

AWCH EMAIL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

Dear Members and new subscribers

This is email newsletter No. 16 from the Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH). You can now access previous newsletters on the AWCH website www.awch.org.au

The contents below are under the following headings:

- AWCH Activities
- Health Updates
- New Services
- Conferences/Training
- Media Releases and News
- Books/resources/reports
- Jobs

AWCH ACTIVITIES



*Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas*

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XMAS GAMES AND FUN ACTIVITIES

Christmas Concentration: www.thekoala.com/xmasconc/xmasconc.htm

Christmas Tetris www.kinderplanet.com/xmastetris.htm

We Wish you a Merry Xmas. (The link may not work...try typing it in manually in your browser) <http://web.icq.com/shockwave/0,,4845,00.swf>



NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT

AWCH is very pleased to announce that Associate Professor David Bennett AO was recently elected National President at the National AGM which was held on 30 November 2004. David is an adolescent health physician with a keen interest in health service delivery to young people and their families. He is Head of the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health <http://www.caah.chw.edu.au/> and has been a consultant with World Health Organisation. David was honoured with an AO (Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia) in 1995 for services to adolescent health

and medical care. He is the author (with Dr Leanne Rowe) of *What to do when your children turn into teenagers*.

David will be very busy during 2005 with the many activities AWCH has on its calendar. Don't forget the **AWCH Conference** www.mob.com.au/awch2005 which will be held in Sydney on 28/29 April 2005. *Healthy Solutions for Children* will feature the launch of the 2004 Psychosocial Research Report, an interactive market place and exhibition, and the AWCH Volunteer Awards. AWCH has received an excellent response for the call to papers for the conference, so keep an eye out for the registration document which will be distributed in late January. Please forward onto to as many people as possible through your networks. Contact Sharyn Lowe at 02 4572 3079 or Fax 02 4572 3972 or email sharyn@mob.com.au

A STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY FOR AWCH IN FEBRUARY

As part of the AWCH Review, a strategic planning day will be held on 25 February 2005. John Peacock, NFP Consultants, who undertook the review of AWCH will be facilitating the planning day. Any AWCH Member who is interested in being involved, or knows of anyone, particularly parents or young people who would like to be involved, please contact National Office awch@awch.com.au .

AWCH HOSPITAL WARD GRANDPARENT SCHEME TRAINING DAY AND THANK YOU LUNCH

was held on 31 August 2004 at the Mercure Hotel at St Leonards. Professor Les White, Executive Director of Sydney Children's Hospital welcomed the ward grandparent volunteers and spoke about their important role in ensuring the health care needs of children and their families are met. Highlights of the day included:

- presentations given by both the ward grandparent volunteers and the coordinators of the schemes
- the needs of Aboriginal children and their families in hospital outlined by Laverne Bellar, Area Manager Aboriginal Health Unit Northern Sydney Area Health
- Managing Drips and Other Procedures which was a question and answer session by Clare Davies, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Royal North Shore Hospital
- especially well received was the presentation by Therese Baker and Cathy Quinn, Play Therapists at Children's Hospital at Westmead, who gave a very practical session on play and activities suitable for volunteers to use.
- Siblings and their needs - Diana Carmody Social Work at Children's Hospital at Westmead
- AWCH Video

The Mercure Hotel provided a wonderful door prize which was a night's accommodation with breakfast in a room with a balcony. Gwendoline Hillier, one of the newly started ward grans at Westmead won the door prize which was presented by Kurt Macintosh, Events Manager at the Mercure.



could speak up and ask questions.

There has been very positive feedback about the training day with networking across hospitals a vital part of the day. Beverly from Gosford rang to say *thank you for the training day and lunch. I had a wonderful day and the training was very good. It was nice to hear about the other ward gran experiences and I liked the informal way the training was done as everyone was relaxed and felt they*

AWCH would like to thank all the presenters who gave their valuable time and expertise to share with the ward grandparent volunteers and made the training day such a success.

TRANSITION CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES PROGRAM NSW. AWCH REPRESENTATIVE ANNE CUTLER

The Transition Care program continues to gain momentum with successful outcomes from interviews for the Transition Care Coordinators. Neroli Dickson has been appointed to the role based at Royal Prince Alfred and Rebecca Harris was the successful applicant for the position based at John Hunter Hospital. Neroli brings years of experience as a paediatric occupational therapist and will know many of the young people who are approaching transition. Rebecca has a social work background and has recently been working with the GMTT Brain Injury Group where she developed a transition package for young people with brain injury. Both began their new roles in mid October.

Ruth Wedd is the final coordinator to be appointed and commenced on December 13th. Ruth is a speech therapist with many years experience working with patients with chronic disability. She will be based at Westmead Hospital.

Consumer participants:

Two young people have been appointed as Consumer Participants for Transition Care and attended the inaugural GMCT Consumer Forum on September 9th. Emma Scott and Jonathon Koenig join our existing consumer committee members Betty Johnson and Geoff Spitzkowsky. Emma and Jonathon have both written brief stories of how they came to be involved with the transition group.



My name is Emma and I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 4 years of age. I received treatment at the children's and adolescent units of the Children's Hospital where there was support available to help me manage and understand my condition, and I could mix with other people of my own age. I left the Children's Hospital when I turned 18, and all of a sudden I didn't know where to go for 'adult' treatment. There was no unit which catered for young adults, and no database listing health professionals available. I went without treatment for over a year trying (by trial and error) to find a medical professional who understood the needs of my age group. There were many times when I felt like giving up and just trying to look after myself. I felt very isolated, and as though nobody really cared. But I didn't give up, and I have now found a health professional who suits me. As a result of my experience, I have been motivated to become a consumer participant on the Greater Metropolitan Consumer Taskforce, so that hopefully I can help others have an easier transition.

When I was 12 years old I was hit by a car going too fast as I crossed the road near my home. I wasn't expected to live, then wasn't expected to walk, talk or even eat again. But I hate being told I can't do something, so with my mum and dad's help, I worked really hard and proved the doctors wrong! I went back to my old school and got my HSC, and now have a part time job



and am learning to drive. After my accident I spent 5 months in Sydney Children's Hospital where all the nurses and some of the therapists made me feel special and that I would one day get my life back.

After I left there I still went back twice a week for about 6 months as an outpatient, but then they thought I should look at getting rehab closer to home, so they lined up community rehab. I had to go to the local hospital at Sutherland for physiotherapy and all of a sudden I was in an old hospital with old people recovering from strokes, as well as that the physio used words I had not heard at the children's hospital, like 'spastic' for my tight muscles. I remember feeling very unhappy, and mum tells me that this is when my cycles of depression started. Mum decided to get me into the local gym and found a young guy to be my trainer and help get me stronger. This really cheered me up and I became good friends with my trainer Trent, who used to take me out to footy games as well! This worked well and for the next few years mum took me everywhere, even Melbourne, for expert neuro-physiotherapy, until I was old enough to go to the Liverpool Brain Injury Unit as an outpatient, where I still go to now. Overall I found transition from child services to adult services a really big difference – there were no clown doctors to cheer us up, or famous celebrities to meet, and now I miss the great outings and Christmas parties we used to have. When you're a child everyone tells you that you will get better – when you're 18 they stop saying that – but I still have goals, like running again, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes to get there!

Unfortunately one of our greatest supporters for the Transition Program, Maria Howe, has resigned. Maria has left a wonderful legacy in the papers that she wrote about her experiences as a parent facing transition with her daughter and some of this information has been used in the information brochure for parents and carers. We are keen to attract more parents/ carers to the group. Lynne has been invited to speak to the consumer group at Sydney Children's Hospital in February and is seeking opportunities to address consumer groups in adult settings. It is planned to hold forums for young people and separate forums for parents and carers early in 2005 to bring in the voices of consumers.

General Practitioner Representation: Dr Michael Fasher has joined the Executive as General Practitioner Representative and will be a key person to provide feedback and guidance for the GP Transition Resource kit currently being developed. Lynne has written to the Division of GPs across NSW to inform them of the program.

Data collection: Data collection is progressing steadily on the types and numbers of young people with chronic illness accessing both inpatient and ambulatory services across the metropolitan area. Data is also being collected on where the services are currently being provided and where the gaps are. A minimum data set for transition is being developed and the option of using an existing data collection system (TASC) is being explored. The data system used by the Spastic Centre of NSW (lincs) is also being considered.

Resources: The generic framework document outlining the principles of transition care has been completed and work is progressing well on the toolkit resources which contain information on transition processes for young people, their carers and health professionals. A fact sheet on Transition has been developed along with an 'assessment for readiness for transition' checklist. The Children's Hospital at Westmead has ratified Transition Clinical Guidelines and the Brain Injury Paediatric Transition Group has completed an information folder for young people requiring transition to adult brain injury services. A website on Transition is being developed that will be linked to the DOH, GMCT and other relevant sites.

Networking: The Program Manager and Coordinators are scheduling weekly meeting with clinicians and professionals across a wide range of health settings. The aim is to listen to the experiences of these clinicians around transition issues and determine how the Transition Program might best be able to help them with young people with chronic illnesses that they manage. The Program Manager attended a paediatric conference in York in October and made many connections with key people involved in transition services throughout the UK. A report is available to anyone interested. A reference list is being compiled on transition articles, websites and services.

Further information: Anyone interested in transition issues can contact the Program Manager, Lynne Brodie by phone on 988875578 or by e-mailing LBrodie@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

HEALTH FOR KIDS IN THE SOUTH EAST PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP - VICTORIA AWCH REPRESENTATIVE BOB GREAVES



Two Community Nurses have been appointed to provide clinical services as asthma educators to children with asthma in the pilot areas based at Central Bayside and Cardinia-Casey Community Health Services. There are 4 HARP funded projects dealing with paediatric asthma in the State and there will be ongoing collaboration between these projects.

A Consumer Group with more than 10 members has been formed and the consumer participation process has been piloted in the development of an Asthma guideline and the development of new services to care to children needing rapid review by a paediatric specialist. A process has been approved by the Southern Health Consumer Advisory Council for reimbursement of the consumers in terms of petrol, child care and other incurred costs.

The Health for Kids Network has developed content for the website www.healthforkids.net.au which is now live. Database of child/and or adolescent friendly GPs is now accessible online.

The first evidence-based guideline on Asthma has been completed, including draft clinical path, and patient information from Asthma Australia. The guideline was developed by a multidisciplinary group that included two consumers, as well as a variety of health professionals. The Consumer Group was also involved in the development through focus groups, surveys and a tour of the hospital to understand the in-hospital care of asthma. Development has begun for evidence-based guidelines on the management of croup and gastroenteritis.

An asthma mapping exercise had been undertaken to assess participation in the asthma friendly schools/childcare programs and survey the skills and resources within community and sporting organisations to deal with acute asthma. It is hoped to create some consistency throughout the catchment area with regards to health promotion material disseminated. A new paediatric "Rapid Review Clinic" will begin operation in late December 2004, with other new services including a GP Advice Line and home nursing to begin early in 2005. These services together will be known as the "Rapid Review Service" and will help to reduce unnecessary paediatric admissions and emergency department presentations, as well as making sure that families and GPs are supported to give children the best possible care.

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Tari.Turner@med.monash.edu.au

GREATER EASTERN AND SOUTHERN CHILD HEALTH NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE. NSW. AWCH REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS BENNET. Chris Bennet, a member of AWCH ACT has recently been appointed AWCH Representative on the steering committee for GESCHN.

FAMILY CENTRED CARE COMMITTEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD. NSW. AWCH REPRESENTATIVE ANNE CUTLER.

Activities of the committee include:

- Discussions are taking place for volunteers to be sited in the Outpatient area to assist and support families waiting for their appointments.
- A parent forum is being planned to look at the provision of family centred care services and how best to more effectively involve families in the planning, service provision and improvement of services.
- A strategic planning session was held at the end of 2004 to identify issues, improvement opportunities, priorities and to develop an action plan for the next 12 months. *What are we doing well? What could we do better, What are the key priorities to progress?* The idea of having parents chair the committee was warmly received, as was the idea of having the majority of the committee made up of parents with back up support from key CHW staff who would also attend.

CONSULTATIONS ON DEVELOPING A NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN 2005-2008. AWCH attended a consultation workshop held by NSW Health in August 2004 and also participated in a teleconference held by National Public Health Partnership Non-Government Reference Network Panel. *Healthy Children - Strengthening Promotion and Prevention Across Australia: Developing a National Public Health Action Plan for Children 2005-2008* aims to stimulate discussion about the development of a national approach to children's health. The consultation paper can be found on the CHIP section of the NPHP website at www.nphp.gov.au

AWCH COMMENTED ON PROCEDURAL RESTRAINT GUIDELINES FOR KALEIDOSCOPE (John Hunter Hospital). For more information contact: Louise Evans
Kaleidoscope Project Officer
Northern Child Health Network
ph: (02) 4939 2469
fax: (02) 4939 2274
email: Louise.Evans@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au

IRENE HANCOCK NATIONAL PRESIDENT 1987-2003 CELEBRATORY LUNCH. A celebratory lunch was held at the Yots Café at the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney on 22 August. It was a convivial gathering of AWCH members and friends who presented Irene with an *AWCH Life Membership certificate*, a *This is Your AWCH Life Memories Book*, some beautiful flowers and a china figurine *Sweet Memories*. John Yu, AWCH Patron, spoke eloquently of Irene's tenure as National President and Irene thanked all those who attended to make this a very special day for her. There were many glowing messages in the Memories Book and Irene thanked all those who could not make it for their kind thoughts.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO THE NEW AWCH NSW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUB COMMITTEE FOR 2005: June Granger, Clare Godfrey, Charlotte Lyons, Gail Tomsic, Anne Marie-Dunne, Jann Kingston....and the ASC Committee, Ron Berney, Charlotte Lyons, Judyth Dowdell

A big thank you and congratulations on a fantastic year as AWCH NSW President and National Councillor to Sonia Driene who has stepped down from the AWCH NSW Committee (just for 12 months or so). AWCH will miss Sonia's valuable contribution and looks forward to when Sonia has the time to fit AWCH into her busy schedule again.

A big thank you too to Sydney Children's Hospital for providing AWCH NSW and the ASC with a meeting room each month.

HEALTH UPDATES

ABC AND OTHER HEALTH UPDATES

UNIVERSITY TO SHOWCASE 'SMART CLOTHES' 9/12/04 Backed by Invest NI, The University of Ulster (UU) is set to showcase 'smart clothes', which contain sensing systems to monitor health signs or to track the whereabouts of children for parents.

[HTTP://WWW.CHILDPOLICY.ORG.UK/NEWS/INDEX.CFM?CCS=87&CS=13257](http://www.childpolicy.org.uk/news/index.cfm?CCS=87&CS=13257)

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD GIRL RECEIVES AUSTRALIA'S FIRST LIVER CELLS TRANSPLANT (PM: 07/12/2004)

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2004/s1260010.htm>

ADVENTURE THERAPY HELPS MENTALLY ILL TEENAGERS (7.30 Report: 06/12/2004) <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2004/s1259220.htm>

RETINA SCANS GIVE DIABETES TIP-OFFS (TV News: 06/12/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s1259168.htm

ULTRASOUNDS SAFE FOR BABY, STUDY FINDS (Health News: 03/12/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1257089.htm

WEB MAY PROMPT SUICIDE PACTS (Health News: 03/12/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1256711.htm

THE AGE OF TECHNO TOTS

Sales of electronic "learning aids" to pre-schoolers have gone through the roof in recent months. Nick Galvin asks if we are asking our toddlers to get technical too early

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/12/01/1101577541139.html>

GOVT PLANS TO AID PARENTS WITH DISABLED CHILDREN (AM:

26/11/2004) <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2004/s1252049.htm>

THE PULSE: BAN JUNK FOOD ADS FROM KIDS' TV?

Australia has more junk food ads on television than any other country in the world. Meanwhile, a third of our kids are obese. Is there a connection? Experts are calling for a ban on TV food advertising when kids are watching. <http://www.abc.net.au/health/thepulse/s1251181.htm>

DIABETES SPRAY (Catalyst: 25/11/2004)

Over 100,000 Australians live with Type 1 diabetes. They are forced to monitor their blood glucose levels and regularly inject insulin. Despite advances in treatment, complications still arise, including blindness and limb amputations. The results of a recent clinical trial on children suggest there may be a way to identify those at risk and then treat them - stopping the disease before it takes hold.

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s1251535.htm>

WARNING OF BINGE DRINKING AMONGST TEENAGERS (PM: 23/11/2004)

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2004/s1249963.htm>

NEW FORUM FOR SIBLINGS OF THE DISABLED (The World Today: 19/11/2004)

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2004/s1247415.htm>

RISKS FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (Health Minutes: 16/11/2004)

Does having a mother who had psychological problems increase a child's chances of getting chronic fatigue syndrome? No, according to a UK study - which also shows that the more exercise a child gets the less likely he or she is to go on to develop CFS as an adult.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s1244703.htm>

AUTISTIC KIDS HAVE INFLAMED BRAINS (Health News: 16/11/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1244691.htm

FIZZY DRINKS CAN MAKE YOU GAG (Health News: 15/11/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1243541.htm

A DAY AT THE BEACH NOT THE ONLY SKIN CANCER RISK (AM:

15/11/2004) <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2004/s1243653.htm>

REBELS AND THE CAUSE - THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN (All in the Mind:

13/11/2004) No matter which way you look at it, adolescence is an inherently turbulent time of life. Teenagers know it, parents certainly know it and now science is beginning to understand why. Imaging technology is revealing that certain parts of the brain don't fully mature until well in to our twenties. And risk taking, impulsivity and poor judgement - the traits so synonymous with adolescence - could be important for healthy long-term development.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/mind/stories/s1240968.htm>

CYBER-BULLYING (The Buzz: 30/10/2004) Bullying can be a nightmare for schoolkids. We hear how bullies are now finding ways of extending their reach - using email, SMS and websites to persecute their victims.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/buzz/stories/s1230831.htm>

GROUND BREAKING EATING DISORDER PROGRAMS REACHING OUT TO GIRLS AT RISK (Stateline Victoria: 29/10/2004)

<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/vic/content/2003/s1230935.htm>

KIDS AND AIR POLLUTION (Health Minutes: 28/10/2004)

A study in Southern California has found that kids are vulnerable to air pollution between the ages of 10 and 18, which are crucial years for lung development.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s1228259.htm>

HOW TO BANISH SPELLING ERRORS FOR GOOD (Health News: 28/10/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1229922.htm

KERROD'S BRAVE HEART (ABC Wide Bay Queensland: 26/10/2004)

When six-year-old Maryborough youngster Kerrod Patterson was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) three years ago, it was a trying time for his parents.

<http://www.abc.net.au/widebay/stories/s1227882.htm>

TALKING ABOUT DEATH WITH CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM A TERMINAL ILLNESS (Health Report: 18/10/2004)

Researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm talked to parents who had lost a child to cancer to find out whether or not they talked about death with their child, and what effect this had on them.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s1222934.htm>

BABIES & STEM CELLS (Science Show: 16/10/2004)

Dr Huseyin Mehmet is a strong advocate for the use of stem cells in the treatment of very premature babies who may have brain damage. He would also like to see the cord blood of every baby banked, as a matter of routine, so their own stem cells will be available to them in the future.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/ss/stories/s1217318.htm>

SUGARY DRINKS BOOST DIABETES RISK (Health News: 26/08/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1185596.htm

INSECT ALLERGY IN CHILDREN (Health Minutes: 25/08/2004)

Insect stings are a common cause of serious allergic reactions. Parents of children who have had such reactions have to decide whether their child should have allergy desensitisation injections called immunotherapy. A group in the United States found there were significant benefits for those who'd had immunotherapy.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s1182933.htm>

BABIES' SIGHS REBOOT BRAIN (Health News: 13/08/2004)

http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1175921.htm

[NEW INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP MEDICINES FOR CHILDREN](#)

A new initiative to encourage the development of more medicines designed specifically for use in children was announced today by Health Minister, Lord Warner.

<http://rms.nelh.nhs.uk/childHealth/viewResource.asp?uri=http://libraries.nelh.nhs.uk/common/resources/?id=57244>

HEALTH MATTERS UPDATE: ASTHMA FACT FILE Along with the UK and New Zealand, Australia has the highest incidence of asthma in the world. Our asthma library page has links to news and transcripts from across the ABC, as well as outside organisations.

http://www.abc.net.au/health/regions/library/asthma_ff.htm

SERVICES

Christmas seems to come upon us very quickly, at a time when teachers have many other things to do to. The aim of EdNA Online's Christmas Page is to give many links, all tested for their active status, suitable for classroom use, from the evaluated resources in the searchable EdNA Online database.

<http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/search?queryText=Christmas+meaning+origins&word=all§or=3830>

HELPING HANDS is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for quadriplegic individuals by training capuchin monkeys to assist them with daily activities. <http://www.helpinghandsmonkeys.org/>

CHILDREN AS PARTNERS. The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (University of Victoria, Canada), has just launched the Children as Partners international website devoted to child participation.

www.iicrd.org/cap For more information, contact:

International Institute for Child Rights and Development
Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria

PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3W2, Canada

Tel: 250 472 4762 Fax: 250 472 4830

Website: www.iicrd.org/cap

Autism Advisory Services is a new organisation providing information/advocacy for families.

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/~heinjusmob/>

Aussie Deaf Kids has recently launched a new web site which received over 40 000 hits in its first month. www.aussiedeafkids.com

KIDSLINK brings children and teens who struggle with their social skills together in small groups where they can gain self esteem as they develop appropriate and rewarding social behaviours. Details about the program are available at <http://www.kidslink.com.au>

The [Parliamentary Library in Canberra](http://www.parliamentarylibrary.gov.au) has a useful page of calendars including links to international years proclaimed by the United Nations at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/calendars.htm>

[The Tithing Tree](http://www.thetithingtree.org.au) encourages people to avoid the excessive consumerism of Christmas by giving to those with the greatest needs. While The Tithing Tree does not accept donations, it does provide links to charitable organisations as well as clever suggestions for introducing tithing in your family: <http://www.thetithingtree.org.au>

FRIENDS is an Australian-developed world leading treatment and prevention program that helps young people cope with and manage anxiety and depression. Training in the program will be provided at a Melbourne workshop on 10th February next year. Attendance at the training is a prerequisite for conducting the program. More details at www.friendsinfo.net

[Stroke Support Group for Younger People](http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20041225001b.shtml)

ISIS Primary Care is starting a physiotherapy and education group for young stroke survivors or chronically ill
<http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20041225001b.shtml>

[Young People can ask the Doctor online](http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20050104002b.shtml)

NEW Youth Health Website.

<http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20050104002b.shtml>

[New Holiday House Swap Site Launched](http://www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.chtml?file_name_num=01304)

A new website www.matchinghouses.com has been launched to enable disabled people to locate accessible house swaps for holidays.

http://www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.chtml?file_name_num=01304

['Your Shout' Website for Siblings](http://www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.chtml?file_name_num=01277)

'Your Shout' is a website created by and for adolescents who have a brother or sister with an illness or disability.

http://www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.chtml?file_name_num=01277

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS EVENTS/TRAINING

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE. AWCH 10th National Conference

28-29 April 2005 Parramatta Sydney

For information contact the Conference Organiser

Sharyn Low from Matrix On Board sharyn@mob.com.au

Tel 02 4572 3079 Fax 02 4572 3972 www.mob.com.au/awch2005

PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE

Call for Abstracts: 17 January 2005

Michael Ungar, Ph.D. Undergraduate Program Co-ordinator, Associate Professor, Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University

6414 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 2A7

Tel: + 1 902 494 3445 / 476 0560; Fax: + 1 902 494 6709

Email: michael.ungar@dal.ca

Website: <http://www.resilienceproject.org>

OUR CHILDREN THE FUTURE

16-18 June 2005 Adelaide, South Australia

Children the Future Conference Secretariat

Department of Education and Children's Services

GPO Box 1152, Adelaide SA 5001

Tel: + 61 (08) 8226 0044; Fax: + 61 (08) 8410 2406

Email: octf@saugov.sa.gov.au

Website: <http://www.octf.sa.edu.au>

2005 TRESILLIAN CONFERENCE

5 & 6 August 2005. Ibis Hotel, Homebush Bay

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 17 DECEMBER 2004

For further details or to register your interest please contact:

Cathrine Fowler, Manager, Education & Research, Tresillian Family Care Centres McKenzie Street, Belmore 2192

(02)978 70869 telephone (02)978 70880 fax

Email: cathrine@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

DIVERSITY IN HEALTH 2005 –

October 17 - 19 2005, Hilton on the Park Melbourne

www.amf.net.au/event_nat_healthDiversity.shtml

BEYOND FRONTIERS: CARING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES 8TH INTERNATIONAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CONFERENCE

October 17-20, 2006 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

A web site link and further details will soon be posted. For the time being, if need more information, contact Tony Maciocia at:

maciocia@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

FREE CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING

As a follow up to the Department of Human Services (DHS) recently developed Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD) Strategy, DHS are offering a suite of free Cross Cultural staff training in all DHS regions.
http://www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.shtml?file_name_num=00747

GRADUATE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH & WELFARE

– student sponsorships

<http://www.educationnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20041217001b.shtml>

MEDIA RELEASES/NEWS

10 December 2004. [WINNERS OF THE 2004 HUMAN RIGHTS MEDAL AND AWARDS](#) were announced today (International Human Rights Day) at a luncheon in Sydney. Full details of the winners and the Human Rights Day address by Commission President John von Doussa QC can be found at:
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/

The University of Queensland is conducting a survey about '[YOUNG PEOPLE AND DRUGS](#)' and would like your help. The online-survey is part of a research project sponsored by the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) and your input will be used by the ANCD to advocate more effectively on behalf of young people.
www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/ - go to Issue #4.18 for link.

The [NATIONAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY \(NYPS\) PROJECT](#) is progressing at full steam. Read the fortnightly updates online at
http://www.aicafmha.net.au/youth_participation/updates/index.html

PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH RADIO

International children's organisation, Plan, is celebrating 50 years of the transistor radio by highlighting its work with children's radio projects in developing countries. For more information, contact:

Christina Georgiou, Media Officer, Plan, International Headquarters
Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK
Tel: + 44 (0) 1483 733 285; Fax + 44 (0)1483 756 505

Email: christina.georgiou@plan-international.org

Website: <http://www.plan-international.org/action/participation/radio/>

The [University of Western Sydney](#) has been allocated 400 new Commonwealth-funded student places over five years for our planned [MEDICAL SCHOOL](#). As a consequence, the Medical School is on track to accept its first 80 students in 2007. For more information about the UWS Medical School please visit:
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/university/medschool>

TITLE: MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES | MINISTERS AGREE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR OLDER CARERS Family and Community Services Portfolio URL:

http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/minister1.nsf/content/older_carers_26nov2004.htm

SNIPPET: A plan by Federal Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Kay Patterson, to help ageing carers plan for the future of their sons and daughters with disabilities was accepted by a State and Territory Community and Disability Services Ministers' meeting in Brisbane today.

TITLE: MEDIA RELEASE - THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON MP - MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING - GOVERNMENT ACTS ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Education, Science and Training Portfolio URL:

<http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Nelson/2004/08/n856120804.asp>

SNIPPET: Another significant step in addressing discrimination against students and prospective students with disabilities has been taken today with the Government introducing a Bill to ensure new standards are supported by legislation.

TITLE: MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS | PROJECT TO MONITOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMENCES Family and Community Services Portfolio URL:

http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/Minister2.nsf/content/monitor_child_dev.htm

SNIPPET: Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Larry Anthony, today announced the first seven communities to commence a project that will measure the progress of young children in a number of key developmental areas.

ISOLATED CARE Across Australia, thousands of children are taking on the role of carer for their physically or mentally ill parents. (ABC News Online, 24 August 2004).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200408/s1183602.htm>

TITLE: FSANZ: PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR MAJOR CHANGES TO HEALTH CLAIMS ON FOOD LABELS Health and Ageing Portfolio URL:

URL:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/mediareleasespublications/mediareleases/mediareleases2004/publiccommentsoughtf2543.cfm>

SNIPPET: Food Standards Australia New Zealand today called for public comment into a major new food standard for Nutrition, Health and Related Claims.

TITLE: MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS | MORE SUPPORT FOR FATHERS Family and Community Services Portfolio URL:

http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/Minister2.nsf/content/more_support_for_fathers.htm

SNIPPET: The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Larry Anthony, today launched the Fatherhood Research in Australia report the first in Australia to look at the research done on supporting fathers in their parenting role.

BOOKS/RESOURCES/REPORTS

[Fact Sheet on Dehydration among Small Children in Hot Weather](#)

An information and awareness reminder about dehydration in babies and young children during hot weather

<http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20041214001b.shtml>

[Top 10 Cartoons for Children's Rights](#)

UNICEF has just released the 'Top 10 Cartoons for Children's Rights', http://www.unicef.org/videoaudio/video_top_cartoons.html as selected by polling broadcasters and communicators, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Cartoons for Children's Rights are for both children and adults.

[Scholarships for 2005](#)

The Gregory & Dolores Farrell Scholarships for wheelchair users undertaking tertiary education in NSW in 2005. Two scholarships up to the value of \$5000 each are available for 2005. Application forms & conditions of the award are available on the Spincare Foundation's website at www.spinecarefoundation.org or email: spinecare@optusnet.com.au Applications close 3 February 2005.

[Auslan Signbank up and running](#)

Signbank, an interactive dictionary of Auslan, the language of the deaf community of Australia, is available at <http://www.auslan.org.au> Auslan is growing and changing all the time – by using Signbank and providing feedback, the community can help share and build the language.

Recent publications relating to information on [child abuse](#) have been updated on the web site of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/afsapubs.html>

The latest edition of the (WA) Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention newsletter is available online at: www.mcsp.org.au

[Self Harm](#) Deliberate self harm is not uncommon in Australian youth, especially among girls. A Queensland study has looked at self harm among high school students on the Gold Coast with worrying results. (Radio National Transcript, 16 August 2004).

<http://www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au/group/noticeboard/items/20040827006b.shtml>

[Worried Children - How Anxious Should We Be?](#)

When should you be anxious about an anxious child? Child anxiety can mean not wanting to leave mum or dad's side, complaints of tummy aches, and fears about trying new challenges, going to school, and meeting other kids. (Radio National Transcript, 14 August 2004).

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/mind/stories/s1173660.htm>

Victorian Parenting Centre Newsletter www.vicparenting.com.au

[The Future of Transport White Paper UK](#) - In particular, for children and young people, the strategy covers:

- Encouraging children to walk and cycle
- Working with others to link the existing National Cycle Network to schools to provide safer routes
- Improving safety for children as pedestrians, with initiatives such as the Kerbcraft project, which trains volunteers from disadvantaged communities to teach children aged five to seven practical roadside skills

<http://www.childpolicy.org.uk/news/index.cfm?ccs=82&cs=11954>

[Physical Punishment in the Home - Thinking About the Issues, Looking at the Evidence: Analysis of Responses](#) For further information or to obtain a copy of the full report visit the OLR website (<http://www.olrni.gov.uk/>). Alternatively, contact: Office of Law Reform, Lancashire House, 5 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8AA, Tel: 028 90542900

<http://www.childpolicy.org.uk/consultations/index.cfm?ccs=521&cs=11964>

The AICAFMHA/TheMHS Conference has recorded presentations for sale at <http://www.everttechnology.com/pastconferences.htm>

The COPMI Project update is online at

<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/copmi/project/updates/index.htm>

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The index to articles in 'Youth Studies Australia' is online at

<http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ysa/index/>

It is interesting to note the changes that are occurring in Britain concerning child deaths as an independent inquiry recommends changes to investigations into sudden infant deaths. Those interested in the way the UK may now handle these should view the BBC story at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/health/3624200.stm>

Full report from the UK at <http://www.rcpath.org/index.asp?PageID=455>

2004 Youth Survey results and Poverty Fact Sheet: Children and Young People in Australia. Download the 2004 Youth Survey Results and the Poverty Fact Sheet in the

<http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/cm/p.aspx?n=LSPPEM-XYCPH-SKNFP-POHEU-LXEPH>

Improving children and young people's safety on country roads in NSW, particularly for novice riders, drivers and their passengers, was the focus of a special working group of the recent Country Roads Safety Summit in Port Macquarie. <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/roads.html>

[Young people get All aBoard!](#) A new, practical Commission resource is available to help groups and organisations involve young people on boards and committees.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/allaboard.html>

[New child-safe and child-friendly resources on our website.](#) A comprehensive new range of resources to help organisations become more child-safe and child-friendly has recently been published on the Commission's website.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/resources.html>

[Engaging dads](#) benefits kids Involved mothers are great assets to the educational success of their children, but research is showing that kids whose fathers are closely involved with their education are likely to do even better. <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/dads.html>

[Minors consent to medical treatment.](#) Following our representations to the NSW Attorney General, the NSW Law Reform Commission has announced that it is conducting a formal review of the laws governing consent by children and young people to medical treatment.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/minors.html>

[Child carers consult kids to improve services.](#) A unique survey that seeks young children's views about their family day care, long day care centres and outside school hours care services has recently been developed by the National Childcare Accreditation Council following an intensive field-testing process with kids.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/childcare.html>

[Teens and parents 'seeking common ground.](#) A recent youth forum facilitated by the NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People has highlighted the communication challenges that can affect how well parents and teenagers relate to each other.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/commonground.html>

[Celebrating the end of the school year.](#) Partying safely, getting through Schoolies Week and staying safe on the roads are just some of the things young people can get information and tips about from the 'End of Year Celebration Kit 2004'.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/19/schoolies.html>

The ACER Research Conference 2004, '[Supporting Student Well-being: What does the research tell us about social and emotional development of young people?](#)' was held in October 2004. The papers (all on the three broad themes: mental, spiritual and physical well-being) can be downloaded by following the links on the page at:

<http://www.acer.edu.au/workshops/researchconference.html>

The [Child Death Review Team's 2003 Annual Report](#) monitors the deaths of children and young people in the State and provides recommendations for prevention. Follow the link to download the report in PDF format:

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/publications/cdrt2003.html>

Find out more about the Commission's work over the past year by reading our [2003-04 Annual Report](#).

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/publications/annualreport2004.html>

Cancer patients at Children's Hospitals around Australia will benefit in two ways from a [new CD of classical music](#) recorded with the help of John Rowland. The HUSH Collection CD is a special compilation of soothing classical music to help children relax during severe medical treatments for cancer. It's being used within Children's Hospitals around Australia in operating theatres, treatment rooms, wards and waiting areas, as well as to manage unsettled babies. The CD costs \$24.95 and is being sold through Australia Post, Big W, some Dymocks stores and the following Children's Hospitals:

- Melbourne: Royal Children's Hospital
- Brisbane: Royal Children's Hospital, Mater Hospital
- Adelaide: Women's and Children's Hospital
- Sydney: Westmead Children's Hospital, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
- Perth: Princess Margaret Hospital
- Newcastle: Hunter Children's Healthcare Network

You can also order online at www.hush.org.au

[Supporting Children and Young People](#) - new DADHC Policy

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/E404A6CA-AC16-4665-A643-AAC8ED0017F9/1055/supportingchildrenandyoungpeoplewithadisabilityand.pdf>

[What Children Think About Smacking](#). Save the Children UK and the Children's Rights Alliance England (CRAE) have revealed what young children themselves think about smacking. *It Hurts You Inside* is a summary booklet of children's views and contains powerful messages from children themselves to show why they believe smacking is wrong. enquiries@savethechildren.org.uk <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

[Staying Health in Child Care](#)

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/ch40syn.htm>

In the UK '[Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier](#)' sets out the key principles for supporting the public and enabling them to make healthier and informed choices regarding their health, and Chapter Three of the paper is entitled, 'Children and young people - starting them on the right track'.

<http://rms.nelh.nhs.uk/childHealth/searchResponse.asp?categoryID=6124&dg=24>

[Core Principles for the Involvement of Children and Young People](#)

<http://www.cypu.gov.uk/corporate/downloads/LearningtoListen2.pdf>

The Australian Institute of Health and welfare has broadened its reporting framework to encompass a wider set on influences on childhood development. *A Picture of Australia's Children 2005* provides an overview of the key indicators to be published as part of a national program of indicator development, data collection and regular reporting.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10070>

The third Cambridge Conference on [Teenage Anorexia Nervosa](#) Presentations from the recent conference are now available at www.focusproject.org.uk/resources/present

[NATIONAL REPORT ON HEALTH SECTOR PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003](#) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The national report on health sector performance indicators 2003 is the sixth in the series of reports to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference. It provides a comprehensive picture of the performance of the Australian health sector in regard to health status, health determinants and health services.
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10085>

[GENERAL PRACTICE ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA 2003–04](#) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Data reported by 1000 general practitioners on 100,000 GP-patient encounters are used to describe aspects of general practice in Australia: the general practitioners and their patients; the problems managed and the treatments provided. Information is also reported on body weight to height ratio, smoking status and alcohol use of a subsample of patients. Changes in relative rates of selected problems and management techniques between 1999–00 and 2003–04 are also investigated. <http://www.apo.org.au>

[DISABILITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEALTH CONDITIONS AND OTHER FACTORS](#) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Disability experience is a complex interaction between the health condition and environmental and personal factors. This report examines some of the inter-relationships among components of disability, health conditions and other related factors, as well as some aspects of measurement. The report provides prevalence estimates of significant diseases and health conditions associated with disability and estimates the likelihood and severity of disability associated with those diseases and health conditions.
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10082>

Jobs

WANTED: Talented musicians in Sydney with disabilities. Are there any disabled musos out there who know how to rock??? My name is Andrew Hewitt, I am a drummer based in Sydney who was born with Cerebral Palsy, despite this I have managed to clock up over 14 years experience in the Australian Music Industry from live band performances, clinic/workshop performances and teaching.

I'm seeking talented musicians in Sydney with different disabilities who would like to be part of an Aussie Rock tribute act forming for 2 disability-friendly shows at the Sydney Opera House in 2005. The shows are organised by Club Wild. Club Wild are a Melbourne based organisation who promote artists and events for people with disabilities.

Along with the Opera House there will be other gigs lined up from time to time. No live experience necessary, however it is very important that you are very proficient and confident in playing your instrument. I am looking for guitarists, keyboard players and vocalists, ability to sing backing vocals an advantage too.

As I mentioned, this project is going to be a tribute to Australian Rock Music from 60s ->Now. The band will be called ABILITEE and will cover material from bands such as: Daddy Cool, AC/DC, Dragon, The Angels, Easybeats, John Farnham, Divinyls, TMG, Jet, Killing Heidi, Grinspoon, Powderfinger and many more. If anyone is interested, please contact Andrew via his website <http://www.drummerstix.com.au> to leave your details, or call him on 0419 560 695.

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

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