

AWCH EMAIL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2003

Dear Members and new subscribers

This is the ninth email newsletter from the Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH). It would be much appreciated if you could let AWCH know whether the information included in this electronic version is relevant to your needs, whether there is too much/too little information and what other topics you would like to see included on a regular basis. The contents below are under the following headings:

- AWCH Activities
- Health Updates
- Services and their contact information
- Conferences/Training
- Media Releases and News
- Books/resources/reports



Happy Easter

AWCH ACTIVITIES

AWCH Library

Jenny Laverick, recently retired AWCH Librarian will be working for 1 day per week with the major component of her role being the indexing of the AWCH Library resources on the Inmagic Database. This will ensure that the resources of the library will be kept up to date and current. Of course Jenny, along with Marion Steele, ex Senior AWCH Librarian will also be able to advise AWCH National staff when dealing with library enquiries.

AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme

The AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme Guidelines update was sent out to the Hospital Coordinators and each ward grandparent volunteer for feedback and comment. There has been an excellent response to the guidelines in particular from the ward gran volunteers who by and large thought the document was excellent. The ward gran volunteers also offered a number of suggestions for improvement on the guidelines as well as interesting anecdotes about their role and what works well. Thank you to everyone who responded.

In her role as AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme Community Liaison, Anne Cutler has met with Jo French, Social Worker at Liverpool Hospital who has recently been appointed to the children's ward. Jo has also been given the responsibility of coordinating the ward grandparent scheme. On 23 April, Anne Cutler will attend the ward grandparent meeting to give a presentation to the ward grandparents and new ward grandparents about AWCH and to present AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme badges to the ward grandparent volunteers.

Anne is hoping to be more involved at the orientation time for ward grandparents in hospitals where the scheme operates. The first round of orientations will start at the Children's Hospital at Westmead and Gosford Hospital in May.

Seminar: Nurses Midwives Caring for Children and Families

AWCH was invited to man a display on 26 March at a seminar put on by the South Eastern Health Child and Youth Nurses' Network (NSW). National Office manned a display and gave away carry bags which were filled with AWCH brochures and other information relevant to midwives and child health nurses. Over 65 bags were given away.

Women and Childrens Hospitals Australasia Conference – *Healthy Risk or Risky Health* <http://www.wha.asn.au/>

Irene Hancock, National President was asked to present at the WHA/CHA Conference on 2/3 April in Canberra. There were 2 components: a panel discussion on *whether consumers had any responsibility at all for their own healthcare and avoiding risk* and a presentation paper on *Quality Care &*

Protection in Children's Wards. The paper included discussion on children and adults being nursed on the same hospital ward, the importance of paediatric trained staff and child protection issues. The conference paper is available from National Office awch@awch.com.au .

AWCH NSW

It was decided that alternate meetings of the branch would be working party meetings. The first of these working party meetings was held on 11 March and was a brainstorming for a fund raising night. It was decided to hold a ball sometime in September 2003. It is hoped that a celebrity who would be a good draw card will agree to attend the ball. Each committee member has taken on a task to achieve by the next meeting on 13 May: sponsorship, venue, music for the night, advertising, invitations etc. It was also thought that the ball could double as a celebration for the AWCH 30 year anniversary. If any one has any useful contacts or would be willing to help organise this event please contact National Office at awch@awch.com.au . Your contribution would be most welcome.

AWCH WA

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Hospital Familiarisation Program and AWCH WA is thinking of ways to celebrate such an achievement.

A mini research project on the Hospital Familiarisation Program is to be done (as soon as ethics approval has been given) in central Australia where Lis Mathiasen, AWCH WA member is teaching. The community is 100% behind the HFP program.

AWCH WA has been concerned that children at school are not drinking adequate water during the day and would like to include a promotion of this idea in their HFP program.

Princess Margaret Hospital has 2 volunteers each night of the week from 5-9pm to cater for children and their families in the Emergency Department. Having the volunteers in this department has been so successful they are extending the volunteers to be on duty at the weekend as well.

AWCH Tasmania

AWCH Tasmania is again considering advocating for the development of an adolescent unit at Hobart Hospital because of a need for a separate part of the ward for adolescents.

Summer has seen no adults on the children's ward. However it is very busy currently and some children have been transferred to the adult ward for a maximum of 24 hours.

AWCH ACT

AWCH ACT organised a meeting on 25 March of children's agencies in the ACT to look at children's rights in hospital and the impact of shorter stays.

The Friends of the Ward Scheme is undergoing some changes in the way it operates. With the impact of shorter stays, it can be very difficult for volunteers to get consistency in their work. The 5 long serving volunteers have had a useful discussion about changes to how they operate the scheme and how toys can be maintained and be child friendly:

One person will be on call one day per week to:

- to ascertain what toys etc are in a suitable state.
- to act as guides to families to help find their way around the hospital
- to act as child minder when parents need to talk to a health professional.

Funding is being sought for the coordination of the scheme which involves about 200 hours of work per year.

National Agenda for Early Childhood

AWCH has been invited to participate in the roundtable discussion on the framework document *Towards the development of a National Agenda for Early Childhood* on 9 May 2003. The document has been prepared by the Task Force on Child Development, Health and Well Being to stimulate discussion about the development of a National Agenda for Early Childhood. AWCH would like to canvass your views prior to the roundtable discussion. An electronic version of the consultation paper can be found on the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services website www.facs.gov.au/early_childhood Please email any feedback/comments to awch@awch.com.au by 7 May.

HEALTH UPDATES

ABC AND OTHER HEALTH UPDATES

MUSIC - OVERTAKING LAUGHTER AS BEST MEDICINE? (7.30 Report: 11/03/2003) Music might soothe the savage beast, but scientists are still trying to explain just how music affects the human psyche and whether that effect can actually cause tangible benefits, both physically and emotionally. Some hospitals are already using music to help rehabilitate patients suffering ailments as diverse as cancer and dementia. Now a Melbourne hospital is running a trial to see if music can help in the healing process of children.

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2003/s804432.htm>

STUDY TO FOCUS ON YOUNG DANGEROUS DRIVERS (TV News: 17/02/2003) Driving a car can be dangerous but the risk is compounded to downright deadly if you happen to be young. Young drivers are twice as likely to be killed in road accidents as any other age group.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s786452.htm

BURN KIDS (New Dimensions Health: 18/02/2003) A huge hurdle for burns victims is coming to terms with facial disfiguration - and when children burn their faces, there are further problems. Because the scars form while the kids

are still growing it can cause serious problems with the function of their teeth and jaws. A new device in Brisbane is giving hope to young burns patients.
http://www.abc.net.au/dimensions/dimensions_health/Transcripts/s786821.htm

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE BREAKTHROUGH ANNOUNCED (PM: 19/02/2003) Queensland researchers have developed a new vaccine which they hope will wipe out whooping cough, a bacterial illness that can kill small children. <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/s788276.htm>

STRESS IN INFANCY (Health Report: 03/03/2003) Researchers from Britain and the United States studied children who were abandoned in orphanages in countries like Romania. These children often suffered terribly in their first months and years of life. A number of them were adopted by families in the West. How badly were these children affected, how have they fared, and what do their adoptive families have to deal with?
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s792570.htm>

NEONATAL CARE (Health Report: 03/03/2003) There's been an international trend in neonatal intensive care units to reduce infant stress as much as possible by trying to create a 'womb-like' environment. Researchers also suggest that nicotine impairs breathing in infants.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s797463.htm>

EDIBLE VACCINES (Health Report: 03/03/2003) Scientists are developing transgenic tomatoes and potatoes that produce copies of vaccines that one can eat. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s797454.htm>

COMPUTER MOUSE KEY CULPRIT IN REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURIES (Health News: 04/03/2003) The more you click your mouse, the greater the chance of suffering from pain, swelling and other repetitive strain injuries in the hand, neck and shoulder, two teams of Danish researchers have told a scientific conference.
http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_797354.htm

JOURNALS GUILTY OF 'INSTITUTIONAL RACISM' SAYS EDITOR (Health News: 04/03/2003) The top medical journals are biased against diseases of the poor, have few editors from the Third World, and are probably guilty of 'institutional racism', a prominent journal editor has argued.
http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_794950.htm

VITAMINS DRASTICALLY CUT INFECTIONS IN DIABETICS (Health News: 04/03/2003) A daily dose of multivitamin and mineral supplements can dramatically reduce the rate of minor infections in diabetics, American researchers have discovered.
http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_797666.htm

PSYCHOSIS (New Dimensions Health: 04/03/2003) Schizophrenia is the best known of the psychotic illnesses and it still provokes the most prejudice, despite advances in treatment that help people manage their condition and

get on with life. Australia is leading the world in research indicating that if the problem is identified early enough, the course of a person's illness can be changed.

http://www.abc.net.au/dimensions/dimensions_health/Transcripts/s798059.htm

CURVED SPINE ISN'T DANGEROUS (Health Minutes: 05/03/2003)

Late onset curvature of the spine in adolescent girls doesn't always need treatment, since there's no evidence it causes death or disability.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s798767.htm>

NURSE ON THE ROAD (Health Matters Feature: 06/03/2003) Nurse practitioners have additional training to allow them to prescribe some drugs and order tests, relieving some of the strain on country areas that are short on GPs. Join a rural nurse practitioner for a day to see what challenges she faces in an 'office' that can be 100km from home.

<http://abc.net.au/health/regions/features/nurseprac/default.htm>

TONSILLECTOMY - YES OR NO? (Health Minutes: 13/03/2003)

Tonsillectomy can reduce the frequency of recurrent throat infections in kids - but the operation is painful and the benefits are marginal.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s805767.htm>

NEW SINUS TECHNIQUE SHOWS PROMISE (ABC TV News: 19/03/03)

Surgeons at Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick are recording good results using a new, less invasive, technique for treating sinus problems.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s810965.htm

CAUSES OF PEANUT ALLERGY (Health Minutes: 19/03/2003)

Peanut allergy can cause shock and death in children. Researchers have discovered there are factors that predispose to this allergy.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s810394.htm>

FUNDAMENTAL MOTOR SKILLS (New Dimensions Health: 25/03/2003)

Children as young as nine are deciding that sport is not an activity that suits them. Many more children make the same decision in their teenage years, and chances are that physical activity and exercise will not be part of their adult lives. This has consequences for their health and sense of well-being, says Dr Justen O'Connor of Monash University. His learning programs make it easy for children to form a positive association with the activity and with sport.

http://www.abc.net.au/dimensions/dimensions_health/Transcripts/s815875.htm

FIFTY YEARS OF POLIO VACCINE (Health Minutes: 26/03/2003)

In 1953 polio vaccine was introduced, and 50 years later, thanks to the vaccine, it's almost been eradicated.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s816475.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s815749.htm>

MOBILE PHONES IN HOSPITAL (Health Minutes: 26/03/2003)

It turns out that using a mobile phone in a hospital isn't as dangerous as is commonly supposed, according to a new study from the UK.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s816935.htm>

FEATURE - FIGHTING FAT KIDS: FAT CHANCE? According to the World Health Organization, close to 18 million children around the world are obese. But we need more than lite ice-cream to help children fight the battle of the bulge. Experts are calling for a revolution in everything from sports funding to urban design. Australia is missing a holistic approach to the problem, they argue: we are only addressing a few small aspects of the problem instead of looking at the bigger picture.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/regions/features/fightingfatkids/default.htm>

NEW HEALTH LIBRARY TOPIC: GLUE EAR Glue ear is a build-up of gunk inside the middle ear cavity. It's the most likely reason that children under five will end up on the operating table, often unnecessarily. Most cases of glue ear will clear up by themselves, and some researchers believe that surgeons tend to be too hasty. <http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/glueear.htm>

http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/glueear_ff.htm

HEALTH MATTERS CONSUMER GUIDE: HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

So you've had a bad experience with your doctor? What can you do about it? Start by reading our new Consumer Guide - 'How to Make a Complaint'. You'll find information about your rights, who can help and what could happen if you decide to take things further.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/cguides/complaints.htm>

SERVICES AND THEIR CONTACT DETAILS

The new Internet site wired.org.au was launched at the Very, Very, Very Remote Allied Health Professional's conference in Katherine, NT on 28 September. It provides up-to-date information on resources for allied health professionals and carers who work with Indigenous people with a disability. For further details, contact Robyn Glynn robyn.glynn@ntu.edu.au

Would you like to participate in the new [International Network for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools](#)? The Network seeks to promote dialogue within and across countries on issues critical to the global advancement of mental health promotion and intervention practices and programs in schools. You can join the mailing list by simply clicking on the website: <http://csmha.umaryland.edu> and subscribing from there.

[Yooralla's Family Network's Program](#) New manual gives extra help to families with disabled children.

Women's & Children's Hospital Adelaide Service Seeker

<http://wch.serviceseeker.com.au/> is built and hosted by Infoxchange Australia for Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide. There are four ways to search

information on this database: Service Keyword Search, Service Focus Search, Service Name Search and Agency Name Search.

[Mental well-being/suicide prevention: what are you doing?](#)

Auseinet is an organisation that informs, educates and promotes good practice in mental health and suicide prevention.

Holidays for 2003 are listed at <http://www.pipelineholidays.com.au/>

If you would like to know more about their range of assisted care holidays, would like a copy of the complete holiday brochure or would like to book a holiday; Please call Freecall on 1800 243 065 or send an email with your query to: pipelineholidays@bigpond.com Postal Address: Pipeline Holidays, PO Box 8654, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Queensland, 9726.

ONLINE HEMIPLEGIA SUPPORT GROUP A new website <http://www.hemiparents.org/> has been established to support parents of children with hemiplegia. The site has been created by parents who felt the need for interaction with other parents and carers facing similar challenges.

Friedreich's Ataxia is a slowly progressive disorder of the nervous system and muscles. The F.R.I.E.N.D.S. (FRIEdreichs ataxia and other Neurological DisorderS) group was originally established in 1980.

<http://www.faavictoria.org.au/> Contact Name: Steve Beetham
contact@faavictoria.org.au (03) 9859 9585

<http://www.aracy.org.au/> **The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth** is a new venture: a national collaboration of researchers, policy makers and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines who are together building a better future for Australia's children and young people.

THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2003 <http://www.greataustralianmuster.com.au/>
People with disabilities and their carers can take advantage of special discount tickets available prior to the 2003 Sydney Royal Easter Show. Save around 20% on regular concession entry by booking your tickets by 14 March 2003. The Show has facilities for people with disabilities, including accessible parking, wheel chair hire and special viewing areas.

THE "LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN" BROCHURE The CREATE Foundation and the Looking After Children (LOC) Project (an initiative of Barnardos Australia and the University of NSW) have developed brochures for children in out-of-home care. The brochures provide kids 'in care' with easy to read, practical information about being in care and has answers to commonly asked questions about what is happening to them. To contact the LAC Project phone (02) 9218 2343 or <http://www.lacproject.org/>

MOVING FORWARD is a UK based organisation that helps people with spasticity by publishing information that can lead to a better understanding of this condition, improved treatment, and quality of life.
<http://www.movingforward.org.uk/>

The [Opening All Options II](http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/services/options/) web site at <http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/services/options/> offers both students and teachers a wealth of information and advice on ways to help those with learning disabilities. It provides learning and teaching strategies, assessment techniques, and information about how technology can assist students.

The valuable [AUSEINET](http://www.auseinet.com) web site has recently undergone an overhaul. The intention is to present resources in different formats in order to suit varying levels of information needs. The "Resources" button on the main menu now leads to a choice of fact sheets, reading lists or the resources database. See: <http://www.auseinet.com>

The [Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health](http://www.auseinet.com/journal/), or 'AeJAMH', is a peer-reviewed online journal produced by Auseinet, which recently issued a call for contributions from clinicians, practitioners, consumers, carers, academics and commentators. Inquiries and original contributions can be sent via email to: anne.ohanlon@flinders.edu.au. The first three issues are online at: <http://www.auseinet.com/journal/>

[Shopfront Youth Legal Centre](#), Sydney's only legal service for homeless and marginalised young people, celebrated its 10th anniversary on 25 February 2003. Each year the Shopfront helps more than 500 disadvantaged and homeless people aged 25 and under with legal support, advice and representation.

356 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst 2010

Tel (02) 9360 1847, mobile 0418 407 290 or 0418 680 844

Email shopfront@freehills.com.au

Hours Mon-Fri 9.30-5.00 (arrangements can be made outside hours if necessary)

The [Stronger Families Learning Exchange](http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/) is now supporting 37 Stronger Families Fund projects. The Web site provides information about the funded projects, access to Stronger Families bulletins, notices of forthcoming conferences, a 'good practice' database, and a collection of new and updated online resources on topics such as: community participation; information and help for parents; government policy and strategies; research methodology and evaluation; stronger communities; strengthening and supporting families; and volunteering. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/>
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/resources.html>

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/EVENTS/TRAINING

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT AND RECREATION - PARTICIPATION SPORT PROGRAMS Children and adults with a disability can develop fundamental sports skills. For more information contact Sport Unit for Athletes with a Disability, 9454 0116 phone, 9454 0133 fax, [Mailto:suad@dsr.nsw.gov.au](mailto:suad@dsr.nsw.gov.au) or mail to PO Box 57, Narrabeen 2101

This is a **virtual/distance learning course** intended for staff members of human rights and social justice organisations, researchers and others who regularly use the Internet in their human rights work and study.

17 March - 11 May 2003

Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)
Postbus 59225, 1040 KE Amsterdam, Netherlands
Tel: 00 31 20 524 1404; Fax: 00 31 20 524 1498; Email:
applications@hrea.org
Website: www.hrea.org

CONNECXIONS: Empowering Children and Families through Technology and Shared Information

27-28 March, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

<http://www.rch.org.au/expo>

Contact Name: Vinita Chopra

Contact E-mail: vinita.chopra@rch.org.au

Contact Phone: 9322 5112

World Conference on Living with Learning Difficulties

2 - 3 April 2003

Safety First For Children - The need for family law reform in Australia

4 Apr 2003 Brisbane, Qld

Veronica Wensing Tel: (02) 6247 1616 or email wesnet@wesnet.org.au

Family & Carer Advocacy Workshops

For more details contact Sonia Powazuk or Mark Grierson Disability Advocacy Service Hunter (DASH) Inc Phone: 4927 0111 E-mail: mark@dash.org.au

THE MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF ALCOHOL IN AUSTRALIA

Centre for Youth Drug Studies in conjunction with the
Australian Drug Foundation

9 April 2003, St James Court Conference Centre, West Melbourne, Vic.

Geoff Munro Tel 03 9278-8108 Fax 03 9328-3008

[Mailto:munro@adf.org.au](mailto:munro@adf.org.au) www.adf.org.au

"**Mim Adolescent Services**" in Victoria are offering a series of training opportunities in the form of workshops at various Victorian venues: For more information contact: <http://www.adolescent.com.au> or phone (03) 5568 4220 , <mailto:info@adolescent.com.au>

Workshop: "The role of anxiety in a Family with an out-of-control adolescent":

RSVP to Noela Byrne (95576119) at the above address by 20 April, 2003.

More info/registration at <http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue 3.05 for link.

Child Sexual Abuse: Justice Response or Alternative Resolution -Australian Institute of Criminology

1-2 May Adelaide

<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2003-abuse/>

3rd World Congress and Exposition: Child and Youth Health 2003

11- 14 May 2003, Vancouver, Canada

Child & Youth Health 2003

c/o Congress Secretariat, Venue West Conference Services Ltd.

645 - 375 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5C6

Tel: 001 604 681 5226; Fax: 001 604 681 2503; Email:

congress@venuewest.com

Website: www.venuewest.com/childhealth2003/

Working with Parents to Develop Child Management Strategies

27 May at 9:30am-12:30pm

For information, phone Don Coles 9972 8177, Christine Castle 9972 8163, Pepi McIntosh 9972 8175. Or see

<http://www.thespasticcentre.org.au/services/ifso/training.htm> for more information and booking forms.

10th Annual Suicide Prevention Australia National Conference

12-15 June 2003

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Queensland Australia

<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue 3.04

www.suicidepreventionaust.org

TRESILLIAN CONFERENCE

20 - 21 June, 2003, IBIS Hotel, Olympic Drive, Homebush Bay, Sydney

Registration form available at <http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue 3.04 for link.

Joined Up Services : Linking Together for Children and Families

www.otago.ac.nz/CIC/CIC.html

26-28 June 2003, Dunedin, New Zealand

Download registration form (PDF) at <http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue 3.05 for link.

Building Better Beginnings: Perinatal and Infant Initiatives in Context

24-26 July, 2003 Adelaide University

The Marcé Society & Australian Association for Infant Mental Health, Inc
Announcement & Call for Abstracts.

<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/index.htm> - go to issue 3.03

16th World Congress of IACAPAP (International Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals)

22-26 August 2004, Berlin, Germany

<http://www.iacapap-berlin.de/>

EUROPEAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE - "Possible Childhoods: Relationships and Choices"

September 3 - 6, 2003 Glasgow, Scotland
www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/PrimaryEd/eecera/main.html

NZ 8th Early Childhood Convention
September 2003 Palmerston North
<http://www.minedu.govt.nz>

One World: Many Childhoods - Strengthening Early Childhood International Links
21-24 September 2003 Melbourne, Vic
Further information : The Meeting Planners, 91 - 97 Islington Street, Collingwood, Vic 3066. Tel: (03) 9417 0888. Fax: (03) 9417 0899. Email: omep@meetingplanners.com.au. Web: <http://www.omepaustralia.com.au/contact.htm>

28th International Congress on Law and Mental Health
September 28 - 3 October 2003 Sydney, Australia
Venue: The Wentworth, Sydney
For further Information www.ialmh.org/Sydney2003/main.htm
[Mailto:gail.fowler@capcon.com.au](mailto:gail.fowler@capcon.com.au)

Strategies for Young Minds: Emotions, Behaviour & Development
9-11 October, 2003, Carlton Crest Hotel, Melbourne 2003
National Conference: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists + Faculty of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in association with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Division of Paediatrics and Child Health
<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/index.htm> - go to issue 3.03

2nd Australia and NZ Adolescent conference - The Art and Science of Advancing Adolescent Development
22-24 October, 2003 Westmead Conference Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney, NSW
www.youthconference.info

Tools That Work Conference - Improving Child Welfare Services through Research, Performance Measurement, and Information Technology
November 12-14, 2003 Miami Florida USA
Contact Naomi Rau at 617-769-4003 or nrau@cwla.org. Web: <http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2003toolsrfp.htm>

MANY VOICES, MANY CHOICES - 9TH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
24 - 27 November 2003, Convention Centre South, Darling Harbour, Sydney.
<http://www.nsw.gov.au/acan2003>

MEDIA RELEASES and NEWS

IRAQ: UNICEF Concerned About War's Psychological Effect On Children

Up to 500,000 Iraqi children may need psychological rehabilitation after being traumatized by the conflict in Iraq, UNICEF Baghdad representative Carel de Rooy said Friday in Geneva, where he and other U.N. relief workers are awaiting security clearance to return to the country after being pulled out ahead of the war.

"We don't know what we will find when we come back. ... We suspect that there might be a major issue of traumatized children," de Rooy said. "I suspect that some half a million children in Basra, Najaf, Kerbala, Baghdad would possibly need psychosocial rehabilitation once we go back in."

One thousand foreign U.N. workers pulled out of Iraq, while 3,400 Iraqi U.N. employees stayed on. "We would rather be in Iraq," de Rooy said. "We worked very closely with our teams there to the very last moment. We have a very solid team in place, highly qualified." [Source: UN Wire]

The Young Media Australia (YMA) Helpline have released an article entitled Helping children cope with the media coverage of the war which they have asked organisations to reproduce in newsletters, etc. View article at <http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue 3.05 for link.

National Youth Week 2003 - What's it to you?

To find out what's happening in NSW visit <http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/index.asp> .

New position created: Wentworth Area Health Service (Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith) has received funding for a permanent full-time Nurse Practitioner in Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ICAMH). This is the first ICAMH Nurse Practitioner position in NSW. Further information available from <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/> .

Senate vote for inquiry into abuse

The abuse of children in orphanages and foster homes last century will be the subject of a national inquiry likely to expose governments and churches

Funding Boost for Interpreters

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, John Pandazopoulos, on 19 March 2003 announced over \$200,000 in new funding to improve the use of interpreters in the health care system.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP RURAL NURSES

<http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/kp/kp03030.htm>

More than 350 Commonwealth scholarships designed to increase the number of nurses working in rural and remote Australia have been awarded for the 2003 academic year.

MINISTER FOR FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICES - NEW MANUAL GIVES EXTRA HELP TO FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/minfacs.nsf/2b0cec5b0d72d933ca2569e700143ed7/ddcc59ac471fd178ca256ce900068be7?OpenDocument>

Caring for a child with a disability presents unique challenges for parents and the wider family.

SAFER SCHOOLS: A KEY NATIONAL PRIORITY

http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/mar_03/n304_130303.htm Bullying, harassment, violence, child abuse and neglect are issues that are, rightly, of great concern to school communities and school authorities across the nation.

National Youth Week

5-13 April 2003

ALL BASKETBALL RINGS INSTALLED ON SINGLE SKIN BRICK WALLS ESPECIALLY OVER GARAGE DOORS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED TO AVOID POSSIBLE INJURY OR DEATH

15 February 2003 - Archicentre, the building advisory service of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, today renewed its call for a public awareness campaign on the dangers of attaching basketball hoops to brick walls in domestic housing situations.

Mr Robert Caulfield, Managing Director of Archicentre said that people are often lulled into a sense of false security by thinking brick walls are structurally secure. The reality is a garage wall or above the door (usually the most convenient location for the basketball ring) is normally a single brick construction and easily disturbed.

Mr Caulfield said, "The strength of the wall and the attached fitting also depends on the strength of the mortar used in the original construction."

"Continual 'slam dunking' of course will place the wall under pressure and at some time could result in a fatal accident because of the weight and shape of bricks."

"We are extremely concerned that tens of thousands of basketball hoops are installed in backyards and on garages around Australia providing the potential for serious injury or death if not installed or used correctly."

"We believe it is appropriate that all parents firstly check the condition and safety of all existing basketball rings and alert children to the dangers of 'slam dunking'."

Mr Caulfield said that people with basketball hoops installed in domestic situations should also check their insurance policies to ensure they are covered in the case of an accident to anyone playing on their property.

Basketball Ring Information

Guidelines for the Safe Installation of Basketball Rings:
[Building Commission Victoria](#)

[Groups join forces to raise bullying as a mental health issue](#)

VicHealth has joined forces with key education, adolescent and welfare organisations to put bullying behaviour under the spotlight as a significant mental health issue for all Victorians

[MONEY FOR HAPPY LITTLE VEGEMITES](#)

As part of Vegemite's 80th birthday celebrations in 2003 the Kraft Food Company has established the Happy Little Vegemite Foundation as an opportunity to give something back to the Australian community that has supported the brand all these years.

<http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/new/home.asp?a=2&b=669&d=1>

BOOKS, RESOURCES, REPORTS

[AWCH Library Database](#)

The AWCH Library's collection includes both *consumer health information and academic literature*, from national and international sources. The collection specialises in the psycho-social care of children, for example:

- Basic medical information on specific childhood illnesses or conditions
- Preparation of children for hospitalisation, and the effects of hospitalisation,
- The importance of play and the facilities required
- Children with special needs
- Parents as partners in care with the health professional
- Psycho-social care and non-medical needs of children in health care
- Paediatric ward design and facilities
- Paediatric nursing and pain management
- Preparation for invasive or painful procedures
- and many other topics

The AWCH Library Database is online at <http://www.tdm.com.au/awch.htm>

[Robertson Films](#) www.robertsonfilms.info James Robertson was a Psychiatric Social Worker and Psychoanalyst based at the Tavistock Clinic and Institute, London from 1948 until 1976. He will be always be remembered as the man who revolutionised children's hospitals. Joyce Robertson, Honorary Member of the Association of Child Psychotherapists, was a student at the Anna Freud Wartime Nurseries, and worked at the Anna Freud centre from 1956 until 1963 when she joined her husband to work at the Tavistock Institute, on their joint project 'Young Children in Brief Separation'.

[Children of Parents with a Mental Illness - Submission Guidelines](#)

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, the Mental Health Branch of the Department of Human Services, and Beyond Blue; the national depression

initiative, are supporting the advancement of mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention for children and young people and their families.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People have produced the 'Ask the children' series to make kids' views on different topics available to the public and decision makers. Follow the links to find out kids' views on: Their experiences of immigration detention

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/files/immigrationdetention.pdf>

For the latest information on National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention visit

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention/index.html .

[Pathways from child maltreatment to juvenile offending](#) by A. Stewart, S. Dennison and E. Waterson, is available from the Australian Institute of Criminology as part of their series, 'Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice' (n.241) on the AIC web site in PDF format at:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/ti241.pdf> The report released in

February 2003 by the Australian Institute of Criminology reveals a direct path from child maltreatment to juvenile offending.

[Identifying depression in preschoolers](#)

A good way to learn whether children under 6 years old are depressed is to watch how they play, according to a team of infant and preschool investigators at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Reporting in the March issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the researchers say that preschoolers can become clinically depressed, and a key symptom for identifying that depression is what psychiatrists call anhedonia -- the inability to experience pleasure from activities and play. Another common symptom is that depressed children often use play to explore themes about death and sometimes even suicide.

Luby JL, Heffelfinger AK, Mrakotsky C, Brown KM, Hessler MJ, Wallis JM, Spitznagel EL. The clinical picture of depression in preschool children. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, vol. 42:3, pp. 340-348, March 1, 2003.

[Living Well? Homeless young people in Melbourne](#) The data presented in this report reveal a varied and complex picture of the health, well being, living arrangements and use of services of homeless young people in Melbourne in the early twenty-first century. [Click here to download the report \(PDF file\).](#)

[Psychological Well Being of Child and Adolescent Refugee and Asylum Seekers: Overview of Major Research Findings of the Past Ten Years](#) A literature review undertaken by Trang Thomas, Professor of Psychology and an assistant commissioner to the National Inquiry, and Winnie Lau, a Clinical Psychology Researcher, at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, May

2002.

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention/psy_review.html

<http://www.crights.org.uk/pdfs/RethinkingChildImprisonment.pdf>

This report draws together the major problems and recommendations concerning young offender institutions identified by the Chief Inspector of Prisons (UK) from visits made between January 1998 and October 2001. Thirty-one inspection reports have been scrutinised. A selection of reports from Boards of Visitors and the Prisons Ombudsman have also been reviewed, together with the report from the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which visited the UK in February 2001. Together they provide compelling evidence of the urgent need to take children out of the prison sector altogether.

[Researching post-separation parent-child contact. Where next?](#) Paper presented to National Family Law Conference, Canberra, August 2002. [Power Point Presentation \(1258K, 32 slides and notes\)](#)

[Study shows preschool can prevent abuse](#)

MADISON - In one of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods, a little girl with pigtails and a denim jumper stands in front of a table and fingers the shape of wooden letters as she fits them into a puzzle. In the next room, her mother talks to a parent-resource teacher about taking the GED and how she can help her daughter with homework.

According to a new study by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, this type of learning environment does more than strengthen skills - it helps cut the rate at which enrolled children will be abused or neglected by their parents or caregivers. The findings, published in the current issue of the journal *Child Development*, provide new evidence that preschool programs can impact not just school readiness, but long-term family outcomes.

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls/>. Emily Carlson, (608) 262-9772, emilycarlson@wisc.edu

[New research findings to help prevent suicide by children](#)

Research released today by the Child Death Review Team on the deaths of young people aged 12 to 17 years over a five-year period in New South Wales has revealed new information to help understand and prevent suicide and fatal risk-taking behaviour.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/publications/cdrt2000.html#srt>

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has placed their council report "Patients as Parents: Addressing the needs, including the safety, of children whose parents have mental illness" on their website

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/cr/>

YOUTH SUICIDE, RISK TAKING KILLING KIDS (The World Today: 23/01/2003) A report tabled in NSW Parliament reveals that suicide and risk

taking accounted for almost a quarter of the deaths of young people over a five-year period, and it appears the figures are fairly typical of the trends in other states and territories.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/s768586.htm>

In January 2003, the CREATE Foundation released their third annual report card. 'REPORT CARD: 2002' reports on how well Australian States and Territories are doing in promoting the safety and well-being of their children and what has changed since 'REPORT CARD: 2001'. For further information, contact CREATE's National Director Michelle Townsend, email: michelle.townsend@create.org.au and for a copy of the report, see <http://www.create.org.au>.

Child: Care, Health and Development

A special issue of the journal *Child: Care, Health and Development* (<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/cch/>) is currently being planned, to appear around the end of 2004. The working title for this special issue, which will be guest edited by Dr. Mark Petticrew, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow and Professor Helen Roberts, Child Health Research and Policy Unit, City University, London, is: *Child Public Health and Social Welfare: Lessons from the Evidence*.

This is a call for papers for this issue. Papers may report original research, or they may be "think pieces".

The journal aims to attract quantitative and qualitative research papers relevant to people from all disciplines working in child health. This includes studies which examine the effects of social and environmental factors on health and development, the organization of services and health policy. Studies related to those who are disadvantaged by physical, developmental, emotional and social problems are particularly welcomed. Manuscripts should ideally be between 2000 and 3000 words, or longer by negotiation with the guest editors.

If you are going to submit an article please send it to:

The Editor,
Child: Health, Care and Development,
Editorial Office,
Blackwell Publishing, Ltd.,
Garsington Road,
Oxford,
OX4 2DQ, UK.

Deadline: **30th September 2003**. Please say in the covering letter that papers are for the special issue. You can expect to know whether the article will be included in the issue by the end of October 2003. Any articles which are favourably peer reviewed, but which don't 'fit' well with the selection for this edition will be considered by the journal editor for future publication in a mainstream issue of the journal.

[UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: NGO report](#) The National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) is coordinating an Australian shadow report to CROC, and to make sure all NGOs across Australia have input into that report, the CROC consultation paper and other information will be on the NCYLC's 'Lawstuff' web site as it becomes available, at: <http://www.Lawstuff.org.au>. Resulting feedback will be compiled into an NGO report. Mailto:l.goodchild@unsw.edu.au.

[Safe Places](#) is a two-part kit with information, stories, ideas and support for people who work with young people from a refugee background. The Safe Places kit contains two parts: a video created with and by young people from a refugee background, and a research publication that is the result of interviews with young people, cultural development workers, refugee counsellors, youth workers, teachers, policy makers, artists and academics. The video is created by young people from Afghanistan, Bosnia, Pakistan, Eritrea and Sudan, who talk, sing, write and draw about their experiences of the past and their hopes for the future. The research publication covers practical and philosophical issues for those who work with young people, including: setting up and running an arts project, how to consult with young people, how to encourage participation, how to create physical and psychological safety within a workshop context.

The Safe Places kit is available for sale from Youth Arts Queensland for \$30.00 (+ GST). To order your copy, or for more information, please call Youth Arts Queensland on 07 3252 5115 or email info@yaq.org.au.

[Teaching about hepatitis C: a national survey of secondary school teachers](#)

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at LaTrobe University has released their research into teachers' hepatitis C knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

[When the difference is day and night: insights from HILDA into patterns of parent-child contact after separation](#)

Drawing on data from Wave 1 of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, this paper explores patterns of contact between non-resident fathers and their children – including patterns of day-only contact.

[New manual gives extra help to families with disabled children](#)

The Family Networks' *Getting the Most for You and Your Child's Future* project is an initiative that brings families together to show them how to make best use of the available networks and support.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

DoCS is currently working towards the implementation of Chapter 12 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, dealing with children's services. When a new regulation is proposed, the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989 requires that the responsible agency prepare a RIS. The

RIS considers the regulation in order to determine if the anticipated economic and social benefits outweigh the costs. The RIS also considers alternatives to a statutory-based regulation. Copies of the Regulatory Impact Statement and the proposed regulation are available on the DoCS website. A number of Public Forums will be held to discuss the regulation and the locations & dates are available on the website.

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/csr_info.pdf.

[Recognizing and Treating Depression in Young Children](#)

Recent debate about the use of medication in very young children has sparked even more discussion about our ability to correctly diagnose psychiatric disorders in this age group. Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter 19(3) 2003

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin1/flo/y/ha7IOEPJVR0D2s0FW3a0AG>

For more information about items in this newsletter, feedback or if you would like any back copies please contact:

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