Advocate for Children and Young People Current awareness bulletin September 2016

Contents

Articles and publications

ADVOCACY

Advocacy outcomes framework; Measuring the impact of independent advocacy
Kate Mercer and Gail Petty; National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), UK
July 2016
Independent advocacy is an essential component of local services and supports for people who are at risk of exclusion from our society. This framework and toolkit provide a mechanism for advocacy organisations to use to demonstrate their impact and effectiveness, ensuring that those that commission, work alongside and access advocacy have a clear understanding of its benefits and importance
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CHILD PROTECTION

An evaluation of how evidence is elicited from complainants of child sexual abuse
Martine Powell, Nina Westera, Jane Goodman-Delahunty et al.
August 2016
The ability of child sexual abuse complainants to give quality evidence is crucial for successful prosecution, but it can be problematic for complainants to give such evidence. This Royal Commission report provides a comprehensive picture of the process of eliciting evidence from child sexual abuse complainants. Specifically, it examines the use and effectiveness of alternate measures and how complainants are questioned when evidence is elicited.
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Our safety counts: children and young people's perceptions of safety and institutional responses to their safety concerns
Tim Moore, Morag McArthur, Jessica Heerde et al.; Institute of Child Protection Studies (ACU)
September 2016
This study attempts to better understand children and young people's perceptions of safety within institutions, and their views on how adults and institutions are responding to their safety needs. It is not a prevalence study

and does not attempt to quantify the extent to which children and young people have encountered abuse. Instead, it asks them to consider how they, adults and institutions currently demonstrate that they are safe; and the ways they believe adults and institutions act and would act to keep them safe if they were in a situation where their safety was compromised
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Children and young people's unique experience of family violence
Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tasmania
September 2016
The Commissioner notes that it is becoming increasingly clear that children and young people have their own unique experiences of family violence and that they are victims in their own right. Their needs are often overlooked and they require different responses and perspectives when support is provided. The report presents its findings on the effects of family violence on children and young people, ways to bring this group into sharper focus, Tasmania's current integrated family violence service response, and current initiatives to improve responses to children and young people affected by domestic violence.
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Prevalent and Preventable Conference: Summary of events
Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS)
September 2016
ANROWS has published a summary of what was discussed and presented at the recent Prevalent and Preventable Conference hosted by the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and Our Watch. The conference explored practice and policy in the prevention of violence against women and their children.
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ECONOMICS

The economic costs of child abuse and neglect
Child Family Community Australia (CFCA), Australian Institute of Family Studies
CFCA Resource Sheet, Updated September 2016
Paper examines expenditure related to child abuse and neglect by departments responsible for child protection services in Australia. The broader long-term costs of child abuse and neglect to society are also discussed.
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Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare
Department of Social Services
September 2016
Through the Priority Investment Approach and by intervening early, the Australian government aims to give those with capacity the opportunity to develop life skills and to participate economically and socially through work. The government has stated that investing in early intervention helps people from falling into the welfare trap and in the long run it saves money which can be used to help people in other ways. The approach uses actuarial analysis to value Australia's future lifetime welfare costs, and the costs of various groups within the population.
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Baseline valuation report
Department of Social Services
September 2016
The report provides a baseline analysis of lifetime welfare costs in Australia as at 30 June 2015; setting a benchmark and highlighting areas of interest. Further analysis of Priority Investment Approach data has

identified the priority groups for initial policy responses as young carers, young parents and young students transitioning directly to unemployment payments.
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Trends in VET: policy and participation
Georgina Atkinson, John Stanwick; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
September 2016
This occasional paper examines two broad policy trends in the vocational education sector: the extension of the apprenticeship and traineeship system, and the opening up of the training market, as well as three specific policy case studies: incentive payments for employers of apprentices and trainees; accelerated apprenticeships and entitlement models.
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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
An overview of the development of the Australian vocational education and training (VET) provider market over the last two decades in the context of significant policy changes and generally increased competition. The authors question whether or not the current provider market structure, as it has evolved, best serves Australia's future skills and training needs.
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Sexual harassment and sexual violence in English schools
House of Commons; Women and Equalities Committee, UK
September 2016
The UK Women and Equalities Committee inquiry into sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools in England made a number of recommendations for the Government. These include: publish national guidance on a whole school approach to preventing sexual harassment and sexual violence in all schools which can be implemented in September 2017; make both personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and sex and relationships education (SRE) statutory subjects as part of the new Education Bill; and fund research to establish the most effective ways to support boys and young men to be part of the solution to the problem of sexual harassment and sexual violence.
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Sexual harassment and violence in schools
Fixers UK
September 2016
Prior to launching the 'Sexual harassment and sexual violence in English schools' the House of Commons; Women and Equalities Committee, UK gathered the views of 300 young people from across the UK through a series of workshops run by Fixers. Young people reported that: schools are not playing their part in recognising the pressures young people are under when dealing with matters of sexual harassment and sexual bullying; teachers may brush off incidents of sexual assaults or sexually threatening behaviour because of students relatively young ages; and many incidents go unreported because students are worried that victims will be punished as well as perpetrators.
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Education at a Glance
OECD
September 2016
OECD's annual 'Education at a Glance' report has shown that Australian teachers have bigger classes and more teaching hours than the OECD average and our school resourcing is less equitable than other nations. Australian Education Union Federal President Correna Haythorpe said that the report, which covered the

period before Gonski funding started, reinforced the Gonski Review's recommendations for needs-based funding of Australian schools.
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Quality schools, quality outcomes
Department of Education and Training
May 2016
The report draws attention to the significant gap between the highest and lowest performing students in Australia and argues that innovations and improvements in education must be applied to all schools so that all students benefit, regardless of jurisdiction or sector.
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Education evidence base; Draft report
Productivity Commission
September 2016
Despite expenditure on education increasing in the last decade national and international assessments of student achievement in Australia show little improvement and in some areas standards of achievement have dropped. Report recommends a national education evidence base that is broader than a national data repository with both a 'top-down' capability, and a 'bottom-up' capability that evaluates the effectiveness in education policies, programs and teaching practices. Submissions in response to the draft report are invited by 7 October 2016 and the final report is expected to be handed to the Australian Government in December 2016.
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Participation in tertiary education in Australia: policy imperatives and scenarios; Discussion paper
Peter Noonan, Mitchell Institute
May 2016
This paper showcases different scenarios of future participation in vocational and higher education in Australia and forecasts that governments must take a longer term view about investment in tertiary education. By 2030, there will be half a million more 15-24 year olds than today, so participation rates will fall unless enrolments grow significantly. The author recommends increased public and private investment to make sure the system can meet the needs and aspirations of young people already at school, and the hundreds of thousands who will follow them.
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EMPLOYMENT

Developments in the youth labour market since the GFC
Geoff Gilfillan; Australian Parliamentary Library
Research Paper no.31, August 2016
ABS data shows young Australians were far more likely than other age groups to experience losses in full‑time employment, and stronger growth in rates of unemployment and underemployment in the aftermath of the GFC. The labour market for youth aged 15 to 24 years deteriorated quickly and substantially after the onset of the GFC and has only recently shown signs of recovery. ABS data shows the unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 24 years rose sharply from its most recent low of 8.7 per cent (in trend terms) in March 2008 to 11.9 per cent in May 2009.
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Work-based learning and work-integrated learning: fostering engagement with employers
Georgina Atkinson; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
August 2016
This research synthesis draws on the literature on work-based learning and work-integrated learning to identify how engagement with industry and employers can be fostered, and what the two sectors can learn from each other.
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FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Who are today's dads?
Growing Up in New Zealand Centre for Longitudinal Research - He Ara ki Mua, University of Auckland
September 2016
The first report from the 'Who are today's dads?' study provides an overview of more than 4,000 stepfathers, adoptive and foster parents, co-mums, grandparents and other family members who are 'dads' to Growing Up in New Zealand children. The report is a snapshot of the diversity of participants when the children are six years old and explores the roles and degrees of involvement they have in the children's lives. The report is accompanied by the release of 'Key findings on Dads and work' which focuses on participants' employment, work-life balance, parenting roles and aspirations.
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Investing in Youth: Australia
OECD
September 2016
The report on Australia is part of the series on 'Investing in Youth', which builds on the expertise of the OECD on youth employment, social support and skills. This series covers both OECD countries and countries in the process of accession to the OECD, as well as some emerging economies. This report for Australia provides a detailed diagnosis of youth policies in the area of education, training, social and employment policies. Its main focus is on disengaged or at-risk of disengaged youth.
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Enterprising partnerships [Video presentation]
Professor Fiona Arney, Director, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia
August 2016
Having evaluated more than 50 system and practice innovations for vulnerable children over the past 20 years, Professor Fiona Arney delves into the key message of how paying attention to the needs of children, and developing smart systems based on those needs, can better support highly effective policy and program implementation in this field.
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Two steps forward, one step back: achievements and limitations of university-community partnerships in addressing neighbourhood socioeconomic disadvantage
Deborah Warr, Richard Williams
Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement, Vol 9 No 1, September 2016
Reviews a university-community partnership that had broad goals to promote social, economic, educational and cultural links between the university and people living, working or studying in Carlton, a suburb of Melbourne, with particular emphasis on engaging with disadvantaged and marginalised communities who had limited contact with the university. This population could potentially benefit from having access to the educational, research, employment and infrastructure opportunities available at the university.
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Researching parent engagement: A qualitative field study
Woodrow, C., Somerville, M., Naidoo, L. and Power, K.
September 2016
A qualitative field study into parental engagement was conducted by Centre for Educational Research and Western Sydney University. On Monday 12 September, researchers from Western Sydney University presented on the parent engagement experience of parents and educators from diverse backgrounds, including CALD and Aboriginal families and educators, at the Australian Government Department of Education and Training in Canberra. The presentations and report are available at this link.
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Growing up in Australia; The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children annual statistical report 2015 [selected articles]
Australian Institute of Family Studies
September 2016
This is the sixth volume in the LSAC Annual Statistical Report series, which uses data from the last five waves of the study. The following summary articles are available based on selected chapters of the report: Children's screen time; Grandparents caring for their grandchildren; Parents' choices of primary school. The full report will be available in October 2016.
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Rate Canberra 2016
Youth Coalition of the ACT
September 2016
Report outlines the initial findings of Rate Canberra 2016, the Youth Coalition's survey of young people aged 12-25 in the ACT and surrounding region. There are eight key areas of analysis included in this initial report: key issues and concerns, housing, employment, education, participation, voting, transport and support services.
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HEALTH

Childhood trends in body image
Kids Matter
August 2016
Interview with Professor Susan Paxton, Director of the Children' Body Image Development Study (CBIS) being carried out by a La Trobe University research team. This study is the world's first longitudinal research study to examine body image in early childhood. Professor Paxton's research has concentrated on understanding risk factors for the development of body image and eating disorders, and the evaluation of prevention and treatment interventions for these problems. Professor Paxton talks about the findings so far and how they will be used to help children develop positive body attitudes from a young age.
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Better health or better business: a critique of the childhood obesity plan
Gerhard Sundborn, Simon Thornley, Bodo Lang et al.
New Zealand Medical Journal, 19th August 2016, Volume 129 Number 1440
Dr Jonathan Coleman, Minister of Health, announced on 12 February 2015, that he would lead the development of a comprehensive plan to address New Zealand's obesity crisis. The authors argue that the Childhood Obesity Plan is unlikely to solve New Zealand's obesity crisis. It is based on a dated paradigm of energy density and does not address what they believe to be the greatest cause of the epidemic: excess sugar intake. The Government's plan lacks meaningful regulation of food and drink containing concentrated sugar, instead listing soft initiatives that are unlikely to be beneficial.
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Australia's health 2016
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
September 2016
This 2016 edition is the 15th biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. This edition profiles current health issues in a collection of feature articles and statistical snapshots that cover a range of areas, including: The health status of Australians; Health expenditure; The major causes of ill health; Determinants of health; Health through the life course; Health of Indigenous Australians; Preventing and treating ill health; Health system performance
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OECD health-care quality indicators for Australia 2015
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

July 2016
Report summarises information Australia provided to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Health at a glance 2015 report, and compares data supplied by Australia in 2015 with data it supplied for previous years and with data reported by other OECD countries. The OECD HCQIs provide a common set of data about the quality of health care delivered across participating OECD member countries.
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The drinking habits of youth in NSW, Australia; Latest data and influencing factors
Moore R, Whitlam G, Harrold T, Lewis N
Public Health Research and Practice (PHRP) Issue 4, Volume 26, 2016, September 2016
Although overall consumption is declining, national recommendations maintain that it is safest for young people to not drink at all; however 17 per cent of all young people in Australia consumed alcohol in the past 7 days, with 6 per cent consuming at a significant risk of harm. The factors that influence young people's uptake of alcohol are complex, including biological and broader social factors. This paper identifies some of the diverse influences on young people's alcohol consumption, and policies and programs that support healthy behaviours.
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Sugar and health
Royal Society of New Zealand
September 2016
This review by the Royal Society of New Zealand has found that there is strong evidence linking sugar consumption with increased body weight as well as tooth decay. Many studies also show an association between a high intake of added sugars and obesity, type-2 diabetes, heart disease and gout - however research to date has not yet fully established the exact mechanisms behind these relationships. The current discussion on negative health effects from sugar is mainly concerned with sugars, such as sucrose, that have been added by food manufacturers. Current food labelling does not allow consumers to assess how much sugar has been added to food and drinks, making it difficult to follow dietary recommendations and guidelines. The Society has published an evidence update, a fact sheet and a short animation based on a review of expert research.
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Food industry funding of nutrition research: the relevance of history for current debates
Marion Nestle
JAMA Internal Medicine, 12 September 2016
This article looks at sugar industry-sponsored nutrition research reports. From archival documents from the 1950s and 1960s, the researchers produced compelling evidence that a sugar trade association not only paid for but also initiated and influenced research expressly to exonerate sugar as a major risk factor for coronary heart disease (CHD).
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INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

New indicators focus on Aboriginal culture and connection
Guardian for Children and Young People, South Australia
August 2016
New indicators to be rolled out by the Guardian's Office in South Australia in the last quarter of 2016 will strengthen and sharpen the focus on Aboriginal culture and community connection in its monitoring of residential care. In her report last week The Life They Deserve, Commissioner Margaret Nyland recognised the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the child protection system and the significance of maintaining community and culture for them.
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Redfern Statement
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
June 2016

The Redfern Statement is an urgent call for a more just approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples draws attention to the continuing state of crisis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. The Redfern Statement, released during the 2016 election campaign, they believe could be the beginning of a more positive relationship. The plan addresses the need for better engagement, improved ways of resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to close the gap, and a new Department for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
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Trends in Indigenous offending NSW: 2001-2015
Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
September 2016
Over the last 15 years in NSW the rate of Indigenous arrest for violent offences has declined by nearly 37 per cent (36.81 per cent), while the rate of Indigenous arrest for property crime has declined by almost 33 per cent (32.95 per cent). However according to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) the decline in Indigenous arrest rates for violent and property crime has not been accompanied by a decrease in Indigenous imprisonment.
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What's causing the growth in Indigenous imprisonment in NSW?
Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
September 2016
The rise in Indigenous imprisonment in NSW is due to a combination of higher rates of arrest resulting in conviction, a greater likelihood of imprisonment given conviction and a higher rate of bail refusal. Commenting on the findings the director of BOCSAR, Dr Don Weatherburn said that the growth in Indigenous imprisonment was due to a combination of tougher sentencing and tougher law enforcement.
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth report
Mission Australia
September 2016
Findings from the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2015 on a range of economic, social and mental health outcomes. The report is based on the responses of 18,727 respondents, 1,162 of whom identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Among its findings, the report highlights that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported higher levels of concern about bullying and emotional abuse, depression, drugs, alcohol, gambling and suicide when responding to the Youth Survey.
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LAW AND JUSTICE

NSW recorded crime statistics: quarterly update June 2016; NSW statistical areas and local government areas
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
September 2016
In the 24 months to June 2016, two of the 17 major offences showed a significant upward trend across NSW, nine were trending downward and the remaining six offences were stable. The offences trending upward were steal from retail store and fraud.
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Comparisons between Australian and international youth justice systems: 2014–15; Fact sheet
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
AIHW Youth justice fact sheet no. 74, August 2016
This fact sheet examines Australian and international approaches to youth justice.The philosophies, systems and processes for dealing with young people involved in criminal behaviour vary substantially among countries.
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Joining forces: A partnership approach to effective justice; Community-driven social controls working side by side with the Magistracy of the Northern Territory
Daniel Suggit; Australian Policy Online
September 2016
In February 2012, the author was engaged by the NT Department of Justice to undertake a review of Community Courts Pilot and Program 2005-2012. This report outlines his observations. In 2008, the pilot was 'expanded' to program status through the NT Government's Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage: A Generational Plan of Action (2007), which provided a funding commitment of $2.1 million over 5 years: 2008-2012.
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Sense and sensitivity: family law, family violence, and confidentiality
C.Jones, Women's Legal Services NSW
June 2016
For more than 20 years Women's Legal Service NSW (WLS NSW) has advocated for the protection of sensitive records of victims of violence in criminal, civil and family law jurisdictions. This paper examines the current climate of increased focus on information sharing, particularly in the context of family law and family violence, and the impact of disclosure of sensitive material on the safety of victims and their children and on the integrity of therapeutic relationships.
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The revised Group Risk Assessment Model (GRAM 2): Assessing risk of reoffending among adults given non-custodial sanctions
Efty Stavrou and Suzanne Poynton; Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
Crime and Justice Bulletin Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice, No.197, September 2016
The researchers re-examined the Group Risk Assessment Model (GRAM) for predicting reoffending in adults given non-custodial sentences and to assess the accuracy of the model. Adult offenders given non-custodial sentences in 2011 were the cohort of interest. Reoffending within 24 months of the index appearance was measured using court data. The GRAM 2 has been shown to be a robust tool for predicting reoffending.
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Youth justice fact sheets
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
August 2016
Factsheets on trends in youth justice supervision and statistics for supervision in each state and territory, detention entries and exits, remoteness and socioeconomic status of young people under supervision and comparisons of Australian and international youth justice systems.
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Heads held high: Keeping Queensland kids out of detention, strong in culture and community
Amnesty International Australia
August 2016
In this report, the third in a series of reports for the Community is Everything campaign, Amnesty International documents grave concerns about the conditions and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in detention in Queensland. One of the most striking findings of the research is that a shift to supporting Indigenous-led initiatives could make the biggest difference in keeping kids out of the justice system and fostering safer communities. The report also considers the wider human rights implications presented by the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland's youth justice system.
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MENTAL HEALTH

Cyber and face to face bullying; who crosses over?

Shin, H., Braithwaite, V., Ahmed, E.
Social Psychology of Education, Vol.19 (1) May 2016
This paper looks into the prevalence of traditional bullying against cyber bullying and compares those involved in both traditional and cyber bullying against those only involved in traditional bullying. Boys were more likely to be involved in both types of bullying than girls. Children with friends involved in delinquent activities and who did not have trustworthy and supportive friends were more likely to bully both traditionally and in cyberspace. The study reflected the value of school interventions for children as they approach adolescence, covering both traditional bullying and cyberbullying.
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Working with families whose child is bullying others
Jodie Lodge; The Australian Youth Mentoring Network
September 2016
A guide for practitioners on school bullying and ways to work with and support families with a child who is bullying others. The evidence-based guide, written by AIFS Research Fellow Jodie Lodge, is designed to assist practitioners assess the prevalance and nature of bullying behaviour, examine risk and protective factors, and understand what works in bullying interventions.
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Young Minds Matter: The second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing
Telethon Kids Institute; University of Western Australia
September 2016
The research team responsible for Young Minds Matter has produced this summary of findings on child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing. The findings presented in this booklet are based on the Young Minds Matter survey conducted in 2013-14. Among its key findings, the booklet highlights that the prevalence of most mental disorders has remained stable since 1998, with one in seven children in Australia assessed as having one or more mental disorders in the previous 12 months.
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Preventing suicide: The voice of young people
Yourtown
September 2016
In this series of Insights papers the Yourtown team share the views and experiences of young people with lived experience of thinking about, planning and attempting suicide. Using an online survey, 472 children, adolescents and young adults told the researchers how they got help when they were feeling suicidal, who helped them, which experiences were helpful and which weren't, and what advice they would like to give to other young people, families, friends, and those who provide services for young people like them.
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One Click Away: Insights into mental health digital self-help by young Australians
ReachOut Australia and EY
September 2016
Report examines the effectiveness of mental health digital self-help services for young people. The analysis is based on the responses of 2000 young people. The majority of respondents reported that using digital self-help helped them to understand and deal with mental health issues in an effective and engaging way.
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Who are the young people choosing web-based mental health support? Findings from the implementation of Australia's national web-based youth mental health service, eheadspace
Debra Rickwood et al.
Journal of Medical Internet Research: Mental Health, Vol 3, No 3 (2016): Jul-Sept
Research builds a profile of young people who seek online mental health counselling through eheadspace, compared with those who seek in-person support. headspace's research found the majority of their eheadspace clients are female with many of these clients experiencing psychological distress.
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Embedding co-production in mental health: A framework for strategic leads, commissioners and managers
The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)
July 2016
This framework has been developed to support strategic leads, commissioners and managers responsible for mental health in UK, to consider and bring about the cultural and behavioural changes that are required, in order for co-production to become the 'norm', in the design, commissioning and delivery of mental health services and supports.
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OUT OF HOME CARE

Verso therapeutic residential care system development
Verso Consulting
September 2016
NSW Family and Community Services (FACS) engaged Verso Consulting in April 2016 to review the existing residential care system and to develop a new evidenced based therapeutic residential care system. FACS aims to reduce the number of young people entering residential care through improved assessment, increasing the number of less intensive placement options and reducing the overall number of young people in residential care by 50 per cent over the next two years. Verso produced four documents: System Design; Evidence Guide; Outcomes Measurement Framework and Operational Plan. These will now be considered by FACS for the planned implementation of its future model of therapeutic residential care.
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Building safe and strong families: Earlier intervention and family support strategy
Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia
September 2016
Report outlines the Government of Western Australia's strategy to support at-risk families and prevent children entering State care. Developed in partnership with the community services sector to enable the service system to be more responsive and effective for the most vulnerable families in Western Australia.
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Go your own way: An evaluation of CREATE's resource
CREATE Foundation
September 2016
This report presents the findings from the CREATE Foundation's evaluation of the Go Your Own Way resource for young people transitioning from care. It is based on the responses of 369 young people, of whom 52 per cent of respondents had received a GYOW kit. Results revealed that those young people who received a GYOW Kit were significantly more likely to have a leaving care plan and felt more confident about the future than did those without a plan.
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Special report practice: residential care
Adam Offord
Children and Young People Now, 7-20 June 2016 pp17-30
Identifies the main trends in children's homes provision. Summarises a selection of academic research showing the beneficial impact that residential care can have for very vulnerable children and profiles four practice examples of child care settings delivering innovative and outcomes-focused practice.
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The right care: children's rights in residential care in Wales
Children's Commissioner for Wales
June 2016

Describes the experiences of looked after children in residential care in Wales. 34 young people from 11 children's homes took part in interviews and focus groups to discuss how they came into residential care, what they like and dislike about it, how safe and secure they feel, whether their rights are being upheld; how things could be improved. Recommendations include: young people should be actively involved in decisions about the care and support they receive; children should not be unnecessarily criminalised; the extension of support to all care leavers up to the age of 25 should be considered.
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PARTICIPATION

Engaging youth in post-disaster research: Lessons learned from a creative methods approach
Lori Peek, Jennifer Tobin-Gurley, Robin S Cox et al.
Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement, Vol 9 No 1, September 2016
Children and young people are typically not given the opportunities to engage in youth-driven research and lack access to official channels through which to contribute their perspectives to policy and practice during the recovery process. To begin to fill this void in research and action, this multi-site research project engaged youth from disaster-affected communities in Canada and the United States. This article presents a flexible youth-centric workshop methodology that uses participatory and arts-based methods to elicit and explore youth's disaster and recovery experiences.
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POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

We can solve poverty in the UK; A strategy for government, businesses, communities and citizens
Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)
September 2016
Over the past four years, JRF has worked with experts in research and practice, and commissioned and analysed evidence reviews to find out what works. The result of this project is an independent, long‑term strategy to solve poverty in the UK which aligns greater corporate responsibility with an active, enabling state, promoting individual capacity and capability.
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UK Poverty: Causes, costs and solutions
Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)
September 2016
Alongside the 'We can solve poverty in the UK' strategy released by Joseph Rowntree Foundation in September 2016 the Foundation has published an in-depth report which details the evidence gathered during JRF's four‑year investigation.
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POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Early childhood intervention: assessing the evidence
Trisha Jha; Centre for Independent Studies (CIS)
September 2016
Broadly speaking, there are two main types of early childhood intervention practiced in Australia: Place-based intervention and targeted interventions. However this is simply money wasted unless these programs are shown to be effective. This report brings together all the available evidence, and scrutinises state and federal government programs from the past two decades that focus on improving children's cognitive, behavioural and emotional outcomes and have a publicly-available evaluation report.
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TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Measuring Australia's digital divide; The Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2016
Thomas, J, Barraket, J, Ewing, S, et al.; Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, for Telstra
August 2016
The Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) provides the most comprehensive picture yet of Australians' online participation. The Index measures three vital dimensions of digital inclusion - Access, Affordability and Digital Ability - and shows how they change over time, according to social and economic circumstances, and across geographic locations. Scores are allocated to specific regions and demographic groups, over three years (2014, 2015, 2016). The findings show that overall, digital inclusion is growing in Australia but many Australians are still missing out.
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Australian children's screen time and participation in extracurricular activities; Chapter from Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, 2015 Report
Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)
September 2016
A majority of Australian children are spending more than the recommended two-hour daily limit for screen time (watching television, on computers and playing electronic games). At 4-5 years old, children average more than two hours screen time per week-day. By 12-13 years old, this increases to more than three hours average per week-day and almost four hours per weekend day. The study found that children who engage in physical activities that they enjoy, will tend to also spend less time in front of screens.
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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

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	Melbourne Vic	Blue Light Youth Conference
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
14 October	Melbourne Vic	Wellbeing in Australian Schools: Vic 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
28 October	Sydney NSW	Listen and give us a say: Children and young people's views about safety in institutions; Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
NOVEMBER 2016		
1 November	Adelaide SA	Parenting Seminars by Steve Biddulph - Raising Girls
2 November	Adelaide SA	Parenting Seminars by Steve Biddulph - Raising Boys
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
15-16 November	Sydney NSW	Mental Health Reform
15-18 November	Auckland NZ	International Indigenous Research Conference
16-18 November	Sydney NSW	Collaborations in Practice: Sexual Safety in Out-of-Home Care Symposium
17-18 November	Sydney NSW	Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) National Conference
21-22 November	Melbourne Vic	Not-For-Profit People Conference
22-24 November	Melbourne Vic	7th Social Media for Gov; Evaluating emerging trends and next steps in social media
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
JUNE 2017		
1-8 June	Melbourne Vic	Parent Engagement Conference :m aximising Every Child's Potential
28-30 June	Montreal Canada	Conference of the International Society of Child Indicators

If you have a query about any of the content please contact Barbara Glass at:
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