Advocate for Children and Young People
Current awareness bulletin
January 2017

Contents

Articles and publications

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Productivity and geography [Presentation]
John Daley, CEO, Grattan Institute
Productivity Commission Conference, Canberra, 12 December 2016
While economic growth has been concentrated in cities for some time, the trend has really accelerated in the past decade. Half of all jobs growth is now within a 2km radius of the city centres in both Melbourne and Sydney. Yet land use planning policies make it hard for people to live near where the new jobs are. John Daley suggests that reforming planning and housing policies to allow more people to live closer to the centres of our major cities could yield big economic benefits.
weblink

CHILD PROTECTION

Harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the Internet; Senate Inquiry
Senator Larissa Waters, Chair AG, QLD; The Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
November 2016
Inquiry report includes trends in children's consumption of pornography, the impact of this on the development of health and respectful relationships, harm minimisation methods used in other jurisdictions and possible measures to be implemented in Australia. Recommendations include: research to be carried out into children's exposure to pornography online and offline; an expert advisory panel be created; state and territory policies on sexual abuse by children within schools to be reviewed, and child protection training to be provided for people working with children.
weblink

Trajectories in online child sexual exploitation offending in Australia
Tony Krone and Russell G Smith, Australian Institute of Criminology
Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice, no. 524, January 2017

Study by the Australian Institute of Criminology examines the causal relationship between online child sexual exploitation and sexual or violent crimes committed against children. The research seeks to establish the impact of offenders viewing child exploitation material and their use of the internet to access this material and to groom children for sexual exploitation.
weblink

Voice and choice; Children's rights in 'adult conversations' and child protection decision making
Lauren Weinstein
The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, Posted September 2016
Part of a 5-post series on a social innovation perspective on child protection Royal Commissions.
weblink

Online child sexual abuse images; Working together to tackle the demand for and supply of online child sexual abuse images
Sonja Jutte
November 2016
This report outlines existing research and statistics about child sexual abuse images. It looks at what is and could be done to further address the issue. The report starts by defining what constitutes a child sexual abuse image. It then goes on to look at the impact such images have on children, what is being done to tackle their production and distribution and what further work needs to be done to ensure that children are protected.
weblink

Child protection; a fresh start
South Australian Department of Child Protection
December 2016
The South Australian Government has released its response to the findings by the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission Report (http://www.agd.sa.gov.au/child-protection-systems-royal-commission) handed down in August 2016. South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill announced the Government has accepted 196 of Royal Commissioner Margaret Nyland's 260 recommendations to reform the state's child protection system. He has promised the new Child Protection Department will focus on early support for at-risk families with a specific focus on Aboriginal children and families, and take action based on the best evidence in the field.
weblink

Safe and sound: Exploring the safety of young people in residential care
Dr Tim Moore, Dr Jodi Death, Mr Steven Roche et al.
December 2016
Report focuses on problematic sexual behaviour amongst young people, and the exploitation of young people by adults outside the residential care setting. Analysis provides an overview of the major themes emerging from interviews with 27 children and young people with lived experience of residential care in Australia.
weblink

DISABILITY

Improving educational outcomes: Emergent data on students with disability in Australian schools
Education Council, Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)
December 2016
The Australian government aims to foster a culture of inclusivity and ongoing improvements in support for students with disability in Australian schools. Since 2013 the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) has been progressively implemented in Australian schools, with 20 per cent of schools participating in 2013, 73 per cent in 2014 and 99.9 per cent in 2015. Thus schools and governments are reporting for the first time in a nationally consistent way on the number of students in Australian schools requiring an educational adjustment (as required under the standards) to access education because of a disability.
Weblink

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alcohol/drug-involved family violence in Australia; Final report
Peter Miller, Elise Cox, Beth Costa et al.; Alcohol/Drug-Involved Family Violence in Australia (ADIVA)
December 2016
Report confirms the link between alcohol and other drugs and domestic violence, showing that substance use increases the risk of family violence. In particular, heavy binge drinking doubles the risk of family or intimate partner violence while alcohol related incidents result in more severe physical violence and also increase coercive behaviour. Interventions that address AOD use in repeat offenders are indicated. Key challenges include the intergenerational nature of the cycle of violence, and the devastating impact it has on children in families who suffer such violence.
weblink

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Completion rates of higher education students: Cohort analysis, 2005-2014
Department of Education and Training
January 2017
Cohort analysis showing after nominated periods how many commencing students have completed their studies, how many are still studying, and how many have not completed an award course. The cohort analysis also presents outcomes of students by selected characteristics.
weblink

Uptake and utility of VET qualifications
Patrick Korbel, Josie Misko; National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
November 2016
Review of the use of vocational training packages and the qualifications contained within them, the pattern of enrolments and whether the number of qualifications could be rationalised and consolidated.
weblink

EMPLOYMENT

Unpaid work experience in Australia; Prevalence, nature and impact
Dr Damian Oliver et al.; Department of Employment
December 2016
Numerous studies, including a 2013 report for the Fair Work Ombudsman and a 2014 NSW parliamentary inquiry, have highlighted some risks associated with the growth in internships and other forms of unpaid work experience (UWE). This research commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Employment involved an online survey of working-age Australians to examine the prevalence, characteristics, participant experiences and impact on employment outcomes. Findings indicated clear disadvantages for jobseekers from poorer backgrounds as well as those from regional areas.
weblink

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Mapping social cohesion; The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2016
Professor Andrew Markus; Scanlon Foundation
November 2016
The 2016 Scanlon Foundation survey comprised 66 questions, with twenty-five questions on immigration, asylum seekers and cultural diversity; the survey employed a probability-based random sample of the

population, the questionnaire administered by an interviewer, and provides a context to interpret the results through its earlier findings.
weblink

Youth Index 2017
The Prince's Trust Macquarie
January 2017
This annual Youth index now in its eighth year, looks at the views and outlooks of young people aged 16 to 25 in the UK. Findings from an online survey of 2,215 young people include: young people's wellbeing is at its lowest level since 2009; 48 per cent of young people experienced problems during their school or college years; 45 per cent did not believe in themselves when they were at school; and 46 per cent didn't talk to anyone about their situation when experiencing problems.
weblink

Giving Australia 2016
Swinburne University of Technology's Centre for Social Impact and Centre for Corporate Public Affairs; Queensland University of Technology Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non-profit Studies; Department of Social Services
November 2016
The Giving Australia 2016 project is the largest ever research effort into philanthropic behaviour to understand how, why and how much Australians give to charity. Comprehensive, up-to-date data has been collected from individuals, charitable organisations, philanthropists and businesses in Australia and provides critical information about giving and volunteering behaviours, attitudes and trends. Findings show: Compared to 10 years ago fewer people are giving more; More people are volunteering more hours; Planned giving delivers six times more donations that spontaneous giving; Philanthropists are most influenced by culture, family and the ability to make positive change; and corporate philanthropy is thriving.
weblink

HEALTH

No child should grow up like this: identifying long term outcomes for Forgotten Australians, Child Migrants and the Stolen Generation
Elizabeth Fernandez et al.; University of New South Wales
December 2016
The study was undertaken by the University of New South Wales in association with a range of partners and is the first national research project of its type in Australia. It is a major contribution to understanding the experiences of Forgotten Australians, former Child Migrants and members of the Stolen Generation. A number of case studies cited in the report show that many children and young people undertook inappropriate hard labour, the consequence of which has been early onset ageing, as well as other significant health effects. Despite these early adversities, some of the participants spoke about their methods of coping with the harsh environments in which they grew up and their varied pathways towards resilience and making sense of their childhood and their place in the world.
weblink

Child Deaths 2015 Annual Report
Family and Community Services (FACS)
November 2016
This year the report focuses on neglect. The review work of the Serious Case Review Unit (formerly Child Deaths and Critical Reports Unit) has consistently highlighted the need to better understand and support families whose children experience neglect. Chapter three of the report focuses on 293 children known to FACS who died between 2010 and 2015, who experienced neglect, or there was a significant history of neglect within the family. Sixty eight of these children died in circumstances where neglect was a contributing factor to the child's death.
weblink

Alcohol use and motivations for drinking among types of young adult illicit stimulant users
Ellen Leslie, Andrew Smirnov, Jake M. Najman, John Scott; Australian Institute of Criminology
Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, No. 515 November 2016
While there is evidence to suggest a high prevalence of risky drinking among users of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in Australia, little is known about how they combine their use of ATS with the consumption of alcohol or why they do so. This paper considers how ATS users consume alcohol during ecstasy and methamphetamine use, and also addresses alcohol abuse and dependence among low-risk and at-risk ATS users.
weblink

AusPlay; Participation data for the sport sector; Summary of key national findings October 2015 to September 2016 data
Australian Sports Commission (ASC)
AusPlay, a national population tracking survey funded and led by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) tracks the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population. Through AusPlay, adults' and children's sport and physical recreation participation data is being collected together for the first time and will provide a better understanding of the relationship between the activity habits of children and their parents. Data collection for AusPlay commenced on 22 October 2015. The data will be updated every six months.
weblink

Girls' wellbeing explored; Understanding pressures and resilience
YoungMinds, UK
September 2016
Qualitative research investigating girls' views on their wellbeing and the pressures they are facing. Findings include: girls tend to dismiss or play down the issues they face and feel they should be able to cope alone; girls are trivialising and normalising sexual harassment and bullying; when girls do seek help it is typically from their friends rather than professionals. Recommendations are provided.
weblink

Early childhood development coming of age: science through the life course
Maureen M Black et al.
The Lancet, 7 January 2017; Series: Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale
The researchers examine recent scientific progress and global commitments to early childhood development. They find that early childhood development programmes vary in coordination and quality, with inadequate and inequitable access, especially for children younger than 3 years. They detail the research, programmes, and policies that have advanced substantially since 2000, as well as new neuroscientific evidence linking early adversity and nurturing care with brain development and function throughout the life course.
weblink

Nurturing care: promoting early childhood development
Pia R Britto et al.
The Lancet, 7 January 2017; Series: Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale
A comprehensive updated analysis is provided of early childhood development interventions across the five sectors of health, nutrition, education, child protection, and social protection. The review concludes that to make interventions successful, smart, and sustainable, they need to be implemented as multi-sectoral intervention packages anchored in nurturing care. There is strong evidence to suggest that parents, caregivers, and families need to be supported in providing nurturing care and protection in order for young children to achieve their developmental potential.
weblink

Investing in the foundation of sustainable development: pathways to scale up for early childhood development
Linda M Richter et al.
The Lancet, 7 January 2017; Series: Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale

The researchers recommend that scaled up support for the youngest children is essential to improving health, human capital, and wellbeing across the life course. In this paper, new analyses show that the burden of poor development is higher than estimated, taking into account additional risk factors. Starting at conception, interventions to promote nurturing care can feasibly build on existing health and nutrition services at limited additional cost. The health sector particularly provides a critical starting point for scaling up, given its reach to pregnant women, families, and young children.
weblink

Generation of global political priority for early childhood development: the challenges of framing and governance

Yusra Ribhi Shawar, Jeremy Shiffman
The Lancet, 7 January 2017; Series: Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale
Despite progress, early childhood development (ECD) remains a neglected issue, particularly in resource-poor countries. The researchers analyse the challenges and opportunities that ECD proponents face and suggest that multiple opportunities exist to advance political priority for ECD, including an increasingly favourable political environment, advances in ECD metrics, and the existence of compelling arguments for investment in ECD.
weblink

State of child health

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPH)
January 2017
Reports on the state of child health in the UK. Recommendations include: each UK Government should develop a child health and wellbeing strategy which is coordinated, implemented and evaluated across the nation. Separate recommendations are also made for decision makers in England, Scotland and Wales.
weblink

INCLUSION

The missing link? Young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, social capital and the transition to employment

Willow Kellock; Centre for Multicultural Youth
December 2016
This study investigates the way in which young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds experience social capital in relation to work transitions, particularly for those who are tertiary educated. The research also explores how best to support the breadth and quality of young people's networks to facilitate the transition to meaningful work.
weblink

Speaking up: the global refugee youth consultations in Australia report

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia); Refugee Council of Australia
November 2016
Presents the ideas and recommendations of more than 500 young people from refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds who participated in consultations across Australia. Part of a global project to give young refugees a voice, the report contributes to national and international advocacy on issues for young refugee and asylum seekers.
weblink

The role and importance of Islamic studies and faith in community Islamic schools in Australia; A case study of Adelaide (SA) and Darwin (NT)

Ibrahima Diallo; Research Centre for Languages and Cultures (UniSA)
October 2016
For Australian Muslims a crucial question is the challenge of maintaining and developing their Islamic values and imparting Islamic values, culture and traditions to their children. This case study reports on the role and importance of Islamic studies and faith in community Islamic schools in Adelaide and Darwin. Islamic

community schools in Australia are generally run independently by the Muslim communities or jointly with a local mosque or with Islamic foundations or cultural centres.
weblink

Settlement in the digital age: digital inclusion and newly arrived young people from refugee and migrant background

Edmee Kenny; Centre for Multicultural Youth
January 2017
In 2016 the first Australian Digital Inclusion Index was released, recognising the enormous role access to and engagement with digital technology and the internet plays in facilitating the economic and social inclusion of Australians in economic, social, cultural and civic life. However these benefits are not spreading equally to everyone. This paper looks at the digital inclusion of newly arrived young people from refugee and migrant background, those in their first five years of settlement in Victoria.
weblink

If only we had asked him to play soccer; A report on the outcomes of discussions with ACT school students about social exclusion and violent extremism

Alasdair Roy and Gabrielle McKinnon; ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate; ACT Children and Young People Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission
October 2016
While there are significant resources directed towards strategies, programs and policies to counter the radicalisation of young Australians there is a dearth of research into the opinions of young people themselves about the issue. This consultation sought the views of school students in years 7-11 in the ACT about inclusion, why some young people may become involved in violent extremism, and what these young people thought might be done to prevent this.
weblink

Promoting community-led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women in metropolitan and regional Australia: The ASPIRE Project: Key findings and future directions

Cathy Vaughan, et al.; Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
Compass Research to policy and practice, Issue 8, December 2016
Examines immigrant and refugee women's experiences of violence in Victoria and Tasmania and the effect on these women and their children. The report found that family violence prevention initiatives targeting immigrant and refugee communities were limited in reach, had rarely been rigorously evaluated and may not be inclusive of the contexts and forms of violence that women experience.
weblink

Supporting refugee families in Australia

Vicky Saunders, Prof. Morag McArthur, Steven Roche et al.
Institute of Child Protection Studies, Research to Practice Series, No.15 November 2016
Explores the challenges experienced by refugee families resettling in Australia; the informal and formal supports they access and barriers to these supports; the characteristics of supportive services and implications for policy and practice.
weblink

Countering online hate speech

Iginio Gagliardone et al.; UNESCO
September 2015
Study gives a global overview of the dynamics characterizing hate speech online and some of the measures that have been adopted to counteract and mitigate it.
weblink

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Solutions that work: what the evidence and our people tell us; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project Report
Professor Pat Dudgeon et al.; University of Western Australia
June 2016
Summarises the evidence-base for what works in Indigenous community-led suicide prevention and presents tools to support prevention. This report has been published as part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.
weblink

Safe and sound? How funding mix affects homelessness support for Indigenous Australians
Angela Spinney, Daphne Habibis, Sean McNelis; Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
December 2016
Indigenous Australians are 14 times more likely to become homeless than other Australians, and their homelessness situations are likely to be more severe. The impact of mixed funding sources on homelessness support for Indigenous Australians forms one part of the research program in the AHURI Inquiry into the funding of homelessness services in Australia, which aims to understand the mix of government and non-government funding and how the funding of services that support people who are experiencing homelessness influences service provision and outcomes for those people.
weblink

Job creation and income support in remote indigenous Australia: moving forward with a better system
Kirrily Jordan, Lisa Fowkes, Jon Altman et al.; Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), ANU
CAEPR Topical Issue, No.2 2016
The Community Development Programme (CDP) is a remote-area Work for the Dole scheme that principally affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is increasing evidence that CDP is creating significant hardship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, leading to increasing pressure for the scheme to be scrapped or radically overhauled. This Topical Issue presents a series of short articles to provide background to these developments as well as providing thoughts about a more effective approach for the future.
weblink

LAW AND JUSTICE

Discussion paper; Facilitating the participation of children in family law processes
Felicity Bell; Legal Aid NSW; Southern Cross University
July 2015
Discussion paper reviews the research literature on children's participation in family related proceedings and specifically, children's relationship with their lawyers in those proceedings. This review forms the first stage of a research project that aims to develop a model of good practice for child representatives. The issues researched are: ideas and assumptions about children and childhood; communication with children; systems abuse issues; and feedback from children.
weblink

Reoffending by children and young people in Victoria
Felicity Stewart, Zsombor Bathy, Geoff Fisher; Sentencing Advisory Council Victoria
December 2016
Report examines offending patterns over an 11-year period for 5,385 children and young people sentenced in the Children's Court of Victoria in 2008–09. Of the 5385 cases reviewed more than 60 per cent of children reoffended within six years and 44 per cent reoffended more than once. Analysis of data found the earlier a child entered the judicial system the more likely they were to reoffend and commit violent crimes. A child sentenced between 10-12 years of age reoffended in 86 per cent of cases.
weblink

Responding to youth sexual offending: a field-based practice model that "closes the gap" on sexual recidivism among indigenous and non-indigenous males.
Troy Allard, Sue Rayment-McHugh, Dimity Adams et al.
Journal of sexual aggression, Vol. 22 no. 1 March 2016, pp 82-94
Evaluates the impact of treatment provided by the Griffith Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) for 104 young sex offenders referred between 2006 and 2012. Examines rates of sexual and non-sexual recidivism over a 2.5 year period amongst young people of Australian Indigenous cultural heritage and young people who lived in remote communities. Findings include: GYFS treatment was equally effective for indigenous and non-indigenous young people for preventing sexual recidivism. Treatment was less effective in preventing violent and 'other' recidivism amongst young people from indigenous backgrounds.
weblink

Government Response to the Justice Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2016–17: The treatment of young adults in the criminal justice system
The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) UK
January 2017
The UK government response to the Justice Committee's report looking at the treatment of young adults in the criminal justice system. Recommendations include: putting in place the National Care Leavers Forum to co-ordinate support for care leavers in prison and probation and improvements to the transition process from the youth to young adult estate.
weblink

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health services - in brief 2016
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
October 2016
The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimates that almost one in seven young people aged 4-17 were assessed as having mental health disorders in the previous 12 months. The AIHW's Mental health services-In brief 2016 describes the prevalence and impact of mental illness in Australia, supplementing comprehensive data on Australia's mental health services. Key performance indicators as well as mental health care resources and services are provided.
weblink

Nip it in the bud: Young people and eating disorders
Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health
September 2016
Report from Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health, in partnership with The Butterfly Foundation highlights the prevalence and complexities of eating disorders in young people. Report also examines the financial and economic costs of eating disorders, and illustrates the impact these illnesses have on young people, their families and friends.
weblink

The role of media literacy in body dissatisfaction and disordered eating: A systematic review
Siân A. McLean, Susan J. Paxton , Eleanor H. Wertheim
Body Image, Vol.19 December 2016
Literature review examining empirical relationships between levels of media literacy and body dissatisfaction and disordered eating. Electronic databases were searched for key concepts: media literacy, body dissatisfaction, and disordered eating. The research indicated that media literacy interventions improved media literacy and body-related variables but not disordered eating. Recommendations are made for evaluating media literacy-based eating disorder prevention.
weblink

Two at a time: Alcohol and other drug use by young people with a mental illness
Baker, D and Kay-Lambkin F.; Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health
May 2016
Young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years are considered most at risk of the onset of mental illness, at a time when they are also often first exposed to alcohol and other drugs, according to research by Orygen. This report examines integrating treatments for mental illness and alcohol use, and advocates for earlier intervention and support for young people to access help.
weblink

Understanding bullying from school to the workplace
Bullying UK
November 2016
This compendium of analysis and practical advice to help teachers, psychologists, counsellors and parents understand, and take action, against bullying includes stories from those that have been a bully or a victim. The psychology behind the behaviour and information and tools that can be used in the classroom, practice, at university or in the workplace are provided.
weblink

The case for calling it peer victimization and aggression
Colleen Friend
APSAC advisor, (Vol.28, No.1), 2016, pp 16-18
The author puts forward a case for the renaming the term bullying, instead calling it peer victimisation and aggression. Argues that the original definition of bullying does not reflect the complexities of aggression that children experience today. Cites domestic violence as an example of how terminology can change to reflect developments in understanding. Suggests that bullying has just as powerful effects as parent-child maltreatment and that using new terminology would encourage professionals to recognise it as a significant form of abuse.
weblink

Gender and children and young people's emotional and mental health: manifestations and responses; A rapid review of the evidence
Emily Hamblin
July 2016
UK review of children and young people's emotional and mental health issues as they manifest and are responded to, highlighting and exploring gender-related issues. Study aims to provide a snapshot of the most recent and salient evidence from published research and grey literature, as relevant to children and young people living in England in 2016.
weblink

Somebody like me; A report investigating the impact of body image anxiety on young people in the UK
YMCA
January 2017
A campaign, the Be Real Campaign, was formed in response to the 'Reflections on body image' report from the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Body Image, chaired by Mary Glindon MP, and co-ordinated by YMCA. This current research and report was undertaken by YMCA on behalf of the Be Real Campaign. The fieldwork involved a quantitative sample of 2,018 young people aged between 11 and 16 years old from across the UK. In addition to this, 501 teachers from across the UK were also surveyed. The quantitative fieldwork was carried out in May 2016. The views and ideas were then used to create practical solutions that both they and others can take forward to help tackle body image anxiety in the UK.
weblink

OUT OF HOME CARE

Starting out right: early education and looked after children

The University of Oxford; Family and Childcare Trust
December 2016
Report addresses narrowing the achievement gap between children in care and their peers. Key findings from the research, which was funded by the Nuffield Foundation, include: high quality early education vastly improves outcomes for disadvantaged children; many local authorities are effectively promoting the educational needs of school-age looked after children, but practice is not yet consistent for those under the age of five; there may be a considerable gap between government aspiration and on-the-ground experiences for children in care.
weblink

The protective effect of kinship involvement on the adjustment of youth in foster care
Grace Jhe Bai, Scott C. Leon, James Garbarino et al.
Child maltreatment, Vol.21, No.4, November 2016, pp 288-297
Investigates whether continued involvement with a child's family of origin helps them to adjust to foster care. Interviews were conducted with 171 children aged 6-13 years who entered foster care in Illinois from October 2011-March 2014, their foster carers and social workers. Analysis of the results indicates that children who had more involvement with their birth family after entering foster care had fewer problems with externalising behaviour. Suggests that it could be beneficial to involve extended (non-custodial) family members in the lives of abused children after they enter foster care.
weblink

Children's attachment needs in the context of out-of-home care
Australian Institute of Family Studies
CFCA Practitioner Resource, November 2016
Resource providing an overview of what is known and what needs to be better understood, about children's attachment needs in the context of out-of-home care. It focuses specifically on disorganised attachment, which is thought to be common in high risk populations (Shemmings & Shemmings, 2011), and looks at the practice implications of this.
weblink

Striving for independence: Two-year impact findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation (USA)
Melanie Skemer, Erin Jacobs Valentine; mdrc:building knowledge to improve social policy
November 2016
The Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation is testing whether the Transitional Living program, operated by the US social service organization Youth Villages, makes a difference in the lives of young men and women with histories of foster care or juvenile justice custody. Results indicate that the Transitional Living program can improve multiple outcomes for these young adults, a notable finding given how few other programs that serve these populations have been shown to have an effect.
weblink

PARTICIPATION

30 videos in 30 days [videos about engaging with young people]
Peter Slattery
November 2016
Peter Slattery is based in Sydney and has worked with individuals, families and communities in Australia and worldwide for over 30 years. Everyday for 30 days Peter shared an activity that can be used to engage with young people, connect with them and build a relationship. He has produced 30 short videos that are available free on his website. To access the free videos complete the online subscription form at
http://www.peterslattery.com/subscribe/.
weblink

POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Report on Government Services 2016
Productivity Commission
January and February 2017
The annual Report on Government Services (RoGS) provides information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia. Reports released in January 2017 include community services, housing and homelessness, justice, and emergency management. In February 2017 health and Child care, education and training are due for release.
weblink

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SAFETY

Designing cyberbullying mitigation and prevention solutions through participatory design with teenagers
Jessica Vitak and Zahra Ashktorab
January 2017
To address challenges related to designing for cyberbullying intervention and mitigation, the researchers detail findings from participatory design work with two groups of high school students in spring 2015. Over the course of five design sessions spanning five weeks, participants shared their experiences with cyberbullying and iteratively designed potential solutions. The in-depth discussion of the range of cyberbullying mitigation solutions participants designed is presented. The focus is on challenges participants identified in designing for cyberbullying support and prevention and a set of five potential cyberbullying mitigation solutions is presented based on the results of the design sessions.
weblink

Global kids online [website]
Sonia Livingstone, Jasmina Byrne; Department of Media and Communications (LSE), UNICEF, EU Kids Online
January 2017
Global Kids Online is an international research project that aims to generate and sustain a rigorous cross-national evidence base around children's use of the internet by creating a global network of researchers and experts. A 'Getting started guide' introduces the research principles and resources.
weblink

Children and parents: Media use and attitudes report 2016
Ofcom, UK
November 2016
Ofcom, independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries, has examined children's media literacy. This report examines detailed evidence on media use, attitudes and understanding among children and young people aged 5-15, as well as detailed information about the media access and use of young children aged 3-4. The report also includes findings relating to parents' views about their children's media use, and the ways that parents seek - or decide not - to monitor or limit use of different types of media.
weblink

Growing up digital
Children's Commissioner for England
January 2017
The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report looking into how well children are prepared to engage with the internet. Findings include: opaque and lengthy social media terms and conditions mean children unknowingly waive privacy rights; a Mumsnet survey of nearly 900 parents of children aged 2-18 showed that 73 per cent were concerned about their children accessing inappropriate material online, 49 per cent were worried about their child oversharing personal information, and 41 per cent felt they needed more advice to make informed decisions about their children's online use. Recommendations include: a champion for children's rights online is needed to enforce their rights with social media companies; an obligatory digital citizenship programme for 4 to 14 year-olds should be set up.

weblink

A large-scale test of the Goldilocks hypothesis; Quantifying the relations between digital-screen use and the mental well-being of adolescents
Andrew K. Przybylski, Netta Weinstein
Psychological Science, published online January 13, 2017
The University of Oxford and Cardiff University carried out research on screen time and mental wellbeing among teenagers. A study of 120,115 adolescents in England finds that the first hour or two of screen time was associated with an increase in mental wellbeing for those using computers, smartphones, playing video games and watching TV or films; and that adolescents could engage in digital activities for a longer period of time on weekend days than on weekdays before evidence of negative effects were found.
weblink

VIOLENCE

10 years on - global progress and delay in ending violence against children
The International NGO Council on Violence Against Children
November 2016
Report on learning since 2007 about the violence that affects children around the world. Findings include: while the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) has fallen, the world's increasing population means the total number of children who have undergone FGM has increased; and while child detention rates in many juvenile justice systems have fallen, the detention of children in immigration systems is increasing.
weblink

The contagious spread of violence among US adolescents through social networks
Robert M. Bond and Brad J. Bushman
American Journal of Public Health, February 2017, Vol. 107, No. 2
The researchers found that adolescents were up to 183 percent more likely to carry out some acts of violence if one of their friends had also committed the same act. But the spread of violence doesn't just stop at friends - results suggest the contagion extends by up to four degrees of separation - from one person to a friend, to the friend's friend and two more friends beyond. These results are consistent with other studies that have shown that characteristics and behaviors from happiness to obesity to smoking spread within social networks, at about the same rates found in this research. Data from the study came from 5,913 young people in the US who participated in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (ADD Health) and who were interviewed in-depth in 1994-95 and again in 1996.
weblink

Forthcoming conferences and events

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

FEBRUARY 2017		
7 February	World-wide	Safer Internet Day
9 February	Canberra, ACT	Middle Years Forum – Families ACT
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](#)
17 March	Melbourne, Vic	ARACY AGM and Fiona Stanley Forum (details to come)
17 March	National	[National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence](#)
17 March	National	[National Close the Gap Day](#)
21 March	National	[Harmony Day 2017](#)
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](#)
31 March – 9 April	National	[Youth Week 2017](#)

APRIL 2017

3-7 April	Melbourne Vic	[15th World Congress on Public Health](#)

MAY 2017

2-5 May	Wellington, NZ	[8th Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference 2017](#)
5 May	Melbourne, Vic	[Australian Council on Children and the Media (ACCM) Conference: Tots and Tech: growing up well with media and technology](#)
9-10 May	Sydney NSW	[Think Outcomes 2017; presented by Centre for Social Impact, ARACY and Social Impact Measurement Network of Australia](#)
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](#)
10-11 August	Gold Coast Qld	[FUTUREgen17 Conference - Youth Engagement, Education, Employment & Entrepreneurship: Collaborating for Impact & Innovation](#)
10-12 August	Sydney NSW	[CREATE Foundation Conference; Voices in Action: Empowering young people for positive change – Call for abstracts by 10 February 2017](#)
SEPTEMBER 2017		
12-14 September	Canberra, ACT	[7th SNAICC National Conference](#)
25-27 September	Kensington NSW	[Australian Social Policy Conference](#)
NOVEMBER 2017		
29 November-1 December	Sydney NSW	[National Housing Conference 2017 - Building for better lives. AHURI and NSW Department of Family and Community Services](#)

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