

Advocate for Children and Young People

Current awareness bulletin

August 2016

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Articles and publications

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Systems Royal Commission Report

Commissioner Margaret Nyland; South Australia; Attorney-General's Department
August 2016

Royal Commissioner Margaret Nyland and her team looked at the laws, policies, practices and structures currently in place in South Australia for children at risk of harm, abuse or neglect including those who are under the guardianship of the minister. During hearings the Commission heard from 381 witnesses including public servants, experts, non-government organisations and foster carers. The Inquiry also included submissions and stakeholder engagements. Commissioner Nyland made recommendations about improvements to the child protection system in her report which was delivered to the Governor on 5 August 2016.

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Family relationships and the disclosure of institutional child sexual abuse; Report for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Final report

Antonia Quadara, Mary Stathopoulos and Rachel Carson; Australian Institute of Family Studies
July 2016

The report examined the long-term effects of disclosures of institutional child sexual abuse on survivors and their families. The research, conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), focuses on the long term effect of disclosure on families; the different effects of disclosures made in adulthood compared to those made in childhood; and the implications of these findings for enhancing service responses.

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Creating child safe institutions

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
July 2016

As part of its Terms of Reference the Royal Commission is required to inquire into what institutions and governments should do to better protect children against child sexual abuse and related matters in institutional

contexts in the future. A key aspect of this task was to examine what makes institutions 'child safe'. The Royal Commission conducted extensive analysis of available research and evidence including Child Safe Organisations frameworks, guidelines and standards developed in Australia and internationally, and evaluations of Child Safe Organisations initiatives. From this evidence base the Commission identified specific elements that institutions should adopt in order to be child safe and commissioned the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) and Parenting Research Centre to test these elements with Australian and international experts in relevant child safe sectors.

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Key elements of child safe organisations; Research study

Kylie valentine, Ilan Katz, Ciara Smyth et al.; Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC)

June 2016

Research study prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The researchers undertook an adapted Delphi Study to obtain advice, opinion and consensus from a panel of independent experts on what should constitute key principles, elements and sub-elements of child safe organisations. The study produced consensus and the surveys showed that a majority of the experts considered the elements proposed by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to be relevant, achievable and reliable. However findings also indicated that many respondents held concerns about achievability with respect to how the elements might be implemented and the associated costs and risks.

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Beyond the physical incident model: How children living with domestic violence are harmed by and resist regimes of coercive control

Emma Katz

Child Abuse Review, November 2015, 46-59

This article explores how non-violent coercive controlling behaviours can be central to children's experiences of domestic violence. It considers how children can be harmed by, and resist, coercive controlling tactics perpetrated by their father/father-figure against their mother. Much of the research to date focuses on how women/mothers experience non-physical forms of domestic violence. However, this knowledge has not yet reached most research on children and domestic violence, which tends to focus on children's exposure to physical violence. This qualitative study found that non-violent behaviours from perpetrators/fathers placed children in isolated, disempowering and constrained worlds which could hamper children's resilience and development and contribute to emotional/behavioural problems.

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Exploring the relationship between neglect and child sexual exploitation: Evidence scope 1

Elly Hanson; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC); Action for Children, UK

July 2016

Research by Dartington Hall Trust Research in Practice, Action for Children and the NSPCC produced three linked evidence scopes exploring how neglect relates to child sexual exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and intrafamilial sexual abuse.. Evidence Scope 1 considers the potential relationship between neglect and child sexual exploitation.

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Exploring the relationship between neglect and adult-perpetrated intrafamilial child sexual abuse: Evidence scope 2

Debra Allnock; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC); Action for Children, UK

July 2016

Research by Dartington Hall Trust Research in Practice, Action for Children and the NSPCC produced three linked evidence scopes exploring how neglect relates to child sexual exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and intrafamilial sexual abuse. Evidence Scope 2 considers the potential relationship between neglect and intra-familial child sexual abuse.

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Exploring the relationship between neglect and harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people:

Evidence scope 3

Simon Hackett; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC); Action for Children, UK
July 2016

Research by Dartington Hall Trust Research in Practice, Action for Children and the NSPCC produced three linked evidence scopes exploring how neglect relates to child sexual exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and intrafamilial sexual abuse. Evidence Scope 3 considers the potential relationship between neglect and harmful sexual behaviours.

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CONSUMERISM

The Influence of televised food commercials on children's food choices: Evidence from ventromedial prefrontal cortex activations

Amanda S. Bruce, Stephen W. Pruitt, Oh-Ryeong Ha et al.

The Journal of Pediatrics, online 12 August 2016

Twenty-three children ages 8-14 years provided taste and health ratings for 60 food items. Subsequently, these children were scanned with the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging while making food choices after watching food and nonfood television commercials. Results show that watching food commercials changes the way children consider the importance of taste when making food choices. Children did not use health values for their food choices, indicating children's decisions were largely driven by hedonic, immediate rewards (ie, "tastiness"); however, children placed significantly more importance on taste after watching food commercials compared with nonfood commercials.

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Picture of health?

Credos, UK

April 2016

Credos, a UK advertising think-tank, has published a series of reports on representation in advertising. This study follows a 2011 report, *Pretty as a Picture* (on the effect of airbrushing in ads on women and young girls) and *The Whole Picture?* on ethnic diversity in advertising. The report explores male representation in advertising and the media, and its effect on young boys. A nationally representative survey was conducted with 1,005 boys (326 primary and 679 secondary) to explore their attitudes towards body image and the role advertising and digital image manipulation play in this. Alongside this, focus groups were conducted in London, Birmingham and Cardiff with boys aged 8 to 18 and with teachers, youth leaders and parents.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mapping Australian higher education 2016

Andrew Norton, Grattan Institute

August 2016

Mapping Australian higher education 2016 shows that in 2015, only half of bachelor degree science graduates seeking full-time work had found it four months after completing their degrees, 17 percentage points below the average for all graduates. Among recent science graduates who found full-time jobs, only half say their qualification is required or important for their job - about 20 percentage points below the average.

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2015 National Assessment Program - literacy and numeracy; Achievement in reading, persuasive writing, language conventions and numeracy: National report for 2015

NAPLAN; Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

November 2015

Summarises data showing how Australian school students perform in each year level, state/territory and by various demographics on a national scale in each of the four test domains. This release contains preliminary summary information. The data released demonstrate that, compared to 2008 (the first year of NAPLAN), there have been gains in all content areas (except for writing), but not for all year groups.

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Access and barriers to online education for people with disability [Webinar]

Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET); Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability (ATEND); National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE)

August 2016

In May 2016 the report 'Access and Barriers to Online Education for People with Disabilities' by Dr. Mike Kent focussed on issues of disclosure and accommodation for students with disability, the accessibility of the technology used, and the student's experiences of the accessibility of the university system, particularly through Open Universities Australia, and the impact of pedagogical decisions on the accessibility of online learning. This webinar discusses the issues and findings in the report.

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CYDA education survey 2016

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)

August 2016

The results of CYDA's national survey on the education experiences of students with disability have been released. The survey of 1396 students and families provide a national snapshot of current experiences. The majority of participants stated that the level of support the student receives at school is inadequate. High rates of bullying, exclusion, restraint and seclusion are also reported.

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The Research Files Episode 21: The impact of Snapchat in education settings [audio]

Jo Earp

Teacher Magazine, July 2016

Jo Earp interviews University of New England academics Dr Jennifer Charteris, Senior Lecturer in Pedagogy, and Dr Sue Gregory, Chair of Research at the School of Education. Their research - with University of New England colleagues Dr Yvonne Masters, Associate Professor Amanda Kennedy and Associate Professor Myf Maple - looks at the impact of the messaging app Snapchat in education settings, and how schools are responding to issues such as cyber bullying and sexting.

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A joint vision for secondary and higher education for all in Europe

Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), the European Students' Union (ESU), and Education International (EI)

July 2016

Report presents the joint action programme proposed by the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), the European Students' Union (ESU), and Education International (EI) to their members and partners, in order to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 related goals, which the United Nations adopted in September 2015. The 17 goals and 169 targets make up the most ambitious development agenda the world has seen. Composed much more broadly than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), they are addressing the eradication of poverty and inequality in all areas of social, economic and environmental development.

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EMPLOYMENT

Beyond mentoring: Social support structures for young Australian carpentry apprentices

John Buchanan, Catherine Raffaele, Nick Glozier et al.; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

August 2016

With growing recognition of the extent to which work, mental health and wellbeing intersect, it is important to understand the critical role effective apprenticeship support arrangements play in helping Australia's youth make the transition from school to work. This study considers how pastoral care, mentoring and other forms of social support contribute to apprenticeships. In particular, the forms of support provided to young carpentry apprentices by some of Australia's leading construction firms and training organisations were investigated.

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Providing social support for apprentices: Good practice guide

Jo Hargraves; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

August 2016

Formal mentoring is an important aspect of apprenticeships. However, it is also informal mentoring, practices that are difficult to formally nurture, that plays a significant and effective role in supporting the overall wellbeing of an apprentice. This guide is designed to help employers think about and provide work-based social support structures that may contribute to the health and wellbeing of young apprentices as they transition to the world of work. The guide is based on the report 'Beyond mentoring: social structures of support for young Australian carpentry apprentices' by John Buchanan et al. and published by NCVER.

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The effect of trial periods in employment on firm hiring behaviour; Working paper

Isabelle Sin, Nathan Chappell; New Zealand Treasury working paper 16/03

June 2016

Examines a New Zealand government policy intended to encourage firms to take on more employees, and particularly more disadvantaged job seekers, by reducing the risk associated with hiring an unknown worker. An amendment to legislation in 2009 enabled New Zealand firms with fewer than twenty employees to hire new workers on trial periods. The scheme was subsequently extended to employers of all sizes. The research found no evidence that the policy affected the number of hires by firms on average, and also did not find an effect on hiring of disadvantaged jobseekers.

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Firms' motivation for training apprentices: An Australian-German comparison

Harald Pfeifer; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

August 2016

Paper compares how Australia and Germany compare when dealing with their respective institutional arrangements for apprenticeship training. Research finds that institutional frameworks in Germany foster an investment model, a model which emphasises the benefits of employing apprentices after training, while in Australia some firms foster more of a production (that is, substitution for 'regular' workers) model of apprenticeship training.

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World employment and social outlook 2016: Trends for youth

International Labour Organization (ILO)

August 2016

The report provides updated figures on global and regional youth unemployment. It also looks at working poverty rates, decent work opportunities in both developed and developing economies as well as gender inequalities and migration trends among young people.

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FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Predict my future: The science of us

Razor Films New Zealand

2016

New Zealand documentary series about the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, a long-running cohort study following 1037 people born in Dunedin New Zealand during 1972-73. This series follows the fascinating study and information it has provided in almost every field of medical and social development including respiratory and cardiovascular health, addictions, obesity, sexual health, cognitive neuroscience, psychiatry, genetics and criminology. The research focussed most specifically on the effects of nature and nurture on health and behaviour. The series of four sixty minute episodes was made by Razor Films of Auckland New Zealand, and screened on SBS television in July and August 2016.

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Household income and wealth, Australia, 2013-14

Australian Bureau of Statistics

August 2016

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that in 2013-14, over four million people (830,000 included children under 15 years) lived in low income households where their weekly disposable income is below the poverty line. Many low income households including a high proportion of younger low income households are at risk of experiencing financial hardship due to limited assets, high levels of debt and housing costs.

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2016 Intergenerational Fairness Index

The Intergenerational Foundation, UK

August 2016

Now in its fifth year, the 2016 Intergenerational Fairness Index reveals the continuing stagnation in the position of younger generations in the UK. Key drivers are pensions and government debt. Small improvements in the supply of housing are undermined by the continuing cost both of renting and buying. Low levels of investment in education, and declining levels of educational pass rates, have also acted as a drag on improving the prospects of younger generations

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Stronger communities, safer children

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

CFCA Resource Sheet, August 2016

Resource sheet summarises the findings from a number of research reports relevant to the theme of National Child Protection Week 2016: "Stronger Communities, Safer Children".

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Renewing Australia's promise; Report card 2016

Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)

June 2016

FYA's report card, Renewing Australia's Promise, highlights the unique challenges faced by young Australians and the economic cost of leaving them behind. The report argues that far more needs to be done to address these challenges, to set up young Australians for a changing future and equip them to take the country forward. To turn the growing risks into opportunities, young people need to be placed at the centre of the national policy discussion.

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HEALTH

The Sugar Trip [ABC iview]

ABC TV

Australian Story, broadcast 8:00pm Mon 5 September 2016

This episode of Australian Story follows actor and director Damon Gameau when he returns to Central Australia to help revitalise an Indigenous community's healthy eating initiative. In 2015 Damon Gameau released his

eye-opening documentary 'That Sugar Film' that reveals what happens when as an experiment he adopts a diet high in refined sugar for 60 days, to the detriment of his physical, emotional and mental well-being.

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Perils of place: Identifying hotspots of health inequality

Stephen Duckett, Grattan Institute

July 2016

Hospitalisation rates for diabetes, tooth decay and other conditions that should be treatable or manageable out of hospital show how Australia's health system is consistently failing some communities. The problem can be addressed, but only if governments come up with targeted solutions for individual places. Australia is not a uniform country and a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Local, tailored policy responses are required. The report introduces a method of identifying small areas where health inequalities are entrenched and, without intervention, are likely to endure.

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Nutritional ecology and human health

David Raubenheimer, Stephen J. Simpson

Annual Review of Nutrition, 2016 No.36, p.603-26

In contrast to the spectacular advances in the first half of the twentieth century with micronutrient-related diseases, human nutrition science has failed to stem the more recent rise of obesity and associated cardiometabolic disease (OACD). This failure has triggered debate on the problems and limitations of the field and what change is needed to address these. The authors briefly review the two broad historical phases of human nutrition science and then provide an overview of the main problems that have been implicated in the poor progress of the field with solving OACD.

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How does Australia compare? Health at a glance 2015; OECD indicators

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

November 2015

The findings indicate that Australia performs well in terms of overall population health status. At 82.2 years, life expectancy is the sixth highest in the OECD, and the country's record on breast and colorectal cancer survival is among the best. Australia has one of the lowest rates of tobacco but it is the fifth most obese country in the OECD. Australian consumption of antidepressants, cholesterol-lowering drugs and antibiotics are among the highest in the OECD.

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Efficacy of infant simulator programmes to prevent teenage pregnancy: A school-based cluster randomised controlled trial in Western Australia

Dr Sally A Brinkman; Sarah E Johnson; Prof James P Codde

The Lancet, published online August 2016

The aim of this trial was to investigate the effect of the Virtual Infant Parenting (VIP) programmes which aim to prevent teenage pregnancy on pregnancy outcomes of birth and induced abortion in Australia. Findings showed that the infant simulator-based VIP programme did not achieve its aim of reducing teenage pregnancy. Girls in the intervention group were more likely to experience a birth or an induced abortion than those in the control group before they reached 20 years of age.

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INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Pathways of learning for employment within a correctional centre: The remote Aboriginal experience

McRae-Williams E.; Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.; CRC-REP Research Report CR016

June 2016

The Northern Territory's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has developed a number of initiatives that engage inmates in formal employment. A partnership between Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary

Education and DCS, the Berrimah Construction Services (BCS) program provides a live-work learning environment where inmates are involved in the construction of correctional facilities. The case study discussed in this report was undertaken in 2014 and focuses on the learning experiences and aspirations of five inmates involved in the BCS program and of a further five who were not involved in this program or undertaking activities within the broader Sentenced to a Job initiative.

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Efficacy, accessibility and adequacy of prison rehabilitation programs for Indigenous offenders across Australia

Dr Clarke Jones and Dr Jill Guthrie; Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA)

August 2016

The study, which looked at specifically at rehabilitation programs for Indigenous prisoners around the country, found a number of systemic issues. In particular, the report found that Indigenous offenders are more likely to serve short-term sentences for minor offences, meaning they do not get access to rehabilitation programs and instead continue on a cycle of incarceration. The report will be launched in late August 2016 at a national conference in Alice Springs on Indigenous justice.

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Monitoring trends in prevalence of petrol sniffing in selected Australian Aboriginal communities: Final report

Peter d'Abbs, Gillian Shaw; Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin

August 2016

This report presents the findings from a study of petrol sniffing prevalence in a sample of 53 Australian Aboriginal communities. The study was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) to facilitate the monitoring of the impact of an ongoing rollout of low aromatic fuel (LAF) in communities beset by petrol sniffing. The study commenced in 2011 and was completed in 2014.

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Giving and volunteering in culturally and linguistically diverse and Indigenous communities; Final report

Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia (CIRCA)

June 2016

The research included a literature review; focus groups with 96 CALD community members and 44 Indigenous community members; forums and focus groups with CALD and Indigenous volunteers and consultations with 27 representatives of peak bodies and philanthropic organisations. The research sought to develop a better understanding of volunteering and giving within CALD and Indigenous communities. The research also explored the challenges to participating in volunteering and giving in these communities and identified possible pathways for the growth of volunteering and giving. The research suggests that traditional definitions and measurements are inadequate to capture the extent of spontaneous and planned giving and volunteering within different CALD and Indigenous communities.

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Mapping the Indigenous program and funding maze

Sara Hudson, Centre for Independent Studies (CIS)

August 2016

In December 2015 a Productivity Commission report found that there is insufficient evidence being collected about the outcomes of Indigenous programs. Sara Hudson, the author of this CIS report, found this is consistent with the findings of her report which found that only 8 per cent (88) of 1,082 programs have been evaluated. She recommends greater clarity around spending and the proper evaluation of programs.

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LAW AND JUSTICE

The privatisation of incest: The neglect of familial sexual abuse in Australian public inquiries

Michael Salter

August 2016

This chapter by Michael Salter in the publication 'The sexual abuse of children: Recognition and redress' by Findlay, M., Kaladelfos, A., and Smaal, Y., reflects on the recurrent focus of Australian public inquiries into child abuse on extra-familial and out-of-home settings and the relative lack of attention paid to familial abuse. Since the 1970s, public inquiries have become an increasingly common method through which governments respond to critical child protection incidents and public concern about child abuse. The author argues that incest's position in the 'private' sphere of intimate and familial relations has delegitimised it as the focus of public inquiry

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The NSW Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) and recidivism: An early look at outcomes for referrals

Imogen Halstead and Suzanne Poynton; NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

Crime and Justice Bulletin, Number 192, July 2016

Study investigated whether referral to the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) reduces re-offending and/or returns to custody. The study sample included 1,285 offenders who were released from NSW custody on or after 1 January 2013, all of whom satisfied IDATP eligibility criteria. Findings show there was no statistically significant difference in recidivism outcomes between matched samples of treated and untreated offenders across a range of observable characteristics related to recidivism risk. However the authors suggest that the small size of the sample limited the reliability of the research results.

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Does the Custody-based Intensive Treatment (CUBIT) program for sex offenders reduce re-offending?

Imogen Halstead; ; NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

Crime and Justice Bulletin, Number 193, July 2016

Study to investigate whether completing the Custody-based Intensive Treatment (CUBIT) program for moderate to high risk/needs sex offenders reduces re-offending. The study sample includes 386 male offenders identified by custodial staff as suitable for participation in CUBIT who were released from NSW custody during the period 2000 to 2010. There is some evidence to suggest that completing CUBIT results in a considerable reduction in general recidivism risk. No evidence is found to suggest that CUBIT completion reduces sexual or violent re-offending. The authors suggest that this study is limited given the relatively small sample size.

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Parole Release Authority and re-offending

Efty Stavrou, Suzanne Poynton and Don Weatherburn; Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

Crime and Justice Bulletin, No. 194, July 2016

To determine whether recidivism was associated with parole release authority, and to determine whether re-offending was also related to being under supervision or not, BOCSAR followed up 822 matched pairs of offenders who served between 18 and 36 months in custody. One member of each pair had been released on parole as a result of a court decision. The other member of the pair had been released on parole as a result of a State Parole Authority decision. The study has found that offenders released to parole by the State Parole Authority (SPA parolees) are less likely to re-offend than offenders released to parole as a result of a court decision (court-ordered parolees).

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Breaking the prison cycle; Justice reinvestment offers a rational, long-term solution to curb soaring costs in the NSW criminal justice system

Kate Allman

Law Society Journal, Issue 25 August 2016

Discusses the Justice Reinvestment pilots underway in NSW in Bourke and Cowra as part of an evidence-based push for a new approach to NSW criminal justice that involves the reinvestment of money away from spending on new or bigger prisons, into prevention programs for low-level, non-violent crimes. Sarah Hopkins, Chair of Just Reinvest NSW and Managing Solicitor of Justice Projects at Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) became convinced there were better ways to spend money in the justice system than the incarceration of young people and, along with a small group of like-minded supporters, helped to form Just Reinvest NSW.

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The Carlile Inquiry 10 years on: The use of restraint, solitary confinement and strip-searching on children

Howard League for Penal Reform, UK

August 2016

Looks at progress in carrying out the recommendations for improvement in how children are treated in prison in England and Wales in the 10 years since the original Carlile Inquiry (2006). Looks at improvements and otherwise in the following areas: restraint, the use of pain to control and enforce compliance, the use of head holds, the numbers of injuries sustained by children in secure units, solitary confinement, the effects of this and strip searching. Concludes with the view that small local units can offer the best care and rehabilitation if children must be in secure units, and reform should focus on getting the numbers of children who need secure care down to an absolute minimum.

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Hearing children in family proceedings: what we can learn from global practice

Aoife Daly

Seen and heard, (Vol.26, Iss.1) 2016 pp 42-54

Provides analysis of various aspects of hearing children in family proceedings around the world. Considers relevance for practice in England and Wales and examines diverse models. Argues that the matter of how weight should be attributed to children's views has remained a vague and challenging concept and this lack of clarity threatens the essence of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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Sentencing for domestic violence

Amanda Gombu, Georgia Brignell, Hugh Donnelly; Judicial Commission of NSW

Sentencing Trends & Issues, No. 45 June 2016

Report focuses upon sentencing for family violence, referred to in case law and statutes as domestic violence. Includes the legal discussion of general sentencing principles, the most common offences and legislative initiatives to combat the problem.

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MENTAL HEALTH

Methodology of Young Minds Matter: The second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Jennifer Hafekost, David Lawrence, Katrina Boterhoven de Haan et al.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Vol 50 No 9, September 2016 (attached link is to final submitted version)

Young Minds Matter provides updated national prevalence estimates of common child and adolescent mental disorders, describes patterns of service use and will help to guide future decisions in the development of policy and provision of mental health services for children and adolescents. The aims of the study, sample design, development of survey content, field procedures and final questionnaires are detailed.

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Key results from the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing; prevalence of mental disorders in Australian children and adolescents

David Lawrence, Jennifer Hafekost, Sarah E Johnson et al.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Vol 50 No 9, September 2016 (attached link is to final submitted version)

The aim was to estimate the prevalence of mental disorders in children and adolescents in Australia, and the severity and impact of those mental disorders. Seven mental disorders were assessed using the parent- or carer-completed version of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version IV, and major depressive disorder was also assessed using the youth self-report version of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version IV. Twelve-month prevalence of mental disorders was 13.9 per cent with 2.1 per cent of children and

adolescents having severe disorders, 3 per cent having moderate disorders and 8.3 per cent having mild disorders.

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Service use by Australian children for emotional and behavioural problems: Findings from the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Sarah E Johnson, David Lawrence, Jennifer Hafekost et al.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Vol 50 No 9, September 2016 (attached link is to final submitted version)

This research was to identify the proportion of children and adolescents in Australia and the proportion of those with mental disorders who used services for emotional and behavioural problems, the type of services used and what characteristics were associated with service use. Overall, 17.0 per cent of all 4 to 17-year-olds used services for emotional or behavioural problems in the previous 12 months. Of those with mental disorders, 56.0 per cent used services (48.9 per cent of 4 to 11-year-olds; 65.1 per cent of 12 to 17-year-olds). Service use was highest among 4 to 17-year-olds with major depressive disorder (79.6 per cent) and lowest for those with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (52.7 per cent).

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Self-harm: Prevalence estimates from the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Stephen R Zubrick, Jennifer Hafekos, Sarah E Johnson et al.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Vol 50 No 9, September 2016 (attached link is to final submitted version)

This research estimated the lifetime and 12-month prevalence of self-harm without suicide intent in young people aged 12-17 years and describes the co-morbidity of these behaviours with mental illness as well as their co-variation with key social and demographic variables. Findings showed that prevalence of self-harm increases with age and that measures such as improved mental health literacy and continuing mental health reform are required to ensure services are accessible to, and meet the needs of families and young persons.

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Suicidal behaviours: Prevalence estimates from the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Stephen R Zubrick, Jennifer Hafekos, Sarah E Johnson et al.

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Vol 50 No 9, September 2016 (attached link is to final submitted version)

Research estimated the lifetime and 12-month prevalence of suicidal behaviours in Australian young people aged 12-17 years and describes their co-morbidity with mental illness as well as the co-variation of these estimates with social and demographic variables. The presence of a mental disorder showed the largest significant association with lifetime and 12-month suicidal behaviour, along with age, gender, sole parent family status and poor family functioning.

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Young Minds Matter; Survey Results Query Tool [webpage also provides other resources from the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing]

Telethon Kids Institute website

August 2016

The survey findings from the second national survey of the mental health and wellbeing of Australian children and adolescents (2015) can be accessed through the interactive Survey Results Query Tool. Young Minds Matter, the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents Survey explored the nature and extent of mental health problems and disorders; their impact; the number of children and adolescents using services for mental health problems; and the role of the education sector in providing these services.

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Physical challenge; Wider health impacts for young people with a mental illness

Physical Health Policy Writing Group, Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health

May 2016

This policy white paper identifies opportunities to improve the physical, sexual and mental health services for young people in three areas: policy, health services and data monitoring and research. Greater understanding of the physical health effects of mental illness will provide the foundation on which public health policies, prevention programs and increased early intervention can be developed. Federal leadership is required to drive the design and implementation of holistic health care in Australia for young people with a mental illness.

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LifeSpan - a systems approach to suicide prevention

NSW Mental Health Commission; NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention (CRESP); Black Dog Institute

July 2016

LifeSpan is the new name for the Systems Approach to Suicide Prevention initially developed on behalf of the NSW Mental Health Commission by the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention (CRESP) and Black Dog Institute. Based on the most up-to-date evidence available and drawing from positive results of similar, large-scale suicide prevention programs overseas, LifeSpan involves the implementation of nine evidence-based strategies simultaneously within a localised area. This integrated systems approach is expected to prevent 21% of suicide deaths, and 30% of suicide attempts. LifeSpan is being implemented and scientifically assessed in four NSW Sites.

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Victorian suicide prevention framework 2016-2025

Victorian government

August 2016

The Victorian government aims to halve the rate of suicide over the next 10 years. The framework outlines a whole-of-government approach to reducing suicide, including support for vulnerable groups, improved outreach services for people who have attempted suicide and place-based prevention trials in six areas. The focus of investing will be in local community approaches which help support communities implement strategies such as workforce training, school-based support and mental health literacy programs within six local government areas.

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Progress and challenges in the transformation of children and young people's mental health care; A report of the Education Policy Institute's Mental Health Commission

Emily Frith, Education Policy Institute, UK

August 2016

Reports on the progress made since the 2015 publication of 'Future in mind, the government's strategy to transform mental health care for children and young people in England'. Six key barriers to the effective delivery of Future in mind have been identified: workforce (both recruitment difficulties and training needs); funding; commissioning; data; fragmentation (the complexity and gaps between services); intervening too late.

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MULTICULTURALISM

Australians today: The Australian 2015 Scanlon Foundation Survey

Professor Andrew Markus; The Scanlon Foundation; Australian Multicultural Foundation; Monash University

August 2016

This survey is the largest parallel survey of Australia born and immigrants undertaken in Australia. The survey was open between September 2015 and February 2016 and was completed by more than 10,000 respondents. In addition there were 51 focus group discussions with a total of 285 participants. The focus groups were conducted in areas of immigrant concentration in Australia's four largest cities, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth. The survey and discussion groups provide a rich data source to address a range of issues related to immigration and cultural diversity.

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OUT OF HOME CARE

Promoting looked after children's emotional wellbeing and recovery from trauma through a child-centred outcomes framework

Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers, UK

July 2016

Examines options for assessing and measuring looked after children's wellbeing and mental health outcomes across their care experience as mechanisms for assessing 'good quality care'. It sets out proposals for Government on developing new measures and ways of using existing data more effectively to drive improvements across the system.

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POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Exploring drug treatment and homelessness in Australia: 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

August 2016

There is a body of research to suggest a considerable overlap between people experiencing precarious housing, and drug and alcohol misuse. Linking client data from specialist homelessness services and alcohol and other drug treatment services, this report provides a picture of the intersection of these two issues on a national scale. It reveals a vulnerable population, in which Indigenous Australians and experiences of domestic and family violence and mental health issues were all over-represented.

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Homelessness

Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee, UK

August 2016

The CLG Select Committee in the UK has published a report and recommendations urgently advocating a renewed Government-wide strategy to tackle homelessness in the UK. The Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee states that the demonstrable increase in homelessness, driven by the cost and availability of housing, has pushed the problem to such a level that a renewed Government-wide strategy is needed. The inquiry tried to look beyond the headline figures to understand the human cost, and how the system currently fails many people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The policy analysis in the report is complemented by stories of people's actual lived experiences.

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Counting the cost of UK poverty; Part of Solve UK poverty

Glen Bramley, Donald Hirsch, Mandy Littlewood et al.; Joseph Rowntree Foundation

August 2016

The research illustrates the magnitude of the cost of poverty in UK in order to show the kinds of savings that a sustained reduction in poverty could bring. It also looks at some longer-term consequences of poverty to the Treasury, in terms of reduced revenues and increased benefit payments to people whose earnings potential will be damaged in the future by the experience of poverty today.

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POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Inclusive organisations; A guide to good practice strategies for engaging young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in services and programs

The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY); Victorian Government

July 2016

A guide to good practice strategies for engaging young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in services and programs. The framework for the guide includes eight good practice principles and a range of accompanying strategies. The guide advocates that these principles need to be founded upon strong organisational values and a leadership that promotes a culture of inclusiveness.

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RADICALISATION

Study of data held by Cafcass in cases featuring radicalisation concerns

Cafcass

June 2016

Community Care reports on an analysis by Cafcass of 54 family court cases involving radicalisation. This found that children affected were often not known to the local authority as being vulnerable and that it was not possible to create a profile of children at risk of radicalisation. The importance of practitioners making use of the core safeguarding skills is highlighted.

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TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Cartoon Network’s New Generations Australia 2016 [Vimeo]

Cartoon Network

August 2016

The study, now in its 12th year, was released in Sydney in August. It surveyed a group of more than 1,000 individuals, comprising children aged 4-14 and their parents, to gain insights into kids' media habits and trends. The New Generations report revealed that TV ads are still the most effective for reaching children, with watching TV remaining the top media consumption activity. When it comes to social media, Facebook is still the number one platform, but children spend more time on Snapchat. Almost a third of Snapchat users spend up to an hour and a half on the platform each day, compared to a quarter of Facebook users.

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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**

SEPTEMBER 2016		
4-10 September	National	National Child Protection Week
5-6 September	Melbourne	UNAA Forum on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls
5-9 September	National	National eSmart Week
7-8 September	Brisbane Qld	Everything is possible: QCOSS State Conference
8 September	National	R U OK Day
7-10 September	Melbourne Vic	Early Childhood Intervention Australia Conference
9 September	Melbourne Vic	Children’s voices in contemporary Australia

10 September	National and International	World Suicide Prevention Day
13-15 September	Brisbane Qld	From evidence to practice: the Second Australasian Youth Justice Conference
14-15 September	Sydney NSW	NSW Council for Intellectual Disability: Acton on intellectual disability conference
15-16 September	Melbourne Vic	Doing school differently: national, flexible and inclusive education conference
19-22 September	Adelaide SA	Prevalent and Preventable: Practice and Policy in the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children
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
28-30 September	Sydney NSW	3rd Annual National Community Safety Summit: Driving social cohesion and engagement
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
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
19-21 October	Darwin NT	3rd National Indigenous Economic Development Forum: growing indigenous enterprise and fostering real job pathways
23-29 October	National	Youth Mentoring Week

25-27 October	Canberra ACT	National Longitudinal Data Conference 2016 : Wellbeing over the life course
NOVEMBER 2016		
2-4 November	Kingscliff NSW	8th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium
3 November	Dublin, Ireland	Growing up in Ireland Annual Research Conference
3-4 November	Brisbane Qld	Crime prevention and communities
7-8 November	Wollongong, NSW	The Future of Fatherhood: What's next in fathering research and practice
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
24-25 November	Wollongong NSW	Decolonising criminal justice: Indigenous perspectives on social harm
24-25 November	Bunbury WA	It's no secret: sexual assault, sexual abuse and domestic violence national conference
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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If you have a query about any of the content please contact Barbara Glass at:

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