

# Advocate for Children and Young People

## Current awareness bulletin

### April 2016

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## From the web

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### CHILD PROTECTION

#### **Child protection Australia 2014–15**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

April 2016

This report contains comprehensive information on state and territory child protection and support services in 2014-15, and on the characteristics of Australian children within the child protection system. Report shows that: 151,980 children, a rate of 28.6 per 1,000 children, received child protection services (investigation, care and protection order and/or were in out-of-home care); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were seven times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.

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### DISABILITY

#### **Inclusive education for all students with disabilities and additional needs; The Government's response to the review of the program for students with disabilities**

Department of Education and Training, Victoria

April 2016

Special Needs Plan for Victorian Schools, part of the Labor Government's almost \$4 billion education investment, has a vision to ensure all students with disabilities and additional needs get an inclusive, high quality education. The first initiative of the Plan was a complete review of the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD), which provides extra funding to schools for eligible students with disabilities. This report identifies the key findings and the Victorian Government's response. Consultations were led by Australia's former Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Graeme Innes, and included more than 100 face-to-face consultations with parents, current and former students, principals and professionals, peak industry bodies, principal and teacher associations, disability advocates and academics. The Review also analysed national and

international academic literature, received 170 online submissions, and conducted an online survey of more than 1400 respondents. The messages the Review heard were clear, consistent and convincing.

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Slamming the door: policy and service gaps for young people experiencing domestic and family violence**

Yfoundations

April 2016

Reports on the neglected area of youth experiences of domestic and family violence and presents new survey data on the relationship between domestic and family violence and youth homelessness. It also collects previous research and discusses the lack of data, policy attention and resources for this area.

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### **Domestic violence in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)**

Helene Shin; Helen Rogers; Vincci Law; National Centre for Longitudinal Data

January 2016

This research summary reports the results of research looking at domestic violence in young families using data from Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). LSAC has not collected direct measures of domestic violence but has included a couple of indicators since Wave 1; Indicators include: How often is there anger or hostility between you and your partner? (collected since Wave 1); How often do you have arguments with your partner that end up with people pushing, hitting, kicking or shoving? (collected since Wave 1); Have you ever been afraid of your current partner? (collected since Wave 4).

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## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in higher education**

Ceridwen Owen, Damhnat McCann, Christopher Rayner et al.; Curtin University, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education

April 2016

This project targets improvements in support for higher education students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in light of the substantive existing and anticipated future growth of this population, and the failure of existing supports to meet their complex and unique needs. Uniquely, the research extends existing research in disability supports and pedagogical initiatives to explore the design of the built environment as part of a holistic framework of support for students with ASD in higher education. The research draws on a review of published literature combined with a cross-sectional analysis of existing supports in Australian institutions and an in-depth analysis of the experience of students at one Australian university to identify key opportunities and gaps in the provision of support for students with ASD.

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### **What Kids Want in Books: The Kids and Family Reading report**

Scholastic

January 2015

The fifth edition of a biannual survey by US group Scholastic of attitudes of children and parents toward reading. Children across age groups overwhelmingly agree that their favorite books - and the ones they are most likely to finish - are the ones they pick out themselves.

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### **Evaluation of the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) trial: final report**

Deloitte Access Economics

April 2016

The Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) trial, which commenced in 2015, has been formally evaluated by Deloitte Access Economics. The evaluation shows that the trial has been a success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from educators and parents.

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### **The NSW vocational education and training market and tafe NSW's competitive position within it**

Boston Consulting Group (BCG); TAFE NSW

April 2016

TAFE NSW is operating in an increasingly competitive vocational education and training market and needs to change or get left further behind. BCG recommends that to remain competitive, TAFE NSW must improve its productivity, decrease its cost base, and maintain or grow enrolments up in order to defray high fixed costs.

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### **The First Year Experience in Australian Universities: Findings from two decades, 1994 – 2014**

Dr Chi Baik; Dr Ryan Naylor; Associate Professor Sophie Arkoudis; Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, Curtin University

March 2016

An analysis of trends over a twenty year period of the attitudes and experiences of first year students in Australian universities. It is based on the national survey of first year students undertaken by the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education at five-yearly intervals since 1994.

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### **Quality Early Education for All; Fostering creative, entrepreneurial, resilient and capable learners**

Mitchell Institute

April 2016

The report finds that there is a mismatch between investment and opportunity in early childhood policy in Australia and there remains an unacceptable divide in both opportunity and outcome between the poorest and wealthiest communities, between cities and very remote towns, and between children from different cultural backgrounds.

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### **Strengthening early numeracy learning: The Let's Count program; Evaluation**

The Smith Family

April 2016

The evaluation reports on the program Let's Count which is an early mathematics program for children aged three to five, developed by The Smith Family and Professor Bob Perry from Charles Sturt University and Associate Professor Ann Gervasoni from Monash University. The program supports parents and early years educators to develop the maths skills of the children in their care by noticing, exploring, and talking about numbers, counting, measurement and patterns in their daily lives. Children in Australia's most disadvantaged communities start school already behind their peers. Children who start school behind in maths generally stay behind.

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### **NAPLAN report shows little progress in reducing inequity in education: Education Research Brief**

Trevor Cobbold; Save our Schools

April 2016

The national report on the NAPLAN results for 2015 published last December shows continuing large inequities in education in Australia. Large proportions of disadvantaged students are not achieving national standards in literacy and numeracy and there are large achievement gaps between disadvantaged and advantaged students, most of which have not changed since 2008 and some have increased.

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### **Can VET help create a more inclusive society?**

Hielke Buddelmeyer, Cain Polidano; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

March 2016

Summary of a research program undertaken for NCVET by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research between 2011 and 2014. The body of work, comprising six projects, focuses on the impact of education and training on social inclusion and labour market outcomes for disadvantaged learners. Here, 'disadvantaged' is used to encapsulate those from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with a disability, those from non-English speaking backgrounds and Indigenous Australians.

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### **Improving the educational outcomes of disadvantaged young Australians: The Learning for Life program**

Smith Family

April 2016

The Learning for Life national program, providing highly-disadvantaged children targeted education assistance throughout their schooling, is having a significantly positive impact on their educational outcomes this research report by The Smith Family concludes. The report highlights the success of The Smith Family's national scholarship program, Learning for Life, and finds that seven out of ten students on the program are completing Year 12, a result that will boost their employment and social participation outcomes.

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Effective ways to support youth into employment**

Justine Height; Social Ventures Australia (SVA)

April 2016

Since Social Ventures Australia (SVA) was established in 2002, the organisation has been committed to understanding the root causes of and effective interventions for tackling unemployment. This report is the product of a national and international research project into the fundamental principles that underpin successful programs and initiatives supporting young people into sustainable employment. The research concentrated on identifying the approaches that were most successful at moving longterm unemployed young people (those who have been out of employment for 12 months or more) back into employment.

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### **Young Australians: motivations for workplace giving**

Connor Taylor, Evelyn Liu, Fiona Siu et al.; Australian Charities Fund; Social Impact Hub

April 2016

This Australian Charities Fund (ACF) sponsored report looks at the giving habits of young Australians, to examine their current level of engagement with Workplace Giving Programs (WGP) and to determine the motivators that could increase their participation in Workplace Giving. The report indicates young Australians want to work for ethical companies and those organisations that will have a positive impact on the world. This group of emerging employees is not only redefining employment in Australia, but also globally, as they will comprise the majority of the workforce by 2030.

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### **The new basics: big data reveals the skills young people need for the New Work Order**

AlphaBeta; Foundation for Young Australians

April 2016

This report analyses big data to show for the first time that the New Work Order is here, revealing that employers are placing a premium on enterprise skills at a time of significant change in our workforce. The New Work Order report confirms Australia is undergoing the most significant disruption in the world of work since the industrial revolution, and how we respond has huge implications for the next generation. The shifts in the local and global economy are creating new opportunities for our industries and our way of life, but they also present significant challenges and failure to act will see our nation left behind.

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## FAMILY AND SOCIETY

### **What works to enhance inter-parental relationships and improve outcomes for children**

Early Intervention Foundation; University of Sussex; Department of Work and Pensions  
March 2016

This report summarises state-of-the-art research evidence examining links between the inter-parental relationship, positive versus negative parenting practices, and long-term outcomes for children. It finds that the quality of the couple relationship serves as a substantive influence both on the quality of parenting that children experience and on their long-term mental health and future life chances.

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### **Community engagement: A key strategy for improving outcomes for Australian families**

Tim Moore; Myfanwy McDonald; Harriet McHugh-Dillon et al.; Child, Family, Community Australia: CFCA Paper No. 39  
April 2016

This paper seeks to clarify what community engagement involves, how it relates to other ideas and practices, and the role it can play in improving outcomes for children and families.

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## HEALTH

### **Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving social outcomes for children - evidence brief**

Parenting Research Centre, Benevolent Society  
March 2016

Describes the extent to which interventions for parents and families can improve social outcomes for children.

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### **Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving physical health and wellbeing outcomes for children; Briefing paper**

Ben Devine; Gina-Maree Sartore; Michelle Macvean et al.; Benevolent Society, Parenting Research Centre  
March 2016

Describes the extent to which interventions for parents and families can improve child physical health and wellbeing outcomes. This Evidence Brief focuses on outcomes defined in the Australian Early Development Census, which collects data about key areas of early childhood development (known as 'domains'). The Physical Health and Wellbeing domain includes physical readiness for school day (dressed inappropriately, arriving late, hungry or tired), physical independence (independence regarding own needs, hand preference and co-ordination), and gross and fine motor skills.

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## INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

### **Fact check: Are Indigenous children 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous children to be living out of home?**

ABC News: FactCheck 13 April 2016  
April 2016

The ABC has recently conducted a fact check on the claim that "Indigenous children at the moment are 10 times more likely to be living out of home right now." The Fact Check article includes a commentary on how the data is collected in order to calculate the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care.

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### **The Financial Economy and Indigenous Young People in Australia**

Salignac, F.; Muir, K.; Butler, R. et al.; UNSW Centre for Social Impact; First Nations Foundation  
March 2016

This report, funded by the First Nations Foundation, aims to better understand how Indigenous young people navigate the financial economy. It looks at the relationship between the Indigenous and mainstream economies and finds that while Indigenous young people tend to leave school earlier they also tend to enter technical education earlier than non-Indigenous young people. This, however, does not translate to labour force participation.

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### **Looking After The Kids [SBS on Demand, Insight 2016 Episode 11; Program replay]**

Jennie Brockie, Tuesday 19th April, 8:30pm SBS Insight

April 2016

There are more than 15,000 indigenous kids in out-of-home care, and they are almost 10 times more likely to be in care than non-Indigenous children. In this rare and compelling discussion, young Aboriginal adults who have been through care share their experiences with Insight and explain what they would have liked growing up, as well as what they want for their own kids. Hosted by award-winning journalist Jenny Brockie.

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### **State of reconciliation in Australia 2016: our history, our story, our future**

L Armstrong, Reconciliation Australia

February 2016

Twenty-five years after the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (CAR), this report examines the state of reconciliation in Australia today. To develop a framework to measure Australia's progress Reconciliation Australia undertook a review of reconciliation in Australia and internationally. As a result, five critical dimensions that together represent a holistic and comprehensive picture of reconciliation were identified. This framework allows measurement and analysis of Australia's progress and sets out a roadmap for a reconciled Australia. The five dimensions are: race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity, unity and historical acceptance

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### **Indigenous school attendance: creating expectations that are 'really high' and 'highly real'**

Troy Meston; Gina Milgate; Bill Perrett; Australian Council for Educational Research Policy Insights No.4

March 2016

Presents a synthesis of publicly available data on school attendance by Indigenous Australians, highlighting areas of major risk. It explores Australian and international literature to develop an understanding of the risk factors and protective factors involved in strengthening school attendance. The paper then articulates a number of design principles to underpin future investment and intervention policies, and concludes with proposed guideposts which could be considered by policy-makers going forward.

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### **Aboriginal early childhood education: why attendance and true engagement are equally important**

Jacynta Krakouer; Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

April 2016

This paper goes beyond the rhetoric of framing Aboriginal ECE from a deficit perspective to focusing on why the mainstream school system needs to adapt to and accommodate Aboriginal learners. It is argued that a shift in policy thought is necessary in order to improve Aboriginal ECE in Australia, from one that attempts to 'prepare' Aboriginal children for school to one that prepares schools and educators for Aboriginal children.

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## **LAW AND JUSTICE**

### **Downward trend in the number of young offenders, 2006 to 2015**

Paul Sutherland & Melanie Millsted; Crime Statistics Agency, Victoria

March 2016

The statistics show a decrease in the number of offenders under 25 years of age over the past five years and a 37 per cent decrease in the number of unique offenders aged 10-14 years (offenders counted once in the given reference period regardless of how many times they may have been dealt with by police). Comparative data shows that the decline is not unique to Victoria, as youth crime rates have also dropped in New South Wales and internationally.

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### **Youth justice in Australia 2014-15**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

April 2016

This bulletin examines the numbers and rates of young people who were under youth justice supervision in Australia during 2014-15 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. It explores key aspects of their supervision, both in the community and in detention, as well as recent trends. About 5,600 young people were under youth justice supervision on an average day. In 2014-15, there were around 5,600 young people (aged 10 and older) who were under youth justice supervision on an average day. Among those aged 10-17, this equates to a rate of 21 per 10,000 or about 1 in every 466 young people.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Annual bullying survey 2016**

Ditch the Label, UK

April 2016

Key findings of the 2016 survey include: 1.5 million young people (50 percent) have been bullied within the past year; 24 percent of those who have been bullied go on to bully; 44 percent of young people who have been bullied experience depression.

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### **CentreForum commission on children and young people's mental health: state of the nation**

Emily Frith, London: CentreForum

April 2016

Explores the issue of child and adolescent mental health in England. Looks at prevalence and trends and highlights inconsistencies in available data. Identifies a 'treatment gap' where children and young people are unable to get the help they need; have to wait for treatment; or are treated in the wrong place. Provides a brief synopsis of policy developments to address some of these issues.

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### **The prevalence and effectiveness of anti-bullying strategies employed in Australian schools**

Ken Rigby; Kaye Johnson; School of Education, University of South Australia

December 2015

A comprehensive school bullying report, undertaken by the University of South Australia, provides the most recent findings on bullying in Australian Government schools. The report examines the prevalence and effectiveness of anti-bullying policies being used in a convenience sample of Australian government schools in six state or territory educational jurisdictions. It has drawn upon the perceptions and experiences of a range of stakeholders, that is, schools, teachers, parents and educational administrators from a number of Australian states and territories.

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## **MULTICULTURALISM**

### **National Youth Settlement Framework**

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN)

April 2016

This framework is designed to support a targeted and consistent approach to addressing the needs of newly arrived young people settling in Australia. The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) has released Australia's first National Youth Settlement Framework (NYSF) to guide youth settlement policy and service delivery in Australia. Informed by national consultations with young people, government and the non-government sector, the NYSF is designed for those engaged in policy development and service planning and delivery.

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### **The people they make us welcome: A sense of belonging for newly arrived young people**

Hunter, F. Amato, D. Quek, S. et al.; Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)

March 2016

The findings in this paper come from surveys with 15 young people, focus groups of 25 young people, and three interviews with service providers that were conducted in late 2014. They indicate that newly arrived young people are fairly positive about their experiences of belonging in Australia, though it's not without its challenges. Although the sample size is relatively small, it provides an important building block in understanding the way in which a sense of belonging impacts on young people's settlement overall.

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### **Multiculturalism; discussion paper**

Scanlon Foundation

March 2016

Produced in partnership with Monash University and the Australian Multicultural Foundation since 2007, the Scanlon Foundation's Mapping Social Cohesion Research series tracks public attitudes on important issues affecting our social cohesion, including immigration, multiculturalism, discrimination, and belonging.

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## **OUT OF HOME CARE**

### **The effectiveness and appropriateness of residential care for young children in Out of Home Care**

Child & Family Welfare Association of SA, Sara McLean

March 2016

The Australian Centre for Child Protection in Adelaide was commissioned by the Child and Family Welfare Association South Australia (CAFWA-SA) to review the published literature related to the effectiveness and appropriateness of residential care for young children placed into Out of Home Care. In determining the scope of this review, the decision was made to focus on the available evidence about the extent to which residential care, as opposed to other potential placement options is able to respond appropriately to children's developmental needs. Review also focussed on the developmental needs of children under the age of 10 years who are placed in Out of Home Care.

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## **PARTICIPATION**

### **NSW strategic plan for children and young people - consultation results**

Advocate for Children and Young People (NSW)

May 2016

This report sets out, in detail, the beginning of the development of the first whole of government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People in NSW. Under the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014, the Advocate is mandated to prepare, in consultation with Minister John Ajaka MLC, a three-year whole of government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People. Promoting the participation of children and young people in decision making is central to the role of the office of the Advocate for Children and Young People and as such it was essential to ensure not only that the voices of children and young people inform the first Strategic Plan but that children and young people had the first say on setting the themes and directions of the Plan. This report presents the results of the Advocate's consultations with more than 4000 children along with

the methods employed to engage such a vast number in the consultation process and the learnings that were taken from the process.

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## **POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION**

### **Using evidence: what works? A discussion paper**

The Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK

April 2016

Discussion document, based on the Science of Using Science project, reviewing what works to enable research use in decision making. Key findings include: making evidence the norm; tailoring and targeting; support organisational change.

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## **POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS**

### **Rental Affordability Snapshot 2016**

Anglicare Australia

April 2016

Snapshot finds low income earners are unable to afford to rent privately, and even more Australians are being pushed out of the housing market. Over the first weekend in April, the Anglicare member network surveyed 75,410 rental properties across Australia and found just 21 properties were affordable for single adults living on Newstart, and only one was suitable for young people living on Youth Allowance. And despite the higher level of pensions compared to allowances, affordable rentals were extremely limited for a single person living on any government payment.

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### **Throwing out the rulebook: collaborative innovation for the unfolding education first youth foyer model**

Joseph Borlagdan; Deborah Keys; Brotherhood of St Laurence and Launch Housing

December 2015

Developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Hanover Welfare Services (now Launch Housing), with funding from the Victorian Government, Education First Youth Foyers represent a new model and practice approach to working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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### **The cost of youth homelessness in Australia: research brief**

David MacKenzie, Paul Flatau, Adam Steen et al.; Swinburne Institute for Social Research

April 2016

The Costs of Youth Homelessness in Australia project is an ARC Linkage research project undertaken by the Swinburne University Institute for Social Research, the University of Western Australia and Charles Sturt University, in partnership with The Salvation Army, Mission Australia and Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn. Findings include the costs to the Australia economy of health services associated with young people experiencing homelessness is an average of \$8,505 per person per year or \$355 million across all young people aged 15-24 accessing Specialist Homelessness Services. This is \$6,744.00 per person per year more than for long-term unemployed youth (another key group of disadvantaged youth).

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### **Report reveals high costs of youth homelessness [Audio interview]**

Patricia Karvelas, David MacKenzie, RN Drive 28 April 2016

April 2016

A new study has found that youth homelessness is costing the health and justice systems more than \$600 million a year. The study was done over four years and followed more than four hundred young homeless

people during that time. One of the report authors, Associate Professor David MacKenzie, from Swinburne University, spoke to RN Drive about the study.

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## SEXUALITY

### **SHARE: Sexual Health and Relationships Education**

Multicultural Health and Support Service

This free online educational tool aims to improve sexual health and relationships of young people from diverse backgrounds. It is designed to be used as discussion starters by teachers, nurses, settlement workers, or anyone working with young people. SHARE provides comics based on realistic situations in which young people may find themselves experiencing. The characters in the comics are representative of the diversity in Victoria's population, and young people navigating sex and relationships.

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### **It is not all about sex: Young people's views about sexuality and relationships education; Stage 1 report**

Australian Research Council

March 2016

The research is being conducted by an interstate and cross institutional team involving experienced researchers and professionals from the field of education in sexuality, health and relationships. The project is funded by the Australian Research Council and supported by the Departments of Education (DECD and DEECD) in South Australia and Victoria. The Stage 1 report summarises the views of more than 2000 students, aged between 13 and 16 years from 31 high schools in South Australia and Victoria.

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## TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

### **Behind the News survey finds 56pc of children engage in excessive screen time**

Amelia Moseley, Behind the News (BtN) 26 April 2016

April 2016

A survey by the ABC program Behind The News has found about three in five children spend more time in front of a screen than the national guidelines recommend, with many respondents saying they would find it impossible to go without digital devices for one week.

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### **Protecting children and young people from the risks of gaming (and not just the obvious ones)**

Andy Phippen and Jennifer Agate; Farrer & Co LLP

March 2016

Briefing discussing concerns around gaming by children and young people including: content; social gaming; sharing of personal data; advertising and privacy issues. Draws on discussions with children and young people and other stakeholders around online child safety and digital wellbeing issues.

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### **Alert to pupils: the legal dangers of sexting: what children, young people and adults working with them need to know**

David Smellie, Farrer & Co., UK

February 2016

Briefing considering the risk of being criminalised by children who "sext", the transfer of indecent images of children under the age of 18-years-old. Sets out a scenario involving two 16-year-olds sexting and examines the criminal offences committed in the process. Also provides sources of help and assistance for any young person or adult who is affected or concerned.

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## Recent journal articles

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### **Assessing the effectiveness of school-based sexual abuse prevention programs**

Kerryann Walsh; Karen Zwi; Susan Woolfenden et al.

*Family Matters*, No. 97, 2016

This article highlights the importance of systematic reviews for research synthesis, with the strength of this approach demonstrated through the authors' recent Cochrane review into the effectiveness of school-based programs for the prevention of child sexual abuse. It describes the features of evaluation studies and the differences between systematic reviews and more traditional literature reviews, before summarising the findings of their recent Cochrane review.

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### **A national descriptive portrait of adolescent relationship abuse: results from the national survey on teen relationships and intimate violence**

Bruce G. Taylor and Elizabeth A. Mumford

*Journal of interpersonal violence*, Vol.31, No.6 March 2016, pp 963-988

Reports on results of a US survey of over 1800 12-18-year-olds on teen relationships and intimate violence. Findings include: 69 per cent reported lifetime adolescent relationship abuse victimisation; psychological abuse was the most common form of abuse (over 60 per cent), followed by sexual abuse and physical abuse (18 per cent); and 12 per cent reported perpetrating physical and /or sexual abuse. Girls aged 15-18-years-old reported perpetrating more than four times the rate of serious psychological abuse than boys. Demonstrates a significant positive correlation between relationship abuse victimisation and perpetration.

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### **The economic case for a more effective response to youth homelessness**

David MacKenzie, Paul Flatau, Adam Steen, Monica Thielking

*Policy Online*, 28 April 2016

This article argues that the Australian government needs to adopt a more sophisticated approach to addressing social problems such as homelessness, by investing in early intervention programs and more supportive social housing services.

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### **The impact of specific and complex trauma on the mental health of homeless youth**

Carolyn F. Wong, Leslie F. Clark and Lauren Marlotte

*Journal of interpersonal violence*, Vol.31, No.5 March 2016, pp 831-854

Looks at the way homeless young people's trauma experiences impact their mental health, focusing particularly on those occurring prior to homelessness. Presents the results of a survey of 389 homeless young people aged 13-25-years-old from the Los Angeles area. Findings include that experience of multiple traumas co-occurring with sexual trauma was significantly more detrimental in predicting post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms than multiple traumas of a non-sexual nature.

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### **Radicalisation cases in the family courts: part 2: practicalities and pitfalls**

Jo Delahunty and Chris Barnes

*Family law*, Vol.46 March 2016 pp 330-336

Considers the impact of radicalisation and extremism on family courts. Discusses Justice Hayden's (Hayden J) guidance on radicalisation cases which covers nine core principles for local authorities to consider when issuing urgent applications. Goes on to look at the importance of police co-operation and disclosure; child protection issues in dealing with media interest and press reporting; and the importance of establishing ethical protocols in the electronic tagging of children to prevent their abduction or possible flight from the UK.

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### **'You can try, but you won't stop it. It'll always be there': youth perspectives on violence prevention in schools**

Vanita Sundaram

*Journal of interpersonal violence*, Vol.31, No.4 February 2016 pp 652-676

Explores young people's views on the role of schools in preventing violence, drawing on focus group discussions with 14-16-year-olds from six schools in the north of England. Finds that overall young people were skeptical about whether violence can be prevented and therefore about the role of schools in preventing violence within and outside intimate relationships. Gender norms played an important role in shaping perceptions around prevention. Suggests that school-based violence prevention must address gender norms and expectations to challenge young people's acceptance and tolerance of violence.

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### **Young Children's Health and Wellbeing Across the Transition to School: A Critical Interpretive Synthesis**

Jennifer Fane; Colin MacDougall; Gerry Redmond et al.

*Children Australia*, Published Online on 29th April 2016

This paper reports on the systematic search and review of the literature relating to the health and wellbeing of young children across the transition to school. It identified 56 papers (including empirical studies, reviews, commentaries, and reports) relevant to the research questions and completed an interpretive systematic review to ascertain the current state of the literature. The review employed the Critical Interpretive Synthesis (CIS) method to allow for a rigorous and systematic review of a disparate literature which stretches across several disciplines. The findings are presented in seven thematic categories: current conceptualisations of health and wellbeing, assessment and measurement, 'school readiness', service integration, transition actors, 'at risk' children, and child voice. These findings illustrate the ways in which concepts have been constructed, identified, and operationalised in early years research, practice, and policy. Moreover, it highlights that 'what is known' can be used to inform the review or implementation of services, practices, and partnerships that support child health and wellbeing during the transition to school.

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### **Games for Health for Children - Current Status and Needed Research**

Institute of Digital Media and Child Development Working Group on Games for Health

*Games for Health Journal*, Vol.5 Issue 1, 3 February 2016

A white paper published in Games for Health Journal claims that the video games for health (G4H) field is currently looking into innovative ways to use video games to change behavioral patterns and increase positive health outcomes in children. The paper called for more research, targeted funding, and specifically defined guidelines in order to drive video game design, turning adverse effects of gaming into positive effects.

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### **Acting like a Tough Guy: Violent-Sexist Video Games, Identification with Game Characters, Masculine Beliefs, and Empathy for Female Violence Victims**

Alessandro Gabbiadini; Paolo Riva; Luca Andrighetto

*PLOS ONE*, published online 13 April 2016

Empathy - putting oneself in another's shoes - has been described as the 'social glue' that holds society together. This study investigates how exposure to sexist video games can decrease empathy for female violence victims. The researchers hypothesized that playing violent-sexist video games would increase endorsement of masculine beliefs, especially among participants who highly identify with dominant and aggressive male game characters. They also hypothesized that the endorsement of masculine beliefs would reduce empathy toward female violence victims. The results supported the prediction that playing violent-sexist video games increases masculine beliefs, which occurred for male (but not female) participants who were highly identified with the game character. Masculine beliefs, in turn, negatively predicted empathic feelings for female violence victims.

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### **An Aboriginal perspective on 'Closing the Gap' from the rural front line [Comment]**

Wilson RL.

*Rural and Remote Health* (Internet) 2016; 16: 3693

A recent rural community gathering, designed to bring together rural Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members and leaders, was held and provided an important forum for Aboriginal people to share

perspectives about Australia's aspirations to 'Close the Gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The aim of this report is to disseminate the sentiment that percolated in the presentations and discussion arising from the gathering. This report demonstrates how rural Close the Gap champions can influence the uptake of healthy choices in their communities, at the front line of change.

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### **Sport participation, screen time, and personality trait development during childhood**

Mark Allen

*British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, Vol 33(3) 2015

This investigation explored the contribution of extracurricular sport and screen time viewing (television viewing and electronic gaming) to personality trait stability and change during childhood. Two independent samples of 3,956 young children (age 6) and 3,862 older children (age 10) were taken from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. Parent-reported child sport participation, screen time, and personality traits were measured at baseline and again 24 months later. Young children who were more active recorded more of a decrease in introversion, less of a decrease in persistence, and less of an increase in reactivity, than those who were less active. Older children who were more active recorded less of an increase in introversion and more of an increase in persistence than those who were less active.

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### **Because We Are All People: Outcomes and Reflections from Young People's Participation in the Planning and Design of Child-Friendly Public Spaces**

Derr, V. and E. Tarantini

*Local Environment: International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, published online 19 February 2016

Child-Friendly Cities were conceived as a means to integrate children's rights into city decision-making and governance. Participatory research about child-friendly cities consistently finds overarching themes across ages and regions: children desire access to services, nature, and play; freedom from physical danger; and opportunities for inclusion within the city. This article explores a two-year visioning and participatory design process that engaged approximately 225 young people, aged 4-16, in the planning and design of a prominent public space in the City of Boulder.

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### **National survey data can be used to measure trends in population alcohol consumption in Australia**

Michael Livingston; Paul Dietz

*Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, published online March 2016

Young people are cutting back on alcohol in substantial way, according to a study of Australia's drinking habits based on data from the 2001-2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. In the period 2007-2013, there was a 45 per cent reduction of alcohol consumption in youth aged 14-17 years and 26 per cent reduction among youth aged 20-24 years.

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### **Scaling-up treatment of depression and anxiety: a global return on investment analysis**

Dr Dan Chisholm; Kim Sweeny; Prof Peter Sheehan et al.

*The Lancet Psychiatry*, published online 12 April 2016

The researchers propose a global investment case for a scaled-up response to the public health and economic burden of depression and anxiety disorders. The net present value of investment needed over the period 2016-30 to substantially scale up effective treatment coverage for depression and anxiety disorders is estimated to be US\$147 billion. The expected returns to this investment are also substantial. In terms of health impact, scaled-up treatment leads to 43 million extra years of healthy life over the scale-up period. Placing an economic value on these healthy life-years produces a net present value of \$310 billion.

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### **The Impact of a Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages on Health and Health Care Costs: A Modelling Study**

J. Lennert Veerman; Gary Sacks; Nicole Antonopoulos et al.; Obesity Policy Coalition

*PLOS ONE*, published online 13 April 2016

This study found that a 20 per cent tax on sugary drinks in Australia could save more than 1,600 lives and raise \$400 million per year for much-needed obesity prevention initiatives. Dr Gary Sacks, Senior Research Fellow from the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention at Deakin University and co-author of the report, said the Australian Government should follow other countries and implement a tax on sugary drinks. "A tax on sugary drinks has been a successful tool for reducing consumption in many parts of the world including Mexico and Hungary, and just recently we've seen the UK and South Africa move to introduce a tax. A tax on sugary drinks is also a policy recommendation in the recently released WHO report Ending Childhood Obesity," Dr Sacks said. Drawing on these new findings and the growing international experience, a tax on sugary drinks should be a key element in a national strategy to combat poor diets, obesity and resulting chronic disease."

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### **Repeated Play Reduces Video Games' Ability to Elicit Guilt: Evidence from a Longitudinal Experiment**

Matthew Grizzard; Ron Tamborini; John L. Sherry et al.

*Media Psychology*, Published online 31 March 2016

Statements supported mostly by correlational and cross-sectional studies suggest that playing violent video games can cause emotional desensitization. A longitudinal experiment examined whether repeated violent game play leads to emotional desensitization and whether desensitization generalizes to other play and real-life experiences. Participants played alternative versions of the same violent game for the first four days; on these days, the character role was varied between subjects to be moral (United Nations soldier) or immoral (terrorist soldier). On Day 5, all participants played a novel game as a terrorist. Results indicate two things. First, habituation occurs over repeated game play: Repeated exposure decreased the ability of the original game to elicit guilt. Second, the decreased ability to elicit guilt can generalize to other game-play experiences.

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### **Youth employment in Australia: a comparative analysis of labour force participation by age group**

Lisa Denny; Brendan Churchill

*Journal of Applied Youth Studies*, Vol.1 No.2 April 2016, pp 5-22

In the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), concern regarding youth unemployment in Australia and in many other countries has been escalating, and justifiably so. However, the proposed policy solutions - where they exist - may not be the most effective. This paper undertakes a comparative analysis of Australian labour-force engagement by age group over the past two decades, specifically by levels of labour force participation and unemployment rates. It finds that policy levers to address the challenges of population ageing, as identified in four Australian government Intergenerational Reports, by increasing female and mature labour-force participation and increasing immigration, combined with a lack of employment demand post the GFC, may have been detrimental, at least in recent history, to youth engagement in the labour

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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>MAY 2016</b>		
4-5 May	Sydney	<a href="#">Men's Behaviour Change Network NSW conference 2016: Best practice in engaging men who use violence in their families</a>
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	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Engaging communities: What's involved and how it's done [Webinar]</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>
12-13 July	Canberra ACT	<a href="#">Community and Stakeholder Engagement in the Australian Public Sector: Spreading Collaboration, Engagement and Cultivating Sustainability</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>
19-20 July	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Youth Work Conference 2016 : Youth Work and non-formal education: evidencing outcomes for young people</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>
30-31 August	Sydney NSW	<a href="#">Universal design conference; from the Margins to the Mainstream</a>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>		
8-10 September	Melbourne Vic	<a href="#">Early Childhood Intervention Australia Conference</a>
13-15 September	Brisbane Qld	<a href="#">From evidence to practice: the Second Australasian Youth Justice 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>
17-19 October	Cairns Qld	<a href="#">World Federation for Mental Health International Conference 2016</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>
28 November - 1 December	Fitzroy Vic	<a href="#">Cities and successful stories: The Australian Sociological Association Conference</a>
29 November - 2 December	Hobart Tas	<a href="#">ANZSOC 2016 : Horizons Criminology</a>

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