



Welcome to the first National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter for 2004. In this edition we are pleased to feature overviews of the Queensland Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Foster Care (by Katie Kovacs), and treatment programs for sexually abusive young people in Australasia (by Karen Flanagan), as well as articles on the Parents Under Pressure Program (by Paul Harnett, Sharon Dawe and Vanessa Rendalls), and the links between animal abuse and family violence (by Nicola Taylor).

We would like to remind readers that the Clearinghouse welcomes contributions for publication. Authors can submit articles that describe current initiatives or policies, discuss aspects of child abuse and neglect, or highlight issues in preventing, or responding to, child abuse and neglect.

Staffing changes

There have been a number of staffing changes at the Clearinghouse this year. *Dr Janet Stanley* resigned in January to take up the position of Research and Policy Manager with the Brotherhood of St Laurence (Melbourne), while *Katie Kovacs* resigned in March 2004 to take up a position managing offender rehabilitation programs in the Victorian Department of Justice. Both Janet and Katie joined the Clearinghouse in 2001



Australian Government

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Protection Clearinghouse

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse has operated from the Australian Institute of Family Studies since 1995. The Clearinghouse is funded by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services as part of the Australian Government's response to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The Clearinghouse collects, produces and distributes information and resources, conducts research, and offers specialist advice on the latest developments in child abuse prevention, child protection, and associated family violence.

In this issue

Editorial – Adam Tomison	1
Summary of the Queensland Inquiry into the abuse of Children in Foster Care	3
Latest child protection statistics	6
Child abuse in Australia: Future directions for NAPCAN	7
Program profile: Parents Under Pressure program	9
Summary of research on programs for intervention with sexually abusive young people in Australia and New Zealand	14
Child abuse, domestic violence and the use of animals	16
Two campaigns aim to prevent child abuse	18
Program profile: Women's Safety After Separation project	19
Professional development for workers in the child protection/child welfare area	22
Conferences and events	25
Literature highlights	27
Clearinghouse services	35
Clearinghouse publications	36
Clearinghouse membership form	36

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and since that time they both have made significant contributions to the Clearinghouse. We wish them well in their new endeavours.

In March 2004, *Nick Richardson* joined the Clearinghouse team as a research officer. With a psychology background, Nick has previously been working at the Australian Institute of Family Studies as a researcher on the Australian Temperament Project, and specifically, as part of a collaborative project with Crime Prevention Victoria that has been exploring a range of issues around adolescent antisocial behaviour. Nick has also worked as a volunteer telephone counsellor and is already well-versed on the issues of child abuse and other family violence.

Tom Fooks has also been employed to provide administrative support for the Clearinghouse. As this issue goes to press, we are also recruiting additional research staff.

Finally, after nine years with the Clearinghouse, I (*Dr Adam Tomison*) will also be leaving at the end of May 2004. I have recently accepted an offer to be the Director of Research (Population and Evaluation) in the Northern Territory's Office of Aboriginal Health, Family and Social Policy, and have therefore resigned from the Clearinghouse and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. A key part of this role is to address the issue of child abuse and other family violence in Indigenous communities. Thus I will continue to remain active in the child abuse and family violence field. I am also pleased to continue to have an ongoing involvement with the Clearinghouse, via a position as Honorary Research Associate for the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

From modest beginnings. . .

From modest beginnings, the National Child Protection Clearinghouse has developed into a centre for excellence with a national and international reputation in the field of child abuse prevention and child protection. I am very proud of all that has been achieved by staff members and it is with a heavy heart that I am leaving.

With the current Clearinghouse contract extended for a further three years to June 2007, the Clearinghouse is poised to develop its services further to better meet the research and informational needs of stakeholders. I would encourage you to make the most of this valuable national resource, and to contact Clearinghouse staff if you have any ideas or opportunities that you feel might enable the Clearinghouse to better meet your needs or those of the child protection and child welfare/family support sectors.

I wish you well with your endeavours.

Adam Tomison

Protecting children



KATIE KOVACS provides a summary of the Queensland Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Foster Care

In January 2004, the report of the findings of the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care was published.

The Queensland Inquiry was instigated following allegations made by a woman who claimed that while she was in foster care with “family X” she was subjected to sustained and serious abuse by foster family members and others. The allegations included a complaint that she was sexually abused by one family member who had been an approved foster carer, as well as by visitors and friends of the family.

The alleged sexual abuse included acts of sodomy and indecent dealing and of procuring the woman (then a child) to commit indecent acts with other children. The alleged abuse was said to have happened over a period of 13 years. The woman stated that other children in care with this family had also been subjected to sexual and physical abuse, and that some of these children still resided with the family.

Subsequently, documents relating to allegations of abuse involving other children placed with this family were made public. The material suggested apparent failures on the part of the Department of Families to deal with these allegations. Media interest was generated, and questions were also raised as to the extent to which successive ministers responsible for the Families portfolio at the relevant times were aware of the situation and took action.

Who undertook the Inquiry?

In August 2003, the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commissioner commenced *Operation Zellow* which made investigations into allegations that employees of the Queensland Department of Families had failed in their statutory duties to protect children they placed in the care of family X. It also investigated the claim that successive ministers and director-generals of the department had failed to act appropriately to protect children placed with family X.

During the Inquiry’s public hearings an independent consultant was appointed by the Department of Families to audit abuse notifications made against current foster carers in Queensland.

What were the terms of reference?

The Commission resolved to inquire into and report on: (a) any systemic factors contributing to the incidence of any abuse of children in foster care; (b) the suitability of measures to protect children in foster care from abuse, in particular the adequacy of systems and procedures to prevent and detect abuse, and the adequacy of measures to respond to and deal with suspected abuse including abuse reported by foster carers; and (c) any recommendations as may be considered appropriate in relation to (a) and (b), including recommendations for any necessary changes to current policies, legislation and practices.

What were the recommendations?

A total of 110 recommendations for reform were made; some of which are outlined below.

Restructuring

- A new Department of Child Safety (DCS) should be created in Queensland to focus on core child protection functions and to be a lead agency in a whole-of-government response to child protection matters.
- A Directors-General Coordinating Committee should be established to coordinate the delivery of a multi agency child protection service.
- Child Safety Directors should be established within each department that has a role in child protection.

Prevention

- The Queensland Government should maintain its commitment to primary and secondary prevention services.

Staffing

- An additional of 160 Family Services Officers (FSOs) and team leaders should be recruited to deal with intake, assessment and casework demands.
- The increase of staff should occur over the next two financial years.
- DCS needs to establish an empirically rigorous means of calculating workload and project future staffing needs.
- Annual staff increases should occur in line with work demands.
- As a matter of urgency, DCS should establish enhanced training and professional development for field staff and ensure that completion of induction training is mandatory for caseworkers prior to assuming casework responsibilities. Training partnerships should be entered into with universities in developing programs and training. Cross cultural training in Indigenous issues should also be included.
- DCS should consider having all court preparation work undertaken by specialist staff.
- Child-centred casework and the provision of parental support should be vested in different staff members in order to avoid potential conflict.
- Forty specialist FSOs should be used to work exclusively with parents whose children have been subjected to a low level notification and continue to live at home

Complaints mechanisms

- DCS should establish a unit with clear procedures for receiving, assessing and responding to complaints

External accountability

- External accountability should be ensured by establishing a Child Guardian to be situated in the Commission for Children and Young People, whose responsibility would be to oversee the provision of services and decisions made in respect of children within the jurisdiction of the DCS.

Child deaths

- A new review body should be established in Queensland called the Child Death Review Committee (CDRC), to undertake detailed reviews of the DCS's internal and external case reviews.
- The role of the Commission for Children and Young People should be expanded and include the maintenance of a register of all deaths of children in Queensland, reviews of the causes and patterns of death, the conduct of broader research focussing on strategies to reduce or remove risk factors associated with child deaths that were preventable, and the preparation of an annual report for Parliament and the public regarding child deaths.

Multi agency relationships

- Each government department which has a role in the promotion of child protection should be required to publicly report each year on its delivery of child protection services.
- A progressive and contemporary integrated service delivery model should be created which creates a partnership between government and non-government organisations to deliver services for clients of the child protection system.
- A quality assurance strategy for both government and non-government services should be developed and implemented as well as minimum standard setting for the licensing of non-government services.

Mandatory reporting

- Mandatory reporting requirements should be extended to registered Queensland nurses by legislating under the *Health Act* and appropriate training should accompany the change. It was also suggested that it be made mandatory for doctors to notify DCS about their suspicions of child abuse.

Out of home care

- Research needs to be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of different types of care options including foster care, residential services, family-group homes, therapeutic foster care, intensive support and supported independent living for different types of children.
- More therapeutic interventions are needed for children with severe psychological and behavioural problems. There is a need for programs to be evaluated and where there is evidence of effectiveness, such programs should be identified and implemented.
- A central register of all carers, children in their care and their availability for further placements should be established. It should be available for staff to search by region so they can easily obtain an up-to-date list of carers and placements in their area.
- DCS should identify and implement new ways of recruiting respite carers. To prevent carer burnout and limit placement breakdown, respite for carers should be routine and not have to be requested by carers. Plans for respite could be included in the child's case plan.
- Efforts should be made to recruit a more diverse group of carers rather than continuing to concentrate recruitment efforts in lower socio-economic areas.
- Structured exit interviews should be conducted with foster carers which would then give some insight into why Queensland carers are being discouraged from continuing to foster.



Indigenous children

- The Queensland Government should recognise the need for community-based Indigenous organisations. Such organisations should be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to provide culturally appropriate child protection services when required.
- The department's compliance with the Indigenous Child Placement Principle should be regularly audited and reported on by the new Child Guardian.
- In situations where Indigenous children are placed with carers who are non-Indigenous, legislation should specify that contact be maintained with the kinship group where this would be in the best interests of the child.
- Indigenous carers should be provided with enhanced access to respite care and adequate training and support subject to consultation.
- There is a need for urgent attention to be focussed on identifying ways of encouraging more Indigenous people to become carers.
- Legislation should reflect the importance of Indigenous participation in decision-making and specify the types of decisions that require consultation. In consultation with Indigenous stakeholders, the department should develop an agreed protocol for sharing information about children and families involved in the child protection system.

Child protection reform implementation

In response to the findings of the Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care, the Queensland Government has initiated a number of reforms to state child protection systems. This reform process has the support of both the Labor and Liberal/National parties.

Peter Forster was appointed by the Queensland Government on 6 January 2004 to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care, and the Final Report on Phase One of the Audit of Foster Carers Subject to Child Protection Notifications.

The Child Protection Implementation Unit, led by Peter Forster, will deliver the reform implementation program in three phases. Phase one will see the development of a project plan to deliver recommendations; phase two will see the development of the blueprint for the new Department of Child Safety; and phase three will see the implementation of the blueprint.

The Unit released an Implementation Blueprint on 22 March 2004, which outlines the strategy, plans and processes to improve the child protection system in Queensland. This includes an implementation strategy for the new Department of Child Safety. This department was created following the re-election of the Queensland Labor Government on 7 February 2004, to focus exclusively on the needs of children at risk from harm, neglect or abuse.

Copies of the full report Protecting Children can be downloaded at www.cmc.qld.gov.au/FCINQUIRY/ To request a printed copy, contact: The Crime and Misconduct Commission, Queensland. Phone: (07) 3360 6060.

Copies of the Implementation Blueprint can be downloaded at www.premiers.qld.gov.au/childprotection/blueprint/

Katie Kovacs, at the time of writing, was the Project Officer with the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

AUSTRALIAN CHILD PROTECTION

Statistics

The latest *Child Protection Australia 2002–2003* report has recently been published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. A summary of the latest statistics are provided below.

Between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003:

- 198,355 notifications were made to statutory child protection departments nationally.
- 40,416 cases of abuse/neglect were substantiated or confirmed across the nation.

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Notifications 2002-2003	109,498	37,635	31,068	2,293	13,442	741	2,124	1,554
Percentage of notifications where child abuse and neglect were substantiated in 2002-2003	15%	19%	39%	39%	18%	29%	15%	21%
Number of substantiations per 1000 children	7.5	6.3	10.1	1.9	5.8	1.8	3.6	3.9

The maltreatment involved in the substantiated cases of abuse or neglect was classified as follows:

- 34 per cent emotional abuse
- 28 per cent neglect
- 28 per cent physical abuse
- 10 per cent sexual abuse

There is broad variation in the rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect among children aged between 0-16 years of age (per 1000 children) between the states and territories. This broad range is influenced by differences in the way jurisdictions both define and deal with notifications and investigations.

In Victoria, for example, the definition of a notification is very broad and may include family issues that are responded to without the need for a formal investigation process. In contrast, in Western Australia and Tasmania, reports to the departments are screened before being classified as a notification. Only those reports where maltreatment is indicated are classified as a notification and the majority of these cases are subsequently investigated. In addition, in Western Australia, the disproportionately low number of notifications and rate of substantiation (per 1000 children) is likely to be due to the fact that reporting of child abuse and neglect is not mandatory.

Child abuse in Australia

Plotting future directions for NAPCAN



The release by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) of the latest child abuse and neglect statistics (see boxed inset) has confirmed concerns for the welfare for Australian children – child abuse and neglect reports are on the rise. For the 2002-2003 year, there were 198,000 notifications, which amounts to one report for every 25 children in Australia, and one report of child abuse and neglect every two minutes (AIHW 2004).

Even more alarming is the substantiation figure, which indicates that one child was confirmed by child protection services as having been harmed every 13 minutes – 40,000 children for the one year period.

It is important, however, to take into account the difficulties in drawing conclusions from these statistics. On the one hand, many notifications are *re-notifications* (the same children being reported two or more times); on the other hand, not every instance of child abuse or neglect is reported. (In truth, we have no firm knowledge of the prevalence of the problem.) There are also differences in definitions and systems across each state and territory of Australia.

Irrespective of how we count and interpret these numbers, child abuse and neglect is one of Australia's most significant and alarming social problems. At its recent Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Australian Medical Association described the problem as a *pandemic*.

With child abuse and neglect reaching pandemic levels, it is critical that we invest wisely across the entire continuum of prevention, protection, and support.

Investing wisely in prevention, protection and support

So how well are we addressing the entire continuum? Without effective investment into prevention, the number of child protection reports may continue to rise as a number of families continue to struggle to raise their children.

With increased demand and need for child protection services, as well as intervention and support at the secondary ("at risk") level and the tertiary level (where maltreatment has already occurred), it is critical that the overall investment into children's welfare is increased and balanced – including appropriate and strategic investments in primary prevention.

A growing evidence base is demonstrating the benefits of primary-level early intervention programs. For example, research in the United States on the cost savings of the Perry Preschool Early Intervention Program showed significant savings from early intervention (primary level) initiatives, with \$7 saved for every \$1 spent (Zigler and Styfco 1996). Savings were measured in the areas of health, welfare, criminal justice, and social security expenditure.

The role of NAPCAN

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse in Australia (NAPCAN) has recently completed a long-term evaluation of its primary prevention activities and role, and has now agreed upon a new strategic direction. These changes are possibly NAPCAN's greatest challenges since it began in 1987.

It has long been understood that "it takes a village to raise a child" (an African proverb). This was echoed in the 2003 theme for National Child Protection Week, "Child Protection is Everybody's Business", and is now reflected in NAPCAN's new vision:

"By 2008 there will be courageous and inspired communities protecting children from abuse and neglect."

NAPCAN's new vision reflects a "whole of community" approach. The National Child Protection Clearinghouse's work on community-based approaches in preventing child maltreatment provides a good summary of the evidence base in this area (Tomison and Wise 1999). This approach has most recently been demonstrated as highly successful in the Windale community which was part of the New South Wales State Government's Hunter Community Renewal Scheme. In 1999, Windale was rated in the worst one per cent of New South Wales postcodes for child abuse. Today, Windale rates in the best 25 per cent (Vinson 2004).

There are also parallels from other areas of social concern that echo similar primary prevention solutions. For example, the National Crime Prevention (1999) Report, *Pathways to Prevention*, argued that the solution to crime was a local, community-based approach to prevention. The Report advocates whole-of-community approaches to the long-term prevention of crime.

Taking a "whole of community" approach to NAPCAN'S work is going to create some new and different challenges. As part of its response to this, in 2004 NAPCAN plans to create a national committee to oversee the development and implementation of National Child Protection Week. The committee will comprise key national leaders from business, government, the community, and the child welfare sector. This approach reflects the goal and need to engage the whole community in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Over the next six months NAPCAN will be developing a strategic plan outlining how it will achieve its vision. This too will be created openly with collaboration from the wider community. A survey has been circulated to more than 5000 "friends of NAPCAN" to invite their views on how NAPCAN can best achieve its vision.

No one denies the challenges that come with working collaboratively. However NAPCAN has worked collaboratively since its inception. It was originally formed to open up lines of communication across the child welfare sector, and increase collaboration and cooperation.

Working together for a child-safe world

The other key piece of NAPCAN's work this year, will be the biennial 15th International ISPCAN Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, auspiced by NAPCAN, to be held in Brisbane from 19–22 September 2004. The theme for the Congress is "Working Together for a Child-Safe World".

The Congress has been fortunate in securing these pre-eminent keynote speakers, Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Dr Astrid Heger, MD FAAP, and Professor Geraldine MacDonald. The congress organising committee has worked to ensure that children and young people have the chance to take part in the Congress. In addition to the 1200 delegates expected to attend the Congress, 40 children and young people from Australia will also be invited to attend.

The Congress will provide a forum for international experts to canvas opinions on how best to shield children from harm, bringing together professionals from around the world to enhance their knowledge, discuss the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect, and network with people from a range of disciplines. It aims to facilitate education and training in prevention and promote and facilitate research and the dissemination of academic and practical materials for exchange of information and action.

To register or for further information, visit the Congress website at www.congress2004.com. Or contact the ISPCAN 2004 Congress Secretariat on 1800 335 413 or registration@icms.com.au.

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Adam Foster Executive Officer NAPCAN

An innovative approach to assessment and intervention to enhance family functioning with families involved in child protection agencies

The Parents Under Pressure Program



Paul H. Harnett, Sharon Dawe and Vanessa Rendalls

It is becoming increasingly recognised that high-risk families require intensive interventions targeting multiple dimensions of functioning (Catalano, Gainey, Fleming, Haggerty and Johnson 1999; Dawe, Harnett, Rendalls and Staiger 2003; Dawe, Harnett, Staiger and Dadds 2000; Luthar and Suchman 2000). For example, Dawe, Harnett, Staiger et al. (2000) summarise a range of risk and protective factors across ecological domains that influence the developmental outcomes of children raised in families with substance abusing parents. The literature on child abuse and neglect has documented the diverse causes of child maltreatment (Belsky 1993; Cicchetti and Carlson 1991; Dawe, Harnett, Staiger et al. 2000; Milner 1998).

The Parents Under Pressure program has been recently developed specifically to address the multiple needs of high-risk families (Dawe, Harnett and Rendalls 2000). This article provides an overview of the program, theoretical influences on its development, and preliminary evidence of efficacy and effectiveness.

The Parents Under Pressure (PUP) program was developed in response to the literature clearly indicating that in addition to parenting skills, high-risk parents have a number of areas of vulnerability that, if left unaddressed, may impede their ability to protect and care for their child (Dawe, Harnett, Staiger et al. 2000). The most salient aspects include the ability to regulate emotions, combating negative views of self and negative mood, problems in parent-child and marital relationships, managing life crises and daily hassles, and the lack of social support.

These problems can lead to a lowered sense of personal efficacy and an avoidant style of problem solving. Thus, the PUP program targets problems of the individual parent(s), the parent-child relationship, family functioning more generally, and the social context and life style of the family, including drug and alcohol use.

Structure and content of the program

A description of each module making up the Parents Under Pressure program is presented in Table 1. The format of the program is conceptualised as structured but non-sequential (SNS) – that is, interventions are structured insofar as each identified problem area is addressed by a manualised intervention. However, the program is non-sequential in that the problems targeted vary from family to family, with the order of presentation determined by the salient presenting problem for the family, as determined in an initial assessment and ongoing monitoring of the family.

In the early stages of intervention, it is common for high-risk parents to report a life crisis or stressor of such magnitude that their attention to a structured intervention is minimal, reducing the likelihood they will derive any benefit from the session. In order to respond appropriately to such crisis situations, the therapists begin each session with an enquiry about immediate concerns. Where they exist, therapists determine whether the issue can be solved or not. If solutions are possible, therapists develop action plans with the dual aim of specifying small manageable steps that will help alleviate the program, and teaching the parent problem solving skills. For crises with no immediate solutions, the aim is to help the parent tolerate the distress associated with the crises sufficiently to enable the parent to meet the emotional needs of the children. In this way the crisis presented by the family becomes a therapeutic opportunity without undermining the integrity of the intervention program.

The PUP program is delivered in families' homes and consists of 12 sessions. The content of the early part of the program addresses the parents' view of themselves as parents, which is typically negative, by encouraging them to acknowledge their parenting abilities. Similarly, parents are encouraged to acknowledge their child's positive attributes. This component of the program highlights the importance of regular child focused play times, and praising their child's pro-social behaviour.

The middle sections of the program typically shift focus to psychological problems and difficulties of the parents – in particular, low mood, anxiety, and emotional regulation. Enhancing coping skills and finding alternatives to drug use are incorporated into sessions and, within the context of a harm minimisation approach, the need to plan instances of illicit drug use to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children is emphasised.

The latter part of PUP focuses on helping parents acquire and consistently employ non-punitive methods for dealing with problem behaviours, including effective limit-setting and non-punitive consequences for unacceptable child behaviour. Finally, parents are encouraged to extend their social supports by recontacting non-drug using friends and engaging with community agencies such as playgroups and child care centres.

Table 1 Parents Under Pressure program: Therapist manual unit topics and purpose

Unit topic	Purpose
Unit 1: Assessment	To obtain quantitative and qualitative information to provide content for the development of a treatment plan.
Unit 2: Assessment feedback and checking out	To develop a shared understanding of the major areas of strengths and areas of difficulties, which leads to a treatment plan and shared goals to work towards.
Unit 3: Challenging the notion of an ideal parent	To help bring about change in the view of self as an inadequate or hopeless parent.
Unit 4: More	To provide parents with skills that will increase parental attending to good behaviour and, in turn, increase their children's good behaviour.
Unit 5: Less	To provide parents with skills to decrease their child's undesirable behaviour to an acceptable level, and decrease the use of highly punitive discipline or physical punishment procedures.
Unit 6: How to under pressure	To help parents to become aware of the relationship between their own emotional state and their parenting practices, and to learn how to regulate emotions and tolerate distress.
Unit 7: Coping with lapse and relapse	To ensure that clients have skills and confidence to minimise lapses to the use of drugs and alcohol, avoid relapse and remain in methadone treatment. Harm minimisation approaches incorporated.
Unit 8: Social support networks	To help parents extend their support networks by modelling social interactions and helping parent(s) prepare for social events that may have been avoided in the past.
Unit 9: Life skills	To develop practical life skills including budgeting, nutrition, health care, obtaining housing etc.
Unit 10: Relationships	To help improve effective communication with current partner and to identify past unproductive relationship patterns.

Theoretical influences

At the level of the individual functioning of the parents, the PUP program uses cognitive behavioural techniques that have been well documented as effective interventions (Beck 1995). The program has also been influenced by Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) that has been successful in intervening with individuals displaying extreme behaviours, including Borderline Personality Disorder and substance misuse problems (Linehan 1993).

While not specifically developed for high-risk parents, this intervention is relevant in targeting individuals displaying severe problems with impulsivity and emotional regulation, manifesting in behaviours such as substance abuse and self-harm, as well as deficits in interpersonal relationships (Linehan et al. 2002; McMair, Korman, and Dimeff, 2001; van den Bosch, Verheul, Schippers, and van den Brink 2002). Such individuals have enormous difficulties in problem solving and tolerating distress in their lives – characteristics displayed by many substance abusing and child maltreating parents (Whipple and Webster-Stratton 1991).

The emphasis on the individual functioning of the parents is consistent with other parenting programs for high-risk families. For example, Luthar and Suchman (2000) describe a multifaceted parenting intervention, the Relational Psychotherapy Mothers' Group (RPMG), with standard care in a sample of mothers on a methadone program with a child under 16 years. In acknowledgement of the high rates of co-morbid psychopathology in substance misusing women, and the impact that this has on the ability both to acquire and then implement parenting strategies, the RPMG intervention emphasises techniques aimed at decreasing the psychological distress of the parents.

At the level of the family, PUP has been influenced by the literature describing the efficacy of behavioural family interventions (Sanders, Markie Dadds, Tully and Bor 2000; Webster-Stratton and Reid 2003). Behavioural family interventions are based on the premise that parent-child interactions, particularly the coercive family processes described by Gerald Patterson (1982), maintain child behaviour problems. Interventions are aimed at interfering with the dysfunctional patterns of behaviour through parent training, including the importance of positive interactions (Forehand and McMahon, 1981), and techniques for non-punitive discipline, such as effective limit settings and time-out.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) includes a powerful and direct intervention through delivery of instructions via an earphone worn by the parent while the parent is playing with their child in an adjacent room. This allows the therapist to guide the parent's interactions with their child and experience the immediate impact of the new interactional style on the dyad relationship (Herschell, Calzada, Eyberg and McNeil, 2002; Urquiza and McNeil 1996). While it is not possible to provide feedback via an ear-bug in the families' homes, PCIT does emphasise the importance of working directly with the parents and the children in play situations. Rather than guiding parents through a microphone, PUP therapists adapt the technique by modelling, prompting and providing feedback on the parent's performance during play sessions with their child in the home setting.

Case example

A case example is presented here to illustrate that, for high-risk parents, parenting interventions should not assume family problems are the inevitable result of deficits in child management skills, but rather that problems can exist across ecological domains.

A mother on a methadone maintenance program who had been referred to the PUP program had been working as a prostitute for two years while the father had been the primary care giver. The child had a good relationship with the father and showed no serious behavioural problems until the mother gave up prostitution and went on methadone.

Following the decrease in income that ensued, the father carried out a burglary, was caught, and sent to prison. The mother became the sole parent and approached services for help in developing her relationship with her child and confidence as a parent. A major focus for her was a concern that she would relapse to heroin use which was, in turn, related to problems in her ability to regulate her emotions. She had limited social contact and support as she was avoiding friends who were continuing illicit drug users. The emphasis on the intervention was on emotional regulation, extending social support networks, and preventing relapse.



Helping parents acquire and consistently employ non-punitive methods for dealing with problem behaviours.

Empirical support for the program

To date, empirical evidence of the Parents Under Pressure program is drawn from a pilot study, a randomised control trial, and a dissemination study. The pilot study (Dawe, Harnett, Rendalls et al. 2003) was undertaken to determine the feasibility of delivering the PUP program. Twelve families were recruited from methadone clinics. Nine of the families were assessed and completed the 12-session program; eight were recontacted at three months. All families reported significant improvements in three domains: parental functioning, parent-child relationships, parental substance use and risk-taking behaviour (Dawe, Harnett, Rendalls et al. 2003). The families reported high levels of satisfaction with the program. The results were encouraging and provided the impetus to evaluate the treatment program as a randomised controlled trial.

A randomised controlled trial commenced in January 2000, funded by the NH&MRC. This study aimed to determine the relative effectiveness of the intensive, multidimensional approach of the PUP program compared to a brief behavioural parenting intervention and standard care in families in which either or both parents are currently enrolled in a methadone maintenance program.



No parenting intervention can claim to be effective with all families, and when working with high-risk families it must be assumed that some will fail to respond.

The intensive program, PUP, was delivered in families' homes and consisted of up to 12 sessions focusing on parental functioning (including psychopathology and proactive problem solving), the parent-child relationship, beliefs about parental adequacy, and life style issues (including engaging support, problem solving and reducing drug abuse). The brief behavioural parenting intervention consisted of two sessions and was delivered in the clinic. Standard care consisted of the current treatment program of once monthly contact with a caseworker. Using measures sensitive to child behaviour (including behavioural observation of parent child interactions), parental functioning and parental substance abuse, pre and post assessment data were consistent with findings obtained in the pilot study with a substantial decrease in problems in all domains in the intensive condition compared to no change in either the Brief or Standard Care condition. These data have been presented at recent conferences (Dawe, Harnett, and Rendalls 2003; Harnett, Dawe, and Rendalls 2002, 2003).

In 2002, NSW Health funded an evaluation of the dissemination of the Parents Under Pressure program in four NSW Health methadone clinics, allowing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program under real-world conditions. Evaluation of the dissemination process has focused on the real-world factors that can potentially limit the efficacy of the PUP program. These include diversity in the professional background and level of experience of clinicians in these settings, relaxed exclusion criteria resulting in a greater diversity in

the client group, organisational and resource constraints, and models of ongoing supervision and support for clinicians. This study is currently in progress, thus outcome data are not currently available. However, the emerging picture is that the program is having some success with retaining parents in the program.

Application of the program

The application of the PUP program to families involved with child protective services has been approached with caution. Our research team is concerned that parents may be mandated to attend parenting programs if it is argued that they are "evidence-based" or "empirically supported" (Chambless and Hollon 1998).

No parenting intervention can claim to be effective with all families, and when working with high-risk families it must be assumed that some will fail to respond to even intensive interventions and ongoing support. Simply attending a parenting program is no guarantee that a parent will benefit from the intervention and is better able to meet the needs of the child. Thus, the PUP program includes ongoing assessment of the parent's response to the program as a core component of the intervention.

An assessment first specifies clear behaviourally defined goals for change and then monitors the motivation and ability of parents to achieve these goals. The assessment of potential to change is carried out to determine the additional and ongoing support the family will require to meet the needs of their children. It should be emphasised that the aim is not necessarily to achieve some minimal level of adequate

parenting (Budd 2001), but rather to clarify the strengths and deficits in the family and to gather evidence that can be used to estimate the family's potential to eventually meet the needs of their children.

For families who have little potential to change, clarifying that change is not possible may be as important a goal for the welfare of the children. For families who do make changes, parenting interventions targeting high-risk families will have made a significant contribution in this difficult area of work.

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KAREN FLANAGAN summarises her recently published paper

Intervention with sexually abusive young people in Australia and New Zealand

This article is a summary of one of three invited papers commissioned for a special issue of the *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, that focused on current interventions with sexually abusive young people.

The journal issue was prompted by an event in the United Kingdom where an 11-year-old boy was murdered by an 18-year-old (DM) who was subsequently convicted of his murder and rape. The rape conviction was subsequently overturned on appeal. The 18-year-old had a long history of time in care and had received specialist residential treatment for sexually aggressive behaviour problems. The case had a very high profile and led to a review of services in the UK for young abusers (see "Childhood Lost" 2001). The review and subsequent report raised, amongst other issues, questions about the progress or lack of service provision for young abusers in the United Kingdom.

The author (Karen Flanagan) was asked by the editors of the *Journal of Sexual Aggression* to read the review report and draw out similarities with the issues faced in Australia and New Zealand, to comment on her experiences of working with young people with sexually abusive behaviours, and to review progress in this developing area of practice.

At the time of writing the article, the author was the Manager of the Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program (SACPP), run by the Children's Protection Society in Melbourne, Victoria. The program, established in 1993, is one of only a few working with victims of sexual abuse and young sexual abusers in a holistic and integrated manner. That is, the service works with all family members and the relevant professional systems that may be involved with the family, such as the education sector, mental health and child protection services. Further, the program takes an integrated approach such that sibling victims and perpetrators are both assessed and treated. This is in contrast to some programs that refer the victims for support elsewhere, focusing attention on the sexually abusive young person.

Overall, the article provides a review of the development and current state of treatment programs for young people with sexually abusive behaviours in Australia and New Zealand (as of 2003). To ensure the accuracy of the assessment, personal contact was made with every relevant service provider in Australian and New Zealand. Each operational program was summarised according to the nature of the program, their target client group, and preferred methods of therapeutic intervention. Evaluation and program outcomes were addressed where information was available.

The main findings of the service review were that in the last decade a growing number of programs have been independently developed and established across Australia and New Zealand. This development can be characterised as relatively uncoordinated and involving limited collaboration between states and countries. This is in part due to geographical challenges and the differing policy agendas operating in different jurisdictions. Further, there was some evidence from the programs that practitioners in this still-emerging field are developing greater confidence as to what works with adolescents engaging in sexually abusive behaviours.

However, a number of significant gaps in service delivery were also identified. These included a lack of services for younger children (aged ten years and under) with sexualised behaviours, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, females, and adolescents with an intellectual disability who engage in sexually abusive behaviours.



The most pressing need articulated by most service providers was for young people to be able to access programs in a timely manner when sexually abusive behaviours are discovered (a resourcing issue), together with the need for the earliest possible identification and intervention with children who engage in sexualised behaviour.

The complexities of the various legal systems were also identified as hindering practice. This related specifically to the issue of mandated versus voluntary clients. While some practitioners take the view that sexually abusive young people should be prosecuted and provided treatment as mandatory clients, others see the need to cater for the needs of voluntary, non-convicted perpetrators. For example, the Children's Protection Society takes both voluntary and involuntary clients, and has had many children and families seek assistance voluntarily. This fits with an early intervention preventative approach to reduce the risk of further abuse/harm being perpetrated. One problem for voluntary clients is that it is more difficult to access services, with mandatory clients taking precedence.

Finally, the need for effective evaluation and ongoing research was noted as a means of accurately determining what works with specific client groups, including both voluntary and non-voluntary clients.

With regard to therapeutic approaches, it was recommended that a holistic approach to the treatment of children and young people engaging in these behaviours be employed, where there is active involvement not only of the young person, but also of their parents and caregivers, in order to sustain change.

The most pressing need articulated by most service providers was for young people to be able to access programs in a timely manner when sexually abusive behaviours are discovered.

Further, the benefits reportedly derived from New Zealand's recent development of a national strategy led to the recommendation that Australian programs should collaborate more effectively in order to drive a national strategy for the ongoing development of programs for children and adolescents with sexually abusive behaviours. It was argued that such a strategy, involving all existing service providers active in the field, could better address the identified service gaps and lead to the development of prevention and early intervention programs that can reduce the incidence of sexual abuse in Australia.

The incentive to work towards this is driven by the knowledge that tragedies such as the DM case can be avoided if young people are identified early and are supported to cease their sexually abusive behaviours in a systematic and holistic manner.

The full paper, entitled "Intervention with sexually abusive young people in Australia and New Zealand", by Karen Flanagan, was published in *the Journal of Sexual Aggression*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 135-149, November 2003, published by Brunner Routledge, Taylor & Francis Health Sciences.

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Child abuse, domestic violence and animal abuse

Considering the links

Nicola Taylor

Research has found that companion animals may be used in a number of ways in the context of family violence.

It is well documented that child abuse often occurs within a web of violence in the home which may include domestic violence. However, it is also becoming increasingly apparent that there are clear links between other forms of violence in the home and the abuse of companion or pet animals. Despite this evidence, until recently there has been a great deal of resistance from all sides to accepting the idea that when addressing family violence there is a need to consider violence which is directed towards the family's companion animal.

Research has found that companion animals may be used in a number of ways in the context of family violence. Cruelty to companion animals may be used to ensure the silence of the victim, to maintain power over the victim, to coerce the victim to do something against her will and/or to punish the victim (Adams 1994; Ascione 1998; Ascione Weber and Wood 1997). Studies report many different types of violence being directed towards the animals of those living in violent family situations: from cats being smacked and kicked; to dogs being thrown off porches; to burying pet dogs alive; and even the sexual abuse of companion animals (Flynn 2000).

Furthermore, it has been shown that companion animals provide emotional comfort to both women and children during psychologically traumatic times and that women will often remain in violent and dangerous situations rather than leave their pet behind with their abuser. One woman explained how she would rather stay in a violent relationship than risk her pet's welfare or hurt her children any further:

"I was a victim of domestic violence for seven and a half years as were my children. We have always had pets and lots of them – they were and still are part of our family. In my case, staying at home and suffering beatings on a daily basis became more acceptable to me than leaving with the children without their pets, for doing that would have broken their hearts, and I would have felt it was my decision to hurt them." (Paws for Kids, unpublished)

Children are often caught up in this conundrum, with threats to their pets being used to maintain their silence. In a 1999 study in the United Kingdom, 50 women entering a refuge (after experiencing violence) were asked about their experiences of harm to their companion animals (*Paws for Kids*, unpublished). Of the 50 women, 66 per cent indicated that their partners had threatened to harm their pets, and 38 per cent indicated that their partners had actually harmed their pets. Further, 74 per cent of the respondents had children and 40 per cent of the children had witnessed threats to, or actual harm to, their pets. In addition, 88 per cent of the women said they had problems sorting out their pet(s) when they were going into a refuge; 58 per cent of the women said that they had had to give up a pet in the past when entering a refuge; and 40 per cent of the women said that they had stayed in a violent relationship because they did not want to leave their pet.

One woman in the the study explained how this affected both her and her children: "On previous occasions I have had to leave my pets behind, which has broke both mine and my children's hearts."



These UK findings mirror those in the United States. For example, Ascione and Weber (1998) surveyed 38 women entering a refuge to escape violence and found that of the 28 who had pets, 71 per cent had experienced their partner either threatening to harm or actually harming their pet. Flynn (2000) found that approximately one-fifth of women significantly delayed leaving their relationship and seeking a place in a shelter because of concern for their companion animal's health and welfare.

In Australia, studies show similar patterns. Twenty-eight women entering a refuge in the outskirts of Melbourne were surveyed, with 44 per cent of them indicating that their abuser had harmed and/or threatened to harm their pet, and 48 per cent said that worry over the fate of their pet was a significant factor in delaying them taking up a refuge place (Fawcett, Gullone and Johnson 2002).

Children who are exposed to violence in the home may also begin to abuse companion animals. The abuse of animals by a child can be a significant indicator that a child has been a victim of abuse themselves (Adams and Donovan 1996). There is also evidence that children who exhibit cruel behaviour toward an animal may go on to abuse humans in adulthood (Flynn 2000). Research has also found that juveniles who admit to having sexually abused animals report more sex offences against humans than other sex offenders their same age and race (Fleming, Jory and Burton 2002).

What are the implications for practice?

The findings outlined above have significant implications for those who work in the field of animal, family and child welfare.

Internationally there has been recognition of the need to assist women and children entering domestic violence refuges to have their pets fostered until they are able to care for them again. There are a number of innovative projects currently dealing with this issue such as *Paws for Kids* in the United Kingdom and *Feminists for Animal Rights* in the United States. Such programs are important for women and children who can make the decision to leave a violent relationship with the knowledge that their pets will also be safe from violence.

If the links between animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse are recognised, work can be done towards the development of a collaborative framework where animal protection officers, including veterinarians, report suspicions of child abuse, and where child abuse investigators report suspicions of animal abuse. In California, there are a number of cross-training and cross-referral programs in operation and animal control officers are forced by law to report any suspicions of child abuse (Arkow 1996).

If Australia introduced a cooperative and multi-agency response to family violence and animal abuse, this may go some way towards early detection and intervention in the cycle of family violence, and the prevention of further violence to the family and the family's companion animals.

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Dr Nicola Taylor is a sociologist at Central Queensland University where she is currently researching the additional service needs of those living in violent relationships who have companion animals, in collaboration with the Queensland Centre for Family Violence Research

Every Child is Important

C A M P A I G N

The Australian Childhood Foundation launched its *Every Child is Important* campaign in Sydney on 15 March 2004.

This is an innovative parenting education initiative which works to prevent child abuse through eliciting a social commitment to children. It uses multi-modal strategies to strengthen positive relationships between parents and children through the provision of parenting information, resources and support at a national level. It also encourages help seeking behaviour by parents through promoting the view that all parents need information and support at some point in their child's development.

The campaign has been funded through the Australian Government's National Agenda for Early Childhood, to be implemented nationally until the end of 2005.

The launch included the release of a report entitled *The Concerns of Australian Parents* based on interviews with a sample of 500 parents nationally. The research was undertaken as a joint project between the Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse at Monash University.

Analysis of the findings highlighted that three in four parents struggled to balance work and family, more than half lacked confidence in their parenting, and approximately 80 per cent wanted more information and support on parenting issues. A significant proportion of parents appeared to associate asking for help with a high degree of stigma which, in turn, acted as a strong deterrent to actually seeking necessary support.

The results also highlighted that parents have a poor understanding of the extent and nature of child abuse in Australia. They appeared to not consider it an issue of concern for them or their children. They needed reminding to place child abuse on a list of community concerns.

The campaign uses a health promotion model to enhance developmental outcomes for children through resourcing parents. It features creative television, radio and print advertising using the evocative Van Morrison song, *Have I told you lately that I love you*.

It includes the following key elements:

- an interactive website for parents' and children's services providers;
- forty parenting seminars around Australia with Michael Grose;
- the distribution of half a million free parenting booklets;
- free CD-ROM with parenting information in eight languages;
- free Every Child is Important Parenting Newsletter;
- updates about research on child development and parenting; and
- opportunities for services to promote local parenting activities and support programs.

Information about the campaign can be found at www.kidscount.com.au. Requests for campaign resources can also be made by phoning the Every Child is Important national campaign helpline on 1800 176 453.

Child Abuse Hurts Us All

C A M P A I G N

The Australian Childhood Foundation, in conjunction with the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse, has launched the *Child Abuse Hurts Us All* campaign.

The campaign, launched at Parliament House, Hobart, on Wednesday 5 May 2004, is a major new community education and awareness initiative, funded and supported by the Tasmanian Government for implementation in Tasmania in 2004-2005.

The campaign uses innovative advertising elements and education strategies to deepen the commitment by the general community to the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children from harm associated with abuse and family violence.

Information about the campaign can be found at www.stopchildabuse.com.au.



Women's Safety after Separation Project

The *Women's Safety After Separation Project* is a joint effort between the National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children and the Australian Coalition of Women Against Violence.

Research by the Family Court of Australia and the Family Law Council, as well as a number of other researchers, has highlighted concerns that the intersection of federal and state jurisdictions in matters in the Family Court involving allegations of violence and abuse fails to recognise the serious risks to the safety of women and children (Brown, Sheehan, Frederico and Hewitt 2001; Rhoades, Graycar and Harrison 1999).

This research indicates that women who leave relationships where they have been subject to abuse and violence are at risk of escalated violence. Some women may experience difficulty in achieving safety for themselves and their children in negotiating children's matters after separation in the context of current system provisions. While the Family Court, counselling and mediation agencies, and state child protection departments provide some services for families, the research confirms that abuse and violence of women and children can continue post-separation (Brown et al. 2001; Rhoades, Graycar and Harrison 1999).

The consequences for women may be numerous, adverse and severe. They include: higher risks of continuing violence and abuse of themselves and their children; the high cost of legal action; the significant time demands required to undertake legal action and to respond to other relevant agencies; greater health risks arising from exposure to violence and abuse; anxiety and depression from being unable to protect their children; and the added stress and concern for their distressed children (Rendell, Rathus, and Lynch 2000).

Survivors of violence and abuse begin recovery when they are in a safe and secure setting, when their rights to safety are recognised, and there is an absence of danger. However, women who are continually being re-exposed to danger both directly, and through their children, are in the difficult position of being unable to recover or to achieve safety (Rendell, Rathus and Lynch 2000).

What is required is the development of more effective and accessible resources and approaches by the criminal justice and family law systems in order to better meet the needs of women and their families subjected to violence and abuse.

Project aims

The *Women's Safety After Separation Project* focuses on cases involving violence and abuse and aims to:

- develop a network of organisations assisting women negotiating children's matters after separation;
- develop resources to support individuals and organisations assisting women negotiating children's matters after separation;
- identify policy approaches to support women negotiating children's matters after separation;
- publish a web-based resource for access by individuals and organisations supporting women negotiating children's matters after separation;
- support research into assisting women negotiating children's matters after separation; and
- provide a continuing focal point for the support of individuals and organisations assisting women negotiating children's matters after separation.

Anticipated project outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of the *Women's Safety After Separation Project* are as follows:

- the formalisation and extension of the National Abuse Free Contact campaign;
- an e-list network of organisations and individuals supporting women to negotiate children's matters after separations involving violence and abuse;
- a virtual web-based resource with downloadable materials, references and links to assist individuals and organisations supporting women to negotiate children's matters after separations involving violence and abuse;
- increased capacity of organisations and individuals supporting women to negotiate children's matters after separations involving violence and abuse; and
- system reforms to reduce women's exposures to violence and abuse of themselves and their children through the Family law system.

The hidden dynamics of domestic violence

A commonly held community myth is that domestic violence is only physical abuse. *Through New Eyes: Exploring the Hidden Dynamics of Domestic Violence* is a new resource that aims to increase awareness of the non-physical violence, such as emotional abuse, that is also a facet of domestic violence. In homes where domestic violence occurs, children exposed to it are also at risk of suffering psychological and emotional abuse, which can happen without actual physical abuse.

Supported by the New South Wales Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, *Through New Eyes* is designed to "open Australia's eyes to the insidious nature of emotional abuse as a core component in domestically violent relationships," says Carol Skye, Project Manager, Hunter Women's Centre.

Through New Eyes consists of four videos, a CD ROM and detailed facilitator handbook. The video package explores the emotional, verbal, psychological, social, financial and sexual aspects of domestic violence. It is a generic resource designed for use across a range of human services, education and business, including universities, TAFEs, welfare, health and police.

The *Through New Eyes Video Package* comprises: Video One – "More than just physical"; Video Two – "Barriers to leaving"; Video Three – "Wising up"; Video Four – "Continuous play"; CD ROM – Video One and Two. A "Facilitator handbook", which discusses the aims of each section, step-by-step strategies, learning outcomes, and possible discussion questions and answers, is also included.

The cost (including GST) of the *Through New Eyes* resource is: For-profit organisations: \$385.
Not-for-profit organisations: \$275.
Postage and handling is \$15.

For further information, contact:
Nadine Tisdell, Through New Eyes Project Worker.
Phone: (02) 4968 2511 Fax: (02) 4968 2975.
Email: hwc_nt@yahoo.com.au.
Web: throughneweyes.tripod.com

Consultation

Consultation has been underway between NCSMC and the Australian Coalition of Women Against Violence in developing the project proposal. The proposal draws on continuing discussions between other groups – including the National Women’s Justice Coalition, the Women’s Services Network, the Abuse Free Contact Group (Qld), community health and family support services, women’s legal services, the Family Court of Australia, the Family Law Council, legal services commissions across Australia, and the Office for the Status of Women at both state and federal levels, which have enabled the development and extension of the National Abuse Free Contact Campaign.

These consultations have further highlighted the importance of developing an initiative that would better enable women to express their needs in relation to Family Law Court matters involving children. In sum, it is argued that the family law system does not adequately recognise the risks to the safety of women and children who have been subject to violence and abuse, potentially putting women and children at further risk.



It is argued that the failure of the family law system does not adequately recognise the risks to the safety of women and children who have been subject to violence and abuse.

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For further details, contact: Coordinator *Marie Hume*. Email: marie@ncsmc.org.au. Project worker *Heather Joy*. Email: heather@ncsmc.org.au. National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, Torrens Building, 220 Victoria Square, Adelaide 5000. Phone: (08) 8226 2505.

Childhood sexual abuse and women’s experiences of pregnancy, birth and mothering



A report has been published by the South Australian Women’s Health Statewide entitled: *For the first time somebody wants to hear: Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse*. Written by Tanja Stojadinovic, the report is designed to be used as an information resource for health professionals who work with women during pregnancy, birth and mothering.

This report shares the stories about the experiences of pregnancy, birth, mothering and the health system of women survivors of childhood sexual abuse across South Australia. These experiences and the issues raised were compared with those documented in the literature and a set of recommendations were developed.

Medical and health workers were also consulted about their opinions about what resources and information they would need in order to assist them work more effectively with women survivors of child sexual abuse.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from www.whs.sa.gov.au/pages/publications

For more information contact Women’s Health Statewide. Phone: (08) 8239 9600. Email: info@whs.sa.gov.au

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for workers in the child protection/child welfare area

This list was developed in response to queries from readers interested in finding out about professional development or training courses available for workers in the child protection/child welfare area. Information about these courses has been obtained from a variety of sources and was correct at the time of printing, however, the list is by no means comprehensive. To find out more about particular courses, please contact the respective providers. COMPILED BY NICK RICHARDSON.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRE (QEC)

Phone: (03) 9549 2777
Website: www.qec.org.au

Preparing yourself to give evidence in court

Date: 17 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

Society is becoming increasingly litigious, and being prepared for a court appearance is a necessity. This workshop was conducted in 2003, and is repeated due to popular request. The workshop will prepare you to know what to expect from a court appearance, and provide practical strategies if subpoenaed as an expert witness. Your apprehension will be reduced, allowing you to give evidence confidently and professionally.

Koori parenting

Date: 11 November 2004, 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

Wanjana Lidj means "to hold a child" or "to hold children". This presentation will be in Koori Talk format rather than a lecture, and will cover practical strategies on how to develop working relationships with Koori families.

Child development in the 0-5s

Date: 9 December 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137 (Light lunch provided)
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

A workshop designed for child protection workers, foster carers, family support workers, and early childhood workers. Normal development will be discussed together with indicators of delay and when to refer.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

Phone: (03) 9874 3922
Website: www.aaca.com.au/events/workshops.asp

Working with abuse related trauma in children

Date: 14 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Hobart);
16 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Devonport)
Cost: \$120
Location: Hobart, Devonport (Tasmania)

This workshop will explore the consequences of abuse and family violence on the development of a child's sense of self, relationships, confidence and abilities. Participants will have the opportunity to develop enhanced skills in working with children who have experienced abuse and trauma and explore strategies to promote their recovery. This workshop will promote participants' skills and knowledge in understanding, communicating with and responding to children who have experienced abuse or family violence.

Disrupted connections: Working with children who have experienced trauma and attachment difficulties

Date: 15 July, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

Most child abuse occurs in the context of a relationship or intimacy. It is not uncommon for children who have experienced abuse to experience fear, mistrust or ambivalence about interpersonal closeness. This workshop will explore attachment theory and the implications for a child's development, particularly in the context of a traumatic environment. This work is drawn from the writings of Bowlby, Stern and Ainsworth and rests on the assumption that early relationships are a formative influence on character.

Pieces of the puzzle: Caring for children with challenging behaviours in foster or residential care

Date: 19 July, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

Children and young people who enter child protection systems requiring foster care have invariably experienced significant abuse-related trauma. This trauma results in these children presenting with a range of complex needs and challenging behaviours. Their behaviours often result in them being deemed "difficult to place in foster care". Placements can be difficult to maintain. They can experience many placement breakdowns and changes or spend extended time in residential care. This workshop is aimed at providing foster carers and residential care staff with a framework

for understanding the impact of abuse-related trauma on children's development, capacity to form relationships and behaviours. Participants will explore appropriate responses to children's complex needs and challenging behaviours.

Child abuse trauma and brain development: Developing an orientation for effective practice in the protection, placements and support of abused children

Date: 30 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

This workshop will explore the most recent research on the impact of abuse-related trauma on brain development, provide a framework for understanding the consequences of abuse for a child's cognitive, social and emotional functioning and explore implications for practice.

Ending the silence: Engaging with children and young people in the process of recovery from sexual abuse

Date: 9 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

The trauma associated with experiences of sexual abuse can have profound and lasting consequences. This workshop will draw on psychotherapeutic and postmodern ideas to understand the impact of trauma on a child or young person's thoughts, feelings and behaviour and provide strategies for facilitating a process of recovery.

In the best interests of the child: Assessing children and families in the context of family law disputes

Date: 1 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Hobart, Tasmania

Professionals who work with children and/or parents of separated families are often called upon to provide assessments that may be used within the context of a family law dispute. This workshop will explore common dynamics of such families as well as aspects of family law that impact on professional assessments. It will consider relevant assessment frameworks and explore skills and strategies required to undertake such assessments and provide evidence within the Family Court.

Treating intangible trauma: Promoting growth and recovery for children who have experienced emotional and psychological abuse

Date: 8 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Melbourne); 12 November 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Hobart).
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Melbourne); Hobart.

This workshop aims to increase participants' knowledge about the ways in which the harm experienced by children who have suffered emotional and psychological abuse can be treated. It is based on insights drawn from the GREAT (Growth and Recovery from Emotional Abuse and Traumatized) Kids Program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation with the support of the Telstra Foundation.

Using stories to heal: Narrative therapy with children, young people and families who experience abuse

Date: 21-22 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$230
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

Stories are powerful meaning making strategies for children, young people and their families. This two-day workshop offers the opportunity for participants to examine how personal life stories are influenced by abuse and family violence, the emergence of identity through stories, how stories can be used to heal and techniques for encouraging story-telling in therapy with children, young people and their families.



CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE TRAINING

Phone: (02)9281 8820
Website: www@acwa.asn.au

PANOC core training

Dates: 4, 5, 6 August 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$330/\$300 CCWT Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

Physical abuse and neglect affects children of all ages across cultures. This three-day workshop will look at the indicators of physical abuse and neglect of children and young people. Participants will be given the opportunity to develop tools for working with parents and children as well as an understanding of the notification process and some basic knowledge of risk assessment. The course will also address issues

of prevention and intervention through direct client work, interagency collaboration and consultation.

Child protection for children with disabilities

Dates: 9 August 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm
Cost: \$110/\$100 CCWT Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

Abuse and neglect is a universal issue that has the potential to affect all children and young people. However research suggests that children with disabilities are at even greater risk of being maltreated than children without disabilities. Why is this the case, and what can be done to prevent maltreatment of children with disabilities? This course examines the particular risk of abuse for vulnerable children and young people with disabilities. The relevant parts of the Children and Young People (Care and Protection) Act 1998, and information about the child protection system are covered as well as how to recognise signs and indicators of abuse. Practical ways of keeping children and carers safe will be addressed.

Child protection merry-go-round: Managing responsibilities and anxieties

Dates: 30, 31 August 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm (Sydney); 14, 15 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm (Ballina)
Cost: \$370
Location: Sydney; Ballina (NSW)

People working with children know that their legal child protection responsibilities have changed significantly since the introduction in 2000 of the Children and Young Person (Care and Protection) Act 1998. However working with children and young people at risk of harm can be anxiety provoking; workers can often feel lost and unsure what to do within a system which can be less than perfect. This course explains worker's legal child protection responsibilities and explores ways to support children and young people at risk of harm. The importance of managing worker anxiety and its impact on practice will also be discussed. Those who have attended "What's New in Child Protection" will find some parts of this course are revisited.

Choose with care

Dates: 7 September 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm (Coffs Harbour); 9 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm (Tamworth)
Cost: \$110/\$100 CCWA Members
Location: Coffs Harbour; Tamworth (NSW)

This one-day Choose With Care training program will assist participants to develop strategies which minimise the risk of child abuse occurring within their organisation. The training will be conducted as an interactive workshop building on local knowledge and needs. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences to maximise learning outcomes and ensure the Choose With Care strategies can be applied in a variety of settings. There will be small and large

group discussions, powerpoint presentations and practical examples using the trainers' experiences.

Child protection core training

Dates: 8, 9, 10 December 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$330/\$300 CCWA Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

This three-day program, designed for workers with children, young people and families, will look at both CSA and PANOC. The course will cover: definitions and the context and dynamics surrounding CSA, physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, and domestic violence; indicators of abuse and abuse co-factors; potential impacts of childhood abuse including specific impacts on a child/young person's development; and child protection system responses including mandatory reporting to DoCS and the roles and responsibilities of government and community agencies.

SOCIAL OPTIONS AUSTRALIA

Phone: (08) 8177 2061
Website: www.soa.com.au/

Managing aggressive clients

Dates: 30 August, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$160 includes lunch
Location: Fullarton SA

An intensive workshop aimed at those who find themselves dealing with difficult customers and difficult situations. A hands on approach with practical tips, exercises and discussion which can be put to work as soon as the workshop is over. Bring your difficult situation to the workshop for analysis and action, which will bring out the best in you, your organisation and your customers.

Designing and evaluating programs

Dates: 21 June 2004 *or* 1 November 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$160 includes lunch
Location: Fullarton SA

Designing Human Service Program requires a set of skills, which are easily achieved once the concepts and basic steps are put into operation. Program evaluation can very easily be incorporated into the process from the beginning. Participants will be led through this using techniques including Program Logic, a simple yet rigorous tool which can be used either as a planning tool for a program or as tool for planning an evaluation. Participants work through relevant examples and will then work with their own material to begin designing their own program design and evaluation

Nick Richardson is a Project Officer with the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

If you wish to have forthcoming conferences or events listed in the National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter, and on the Australian Institute of Family Studies web pages, please send details to conferences@aifs.gov.au.

Victimisation of children and youth Portsmouth, New Hampshire, US

11–14 July 2004

This International Research Conference will be conducted by the Family Research Laboratory and Crimes Against Children Research Centre, University of New Hampshire and co-sponsored by The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute, San Diego, CA.

Further information: Email sarahg@cisunix.unh.edu. Web: www.unh.edu/fri/conference2003/index/

Early childhood international links Melbourne, Vic

.521–24 July 2004

This XXIV World Congress of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education is a unique opportunity to highlight its concern for early childhood development across the world. The overall theme of the Congress is "One World: Many Childhoods". The program will provide opportunities to explore issues such as children in difficult circumstances, innovation in service delivery, indigenous children's needs and services, and children's health and social services. Participants will be challenged to think carefully about the types of programs delivered to young children.

Further information: The Meeting Planners, 91-97 Islington Street, Collingwood, Vic 3066. Phone: (03) 9417 0888. Fax: (03) 9417 0899. Email: omep@meetingplanners.com.au. Web: www.omepaustralia.com.au/

National child and family services conference Sydney, NSW

2–4 August 2004

Knowledge into Action! Effective Practice for Child and Family Services – this conference will have streamed sessions on: out of home care for children and young people; working with Indigenous children, families and communities; supporting families – prevention and intervention; and participation of children and young people.

Further information: Sharon Low, Conference Organiser, Matrix On Board. Email: sharyn@mob.com.au. Phone: (02) 4572 3079. Fax: (02) 4572 3972. Web: www.acwa.asn.au/conf2004/

Abuse of children Hollywood, CA, US

4–7 August 2004

The 12th Annual Colloquium of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) is a

major source of education and research necessary for professionals in the field of child maltreatment, including: mental health, medicine and nursing, law, law enforcement, education, prevention, and child protective services.

Further information: Tricia Williams, PO Box 26901, CHO 3B3406, Oklahoma City, OK 73190. Phone: (405) 271-8202 Fax: (405) 271-2931 Email: Tricia-Williams@ouhsc.edu. Web: www.apsac.org

Infant, child and adolescent mental health Gold Coast, Qld

September 2004

The Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association has announced that the 5th National Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2004 MHS Conference. The conference theme is "Harvesting hope across the lifespan".

Further information: Web: www.aicafmha.net.au/conferences/goldcoast2004/index/

Shaken baby syndrome Montreal

12-15 September 2004

The First North American / Fifth National Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome will provide participants with many educational, networking and social opportunities through keynote and panel presentations, workshop sessions, specialised training institutes, exhibits and receptions. Two additional full-day training institutes are planned, a mock trial of a SBS case, and a prevention institute.

Further information: Steven Franks, National Centre on Shaken Baby Syndrome, 2955 Harrison Blvd., Ste. 102, Ogden, UT, 84403. Email: sefranks@mindspring.com. Web: www.dontshake.com.

Child abuse and neglect Brisbane, Qld

19-22 September 2004

NAPCAN is hosting the 15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in partnership with ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect). The Congress theme is "Working Together for a Child Safe World".

Further information: ISPCAN 2004 Congress Secretariat, ICMS (Qld) Pty Ltd, PO Box 3496, South Brisbane Qld 4101. Phone: (07) 3844 1138. Fax: (07) 3844 0909. Email: ispcan2004@icms.com.au. Web: www.congress2004.com/

**Family violence
San Diego, California**

19–22 September 2004

The title of the 9th International Conference on Family Violence is “Working Together to End Abuse: Advocacy, Assessment, Intervention, Research, Prevention, and Policy”. Conference co-hosts are: Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI), San Diego, CA; Children’s Institute International (CII), Los Angeles, CA; and Alliant International University (AIU). The conference will be preceded by training institutes and workshops.

Further information: Web: www.fvsai.org/

**The critical early childhood years
Melbourne, Vic**

1–2 October 2004

This is the 3rd National Conference from the Queen Elizabeth Centre, an early parenting centre with an 85-year history of supporting and educating parents. Titled “The Critical Early Childhood Years: Rethinking

Current Interventions and Strategies”, the conference themes are: Care and education in early childhood; New understandings of early childhood; High needs families and high-risk infants; Prevention and early intervention for parents and children: building competence; Early parenting education.

Further information: Gini Solutions, PO Box 123, East Kew Vic 3102. Phone: (03) 9859 5508. Mobile: 0419 178 138. Fax: (03) 9859 0519. Email: giniolutions@bigpond.com. Web: www.qec.org.au/

**Foster care
Canberra, ACT**

29–31 Oct 2004

Papers are invited for the National Foster Care Conference, which has the theme “Walking Together: People, Policy and Practice”. Papers will be grouped under four sub-themes: Facilitating co-operation; People; Policy; and Practice.

Further information: Web: www.fostercare.org.au/national/

NEW RESOURCE

Helping young people get involved in meetings about their lives



“Everybody should have a say in what they do in their life.” (John, 12 years)

Meeting together – deciding together is a new practical resource to help adults involve children and young people in meetings where decisions about their lives are made.

Adults often have formal meetings to make decisions about what will happen in the life of a child or young person. It could be a meeting about a child’s or young person’s legal, health or housing needs, or a regular case-planning meeting for a young person in care.

Whatever the circumstances, it is important that the child or young person has the opportunity and support to have their say about what they would like to happen. *Meeting together – deciding together* has lots of practical ideas and exercises to make it easier for adults to help children and young people “have a say” in meetings. It looks at how to prepare for a meeting, how to support the young person’s participation during the meeting, and how to follow-up after the meeting.

Children and young people helped to write the resource, contributing their great ideas and practical suggestions.

Meeting together – deciding together is the third part of the New South Wales Commission for Children and Young People’s *TAKING PARTicipation seriously* kit. The kit also includes *Sharing the Stage*, which helps organisations involve young people in decision-making, and *Conferences and Events*, which helps organisations plan and organise events so young people can participate fully.

***Meeting together – deciding together*, along with other parts of the *TAKING PARTicipation seriously* kit, can be downloaded free from www.kids.nsw.gov.au/publications/taking.html or purchased in hard-copy by contacting the Commission for Children and Young People. Phone (02) 9286 7276. Email: kids@kids.nsw.gov.au.**

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The following selections from new additions to the Clearinghouse collection over the last six months may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library, via the interlibrary loan system. COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER.

Aboriginal families

A further perspective on kinship care: Indigenous foster care, by M. McHugh, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 8, Summer, 2003, pp. 14-24.

In light of the increasing reliance on kinship care of Indigenous children, the author examines the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous care and the resulting difficulties facing carers and the Indigenous agencies supporting them. The implementation of the Aboriginal (and Islander) Child Placement Principle (ACPP), intended to redress previous policies such as the forced removal of Indigenous children, is examined across each state, with increased compliance in most States noted for 2001-2002.

The human rights of Australia's Indigenous children: Pandora, how do we open the box? by J. Hammill, *Social Alternatives*, vol. 22, no. 3, Third Quarter, 2003, pp. 27-31.

Although the human rights of Australia's children are enshrined in the policy documents of governments, services and other educational organisations, in reality they have limited application. This paper highlights some of the main omissions of children's rights that adversely direct life outcomes for children who are unfortunate to fit within certain categories, particularly those children who are marginalised by their social and racial background.

Legal and political responses to the Stolen Generation: Lessons from Ireland, by C. Cunneen, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol. 5, no. 27, September 2003, pp. 14-19.

In Ireland political and legal actions have been taken since the 1990s to provide compensation to victims of the formerly widespread child removal practices and associated child abuse. The author describes the historical and legal background to these claims for compensation, the role of the Church, and the response of the government and the courts. While not suggesting that the Irish situation is directly comparable with that of the Stolen Generation, nor that the Irish response could be directly applied in Australia, the author does applaud the Irish government's commitment to acknowledging a past institutionalised wrong and addressing the concept of reparation.

Behaviour problems

Sexual abuse, antisocial behaviour and substance use: Gender differences in young community adolescents, by H.A. Bergen et al., *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 38, nos. 1 and 2, January-February 2004, pp. 34-41.

This article investigates gender specific relationships between self reported sexual abuse, antisocial behaviour and substance use in a large community sample of adolescents. A cross sectional study of students between 13 and 14 years of age from 27 schools in South Australia was undertaken, with a questionnaire including sexual abuse, frequency and severity of substance use, depressive symptomatology and antisocial behaviour. (Journal abstract, edited)

Child development

Atypical child development in context, by J.M. Empson, D. Nabuzoka & D. Hamilton, Houndmills, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

"This book considers the important issues of 'normality' and 'atypicality' in child development . . . With case studies throughout, this book offers the reader an understanding of the circumstances and conditions associated with children experiencing difficulties in development." (Cover)

Child neglect

Assessing child neglect, by R.M. Gershater-Molko, J.R. Lutzker & J.A. Sherman, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol. 8, no. 6, November/December, 2003, pp. 563-585.

This paper reviews the current tools which are used to measure the risk factors for child neglect. Two case studies are presented. The paper concludes with a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the current assessment process and offers suggestions for improvements in this process.

Child sexual abuse

Claimsmakers in the child sexual abuse "wars": Who are they and what do they want?, by J. Mildred, *Social Work*, vol. 48, no. 4, October, 2003, pp. 492-503.

This article discusses the range of different opinions and perspectives that have formed around the issue of child sexual abuse. Debates about child sexual abuse take place in the arena of larger social, political and scientific contexts. Social workers need to be trained so they can understand how the moral and political beliefs of researchers may influence both the research design and the research findings.

Differences in trauma symptoms and family functioning in intra- and extrafamilial sexually abused adolescents, by S. Bal et al., *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19 no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 101-123.

This study investigated whether abuse-related symptoms and family functioning were associated with

intra- or extrafamilial sexual abuse of adolescents. Findings indicated no difference in the abuse-related symptoms between the two groups. Lack of family cohesion, however, was found to contribute to internalising trauma-related problems.

Governing child sexual abuse: Negotiating the boundaries of public and private, law and science, by S. Ashenden, Routledge, London, 2004.

"The turn of the 1990s saw a number of high profile public inquiries into the handling of child sexual abuse cases in Great Britain. This book examines the implications of these inquiries on the regulation of relationships between families and the state . . . In particular, drawing on the work of Foucault and Habermas, it looks at: the liberal constitution of a boundary between public and private spheres, the legal and scientific determination of legitimate intervention, the relation between democracy and expertise in the governance of social life." (Book jacket)

What is child sexual abuse? Rethinking what we know, by J. Southwell, Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre, Collingwood, Vic, 2003.

Child sexual abuse has come to be a widely discussed issue, with most people assuming that they fully understand the issue. This discussion paper seeks to question such assumptions by analysing the meaning given to child sexual abuse and how such meaning informs perception and response to the issues. Terms discussed include incest, pedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, rape and sexual assault. The discussion includes consideration of the historical and theoretical frameworks of the meaning.

Costs

Financing medically-oriented child protection teams in the age of managed health care: A national survey, by A.P. Giardino, L.A. Montoya & J.M. Leventhal, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 28, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 25-44.

In this article the direct and indirect costs of child abuse are estimated. Results were compared with a similar survey in 1993.

Cross cultural studies

Child sexual abuse in Europe, co-ordinated by C. May-Chahal & M. Herczog, Council of Europe Pub, Strasbourg, France, c2003.

Drawing on case studies of child sexual abuse in Germany, Poland, Romania and England, this book discusses the prevention measures already adopted and the key issues still facing policy makers and practitioners in Europe.

Domestic violence

An analysis of current Australian program initiatives for children exposed to domestic violence, by K. Kovacs & A.M. Tomison, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 38, no. 4, November, 2003, pp. 513-539.

While services have been assisting women who have been victims of domestic violence for many years, it

has only been in recent times, that children exposed to domestic violence have begun to receive attention by service providers as clients in their own right. A number of specialised programs have now been designed to meet the needs of these children by domestic violence services and agencies that have a child protection or child welfare/family support focus. This paper aims to describe the types of programs currently in operation across Australia which cater specifically for the needs of children who have been exposed to domestic violence by analysing programs listed on the Child Abuse Prevention Programs Database developed by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. (Journal abstract, edited)

Making links: Domestic violence, child abuse and harm to companion animals, by N. Taylor, *Queensland Centre for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Newsletter*, vol. 2, no. 2, December, 2003, pp. 8-9.

This article discusses research showing links between domestic violence and animal cruelty. Companion animals may be subjected to violence by perpetrators of domestic violence; victims of child abuse may also turn to abusing animals. Another link between family pets and domestic violence is the reluctance women often feel to leave their pet when escaping from violence, delaying their seeking help at a refuge. The author argues for a collaborative framework to encourage animal welfare, child welfare and family welfare agencies to work together to detect and prevent family violence.

Silence breeds violence: Bursting the bubble on family violence, by D. Light, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 4, Summer, 2003, pp. 18-20.

The author discusses growing up with family violence, drawing on her personal experience as a child in a family with a violent father. She believes that women and children's silence about violence in the home must stop, to allow victims of violence and abuse to live without fear. Some effects of violence on young people are discussed, particularly that children may learn from their parents to associate violence with family relationships.

Evaluations

The Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment revisited, by V. Totsika & K. Sylva, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 25-35.

This article evaluates the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) scale. HOME has been successfully used to evaluate interventions and has been used extensively in research into the relationship between home environment and child development.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start local programs in England, by The NESS Research Team, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 2-8.

This article describes the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) programs. Sure Start local programs are comprehensive, community-based projects that are adapted to local needs and involve changes to existing services. NESS addresses the following questions: Do existing services change? Are delivered services improved? Do children, families and communities benefit?

An overview of research methodology in the development of family-focused treatment programs, by P. Harnett & S. Dawe, in R. Sullivan (ed.) *Focus on fathering*, Australian Council for Educational Research, Camberwell, Vic. 2003, pp. 191-210.

Program and service evaluation is increasingly popular in the area of family support services. The authors present an overview of research methodology, including single case designs, for practitioners who wish to evaluate the effectiveness of their own clinical practice, group designs, issues of measurement, and distinguishing efficacy and effectiveness research. They then discuss the development and evaluation of the Parents Under Pressure program, which was developed for multi problem, high risk parents.

Failure to thrive

Children who fail to thrive: A practice guide, by D. Iwaniec, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, England, 2004.

"The author has carried out the longest ever study on failure to thrive, following up on 198 clinical cases after a 20-year period. This extensive practical guide includes: numerous checklists and other instruments for use in assessment, four chapters on intervention and treatments, with a particular focus on multidisciplinary approaches, a comprehensive literature review alongside original research data, case studies drawn from the author's lengthy clinical experience." (Cover)

Family support services

The child in family services: Expanding child abuse prevention, by S. Wise, *Australian Social Work*, vol. 56, no. 3, September, 2003, pp. 83-196.

Child welfare concerns have drifted to an inappropriate focus on crisis intervention and a punitive approach to child protection intervention at the expense of community based preventive child welfare programs. Recent attempts to divert cases from the child protection system through differentiated response mechanisms have been criticised for failing to provide access to relevant services or preventing vulnerable families from re entering the child protection process. A tension inherent in providing both child protection and family support within the one agency is also identified as a barrier to effective service delivery. This paper discusses the value of the UK Children in Need approach as a model for enhancing support to children and families outside the statutory child protection system. (Journal abstract)

Evaluating family support: Thinking internationally, thinking critically, edited by I. Katz & J. Pinkerton, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, England, c2003.

"The delivery of effective family support is a key global child welfare issue, yet there is little consensus on what constitutes family support or what the best ways are to evaluate it . . . This book presents the current state of critical thinking alongside detailed international case studies." (Jacket)

Protecting children by strengthening families: A study of outcomes of intervention through children's family centres, by E. Fernandez, University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW, 2003.

This project, funded by the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Research Program, examined how a range of family support interventions provided by Barnardos Australia impacted on a number of at risk families in the areas of family functioning and parent child relationships and reduced involvement with child protective services. A range of families participated in the program, with all of them considered "at risk". It was found that over the six month project period, family functioning improved across several areas. The report provides the background to the study and discusses the profile of needs and circumstances of the families, the needs of the families and the children at the initial and six month assessments, and the perspectives of parents and workers on the impact of family support interventions.

Fathers' role

Evaluating a statewide home visiting program to prevent child abuse in at-risk families of newborns: Father's participation and outcomes, by A. Duggan et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 3-17.

This study explored the impact of a home visiting program on fathers' parenting skills. No difference in relation to the fathers' accessibility to the child, engagement in parenting activities or sharing responsibility for the child's welfare was noted.

Foster care

The experience of foster care: Relationship between foster parent disciplinary approaches and aggression in a sample of young foster children, by M. Tripp De Robertis & A.J. Litrownik, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 92-102.

This study discusses the theory that the disciplinary practices of foster parents may influence the aggressive behaviour of the children in their care. Kinship foster parents were found to be more likely than non-related carers to use harsh punishment.

Protecting children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care, Crime and Misconduct Commission, Brisbane, 2004.

The following key questions were considered by the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission's Inquiry under its terms of reference: Is the current system of responding to and dealing with allegations of abuse effective and sufficient to protect children,

including children in foster care? Is the Department of Families able to meet its obligations to protect children, including foster children, from abuse? Are foster carers adequately selected, trained, resourced, supported and monitored? Can accountability, complaint and review processes be improved? Are the needs of Indigenous children in foster care being adequately met? Are there alternatives to, or modifications of, family-based foster care that might better meet the future needs of children? The report provides details about the Inquiry and its background and procedures; relates some of the key themes and issues arising from the evidence before the public inquiry; outlines the Commission's recommended approach for responding to the needs of children in general, and those in the care of the state in particular; proposes a new Department of Child Safety and outlines its key operational features, and how it would operate with other relevant agencies. Also examined are some particular issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities who come into contact with the child protection system. A separate summary report is also available.

Grandparents

Grandparents raising grandchildren: A new class of disadvantaged Australians?, by M. Fitzpatrick & P. Reeve, *Family Matters*, no. 66, Spring/Summer, 2003, pp. 54-57.

This paper discusses some of the findings of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren study, conducted by COTA National Seniors (Australia). The study explored grandparents' views on their existing support mechanisms; what additional support they may require; the financial and legal issues they may be facing; and any concerns they may have about the wellbeing of their grandchildren. The authors state that the study has shown a failure of community support systems in regard to grandparents raising grandchildren. This failure has profound impacts on the lives of both grandparents and grandchildren – in the present and for the future.

Interagency collaboration

If it's such a good idea, how come it doesn't work? The theory and practice of integrated service delivery, by N. Atwool, *Children's Issues*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2003, pp. 31-35.

Integrated or joined up service delivery has been on the agenda for health, welfare, education, police and justice services for a number of years. At the policy level, it makes sense in terms of preventing overlap and ensuring the most effective use of resources. At the practice level, there is ample anecdotal evidence of the perils of uncoordinated multiagency involvement with families. In recent years there have been a number of national and regional initiatives based on the concept of integrated service delivery. Experience has demonstrated that these endeavours are often fraught with difficulty. This paper explores the obstacles to providing joined-up services. (Journal abstract, edited)

Legislation

Emergency removal of children for their care and protection, by R. Best, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol. 17, no. 3, November, 2003, pp. 247-269.

"The procedures that a State has to undertake to remove a child from the child's family, where that child is at risk of harm, were significantly altered by legislative reforms in New South Wales in 1998. Procedures for emergency removal balance the protection of children from acute harm while rendering the agency undertaking the removal accountable for its actions. This article examines the balance resulting from these reforms." (Journal abstract)

Protecting children: The Child Protection Outcomes Project: Final report for the Victorian Department of Human Services, by The Allen Consulting Group, Allen Consulting, Melbourne, 2003.

Under the Children and Young Person's Act 1989 the role of the Victorian child protection system is to provide an emergency service in cases of alleged abuse or neglect that is separate from social welfare programs. The Department of Human Services' Child Protection Outcomes project examined the appropriateness of existing legislative, policy and program frameworks in responding to the changing scale of child abuse and neglect in Victoria. This project report sets out proposed directions for reform of the child protection system to go beyond an emergency service response to accommodate intervention strategies in child protection.

Papers from the conference, "One child's reality, everyone's responsibility: Proceedings: 8th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Department of Human Services, 2001, Melbourne: Breaking down jurisdictional boundaries to protect children, by S. Lodge & S. Coventry, 14p.

Since 1996, Victoria has lead an Australian and New Zealand project known as the Cross Jurisdictional Project, which addresses problems in child protection across state boundaries and between Australia and New Zealand. The project involved the development of a model bill that related to the transfer of child protection orders and proceedings between the States and Territories of Australia and between Australia and New Zealand. It led to the development of a protocol relating to the transfer of child protection orders and proceedings and requests for interstate assistance. It also involved the development of a protocol for the management of interstate child protection warrants in Australia. (Author abstract, edited)

Children's evidence: the need for reform: Prosecuting paedophiles, by L. Davies, 28p.

The author investigates attitudes towards children giving evidence in legal matters, particularly in relation to the claim that they are unreliable witnesses. He discusses what he sees as the most pressing recommendations for amendment for each legislature, made recently by the Australian Law Reform Commission and aiming to provide safeguards for evidence given by child witnesses.

Cross border child protection interagency project southern area NSW and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), by K. Gimson & P. Mackey, 6p.

State and Territory borders, with their different legislative frameworks, present service collaboration challenges to professionals working in child protection. Interagency partners in the Southern Area of NSW, which borders the ACT, are facilitating a project to enhance child protection intervention across the borders when a joint response between departments is required. The Department of Community Services (DOCS) and the Southern Area Health Service (SAHS) are working together with other key service providers and agencies on defining referral pathways, assessment procedures and roles and responsibilities. (Author abstract, edited)

Family decision making and its application to child sexual abuse, by M. Meyer, 25p.

Family Decision Making (FDM) originated in New Zealand in the late 1980s in the child protection and juvenile justice fields. The technique developed as an alternative approach to the State's case planning for children within the welfare system. The Family Group Conference (FGC) is the technique by which the family participates in the decision making process. This paper assesses the effectiveness of using FDM with children and young people in matters of sexual abuse. (Author abstract, edited)

International responses to child sexual abuse, by M. Ilett, 11p.

The response to child sexual abuse in the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States is similar in involving law enforcement and the criminal justice system, medical assessment and the health system and social workers and the child protection system. There are also significant differences in the way in which these systems cooperate in the investigation and management of child sexual abuse. In addition to these there are some unique features within these systems, with the potential to enhance the response to children and families experiencing sexual abuse. Some features of the child protection systems in the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States are discussed, and similarities and differences to the Australian system(s) are highlighted. (Author abstract)

Legislative change and new directions in service delivery in Tasmania, by B. Baikie, 6p.

The introduction of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* has signaled an important change in the way that services are provided in Tasmania. The object of the Act is to provide for the care and protection of children in a manner that gives a high priority to supporting and assisting the family to carry out their responsibility for a child's care and protection, and maximises a child's opportunity to grow up in a safe and stable environment and reach his or her full potential. This presentation describes the changes to practice that have occurred with the introduction of the new legislation. (Author abstract, edited)

Management of abuse in care: Refinement of a model of practice based on legal and ethical duties, by A. Forward & S. Gray, 21p.

In 1995 South Australia adopted a new policy position for the management of allegations of abuse in care, in recognition that a minimalist child protection paradigm was inappropriate and ineffective in responding to the problem. The Special Investigations program was put into operation in 1997. A recent review of the program identified an improved understanding of legal and ethical responsibilities to children and young people and a greater acceptance of intervention. However, the goals of implementing a system based on shared accountability rather than individual blame and of better protecting children from systems abuse still remain organisational challenges. (Author abstract, edited)

Torn between two models: Therapy vs criminal justice, by A. McGregor & J. McIntyre, 5p.

The criminal justice system seeks to afford children and young people all the rights and safeguards that apply to adults; for example, protection from self incrimination, and legal professional privilege of communication. The Children's Protection Society established the Sex Offender Treatment program (or Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention program) in December 1994. This program provides assessment and counselling services to young people aged between 10 and 17 years who have perpetrated sexually abusive behaviours. The program offers only limited confidentiality, and the authors discuss the conflict that arises when what is in a client's best interest is not in their legal best interest.

Who listens to the children? The plight of the child within the legal system, by S. Lawler, J. Vann & J. Sheehan, 10p.

Many child victims of family violence are concurrently under jurisdiction of the *Crimes Family Violence Act* and *Family Law Act*. The authors outline the anomalies between jurisdictions in relation to the existence of an intervention order and the granting of access under the *Family Law Act*. A case study of a family from rural Victoria is presented, and the following issues identified: a lack of mediation or positive intervention prior to or during the legal process; the need for mandatory legal representation for children involved in family violence; lack of positive police intervention in relation to breaches of the *Crimes Family Violence Act* and the subsequent ramifications for children suffering intolerable family violence situations; and difficulties with the financial cap in relation to the accessibility of legal aid. The authors offer suggested recommendations to address such problems. (Author abstract, edited)

Male victims

Sexual abuse of males: The SAM model of theory and practice, by J. Spiegel, Brunner-Routledge, New York, NY, 2003.

"Based on the life histories of more than one thousand sexually abused boys and adult males with histories of childhood sexual abuse, [this book] examines the

myriad biological, psychological, interpersonal, familial, and social variables that underlie and impact the experience of childhood sexual abuse. Guided by research and informed by practice, this pioneering text presents an extensive review of the literature, a well-grounded theoretical model of abuse dynamics and effects, and a systematic model of treatment." (Jacket)

Men and violence

Men who batter and their children: An integrated review, by L. Guille, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol. 9, no. 2, March/April 2004, pp. 129-163.

This literature review covers fathering, men who batter and the effect of violence on child witnesses. It highlights the need to investigate and intervene in men's violence in order to stop the intergenerational transmission of violence.

Mental health

Child protection and mental health services: Inter-professional responses to the needs of mothers, by N. Stanley et al., Policy Press, Bristol, UK, 2003.

"This book examines interprofessional work with families where mothers have mental health problems and there are also child protection issues. Mothers' views and experiences are contrasted with professional perspectives. The book reports on a survey of 500 practitioners working in health, social services and the voluntary sector, presents data from in-depth interviews with mothers with severe mental health problems, identifies weaknesses in interprofessional coordination, suggests a new model for work with families" (Cover)

Non-offending mothers

Ambivalence of non-offending guardians after child sexual abuse disclosure, by R.M. Bolen & J.L. Lamb, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 185-211.

Non-offending mothers of sexually abused children may respond to the disclosure with ambivalence. This ambivalence may reflect the mothers' distress and conflict between wishing to support both the victim and the perpetrator. It is also a normative reaction to a situation where the costs of disclosure are high. Ambivalence may also be a precursor to and an effect of the trauma experienced by the mother at the time of the disclosure.

Parent education

Breaking the cycle: The Australian experience of NEWPIN, by L. Mondy & S. Mondy, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 8, Summer, 2003, pp. 26-35.

The New Parent Infant Network (NEWPIN) is an intensive, centre based parent education and support program developed in the United Kingdom to help families at risk of child abuse. This article outlines the aims of NEWPIN, the theoretical and practical frameworks for the program and costing and staffing implications.

An overview of child physical abuse: Developing an integrated parent-child cognitive-behavioural treatment approach, by M.K. Runyon et al., *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 5, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 65-85.

This article briefly outlines the literature on the benefits of cognitive behavioural therapy for parents and also children and in improving parenting skills and preventing child abuse, and then discusses the possible benefits of combined parent child interventions.

The Triple P-Positive Parenting Program: A universal population-level approach to the prevention of child abuse, by M.R. Sanders, W. Cann & C. Markie-Dadds, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 12, no.3, May/June, 2003, pp. 155-171.

The authors describe the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, an evidence based universal parenting intervention initiative that aims to make parenting programs more accessible to parents. They discuss the theoretical frameworks from which the program is drawn, how the program can enhance parental competence, and the principles of positive parenting which include ensuring a safe and engaging environment; creating a positive learning environment; using assertive discipline; having realistic expectations; and taking care of oneself as a parent.

Physical injuries

Blunt abdominal injury in the young paediatric patient: Child abuse and patient outcomes, by M. Trokel et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 111-117.

The causes of blunt abdominal injury and the outcomes for the patients are evaluated in this article. Car crashes, falls, and child abuse are the main causes of such injuries. Although this type of injury is fairly uncommon mortality rates are high. Injuries associated with abuse more often result in death than injuries associated with falls.

Where the explanation doesn't fit the injury: Child protection and infant harm, by C. Cousins, *Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearing-house Newsletter*, vol. 11, no. 2, Spring, 2003, pp. 4-13.

The issue of serious injuries with discrepant explanations (SIDE), or unexplained incidents of child abuse where the perpetrator has not been identified, is gaining increasing attention. Alongside case studies, this article outlines some of the difficult issues that arise in dealing with SIDE cases. Complex personalities and family dynamics, the absence of the overt high risks associated with contextual pressures, the complexities of interagency work, the issue of leverage with semi voluntary clients, building responsibility and working positively with at risk families, and improving parental education in the areas of emotional skills are discussed in relation to the particular difficulties presented by SIDE cases.

Prevalence studies

Prevalence and demographic correlates of childhood maltreatment in an adult community sample, by C. Scher et al., *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 8, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 167-180.

An adult community sample was surveyed on the prevalence of five retrospectively reported child neglect and abuse categories. The results were then examined in relation to a range of demographic variables. Approximately 30 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men reported childhood abuse, many reported multiple types of abuse. This highlights the need for more research on the prevalence of and risk factors for multiple types of child abuse.

Profiles of child sex offenders

Attachment styles and psychological profiles of child sex offenders in Ireland, by F. Marsa et al., *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 228-251.

In this Irish study child sex offenders were found to have a significantly less secure adult attachment style than violent and non-violent offenders and a community control group. Low levels of parental care and high levels of parental overprotection were reported by the child sex offender group. Emotional loneliness was another significant factor for the child sex offender group. Anger management, however, was closer to the non-violent offender and community groups than the violent offender group.

A comparison of relational attitude and personality disorders in the explanation of child molestation, by S. Bogaerts, G. Vervaeke & J. Goethals, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 37-47.

This Belgium study compared parental sensitivity, relational attitude and personality disorders in a sample of child molesters and a control group. Significant differences between the two groups were found on relational attitude and personality disorder measures.

An exploratory study of child molesters' relationship patterns using the core conflictual relationship theme model, by M. Drapeau, Y. de Roten & A.C. Korner, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19, no. 2, February, 2004, pp. 264-275.

This study describes the relationship pattern of child abusers and compares the results to the relationship patterns of a control group. The child abusers reported wanting to help others and to be close and accepting. They presented a pattern of being rejected and controlled by others. However, they described themselves as being self-controlled and self-confident. These contradictory reports may reflect cognitive distortions or the use of defence mechanisms. The article concludes with a discussion of the findings.

Understanding denial in sexual offenders, by S.L. Schneider & R.C. Wright, *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, vol. 5, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 3-20.

This article describes multiple facets of denial in detail and how the non-acceptance of responsibility for their thoughts and actions may undermine the treatment of sex offenders. It concludes with a discussion of treatment strategies designed to assess and treat different expressions of denial.

Protocols

The Judicial Case Management Protocol: A good practice tool?, by L. Goldthorpe, *Childright*, January/February, 2004, pp. 5-7.

The Protocol for Judicial Case Management in England is reviewed in this article. The Protocol is a research-based document. It was developed as a response to concern about delays in the system and the effects of these delays on children and their families.

Resilience

Resilience, by A. Deveson, *Auseinetter*, no. 19, November, 2003, pp. 3-5.

The ability to handle adversity with courage and optimism is examined by the author, who provides an overview of theories over the past 50 years relating to the cause of resilience. The work of Garnezy on children at high risk who showed a range of survival mechanisms is shown to have revealed the important role resilience plays in mental health. Werner's concurrent studies on the high level of natural resilience and the importance of community and family as a source of support and healing which creates resilience is also examined. The impact of Western medicine's bias toward psychopathology is discussed, as is the shift toward a view of the person as a system possessing a natural balance towards good health.

Vulnerability or resilience to intergenerational sexual abuse: The role of maternal factors, by M. Leifer, T. Kilbane & S. Kalick, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 78-91.

This study examined the question of intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse. Four groups of mothers and their children, in a variety of dyads of abuse and non-abuse, were compared. Mothers who had broken the cycle of abuse were found to function as well as mothers who had not been abused. Sexually abused mothers with sexually abused children presented more disturbed functioning than the other groups.

Risk factors

Predicting infant maltreatment in low-income families: The interactive effects of maternal attributions and child status at birth, by D. Blunt Bugental & K. Happaney, *Developmental Psychology*, vol. 40, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 234-243.

This article attempts to address the complex issue of child abuse during the first year of the child's life. Some of the characteristics of the children and their parents at birth that may combine to predict abuse or neglect are explored.

Risk factors associated with the chronicity of high potential for child abuse and neglect, by L.S. Ethier, G. Couture & C. Lacharite, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 19, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 13-24.

In this study the relationship between psychosocial variables of the mother (both in the past and the present) and a high or chronic potential for child abuse

were analysed. Variables that were significantly linked to chronic child abuse were identified.

Risk for intimate partner violence and child physical abuse: Psychosocial characteristics of multi-risk male and female navy recruits, by L.L. Merrill et al., *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 9, no. 1, February, 2004, pp. 18-29.

Male and female navy recruits were assessed on a range of psychosocial characteristics to determine their potential for physically abusing their intimate partner and / or child. Individuals at risk of both partner and child abuse were characterised by the combined predictors of both types of violence risk.

The vulnerabilities of children whose parents have been sexually abused in childhood: Towards a new framework, by C. Hooper & J. Koprowska, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 34, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 165-180.

The paper draws on qualitative research with adult survivors of child sexual abuse to develop a framework for understanding possible vulnerabilities of their children. Within different contexts, likely factors are identified, and ways of supporting both survivors and their children are suggested.

Service use

Accessibility issues in child abuse prevention services, by J. Stanley & K. Kovacs, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2003, (Child Abuse Prevention Issues no.18, Spring, 2003).

Increasing recognition is being given to the importance of preventing the maltreatment of Australian children. Programs designed to achieve this aim have to be both effective and accessible to those most in need of a prevention service. This issues paper examines accessibility to prevention programs by reporting on a small exploratory study undertaken by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. (Author abstract)

Sibling incest

Sibling sexual abuse prevention project: A research project on the nature and characteristics of sibling sexual abuse, Children's Protection Society, Heidelberg West, Vic, 2003.

This study compares a group of young people who had abused their siblings with a group who had abused non-related children. It explores the abusive behaviours, backgrounds and experiences of young people who sexually abuse their siblings. The report describes the Children's Protection Society's sexual abuse counseling and prevention program and then covers the project methodology and background. It discusses the findings, including: abuser and victim information; abuse related information; access and opportunity; legal outcome; familial characteristics and continuity of care; nature and quality of familial relationships; reports of abuse or harm by parents; documented problem behaviours; and documented peer relationship difficulties.

Staff screening

Vetting for childcare posts: issues raised after the Soham trial, by T. Thomas, *Childright*, January/February, 2004, pp. 3-4.

This article examines problems associated with the vetting, screening and reporting procedures in regard to people who apply for positions working with children in England. After his conviction for the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, it was discovered that the police knew Ian Huntley was not a suitable person to work with children.

Suicide

A comparison of child-sex-abuse-related and mental-disorder related suicide in a six-year cohort of regional suicides: The importance of the child protection-psychiatric interface, by C. Pritchard & E. King, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol.3 4, no. 2, March, 2004, pp. 181-198.

The study used Coroners' inquest files over a six-year period to compare mental-disorder-related suicide rates with those of child sex abuse victims and perpetrators. Results confirm the over-representation of people with mental disorder among suicides and child-sex-abuse-related suicides, particularly perpetrators.

Sexual abuse and suicidal behaviour: A model constructed from a large community sample of adolescents, by H.A. Bergen et al., *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol. 42, no. 11, November, 2003, pp. 1301-1309.

This study used data from a survey of Australian high school students to examine relationships between self reported sexual abuse, depression, hopelessness and suicidal feelings among adolescents. The authors found that sexual abuse is associated with suicidal feelings, hopelessness is more strongly associated with sexual abuse in boys than girls and depressive symptoms are more strongly associated with high suicide risk in girls than boys.

Treatment for child sex offenders

Approach versus avoidance goals in relapse prevention with sexual offenders, by R.E. Mann et al., *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 65-75.

This study evaluated and compared two treatment programs for sex offenders. Findings indicated that the positively orientated approach-focused program produced better treatment engagement and outcomes than the traditional avoidance-focused program. Implications for treatment programs are discussed.

Engagement, denial, and treatment progress among sex offenders in group therapy, by J.S. Levenson & M.J. Macgowan, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 16, no. 1, January, 2004, pp. 49-63.

The relationship between engagement, denial and treatment progress of male sex offenders was explored. Findings indicate that denial is a major determinant of treatment progress and outcomes. The article concludes with strategies for increasing engagement and reducing denial.



Clearinghouse services

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse is located at the Australian Institute of Family Studies and provides stakeholders with a variety of services, most of which are provided free of charge.

The Clearinghouse collects, produces and distributes information and resources, conducts research and offers advice on the latest developments in child abuse prevention, child protection and associated family violence.

Resources

Research, literature and other information resources in the area of child abuse prevention and child protection are collected by the Clearinghouse Library. Materials can be borrowed from the Clearinghouse, by contacting your local or departmental library and arranging an interlibrary loan. Small non-government organisations may contact the Clearinghouse directly for loans under the special non-government organisations membership scheme. Phone (03) 9214 7888 and ask for the librarian on duty.

Publications

The Clearinghouse produces Issues Papers, Newsletters and other publications which are mailed free of charge to members of the mailing list. Clearinghouse staff also regularly produce papers for a range of other journals and newsletters.

Advisory service

This free advisory service answers queries and conducts literature searches, while the Clearinghouse research staff are available to help with more specialised questions. Phone (03) 9214 7888. Fax (03) 9214 7839. Email: fic@aifs.gov.au

Email discussion list

Professionals working in the field are invited to join the *childprotect* email discussion group on research, practice and policy issues relating to child abuse prevention and child protection.

Research

The Clearinghouse research staff undertake primary and secondary research projects. These may be commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services or by other government or non-government agencies.

Policy advice

The Clearinghouse offers policy advice to the Australian Government and other government agencies on all matters relating to child abuse and child abuse prevention.

Presentations

Clearinghouse staff present at conferences and conduct workshops and seminars for government agencies and community groups across Australia.

Become part of the child abuse prevention network!

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies serves as an interchange point for information, research and initiatives in the child abuse prevention field. It collects and distributes information, and aims for a two-way involvement with the community concerned with child protection. To participate in the work of the Clearinghouse:

- send us your materials relevant to child abuse prevention;
- complete a questionnaire on good practice program activities relevant to child protection with which you are involved;
- join the National Clearinghouse mailing list – you will receive two newsletters and two issues papers free of charge each year;
- join the *childprotect* discussion list.

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Clearinghouse publications

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse produces publications which are available free of charge via the Clearinghouse website (www.aifs.gov.au/nch/) or by contacting the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Phone: (03) 9214 7888. Email: ncpc@aifs.gov.au/

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- No 19. *Child abuse and neglect in Indigenous Australian communities*, Janet Stanley, Adam M. Tomison and Julian Pocock, Spring 2003.
- No 20. *Child welfare approaches for Indigenous communities: International perspectives* by Terri Libesman, Autumn 2004.

Child Abuse Prevention Discussion Papers

- No 1. *Child maltreatment and family structure*, by Adam M. Tomison, 1996.
- No 2. *Child maltreatment and substance abuse*, by Adam M. Tomison, 1996.
- No 3. *Child maltreatment and mental disorder*, by Adam M. Tomison, 1996.

Child Abuse Prevention Newsletters

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter, *Child Abuse Prevention*, is produced twice yearly to keep members up-to-date with new information and provide a forum for ideas.

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