

AWCH EMAIL NEWSLETTER JULY 2004

Dear Members and New Subscribers

This is email newsletter No. 15 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 details
- Conferences/Training
- Media Releases and News
- Books/resources/reports

AWCH ACTIVITIES

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Anne Cutler
National Liaison Officer
Direct Line: 02 9527 0325
Mobile: 0438 429 643

NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE OF CHILD PATIENTS (AND FAMILIES) IN HOSPITAL

AWCH has had an excellent response to the survey: 239 surveys returned with many requests for information on the psychosocial care of children in the health care system. Thank you to all the hospitals who responded. The analysis and report should be available in late September.

AWCH 2005 CONFERENCE – register for interest now at awch@awch.com.au

Healthy Solutions for Children: Making the Right Choice

Date: 28/29 April 2005

Venue: Carlton Ritz Parramatta Sydney

Keynote speakers:

- Dr Sev Ozdowski, Human Rights Commissioner
- Associate Professor Victor Nossar, Child and Youth Health South Australia
- Associate Professor David Bennett, NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health
- Robyn Sullivan, Children's Commissioner Queensland

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Phone: 02 9631 9208 or email awch@awch.com.au

Video. *Stranger in the Family: Living with an Autistic Child.* Stranger in the Family invites viewers to share the lives of three Australian families for a year, as they manage children with autism, a disorder that affects one in every 500 children born each year. Autism occurs in all social and ethnic groups. Until recently, most autistic children were institutionalised because they were considered 'unreachable'. Two of the families in this film have two children with the disorder. Having one autistic child increases the chances of having a second one. All the children attend Giant Steps, a special school using a holistic one-on-one therapy that originated in Canada. Video-education Australia www.vea.com.au

Book. *Caring for Diabetes in Children and adolescents. A parent's manual.* The Children's Diabetes Service of NSW representing Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, John Hunter Children's Hospital, Newcastle. This book will help you look after diabetes in your child or adolescent. The editors and contributors are experienced children's diabetes health professionals from the three children's diabetes centres in NSW. This book reflects their common approach to diabetes care and is a comprehensive, practical and up to date guide to all aspects of caring for diabetes including:

- Insulin therapy and adjustment
- Food and healthy eating
- Hypoglycaemia
- Sick days
- Travelling, exercise and sports
- Diabetes and school
- Advice on coping
- Long-term management and research

Parents, grandparents, friends, other carers, health professionals and young people with diabetes will find it a valuable resource.

Launch of *A Last Resort? The report on the National Inquiry Into Children in Immigration Detention*. AWCH NSW and National Office attended the launch of the report on 1 June at the Human Rights Commission. A summary guide can be found at:
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention_report/summaryguide/

In conjunction with ACPCHN, AWCH NSW issued a media release:

9 June 2004

AWCH and the Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses call for the release of all children and families from detention by 10 June 2004 and that AUSTRALIA adopts a policy of a more flexible detention regime which forbids detention of children for more than a few days

With the publication of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report of its National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, *A last resort?* the Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH) and the Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses (ACPCHN) remain concerned about the emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of children still being held in detention and the long term impact on the children and their families.

The Inquiry has found that Australia's immigration detention policy has failed to protect the mental health of children, failed to provide adequate health care and education and failed to protect unaccompanied children and those with disabilities. The Inquiry also found that the mandatory detention system breached the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

AWCH and ACPCHN call for the Australian Government to immediately release children with their families from immigration detention to ensure that any child seeking refugee status, "receives appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international rights or humanitarian instruments" to which Australia is party.

The Australian Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH) is a national organisation of concerned parents and professionals advocating for the needs of children, adolescents and their families within hospitals and the health care system in Australia. AWCH advocates a holistic family oriented approach to the care of children, acknowledging the vital role the whole family plays in a child's wellbeing.

Contact: Anne Cutler AWCH National Office
Phone: 02 9631 9208
awch@awch.com.au

ACPCHN is a national organisation of nurses with a vision to promote excellence in the health care of children and young people, in the context of their family, through professional support of paediatric and child health nurses and any nurses working with children and young people.

Contact: ACPCHN
PO Box 184 MIDLAND WA 6936
www.acpchn.org.au

Child Health Advisory Committee South Western Sydney

The June meeting discussed the need for play specialists in the area. Only one hospital has a play specialist. AWCH requested support from the committee to address this issue. A potential need for AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent volunteers in hospitals in SWSAHS was also discussed.

Display. Festival of Ideas - Nepean Families First Service Network Development Project

AWCH held a display at the conference held by Nepean Families First and a lot of interest was expressed about AWCH and its work from people working with disability groups who were attending the conference. A lot of the questions were concerned with how AWCH works with disabled children and what resources we have to help them understand about surgery or just simple medical procedures such as blood tests etc. Particular interest was shown by child care and OOSH workers.

AWCH Committee Representation. If you require any information about these working groups please contact Anne Cutler 02 9631 9208.

- GMTT Transition from Paediatrics to Adult Services Project – NSW
- Royal Australasian College Physicians Procedural Pain Management Working Party
- Health for Kids in the South East – Victoria
- Children's Emergency Care Project – NSW
- Child Health Advisory Committee South Western Sydney – NSW
- Sydney Children's Hospital Parent and Consumer Council – NSW
- Family Centred Care Committee Children's Hospital at Westmead – NSW
- Disability Action Plan Meeting Children's Hospital at Westmead – NSW
- Quality Council Children's Hospital at Westmead - NSW

AWCH Guest Speakers have given talks about AWCH and its services to:

- Canterbury Hospital
- Bankstown Hospital
- Baulkham Hills Interagency Group Meeting
- Alice Springs Hospital
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Enquiries

Enquiries to AWCH have increased 40% during 2003-04. The majority of those enquiries come from professionals and AWCH members. Library, AWCH Services and Information, and requests for consultancy/advocacy are the most common types of enquiries.

HEALTH UPDATES

ABC AND OTHER HEALTH UPDATES

RESEARCH THROWS LIGHT ON GROWING PAINS (TV News: 11/05/2004)
http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s1106135.htm

COOL HAT HELPS CAP BABY BRAIN DAMAGE (TV News: 08/05/2004)
http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s1104032.htm

BREASTFEEDING RATES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE FALLEN (PM: 3/05/2004)
<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2004/s1100510.htm>

DON'T WASTE YOUR CALORIES BETWEEN MEALS (Health Minutes: 6/05/2004). According to the experts, liquid calories, especially in the form of soft drinks, are poison when it comes to weight gain.
<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s1102852.htm>

THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF STARVATION DURING ADOLESCENCE (Health Minutes: 20/05/2004) For around 900 days from 1941, Leningrad was under siege by Hitler's armies. Hundreds of thousands of people died, many from starvation. Now 60 odd years later, studies of the survivors may illuminate risks from such problems as anorexia nervosa.
<http://www.abc.net.au/health/minutes/stories/s1112354.htm>

MARGARET AND PAULINE: RESILIENCE IN MENTAL ILLNESS (All In The Mind: 15/05/2004). Margaret Cook and Pauline Miles are well known figures in WA's mental health advocacy community. Born as identical twins in Wales, they grew up in the UK with a mother with major mental illness and a shared history of abuse.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/mind/stories/s1103053.htm>

AUTISM LINKED TO PROBLEM BIRTHS (Science News: 08/06/2004)
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1126397.htm>

COPYCAT COMPUTER KIDS LEARN FASTER (Science News: 07/06/2004)
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1126111.htm>

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN TAKE PART IN COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH STUDY (AM: 03/06/2004)
<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2004/s1122016.htm>

HEALTH MATTERS FACT FILE: ACNE

Almost every teenager gets spots at one time or other. They're so common they could almost be considered a normal part of adolescence. But for about one in three people in their teens, acne is a real problem.

Our fact file looks at which treatments work and which are a waste of money. http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/acne_ff.htm

CEREBRAL PALSY AND BIRTH (Dr Karl's Great Moments in Science: 17/06/2004). Dr Karl examines the causes and effects of cerebral palsy and how in many cases blame has been wrongly apportioned. <http://www.abc.net.au/science/k2/moments/s1132992.htm>

AMISH GENES GIVE CLUES TO NEW TYPE OF SIDS (Health News: 20/07/2004) http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1157802.htm

HELPING KIDS (Stateline Queensland: 16/07/2004) <http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/qld/content/2004/s1155843.htm>

BRAIN INJURY IN CHILDREN: A NEGLECTED EPIDEMIC? (All In The Mind: 17/07/2004). What happens when little heads hit hard surfaces? New evidence is challenging long-held beliefs about the plasticity of young brains, and their needs years after childhood injury. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/mind/stories/s1152770.htm>

KIDS' MEMORIES BEAT ADULTS' HANDS DOWN (Health News: 23/07/2004) http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublsh_1160229.htm

ALARM HELPS DIABETICS SLEEP EASY (TV News: 23/07/2004) http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/sophie_scott/newsitems/s1160837.htm

DEIRDRE & RICHARD (George Negus Tonight: 27/07/2004). Deirdre Croft's life was turned on its head when her son Richard suffered severe brain damage during birth. Richard became increasingly violent, and as he grew into a man became too much to cope with and had to live with his father. Richard now visits his mother who has become a campaigner for better care and understanding of the problems of living with a disabled child. <http://www.abc.net.au/gnt/people/Transcripts/s1163685.htm>

LONG-LASTING EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE TELEVISION VIEWING IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE (Health Report: 26/07/2004) Excessive television viewing in children has long been linked with obesity. A 30-year study from Dunedin in New Zealand has found that television viewing in childhood also affects obesity and other health problems in adults. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/helthrpt/stories/s1162628.htm>

SERVICES AND THEIR CONTACT DETAILS

[ADD/ADHD - Metro/South - Aberfoyle Community Centre](#). A new support group for carers of children with ADD and ADHD.

When: 8th June, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November

Time: 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm

Where: Aberfoyle Community Centre, 56 Sunnymeade Drive, Aberfoyle Park

Cost: Afternoon tea provided - gold coin donation appreciated

Creche: Creche available, bookings essential. A creche is not available on 10th August or 14th September but children are welcome.

Enquiries: Rosemary 8381 2319 (after 2 pm)

<http://www.mdaa.org.au/> The [Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW](#) (MDAA) is the peak body for people from a non-English speaking background (NESB) with disability and their families and carers in NSW. MDAA aims to promote, protect and secure the rights and interests of people from a NESB with disability and their families and carers in NSW.

<http://www.adec.org.au/> Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities. Retrieve translated brochures on disability or disability information services for clients who speak a non-English language.

<http://www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au/> The Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program is part of the RTA's School and Youth program through a partnership between the [NSW Roads and Traffic Authority](#) (RTA) and [Macquarie University](#). Our mission is to achieve improvements in young children's safety in the short term and develop safe community attitudes to road use in the long term.

Multicultural Health

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/multicultural/default.asp> . Queensland Health has developed guides and policies to support the provision of culturally sensitive health care in hospitals and community health services.

[Cultural Diversity](#) - A guide for Health Professionals.

[Guidelines to practice](#) - Providing care to patients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

[Checklists for cultural assessment](#) - A brief guide to interpreting, communication, attitudes and cultural assessments.

[A guide to working with interpreters](#)

[Muslim Patients Handbook](#)

[Language Services Policy](#)

[Multicultural Health Policy](#)

[Australian South Sea Islanders](#)

[Handbook on Muslim Patients](#)

[Queensland Health Multicultural Health publications](#)

[Queensland Health Public Patients' Charter - Multilingual fact sheets](#)

[Transcultural Mental Health Centre Multilingual Resources WWW](#)

[Multicultural Links](#)

For further information contact:

Anthony Van Dyken,
Senior Policy Officer,
Health Outcomes Unit

Telephone: +61 (07) 3239 0975

Email: Anthony_VanDyken@health.qld.gov.au

[Harvard can now assess your health risks via the internet](#). Harvard University is now offering some education with a difference: a website which can calculate your risk of suffering a major health problem such as a stroke or cancer. <http://www.yourdiseaserisk.harvard.edu/> also explains how each individual score is calculated.

Welcome to [Sydney's Child Online](#) - Sydney's most reputable guide for parents. This is where to find the very latest information on a wide range of parenting topics. www.sydneychild.com.au

- 'Children-in-mind' reviews of movies, videos and [books](#).
- A comprehensive [events calendar](#) including [going places](#) with ideas for school holiday fun.
- The chance to interact with other parents through our [letters to the editor](#) section.
- Our [Independent Schools Directory](#) is a paid directory of independent schools in Sydney - a very useful resource to find a wide range of schools.

www.berrystreet.org.au If you would like to receive an online or hard copy of our newsletter, please email your address details to commrel@berrystreet.org.au

W: www.berrystreet.org.au

E: commrel@berrystreet.org.au

Central Office: 1 Berry Street (PO BOX 279) East Melbourne 3002

P: 9429-9266 F: 9429-5160

<http://www.onkaparingafamily.com/homepage/about.shtml> . The website facilitates communication and information exchange between service providers, parents and children, and allows them to create a community amongst themselves. The City of Onkaparinga is one of the most socially diverse local government areas in South Australia and this website provides information as well as having the ability to put people in touch with all kinds of community services in the region.

[Medicines Line](#), 1300 888 763, provides consumers with access to independent, accurate, up-to-date information about medicines. The information is provided by experienced medicines information specialists and clinical pharmacists for the cost of a local call (mobile calls may cost more). When is the best time to call Medicines Line? Medicines Line is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time. You may leave a voice message if you call at other times or if the lines are busy, and Medicines Line will return your call.

The Autism Society of America recently announced the launch of a Spanish-language section on its award-winning Web site, responding to the ever-growing need of the Hispanic community for bilingual information on autism spectrum disorders: <http://www.autism-society.org/>

New Government Online Directory: www.directory.gov.au

'Reggie' Launches Australia-Wide Mental Health Youth Project

Regina Bird (winner of Big Brother 3) joined SANE Australia and secondary schools across the country on 16 March to launch www.itsallright.org – an important new website for young people with a parent or friend affected by mental illness.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/EVENTS/TRAINING

KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION!: EFFECTIVE PRACTICE FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

2-4 August 2004 Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

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.acwa.asn.au/conf2004/

CHALLENGES IN EARLY INTERVENTION

3-6 August 2004 Melbourne, Vic

Further information: CISMFA, Tel: (03) 9663 7999. Fax: (03) 9663 5422.

Email: debbie.rogers@cismfa.org.au . Web: <http://www.cismfa.org.au/>

ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY & SEXUAL HEALTH COURSE

16 – 19 August 2004.

http://www.wch.org.au/cah/news/index.cfm?doc_id=5900

or contact education.training@rch.org.au or call Merran on 03 9345 6671

www.rch.org.au/cah

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN: PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

31 August-3 September 2004

Further information: *Children As Partners*, International Institute for Child Rights and Development Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3W2, Canada, Email:

capa@uvic.ca, Internet: <http://web.uvic.ca/iicrd/>

5TH AICAFMHA/14TH THEMHS CONFERENCE

1-3 September 2004. Gold Coast Queensland

<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/conferences/goldcoast2004/index.html>

ACPCHN BRINGING IT TOGETHER FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

1-3 September 2004 Hilton Adelaide

paed2004@sapmea.asn.au www.sapmea.asn.au/paed2004

THE MELBOURNE CHILDREN'S SLEEP UNIT

MUSIC FOR VULNERABLE INFANTS

THE PAIRS PROGRAM

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER & TOURETTE SYNDROME

HIPS, TALIPES AND SPINAL PROBLEMS

3 September Queen Elizabeth Centre Noble Park

26 November Wyndham Council Chambers, 45 Princes Highway, Werribee

QEC Education Services, 53 Thomas St, Noble Park 3174. Ph 9549 2777.

Fax: 9549 2779 Email: theqec@qec.org.au <http://www.qec.org.au/>

FIRST NORTH AMERICAN / FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME

12-15 September 2004 Montreal

Further information: Steven Franks, National Center on Shaken Baby

Syndrome 2955 Harrison Blvd., Ste. 102, Ogden, UT, 84403. Email

sefranks@mindspring.com. Web <http://www.dontshake.com>.

AFSEA, THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS INC. ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

16-19 September 2004 Brisbane

<http://www.afsea.org.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=647>

IDEAS EXPO 2004 ON COMMON GROUND

18-20 September 2004 Dubbo Showground

Toll Free: 1800 029 904 or email ideas@ideas.org.au

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

19-22 September 2004 Brisbane Queensland

NAPCAN invites communities across Australia to showcase their efforts to

Address child abuse and its prevention, to an international audience. A

specific stand is available at the congress where submissions will be

prominently displayed. There is no cost attached to submissions selected

to be displayed. This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate the creativity

and innovation of communities promoting the safety and well-being of

children, and we hope to inspire others to share knowledge, information

and resources. Please email me for an application form -

lesley.taylor@nt.gov.au

Lesley Taylor

Vice President

NAPCAN Australia

08) 89992471

15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

19-22 September 2004 Brisbane, Qld

Further information : ISPCAN 2004 Congress Secretariat, ICMS (Qld) Pty Ltd, PO Box 3496, South Brisbane Qld 4101. Tel (07) 3844 1138. Fax (07) 3844 0909. Email: ispcan2004@icms.com.au Web:

<http://www.congress2004.com>

THE CRITICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD YEARS - RETHINKING CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES

1-2 October 2004 Melbourne, Victoria

Further information : Gini Solutions, PO Box 123, East Kew Vic 3102. Tel: (03) 9859 5508. Mobile: 0419 178 138. Fax: (03) 9859 0519. Email:

ginisolutions@bigpond.com . Further updates will be posted on the QEC website: <http://www.qec.org.au>

MAKING HEALTH CARE SAFER 2004

21-22 October 2004 Royal College of Physicians, London

<http://www.quality.bmj.com>

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

29-31 October 2004 Sunshine Coast

A "Call for Papers" Brochure is available

<http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enews/> - go to issue #4.06 for link

To submit your details to receive a Conference Brochure, please email janeteryan@bigpond.com

INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

26 Nov-3 Dec 2004

Further information: Children's Rights Centre, Department of Social Welfare Studies, Ghent University, Henri Dunantlaan 2, B - 9000 Ghent, Tel: + 32 9 264 62 85, Fax: + 32 264 64 93, Internet:

<http://www.centrumkinderrechten.org>

SOUTH PACIFIC EDUCATORS IN VISION IMPAIRMENT CONFERENCE

9 - 14 January 2005, Melbourne

www.cdesign.com.au/spevi2005

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE

13-15 April 2005 London

Submit your abstract online at: <http://www.quality.bmj.com>

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 1 October 2004.

Richard Smith and Don Berwick

Editor & CEO, BMJ; CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

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

MEDIA RELEASES and NEWS

TITLE: MEDICARE SMARTCARD LAUNCHED Health and Ageing Portfolio

URL: <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb123.htm>

SNIPPET: The Medicare smartcard will give people access to their organ donor records, childhood immunisation records, Medicare safety net status and PBS expenditure data as well as provide access to standard Medicare services in the normal way.

TITLE: DENTAL HEALTH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS: THE CHILD DENTAL HEALTH SURVEY, AUSTRALIA 2000 Health and Ageing Portfolio

URL: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2004/mr040722.html>

SNIPPET: Australian children rank among the world's best for their oral health, although Australian boys and girls experience differing levels of tooth decay, according to a new report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

During **NATIONAL CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS WEEK** the Spastic Centre will host a celebrity soccer match with a team of celebrities and corporate supporters battling the Australian Paralympic Soccer Team. Friday 13 August, 3.45pm - 5pm, NSW Sports Academy, Wakehurst Freeway, Narrabeen. Refreshments and a sausage sizzle are available. Donations welcome. To register your interest, contact Kate Henshall on phone 02 9972 8126 or email khenshall@tscnsw.org.au

Source: The Scene from The Spastic Centre, No. 11, 2004

TITLE: MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES | 'EXPLORING TOGETHER' AT THE TIWI ISLANDS Family and Community Services Portfolio

URL:

http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/minister1.nsf/content/exploring_together_tiw_i_islands.htm

SNIPPET: The Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Kay Patterson, today welcomed the results of an innovative Early Intervention program, which has assisted Tiwi Islands children over the past three years.

TITLE: PARENT-CHILD CONTACT AND POST-SEPARATION PARENTING ARRANGEMENTS - MEDIA RELEASE - AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY STUDIES (AIFS) Family and Community Services Portfolio

URL: <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/media/media040708.html>

SNIPPET: This report from the Institute's Caring for Children after Parental Separation Project, sheds light on a range of issues related to parent-child contact after parental separation.

The Minister for Health has stated that the [Health Records & Information Privacy Act](#) will commence on 1 September 2004.

http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/privacynsw/ll_pnsw.nsf/pages/PNSW_index

TITLE: FAMILIES FIRST IN NEW HEALTH LEGISLATION Health and Ageing Portfolio URL: <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb077.htm>

SNIPPET: The Commonwealth Government will introduce legislation next week to ensure that parents and legal guardians have access to information held by the Health Insurance Commission about their under-age children.

[NEW DIRECTIONS FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES](#)

Victorian Government launches a new strategic framework. The *Future Directions for the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Service* is available at

http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/commcare/yafs_yf.nsf/6e77f67ebfaba3c74a25677600063702/d7c0ad94c7946c1dca256df7001c4454?OpenDocument

HORSE RACING BETTER REGULATED THAN CHILD SAFETY Victoria, May 25, 2004. Horse racing in Australia is better regulated by governments than rules governing child safety, Kidsafe said today. Mr Robert Caulfield, President of Kidsafe Victoria said, "The entire system of child safety standards and reporting needed an immediate overhaul to be made effective." "Revelations that thousands of children are injured by products and Coroner's Reports suggesting change are buried, is a disaster and a scandal." "In the case of horse racing at the slightest sign of an issue, horses are swabbed immediately after the race, jockeys are suspended, and dodgy bookmakers are removed from the course altogether." "In the case of child safety, dangerous products are allowed to continue to be sold, importers and manufacturers do not have to notify the public and the Coroner's Reports, unlike the stewards' comments which are made public after the race, are buried." Mr Caulfield said many offending products were manufactured overseas and it was virtually impossible to insist that they comply with Australian standards.

Kidsafe Victoria is encouraging and assisting Australian companies to develop, manufacture and market products and services to suit Australian conditions. "Immediate legislation should be implemented to have all Coroners' Reports on child deaths related to products distributed electronically to all Members of Parliament in every state, to Federal Members of Parliament and to be tabled in Parliament." The Federal Government should appoint a Child Safety Ombudsman to oversee appropriate and timely action is taken on dangerous products nationally, Mr Caulfield added. Media Enquiries: Robert Caulfield Kidsafe Victoria 0412 381 306

BOOKS, RESOURCES, REPORTS

On-line Articles

[Evaluating the Effectiveness of Speed Humps in Reducing Child Pedestrian Injuries](#). Pedestrian injuries caused by automobile collisions are a leading cause of death among children aged 5 to 14 years.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/472528?mpid=27150>

[The Economic Burden of Hospitalization Associated With Child Abuse and Neglect](#). In 1999, an estimated 826,000 children were abused or neglected nationally:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/472527?mpid=27150>

[Antidepressants May Cause Depression and Suicidality](#).

FDA recommends close observation of adult and paediatric patients treated with antidepressants for depression and suicidality.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/472364>

[Criteria for Shaken Baby Syndrome Questioned](#)

A case report, editorial, and clinical review raise serious doubts about the validity of perimacular retinal folds and other accepted criteria.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/472546>

[Evaluation and Management of Obesity in Children and Adolescents](#)

A guideline developed by the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center may prove useful in your setting.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/467026?mpid=25569>

[PLAY FOR CHILD PATIENTS IN IRISH HOSPITALS](#)

<http://www.childreninhospital.ie/pdf/Play%20Report.pdf>

[PARENT ADVICE BOOKLET FOR HOSPITALISATION – Children in Hospital Ireland](#)

<http://www.childreninhospital.ie/pdf/Parent%20Advice.pdf>

[GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE OF ADOLESCENTS IN HOSPITAL - Children in Hospital Ireland](#)

<http://www.childreninhospital.ie/pdf/Guidelines%20Adolescents.pdf>

[Treating Children and Adolescents With ICDs: Impact on Psychosocial Functioning and Quality of Life](#)

What influence does ICD therapy in a young patient population have on depression, anxiety, and quality of life? Is family functioning compromised?

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474811>

[Some Depressing News](#) Can we afford not to prescribe antidepressants, despite the recent negative press?

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474577?src=mp>

[CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS](#)

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474962>

[Americans Spend More on Health Care But Are Not Healthier](#)

http://www.jhsph.edu/Press_Room/Press_Releases/PR_2004/Hussey_healthcare.html

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/23/3/10>

The study is the first to use a universal set of standards to compare the quality of health care in the five countries surveyed. The researchers found that no country scored the best or worst overall and that each

country was the best and worst in at least one area. The study is published in the May/June 2004 issue of the journal [*Health Affairs*](#).

[ASH '04: New US Guidelines for Hypertension in Children and Adolescents](#)

New guidelines address the definition, diagnosis, and treatment of hypertension in children -- and yes, there is a new category: "prehypertension." <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/479474>

[Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome](#) Use this printable handout as part of the education of caregivers about shaken baby syndrome.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/478154?src=mp>

WHAT CHILDREN ARE EATING: FOR MANY -- IT'S TOO MUCH!

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474963>

PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DISCUSSING CIGARETTE SMOKING IN PEDIATRICS

<http://www.childrensmemorial.org/cme/online/article.asp?articleID=73>

PICKY EATING: A TODDLER'S APPROACH TO MEALTIME

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/475189?src=mp>

POSTERS & ABSTRACTS: NEW RESEARCH IN DEPRESSION

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/478583?src=mp>

PEANUT, TREE NUT AND SEED ALLERGIES

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/478206?src=mp>

WHEN IS HOSPITALIZATION INDICATED IN THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS?

<http://www.childrensmemorial.org/cme/online/article.asp?articleID=75>

SAFE PEDIATRIC SEDATION

<http://www.childrensmemorial.org/cme/online/article.asp?articleID=74>

KEEPING ALL CHILDREN HEALTHY: PROFESSIONAL ISSUES FOR PNPS

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474964>

CHRONIC SORROW AND DEPRESSION IN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/474596?src=mp>

Other Resources

[YOUTH FIELD EXPRESS](#) online newsletter is issued by the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies. <http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/yfx/2004-06.htm>

A resource for young people who have a peer or friend that is same-sex attracted. "[MY FRIEND IS GAY](#)" contains information that will educate young people and others about sexual diversity.

<http://www.youth.inboxchange.net.au/news/items/2004/04/00193->

[upload-00001.pdf](#)

'YOUTH STUDIES AUSTRALIA', the journal of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS), invites submissions of papers for a special issue on youth sport, physical activity and leisure in Australian and New Zealand to be published in 2005.

http://www.youth.infoxchange.net.au/news/ix/results.shtml?filename_num=00206

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS PROJECT. GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE. World health leaders and nearly 2,000 participants from more than 85 nations gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 2004 conference: *Youth and Health: Generation on the Edge*. The conference provided a forum for exchanging ideas and lessons learned regarding health-related interventions initiated for youth, and increasingly by youth.
<http://www.globalhealth.org/news/article/4617>

FAMILIES FIRST

<http://www.familiesfirst.nsw.gov.au/uploads/de944aea-2bc8-4e58-9cc0-de56dcbe9fd72.pdf>

ABOUT BABY AND CHILDRENS SAFETY. Advice for parents from the Office of Fair Trading

[http://www.consumer.qld.gov.au/oft/oftweb.nsf/AllDocs/85DFF9106FCFF7414A256C4B00256A9E/\\$File/ABC%20Safety%20book.pdf](http://www.consumer.qld.gov.au/oft/oftweb.nsf/AllDocs/85DFF9106FCFF7414A256C4B00256A9E/$File/ABC%20Safety%20book.pdf)

Key resources for people and services working with children of parents with a mental illness developed as part of the COPMI project include

- PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS FOR SERVICES AND PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN OF PARENTS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS
- THE BEST FOR ME AND MY BABY
- FAMILY TALK

Both booklets and the key document are downloadable from the COPMI website <http://www.copmi.net.au/> or contact Elizabeth Fudge, COPMI Project Manager fudgee@wch.sa.gov.au fax: (08) 8161 6983.

KIDS' STATS ONLINE <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/> For the first time in Australia, information about the safety, welfare and well-being of kids in NSW can be accessed from one online location.

New issue of **EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER**. Find out more about what the Commission's been up to over the last few months by reading the Autumn issue of our quarterly newsletter Exchange at:

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

MARGINALISED CHILDREN: Overlooked Children around the World Speak Out. Three artists, Julien Chapsal, François Perri and Eric Visser, invite us to discover the "words" and "images" of children from several continents; by taking us to their world, these children help us to better understand their suffering, hopes and dreams.

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=30209&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

CHILDREN & THE MEDIA: "Promote or Protect? Perspectives on Media Literacy and Media Regulations". For more information about the International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, visit: <http://www.nordicom.gu.se/unesco>

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>

A CANADA FIT FOR CHILDREN The full press release is available at the following:

<http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/2004/040510.shtml>

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=4165>

LESSONS LEARNED IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN. This report, produced by the Child Participation Working Group of The International Save the Children Alliance, highlights 12 lessons learned from Save the Children in supporting children's participation in the UN Special Session on Children. The report is available at: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=4193>

RESPONDING TO BULLYING IN SCHOOLS. This curriculum, developed by PACER Center, is designed to help teachers and other professionals present parents with strategies for dealing with bullying. It addresses how to define disability harassment, common views about bullying and the types of bullying, the role of school policy in responding to/preventing disability harassment, and more.

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/bully.htm>

ABORIGINAL HEALTH SURVEY conducted by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, which was designed to build knowledge to develop preventative strategies that promote the healthy development and the social, emotional, academic and vocational wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can be found at:

<http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/research/childhealth.lasso>

THE LITTLE MONSTER: GROWING UP WITH ADHD Robert Jergen PhD, \$29.95. Jergen presents ADHD from the view of the child who actually has it and illustrates how constant academic and social failures can gradually wear away at the child's self-esteem and feelings of self-worth. For sample chapters go to:

<http://www.scarecroweducation.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=^DB/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=1578861047>

FAT IS A FAIRNESS ISSUE Griffith REVIEW. Australia is getting fatter. Stephanie Short looks into the social changes contributing to weight problems, the government initiatives being used to combat them, and the groups most affected by this worldwide trend. It seems that the solution may be somewhat more complex than simply telling people to eat better and exercise more.

http://www58.gu.edu.au:4500/grifrev/article_content.php?id=148

THE THIRD BNF PRESCRIBING EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE organised by the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, in collaboration with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, reviewed advances in prescribing and the use of medicines in children and explored how the provision of information on medicines can be improved and made more reliable. The powerpoint presentations from the conference are now available at: <http://www.bma.org.uk/goodmedicine>

CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING HOMELESS CLIENTS 2002–03. Domestic violence is a major theme of the report, as the majority of children accompany their mother or other female guardian who has reported domestic violence as a reason for seeking SAAP assistance. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10008>
<http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/items/2004/06/01368.shtml>

This month's featured discussion focuses on research about the **EFFECTIVENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION SERVICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.** We invite you to read a summary of findings and to contribute your thoughts about what works (or doesn't work) to meet the mental health needs of young children in educational programs. <http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/pgFeaturedDiscussions.php>

REDUCING RISK AND STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF SCHOOL MEDICATION MANAGEMENT. More students are taking medication during the school day, which means many school secretaries or teachers are responsible for administering proper doses at proper times. The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools reviews methods to reduce risk of error and liability for schools, including properly storing students' meds and keeping carefully written policies, instructions and records. <http://www.healthinschools.org/sh/issuebrief.asp>

VACCINES SAFE, SAYS INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE. Examining the evidence for the hypothesis that childhood vaccines can cause autism, the Institute of Medicine has concluded there is no causal relationship. <http://www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=20155>

THE CHILD TRENDS DATABANK is an online resource of indicators of child and youth well-being. The What Works section of their website has been expanded to include more links to information about programs and interventions that influence the development and well-being of young children, as well as additional tables about which programs work for youth. <http://www.childtrendsatabank.org/>

CHECKING THE SCOREBOARD will help you assess how well children and young people's participation is working in your organisation or group. www.kids.nsw.gov.au/publications/tps_scoreboard.html

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN CONTEXT. HEALTH POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, NO. 4. The Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization, 2004
http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/who/informationresources/publications/catalogue/20040518_1

[2004 HEALTH VERDICT 'VERY GOOD TO VERY GOOD PLUS'](http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2004/mr040622.html) Health and health services in Australia in 2004 rate a 'very good to very good plus' according to the nation's two-yearly health report card.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2004/mr040622.html>

[Disability Standards for Education](http://www.dest.gov.au/research/publications/disability_standards/default.htm) The final draft of Disability Standards for Education 2004 and the accompanying Guidance Notes and Regulation Impact Statement are available online.

http://www.dest.gov.au/research/publications/disability_standards/default.htm

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) report *Young People's Health in Context* examines the most recent survey of Health Behaviour in School-aged Children.

<http://www.childpolicy.org.uk/consultations/index.cfm?ccs=523&cs=11269>

[THE OTHER SIDE](http://www.streetwize.com.au/publications_race.html) aims to dispel some of the myths held by young people about refugees and asylum seekers. The comic tells the story of a refugee and also contains factual information so that the reader can make an informed decision about this issue. 12 pages, full colour [2003] \$1.50

http://www.streetwize.com.au/publications_race.html

[PARENT-CHILD CONTACT AND POST-SEPARATION PARENTING ARRANGEMENTS AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY STUDIES.](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport9/main.html)

In Australia, as elsewhere, not a great deal is known about the 'nuts and bolts' of parent-child contact after separation. This report, edited by Bruce Smyth, uses information gained from a series of focus groups and the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey to identify patterns of parenting after separation and factors that facilitate or impede contact, particularly contact between fathers and their children, and how these factors interact to influence different patterns and levels of care. Read the full text of [Parent-child contact and post-separation parenting arrangements](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport9/main.html)

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport9/main.html>

[YOUNG STORIES FROM AND ABOUT – REFUGEES.](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/darkdreams.html) A unique book that features an anthology of essays interviews and short stories written by children and young adults aged 11-20 years has recently been released.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/darkdreams.html>

If you want to know what we think, Just ask us! A new guide for consulting with young people and then using their input for the development of young injury prevention programs has recently been produced by Youthsafe.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/youthsafe.html>

Zero tolerance in NSW public schools. NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) research has found that some school children are overdosing on legal drinks and prescription drugs and are dangerously ill-informed about the effects of both.

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/zerotolerance.html>

Helping organisations to be child safe and friendly. Organisations who work with volunteers and students in Sydney, Newcastle and the far north coast of NSW were recently invited to attend training workshops to help them develop knowledge, awareness and strategies around being more child safe and friendly and to help the Commission fine tune our resources and training <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/childsafes.html>

New CDRT Fact Sheets. The important work of the NSW Child Death Review Team (CDRT) has recently been summarised into a series of fact sheets by the Commission.
<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/cdrt.html>

New focus on child supervision. Protecting young children from potential hazards in their environment requires a 'multi-faceted community approach' says a leading researcher of injury prevention.
<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/exchange/18/supervision.html>

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection (WA) has launched its report *Caring Well - Protecting Well*. Investing in systemic response to protect children in WA www.childprotectioncouncil.com.au

[Understanding childhood immunisation booklet](#). The revised edition incorporates recent changes to the National Immunisation Program, the *Australian immunisation handbook*, the *Australian standard vaccination schedule* and additional information relating to new vaccines. The booklet is available through hospitals, general practice, immunisation clinics, childcare centres and by contacting the Immunisation Infoline on 1800 671 811.

The Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention is pleased to announce the release of its latest research publication *Using the Internet for Suicide Prevention: A Guide*. www.mcsp.org.au

There is a National Inquiry in the UK on the topic of young people and self harm. The web link is <http://www.selfharmuk.org/>

Caring for Children and Adolescents with Mental Disorders: Setting WHO Directions http://www.who.int/mental_health/media/en/785.pdf

Improving Mother/Child Interaction to Promote Better Psychosocial Development in Children
http://www.who.int/mental_health/media/en/29.pdf

Fellowship

The Commonwealth Fund is pleased to announce the 2005-06 Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy. The Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for mid-career health policy researchers and practitioners from the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, to spend up to 12 months in the United States conducting a policy-oriented research study, working with leading U.S. health policy experts, and gaining an in-depth

knowledge of the U.S. health care system. The program also includes two additional U.K. fellowships targeted at health care practitioners and supported by The Health Foundation.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in health policy issues and propose a research study that falls within the scope of The Commonwealth Fund's national program areas. These include improving health insurance coverage and access and improving the quality of health care services. Applicants must be citizens of the United Kingdom, Australia, or New Zealand. Each fellowship will provide up to \$95,000 (U.S.) in support. A supplement is available to fellows accompanied by families.

The deadline for receipt of applications is September 1, 2004.

Full details and information on how to apply can be found at www.cmwf.org For further questions regarding the fellowships, contact Robin Osborn at The Commonwealth Fund, One East 75th Street, New York, NY 10021, U.S.A. (tel: 001 212 606 3809 or email: ro@cmwf.org)

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

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