hopkins, Katherine Botterill, Gurchathen Sanghera et al.

January 2016

Newcastle, St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities research on the experiences of ethnic and religious minority young people growing up in Scotland. The study focuses on islamophobia and the way in which international, national and local issues shape their everyday lives. The research focused on the experiences of six different groups of young people: Muslims; Non-Muslim South Asians; Asylum-seekers and refugees; International students; Central and Eastern European migrants and white Scottish young people.

[Weblink](#)

Parks for teens: 10 features teens want to see

Victoria Derr, Child in the City, European Network Child Friendly Cities

December 2015

In many parts of the world, park designers have turned to nature play as a way to foster connections to nature, increase social and cooperative play, and facilitate more physical activity. In many instances, these parks are designed for pre-teen children. Like more traditional playgrounds, these spaces often exclude teenagers through their design.

[Weblink](#)

The resilience and ordinariness of Australian Muslims: Attitudes and experiences of Muslims Report

Professor Kevin Dunn, Ms Rosalie Atie, Dr Virginia Mapedzahama et al.; Western Sydney University; ISRA; Charles Sturt University

November 2015

This research project sets out to collect evidence as to whether incompatibility and disaffection is as widespread as the research and inquiries to date infer. The project is anchored within the emerging scholarship on 'everyday multiculturalism' and 'ordinary cosmopolitanism', which emphasise the everyday unproblematic nature of most cross-cultural encounters in culturally diverse societies. Researchers suggest there is no compelling empirical evidence in Australia to support the case for widespread violent extremism (or vulnerability to it) among Muslims, nor is there evidence to suggest widespread alienation.

[Weblink](#)

HEALTH

Wave 6 data release

Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

December 2015

Wave 6 was conducted in 2014, when the K cohort children were aged 14 – 15 years old and the B cohort children 10 – 11 years old. Many new measures were included in this wave for the K cohort children: Executive functioning, Vocational education and future work aspirations, puberty, alcohol use, self harm, sources of emotional support, and eating disorders and dietary restraint. Note: Wave 6 data users are also able to apply separately for Australian Early Development Census data for the B cohort, which measures health and development in a child's first year of full-time school.

[Weblink](#)

The social supply of cannabis among young people in Australia

Simon Lenton, Jodie Grigg, John Scott et al. ; Australian Institute of Criminology, Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice no. 503

December 2015

The authors recruited cannabis users aged between 18 and 30 years throughout Australia, to explore the impact of supply routes on young users and their perceived notions of drug dealing in order to provide valuable insight into the influence that reciprocal relationships have on young people's access to cannabis. Findings reveal that the supply of cannabis revolves around pre-existing connections and relationships formed through associates known to be able to readily source cannabis. It was found that motivations for proffering cannabis in

a shared environment were related more to developing social capital than to generating financial gain. Given this, often those involved in supply do not perceive that they are breaking the law or that they are 'dealers'.

[Weblink](#)

Australian Child Health Poll : Top ten child health problems

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

December 2015

The Royal Children's Hospital Australian Child Health Poll is a quarterly, national survey of Australian households shedding new light on the big issues in contemporary child and adolescent health - as told by the Australian public. This latest Poll of what the Australian public thinks are the top ten child health problems has found almost 60 per cent of Australians say excessive screen time is affecting the health of children and young people. Obesity and dental problems are also of concern, ranking highly in the top ten perceived health problems related to modern lifestyle, mental health concerns and child safety.

[Weblink](#)

Equally Protected? a review of the evidence on the physical punishment of children

Dr Anja Heilmann et al.; University College London (UCL)

November 2015

A review commissioned by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Scotland, Barnardo's Scotland, Children 1st and the Children's Commissioner for Scotland. The review presents very strong evidence of the harmful effects of physical punishment on children and their families.

[Weblink](#)

Convergence of gambling and gaming in digital media

Dr. Sally M. Gainsbury, Dr. Daniel L. King et al., Southern Cross University; Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation

September 2015

Intelligence-gathering project to explore the convergence between gambling and gaming and its implications for young people. The study looked at the extent to which young people are exposed to gambling-themed content in games, and how this influences their gambling behaviour. It also considered how gambling-themed games are promoted to young people and what impact this might have on them. The project team reviewed academic literature on gambling and gaming and developed a typology of how the two overlap. Report includes recommendations for action by key agencies including the foundation, government, social networking sites and industry, with the aim of minimising gambling harm among young people.

[Weblink](#)

The far reaching benefits of a good start in life [Webinar resources]

Yvonne Kelly, Professor of Lifecourse Epidemiology at University College London; Child, Family Community Australia (CFCA) in partnership with Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA)

November 2015

This webinar provided an overview of lifecourse research in the UK that documents influences on children's and young people's health and wellbeing, and explored how prevention and intervention strategies can assist more effectively. Access the full recording on YouTube, and the audio, slides and transcript at the weblink.

[Weblink](#)

Play: A report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood

Helen Clark, Chair, The Working Group, a sub-group of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood

October 2015

The report calls for a re-evaluation of play policy in the UK including guidance for parents and training for health and education professionals. It promotes play as central to a child's learning and healthy development. The Group defines play as 'In essence what children freely choose to do when their time and ability to act are entirely their own'. The discussion explores the barriers and opportunities for children's play in a devolved United Kingdom, the resulting impact on children's health; the range of potential solutions available and the

role and responsibility of different tiers of government, with practical recommendations for action.

[Weblink](#)

The Critical Place of Play in Education

Dolores A. Stegelin, Kathleen Fite and Debora Wisneski; US Play Coalition and The Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI)

February 2015

This paper depicts the current generation in America as less likely to walk or cycle to school, play outside in a variety of environments and make diverse neighbourhood friendships. Instead, a toxic brew of adult fear (stranger danger, traffic density), school restriction (shortened playtimes, 'organised' activity, poor use of space) and parental ignorance has resulted in an indoor norm for children that is characteristically passive, sedentary, and solitary; thereby making a strong contribution to the obesity crisis besetting the American population.

[Weblink](#)

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Towards Increasing young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of work through employment services focused mentoring : An urban case study

Philippa Hawke

December 2015

Mentoring is under the spotlight as a strategy to address the high rates of unemployment and low rates of job retention in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A series of evaluative studies of a Federal government funded pilot program were conducted by the Jobs Services Australia provider, BoysTown, over the course of the three year pilot. These studies found the mentoring model used on this site, whilst not reaching Department of Employment three year indicators of success, nevertheless achieved a number of important outcomes within the three year timeframe. These included expanded bridging forms of social capital in the local Aboriginal community, achieved through overall increased engagement in the labour market by their young people. This paper describes the phases involved in assisting program clients to achieve increased rates of job seeking, placement and long-term retention, and maps the spectrum of mentoring activities required at each stage.

[Weblink](#)

Good Beginnings: Getting it right in the early years

L. Emerson, S. Fox and C. Smith

July 2015

A compendium of three papers commissioned as part of the Stewardship Dialogues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, a project of the Lowitja Institute. The first two were written to inform the discussion during the Stewardship Dialogues and the third was written after the Dialogues to address an identified need for decision makers to have access to a more systematic review of the evidence about the effectiveness of different interventions. These papers review the evidence on the importance of a healthy start to life and on interventions to promote good beginnings.

[Weblink](#)

Educational Outcomes of Young Indigenous Australians

Mahuteau, S., Karmel, T., Mavromaras et al.; National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University

November 2015

Report examining progress in the educational outcomes of young Indigenous Australians. Findings show substantial differences between the academic performance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. However, the study found that if the size of the gap is reduced at age 15, there will be a significant flow through to improved educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians at later stages of their education. The report was submitted to the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE), Australia.

[Weblink](#)

LAW AND JUSTICE

Young delinquents: Risk and protective factors for Australian children

The Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) Information Exchange; Australian Institute of Family Studies
September 2015

This short article is based on chapter 7 in The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children Annual statistical report 2014. It provides a quick and accessible look into the findings and show that children involved in crime and delinquency from an early age are at greater risk of developing a range of problems throughout the life course. These can include school failure, drug and alcohol abuse, unwanted pregnancy and dangerous driving in the teenage years. Life-course persistent offending and associated problems, such as unemployment, financial difficulties, troubled interpersonal relationships and family violence can also become significant issues for these children as they grow up.

[Weblink](#)

Youth detention population in Australia 2015

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
December 2015

AHW Bulletin 131 presents information on the youth detention population in Australia, focusing on quarterly trends from June 2011 to June 2015. There were fewer than 900 young people in detention on an average night in the June quarter 2015, just over half (55%) of whom were unsentenced. Numbers and rates of young people in detention dropped slightly over the 4 years, but trends varied among the states and territories. Just over half (54%) of all young people in detention on an average night were Indigenous.

[Weblink](#)

Can child protection data improve the prediction of re-offending in young persons?

Clare Ringland, Don Weatherburn, Suzanne Poynton, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 188
January 2016

This study examined whether the inclusion of child protection data improves the ability to predict re-offending in young persons with few prior formal contacts with the criminal justice system.

[Weblink](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Bright Futures Megatrends Report

CSIRO ; commissioned by VicHealth
December 2015

CSIRO scientists have identified five megatrends that will impact the mental wellbeing of young people – those aged between 12 and 25 years. The report paints a picture of the challenges facing young people into the future and raises questions about how Victoria can educate and prepare our youth to be resilient and adaptable in a world characterised by decreasing job security, increasing global reach and competition, greater diversity where identification of the mainstream is difficult, over-exposure to the internet and new health service delivery models.

[Weblink](#)

VicHealth Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019

VicHealth
December 2015

The new VicHealth Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2015–2019 is part of VicHealth’s organisational goal to have one million more Victorians with better health and wellbeing, including 200,000 more people resilient and connected by 2023. The information gathered in the report Bright Futures Megatrends identified that focusing on young people aged 12-25 years, was an important part of the mental wellbeing picture. VicHealth's priority

focus for the next 3 years is therefore building resilience and social connection with a particular focus on young people aged 12-25 years old.

[Weblink](#)

Mental health resources for young people

ReachOut Australia

January 2016

The voices of young Australian actors feature in seven new audio stories to help young people manage challenging situations and feelings. The stories, covering social anxiety, abusive relationships and post-traumatic stress disorder, complement over 900 other fact sheets, personal stories and videos on the ReachOut Australia website.

[Weblink](#)

Our Children Can't Wait: Review of the implementation of recommendations of the 2011 Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in WA

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

December 2015

Detailed review of what has been achieved since the 2011 Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia. The review found that while progress has been made in enhanced services for young people, shortfalls in access remain in critical areas. These include access to appropriate specialist services for children and young people with severe mental health needs, and the need for prevention and early intervention strategies to address their mental health before problems become severe.

[Weblink](#)

Focus on: bullying and mental health

Neil Tippett; Anti-bullying Alliance

November 2015

Review of the latest findings, both in the UK and internationally, on the impact of involvement in school bullying (as a victim, bully, or bully-victim) on mental health throughout adolescence and into adulthood.

[Weblink](#)

PARTICIPATION

What we need now : the world's young people speak [Summary and brochure]

YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association)

November 2015

The YMCA set out to hear from the world's Young People to hear their views and to better understand their needs, with the view to helping give the young people of the world a voice. To achieve this, the World YMCA reached out to young people aged 15-24 through local YMCAs, across the globe in over 60 countries.

[Weblink](#)

POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

FACS annual report 2014-15

Department of Family and Community Services (FACS)

December 2015

Overview of the work FACS have undertaken over the past year including the continued implementation of the Safe Home for Life reforms, which aim to provide a permanent and stable home for life for every child; progressing work to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future for social housing; funding much needed re-investment in social housing through the sale of high value properties at Millers Point; and moving ahead of schedule in rolling out the National Disability Insurance Scheme in NSW.

[Weblink](#)

The PATRICIA Project: PATHways in Research In Collaborative Inter-Agency working: State of knowledge paper

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS) ; Landscapes Issue Fourteen November 2015

This paper presents the state of knowledge on practices or processes used by child protection services and specialist domestic violence services or family law services to work better together and improve service responses for women and children living with and separating from family violence. A framework of interagency working was used to help identify the types of interagency components - including infrastructure and service components - involved in each model. Processes taken to support or facilitate the interface with child protection were also considered. The paper identified 24 models of interagency working involving some degree of child protection involvement. It found that while working together towards similar goals for families seems a logical way of improving processes to reduce fragmentation, gaps, overlap and redundancies in service provision, there is currently insufficient evidence that these changes improve outcomes for children and families.

[Weblink](#)

POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Thinking about the future: Social Housing in NSW Report from the Social Housing in NSW Forum

Family and Community Services, NSW Government

July 2015

On the 25 May 2015, Minister Hazzard held a discussion forum at Sydney Technology Park as a follow up to the recent consultation process and to hear first hand the issues facing social housing in NSW. Approximately 200 participants took part in the discussion forum and included social housing tenants and representatives of the finance, community housing, social enterprise, social welfare, disability, aged care/retirement living, and property development sectors. A report, Thinking about the future (PDF), summarises feedback from the forum.

[Weblink](#)

What we heard: A summary of feedback on the Social Housing in NSW. Discussion Paper

Department of Family and Community Services

May 2015

report on recent extensive public consultation involving more than 1,700 participants and more than 900 written submissions. feedback report on the NSW Social Housing Discussion paper. The NSW Government has entered a memorandum of understanding with peak social and infrastructure bodies to develop a fund to facilitate up to \$1 billion in new social and affordable housing. There is also exciting work coming out of the Premier's Innovation Initiative on social housing assets. report provides a summary of the recurring themes that emerged from the consultation process. It synthesises the ideas and perspectives brought to the table in face-to-face consultations and in written submissions. comprehensive consultation strategy, which ran between November 2014 and February 2015.

[Weblink](#)

Specialist homelessness services 2014-15

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

December 2015

The Specialist homelessness services 2014-15 web report is the fourth annual report from the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection and the first presented as a web report. It describes the characteristics of clients of specialist homelessness services, the services requested, outcomes achieved, and unmet requests for services during 2014-15. Findings show that indigenous clients continue to be over-represented among homelessness service users with 1 in 4 users being indigenous, compared with just 1 in 33 of the population overall; and the more remote the area the greater the proportion of clients needing short term accommodation.

[Weblink](#)

Inner Sydney Registry week survey identifies housing and support needs of 516 homeless people [includes infographic for youth survey results]

Homelessness NSW

December 2015

Homelessness NSW welcomes the release of the Inner Sydney Registry Week data as a launch pad to effectively eliminate homelessness in inner Sydney. 516 homeless people were surveyed and showed that 65% of the population group surveyed require either just affordable accommodation or affordable accommodation and short term support. However 35% require accommodation and ongoing support - probably for the rest of their life. The Registry data includes a section on youth homelessness.

[Weblink](#)

Young and homeless 2015

Homeless Link UK

December 2015

The third annual Young and Homeless report explores the reasons young people in UK became homeless in 2015, the support available to them, and areas that need to be improved. Key findings include that young people are now the most likely group to be living in poverty; that young people in UK have been adversely impacted by changes to the welfare system and that there have been significant cuts to youth services in the past five years.

[Weblink](#)

SEXUALITY

Transgender Equality

House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, UK

January 2016

Report indicates there is still a long way to go to ensure equality for transgender people, despite welcome progress. The report of this new committee's first inquiry makes over 30 recommendations in a wide range of policy areas. It calls on the UK Government to take action to ensure full equality for trans people, emphasising the need to update existing legislation; provide better services, especially in the NHS; and improve confidence in the criminal justice system.

[Weblink](#)

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Sexting among young people: Perceptions and practices

Murray Lee, Thomas Crofts, Alyce McGovern et al. ; Australian Institute of Criminology

December 2015

The study examines the impact of sexting (the distribution of sexually explicit photos and videos) on young people. It highlights the current gender imbalance, with young women more likely to be shamed through sexting rather than their sexting partner. The study found very little evidence of peer pressure or coercion to engage in sexting. Rather, young people reported engaging in the practice as a consensual and enjoyable part of their intimate relationships. The paper considers the implications of this for legal and policy responses to sexting.

[Weblink](#)

Parents, teens and digital monitoring

Monica Anderson, Pew Research Center

January 2016

A universal challenge of parenthood is striking a balance between allowing independent exploration and providing an appropriate level of parental oversight. These concerns are not limited to parents. Lawmakers and advocates have raised concerns about issues such as online safety, cyberbullying and privacy issues affecting

teens. This Pew Research Center survey of parents of 13 to 17 year olds finds that today's parents take a wide range of actions to monitor their teen's online lives and to encourage their child to use technology in an appropriate and responsible manner.

[Weblink](#)

The Children's Media Conference - CMC 2015, 1-3 July 2015, Sheffield UK [Conference downloads]

The Children's Media Conference Limited

July 2015

Podcasts and papers presented at CMC 2015. Conference themes include the on-going changes in audience behaviours, the competition for attention and retention, shifting dynamics in the business of kids' media, new ways of engaging and cutting-through, and the new creators – as kids take control. Research topics included - Children's Media Use: A Changing World; Has Digital Changed Play?; Exploring Online Identity with Neuroscience.

[Weblink](#)

Screened Out; Meeting the challenge of technology and young people's wellbeing

Gordon Cameron and James Lloyd; Strategic Society Centre, UK

October 2015

Screen-based media - TVs, computers, smartphones - can now occupy every waking hour of people's lives, and this profound social change is most observable among young people. Quantitative research from the University of Essex has found using screen-based media and online social networking sites is associated with lower levels of wellbeing among young people in the UK. The research was based on a survey of around 5,000 young people aged 10-15, who were representative of the 4,365,600 adolescents in the UK in this age-group. The research found significant negative associations between increased screen-based media (SBM) exposure, social-networking site (SNS) use, and levels of happiness.

[Weblink](#)

Digital dangers: the impact of technology on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people

Tink Palmer; Barnardos UK in partnership with the Marie Collins Foundation

November 2015

Report highlights how changes and availability of technology impacts on the behaviours of children and young people; those intent on causing them harm; on parents and carers; and on the professionals working to safeguard and protect children and young people. The study makes it clear that the ways in which children can be sexually exploited online do not always follow the models of sexual exploitation that we are familiar with. Children at risk may be younger than those referred to services for offline sexual exploitation, and may not fit into standard definitions of 'vulnerable'.

[Weblink](#)

VIOLENCE

Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012: Key findings and future directions

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS) ; Compass (Research to Policy and Practice paper) Issue Two

October 2015

The ANROWS research project Violence against women in Australia provides substantial additional analysis of data collected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2012 Personal Safety Survey (PSS). The Compass paper and 11 infographics present key findings and future directions.

[Weblink](#)

A high price to pay: The economic case for preventing violence against women

PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC)

November 2015

The report requested by Our Watch and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) aims to estimate the costs and benefits of preventing violence against women and understand the effectiveness of different prevention strategies. The report is intended to be a public submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and inform policymaking.

[Weblink](#)

Local perspectives in ending gang and youth violence areas : Perceptions of the nature of urban street gangs

Emma Disley, Mark Liddle ; UK Home Office Research Report 88

January 2016

The aim of this study was to understand perceptions of the nature of urban street gangs and whether these gangs have changed in recent years in the 33 areas that make up the Government's Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) programme (HM Government, 2011a). The EGYV programme aims to improve the way that gangs are tackled locally through providing peer support to local areas to help prevent young people becoming involved in violence; providing exit routes for those already involved in gangs; and ensuring that appropriate enforcement responses are put in place to address challenges associated with gangs. The findings were based largely on practitioners' perceptions.

[Weblink](#)

Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: Spotting Signals of Risk and Supporting Children and Young People

Early Intervention Foundation and the UK Home Office

November 2015

Three reports with the aim of helping local areas in the UK make more informed decisions about how best to identify those children and young people who may be at risk of involvement in gangs or youth violence, and what types of programmes or interventions appear to work or not to work in preventing involvement in gangs and youth violence. The first report is a review of risk and protective factors based on academic studies which followed individuals, often from early childhood and collected data on risk variables at regular intervals to identify which ones correlate most strongly with later outcomes. The second report looks at the features associated with effective and ineffective interventions delivered in the UK and abroad and examines what the evidence tells us about how best to respond to these risks. There is also an Overview report for download at this webpage.

[Weblink](#)

Recent journal articles

Burden attributable to child maltreatment in Australia

Sophie E. Moore, James G. Scott, Alize J. Ferrari et al.

Child Abuse and Neglect, Volume 48, October 2015, Pages 208–220

The four main types of child maltreatment (childhood sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect) have been linked to adverse health consequences and exposure to multiple forms of maltreatment increases risk. In Australia to date, only burden attributable to childhood sexual abuse has been estimated. This study synthesized the national evidence and quantified the burden attributable to the four main types of child maltreatment. The research found that child maltreatment contributes to a substantial proportion of burden from depressive and anxiety disorders and intentional self-harm in Australia. This study demonstrates the importance of including all forms of child maltreatment as risk factors in future burden of disease studies.

[Weblink](#)

Implicit measures for preschool children confirm self-esteem's role in maintaining a balanced identity

Dario Cvencek, Anthony G. Greenwald, Andrew N. Meltzoff

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Volume 62, January 2016, Pages 50-57

Self-esteem is one of social psychology's central constructs. Despite the wide endorsement of the importance of self-esteem, there remains substantial variation in theoretical conceptions of how self-esteem functions. To help address this point, 234 5-year-old children were tested in 3 studies that used a new implicit measure, the Preschool Implicit Association Test (PSIAT). The PSIAT assessed associations of (a) me with good (self-esteem),

(b) me with boy or girl (gender identity), and (c) boy or girl with good (gender attitude). The results documented self-esteem in 5-year-olds, as well as own-gender identity and gender in-group preferences. Interestingly, children who had high self-esteem and strong own-gender identity displayed strong gender in-group preferences, supporting balanced identity theory's theoretical expectations that implicit self-esteem serves an identity-maintenance function, even for young children. By preschool age, children display fundamental properties of adult implicit social cognition that relate to maintenance and functioning of group identities.

[Weblink](#)

Adult and adolescent exposure to tobacco and alcohol content in contemporary YouTube music videos in Great Britain: a population estimate

Jo Cranwell, Magdalena Opazo-Breton, John Britton

Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Published Online First 14 January 2016

Researchers from the University of Nottingham examined music videos in Britain's top 40 chart during a three-month period between late 2013 and early 2014. They found that 32 of the top 40 music videos contained 821 10-second intervals, of which 47 included tobacco content and 233 included alcohol content. Electronic cigarettes appeared in six intervals. When they looked at surveys of British people about how often they viewed these videos on YouTube, they found that 22 per cent of teens had watched them. Authors conclude that YouTube music videos deliver millions of gross impressions of alcohol and tobacco content. Adolescents are exposed much more than adults. Music videos are a major global medium of exposure to such content.

[Weblink](#)

Access, quality and equity in early childhood education and care: A South Australian study

Susan Krieg, David Curtis and Lauren Hall, School of Education, Flinders University

Australian Journal of Education, August 2015 vol.59 no.2 119-132

As part of the 'I go to school' project in South Australia, this study tracked children attending integrated preschool/childcare centres - known as Children's Centres - as they made their transition to school. Results indicated that children who attended early childhood education programs that were of higher quality - as characterised by higher staff qualifications and a greater range and more engaging children's activities - showed a greater gain in cognitive development than children who attended lower quality programs. Findings also suggested that children who benefitted the most from attendance in these programs were children from backgrounds of greater social disadvantage than children from less disadvantaged backgrounds.

[Weblink](#)

CONNECT - Aug-October 2015: the magazine supporting student participation

Roger Holdsworth (ed.)

Connect, Nos 214-215 August-October 2015 [double issue]

Articles include: Valuing Voices: Restorative Practices and Student Participation in Decision-Making in Seven Australian Schools in NSW; Student leadership; and a summary of the 5th International Student Voice Seminar, Cambridge, June 2015.

[Weblink](#)

CONNECT - December 2015: the magazine supporting student participation

Roger Holdsworth (ed.)

Connect, No 216 December 2015

Articles include: Student Networking in NSW; Youth Advisory Group Case Studies; Ideas and action resources for The Education State.

[Weblink](#)

Greener neighbourhoods, slimmer children? Evidence from 4423 participants aged 6 to 13 years in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

Sanders, Taren, Feng, Xiaoqi and Fahey, Paul

International Journal of Obesity, April 2015

Objectively measured BMI was obtained every 2 years between 2006 and 2012 for 4423 participants initially aged 6-7 years in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). Using Australian Bureau of Statistics

mesh block data, which classify small scale land areas based on the main usage, each participant was assigned an objective measure of green space availability within their Statistical Area (level 2) of residence. Gender-stratified multilevel linear regression was used to estimate BMI growth curves across childhood in relation to green space availability. Family income, Australian Indigenous status, mothers' education, and language spoken were used to adjust for socioeconomic confounding. Age was found to be an effect modifier of associations between green space and BMI for boys ($P=0.005$) and girls ($P=0.048$). As children grew older, an inverse patterning of BMI by green space availability emerged. These findings held after adjustment for socioeconomic circumstances for boys ($P=0.009$), though were less robust for girls after this adjustment ($P=0.056$). A beneficial effect of green space on BMI emerges as children grow older. However, there was little additional benefit after a modest amount of green space was met. Further research is needed to understand if the drivers of this effect are from age-specific mechanisms, or whether the benefit of living in a greener neighbourhood is accumulated through childhood.

[Weblink](#)

Why is suicide the leading killer of older adolescent girls?

Suzanne Petroni, Vikram Patel and George Patton

The Lancet, Volume 386, No. 10008, p2031–2032, 21 November 2015

In May and June, 2015, media outlets around the world reported a new finding that shocked the public and public health researchers alike. The Telegraph, Guardian, and National Public Radio all published articles highlighting the fact that suicide had surpassed maternal mortality as the leading cause of death among girls aged 15–19 years globally.

[Weblink](#)

Anti-bullying programs and information and communication technologies (ICTs): a systematic review

Annalaura Nocentini, Valentina Zambusto and Ersilia Menesini

Aggression and violent behaviour, Vol.23 July/August 2015 pp 52-60

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) constitute suitable tools for interventions with children and adolescents promoting their emotional, psychological and social wellbeing. This systematic review of anti-bullying ICT (information and communication technologies)mediated interventions analyses the characteristics of the main programmes and evidence of their effectiveness. Finds that ICT tools are generally under-used in prevention and intervention against bullying and cyberbullying. Recommends studies to evaluate the effectiveness of digital anti-bullying interventions.

[Weblink](#)

Systematic review of theoretical studies on bullying and cyberbullying: facts, knowledge, prevention, and intervention

Izabela Zych, Rosario Ortega-Ruiz and Rosario Del Rey

Aggression and violent behaviour, Vol. 23 July/August 2015 pp 1-21

Review of 66 systematic reviews and meta-analyses on bullying and cyberbullying. Findings include : one in every three children is involved in some form of bullying and one in five is involved in some form of cyberbullying. Results also cover risk and protective factors for bullying and cyberbullying and short- and long-term consequences. Discusses anti-bullying interventions and calls for improvements to evaluation strategies.

[Weblink](#)

Environmental Light Exposure Is Associated with Increased Body Mass in Children

Cassandra L. Pattinson , Alicia C. Allan, Sally L. Staton et al.

PLOS ONE, published online 6 January 2016

Recent research in human adults suggests exposure to moderate intensity light later in the day is concurrently associated with increased body mass; however, no studies have investigated the effect of light exposure on body mass in young children. The researchers examined objectively measured light exposure and body mass of 48 preschool-aged children at baseline, and measured their body mass again 12 months later. At baseline, moderate intensity light exposure earlier in the day was associated with increased body mass index (BMI). Increased duration of light exposure at baseline predicted increased BMI 12-months later, even after controlling for baseline sleep duration, sleep timing, BMI, and activity.

[Weblink](#)

Identifying Predictors of Unwanted Online Sexual Conversations Among Youth Using a Low Self-Control and Routine Activity Framework

Thomas J. Holt, Adam M. Bossler, Rebecca Malinski et al.

Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, Published online December 28, 2015

Research has focused on certain forms of sexual activity online, such as sexting, but little study has been devoted to coercion to engage in sexual conversations as a form of sexual harassment. This study examined this phenomenon in a sample of middle and high school youth in Kentucky, applying an integrated low self-control and routine activity framework. The findings demonstrated that youth who were victimized were more likely to have low levels of self-control, view pornography, have peers who engaged others in sexual conversation online, and be female.

[Weblink](#)

Social relationships and physiological determinants of longevity across the human life span

Yang Claire Yanga, Courtney Boena, Karen Gerkena et al. ; University of North Carolina

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS), published online 4 January 2016

Researchers investigated how social relationships affect health, when effects emerge, and how long they last. Drawing on data from four nationally representative longitudinal samples of the US population, they implemented an innovative life course design to assess the prospective association of both structural and functional dimensions of social relationships (social integration, social support, and social strain) with objectively measured biomarkers of physical health (C-reactive protein, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, waist circumference, and body mass index) within each life stage, including adolescence and young, middle, and late adulthood, and compare such associations across life stages. The research found that being lonely is as harmful to teenagers' health as not getting enough exercise and Professor Kathleen Mullan Harris, a professor of sociology at UNC, said those with fewer social connections were at higher risk of inflammation or abdominal obesity.

[Weblink](#)

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Marijuana, and Alcohol and Marijuana Combined Among Persons Aged 16-25 Years - United States, 2002-2014

Alejandro Azofeifa, Margaret E. Mattson and Rob Lyster

Morbidity and mortality weekly report (MMWR), December 2015

Far fewer young Americans are drinking and driving than they once did, according to a new survey, even as vehicle accidents remain their number one killer. Comparing data from 2002 and 2014, government researchers discovered a 59 per cent drop in drinking and driving among 16 to 20 year olds. For adults between 21 and 25, the decline was 38 per cent. This report provides the most recent self-reported national estimates of driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, and alcohol and marijuana combined among persons aged 16-25 years, using data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) from 2002-2014.

[Weblink](#)

Is early intervention timely?

Suzie Forell; Law and Justice Foundation of NSW

Justice Issues, Paper 20 August 2015

Better to have a fence at the top of the cliff than a fleet of ambulances at the bottom. Such is the call to early intervention: preventing legal problems from forming and escalating, rather than mopping up once the crisis has struck. The idea of early intervention has strong appeal: providing less intensive assistance early, before problems become more difficult and costly to resolve. But in the legal assistance sector, what and to whom does 'early intervention' deliver? The impact of 'early intervention' is based on two assumptions: that priority clients groups are reached and assisted 'early'; and that the assistance provided will make a beneficial difference. This paper explores these assumptions in the context of the evidence-based priority given to assisting the most disadvantaged, and the need to do so within the scope and limited resources of the legal assistance sector.

[Weblink](#)

What works? Learning from the literature

Maria Karras and Suzie Forell; Law and Justice Foundation of NSW
Justice Issues, Paper 19 February 2015

A sensible first step in seeking to understand what works is to identify lessons learned from past experience and research. Yet, faced with a proliferation of articles, research, evaluation reports and other evidence, this can be challenging. Where do you look? What do you select? And how can you assess the credibility of what you read? This paper provides a guide to identifying relevant research and, in a transparent way, reporting the best available evidence drawn from these studies. The steps outlined are informed by (but do not fully replicate) systematic review processes, which are designed to distil relevant and reliable evidence from the plethora of existing research literature.

[Weblink](#)

Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

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

FEBRUARY 2016		
3-5 February	Melbourne Vic	Disability, Human Rights and Social Equity Conference
3-4 February	Melbourne Vic	Safety & Stability for Vulnerable Children : Improving outcomes through trauma informed practice
9 February	National	Safer Internet Day 2016 - The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner; Virtual Classrooms; Online Resources
18-19 February	Brisbane Qld	The Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference
23-25 February	Melbourne Vic	ANROWS Inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and their Children
25 February	Canberra ACT	National Child Wellbeing Symposium
29 February - 2 March	Brisbane Qld	Batiba Guwiyal - Extinguish the Flame : Tackling the Impacts of Child Sexual Assault in Indigenous Communities
MARCH 2016		
21 March	National	Harmony Day - event registrations and free promotional products
30 March - 1 April	Sydney NSW	Breaking the Cycle for Domestic and Family Violence conference
APRIL 2016		
1-3 April	Sydney NSW	The Digital Health Show
12-13 April	Melbourne Vic	Think Outcomes 2016: Centre for Social Impact (CSI) and Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA)
17-19 April	Alice Springs	Caring for country kids

	NT	
18-19 April	Gold Coast Qld	No to Bullying Conference
MAY 2016		
19-20 May	Melbourne Vic	VICSERV Mental Health Conference
23-24 May	Brisbane Qld	2016 Child Aware Approaches Conference
JUNE 2016		
6-10 June	Melbourne Vic	Second Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference
9-10 June	Edinburgh, Scotland	NSPCC Scotland Conference 'Rebuilding Childhood'
13-15 June	Edinburgh Scotland	Centre for Research on Families and Relationships : Unequal families and relationships conference
JULY 2016		
2-3 July	Perth WA	Aboriginal Health Conference - the youth of today, the elders of tomorrow
5-7 July	Sheffield, UK	Children's Media Conference - CMC 2016
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference : Research to results: Using evidence to improve outcomes for families. *Note: call for Abstracts closes 15 February 2016
13-14 July	Brisbane Qld	Challenging the mental illness violence nexus : Griffith University Violence Research and Prevention Program
18 July	Sydney	Violence in the media: the stories and the science (further information to come soon)
19-22 July	Sydney NSW	ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference
19-23 July	Sydney NSW	22nd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA)
AUGUST 2016		
19 August	Sydney NSW	The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People : Generation Next
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
OCTOBER 2016		
5-6 October	Melbourne Vic	Australasian Implementation Conference

5-8 October	Darwin NT	Early Childhood Australia national conference
25-27 October	Canberra ACT	National Longitudinal Data Conference 2016 : Wellbeing over the life course
NOVEMBER 2016		
7-9 November	Ghent, Belgium	Child in the City Conference 2016
8-10 November	Melbourne Vic	Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference
15-18 November	Auckland NZ	International Indigenous Research Conference
29 November - 2 December	Hobart Tas	ANZSOC 2016 : Horizons Criminology

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