

Advocate for Children and Young People

Current awareness bulletin

July 2016

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Articles and publications

CHILD PROTECTION

How safe are our children? : the most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK 2016

Holly Bentley et al.; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, UK
2016

Compiles child protection data from government statistics and research findings to measure the extent of abuse and neglect in all four nations of the UK. Sets out 20 indicators covering: child deaths; recorded abuse offences; self-reported abuse; child protection actions; contacts with ChildLine and the NSPCC helpline; and public attitudes.

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Perceptions of credibility of sexual abuse victims across generations

Bianca Klettke, David Mellor and David Hallford

International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 44, October 2015

The success of prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual abuse often depends substantially upon the perceived credibility of the victim witness. However, perceptions of credibility may vary by generation of the observer, and the constitution of juries may therefore lead to bias. In this study the researchers examined whether perceptions of credibility of female victims of sexual abuse varied across generation Y, generation X, baby boomers, and "builders". It was consistently found that the older generation groups (builders and baby boomers) attributed less credibility to the victim than the younger generation groups (generation Y and generation X).

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CONSUMERISM

Popular music celebrity endorsements in food and nonalcoholic beverage marketing

Marie A. Bragg, Alysa N. Miller, Juleen Elizee et al.

Pediatrics, June 2016

Food and beverage marketing has been associated with childhood obesity. The researchers in this US based study quantified the number and type of food or beverage brands promoted by music celebrities, assessed the nutritional quality of the products, and examined Teen Choice Award data to assess the celebrities' popularity among adolescents. Results demonstrated that music celebrities who are popular among adolescents endorse energy-dense, nutrient-poor products.

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Study on the impact of marketing through social media, online games and mobile applications on children's behaviour

European Commission

April 2016

This extensive research project provides insights into the prevalence and characteristics of online marketing targeting children, how children's behaviour is influenced by these marketing practices, and how online marketing is regulated across Europe.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Three schools reforms that will lift student outcomes

Peter Goss, School Education Program Director, Grattan Institute

The Conversation, July 15, 2016

Peter Goss from the Grattan Institute, states that Australia's schools are not keeping up with the best in the world. He suggests that the newly elected Coalition government must tread a fine line: good Commonwealth policy will not save Australia's schools, but poor policy will damage them further and a big challenge for any Commonwealth education minister is that state governments hold key responsibilities in the areas that will lift student outcomes. This article discusses the limitations in the government education focus over recent years, slipping standards that have resulted, and suggests the key reforms needed for future effective educational growth.

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VET provider market structures: history, growth and change

Patrick Korbel, Josie Misko; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

July 2016

This report considers the past and present structure of the Australian vocational education and training market and prompts important and fundamental questions about the current structure of the market and whether it is best placed to deliver the desired skills and knowledge that students and the Australian economy require.

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Missing School: School connection for seriously sick kids: who are they, how do we know what works, and whose job is it?

Neil Stafford et al.; Missing School; Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

October 2015

A comprehensive report into the challenges facing kids who miss school due to significant injury or illness aims to improve outcomes for an estimated 60,000 seriously ill Australian students. Around Australia every day, thousands of kids with serious medical conditions remain at home or in hospital, watching from the sidelines and missing school. Some of these kids will experience frequent or extended absences from school – from a few weeks, or months, to possibly years at a time. Recommendations included the development of national framework to support the education of chronically ill or injured children. In July 2016 ARACY launched a national research project - Systems to Support Kids Missing School - to find out how best to ensure chronically ill or injured students remain connected to school. Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training, the project will collect evidence on which approaches are the most effective and helpful for these children. A final report from ARACY will be published in June 2017.

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Stonewall education equality index 2016

Sarah Rose, Stonewall, UK

July 2016

Stonewall has published its Education equality index for 2016. This is the sixth year the index has been published and draws from submissions from almost a quarter of all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The Index shows how well local authorities in UK are celebrating difference across the community and tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools. Includes a section on what a local authority with good performance in preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying looks like.

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EMPLOYMENT

Estimating the fiscal costs of long-term jobless families in Australia

Mohanty, Itismita; Tanton, Robert; Vidyattama, Yogi et al.

Australian Journal of Social Issues, Volume 51 Issue 1 (April 2016)

Despite substantial costs to society associated with the adverse consequences of joblessness, studies estimating actual costs are rare. This paper identifies the main costs to the Government of long-term jobless families in Australia. The costs were split into three groups: immediate support costs, immediate opportunity costs, and indirect/intergenerational costs. Using a microsimulation model, the paper estimates the fiscal costs, which include immediate support costs such as the welfare system, and the immediate opportunity costs such as potential revenue from the tax system. We estimate that welfare payments and lost taxation revenue from long-term joblessness cost the Government AU\$5.55 billion per year.

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Qualifications and Work, Australia, 2015; ABS 4235.0

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

June 2016

The ABS report has found that 9.4 million Australians aged 15-64 years had a qualification in vocational or university education in 2015, up from 8.7 million in 2014. The report shows a university education assists 82 per cent of students find employment, compared to 61 per cent of those without a post-school qualification.

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FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2016 - 2019

Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People

July 2016

On 26 July, 2016 the NSW Government officially launched the first-ever legislated whole of government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People which will help ensure children and young people in NSW have opportunities to thrive, get the services they need and have their voice heard. As part of developing the Plan, the Office of the Advocate of Children and Young People consulted with more than 4,000 children and young people right across NSW. As well there was input and guidance from government departments and agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations. The Plan aims to ensure children and young people in NSW are safe, connected, respected, have opportunities, are healthy and well, and have a voice in decisions that affect them.

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Parenting and happiness in 22 countries

Jennifer Glass, Robin Simon and Matthew Andersson; Council on Contemporary Families

June 2016

Findings in this briefing paper included that the negative effects of parenthood on happiness were entirely explained by the presence or absence of social policies allowing parents to better combine paid work with

family obligations. And this was true for both mothers and fathers. Countries with better family policy 'packages' had no happiness gap between parents and non-parents.

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The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Selected Findings from Waves 1 to 14; The 11th Annual Statistical Report of the HILDA Survey

Roger Wilkins, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne
July 2016

The HILDA Survey seeks to provide longitudinal data on the lives of Australian residents. It annually collects information on a wide range of aspects of life in Australia. This report presents brief statistical analyses of the first 14 waves of the study, which were conducted between 2001 and 2014.¹ It examines 12 topics: family life; economic wellbeing; labour market outcomes; household wealth; housing wealth; superannuation; material deprivation; child health and health care utilisation; private health insurance; physical activity; and sleep.

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The Australian Youth Development Index; A jurisdictional overview of youth development

Youth Action

July 2016

Youth Action has devised the first composite index measuring Australian youth development across the domains of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation. Performance levels in each of these domains contributes to the Youth Development Index score, with data showing an improvement in youth development in most Australian States and Territories, but developmental gaps remaining for rural and Indigenous youth. This is part of the Commonwealth Youth Programme initiative to increase focus on youth development through presenting and collecting relevant data. It complements the international Youth Development Index which measures the status of 15-29 year-olds in 170 countries according to these same five key domains.

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Ambitious for children; Children's Commissioner for England's five year commitments 2015-2020 Children's Commissioner for England

August 2015

Anne Longfield, OBE, took up the post of Children's Commissioner for England on 1 March 2015. Her role was established under the Children Act 2004 and strengthened by the Children and Families Act 2014. This 5 year strategy identifies the Commissioner's commitment to placing children and young people at the heart of the five year priorities and listening to their unique and expert perspective on their own lives. Consultations with Amplify and Young Amplify, the Children's Commissioner's young advisory group have supported the Commissioner's work to date and will continue to do so. Children and young people in care or experiencing violence and harm will also be a key focus of the Commissioner's strategies.

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Ambitious for children 2016/17

Children's Commissioner for England

July 2016

Anne Longfield, OBE, Children's Commissioner for England has published a one-year business plan for implementing her 5 year strategy Ambitious for children. Themes include: growing up with positive childhoods; being ambitious for every child in care; seeing a major reduction in children being harmed and neglected; reduce inequalities for children and break the cycle of disadvantage. The Commissioner discusses new activities to embed a child-centred approach to everyday life, from providing support for Children in Care Councils to creating Child Friendly Cities.

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HEALTH

Analysing Quality Area 2 - Children's Health and Safety

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

June 2016

ACECQA has published the second in its series of occasional papers, analysing one of the most challenging quality areas - Children's Health and Safety. Quality Area 2 addresses one of the primary objectives of the National Quality Framework - to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children attending education and care services. The paper examines performance across service types, socio economic and remoteness classifications, jurisdictions and management types. One of the findings from the analysis is that services in remote and very remote areas may benefit from more support to understand and comply with the requirements of Quality Area 2. The paper also summarises recent state, territory and Commonwealth initiatives around child safe organisations.

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Early childhood obesity: Association with healthcare expenditure in Australia

Alison Hayes, Anna Chevalier, Mario D'Souza et al.

Obesity, Vol.24, Issue 8 August 2016. Online 6 July 2016

Study to assess whether overweight or obesity among children (aged 2 to 5 years) is associated with direct healthcare costs, after adjusting for child, household, and socioeconomic characteristics. Prevention of obesity in early childhood may have concurrent benefits in reducing healthcare expenditure. A longitudinal cohort analysis was performed in 350 children aged 2 years assessed over 3 years of follow-up. Child weight status was determined from mean BMI z-scores at 2, 3.5, and 5 years, and healthcare utilization including medicines, nonhospital, hospital, and emergency care was determined by data linkage. Findings showed that prevention of obesity in early childhood may have concurrent benefits in reducing healthcare expenditure.

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Longitudinal study of young people in England cohort 2: health and wellbeing at wave 2

Carli Lessof et al.; Department of Education, UK

July 2016

This research report analyses the health and wellbeing of 14-year-olds living in England. Findings from a comparison between a 2005 and a 2014 survey of young people include: young people in 2014 reported less risky behaviours (such as smoking and drinking) and girls reported increased levels of psychological distress (such as feelings of unhappiness or lack of self worth).

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Children's independent mobility: an international comparison and recommendations for action

Shaw, B., Bickett, M., Elliot, B. et al.; Policy Studies Institute, London

July 2015

Report explores, through international comparison, the freedom that children have to get about and play in their local neighbourhood unaccompanied by adults - children's independent mobility. Evidence highlighted in previous work by the Policy Studies Institute stretching back over 40 years indicates that independent mobility is declining with significant consequences for the health and physical, social and mental development of children. The study documents and compares children's independent mobility and policy responses in 16 countries across the world.

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Confectionery consumption and overweight, obesity, and related outcomes in children and adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Gasser, C E, Mensah, F K, Russell, M

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, April 2016

This paper looks into associations between the consumption of confectionery and obesity among children and adolescents. The researchers hypothesized that higher total, chocolate, and nonchocolate confectionery consumption would be associated with higher odds of overweight, obesity, and other obesity-related outcomes in children and adolescents. 19 studies were included in the systematic review, and the cross-sectional results of 11 studies were included in the meta-analysis. Instead of overweight and obese children and adolescents having higher confectionery intakes, this review shows the reverse effect. Researchers conclude that interventions may need to focus on dietary elements other than confectionery to tackle obesity.

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Embrace [documentary released August 2016]

Taryn Brumfitt

July 2016

When Australian body image activist Taryn Brumfitt posted an unconventional before-and-after photograph in 2013, it was seen by more than 100 million worldwide and sparked an international media frenzy. In her forceful debut which was selected for the 2016 Sydney Film Festival, Brumfitt continues her crusade exploring the global issue of body loathing. She travels the world to interview an impressive range of women about their attitudes to their bodies.

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Perils of place; identifying hotspots of health inequality

Stephen Duckett and Kate Griffith; Grattan Institute

July 2016

Using data that available for two states, this report identifies 38 places in Queensland and 25 in Victoria that have had potentially preventable hospitalisation rates at least 50 per cent higher than the state average in every year for a decade. The report recommends three to five year trials to address hotspots where health inequalities are already entrenched with lessons learnt being used in other regions.

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INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

The study of environment on Aboriginal resilience and child health (SEARCH): a long-term platform for closing the gap

Darryl Wright, Raylene Gordon, Darren Carr et al.;

Public Health Research & Practice, July 2016; Vol.26(3)

This paper describes an established long-term action partnership between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs), the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales (AH&MRC), researchers and the Sax Institute, which is committed to using high-quality data to bring about health improvements through better services, policies and programs. This partnership established a cohort study of 1600 urban Aboriginal children and their caregivers, known as SEARCH (the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health), which is now having significant impacts on health, services and programs for urban Aboriginal children and their families.

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What are the factors associated with good mental health among Aboriginal children in urban New South Wales, Australia? Phase 1 findings from the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH)

Williamson A, D'Este C, Clapham K. et al.

BMJ Open, 2016;6 (7): e011182.

Participants were 1005 Aboriginal children aged 4-17 years who participated in phase I of the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH). The study found that most children who participated in SEARCH were not at high risk for emotional or behavioural problems. Promising targets for efforts to promote mental health among urban Aboriginal children and for adolescent boys and for young people in the foster care system may include the timely provision of medical care for children and provision of additional support for parents and carers experiencing mental or physical health problems.

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Reparations for the Stolen Generations in New South Wales; unfinished business

NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

July 2016

This inquiry report makes a series of recommendations in terms of providing reparations to Stolen Generation survivors and their families in New South Wales. It is in part a response to the Bringing them home report

published in 1997, which recommended that all those affected by the government's forcible removal policies be provided with financial and non-financial reparations, including an apology and monetary compensation.
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LAW AND JUSTICE

Participation in PCYC Young Offender programs and re-offending

Clare Ringland

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Crime and Justice Bulletin, Number 191, May 2016

Young people who were referred to a PCYC Young Offender program in New South Wales (NSW) between 2010 and 2013 were matched to a group of young people who were similar in terms of demographic and offending characteristics and not referred. Within 12 months of program referral, 64 per cent of those referred to a PCYC Young Offender program had reoffended, Half of those referred had re-offended within 190 days of referral. When compared to a similar group of young people who were not referred to a PCYC Young Offender program, referral was not found to be associated with a reduced rate of re-offending within 12 months.

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Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2015; ABS 4510.0 released 13/07/2016

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

July 2016

This chapter presents national statistics about incidents of victimisation for a selected range of offences that were recorded by state and territory police in the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. The statistics provide information about victim characteristics and the nature of the criminal incidents. Chapters include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims data and family and domestic violence data. The data shows that four in five sexual assault victims are female, with females aged 15-19 years seven times more likely to be a victim of sexual assault compared with the overall population. A third of victims experienced sexual assault as part of family and domestic violence, with the current number of sexual assault reports being the highest Australia has seen in six years.

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New South Wales Custody Statistics Quarterly Update June 2016

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

July 2016

Report presents 24 months of reception, discharge and custody population data and comparisons between the current and previous quarter for age, gender, indigenous status, most serious offence and the average length of stay. Separate figures are presented for juveniles and adults.

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Australia's shame: The brutalisation of children behind bars [video and transcript]

Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Mary Fallon, Elise Worthington;

ABC Four Corners, Monday 25 July 2016

Scenes of child abuse at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in Darwin aired on ABC's Four Corners elicited strong responses from the sector such as ACOSS, condemning Centre practices. Amnesty International reports that 100 organisations called for an independent Royal Commission that will undertake a holistic examination of the justice system. Save the Children is advocating for a reduction in the number of prison offenders, while Australian Red Cross is seeking alternatives to prison for children through a justice reinvestment approach.

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Young people returning to sentenced youth justice supervision 2014-15

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

July 2016

This research shows that the younger a person is when released from sentenced community-based supervision, the more likely they are to return. Twenty-three percent of young people aged 10-16 released from sentenced community-based supervision returned to sentenced supervision within six months, and a further 23 per cent

returned within 12 months. Return rates were even higher for those released from sentenced detention, with 74 per cent returning within 12 months of release.

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Sentencing children in Victoria; data update report

Donald Ritchie, Nina Hudson; Sentencing Advisory Council

July 2016

Provides an update on select data from the Sentencing Advisory Council's 2012 report Sentencing Children and Young People in Victoria. Specifically, it focuses on offenders aged under 18 at the time of offending (and under 19 at the time of commencement of proceedings) who were sentenced in either the Children's Court or the higher courts for the calendar years from 2010 to 2015 (inclusive).

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MENTAL HEALTH

Transforming mental health services for children who have experienced abuse; A review of Local Transformation Plans

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, UK

June 2016

In 2015 the Government's Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force published Future in Mind - a landmark report setting out a new vision for children's and young people's mental health in England. This report summarises the NSPCC's analysis to the Government's local transformation plans that recognise the role of abuse and neglect as a primary risk factor for mental health needs; assess the local level of need and current service offer for children who have experienced abuse and neglect; and whether local areas are planning additional services targeted at this group.

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Suicide in children and young people in England: a consecutive case series

Cathryn Rodway et al.; University of Manchester

May 2016

National study of suicide in children and young people in England. Findings include: the risk of suicide rose sharply from mid-to-late teens; experiences linked to suicide include bereavement, bullying, exams and physical health conditions such as acne and asthma; internet use related to suicide was found in 23 per cent of the deaths (this was either searching for information about suicide methods, being a victim of online bullying or posting suicidal thoughts online).

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Physical challenge, wider health impacts for young people with a mental illness

Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health

June 2016

Orygen's report shows that young people who are diagnosed with a mental illness are at a greater risk of poorer physical and sexual health outcomes, because the sole focus of their treatment is being targeted to their mental health at the cost of their physical health. One group particularly impacted by poor health outcomes are young people with first-episode psychosis who are at a heightened risk of rapid weight gain due to the side-effects of some of the medications prescribed to treat the disorder. The report points to the need to prioritise early intervention treatments that look holistically at the health and wellbeing of young people with mental illness and include a focus on their physical and their sexual health.

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Beyond adversity: addressing the mental health needs of young people who face complexity and adversity in their lives

Young Minds UK

July 2016

Young Minds has published a report on addressing the mental health needs of young people who face adversity. Key issues include: in addition to acquiring and/or exhibiting social, emotional and cognitive problems, a vulnerable young person may adopt risky or challenging behaviours, which are frequently misinterpreted or criminalised by those who do not identify their full need.

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Childhood trauma: Developmental pathways and implications for the classroom

Mollie Tobin, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

July 2016

Neuroscience research emphasises the understanding that the brain is the central system linking neurobiological and psychosocial development. According to the report, this can explain how trauma exposure may help initiate a 'cascade' of impaired functioning across seemingly unrelated pathways in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Research in psychology and education suggests that trauma is associated with poorer education outcomes. The report aims to help educators working with traumatised children to understand the key developmental pathways that may be affected by childhood trauma, and how to support resilience through these pathways.

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OUT OF HOME CARE

In Care, Out of Trouble; How the life chances of children in care can be transformed by protecting them from unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system; An independent review chaired by Lord Laming

Prison Reform Trust

June 2016

Executive summary of an independent review of looked after children in the criminal justice system. Findings include: 94per cent of looked after children in England and Wales do not get into trouble with the law, however around half of the children currently in custody in England and Wales have been in care at some point. The Trust recommends that work to protect children in care must be driven by strong and determined leadership at national and local levels, taking a strategic multi-agency approach to protecting children in care against criminalisation. This needs to be underpinned by better data collection so as to improve services for children and families, especially those at risk and consistent, early support for children and families and, where necessary, good parenting by the state.

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Non-Regulatory guidance: ensuring educational stability for children in foster care

U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

June 2016

Children and youth in foster care represent one of the most vulnerable student subgroups in the US and experience much higher levels of residential and school instability than their peers. These guidelines aim to build on the effectiveness of legislation and strategies already in place in US such as the legislation to help to ensure privacy protections for children and families and to facilitate more efficient data-sharing pertaining to children in foster care between child welfare and educational agencies, a critical component to ensuring school stability for these youth.

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Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry report

Commissioner, the Honourable Margaret Wilson QC; Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry

June 2016

The Inquiry was set up to investigate the decision in 2013 by the Queensland government to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre (BAC) and the adequacy of the care, support and services that were provided to transition clients and their families. The Commissioner, the Honourable Margaret Wilson QC, presented her report to the Queensland Premier on 24 June 2016. Volume 1 of the report was made publicly available.

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Achieving stability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care; SNAICC Policy Position Statement

Wendy Hermeston, James McDougall, John Burton et al; Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

July 2016

For children who are placed in out-of-home care, stability of relationships and identity are vitally important to their wellbeing and must be promoted. SNAICC is deeply concerned, however, that these changes fail to sufficiently recognise that stability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is grounded in the permanence of their connection with kin and culture. SNAICC has undertaken research and consultation and has produced this paper to inform and influence policy development and practice reform that supports the safety and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children,

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Keep on caring; supporting young people from care to independence

HM Government, UK

July 2016

Report presents strategies to improve support for young people moving from care to independence. Recommends developing new ways of supporting care leavers, and advocates a rethink of how services are delivered and what support is provided, with a strong focus on finding new and better ways of helping care leavers develop the social networks that will sustain them not just in the years immediately after leaving care, but throughout their lives.

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POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Putting an End to Child and Family Homelessness in Canada

Gulliver-Garcia, T.; Toronto: Raising the Roof

February 2016

Family homelessness (and therefore homelessness amongst dependent children and youth) is a significant, yet hidden, part of the crisis in Canada. This study is a comprehensive, three year examination of homelessness affecting children and their families across Canada. Much of the research that has been done on homelessness focuses on the adult or youth populations, but family homelessness makes up a significant percentage of the overall homeless population in Canada. Based on their findings the researchers have developed a set of best practices and recommendations for programs responding to child and family homelessness

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TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Internet Usage and Educational Outcomes Among 15-Year-Old Australian Students

Alberto Posso, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

International Journal of Communication, Issue 10, 2016

Study examining whether young people's use of the Internet for social networking and gaming at very high rates affect educational achievement in mathematics, reading, and science. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's 2012 Program for International Student Assessment data set was used for the analysis. The results suggest that using online social networks reduces academic achievement. Conversely, playing online games increases scores. It is argued that although both activities are associated with a high opportunity cost of study, video games potentially allow students to apply and sharpen skills learned in school.

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Engaging with cohorts: opportunities and pitfalls in social media

Helen Signy

Public Health Research & Practice, July 2016; Vol.26(3)

Professor Deborah Lupton, a sociology and media studies researcher at the University of Canberra who focuses on social and cultural aspects of digital health, said ethics committees worldwide were struggling to keep up with ethical guidelines as researchers turned increasingly to digital and social media to recruit and engage with their cohorts. In the absence of clear ethical guidelines governing the use of the internet for research, "public health researchers need to be highly cognisant of the ethics of what they are doing and that they might be very different to what they are used to", Professor Lupton said. A brief overview of social media ethics and some tips for researchers are presented.

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Internet use and electronic gaming by children and adolescents with emotional and behavioural problems in Australia – results from the second Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wavne Rikkers, David Lawrence, Jennifer Hafekost and Stephen R. Zubrick

BMC Public Health, 13 May 2016 16:399

Concerns have been raised of a potential connection between excessive online activity outside the academic realm and increased levels of psychological distress in young people. Young Minds Matter: the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing provides estimates of the prevalence of online activity and allows an exploration of associations between this activity, a range of mental disorders, socio-demographic characteristics and risk taking behaviour. Researchers found there are links between problem behaviours associated with Internet use and electronic gaming, and mental disorders and risk-taking behaviour in young people. Further studies are required to determine whether these are precursors or sequelae.

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The power of the like in adolescence; effects of peer influence on neural and behavioral responses to social media

Lauren E. Sherman, Ashley A. Payton, Leanna M. Hernandez et al.

Psychological Science, July 2016

This research investigated a unique way in which adolescent peer influence occurs on social media. The authors developed a novel functional MRI (fMRI) paradigm to simulate Instagram, a popular social photo-sharing tool, and measured adolescents' behavioral and neural responses to likes, a quantifiable form of social endorsement and potential source of peer influence. Adolescents underwent fMRI while viewing photos ostensibly submitted to Instagram. They were more likely to like photos depicted with many likes than photos with few likes; this finding showed the influence of virtual peer endorsement and held for both neutral photos and photos of risky behaviors (e.g., drinking, smoking).

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SPIRTO: self produced images risk taking online; final public report

The University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Linköping University, Sweden; Innocence in Danger, Germany; Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, United Kingdom

July 2015

The project aimed to use both quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the phenomenon of self-produced images. The focus was on risk related to the capacity to generate sexual content (often described as sexting). Research to date points to the need for recognition of both the multifaceted nature of sexual interactions and the importance of further unpicking these interactions to determine what sexting means to young people, their reasons for sexting, the specific contexts in which the activity occurs, and the consequences that follow on from sexting experiences.

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VIOLENCE

Meta-evaluation of existing interagency and integrated interventions and service responses to violence against women

Breckenridge, J., Rees, S., Valentine, k., & Murray, S.; Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Horizons Research Report, Issue 4 July 2016

This report identifies key program elements, policy contexts and learnings from the implementation of integrated responses in all Australian jurisdictions.

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The evolution of virtual violence: how mobile screens provide windows to real violence

Rhea W. Boyd, Wendy Sue Swanson

Pediatrics, July 2016

Public discussion of child and adolescent exposure to 'virtual violence' typically focuses on the simulated violence that occurs within gaming applications and the glamorised or normalised violence depicted in television and movies. However today, youth have unprecedented access to portable devices with internet, photo, and video capabilities that fundamentally change the scope, magnitude, and outcomes of virtual violence exposures by providing access to real violence that can be captured and consumed, virtually. The authors discuss the issues and the implications of the changes taking place.

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INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children

World Health Organization (WHO)

July 2016

This publication reflects the contributions of technical experts from all core agencies, along with many other partners. It presents a framework of prevention strategies for use across agencies. The package of seven evidence-based strategies builds on growing evidence that violence against children is preventable, and on a growing public consensus that it will no longer be tolerated.

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Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative

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

| AUGUST 2016 | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---|
| 8-9 August | Melbourne Vic | 2016 Victims and Justice National Conference |
| 10-11 August | Melbourne Vic | Disability Employment Conference |
| 13 August | Sydney NSW | In Pursuit of Playfulness, Curiosity and Innovation Conference |
| 15-17 August | Sydney NSW | ACWA 2016 – Pathways to Protection and Permanency: Getting it Right for Children, Young People and Families |
| 19 August | Sydney NSW | The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People : Generation Next |
| 21-22 August | Sydney NSW | Girls and Education National Conference |
| 22-23 August | Melbourne Vic | Safe Cities Conference |
| 24-26 August | Sydney NSW | 2nd Annual Future of Youth Employment Forum |
| 25-26 August | Melbourne Vic | Boys and Education National Conference |

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| 28-31 August | Calgary, Canada | ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect |
| 30-31 August | Sydney NSW | Universal design conference; from the Margins to the Mainstream |
| SEPTEMBER 2016 | | |
| 2-3 September | Sydney | Practising Positive Education: A Healthy Digital Diet Conference 2016 |
| 4-10 September | National | National Child Protection Week |
| 5-9 September | National | National eSmart Week |
| 7-8 September | Brisbane Qld | Everything is possible: QCOSS State Conference |
| 8-10 September | Melbourne Vic | Early Childhood Intervention Australia Conference |
| 10 September | National and International | World Suicide Prevention Day |
| 13-15 September | Brisbane Qld | From evidence to practice: the Second Australasian Youth Justice Conference |
| 19-22 September | Adelaide SA | Prevalent and Preventable: Practice and Policy in the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children |
| 15-16 September | Melbourne Vic | Doing school differently: national, flexible and inclusive education conference |
| 20-21 September | Canberra ACT | Public Sector Social Media & Communications conference; Effectively engaging communities & delivering key messages |
| 26-28 September | Melbourne Vic | International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Conference 2016 - Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health - looking to the future |
| 27-29 September | Melbourne Vic | 2nd Breaking the cycle of domestic and family violence conference |
| 28 September | London UK | Early help conference: building resilience and evidence-based practice |
| 29-30 September | Singapore | International Family Law Conference 2016: The Future of Family Justice: International and Multi-Disciplinary Pathways |
| OCTOBER 2016 | | |
| 5-6 October | Melbourne Vic | Australasian Implementation Conference |
| 5-8 October | Darwin NT | Early Childhood Australia national conference |
| 10 October | National | World mental health day (WMHD) |
| 10-14 October | Melbourne Vic | eResearch Australasia 2016 |
| 11 October | London UK | Children's mental health and wellbeing - integrating services, improving provision and the role of schools |
| 11-14 October | Adelaide SA | 4th National indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference |

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| 16-22 October | National | Anti-Poverty Week |
| 17-19 October | Cairns Qld | World Federation for Mental Health International Conference 2016 |
| 19 October | Adelaide SA | The Future of Housing Assistance Conference |
| 25-27 October | Canberra ACT | National Longitudinal Data Conference 2016 : Wellbeing over the life course |
| NOVEMBER 2016 | | |
| 3 November | Kingscliff NSW | 8th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium |
| 7-9 November | Ghent, Belgium | Child in the City Conference 2016 |
| 8-10 November | Melbourne Vic | Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference |
| 15-18 November | Auckland NZ | International Indigenous Research Conference |
| 17-18 November | Sydney NSW | Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) National Conference |
| 21-22 November | Melbourne Vic | Not-For-Profit People Conference |
| 24-25 November | Sydney NSW | Social justice, social enterprise and the market: challenge or opportunity |
| 25-26 November | Melbourne Vic | 16th Australia's Homosexual Histories Conference: Beyond the Culture Wars: LGBTIQ History Now |
| 28 November - 1 December | Fitzroy Vic | Cities and successful stories: The Australian Sociological Association Conference |
| 29 November – 1 December | Canberra ACT | FRSA National Conference 2016 ; Measuring success in the family and relationship sector |
| 29 November - 2 December | Hobart Tas | ANZSOC 2016 : Horizons Criminology |
| DECEMBER 2016 | | |
| 5-7 December | Brisbane Qld | Australian Stop Domestic Violence Conference |
| 7-9 December | New Orleans USA | Building powerful connections: Zero to Three Annual Conference |
| 15-19 December | Delhi, India | 18th World congress on criminology |
| JANUARY 2017 | | |
| 16-18 January | Canberra ACT | 30th ACHPER (Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Inc.) Conference |

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