Advocate for Children and Young People
Current awareness bulletin
November 2016

Contents

Articles and publications

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

How walkable is Melbourne? The development of a transport walkability index for metropolitan Melbourne
Billie Giles-Corti, Suzanne Mavoa, Serryn Eagleson et al.; McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit (UniMelb)
December 2016
Report outlines the development of a Transport Walkability Index. Drawing on research initiated in the United States and further developed in Adelaide and Perth, the researchers have developed and mapped a walkability index with three components found to be associated with walking for transport: mixed use planning, population density and street connectivity. This could be used by decision-makers to identify areas for renewal to increase local walkability; and to monitor progress towards creating more walkable neighbourhoods over time.
weblink

Cities of the future: what should be their form?
Janet Stanley
Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute Issues paper, no. 7 October 2016
This Issues Paper argues that the achievement of a good future for society necessitates a comprehensive perspective on desired outcomes, recognising that at times competing choices or trade-offs have to be made. Some of the challenges faced by cities are reviewed and some solutions are offered that may provide pathways for achieving outcomes that meet environmental, social and economic imperatives, with a particular reference to transport.
weblink

CHILD PROTECTION

The role of organisational culture in child sexual abuse in institutional contexts

Donald Palmer, in collaboration with Valerie Feldman and Gemma McKibbin; Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
December 2016
Report analyses the role that organisational culture plays in child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. It specifically considers how organisational culture can affect the perpetration and detection of child sexual abuse and the responses to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. The report also develops suggestions for addressing child sexual abuse in institutional contexts that are based on its analysis.
weblink

Parents speak out: crucial partners in tackling child sexual exploitation
Pace (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation), UK
March 2016
Describes the role of parents in safeguarding children from child sexual exploitation (CSE). Highlights: parents are often the first to identify signs that something is seriously wrong with their child; few parents in the UK know the warning signs of CSE; despite good practice in some areas, there can be barriers to effectively involving parents in safeguarding the child.
weblink

The participation of young people in child sexual exploitation services: a scoping review of the literature
Isabelle Brodie, Kate D'Arcy, Julie Harris et al.; University of Bedfordshire
November 2016
Focuses on the participation of young people in child exploitation (CSE) services. Findings include: young people affected by CSE often have considerable knowledge and skill in navigating between services, and are able to identify what is effective; young people value the way that CSE services recognise them as individuals, listen and take their views seriously, and provide a flexible and friendly approach. Highlights very significant gaps in knowledge relating to how participation takes place in practice and how young people would like to participate in services.
weblink

Our safety counts: key findings from the Australian Survey of Kids and Young People - Perceptions of interpersonal safety and characteristics of safe institutions
Dr.Tim Moore et al., Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
ACU Briefing Paper, Research to Practice series, Issue 13 December 2016
Presents key findings from an online survey of children and young people aged 10-18 which explored their perceptions of interpersonal safety in institutions. This release focuses on what children and young people said they need, and how well they thought institutions are doing.
weblink

Our safety counts: key findings from the Australian Survey of Kids and Young People - Help-seeking and institutional responses to safety concerns
Dr.Tim Moore et al., Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University (ACU)
ACU Briefing Paper, Research to Practice series, Issue 14 December 2016
This issue presents the key findings from the ASK-YP Survey, an online survey of children and young people aged 10-18, which explored their perceptions of interpersonal safety in institutions. It builds on Issue 13, which focused on what children and young people said they need, and how well they thought institutions are doing. This release, Issue 14, explores children and young people's views about help-seeking and institutional responses to their safety concerns.
weblink

CHILD RIGHTS

Children's Rights Report 2016
National Children's Commissioner; Australian Human Rights Commission
December 2016

The report outlines work the National Children's Commissioner has undertaken throughout 2015-16 to promote the human rights of children and young people in Australia. The main focus of the report is the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the context of children and young people detained in youth justice centres or adult facilities.
weblink

Children's Rights Report 2016: Government Responses and Submissions Received
National Children's Commissioner; Australian Human Rights Commission
December 2016
The National Children's Commissioner received information from Government Departments responsible for youth justice in Australia and other non-government organisations with particular expertise in the OPCAT or youth justice.
weblink

CONSUMERISM

Randomized exposure to food advertisements and eating in the absence of hunger among preschoolers
Jennifer A. Emond, Reina K. Lansigan, Archana Ramanujam
Pediatrics, November 2016
The food advertisements that children as young as preschool age view while watching their favorite shows can sway them to overeat even when they're not hungry, this study suggests. Before viewing, all of the children were provided with snacks to eat and were surveyed on how hungry they felt. Then, while viewing the TV segment, the children were provided with two snacks: corn snacks and graham snacks. The same corn snacks provided were featured in the food advertisements shown to some of the children. The researchers found that the preschoolers who watched the segment embedded with food ads consumed more calories in snacks on average than those who watched the department store ads.
weblink

Curbs on junk food ads No 1 priority in fighting childhood obesity, says study
Sarah Boseley Health editor
The Guardian, 12 November 2016
A group of 73 health and obesity experts are calling for a ban before 9pm watershed, restrictions online and end of sports sponsorship stressing that this is the policy measure that will be most effective in reducing the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. The recommendations come after complaints the government's recently published childhood obesity strategy did not go far enough.
weblink

DISABILITY

Disability and child sexual abuse in institutional contexts; The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse research paper
Gwynnyth Llewellyn, Sarah Wayland, Gabrielle Hindmarsh
November 2016
Discussion and analysis of the historical, social and policy context surrounding children with disability. Examines the evidence about prevalence and prevention of sexual abuse of children with disability in institutional contexts.
weblink

Safeguarding disabled children in England: how Local Safeguarding Children Boards are delivering against Ofsted requirements to protect disabled children: findings from a national survey
National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
July 2016

In 2015, the National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children (NWGSDC) carried out a survey of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to establish the effectiveness of local arrangements to protect disabled children. In particular, the survey gauged the progress LSCBs have made to implement recommendations from Ofsted's 2012 thematic inspection on protecting disabled children. Responses to the survey were received from 36 out of the 146 LSCBs (25 per cent). 25 per cent of LSCBs hadn't prioritised disabled children within the current or previous 2 years or reported that they viewed protecting disabled children as part of their ordinary safeguarding responsibilities for all children.
weblink

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence and gender inequality
Senator Jenny McAllister (Chair), The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee
November 2016
The report endorses gender equality strategies in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022; working with young people to change attitudes, improving gender parity in senior leadership roles, flexible workplace arrangements, affordable child care and better sharing of unpaid care and domestic work to change gender expectations.
weblink

Domestic violence and women's economic security: Building Australia's capacity for prevention and redress: Final report
Natasha Cortis, Jane Bullen; Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS)
ANROWS Horizons Report, October 2016
Report discusses how economic abuse is a frequent, yet under-researched tactic of violence. Financial issues, including the prospect of leaving property or assets behind, are major factors in womens' decisions about leaving or staying in violent relationships. Inadequacies in the systems intended to identify, prevent and respond to the economic harms arising from violence have been identified.
weblink

ECONOMICS

Basic income: a radical idea enters the mainstream
Don Arthur, Parliamentary Library Research Papers 2016-2017
November 2016
A universal basic income (UBI) is a payment made to all adult individuals that allows people to meet their basic needs. Debates over basic income proposals have moved from the fringe to mainstream newspapers. UBI has returned to the policy agenda as the result of concerns about technological change. Some commentators argue that new technology will permanently reduce the demand for labour leading to job losses, stagnant incomes and worsening inequality. There are a number of different UBI models. These range from more modest schemes designed to simplify the existing social security system all the way to utopian plans to transform society. This paper illustrates the range by discussing a few of the many proposals made over the past century.
weblink

Circuit breaker: a new compact on school funding
Pete Goss, Julie Sonnemann; Grattan Institute
November 2016
The Grattan Institute compact on school funding suggests that funds can be reallocated to get all schools to their needs-based funding target by 2023, without spending any more money over the next four years than the Turnbull Government proposed in its 2016 Budget. As well as funding allocation, recommendations include improving where and how the money is spent. All the evidence shows that in order to lift student outcomes, investment in the most effective teaching is essential.
weblink

A sugary drinks tax; Recovering the community costs of obesity
Stephen Duckett and Hal Swerissen; Grattan Institute
November 2016
Report calls for a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB's) and recommends an excise tax of 40 cents per 100 grams of sugar on nonalcoholic, water-based beverages that contain added sugar. The authors suggest that the revenue from an SSB tax could be spent on obesity prevention programs and interventions, healthcare, or used to reduce the Commonwealth Government's budget deficit.
weblink

The cost of late intervention: EIF analysis 2016
Haroon Chowdry and Peter Fitzsimons; Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) UK
November 2016
This analysis updates the EIF report published in 2015. Its focus is on the immediate and short-run fiscal costs of what's called 'late intervention': the acute, statutory and essential benefits and services that are required when children and young people experience significant difficulties in life, many of which might have been prevented.
weblink

Childhood forecasting of a small segment of the population with large economic burden
Avshalom Caspi, Renate M. Houts, Daniel W. Belsky et al.
Nature Human Behaviour, December 2016
This article from University of Otago's Dunedin Multidisciplinary Study argues that a small segment of the population accounts for a disproportionate share of costly service use across a society's health care, criminal justice, and social welfare systems - and paediatric tests of brain health can identify these adults as young as age three.
weblink

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Student representation on School Governance Councils
Eve Mayes, Deakin University; Prepared for Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC)
November 2016
This report explores one approach to strengthening student participation in decision-making that has been identified as a priority by the VicSRC Executive and recommended by the Report on the Review of School Governance in Victorian Government Schools: the identification and promotion of student involvement in school councils. The report offers practical examples of how schools can give students a greater say in the decisions that affect their school life. The research gathered the views of students and principals across a range of Victorian schools on the issue of student representation on school governance councils.
weblink

Education and Work, Australia, ABS 6227.0 May 2016
Australian Bureau of Statistics
November 2016
The latest release of Education and Work show that more Australians are engaged in study. Sixty-four per cent of young women aged 15-24 years are studying in 2016 (a rise from 56 per cent in 2006), while the proportion of young men studying has increased from 55 to 61 per cent. Among the general population, one in five Australians aged 15-64 years were enrolled in a course in 2016, an increase across all age groups over the last 10 years.
weblink

For the sake of the children? A longitudinal analysis of residential relocations and academic performance of Australian children

Sergi Vidal, Janeen Baxter; Life Course Centre, ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course
July 2016
Investigates in the Australian context the associations between residential relocations from infancy to middle childhood and academic performance in school grades 3, 5 and 7. The study provides insights on the ways in which relocations are related to children's school performance by investigating relevant aspects of relocations (i.e. distance, frequency and age-stage at relocation), and those of the family, residential and school environments.
weblink

TIMSS 2015: A first look at Australia's results
Sue Thomson et al.; Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ACER)
November 2016
The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international comparative study of student achievement directed by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS 2015 represents the sixth such study since TIMSS was first conducted in 1995. ACER which reports on the four-yearly study, says a particular concern is that between a quarter and a third of Australian students are still not meeting the proficient standard.
weblink

PISA 2015: A first look at Australia's results
Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)
December 2016
A combined total of more than half a million students from 72 countries and economies took part in PISA 2015, including a nationally representative sample of around 14,500 Australian students from 758 schools. The first of two national reports of the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) has revealed that Australian students' achievements in science, reading and mathematics is in decline.
weblink

NAPLAN achievement in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy: national report for 2016
Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority
December 2016
Presents the final National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results for 2016 by gender, Indigenous status, language background other than English status, parental occupation, parental education, and geolocation at each year level and for each domain of the test. The tests are equated so that the 2016 results can be compared with those for previous years and reported on the same achievement scale.
weblink

State of Education in NSW 2016; Second biennial report
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, NSW Department of Education
December 2016
Report brings together descriptive data for NSW about the context of early learning, school education, vocational education and training and higher education as well as reporting on outcomes against agreed national and state measures. With its detailed current data on performance and trends, the report provides a basis on which further work may be undertaken to explore more fully the underlying causal factors of variable performance to inform future directions in education policy.
weblink

EMPLOYMENT

U-turn: the transport woes of Australia's young jobseekers
Brotherhood of St Laurence
November 2016

The youth unemployment rate of 12.8 per cent (trend rate) for October 2015 indicates that young people ages 15 to 24 in the labour market are three times as likely to be unemployed as those aged 25 and over, who have an unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent. The report explores the transport challenges facing young unemployed Australians which loom as a significant barrier to their finding work.
weblink

The new work mindset; 7 new job clusters to help young people navigate the new work order
AlphaBeta; Foundation for Young Australians
November 2016
Instead of training for a particular occupation and working in that area for life, some studies have estimated that Australians will make 17 changes in employers across 5 different careers. The researchers suggest that young people need to have information that simplifies the complex world of work and helps them navigate work over a lifetime. This report uses a new methodology for analysing the patterns contained in millions of online job advertisements, in order to shed new light on navigating uncertainty.
weblink

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Youth survey report 2016
Mission Australia
December 2016
Now in its 15th year, the Youth Survey is the biggest of its kind in Australia. The Youth Survey 2016 showed that for the record number of 21,846 15 to 19 year olds who took part, alcohol and drugs and equity and discrimination were the top two issues facing Australia today, with mental health entering the top three for the first time in its 15 year history. Concerns about mental health have doubled since 2011. The survey this year also included a special focus on unfair treatment and discrimination. Nationally, just over one quarter (26.6 per cent) of young people indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, and just over half (50.6 per cent) had witnessed it. The top three reasons for experiencing discrimination or unfair treatment were: Gender, race/cultural background and age. The report, infographic, video and other information are available at the link.
weblink

Are children at the forefront of our considerations? A synopsis of the Valuing Children Initiative Benchmark Survey: 2016 – Part A October 2016
Linda Savage, Emma King
October 2016
In May 2016, the Valuing Children Initiative commissioned a baseline survey to better understand attitudes to children in Australia. A synopsis of Part A of the Initiative considers the data relevant to the vision of ensuring children are at the forefront of considerations. Among the key findings of the report, survey respondents highlighted health issues such as child obesity and mental health, as being areas of concern for the health and happiness of future generations. Less than one in three (30 per cent) of those surveyed said they would describe children today as 'happy'.
weblink

ARACY's new website
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)
October 2016
ARACY'S new website structure is designed to explain through the organising framework of The Nest, the ARACY national action plan to improve child and youth wellbeing. Important member initiatives, including Networks, are grouped in a dedicated community area on the homepage to reflect the fact that Networks are part of the direct contribution ARACY makes to driving Nest outcomes, through its leadership of projects and the outputs and activities of its Networks ('Nest in action in ARACY').
weblink

Attitudes towards intergenerational support
Ruth Weston and Lixia Qu, Australian Institute of Family Studies
Australian Family Trends, No. 11, November 2016
Fact sheet examines the views of Australians about the obligations of parents and their adult children to provide financial and accommodation support to one another, and compares the views of respondents according to demographic characteristics. The research has found that 60 per cent of Australians believe that parents should provide financial support to their adult children if they are in difficulty. Reciprocally, 64 per cent of Australians believe that adult children should provide financial support to their parents when they are in need.
weblink

Talking families campaign; detailed findings and technical report
Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC)
June 2016
The QFCC recently surveyed more than 4,000 parents and non-parents to better understand what drives help-seeking, help-offering and help-accepting behaviours in relation to parenting in Queensland. This document summarises the research undertaken to develop and support a social marketing strategy for the campaign.
weblink

It's time to change the definition of success
IPSOS; National Australia Bank (NAB)
Rethink Success: Australian's views of success today, NAB White Paper, Chapter 1, October 2016
To explore Australians' views on success, NAB commissioned global research firm Ipsos to research the views of more than 2,000 Australians aged 16–70, exploring the importance and relevance of quantitative measures of success such as wealth, status and home ownership against qualitative factors such as experience, personal fulfilment and wellbeing. The research delved into the diferences and similarities of views across generations.
weblink

Generation Z; Success their own way
IPSOS; National Australia Bank
Rethink Success: Australian's views of success today, NAB White Paper, Chapter 2, October 2016
To explore Australians' views on success, NAB commissioned global research firm Ipsos to research the views of more than 2,000 Australians aged 16-70, exploring the importance and relevance of quantitative measures of success such as wealth, status and home ownership against qualitative factors such as experience, personal fulfilment and wellbeing. The research delved into the differences and similarities of views across generations and in particular how the younger generations are being impacted by a new era in technology, global economic instability and social responsibility.
weblink

HEALTH

UK Government won't step up to the plate on childhood obesity
Lancet Editorial
The Lancet, 27 August 2016
The UK Government's long-anticipated response to the childhood obesity crisis disappointed doctors, health charities, and celebrities as well as the very industry it seeks to propitiate. The Childhood Obesity Plan, published with as little noise as possible in the summer recess, has met with resounding criticism. As this Comment in the Lancet highlights, the strategy has been delayed for a year, and in that time it has been watered down to a vague Plan with no teeth.
weblink

Adverse childhood experiences and their association with chronic disease and health service use in the Welsh adult population; Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study
Public Health Wales

October 2016

This report on the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on chronic disease and health service use in Welsh adults found that adults aged up to 69 years who experienced four or more ACEs are four times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes, three times more likely to develop heart disease and three times more likely to develop respiratory disease, compared to adults who have not experienced ACEs.

weblink

From the child to the neighbourhood: Longitudinal ecological correlates of young adolescents' emotional, social, conduct, and academic difficulties
Rowe, Susan L., Zimmer-Gembeck, Melanie J., Hood, Michelle
Journal of Adolescence, Volume: 49 June 2016

This paper investigates the factors related to changes in emotional, social, conduct, and academic difficulties in children over a two-year timeframe from ages 10 to 12 years old. A representative sample of Australian early adolescents completed questionnaires and interviews when they were age 10 (T1) and two years later at age 12 (T2). Parents also participated. Adolescents' difficulties increased over time, but there was no difference in academic difficulties between T1 and T2. Hierarchical regression analyses showed that temperamental factors of persistence and reactivity accounted for the most unique variance in adolescents' difficulties.

weblink

Smiling Mind; Establishing an evidence base for the Smiling Mind Education Program
Dr Addie Wootten; Smiling Mind
December 2016

Jane Mantino and her business partner, James Tutton, developed Smiling Mind, a unique web and app-based program that provides resources to support the development of mindfulness and meditation skills. The program has been trialled in Victorian schools. This report summarises the large project involving 1853 students and 104 teachers was conducted by Smiling Mind, and their project partners, to establish an evidence-base for the Smiling Mind Education Program. Results included significant reductions in bullying and disruptive behaviour in the classroom and improvements in student sleep patterns, wellbeing, ability to manage emotions, concentration, and school behaviour. More about Smiling Mind meditation resources at https://morethanmoney.nab.com.au/community/jane-martino-sees-a-future-in-sitting-still.

weblink

Healthy communities: overweight and obesity rates across Australia, 2014-15
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
December 2016

Report finds that in 2014-15 the percentage of overweight or obese adults ranged from 53 per cent in Northern Sydney to 73 per cent in Country SA; Overweight and obesity rates were generally higher in regional Primary Health Network (PHN) areas than in metropolitan PHN areas; After excluding adults who were overweight, the percentage of obese adults ranged from 16 per cent in Central and Eastern Sydney to 38 per cent in Country SA; The obesity rate was 25 per cent or higher in 18 of the PHN areas for which results were available.

weblink

The EPOCH measure of adolescent well-being
Margaret L. Kern, Lizbeth Benson, Elizabeth A. Steinberg, Laurence Steinberg
Psychological Assessment, Vol. 28, No. 5 2016, 586–597

The authors introduce the EPOCH Measure of Adolescent Well-Being assesses 5 positive psychological characteristics (Engagement, Perseverance, Optimism, Connectedness, and Happiness) that might foster well-being, physical health, and other positive outcomes in adulthood. To create the measure, a pool of 60 items was compiled, and a series of 10 studies with 4,480 adolescents (age 10-18) from the United States and Australia were used to develop and test the measure, including the factor structure, internal and test–retest reliability, and convergent, discriminant, and predictive validity.

weblink

INCLUSION

Refugee communities intercultural dialogue: building relationships, building communities
Vicky Saunders, Steven Roche, Morag McArthur et al.; Department of Social Services
September 2016
This study was designed to provide in-depth and contextualised data about how services may better support refugee parents to care for their children.
weblink

Young people and the issues of racism and religious discrimination
British Youth Council Youth Select Committee
November 2016
Findings include: racism and religious discrimination remain a cause for concern in schools and teachers need better support to have the confidence to deal with these issues. Recommendations include: increase the use of digital tools and social media to raise awareness of the issues surrounding racism and religious discrimination and help victims to report incidents.
weblink

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)
October 2016
It aims to help organisations improve their engagement with young people and enhance good practice across services and programs. It includes eight practice principles and a range of accompanying strategies.
weblink

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: key indicators 2016
Productivity Commission
November 2016
Report card measures where things have improved (or not) against 52 indicators across a range of areas including governance, leadership and culture, early childhood, education, health, home and safe and supportive communities, and includes case studies on things that work to improve outcomes. Findings show the rates of psychological distress, imprisonment and substance abuse among Indigenous Australians have worsened with the imprisonment rate rising by 77 per cent over the past 15 years and the hospitalisation rate related to self-harm rising by 56 per cent over the past decade.
weblink

Learnings from the message stick; The report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas
Dr G.G. Jacobs, MLA (Chair), Education and Health Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly Parliament of Western Australia, Report No.11, November 2016
The report finds that Aboriginal youth suicide recommendations have largely been ignored by WA Government and existing programs were not making a difference. The Committee found there had been a lack of emphasis on, and accountability for, implementing recommendations made by previous parliamentary or government inquiries. It suggested State Government agencies revisit reports into Aboriginal youth suicide and outline how recommendations will be implemented particularly drawing attention to the poor coordination of services.
weblink

Investigative interviewing of aboriginal children in cases of suspected sexual abuse
Gemma Hamilton, Sonja P. Brubacher, Martine B. Powell
Journal of child sexual abuse, Vol.25, No.4, 2016, PP 363-381
Examined the investigative interviewing of Australian Aboriginal children in cases of child sexual abuse, with a focus on three commonly included components of interview protocols: ground rules, practice narrative and

substantive phase. Findings included: children most often disclosed sexual abuse in response to an open-ended prompt; however, they produced the most words in response to a suggestive prompt. Article concludes with a discussion of the effectiveness of ground rules, practice narratives, and questioning with Aboriginal children.
weblink

Family violence prevention programs in Indigenous communities
Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Australian Institute of Family Studies
Resource sheet no. 37, December 2016
Family violence needs to be understood within broader contexts as both a cause and effect of social disadvantage and intergenerational trauma, poor parenting, and substance misuse. Levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence are likely to be under-reported, due to the complexity of different forms of primary health response, significant under-reporting to police by victims, and irregular collection of perpetrators' cultural backgrounds in data sets. National survey data shows that nearly one-quarter of the Indigenous population aged over 15 reported they were a victim of threatened or actual violence of any type in the previous year.
weblink

LAW AND JUSTICE

Police action in response to youth produced sexual imagery ('Sexting')
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
November 2016
The NSPCC has published a summary of the College of Policing's guidance for police in England and Wales responding to cases involving young people who are sexting. Key issues include: the Outcome 21 reporting code can be used to record that a crime has been committed, but that it is not in the public interest to conduct a criminal investigation.
weblink

The state of youth custody
Tim Bateman; National Association for Youth Justice (NAYJ) UK
NAYJ Briefing, October 2016
Briefing argues that imprisonment is not an effective mechanism for preventing youth crime, pointing out that reoffending rates for children following a custodial episode remain extremely high (67.1 per cent within 12 months for those released in 2014). Includes statistics on the prevalence of physical restraint, assault and self-harm in the secure estate and rates of custodial sentencing by region. Concludes that child imprisonment should only be used as a last resort.
weblink

He's got some nasty impression of me he has; Listening to children in the Secure Estate
Katie H. Ellis
The British Journal of Social Work, Vol.46 (6) September 2016
Highlights findings from a one-year ethnographic study conducted with 15 girls aged 13-16-years-old who entered secure accommodation in England in 2010. Seven were placed on a child welfare order and eight on criminal justice grounds. Used observation, in-depth interviews and reviewed case files. Found that case files caused anxiety. On release, almost all felt it had been a positive placement mainly due to caring and supportive relationships with staff. Calls for practitioners to be transparent when recording information, allowing young people to read appropriate sections of case files and to make their own written contributions.
weblink

Guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media
The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), UK
October 2016

CPS has published guidance for prosecutors on cases involving social media communications in UK. This includes: cyber-enabled violence against women and girls (VAWG); hate crime offences; sexting involving images taken of children.
weblink

Youth detention population in Australia 2016
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
Bulletin 138, December 2016
Examines the numbers and rates of young people aged 10 and over who were in youth detention in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime. It focuses on trends over the 4-year period from the June quarter 2012 to the June quarter 2016.
weblink

Justice reinvestment
Lenny Roth, NSW Parliamentary Research Service
Research Paper, e-brief 07/2016 December 2016
Justice reinvestment is based on the United States approach that funding for prisons should be reduced and redirected towards addressing the underlying causes of crime in communities with high levels of incarceration. Over the last decade, many State governments in the United States have introduced a justice reinvestment policy. The United Kingdom Government has also conducted some pilot justice reinvestment projects at the local council level. This paper outlines the development and experience of justice reinvestment in those countries, summarises key reports and commentary in Australia, and refers to local trials in NSW, South Australia and the ACT.
weblink

Speaking out about youth justice: The views of WA children and young people
Commissioner for Children and Young People WA
December 2016
Report is based on consultation with 92 young people who discussed the factors that contributed to their involvement in the youth justice system. Young people were also asked about changes to the youth justice system that would provide better support to help them navigate away from criminal behaviour.
weblink

MENTAL HEALTH

Raising the bar for youth suicide prevention
Robinson, J, et al., Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health
November 2016
Research carried out in consultation with the Australian youth mental health and suicide prevention sectors and in partnership with young people themselves has highlighted that although suicide rates among young men were still higher than women, female suicide rates had doubled over the past 10 years. Report also found youth suicides were twice as likely to happen in clusters than adult suicides and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and youth in regional and remote Australia were most at risk. As such researchers, sector experts and young people themselves have suggested that responding to suicide among young people requires a different approach than for other age groups.
weblink

The mental health of children and young people in England
Public Health England
December 2016
Report describes the importance of children's mental health and wellbeing in England and London, and the case for investment in mental health. The reports include summaries of the evidence of what works to improve mental health among children and young people. Infographics and statistics provide a descriptive analysis of the mental health of children and young people in England.

weblink

The damage of debt: the impact of money worries on children's mental health and well-being
Ilona Pinter, David Ayre, Emily Emmott; The Children's Society UK
September 2016
Examines the links between problem debt and the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people. Research covered literature reviews, depth interviews with 13 parents and six children as well as three focus groups with 15 young people. Found that 23 per cent of children in problem debt ridden households are unhappy with their lives in contrast to just five per cent of children in debt free homes.
weblink

Gender and children and young people's emotional and mental health: manifestations and responses; A rapid review of the evidence
Emily Hamblin; National Children's Bureau, UK
July 2016
Literature review looking at gender differences in children and young people's emotional and mental health. Covers topics including: a general picture of emotional and mental health; the prevalence of specific difficulties and issues; coping strategies and help-seeking behaviours; responses from parents and carers, schools, and public services; and service responses to the needs of particular groups.
weblink

Take 5! Five simple ways to better mental health and wellbeing: written for and by LGBTU young people
Allsorts Youth Project, UK
July 2016
Presents a fun and interactive mini-guide based around the five ways to wellbeing, designed by LGBTU young people who attend Open Minds, a monthly mental health and wellbeing group in Brighton, UK. Aims to show other young people how they can better manage their mental health and improve wellbeing and includes ideas written by eight members of the group. Useful support services with links are listed at the end.
weblink

Is headspace making a difference to young people's lives; Final report of the independent evaluation of the headspace program
Kristy Muir, Abigail Powell, Roger Patulny et al.; Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), UNSW
April 2016
Evaluation to examine young people' access to and engagement with the centre-based program and assess the outcomes of young people who have received services from headspace to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. The study also assessed the centre-based program's service delivery model and conducted a cost effectiveness analysis of the program as it presently operates. The analysis showed substantial reduction in suicidal thoughts and self-harm by clients. However it also found that less than a quarter of young people significantly improved. The government has pledged to continue its funding for the program.
weblink

OUT OF HOME CARE

Their futures matter: A new approach; Reform directions from the Independent Review of Out of Home Care in New South Wales
David Tune (Chair); NSW Government
December 2016
In November 2015, David Tune AO PSM was commissioned to carry out an independent review of the out of home care system in NSW. This review creates a future vision and a long-term strategy for out of home care in NSW; and vulnerable children and families more broadly. To break the cycle of disadvantage, the review found that there is a need to holistically respond to the drivers and causes of children entering care.
weblink

Literature review: Foster carer attraction, recruitment, support and retention
Thomson, L., Watt, E., & McArthur, M.; Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
December 2016
Review of the literature available on what works to help people to make the choice to become a home-based carer, and on the evidence regarding retention of these carers for children in out-of-home care.
weblink

POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Desperate to escape - the experiences of homeless families in emergency accommodation
Jenny Pennington and Deborah Garvie, Shelter, UK
November 2016
Reports on children and families in England, Scotland and Wales living in emergency accommodation. Key findings include: 12,903 children are living in one room and sharing facilities in accommodation such as homeless bed and breakfasts, cheap hotels and hostels; and parents living in emergency accommodation were concerned about their children's mental and physical health and safety.
weblink

A critical interpretive synthesis of the ways children's needs and capacities are represented in the homelessness and family violence literature
Rebecca Fairchild, Katrina Skewes McFerran and Grace Thompson
Children Australia, Published online: 28 November 2016
This paper describes a critical interpretive synthesis (critical review of the literature) exploring the ways children are described and represented in the homelessness and family violence literature regarding programmes. Authors' descriptions of children and their perceived needs are considered from individual, interpersonal and systemic positions, with an inherent focus on the influence of academic language and power in representing children. The articles reviewed contained an abundance of negative descriptions of children's poor health, educational and developmental outcomes, but very little acknowledgement of children's personal resources and capacities in times of adversity. The authors argue for a better balance in representing children's strengths alongside their challenges when describing their presentation and participation in programmes and research.
weblink

Vulnerable young people: interactions across homelessness, youth justice and child protection: 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
December 2016
AIHW identified 3 matched cohorts - the specialist homelessness service and child protection (SHS-CP) cohort, the specialist homelessness service and youth justice (SHS-YJ) cohort and the specialist homelessness service, child protection and youth justice (SHS-CP-YJ) cohort - as well as 3 corresponding SHS-only cohorts for comparison. The analysis examined the demographics, personal circumstances, service provision and housing outcomes of the 3 matched cohorts of and their equivalent SHS-only client cohorts. The findings showed that individuals in all 3 cohorts experienced multiple levels of disadvantage, at greater levels than the SHS-only clients.
weblink

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Sexualisation of children and young people
Melanie Gibbons MP (Chair), Parliament of New South Wales, Committee on Children and Young People
Report 2/56 November 2016
The Committee undertook this Inquiry to explore the impact that day-to-day exposure to inappropriate messaging and imagery has on children and young people. The Inquiry was wide ranging in its exploration of

media and communications that may lead to the early sexualisation of children and young people and found strong evidence that easy internet access exposes many children and young people to online pornography and websites that provide non-age appropriate sexual information.
weblink

Evaluating information: the cornerstone of civic online reasoning; Executive summary
Stanford History Education Group (SHEG), Stanford University
November 2016
Between January 2015 and June 2016, SHEG administered 56 tasks to students across 12 states. In total, 7,804 student responses were collected and analyzed. Sites for fieldtesting included under-resourced, inner city schools in Los Angeles and well-resourced schools in suburbs outside of Minneapolis. College assessments, which focused on open web searches, were administered online at six different universities. Results in this interesting study show that though preteens and teens may appear very tech-savvy they often have difficulty evaluating the accuracy and trustworthiness of what they find. Some 82 per cent of middle-schoolers couldn't distinguish between an ad labeled 'sponsored content' and a real news story on a website.
weblink

Screen content in Australian education; Digital promise and pitfalls
Stuart Cunningham, Michael Dezuanni, Ben Goldsmith et al.
October 2016
The report presents findings from 'Australian Screen Content in Education', a research project funded by the Australian Research Council Linkages Program. Project includes insights from producers and distributors, and draws on interviews with hundreds of teachers, students and industry representatives, as well as classroom observations.
weblink

Liquid love? Dating apps, sex, relationships and the digital transformation of intimacy
Mitchell Hobbs, Stephen Owen, Livia Gerber
Journal of Sociology, Published online September 5 2016
In Liquid Love Zygmunt Bauman argued internet dating is symptomatic of social and technological change that transforms modern courtship into a type of commodified game. This article explores the experiences of users of digital dating and hook-up applications (or 'apps') in order to assess the extent to which a digital transformation of intimacy might be under way. The researchers suggest that some analyses of dating apps and modern romantic practices are too pessimistic and do not acknowledge the positive aspects of this approach to intimacy.
weblink

The need for parity of protection
Julia Fossi; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) UK
December 2016
Julia Fossi, Acting Head of Child Safety Online at the NSPCC, advocates that to reflect the modern experiences of children, steps must now be taken to equally protect them online and offline. There is a need for mandatory safeguarding, a statutory code of practice and a recognition of both the strengths and risks of childrens' access to the Internet.
weblink

Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people
UK Council for Child Internet Safety
September 2016
Non-statutory guidance for UK schools and colleges on responding to incidents of 'sexting' including: responding to disclosures, handling devices and imagery, risk assessing situations and involving other agencies. Includes information about preventative education, working with parents and reporting imagery to providers. Advice introduces the phrase 'youth produced sexual imagery' to ensure clarity of meaning. Should be read alongside the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) statutory guidance.
weblink

A review of the research on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour online; What online HSB is and how it compares to HSB offline
Emma Belton and Vicki Hollis; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) UK
October 2016
This review of the literature about online harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) was carried out to help inform and update guidance for practitioners working with children and young people with harmful sexual behaviour. The report brings together current research on the developmental appropriateness of children's sexual behaviour online and the comparison and cross-over between children and young people displaying online and offline HSB.
weblink

What should I do? NSPCC helplines: responding to children's and parents' concerns about sexual content online
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) UK
October 2016
Report looks at what children and parents are telling helpline responders when they contact helpers with their concerns about online safety, specifically sexual content online. It focuses on viewing sexually explicit content; sharing sexual images; and online child sexual exploitation.
weblink

Media and young minds; American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement
Jenny Radesky, Dimitri Christakis; Council on Communications and Media
Pediatrics, October 2016
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has extensively updated and revised its guidelines for children and adolescents to reflect new research and new habits relating to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are now growing up in environments saturated with a variety of traditional and new technologies, which they are adopting at increasing rates.
weblink

VIOLENCE

Young people's attitudes to violence against women: report on findings from the young people in Scotland survey 2014
Scottish Government
November 2016
The Scottish Government has published a report on young people's opinions of violence against women. Findings from the 2014 Young people in Scotland survey on the attitudes of 11-18 year olds to domestic abuse, sexual harassment and commercial sexual exploitation include: young people were generally less likely than adults to consider these behaviours as very seriously wrong or harmful, with the exception of specific kinds of commercial sexual exploitation; boys were less likely than girls to class the behaviours as very seriously wrong, and more likely to hold stereotypical views on gender roles; young people and adults were extremely concerned about the emerging practice of posting naked photos of an ex-girlfriend online (revenge pornography), and there was strong support for this to be made illegal.
weblink

A meta-analysis of pornography consumption and actual acts of sexual aggression in general population studies
Paul J. Wright, Robert S. Tokunaga, Ashley Kraus
Journal of Communications, Volume 66 Issue 1, February 2016
The researchers analysed 22 studies from 7 different countries and found that the data leave little doubt that, on the average, individuals who consume pornography more frequently are more likely to hold attitudes conducive to sexual aggression and engage in actual acts of sexual aggression than individuals who do not consume pornography or who consume pornography less frequently. Five of the 22 studies' sample

descriptions suggested that all or the majority of their participants were adolescents (teenagers aged 17 and younger).
weblink

Forthcoming conferences and events

This list is cumulative
New events added since the last issue of What's New are highlighted in orange

JANUARY 2017		
16-18 January	Canberra ACT	30th ACHPER (Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Inc.) Conference
FEBRUARY 2017		
13-15 February	Canberra ACT	National Indigenous Mental Health & Wellbeing Forum
22 February	Sydney NSW	AIFS - Evidence Roundtable to facilitate shared learning and solutions on issues such as continuous service improvement using collected data – Venue details to come. cfca-moderator@aifs.gov.au to register your interest
MARCH 2017		
3-4 March	Cairns, Qld	Wellbeing Australia Inaugural Conference; Strengths, Circles and Social & Emotional Learning
17 March	Sydney NSW	Generation Next - Student Wellbeing and Leadership Program
21-23 March	Canberra ACT	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) National Indigenous Research Conference 2017
31 March	Brisbane Qld	Homelessness and housing solutions
MAY 2017		
2-5 May	Wellington, NZ	8th Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference 2017
15-16 May	Melbourne Vic	Child Aware Approaches Conferences
15-17 May	Gold Coast, Qld	Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference 2017: Prevention, treatment and recovery
16-17 May	Sydney, NSW	ACMA: Australian content conversation 2017
21-22 May	Berlin, Germany	ICMH 2017: 19th International Conference on Mental Health
JUNE 2017		
6-8 June	Melbourne Vic	Parent Engagement Conference : maximising Every Child's Potential - Call for Abstracts closes: 30 January 2017

28-30 June	Montreal Canada	Conference of the International Society of Child Indicators
JULY 2017		
5-7 July	Hobart, Tas	26th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'
AUGUST 2017		
4 August	Sydney NSW	Generation Next Conference; The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People
7-8 August	Gold Coast Qld	4th National Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference
10-12 August	Sydney NSW	CREATE Foundation Conference; Voices in Action: Empowering young people for positive change
SEPTEMBER 2017		
12-14 September	Canberra, ACT	7th SNAICC National Conference

If you have a query about any of the content please contact Barbara Glass at:
Email: barbara.glass@acyp.nsw.gov.au or Ph. 9248 0997