

# Advocate for Children and Young People

## Current awareness bulletin

### March 2016

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## From the web

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### CHILD RIGHTS

#### **What does the Children's Rights Report 2015 say? [Child-friendly version]**

Australian Human Rights Commission; Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner

March 2016

The Australian National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, presents a child-friendly version of the 2015 Report to the Australian Government.

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#### **Child-centred Adaptation: Realising Children's Rights in a Changing Climate**

Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) Coalition

December 2015

This report argues that children should be a focus of efforts to address climate change and play an active part in the decisions that shape their present and future. In developing countries, climate change is projected to exacerbate the top 5 causes of death for children under 5. Children are the least responsible for creating climate change but will bear the brunt of its impacts

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### CHILD PROTECTION

#### **National action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation (Wales)**

Welsh Government

March 2016

The Welsh government has launched the first national action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation. It sets out minimum standards for safeguarding and partner agencies to work together to prevent and protect children and young people from sexual exploitation; provide responsive, appropriate and consistent support to children

identified as being at risk of, or subject to, child sexual exploitation; and contribute to the identification and prosecution of perpetrators.

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### **The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review**

Paul Bywaters; Lisa Bunting; Gavin Davidson

March 2016

Report explores the economic costs of child abuse and neglect and outlines broad policy implications, with a particular focus on the UK. Discussion includes UK and international evidence about the association between family poverty and child abuse and neglect; UK and international evidence about the impact of childhood abuse or neglect on poverty in adulthood; evidence about the costs of child abuse and neglect; strengths and weaknesses in the evidence base; and implications for policy-making.

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### **Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Out-of-Home Care; Consultation paper**

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

March 2016

Paper presents an analysis of a range of issues, as they relate to the prevention of, and response to, sexual abuse of children in out-of-home-care (OOHC). The consultation paper seeks views on the adequacy of screening checks and assessment of carers. It asks for feedback on how to improve information sharing, prevention, and support services. All interested parties are encouraged to make written submissions responding to the paper by 11 April 2016.

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## **DISABILITY**

### **NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach**

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

February 2016

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has worked with some of Australia's leading early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers to design a best-practice approach that is family-centred and importantly, supports children to achieve good outcomes on a case-by-case basis. This will provide a nationally-consistent approach to supporting children with developmental delay or disability.

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### **Early Intervention Services for Children with Disability; ANAO Report No.24 2015-16 Performance Audit**

Auditor-General, Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)

March 2016

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) conducted an independent performance audit in the Department of Social Services. ANAO concluded that Department of Social Services administration of the EISCD is effective in some areas, but overall could be improved.

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### **Health status and risk factors of Australians with disability 2007–08 and 2011–12**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

February 2016

Report examines how health-related factors affect the health status of Australians with disability at the national population level. In 2011–12, half (51%) of people aged 15–64 with severe or profound disability reported poor or fair health, compared with 6% for those without disability.

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### **Royal Commission into Family Violence**

The Hon. Marcia Neave AO, Commissioner

March 2016

The Royal Commission into Family Violence report was delivered to Victoria's State Government on 31 March 2016. One of the major recommendations is for the creation of 17 support and safety hubs in local communities throughout Victoria, to make it easier for victims to find help and gain access to services. The commission made 227 recommendations to "deal with all aspects of family violence", including mandatory respectful relationship classes and a trial of body-worn cameras by police.

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### **Examination of family and domestic violence affecting children; Submissions**

Australian Human Rights Commission

March 2016

Child and family protection organisations have raised concerns about the capacity of the Family Law system to adequately respond to children and families in crisis in their submissions to the National Children's Commissioner's examination into the impact of family and domestic violence affecting children in 2015. The National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, received 62 submissions highlighting inappropriate responses to family violence by those working in the family law system and in relation to custody issues and the need to protect children from violent parents.

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### **Does changing school matter?**

NSW Education, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Learning Curve Issue 13

March 2016

Students move schools for a variety of reasons, ranging from negative reasons such as housing distress or domestic violence, to positive or strategic reasons including school preference or job promotion. However, changing schools can be disruptive to students' learning and may have a negative effect on students' educational outcomes. The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) has conducted the first system-wide study of student mobility in NSW government schools, using linked enrolment data from 2008 to 2014. Consistent with other research in this area, this study focused on school moves made for reasons other than those expected by the system structure.

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### **Safe schools do better: Supporting sexual diversity, intersex and gender diversity in schools**

Joel Radcliffe; Roz Ward; Micah Scott; Safe Schools Coalition Victoria; Sally Richardson, Safe Schools Coalition Australia

October 2015

Introductory guide to supporting gender diversity, intersex and sexual diversity in schools. It includes key research that underpins the program, practical information about how to create change, and how to get started.

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### **Guide to kick starting your safe school**

Safe Schools Coalition Australia

October 2015

Some simple and proactive steps to ensure that the school is an inclusive and supportive place for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, school staff and families.

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### **Engaging with diversity: a case study of the intercultural experiences of Muslim and non-Muslim students in an Australian school**

Angela Scarino; Anthony J. Liddicoat; Fiona O'Neill; International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding, Research Centre for Languages and Cultures (UniSA)

March 2016

This case study explores how Muslim and non-Muslim students, school leadership, counsellors, teachers and parents reflect on, interpret and manage the experience of engagement and exchange in the context of a high school in South Australia.

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### **Widening gaps: What NAPLAN tells us about student progress**

Peter Goss and Julie Sonnemann; Grattan Institute

March 2016

Study shows that the gap between students whose parents have low education and those with highly educated parents grows from 10 months in Year 3 to around two-and-a-half years by Year 9. Even if they were doing as well in Year 3, disadvantaged students make one to two years less progress by Year 9 than students whose parents have more education. Importantly, the learning gaps grow much larger after Year 3. Disadvantaged students are falling further behind each year they are at school.

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Australia's youth unemployment hotspots: snapshot**

Brotherhood of St Laurence

March 2016

The report card maps 'hotspots' for those aged 15 to 24 across Australia and shows that while there has been improvement in the overall rate this also masks the reality that clusters of high youth unemployment persist across the nation particularly in many rural and regional locations. Two years after the Brotherhood of St Laurence first identified 'hotspots' from Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force survey data, a new analysis identifies four regional areas where youth unemployment rates cluster above 20 per cent. For the worst performer in the outback of Queensland including the mining hub of Mount Isa the rate reached 28 per cent.

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### **The future of work: how can we adapt to survive and thrive?**

Deloitte Access Economics; Chartered Accountants, Australia and New Zealand

February 2016

Our economy and society are being shaped by large-scale shifts, from globalisation to digital disruption. Businesses are facing more intense pressures to respond to changing customer demands and new market entrants. Policy makers are reshaping their agendas. Two-thirds of those with less than five years' experience (early-career Australians) expect that their job will not exist, or will fundamentally change, in the next 15 years. Using an extensive survey, Deloitte Access Economics considers what this means for careers, skills, education and workplaces.

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### **Tomorrow's Digitally Enabled Workforce: Megatrends and Scenarios for jobs and employment in Australia over the next twenty years**

Stefan Hajkovicz; Andrew Reeson; Lachlan Rudd et al.; CSIRO et al.

January 2016

Report has identified six megatrends for jobs and employment markets and examines plausible futures in Australia over the coming twenty years. Findings of the report underpin the work already being undertaken by the Department of Employment to address the impact of rapid technological development, new business and employment models, increasing globalisation and social change on employment and workplace relations. Report includes the Appendix titled Modelling occupational changes in Australia.

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## **Australia Youth Unemployment Rate Forecast 2016-2020**

Trading Economics

March 2016

Youth Unemployment Rate in Australia is expected to be 12.30 percent by the end of this quarter, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts expectations. Looking forward, the estimate of Youth Unemployment Rate in Australia will stand at 12.10 in 12 months time. In the long-term, the Australia Youth Unemployment Rate is projected to trend around 12.04 percent in 2020, according to Trading Economics econometric models.

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## **FAMILY AND SOCIETY**

### **Australian Early Development Census National Report 2015; A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia**

Department of Education and Training

March 2016

A detailed snapshot collating the data collected for The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The data can be used by communities, schools, government and non-government agencies and policy makers, in conjunction with other resources to plan and evaluate efforts to create optimal early childhood development outcomes. At the government level, the AEDC provides a sound basis for strategic planning, policy creation and policy evaluation. Data for the AEDC has been collected every three years since 2009, with the third round of national data collection completed in 2015.

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### **Emerging trends from the AEDC; Fact sheet on AEDC results for the 2009, 2012 and 2015 collection**

Department of Education and Training; Australian Government Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

March 2016

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures five areas, or domains, of early childhood development that are closely linked to the predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes. The five domains are: Physical health and wellbeing, social competence; emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge. Data for the AEDC has been collected every three years since 2009, with the third round of national data collection completed in 2015. Overall, the 2015 results shows that around 1 in 5 children were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain(s). See also 'Emerging trends from the AEDC- Infographic' at the attached weblink

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### **The millennials The perfect storm of debt, housing and joblessness facing a generation of young adults - and what is to be done**

The Guardian

March 2016

This series in The Guardian explores the issues facing the millennials, or the demographic known as Generation Y. Articles on millennials and social media, work, housing, culture, politics and millennial life generally are included in the series and many common stereotypes about this generation are challenged and disputed.

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## **HEALTH**

### **Sources of child health information: what parents use and trust**

Dr.Anthea Rhodes; Australian Child Health Poll; The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

February 2016

The Royal Children's Hospital Australian Child Health Poll has released the latest national survey of Australian households focusing on contemporary child and adolescent health issues. Key findings show that general

practitioners are the most trusted source for parents seeking child health information (90 per cent), followed by hospital emergency departments (50 per cent), and websites, blogs and online forums (30 per cent).

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### **NAB Wellbeing Report: Q4 2015**

National Bank of Australia

March 2016

Australia's wellbeing has fallen driven by heightened levels of anxiety - around 40 percent of Australians are feeling "highly" anxious, the highest reading since the survey began. Of concern, anxiety continues to be a much bigger issue for younger Australians, particularly young women. The report takes a look at longer term wellbeing trends, focussing on those groups that have historically reported the lowest wellbeing including young women aged 18-29 years.

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### **Causes of Death, Australia, 2014 : ABS 3303.0**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

March 2016

The 2014 Cause of Death data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals that suicide remains the leading cause of death in people aged 15-34, contributing more than a quarter of all deaths in this age group. Suicide is at its highest level in ten years as the leading cause of death for young people and the Indigenous Australian suicide rate is double that of non-Indigenous people.

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## **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

### **Aboriginal inclusion action plan 2016-2019**

Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria

February 2016

The Commission's Aboriginal inclusion action plan (AIAP) aims to drive the Commission's commitment to positive change not just within the Commission but across all sectors promoting improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. This plan was developed to align with the Victorian Government's Victorian Aboriginal Inclusion Framework which was developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities.

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### **The Jobs for Families Package: Unintended consequences and policy alternatives for Aboriginal and Torres**

Strait Islander children [factsheet]

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

February 2016

SNAICC has developed a factsheet that examines the anticipated impact of The Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015 on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and takes a look at the research-based recommendations outlined in SNAICC's submission to the Senate Committee.

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### **Family matters, kids safe in culture, not in care: strategic forum outcomes report**

Fleur Smith, Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

March 2016

Over 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders met at Old Parliament House in February 2016 to discuss the ongoing, extraordinary rates of removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children into out-of-home care, leaving children separated from their families and their cultures. Leaders at the forum established a framework for collaboration, pledged financial support and agreed to high-level strategic directions to drive change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety and wellbeing.

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## MENTAL HEALTH

### **No Harm Done films**

YoungMinds; Charlie Waller Memorial Trust; Royal College of Psychiatrists UK

February 2016

Young Minds, the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust and the UK Royal College of Psychiatrists have created a series of films and digital resource packs on self-harm. These have been created with the help of children and young people, parents and professionals. Three digital packs created to go with the films include personal stories of young people, parents and professionals, common questions and what to do next, and information on how to find help.

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### **Looking the other way: young people and self-harm**

Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health

March 2016

Report reveals the high rate of self-harm among young people in Australia today and the damaging effects of stigma associated with self-harm and the inability of available services to deal with it. It is the first Australian report to look systematically and comprehensively into the largely hidden and misunderstood behaviour of self-harm among 12-25 year olds.

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### **ReachOut Orb**

ReachOut Australia

March 2016

A free new online game ReachOut Orb has been launched to help Australian high school students (Years 9 and 10) improve their mental wellbeing. The game is designed for classroom use and teaches students how to identify and employ their strengths, develop and sustain positive relationships and build resilience.

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### **HeadStrong 2.0**

Black Dog Institute

March 2016

The Black Dog Institute has developed HeadStrong 2.0 - a free school curriculum resource for teachers to educate Australian children and youth about depression, mental health and resilience. HeadStrong 2.0 is aligned with the Australian National School Curriculum (Health & Physical Education) for Years 9-10 and is complemented by MindStrength, a free online learning course to help young people build resilience.

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## OUT OF HOME CARE

### **Children and Young People in Statutory Out-of-Home Care: Health Needs and Health Care in the 21st Century**

Parliamentary Library Research Service, Victoria.

March 2016

Report examines the impact of child maltreatment on healthy child development and compares how health and development risks are responded to internationally, nationally and locally. It concludes with a discussion of how systemic changes to healthcare may contribute to improved health outcomes in the future.

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### **The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from a pilot national survey 2015**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

March 2016

Provides an overview of results from a 2015 national pilot data collection on the views of children and young people in out-of-home care. It presents new data for eight indicators under the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care, allowing reporting against these indicators for the first time.

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## **PARTICIPATION**

### **Children and Young People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds Speak Out**

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

February 2016

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has released reports and other resources based on a consultation with almost 300 children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. They were asked about positive things in their lives, the challenges they face and the services they find helpful. Consultation methodology involved the Youth Affairs Council Western Australia (YACWA) supporting a group of CALD young people aged between 18 and 25 years to lead and report on consultations with their peers. In addition, the Commissioner also asked children and young people to have their say in an online survey.

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### **This Is Me - Stories from culturally and linguistically diverse children and young people**

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

February 2016

Almost 300 children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds were consulted about positive things in their lives, the challenges they face and the services they find helpful. This document includes a number of individual stories from the consultations.

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### **Snapshot: Consultation with children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

December 2015

A one-page overview of the consultation, including a description of who took part and the major themes raised. It was developed specially to report back to the children and young people that took part, and also provides a good overview for anyone interested in the consultation.

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## **POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION**

### **New Commissioner for Children and Young People to be given increased oversight powers [Media release, 23**

February 2016]

State Government, Victoria

February 2016

Jenny Mikakos MLC, Minister for Families and Children and Minister for Youth Affairs in Victoria has announced the appointment of distinguished lawyer and advocate, Liana Buchanan, as Victoria's new Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People. The appointment will begin on 4 April 2016.

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## **SEXUALITY**

### **Don't send me that pic; online survey results**

Plan International Australia; Our Watch

March 2016

The survey reveals that young women are experiencing high levels of sexual harassment both online and via their mobile phones. 70 per cent of participants felt that girls are often bullied or harassed online and 51 per cent agreed that girls are often pressured into sending 'sexy' pics of themselves to others.

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## TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

### **What are pre-schoolers doing with tablets and is it good for them?**

Sonia Livingstone, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

February 2016

Professor Sonia Livingstone is the lead investigator of the Parenting for a Digital Future research project based at LSE's Department of Media and Communications. In this post she reflects on recent research about young children's digital play opportunities and whether these are in the best interests of children's development.

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### **Cyberbullying of children**

Chris Angus; NSW Parliamentary Research Service, e-brief 2/2016

March 2016

Outlines the prevalence of cyber bullying in Australia and its impact on individuals and schools. It discusses key government responses and international reviews of the effectiveness of anti-bullying programs.

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### **Online safety**

Australian Institute of Family Studies; CFCA Resource Sheet

March 2016

An overview of online safety for parents, including useful resources and practical tips for monitoring and protecting children online. Brief review of media campaigns related to online safety.

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## VIOLENCE

### **Ending violence against women and girls strategy: 2016 to 2020**

UK Home Office

March 2016

Overview of the wide range of actions the UK government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls between 2016 and 2020. It was launched on 8 March 2016. It also details how the government intends to build on the previous action plan released in 2011 to end violence against women and girls.

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## Recent journal articles

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### **Exploring the Development of Reflective Capacity in Young People**

Helen Hickson; Jennifer Lehmann; Fiona Gardner, La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University

*Children Australia*, online 18 March 2016

People use reflection and reflective practice for many different reasons, including for self-care and to make sense of their experiences. In this study, social workers spoke about how they learned to be reflective, with many participants describing activities in their childhood that developed their reflective capacity. The aim of

this article is to apply these ideas and examine the factors that enhance reflective capacity in children and young people. This research was part of a PhD study that involved interviews with 35 social workers in USA, Canada, UK and Australia. This exploratory study found that activities like story reading and asking children to reflect on their behaviour are early steps in the process of becoming reflective, but this needs to be followed up with conversations that deconstruct assumptions to make sense of experiences and explore multiple perspectives.

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### **A critical examination of the youth foyer model for alleviating homelessness: strengthening a promising evidence base**

Iris Levin; Joseph Borlagdan; Shelley Mallett et al.

*Evidence Base*, Issue 4, 2015

Article assesses the quality of 15 primary studies that examined the effectiveness of youth foyer or foyer-like programs on the lives of young homeless people. The youth foyer model provides an integrated approach to tackling youth homelessness, connecting affordable accommodation to training and employment. In Australia, there is growing support from government for the development and funding of foyer programs. However to date, there has been very limited development and investment in the evidence base on the effectiveness of this model in Australia or internationally. Following an extensive literature search, the authors argue that there is a need to lift the standard of the evidence base of youth foyer effectiveness.

<https://journal.anzsog.edu.au/publications/33/EvidenceBase2015Issue4Version1.pdf>

### **Reframing media effects in terms of children's rights in the digital age**

Sonia Livingstone

*Journal of Children and Media*, Vol.10 Issue 1, February 2016 [free online issue]

Sonia Livingstone suggests that the case for media effects research, as well as its critique, is well known among researchers of children and media, but the case for a rights-based approach, and its accompanying critique appears less familiar and this article examines it in more depth. She concludes with an endorsement of research on, but not necessarily advocacy for, children's rights in the digital age in a way that encompasses the insights both of effects research and of qualitative and participatory research with children.

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### **Measuring time spent with media: the Common Sense census of media use by US 8- to 18-year-olds**

Vicky Rideout

*Journal of Children and Media*, Vol.10 Issue 1, February 2016

As the types of media activities and devices available to youth have multiplied, it has become increasingly challenging to measure the amount of time young people spend with media. But although it is difficult to do so, it is still possible, and even though the methods may be imperfect, they still offer valuable information.

Detailed measures of time spent with media can offer insights into what "screen time" consists of for young people today. This commentary offers examples from data collected for the non-profit organization Common Sense through a nationally representative, probability-based survey of 2,658 8 to 18 year olds in the US in 2015. The data challenge several commonly held assumptions, and confirm others.

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### **From Governance to Ground [Editorial]**

Jennifer Lehmann, Co-Editor, Children Australia

*Children Australia*, Vol.41 No.1 March 2016

Jennifer Lehmann's commentary is in two parts: the first summarises the changes in the human services sector over the last 15 to 20 years; the second draws attention to the processes that translate into less than optimum conditions for staff and clients. These different processes brought changes to the language used in human services organisations, particularly associated with the language of management, of organisational structures and operations, with the for-profit business sector providing the templates for the governance, management and procedures used in the NFP sector. The author calls for moderation accompanied by reflection and respectful consideration for the wellbeing of all employees in human service agencies, and their clients.

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### **Trends in drug use among adolescents admitted to residential treatment in Australia**

Sally Nathan; Anna Bethmont; Patrick R Rawstorne et al.

*Medical Journal of Australia*, Vol.204 (4) 2016: 149-150

Report examines trends in reported current drug use and drug of greatest concern among an adolescent population admitted to four residential treatment sites across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory from 2009 to 2014. These young people are likely to be excluded from population surveys. The study sample included 865 adolescents, aged 14–18 years, admitted to residential treatment between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2014, representing a large proportion of the adolescent residential treatment population in NSW and the ACT.

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### **Informed consent with children and young people in social research: is there scope for innovation?**

Sarah Parsons; Gina Sherwood; Chris Abbott

*Children and society*, Vol.30, Iss.2, March 2016 pp 132-140 Overview of the methodological and ethical benefits and challenges of involving children in social research. Expresses the view that increasing bureaucracy within university research ethic committees has raised expectations about the methods used to gain the informed consent of children. Explores how social researchers in the UK navigate this tension and asks whether there is scope for more innovative use of digital technologies to gain informed consent and the participation of children and young people in research. Calls for greater transparency in sharing creative solutions to gaining informed consent.

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### **Sibling bullying perpetration: associations with gender, grade, peer perpetration, trait anger, and moral disengagement**

Ibrahim Tanrikulu; Marilyn A. Campbell

*Journal of interpersonal violence*, Vol.30, No.6, March 2015 pp 1010-1024 Looks at the frequency of bullying and cyberbullying among siblings. Presents the results of a study of 455 Australian students in grades 5 to 12 who had a sibling. Finds that sibling bullying perpetration was 31.6 percent higher than peer bullying perpetration at 9.8 per cent and that the frequency of engaging in sibling bullying was higher for younger children. Cyberbullying perpetration was found to be extremely low. Also finds that gender, trait anger, moral disengagement and bullying peers at school were all significantly associated with sibling traditional bullying perpetration.

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### **Mental health and bullying in the United States among children aged 6 to 17 years**

Frances Turcotte Benedict; Patrick M. Vivier; Annie Gjelsvik

*Journal of interpersonal violence*, Vol.30, No.5, March 2015 pp 782-795

Examines the association between mental health disorders and being identified as a bully among children between the ages of 6 and 17 years. Data from the 2007 US National Survey of Children's Health were examined. A total of 63,997 children had data for both parental reported mental health and bullying status. Bivariate analysis and logistic regression was performed to assess the association between mental health status and being identified as a bully with an age-stratified analysis and sub-analysis by type of mental health disorder. Finds that children with a diagnosis of a mental health disorder were three times more likely to be a bully and that children with anxiety and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder had similar odds.

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### **Associations of Parental Depression With Child School Performance at Age 16 Years in Sweden**

Hanyang Shen; Cecilia Magnusson; Dheeraj Rai

*JAMA Psychiatry*, March 2016, Vol 73, No.3

This study of children born in Sweden examined the associations of parental depression with child school performance at the end of compulsory education (approximately age 16 years). The sex of the child modified the associations of maternal depression with school performance such that maternal depression had a larger negative influence on child school performance for girls compared with boys. The results suggest that diagnoses of parental depression may have a far-reaching effect on an important aspect of child development, with implications for future life course outcomes.

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### **The increasing global health priority of substance use in young people**

Prof Louisa Degenhardt; Emily Stockings; Prof George Patton et al.

*The Lancet Psychiatry*, Vol.3, No.3 March 2016

Epidemiological data shows substantial variation between countries in the levels, types, and sequences of substance use in young people, indicating that a young person's use of substances depends on their social context, drug availability, and their personal characteristics. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2013 study suggests that the burden attributable to substance use increases substantially in adolescence and young adulthood. In young men aged 20-24 years, alcohol and illicit substance use are responsible for 14 percent of total health burden. Alcohol causes most health burden in eastern Europe, and illicit drug burden is higher in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and western Europe.

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### **Prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, and treatment of substance use in young people**

Dr Emily Stockings; Prof Wayne D Hall; Prof Michael Lynskey

*The Lancet Psychiatry*, Vol.3, No.3 March 2016

The researchers conducted a systematic review of reviews with evidence on the effectiveness of prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, and treatment of problem use in young people for tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs (eg, cannabis, opioids, amphetamines, or cocaine). Taxation, public consumption bans, advertising restrictions, and minimum legal age are effective measures to reduce alcohol and tobacco use, but are not available to target illicit drugs. Interpretation of the available evidence for school-based prevention is affected by methodological issues; interventions that incorporate skills training are more likely to be effective than information provision - which is ineffective. Researchers conclude that efforts are needed to increase the evidence base on interventions that aim to reduce the high burden of substance use in young people.

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## **Forthcoming conferences and events**

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**This list is cumulative**

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

<b>APRIL 2016</b>		
6-7 April	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Imagination and Daring Still Works: Australian Government Social Media Toolkit 2016</a>
7 April	National and International	<a href="#">World Health Day 2016</a>
7 April	Sydney	<a href="#">National Reform Series 2016; Consumer and Carer Co-Design in Mental Health Workshop</a>
8-17 April	National	<a href="#">National Youth Week</a>
12-13 April	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Think Outcomes 2016: Centre for Social Impact (CSI) and Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA)</a>
13 April	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">My way home: competition and choice in human services</a>
17-19 April	Alice Springs NT	<a href="#">Caring for country kids</a>

18-19 April	Gold Coast Qld	<a href="#">No to Bullying Conference</a>
<b>MAY 2016</b>		
13-14 May	Sydney	<a href="#">Early Childhood Australia (ECA) Reconciliation Symposium</a>
15-21 May	National	<a href="#">National Families Week 2016</a>
17 May	Birmingham UK	<a href="#">Pushed, pulled and ignored: exploring messages from research into children and young people's research into child sexual exploitation</a>
17 May	Adelaide SA	<a href="#">Technology, Children and Families 2016 - ARACY</a>
18-20 May 25-27 May	Sydney Melbourne	<a href="#">Mental health in schools conference 2016: Inconvenient Truths</a>
19-20 May	Gold Coast Qld	<a href="#">Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference 2016, themed Alcohol - Other Drugs - Behavioural Addictions, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery</a>
19-20 May	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">VICSERV Mental Health Conference</a>
23-24 May	Brisbane Qld	<a href="#">2016 Child Aware Approaches Conference</a>
25-26 May	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Connections UnitingCare Conference; Making Lives Better: Improving Life Outcomes for Vulnerable Children and Families</a>
26 May	National	<a href="#">National Sorry Day 2016</a>
27 May - 3 June	National	<a href="#">National Reconciliation Week 2016</a>
<b>JUNE 2016</b>		
6-7 June	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) Conference</a>
6-10 June	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Second Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference</a>
9-10 June	Edinburgh, Scotland	<a href="#">NSPCC Scotland Conference 'Rebuilding Childhood'</a>
13-15 June	Edinburgh Scotland	<a href="#">Centre for Research on Families and Relationships : Unequal families and relationships conference</a>
23-24 June	Adelaide SA	<a href="#">DOHaD of Australia and New Zealand 2016 Annual Conference; Shaping our Future</a>
<b>JULY 2016</b>		
2-3 July	Perth WA	<a href="#">Aboriginal Health Conference - the youth of today, the elders of tomorrow</a>
5-7 July	Sheffield, UK	<a href="#">Children's Media Conference - CMC 2016</a>
6-8 July	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">14th Australian Institute of Family Studies conference : Research to results: Using evidence to improve outcomes for families. *Note: Early bird registrations close 16 May</a>

13-14 July	Brisbane Qld	<a href="#">Challenging the mental illness violence nexus : Griffith University Violence Research and Prevention Program</a>
13-15 July	Adelaide SA	<a href="#">Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence Conference</a>
18 July	Sydney	<a href="#">Violence in the media: the stories and the science : ACCM and Macquarie Child and Families Research Centre</a>
19-22 July	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference</a>
19-23 July	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">22nd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA)</a>
<b>AUGUST 2016</b>		
4-5 August	Cairns Qld	<a href="#">Early Years Conference: Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future</a>
15-17 August	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">ACWA 2016 – Pathways to Protection and Permanency: Getting it Right for Children, Young People and Families</a>
19 August	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People : Generation Next</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>
29-30 September	Singapore	<a href="#">International Family Law Conference 2016: The Future of Family Justice: International and Multi-Disciplinary Pathways</a>
<b>OCTOBER 2016</b>		
5-6 October	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Australasian Implementation Conference</a>
5-8 October	Darwin NT	<a href="#">Early Childhood Australia national conference</a>
16-22 October	National	<a href="#">Anti-Poverty Week</a>
25-27 October	Canberra ACT	<a href="#">National Longitudinal Data Conference 2016 : Wellbeing over the life course</a>
<b>NOVEMBER 2016</b>		
7-9 November	Ghent, Belgium	<a href="#">Child in the City Conference 2016</a>
8-10 November	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference</a>
15-18 November	Auckland NZ	<a href="#">International Indigenous Research Conference</a>
29 November - 2 December	Hobart Tas	<a href="#">ANZSOC 2016 : Horizons Criminology</a>

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