



Literature highlights

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Aborigines

Indigenous Australians: a new deal for a new century?, by M. Cadd, In, *Work, wages and welfare: selected papers from the 1999 ACOSS Congress*, Strawberry Hills, NSW, Australian Council of Social Service, 2000, pp. 83-90.

This paper provides background information on the Secretariat of the National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and information on the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services, including the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and the Indigenous Child Placement Principle. An overview of issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service provision is presented, including: combating poverty and preventing child removal, juvenile justice and rates of detention, and Kids Help Line and problems for young people of child abuse, bullying and homelessness. The National Families Strategy, the Draft Document on Reconciliation and national strategies, and the role for non-government organisations are issues discussed.

Maori, the media, racism and neglect, by A. Blank, *Social Work Now*, no. 14, 1999, pp. 41-45.

The Breaking the Cycle public awareness campaign was developed to meet the directive from the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services to promote awareness of the unacceptability of child abuse. In this article the author discusses the ramifications of raising awareness and influencing Maori attitudes towards child abuse and neglect through media campaigns, including the Breaking the Cycle campaign, the 1998 Alternatives to Smacking campaign and the 1999 Neglect Prevention Programme.

Adoption

Adoption policy in the United States: a word of caution, by L.D. Hollingsworth, *Social Work*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2000, pp. 183-186.

In order to protect the health and safety of children recent adoption policies in

America have attempted to expedite the termination of the rights of parents who have been charged with child maltreatment. These policies also aim to make it easier for people who wish to adopt these children to do so. This article comments on the risk of the legislation actually causing further disadvantage to poor children and their families. Recommendations are made for addressing these issues.

Bullying

Persistence of bullying from childhood to adolescence - a longitudinal 8-year follow-up study, by A. Sourander, L. Helstela & H. Helenius, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 7, 2000, pp. 873-881.

The objective of this study was to examine the factors associated with bullying and victimization from age 8 to 16. It was found that if bullying and victimization were still happening at age 16 it was associated with a wide range of psychological problems at both age 8 and age 16. It is suggested that preventive measures should be targeted at those children who are characterized by both psychological disturbance and bullying.

Child abuse

Child abuse and neglect: part 1 - redefining the issues, by M. James, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000.

There are few social issues that evoke such extreme emotive responses, both publicly and privately, as child abuse and neglect. Although the issues surrounding family behaviour are primarily regarded as private, legislative and institution reforms have provided for a public response to any report of child maltreatment. Questions that have been raised include: how successful have academics and legal professionals been in placing this item on the political agenda; how has welfare

practice responded to the problem; what has been the response of the criminal justice system; and has society in general improved the situation of those children who are the victims of abuse and neglect? This article looks at the emerging issues, discusses the incidence and prevalence of child abuse and neglect, and outlines issues dealing with identification, intervention and prevention, and the legislative and legal processes.

Child maltreatment 1998: reports from the states to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, Walter R. McDonald & Associates & United States, Children's Bureau - Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is the primary source of national information on abused and neglected children known to the State child protective services agencies. In 1998 in the United States, nearly one and a half million children received preventive services, 20 of every 1,000 children in the population.

Child maltreatment, other trauma exposure, and posttraumatic symptomatology among children with oppositional defiant and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, by J.D. Ford, R. Racusin & C.G. Ellis, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2000, pp. 205-217.

Children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), comorbid ADHD-ODD, and adjustment disorder controls were assessed for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Results showed that ODD and (to a lesser extent) ADHD were associated with a history of physical or sexual maltreatment. PTSD symptoms were most severe if (a) ADHD and maltreatment co-occurred or (b) ODD and accident/illness trauma co-occurred. These findings suggest that screening for maltreatment, other trauma, and PTSD symptom may enhance prevention, treatment, and research concerning childhood disruptive behavior disorders.

The role of friends, in-laws and other kin in father-perpetrated child physical abuse, by C. Coohey, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 4, 2000, pp. 373-402.

This study compared 35 physically abusive fathers with a sample of non-abusive fathers. The study aimed to show the relationship between the structure of social ties and the function of those ties. It was found that the physically abusive fathers received significantly fewer emotional and instrumental support from their friends, in-laws and other kin than the comparison fathers. Physically abusive fathers were found to be only weakly linked to members of their social networks. These are the people who might have been able to discourage the fathers' aggressive impulses or provide additional support to them and their families.

Child abuse in New Zealand, by B. Atkin, In, M. Freeman, ed. *Overcoming child abuse: a window on a world problem*, Aldershot, UK, Ashgate, 2000, pp. 305-327.

Child abuse may always be a problem with no perfect solutions. This chapter deals with the issue of child abuse in New Zealand and outlines the overall statutory framework and the process for dealing with child abuse. Questions are raised such as How is the safety of children assured when abuse becomes apparent? What are the resources available for dealing with abuse in families? How are false allegations of abuse handled? These questions suggest that major responsibility rests on the state and the community. The author asks where the balance is between an intrusive and culturally insensitive governmental agency and one which appears to be backing away either through lack of resources or for ideological reasons. In New Zealand the balance is tilted in favour of minimal intervention, with concerns being raised that economics are given priority over care of children, that unless a case is one of the most compelling kind of abuse, it will be not be investigated and that social workers are inadequately trained and resourced.

Failure-to-thrive, maltreatment and the behavior and development of 6-year-old children from low-income, urban families: a cumulative risk model, by M. A. Kerr, M.M. Black & A. Krishnakumar, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 5, 2000, pp. 587-598.

The objective of this study was to examine the relationship between failure-to-thrive (FTT), maltreatment and four

aspects of children's development: cognitive performance; adaptive functioning at school; classroom behavior; and behavior at home. The findings suggest that cumulative risk is more detrimental to children's development than the presence of a single risk factor. These results underscore the importance of interventions to prevent both FTT and maltreatment during a child's early years.



Affective, organisational, and relational characteristics of maltreating families: a systems perspective, by P.W. Howes, D. Cicchetti & S.L. Toth, *Journal of Family Psychology*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2000, pp. 95-110.

In-home structured interactions of 42 maltreating families and 23 low-income comparison families with preschool-aged children were examined to determine whether maltreating and

nonmaltreating families could be distinguished by system-level processes. Family interactions were videotaped and coded for ratings on affective, organizational, and relational features of each family unit. The importance of family climate and structure, above and beyond individual maltreatment acts, were noted. Implications for treatment and social policy directions are discussed.

Child abuse prevention

Child sexual abuse prevention programs: a meta-analysis, by M. K. Davis & C. A. Gidycz, *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2000, pp. 257-265.

This article looks at a meta-analytic evaluation of the effectiveness of school-based child abuse prevention programs. Analysis of moderator variables of twenty-seven studies revealed significant effects for: age; number of sessions; participant involvement; type of outcome measure; and use of behavioral skills training. It was found that programs presented over 4 or more sessions that allowed children to become physically involved produced the highest effect sizes. The importance of these findings for future child sexual abuse prevention programs is discussed.

Child sexual abuse prevention programs: do they decrease the occurrence of child sexual abuse?, by L. Ed. Gibson & H. Leitenberg, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 9, 2000, pp. 1115-1125.

The objective of this study was to determine whether school-based child sexual abuse prevention programs affected the rates of child sexual abuse. The study found that these programs are associated with a reduction in the incidence of child sexual abuse. A secondary aim of the study was to determine if there were differences in sexual satisfaction or avoidance of sexual activity between those women who had participated in such a program and those who had not. The study found no evidence that prevention programs decreased sexual satisfaction or led to avoidance of sexual activity in adulthood.

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Creating the future: a resource kit for children about domestic violence and abuse, by Jannawi Family Centre (New South Wales), Lakemba, NSW, Jannawi Family Centre, 2000, unpaginated handbook, 60 minute video, compact disc, stickers, poster.

This kit aims to assist children and families to talk about their experiences of domestic violence and abuse, to understand the effects on their lives and relationships, and to develop and strengthen positive relationships based on equality and respect. It is based on a feminist analysis of domestic violence, and is suitable for use by workers whose clients are 5 - 12 year old children and their families in health, welfare, educational and therapeutic contexts. The kit includes a leader's handbook, a video divided into seven sections, an activity book for each section or story, the audio soundtrack for all the stories, and a poster which features all the puppet characters.

Development of the Stay Safe programme, by D. MacIntyre, A. Carr & M. Lawlor, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 3, 2000, pp. 200-216.

This article describes the development and implementation of the Stay Safe programme which was developed in the Republic of Ireland. The programme includes modules for teachers, parents and children. Liaising with local child protection and child health professionals is an integral part of implementation. The curriculum includes: disclosure training; assertiveness training; coercion management training; enhancing self-esteem; and the promotion of peer support.

Evaluation of NAPCAN: final report, by Keys Young, Milsons Point, NSW, Keys Young, 2000.

The key aim of the evaluation reported in this document was to examine the effectiveness of the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)'s child abuse prevention activities over the last five years. The evaluation focused in particular on: community education materials; coordination of National Child Protection Week, held annually in September; and media campaigns. The evaluation also sought to examine NAPCAN Australia's role and achievements in conducting other activities such as lobbying and policy work and holding professional conferences. Methodology comprised three key components: a postal survey of agencies which use NAPCAN's

materials; phone interviews with 38 service providers, 15 research/ policy/ peak organisations, and ten individuals currently holding official positions within NAPCAN; and, telephone interviews with 24 parents who had used NAPCAN materials or participated in NAPCAN activities, and three discussion groups with a total of 16 parents.

Making a difference: recognising and reporting/ notifying child abuse and neglect, by NSW Child Protection Council. Sydney, NSW, NSW Child Protection Council, 1998, kit (1 40 min. video, looseleaf training manual, booklet, 1 audio tape).

This training package presents a training manual and video which cover face-to-face training, and a self paced learning kit which includes a audiotape. The manual is designed for use and presentation by supervisors, team leaders, directors, coordinators or other nominated staff who wish to equip agency workers with the knowledge and understanding to fulfil their responsibilities in recognising and reporting or notifying child abuse and neglect. Developed by Carolyn Quinn, the manual includes workshop outlines, trainers resource materials and background information. The video (Executive Producer: NSW Film and Television Office) has three parts: Recognising abuse and neglect; What's your responsibility? What happens next? It includes dramatised scenes and interviews with professionals. The self paced learning kit was developed by Eleanora De Michele. It includes information about child abuse and neglect, including definitions, dynamics, effects, indicators, reporting / notifying, role and responsibilities. It is stated that completing both parts of the training package is the minimum required for workers to have an understanding of the complex issues that surround the recognition of child abuse and neglect and the child protection response.

Prevention is better than cure: exploring strategies for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, by A. Tomison, Keynote address presented at the 1999 Xi'an International Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (First ISPCAN Chinese Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect), Xi'an, China, November-December 1999, and Online <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/tomison2.html>

Focusing on systemic issues in child protection and child abuse prevention, this paper aims to provide a context for

the work of health, medical and social welfare professionals, and to suggest ways forward for the development and enhancement of systems for the prevention and protection of child abuse and neglect. Some of the key components of a child abuse prevention framework, based on current trends in western communities are presented and the relevance of some of these prevention strategies for the Chinese community is considered. The role of community education and health promotion for child abuse prevention in China is discussed. Professional education on child maltreatment and effective interagency coordination and communication are issues which, it is suggested, need to be considered when developing child abuse prevention service networks.

Prevention of child sexual abuse: implications of programme evaluation research, by D. MacIntyre & A. Carr, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 3, 2000, pp. 183-199.

After reviewing 30 child abuse prevention programme evaluation studies, it was concluded that child abuse prevention programmes can lead to significant gains in children's, parents' and teachers' safety knowledge and skills. A set of best practice guidelines were established from the review. It is suggested that the curricula for parents' and teachers' programmes should cover child protection issues, as well as local child protection procedures. It was found that it is better to run longer programmes which are conducted by trained staff. Such staff may include teachers, parents, mental health professionals and law enforcement officers.

Using video vignettes to evaluate children's personal safety knowledge: methodological and ethical issues, by B. Johnson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 5, 2000, pp. 811-827.

This study aimed to assess children's personal safety knowledge by seeking their responses to video simulations of child maltreatment. In this article, the author chronicles the methodological and ethical difficulties that were encountered in the development of the video vignettes used in the evaluation of the Protective Behaviours personal safety program. The main objections to the approach were that it could harm participants and that parents needed extensive information about the study in order to exercise informed consent.

Childcare with gloves on: protecting children and young people in residential care, by J. Horwath, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2000, pp. 179-191.

This paper presents the findings of a study under-taken in three residential children's units. The study sought to explore the impact of abuse scandals on worker's perceptions of what constitutes abusive behavior. Two key findings which raise issues for the social work profession are discussed and recent government policy documents are evaluated in the light of these findings.

Child custody

Revealing the existence of child abuse in the context of marital breakdown and custody and access disputes, by T. Brown, M. Frederico, L. Hewitt & R. Sheehan, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 5, 2000, pp. 849-859.

There has been little attention given to child abuse within the context of legal and de facto marriage breakdown. Recently however, concerns about child abuse allegations have emerged from family courts as a result of experiences with child custody and access disputes, now often termed residence and contact disputes. This article reports on research into the way the Family Court of Australia dealt with such cases. The study sought to discover who were the families bringing these problems to family courts, what precisely the abuse was and how the courts dealt with it. As a result of the research, a new specialised intervention system was developed.

Child emotional abuse

Evaluating and reporting emotional abuse in children: parent-based, action-based focus aids in clinical decision-making, by S. Hamarman & W. Bernet, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol. 39, no. 7, 2000, pp. 928-930.

This article examines the difficulty in evaluating and reporting the emotional abuse of children. One of the main difficulties arises from there being no consensus on the definition of emotional abuse. Seven categories of emotional abuse are presented and explained. Severity of abuse and recommendations for clinical practice are discussed.

Impact of a multidimensional intervention programme applied to families at risk for child neglect, by L.S. Ethier, G. Couture & C. Lacharite, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 19-36.

Parents who were assessed as being at risk for child neglect were assigned to two intervention programmes. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effects of each of these intervention programmes. The first group participated in a multidimensional eco-systemic intervention programme called the Personal, Family and Community Help Program (PFCHP); and (2) the second group underwent psychosocial intervention that was provided as part of regular Local Community Services Centre services and focused mainly on the social worker-family relationship. At the beginning of the intervention pre-test measures were obtained and a follow-up was held 24 months later. Findings indicated that both forms of intervention were associated with improved parent-child relationship and the reduction of parental stress, depression and the potential for child abuse and neglect. The conclusion outlines the need for long-term intervention process for families at high risk for child neglect. It also highlights the necessity of addressing multiple dimensions of family life if lasting changes are to be expected.

Child protection

Child protection Australia 1998-99, by H. Johnstone, H. Moyle, S. Kelly & P. Dowling, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2000.

Child Protection Australia 1998-99 provides comprehensive information on children who come into contact with State and Territory community service departments for protective reasons. The report contains data for 1998-1999 on child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out-of-home care. Detailed information on the characteristics of children in

the child protection system is presented, such as data on their age, sex and indigenous status. For children who were the subject of a child protection substantiation, data on the family type, the relationship of the person believed responsible and the source of the notification are also included.

Child protection law in Australia, by P. Parkinson, In, M. Freeman, ed. *Overcoming child abuse: a window on a world problem*, Aldershot, UK, Ashgate, 2000, pp. 15-38.

Child protection is a responsibility of the states and territories in Australia. Each of the six states and two territories has its own government department with responsibility for child protection, and each has its own legislation. While there have been calls for the federal government to take a greater role in child protection work, there are practical difficulties in the way of greater federal involvement. It is difficult to ensure a national approach to child protection when there are not only eight different laws but eight different government departments which have statutory responsibility for child protection, each with distinctive legal and administrative structures. There are different definitions of child abuse between the states and territories, different legal responses, different understandings of child abuse as a matter of social policy and different characterisations of the problem. This chapter looks at the nature and extent of child abuse in Australia, the approaches of the different states and territories and the way in which the law responds to child abuse.

Ensuring the protection of children: the role of child protection services in the identification, assessment and treatment of maltreated children, by A.M. Tomison, Keynote address presented at NSW Department of Community Services Entry Parameters for Child Protection Conference, March 1999, Sydney NSW and Online <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/tomison3.html>

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of some of the trends and issues in the identification and assessment of children by child protection services where there have been allegations or a suspicion of child abuse and neglect.

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Issues discussed include: the role of child protection; new models of child protection and family support; gate-keeping in child protection services; streaming cases, Western Australia; the differentiated response model, Enhanced Client Outcomes Victoria; risk assessment; implementation of risk assessment tools; risk factors in risk assessment measures; ecological effects of applying risk assessment in situ; worker effects; and child centred family focused practice.

Interagency collaboration and communication in child protection cases: some findings from an Australian case tracking study, by A.M. Tomison, A.M. Paper presented at Fifth ISPCAN Asian Conference on Child Protection, Hong Kong, November 1999, and Online <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/tomison4.html>

The objective of this paper is to present some findings on professionals' management of suspected child maltreatment cases in a Victorian child protection network, focusing in particular on the extent to which effective interprofessional coordination and communication has been achieved. The results of an in situ tracking of suspected child abuse and neglect cases are used to form the basis for a discussion of professional case management and the implications for child protection practice. The issues raised by a case study presented in the appendix are discussed.

Blending qualitative and quantitative approaches: case tracking studies in child protection systems, by A.M. Tomison & C.R. Goddard, Paper presented at Association for Qualitative Research 'Issues of Rigour in Qualitative Research' International Conference, Melbourne, July 1999, and Online <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/tomison1.html>

Case tracking studies are descriptive research tools which combine elements of interviewing, direct observation and archival analysis. This paper discusses the methodological and theoretical benefits which result from utilising case tracking methods as a means of investigating professionals' case management of child protection cases in situ. It also identifies and explores some of the problems which have confronted the authors in a number of large scale case tracking studies which have been conducted in Victoria. Systemic and methodological problems which can significantly affect the design and overall success of such studies are considered.

ISPCAN 5th Asian Conference on Child Protection, November 1999, Protecting children in the 21st century: creating peace and stability for children and families: proceedings. Wanchai, Hong Kong, The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong for the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 1999.

This document contains papers presented at the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect's 5th Asian Conference on Child Protection, held in Hong Kong in



November 1999. Issues addressed include: child protection services; cultural issues; promoting family well being; child rearing; parent participation in child protection; intra-familial sexual abuse; home visiting programs; preventive education in schools; shaken baby syndrome; Child Fatality Review; caregiver abuse of children with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder; effects of domestic violence on children; children in the court system; childhood psychological abuse; child pornogra-

phy; child labour; stepfamilies; adult survivors; foster children; and corporal punishments. The countries involved are: China; Indonesia; Hong Kong; Japan; Nepal; Malaysia; United Kingdom; New Zealand; Thailand; Singapore; South Korea; Philippines; India; Vietnam; Pakistan; and Australia.

Training teachers in child protection, by M. Baginsky, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 74-81.

The author conducted a series of surveys within various sections of the education system over the past 2 years. The aim of the study was to discover how schools, local education authorities (LEAs) and teacher training bodies are responding to their clearly defined responsibility in relation to child protection. This paper discusses some of the implications for teacher training which has emerged from this study.

Dealing with child protection problems, by P. Winterton, *Australian Family Physician*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2000, pp. 367-368.

One of the most challenging aspects of the role of the general practitioner lies in the area of child protection. In order to manage child abuse and neglect, it is important to understand that the mechanisms of causation and presentation are not the same for all forms of child abuse. The author discusses non accidental injuries, the use of protective services, child neglect and child sexual abuse, and outlines the obligatory involvement of general practice in child protection matters.

The significance of 'significant' - when is intervention justified under child abuse reporting laws?, by P. Swain, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2000, pp. 26-35.

Intervention by the state to protect children is widely accepted as necessary where the harm is serious, but where less serious concerns arise it is generally understood that less intrusive protective arrangements are preferred. Child protection legislation, in Australia and elsewhere, has moved toward the notion of 'significant harm' as the basis for statutory intervention in respect of alleged abuse or neglect. This paper considers the meaning attributed to 'significant harm' in recent judicial interpretations in the United Kingdom, and the criteria there developed by which significance can be assessed. The paper considers the applications of

these interpretations to Australian child protective legislation and practice.

Homogenising Australia's child protection laws: will the cream still rise to the top?, by M. Liddell & M. Liddell, *Children Australia*, vol. 25, no. 2, 2000, pp. 10-15.

This paper discusses the increasing similarity between Australia's states and territories in their child protection legislation. The paper deals mainly with the principles underlying child protection laws, definitions of abuse and neglect, and the way legislation deals with the likelihood and severity of harm to the child. The trend is towards adopting a common set of principles, and definitions which are relatively precise in targeting particular 'types' of abuse and eliminating status offences. However there are significant differences even between states which broadly adopt this type of legislation, and some states adopt quite different approaches. There is still little consensus on how likelihood and severity of harm are dealt with. The paper, in welcoming the principle of common legislation, notes a wide range of issues in the developing legal paradigm which have been subject to little or no public debate. It is not clear that the increasing 'homogenisation' of child protection laws is enshrining the kind of legislation required.

Regional roundup: Developing a child protection continuum in partnership with rural family workers in the Darling Downs, by J. Baker, *QCOSS Bulletin*, May - Jun, 2000, pp. 22-23.

An overview is presented of the Workers with Families Project, which operated from July to December 1999 in Toowoomba, Queensland with funding from the Department of Family and Community Services as a Child Abuse Prevention Pilot project. The project set out to explore the possibilities for partnership between a specialist child protection agency and rural family workers with the goal of extending effective early intervention responses to families where there are protective concerns. Strategies and forms of partnership adopted are described, and it is noted that the project highlighted the isolation faced by many rural workers in their professional practice.

Child sexual abuse

Child sex tourism, by F. David, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000.

There are twenty-four countries around the world with legislation that makes child sex tourism a criminal conduct, even when the act concerned is committed overseas. In 1994, Australia introduced offences relating to child sex tourism. Since this time there have been a number of cases that have proceeded through the courts and have resulted in convictions. This paper reviews the progress of this legislation, and notes the successes and difficulties experienced in relation to the legislation.

Child sexual abuse I: psychopathology, by B. Nurcombe, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2000, pp. 85-91.

This paper reviews the scientific literature concerning the prevalence, childhood outcome and adult outcome of child sexual abuse, and the hypothetical models that have been postulated to explain its psychopathology. It is shown that estimates of prevalence of sexual abuse suggest that a significant number of children of both sexes are affected. Research into the psychopathology of sexual abuse is hindered by methodological problems. However, sexual abuse has been associated with a number of psychiatric disorders and maladaptive lifestyles in childhood and adulthood. Several theoretical models of the psychopathology of child sexual abuse are examined and compared. It is concluded that a transactional model is the most comprehensive and encompassing.

Child sexual abuse II: treatment, by B. Nurcombe, S. Wooding, P. Marrington, L. Bickman & G. Roberts, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2000, pp. 92-97.

This paper reviews the scientific literature concerning the treatment of child sexual abuse. There are only nine published research studies in which subjects were randomly assigned to an index treatment or treatments and a comparison treatment or no-treatment control group. In seven of the studies, the index treatment exceeded the control or

comparison group in regard to treatment outcome; in two studies it did not. The successful treatments involved group therapy, combined individual and group play therapy and cognitive behaviour therapy. It is concluded that treatment should be based on an explicit conceptual model of the psychopathology of sexual abuse. The University of Queensland Sexual Abuse Treatment Project, which is based on a transactional model, is described.

Child sexual abuse: a case study in community collaboration, by K. C. Faller & H. Henry, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 9, 2000, pp. 1215-1225.

This study describes the process and outcomes of a community's approach to the case management of child sexual abuse. Successful outcomes were achieved in the criminal prosecution of child sexual abuse perpetrators. The study found that the child's testimony is not necessarily the centrepiece of a successful case. The desired outcomes were a consequence of the collaborative effort of law enforcement, CPS and the prosecutor's office.

Child sexual abuse in Queensland: offender characteristics and modus operandi, by S. Smallbone & R. Wortley, Brisbane, Qld, Queensland Crime Commission and Queensland Police Service, 2000.

This document reports on a study which gathered both official demographic and offence history data, and confidential self-report data, from a large sample of men currently serving sentences in Queensland for sexual offences against children. Investigation focused on: offenders' psychosocial and psychosexual histories; differences between official and unofficial rates of child sex offending; the extent of offenders' non-sexual criminal activity; the extent to which offenders have engaged in multiple 'paraphilias' - for example, exhibitionism, voyeurism, fetishism; the offenders' modus operandi - for example, victim recruitment strategies; abusive behaviours; methods of avoiding detection; the extent of formal and informal networking among offenders, including their knowledge and/or membership of paedophile organisations, their use of the Internet for communication and access to child pornography, and the role of the prison environment in facilitating collaboration with other offenders. Discussion of the findings includes conceptual and policy implications.

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Factors related to mothers' perceptions of parenting following their children's disclosures of sexual abuse, by D. Hiebert-Murphy, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2000, pp. 251-260.

This study examined predictors of parenting satisfaction and efficacy in a sample of 102 mothers of children who had disclosed sexual abuse within the previous 12 months. Conduct behavior problems exhibited by the child, social support from friends, and the use of coping strategies by the mothers were used as predictors of parenting satisfaction. Parenting efficacy was predicted by age of the child and conduct and sexual behavior problems exhibited by the child. It was found that maternal history of child sexual abuse was not related to parenting satisfaction or efficacy. Results are discussed in relation to a stress-coping model of understanding mothers during the post disclosure period.

Project Axis: volume 1: child sexual abuse in Queensland: the nature and extent, Brisbane, Qld, Queensland Crime Commission and Queensland Police Service, 2000.

Project Axis was jointly established by the Queensland Crime Commission and the Queensland Police Service as a wide-ranging inquiry into child sex offending in Queensland. The primary aim of this report (the first of a two-volume public report on child sex offending) is to provide the public of Queensland with relevant, reliable, objective and contextualised information about the risks posed by child sex offenders to their families and to the community more generally. The report describes Project Axis and presents official data on child sex offending and the results of studies aimed at gauging the prevalence of child sexual abuse. It includes information about child sexual abuse victims, including age and gender, the identification of risk factors, and the effects of the abuse on victims; child sex offenders, including their age and gender, and the relationship between them and their victims; targeting and grooming tactics used by child sex offenders; victims' disclosure of child sexual abuse, including the number of victims who disclose, to whom they disclose and when, and responses to that disclosure; and associations among child sex offenders.

Project Axis: child sexual abuse in Queensland: selected research papers, Brisbane, Qld, Queensland Crime Commission and Queensland Police Service, 2000.

This volume of selected papers from Queensland and interstate academics was compiled as part of Project Axis to provide a more comprehensive appreciation of the complex nature of child sex offending. Project Axis was jointly established by the Queensland Crime Commission and the Queensland Police Service as a wide-ranging inquiry into child sex offending in Queensland. Contributions to this volume, which have been individually indexed, are: Historical and contemporary social setting by Simon Petrie; The concept of childhood by Juliette Goldman and Caron Ronken; The consequences of childhood sexual abuse by Michael Dunne and Margot Legosz; The problem of child sexual abuse in church communities by Patrick Parkinson; and, The role of the media by Chris Goddard and Bernadette Saunders.

A reply to the NSW Royal Commission Inquiry into Paedophilia: victim report studies and child sex offender profiles - a bad match?, by A. Cossins, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, vol. 32, no.1, 1999, pp. 42-60.

This paper focuses on the Royal Commission's analysis of different types of child sex offenders in terms of how they are classified and how the problem of different offenders should be addressed in relation to the types of child sexual assault cases that are investigated and prosecuted. It questions, in particular, the validity of the classification scheme of child sex offenders adopted by the Royal Commission, which focused on the activities of homosexual, fixated offenders and engaged in little analysis of the extent of child sexual abuse within the family and abuse concerning female children in general. It then considers the ramifications of the use of a classification scheme that is based on incarcerated offender profiles for the investigation and prosecution of the vast majority of offenders, whose sexual behaviour and motivations may not necessarily accord with incarcerated offender profiles.

Christianity and child sexual abuse - the survivors' voice leading to change, by M. Kennedy, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2000, pp. 124-141.

This article examines the particular difficulties faced by children who have been sexually abused and who grow up in families with strong Christian beliefs. Many of these additional concerns are not readily identified by the child protection worker or therapist. Beliefs that may have a significant impact and which may hinder the child from disclosing the abuse include: belief in a male diety; no sex before marriage; honour your father and mother; and forgiving others. These concerns are also present in other faith communities, especially those with a patriarchal basis.

Tomorrow's children: Australia's national plan of action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children, Australia, Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, ACT, Department of Family and Community Services, 2000.

This collaboratively developed document sets out what activity Australia has undertaken to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the areas of prostitution or sex for favours, pornography, trafficking and sex tourism. It also describes the continuing challenges, and discusses future directions in terms of legislation, risk factors, support and assistance, education, awareness and monitoring.

Child welfare

Family and Youth Services Bureau : evaluation handbook : a companion to the program manager's guide to evaluation, United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, United States Administration for Children, Youth and Families & United States Children's Bureau - [Washington, D.C.], Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, [1996?].

This guide is intended as a supplement to The Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation. This publication is written for directors of Family and Youth Services Bureau programs and looks at issues specific to this area such as the provision of developmentally appropriate services, ways to measure outcomes through aftercare contacts and use of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System to manage data and forecast trends.

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Family preservation: a potential not yet realized, by S. Kelly & B.J. Blythe, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 1, 2000, pp. 29-42.

This article gives a brief historical overview of family preservation services from the 1980s to the present. It examines some of the main reasons why efforts to implement family preservation services have not been completely successful, and proposes a strategy for ensuring that these services reach their potential in the future.

Needs assessment of children and adolescents, by L. Kroll, R. Harrington & S. Bailey, *Child Psychology & Psychiatry Review*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2000, pp. 81-88.

Although needs assessment is a frequently used term by all agencies involved in the welfare of children and adolescents there is no clear definition of the meaning of the phrase. This review aims to describe some key concepts and issues in regard to needs assessment. It also aims to describe the development of a needs assessment instrument for adolescents with complex and multiple problems, and to explain how such an instrument can be used in clinical and research settings.

In our best interest: three necessary shifts for child welfare workers and children, by J.R. Seita, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 1, 2000, pp. 77-92.

In this article the author, a former youth in care, proposes three practical shifts in child welfare policy and practice. He argues that while these changes will cost little they will do much to build a better future for both children and their families.

Reforming child protective services, by J. Waldfogel, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 1, 2000, pp. 43-57.

Everyone agrees that the child protective services system (CPS) is in crisis and is in urgent need of reform. This article gives a brief overview of the problems facing the CPS today and outlines a vision for reforming the CPS and making it a more effective and viable service. Ways to move from today's CPS to the CPS of the future are suggested.

Substantiation and early decision points in public child welfare: a conceptual reconsideration, by B. Drake & M. Jonson-Reid, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2000, pp. 227-235.

This article provides an overview of substantiation in the context of early intervention decision points faced in the state

child welfare system. The conceptual complexities underlying these interventions are examined. The role that substantiation does or does not play in these interventions is explored. Specific attention has been given to the voluntary or involuntary nature of services and the availability of evidence. The article explores the conceptual consistency of recent child welfare policies and offers suggestions for policy and research.

Using administrative data in child welfare, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 5, 2000, Special Issue.

This special issue contains the following articles: Using administrative data by Joan W. DiLeonardi & Ying-Ying T. Yuan (pp. 437-443); Using administrative data to reward agency performance: the case of the Federal Adoption Incentive Program by Penelope L. Maza (pp. 444-456); Measuring contract agency performance with administrative data by Fred Wulczyn, Britany Orlebeke & Elan Melamid (pp. 457-474); Improving child welfare performance through supervisory use of client outcome data by Terry D. Moore, Charles A. Rapp & Bethany Roberts (pp. 475-498); Data-based organizational change: the use of administrative data to improve child welfare programs and policy by Diana J. English, Carol C. Bradford & Laura Coghlan (pp. 499-516); Costing child protective services staff turnover by Michelle I. Graef & Erick L. Hill (pp. 517-534); Assessing the local need for family and child care services: a small area utilization analysis by Andrew Percy [et al]... (pp. 535-545); Mapping child maltreatment: looking at neighborhoods in a suburban county by Joy Swanson Ernst (pp. 555-572); Safety, permanency and in-home services: applying administrative data by John D. Fluke [et al]... (pp. 573-596); Using administrative data to assess child safety in out-of-home care by Philip C. Garnier & John Poertner (pp. 597-613); Placement stability for children in out-of-home care: a longitudinal analysis by Daniel Webster, Richard P. Barth & Barbara Needell (pp. 614-632); Data mining in child welfare by Dick Schoech, Andrew Quinn & Joan R. Rycraft; Additional sources of information on using administrative data resources (pp. 651-655).

Resignation, radicalism or realism? What role for non-government agencies in the changing context of child and family welfare?, by J. O'Brien, *Children Australia*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2000, pp. 4-9.

Non-government welfare agencies have a history of both service provision and

advocating for social justice and welfare reform. Current economic and social changes have had an impact on our understanding of the role of welfare and the state. There has been a significant reconfiguration of community services, with important implications for the present and future role of welfare agencies. This article seeks to identify questions confronting agencies that seek to maintain a commitment to social action by examining an 18-month child abuse prevention campaign conducted by a coalition of agencies in NSW. Significant insights and challenges that emerged from the campaign are identified. Questions about the role of non government agencies are revisited and the value of welfare agencies' contribution to social equity reasserted.

Child witnesses

Investigative interviews of child witnesses in Sweden, by A. Cederborg, Y. Orbach & K.J. Sternberg, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1355-1361.

This study evaluates the structure and informativeness of interviews with alleged victims of sexual abuse aged 4-13 years. It was found that many of the interview techniques relied on option-posing and suggestive prompts which may reduce the accuracy of the information obtained. This in turn may lead to a reduction of the forensic admissibility of the children's statements. The study suggests that there is a need for interview techniques that enhance the quality of the information provided by the young victims.

Queensland Law Reform Commission reports on children's evidence, by H. Jackson, *Rights Now! (Newsletter of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre)*, Sept 2000, pp. 19-20.

In 1997 the Queensland Law Reform Commission was requested to review the capacity of the judicial system to properly receive the evidence of children. This article presents a summary of the recommendations made in Part 1 of the Commission's Report on the Evidence of Children, dealing with four particular areas: the power to restrict inappropriate cross-examination; the competency of children to give evidence; the situation where an accused is unrepresented; and the situation where allegations of persistent sexual abuse are involved.

Communities that care: a prevention approach to build the resilience of young people in our communities: report of the study visit of Communities that Care initiatives in the US and UK, by G. Fiske, Melbourne, Vic, Youth and Family Services Division, Department of Human Services, 2000.

Communities That Care (CTC) is a local community-based prevention strategy that aims to bring together community leaders and agencies to work on preventing social problems including drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and crime, depression and homelessness. The strategy is based on more than 10 years of research into the social factors which exist in the community that place young people at increased risk of developing problem behaviours during their adolescence. It is being applied successfully in more than 400 communities in the United States and is being trialled in the United Kingdom. The report gives the reader an overview of the context for the Communities That Care development, current overseas policy and program implementations of Communities That Care by government and other agencies, and the evaluation of the Communities That Care effectiveness by funding and other bodies.

Corporal punishment

Changing public attitudes towards corporal punishment: the effects of statutory reform in Sweden, by J.V. Roberts, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 8, 2000, pp. 1027-1035.

This article examines the argument that a statutory ban on physical punishment changes public attitudes towards the use of this form of discipline by parents. It was found that the Swedish ban on corporal punishment did not affect public attitudes. It is more likely that changing public attitudes influenced the legal reform rather than vice versa.

Corporal punishment and primary prevention of physical abuse, by M.A. Straus, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 9, 2000, pp. 1109-1114.

In this study the author reviewed the October 1999 special edition of *Child Abuse & Neglect* on "A National Call to Action: Working Toward the Elimination of Child Maltreatment". The author was looking for literature in relation to the corporal punishment of children by

their parents. None of the articles in the special edition mentioned this issue. The author concludes that the "National Call for Action" should include steps to end the use of corporal punishment as a mode of discipline.

Harsh physical discipline in childhood and violence in later romantic involvements: the mediating role of problem behaviors, by S.P. Swinford, A. DeMaris & S.A. Cernkovich, *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, vol. 62, no. 2, 2000, pp. 508-519.

This study explores the link between experiencing harsh physical discipline in childhood and engaging in problem behaviors during adolescence and young adulthood and what effect these experiences have on experiencing and perpetrating intimate violence. The results suggest that harsh physical punishment in childhood is directly related to greater perpetration of violence against an intimate partner later in life. It was also found that the enactment of problem behaviors in adolescence and young adulthood predicted an increased level of perpetration of violence against an intimate partner.

Disabled children

Maltreatment and disabilities: a population-based epidemiological study, by P.M. Sullivan & J.F. Knutson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1257-1273.

This study found that children with disabilities are 3.4 times more likely to be maltreated than their nondisabled peers. The study also found a significant association between the presence of a disability that affected the child's educational performance and maltreatment.

Is sexual abuse of children with disabilities disclosed? A retrospective analysis of child disability and the likelihood of sexual abuse among those attending Norwegian hospitals, by M.H. Kvam, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 8, 2000, pp. 1073-1084.

This research aimed to investigate if disabled children in Norway were more likely to be sexually abused than non-disabled children. A questionnaire was sent to all Norwegian pediatric

hospitals in the years 1994-1996. The questionnaire addressed the issue the number of children presenting for a medical examination for possible sexual abuse and the number of these children who were disabled, the degree and description of the disability, the age and gender of the patient. It was found that a smaller number of children with disabilities presented with the suspicion of sexual abuse than was expected. The reasons for this finding are discussed.

The prevalence of disabilities and maltreatment among runaway children, by P.M. Sullivan & J.F. Knutson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1275-1288.

This research was conducted to determine the relationship between disability, maltreatment, family stress factors, academic achievement, school attendance, domestic violence and runaways. Young people with disabilities were found to be at an increased risk of becoming runaways than their nondisabled peers. However, the research found that young people with disabilities are an unidentified and unrecognized group among runaways.

Children exposed to domestic violence: current issues in research, intervention, prevention and policy development, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2000. This special issue contains the following articles:

- Emerging issues for children exposed to domestic violence by Peter G. Jaffe, Marlies Sudermann & Robert Geffner (pp.1-8);
- Making the invisible victims of violence against women visible through university/community partnerships by John W. Fantuzzo, Wanda K. Mohr & Megan J. Noone (pp.9-24);
- Trauma and parenting in battered women: an addition to an ecological model of parenting by Alytia A. Levendosky & Sandra A. Graham-Bermann (pp.25-36);
- Consider the children: research informing interventions for children exposed to domestic violence by Debra J. Pepler, Rose Catallo & Timothy E. Moore (pp.37-58);

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- Witnessing parental violence as a traumatic experience shaping the abusive personality by Donald G. Dutton (pp.59-68);
- The neglected variable of physiology in domestic violence by Wanda K. Mohr & John W. Fantuzzo (pp.69-84);
- Posttraumatic response and children exposed to parental violence by B. B. Robbie Rossman & Joyce Ho (pp.85-106);
- The relevance of narrative research with children who witness war and children who witness woman abuse by Helene Berman (pp.107-126);
- Evaluation of the London (Ontario) community group treatment programme for children who have witnessed woman abuse by Marlies Sudermann, Larry Marshall & Susan Loosely (pp.127-146);
- Helping children who reside at shelters for battered women: lessons learned by Nanette Stephens, Renee McDonald & Ernest N. Jouriles (pp.147-160);
- Assessment and intervention for PTSD in children exposed to violence by Patricia K. Kerig, [et al]... (pp.161-184);
- Mothers and children together: a family group treatment approach by Stephanie Rabenstein & Peter Lehmann (pp.185-206);
- Child protection workers and battered women's advocates working together to end violence against women and children by Carole Echlin & Bina Osthoff (pp.207-220);
- The role of attitudes and awareness in anti-violence education by N. Zoe Hilton (pp.221-238);
- Controversies in family preservation programs by Richard J. Gelles (pp.239-252);
- Aligning with the battered woman to protect both mother and child: direct practice and policy implications by Colleen Friend (pp.253-268);
- Innovative approaches to child custody and domestic violence in New Zealand: the effects of law reform on the discourses of battering by Ruth Busch & Neville Robertson (pp.269-300);
- A differentiated legal approach to the effects of spousal abuse on children: a Canadian context by Nicholas Bala (pp.301-328);
- Custody and visitation trends in the United States in domestic violence cases by Nancy K. D. Lemon (pp.329-344);
- Collaborating on family safety: challenges for children's and women's advocates by Sandra K. Beeman & Jeffrey L. Edleson (pp.345-361).



Family support services

Embracing what works: building communities that strengthen families, by D. Scott, *Children Australia*, vol. 25, no.2, 2000, 4-9.

There are three conceptual building blocks to assist us in building communities that strengthen families: an ecological way of understanding families and communities; exciting new research on prevention; and the development of some highly innovative programs. The re-emergence of an ecological understanding of families broadens our focus from the psychological interior of family life to encompass the social exterior of family life. This social exterior

includes the micro level of kith and kin and neighbourhood networks right through to the macro level of globalisation and economic restructuring. In relation to research, recent meta-analysis demonstrates that the same set of risk and protective factors at the levels of the individual child, the family, the peer group, the school environment and the broader community are associated with the presence or absence of major problems such as child behavioural and mental health problems, school failure, drug use, and child abuse, to name a few of the problems which confront us. Creative and innovative programs are emerging in communities across the land. A strengths based approach requires us to identify the core elements of successful programs and explore their potential to be disseminated and transplanted in different community contexts. Drawing on a few examples of successful programs, both of the home grown and the imported variety, the author identifies some of their common qualities as well as explores some of the challenges which need to be faced to sustain and disseminate them. Strength based strategies to rebuild communities must construct bridges across both the different levels of government and the different sectors of the service system, and involve a broad range of people such as economists, business and union leaders, social planners, professionals in health, education and welfare services, and local community members.

Family diversity and family policy : strengthening families for America's children, by E.E. Sparks & L.D. McCubbin, - Boston, Mass., London, Kluwer Academic, c1999.

"Family Diversity and Family Policy describes the dimensions of diversity which characterize the contemporary American family and discusses the implications for public policy and associated intervention programs linked to this diversity. The authors contend that if the programs and policies available to support families are to be maximally useful, they need to reflect the diversity of the families they intend to help."—BOOK JACKET

A preventative services program model for preserving and supporting families over time, by P. McCartt Hess, B.G. McGowan & M. Botsko, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 3, 2000, pp.227-265.

This article reports on selected findings from a three-year study of a sample

of families served by the Center for Family Life's preventive services program. The study examined the nature and results of the services the families received.

Programs for the promotion of family wellness and the prevention of child maltreatment: a meta-analytic review, by J. MacLeod & G. Nelson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 9, 2000, pp. 1127-1149.

Fifty-six programs which were designed to promote family wellness and prevent child maltreatment were reviewed. Meta-analysis, using a 3-step model testing procedure was employed. The findings indicate that child maltreatment can be prevented and family wellness can be promoted.

Toward building a typology for the evaluation of services in family support programs, by V. Manalo & W. Meezan, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 4, 2000, pp. 405-429.

This article briefly reviews the development, philosophy and practice principles of family support programs. Typologies currently in use to classify these programs are examined. The difficulties these classifications pose for program evaluators are discussed. A new typology is introduced and the potential for this typology for the evaluation of family support services is discussed.

Foster care

Children and youth in foster care: disentangling the relationship between problem behaviors and number of placements, by R.R. Newton, A.J. Litrownik & J.A. Landsverk, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1363-1374.

This study examines the relationship between the number of foster care placements and behavior problems among a cohort of children in foster care. The results suggest that there is a relationship between a volatile placement history and both internalizing and externalizing behavior of foster children. Children who experience a large number of changes in placement are at a high risk of exhibiting these behaviors.

The heterogeneity of children and their experiences in kinship care, by L.K. Leslie, J. Landsverk & M.B. Horton, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 3, 2000, pp. 315-334.

Although an increasing number of children in need of out-of-home care are being placed in kinship care there have been few longitudinal studies done to determine if these children constitute a homogeneous group or a diversity of subgroups. The results of this study indicates that children in kinship care have significantly different sociodemographic and maltreatment histories. They also are exposed to a diverse range of placement experiences.

Understanding reentry to out-of-home care for reunified infants, by L. Frame, J.D. Berrick & M.L. Brodowski, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 4, 2000, pp. 339-369.

A significant number of children who have been placed in out-of-home care, although returned to their family of origin, reenter care. This trend reflects the continuing problems experienced by the family and the weaknesses of the child welfare system. This study reviewed the case records of 88 randomly selected infants who had been reunified with their families. It was found that 32% of those infants had reentered care within 4 to 6 years of the reunification. It is therefore of vital importance to identify the factors that predict reentry into care. The policy and practice implications of this study are discussed.

Mandatory reporting

Opinions among mandated reporters toward child maltreatment reporting policies, by S. Delaronde, G. King & R. Bendel, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 7, 2000, pp. 901-910.

This study investigates the opinions of professional, mandated reporters (social workers, pediatricians, and physician assistants) in their support for the existing child maltreatment mandated reporting policy and an alternative reporting policy. It was found that the majority of mandated reporters did not consistently report all suspected cases of maltreatment and support for an alternative policy varied among the different groups.

Medical practitioners' obligation to report suspected child abuse under scrutiny in South Australia, by S. Castell-McGregor, *Rights Now! (Newsletter of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre)*, Apr, 2000, p. 10.

Issues raised by the guilty plea of a South Australian doctor who failed to comply with mandatory reporting requirements in a case of suspected child abuse are addressed in this article. Factors which may inhibit mandatory reporting are identified.

Mental health professionals' experiences reporting suspected child abuse and maltreatment, by B. Weinstein, M. Levine & N. Kogan, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1317-1328.

This study examines the experiences of mental health professionals who have reported cases of suspected child abuse concerning their clients. The study discussed issues such as when the abuse was suspected by the clinician and when it was reported, if the client was informed of the report and the effect of the report on the client/clinician relationship.

Mass media

The gender neglect and textual abuse of children in the print media, by C. Goddard & B.J. Saunders, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 37-48.

While the majority of analysis of child abuse, child protection and the media has considered what has been called the unevenness of reporting, little attention has been paid to detailed analysis of the language used to describe child abuse and child victims in media texts. The research reported in this article involves the examination of the coverage of child abuse cases in three major Australian newspapers. In some circumstances the gender of a child who has been abused or is at risk of abuse, is identified and then lost. The pronoun 'it' is substituted and, as a result, the child becomes an object. Furthermore, through the language chosen, some stories redefine child sexual abuse as a less serious, almost consensual relationship between adults. These phenomena, which the authors have termed 'gender neglect' and lexical redescription or 'textual abuse', may serve to reduce the impact of abuse on the reader.

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Mass media and disclosures of child abuse in the perspective of secondary prevention: putting ideas into practice, by C. Hoefnagels & A. Mudde, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 8, 2000, pp. 1091-1101.

Most child abuse prevention programs are based on interpersonal communication. Examples of mass media campaigns in this area are rare and the reports of these campaigns generally focus on the outcomes. This article aims to provide an insight into the developmental process of a mass media campaign in Holland which was developed to enhance children's disclosure of abuse. The article describes the various stages in the development and implementation of the campaign.

Social conservatism vs social justice: the portrayal of child abuse in the press in Victoria, Australia, by P. Mendes, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 49-61.

This article examines the role that the media have played in the child abuse and child protection debate. The author argues that media coverage of child abuse has had both positive and negative consequences. On the one hand, media campaigns have helped to produce more equitable and more effective child protection policies and practices, while on the other hand, much media coverage has tended to be sensationalist. In this article attention is drawn to the local coverage of recent high profile child abuse cases and debates within the two daily Melbourne newspapers, and the different approaches that each newspaper has taken.

M o t h e r s

Emotion recognition ability in mothers at high and low risk for child physical abuse, by K.A. Balge & J.S. Milner, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1289-1298.

This study compared high-risk and low-risk mothers to determine if there was a difference in the number of emotion recognition errors when they attempt to recognize emotions in children and adults. Although, high-risk mothers showed a tendency to make more errors on the visual and auditory emotion recognition tasks, the trend was not significant. The study found that high-risk mothers reported more parenting stress and depression and less ego-strength.

Impact of child noncompliance on stress appraisals, attributions, and disciplinary choices in mothers at high and low risk for child physical abuse, by C.A. Dopke & J.S. Milner, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 4, 2000, pp. 493-504.

The objective of this study was to investigate the impact of repeated child noncompliance on stress appraisals, attributions and disciplinary choices in high- and low-risk mothers. It was found that high-risk, compared to low-risk, mothers perceived more threat and uncontrollability, rated child behaviors as more stressful and reported higher levels of negative affect after repeated noncompliance. However, risk group differences in disciplinary choices were not found.

M u n c h a u s e n s y n d r o m e b y p r o x y

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: a care and protection social worker's perspective, by L. Roberts & V. Carmichael, *Social Work Now*, no. 14, 1999, pp. 15-22.

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy is the diagnosis used to describe a variation of child abuse whereby the parent or adult caregiver fabricates a medical history or induces symptoms in the child, resulting in unnecessary examinations, treatments, hospitalisations and even death. This article is written from a child protection social worker's perspective and focuses on issues relating to the investigation of child abuse. The authors have been involved in seven cases where Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy has been suspected and, in some cases, diagnosed. This article provides a perpetrator's and child's profile, information on medical and social history of the child and siblings in the family, and a case study.

P a r e n t s / p a r e n t e d u c a t i o n

Commentary: issues in training parents to manage children with behavior problems, by R.A. Barkley, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol. 39, no. 8, 2000, pp. 1004-1007.

Research has shown that training parents in the use of contingency management methods is an excellent way to help them better manage their children's disruptive behavior. Whilst

approaches to parent training may vary, they all seem to share a common set of principles. These can be summarized as follows: it is important to reduce any positive reinforcement (such as parental attention) being inadvertently provided to the child for engaging in disruptive or defiant behavior, while simultaneously increasing the reinforcement parents provide for prosocial or compliant behavior; and applying punishment contingent on the display of disruptive or unacceptable behavior, while making parental use of consequences more predictable, contingent, and immediate.

Bending like a river: the Parenting between Cultures program, by C. Kayrooz & C. Blunt, *Children Australia*, vol. 25, no. 3, 2000, pp. 17-22.

While there are many parent education programs in Australia, there have been few developed to cater specifically to the needs of migrant groups. Attempting to fill this gap, a parenting program was developed and trialed for three ethnic communities. The program addressed key parenting issues found to be of relevance to members of culturally and linguistically diverse groups, including: intergenerational conflict arising from different acculturation rates; the protective factor of a bicultural parenting identity knowledge of the school system; discipline options and child abuse laws; and how to gain support. The program was subsequently independently evaluated. Quantitative and qualitative information from both the process and outcomes of the program revealed that it was effective, particularly in fostering an understanding of the impact of culture on parenting, knowledge of the school system, non-physical disciplinary methods and child abuse laws. This study may be one of the first targeted ethnic parenting programs to be independently evaluated in Australia.

The assessment of parenting in child protection cases, by J.G. Barber & P. Delfabbro, *Research on Social Work Practice*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2000, pp. 243-25.

This article summarises the findings of a pilot project conducted by the New Zealand Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Services (CYPFS) into the application of standardised parenting measures within statutory child protection agencies. The primary objective of the study was to trial a procedure that could be incorporated into the work of

CYPFS' social workers in order to monitor the performance of the service against the objectives of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989. The primary purpose of the pilot was development of a measurement procedure that could be incorporated into outcome studies in the future. The study also sought to demonstrate how standardised instruments could be used as an aid to clinical decision making.

Parental monitoring: a reinterpretation, by H. Stattin & M. Kerr, *Child Development*, vol. 71, no. 4, 2000, pp. 1072-1085.

This study questions whether monitoring their children's movements is the best way for parents to know what their children are up to. The authors suggest that disclosure from the child is a more reliable source of knowledge. The authors conclude that a new prescription for parental behavior must rest on an understanding of the factors that determine and encourage child disclosure.

Research report summary: Growing up in Australia: the role of parents in promoting positive adolescent development, by M. Frederico, C. Davis & J. Barber, *Asia Pacific Families: APFAM Journal*, vol. 1 no.1 Jul 1999, pp. 61-64.

This is the executive summary of the authors' report published in 1999. It describes a study which provided the opportunity to ask parents and adolescents their views on the Australian experience of parenting adolescents and to hear from them what they find supportive in the relationship. The study aimed to use the results to inform policies and programs on child abuse prevention and parenting education. Apart from the views of parents and adolescents, the views of the service providers are also outlined.

Attitudes of low-income parents toward seeking help with parenting: implications for practice, by J. Keller & K. McDade, *Child Welfare*, vol. 79, no. 3, 2000, pp. 285-312.

This study surveyed low-income parents to assess their attitudes toward parenting and to determine their help seeking behavior. The results showed that low income parents were less likely to seek help with parenting than higher income parents. Those that sought help used family, books and videos, telephone helplines, and friends most

frequently. The least likely sources of help were child protective services, school personnel, clergy, and social service/ counselling agencies. Only one in four of the participants indicated that they would use a parent support or education group program.



The assessment relationship: interactions between social workers and parents in child protection assessments, by S. Holland, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2000, pp. 149-163.

This paper explores an extremely important aspect of child protection practice: the comprehensive assessment. Many social workers base their assessment decisions on this verbal interaction between themselves and the parents. It is therefore particularly important for both parties to agree on a plausible explanation for the family situation as this may effect the outcome of the assessment. The

possible implications of these findings for assessment practices are outlined.

Child maltreatment: differences in perceptions between parents in low income and middle income neighbourhoods, by R. Shor, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2000, pp. 165-178.

This study, conducted in Israel, compares the perceptions of child maltreatment by parents in a low income neighbourhood and a middle income neighbourhood. The findings indicated that not only the beliefs regarding effective and appropriate child-rearing practices differed but also the rationale behind these beliefs differed. The findings also indicated that parental practices which could be considered as maltreatment in one socio-ecological context may not be perceived as such in another. The implications of these findings for child protection workers is discussed.

The dangerousness of parents who have abnormal illness behaviour, by R. Meadow, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 62-67.

This article discusses the difficulties associated with assessing and evaluating the dangerousness of parents who are also child abuse perpetrators. It examines in particular the possibility of rehabilitating the abused child, and the safety of future children born to that perpetrator.

Resilience

Creating places where resilience thrives - Bloomington, IN, National Educational Service, 1999.

This issue contains the following articles: Beyond individual resilience by David Osher [et al]...(pp.2-3); I was wrong about group homes by Eric Edmonson (pp.5-6); Lost boys: why our sons turn to violence and how we can save them by James Garbarino (pp.7-10); Easier said than done: shifting from a risk to a resiliency paradigm by Sybil Wolin (pp.11-14); If you build it, they will come: a nontraditional approach for systems change by Ken Reavis [et al]...(pp.15-17); Building resilient families and communities: an interview with Karl Dennis by Kimberly T. Kendziora (pp.18-21); Exercises in a resilient system of care, cultural competency, and the wraparound

process by Vera O. Pina & John Van-DenBerg (pp.22-30); Tapping into resiliency: the kaleidoscope approach by Nick Dwyer (pp.31-33); Developing relationships that build resiliency: including peers in the wraparound process by Vernessa Gipson, Lillian Ortiz-Self & Deirdre Cobb-Roberts (pp.34-37); Growing resilience: creating opportunities for resilience to thrive by David Osher [et al]...(pp.38-45); "It's so great to have an adult friend": a teacher-student mentorship program for at-risk youth by Julia Ellis, Jan Small-McGinley & Lucy De Fabrizio (pp.46-50); Coming out resilient: strategies to help gay and lesbian adolescents by Tania DuBeau & David E. Emenheiser (pp.51-54); Answering a traditional call with a community response by Roslyn Holliday Moore & Araminta Rivera (pp.55-59); IDEA: parental protections under the law by Sherry Kolbe (pp.60-62); Meeting the needs of children and youth with challenging behaviors by Lyndal M. Bullock & Ann Fitzsimons-Lovett (pp.63-68); The Sacred Child project: a new definition of "formal" services by Jon Eagle [et al]...(pp.69-72).

Kids of survival : real-life lessons in resilience - Bloomington, IN, National Educational Service, 1997.

This issue contains the following articles: Betting on me by Alan Meredith Blankstein & Lyndal M. Bullock (pp.2-4); Thinking on good things by Franklin T. Hysten (pp.5-7); The "bad dude" story and keys to my survival by Warren Rhodes & Elva Edwards (pp.8-13); Overcoming four myths that prevent fostering resilience by Sylvia Rockwell (pp.14-17); Tara's death: a lesson in love, grief and resilience by Thomas Reilly & Eleanor Guetzloe (pp.18-23); Experiencing professional renewal through nurturing young survivors by Linda Bell (pp.24-26); Finding meaning in a socially toxic environment by James Garbarino (pp.27-30); How to be a turnaround teacher by Bonnie Benard (pp.31-35); I am, I have, I can: what families worldwide taught us about resilience by Edith Grotberg (pp.36-39); From risk to resiliency: a history of the research by Tim Duffey (pp.40-43); Using academic

strategies to build resilience by Theodore Pikes, Brenda Burrell & Connie Holliday (pp.44-47); Building resilience with the self-control curriculum by Martin Henley (pp.48-51); Meeting the needs of children and youth with challenging behaviors by Lyndal M. Bullock & Ann Fitzsimons-Lovett (pp.52-60); Shaping a brighter future by uncovering "survivor's pride" by Sybil Wolin & Steven J. Wolin (pp.61-64).

Patterns of children's coping with life stress: implications for clinicians, by D. Donaldson, M.J. Prinstein & M. Danovsky, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, vol. 70, no. 3, 2000, pp. 351-359.

Boys and girls, aged 9-17 years, completed a coping checklist which listed four types of stressors: school; parents/family; siblings; peer/interpersonal. Similar patterns of coping strategies were found across the various stressors. However, it was found that the older adolescents used a broader range of strategies. The implications of this for clinical practice are discussed.

Strengthening family resilience, by Froma Walsh. New York, Guilford Press, c1998.

Based on the conviction that all families have the potential for repair and growth, this book offers a fresh alternative to clinicians' prevalent focus on family dysfunction. Drawing upon extensive clinical and research experience, Froma Walsh presents an innovative framework for therapeutic and preventive work with couples and families who are distressed, vulnerable, or at risk. Filled with suggestions for strength-promoting, collaborative interventions that can help family relationships rebound from the worst of times, the book provides important clinical insights for professionals and students in a range of mental health and human service settings. This volume is a useful guide for family therapists and counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other social service and health care professionals. Its coverage of both theoretical and practical concerns

also makes it an invaluable text for advanced undergraduate and graduate-level courses.

Valuing families: social work practice with families from a strengths perspective, by T.J. Early & L.F. GlenMaye, *Social Work*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2000, pp. 118-130.

Historically, most approaches to social work with families have focused on individual pathology and problem solving or have considered problems of a family member to be symptoms of family dysfunction. This the problem-focused approach. In contrast, another approach to social work has been based on the growth-focused approach. This approach is focused on growth, function, and healing of the family unit and individual family members. This article describes both problem-focused and growth-focused approaches to practice and presents a third approach. This is the strengths approach to practice that values families and builds resilience. Assumptions of the strengths approach are discussed.

S e q u e l e

Childhood sexual abuse history and role reversal in parenting, by P.C. Alexander, L. Teti & C. L. Anderson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 6, 2000, pp. 829-838.

This study explored the interactive effects of sexual abuse history and relationship satisfaction on a specific type of parent-child role reversal. This role reversal is defined as an emotional overdependence upon one's child.

Linking childhood sexual abuse and abusive parenting: the mediating role of maternal anger, by D. DiLillo, G.C. Tremblay & L. Peterson, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 6, 2000, pp. 767-779.

The first aim of this study is to explore the link between childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and later parenting characteristics, in particular the potential to physically abuse one's own children. The second aim of the study is to examine maternal anger as a possible mediator of the link between CSA and the potential for child physical abuse as an adult. It was found CSA may be a risk factor for physically abusive parenting, while anger appears to play a significant role in mediating this relationship.

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Multi-type maltreatment and the long-term adjustment of adults, by D.J. Higgins & M.P. McCabe, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2000, pp. 6-18.

Multi type maltreatment refers to the experience of more than one form of child maltreatment. This paper focuses on the intersection between sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological maltreatment, neglect and witnessing family violence. The authors define the concept of multi type maltreatment, review the existing literature and present new empirical data. In particular they explore the association between multi type maltreatment and adjustment. It was hypothesised that a large degree of overlap occurred in the experience of the types of maltreatment. Family characteristics, particularly family cohesion and adaptability, discriminated between respondents reporting single type and multi type maltreatment. Greater adjustment problems were associated with reports of a larger number of different maltreatment types.

Pregnancy to parenting: issues and care for adult survivors of child sexual abuse, by J. Hall, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 2, 2000, pp. 21-23.

A pamphlet, 'Pregnancy to parenting: a Supportive Guide for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse', was produced as a result of a public education seminar to mark the joint work of the Northern Centre Against Sexual Assault and the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. This article reports on some of the issues raised at the seminar which focused on how childhood abuse affects the ability to do well as a parent. These include: child sexual abuse and a link to post natal depression; how mothers disclose abuse; and art therapy for post natal depression.

Relationships between different types of maltreatment during childhood and adjustment in adulthood, by D.J. Higgins & M.P. McCabe, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2000, pp. 261-272.

There is a gap in the research that evaluates the relationship between multiple forms of childhood abuse and psychological adjustment in adulthood. This study aims to fill that gap by examining the interrelationships between five different types of child maltreatment (sexual abuse; physical abuse; psychological maltreatment; neglect;

and witnessing family violence) and current psychological adjustment in adulthood. The participants were a community sample of 175 women and men. The relationships between the reported experience of these forms of maltreatment in childhood, family characteristics during childhood, and current psychological adjustment were assessed. It was found that family characteristics predicted maltreatment scores and adjustment, and maltreatment scores predicted adjustment after controlling for family environment. High correlations between scores on all five maltreatment scales were noted. Results highlight the need to assess all forms of maltreatment when looking at relationships of maltreatment to adjustment. Childhood familial environment was an important factor in the long-term adjustment of adults.

Male survivors of sexual abuse, by E. Fraser, comp. *ISA Journal*, Autumn 2000, pp. 23-45.

Adult male survivors of childhood sexual abuse are starting to acknowledge the impact it is having on their lives. This is the contention of this article which discusses the effects on self esteem, feelings, body awareness, and intimacy in childhood and adulthood and the effects on work, the survivor's family, parenting, and sexuality in adulthood. Myths and realities of childhood sexual abuse are examined and ways of coping with denial and interpersonal relationships are addressed. The author's personal experience as a mother whose son was sexually abused by his father is presented.

Shame, anger and PTSD: the misunderstood emotions of male survivors of sexual child abuse, by C. Dawson, *VAFT News (Victorian Association of Family Therapists)*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2000, pp. 3-8.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the role shame plays with men who were sexually abused in childhood and who also display angry and aggressive behaviour toward others. Theories on the differences between guilt and shame, anger and shame, and anger and aggression are examined. The effects of traumatic stress disorder are discussed.

It is argued that in dealing with men's anger, aggression and violence, the therapist should consider the key factors of male socialisation, shame and post traumatic stress.

Social support, attachment and psychopathology in high risk formerly maltreated adults, by R.T. Muller & K.E. Lemieux, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 7, 2000, pp. 883-900.

This study aims to explore the relationships between social support, attachment security and psychopathology in an adult sample of survivors of childhood abuse. The findings indicate that among survivors of child maltreatment, a negative view of self emerges as the most substantial predictor of psychopathology when examined in combination with other relevant risk factors.

History of physical and/or sexual abuse and current suicidality in college women, by R.R. Thakkar, P.M. Gutierrez & C.J. Kuczen, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 10, 2000, pp. 1345-1354.

This study examines the relationship between a history of physical and/or sexual abuse and current suicidality in college-age women. The study also looks at the relationship between abuse status and attitudes about life and death.

Young and troubled: childhood abuse, substance use and suicidal intent, by G. Mammen, *Australian Family Physician*, vol. 28, no. 12, 1999, pp. 1288-1289.

Australia's high rate of suicide and substance use among young people is of great community concern as evidenced by the government's involvement in programs such as the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy and the National Drug Strategy. In this editorial, the author discusses the long lasting consequences on adult health of child abuse, the importance of increasing community awareness of depression, and the need for clinicians to incorporate into their practice framework a social model of health alongside biological approaches.

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