



Literature highlights

COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER, AIFS LIBRARIAN. 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.

Aboriginal families

Indigenous families and the welfare system: the Yuendumu community case study, stage two, by Y. Musharbash, Canberra, ACT, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), Australian National University, 2001.

In 1998, CAEPR commenced research for the Children and Welfare Project, as negotiated with the Indigenous Policy Unit (IPU) of the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS). The project aims to provide a longitudinal study into the factors influencing the service delivery of social security income support payments to Indigenous families for the care of their children. This Discussion Paper presents the findings of the first follow-up survey (referred to as Stage Two) undertaken at Yuendumu in 2000. In line with issues raised in the original terms of reference and the earlier stages of the project, the focus is on mobility and consequent changes in membership and composition of households, and the related policy and service delivery issues. The paper presents an ethnographic and statistical exploration of intra-community mobility. It relates mobility to factors underlying everyday life in Yuendumu – i.e. the sharing of food, money and other resources within social networks – and the implications of these for policy and the delivery of welfare services. The paper concludes with further consideration of the recommendations made in the earlier stage of the project. It provides a more detailed elaboration of particular issues related to policy and more appropriate payment structures for Indigenous welfare recipients, and formulates relevant ideas for future action.

Indigenous families and the welfare system: the Kuranda community case study, stage two, by R. Henry & A. Daly, Canberra, ACT, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), Australian National University, 2001.

This discussion paper presents the results from the second year (Stage Two) of the Kuranda community case study for the project on Indigenous families and the welfare system. Twenty-nine key reference people were interviewed about the factors influencing the delivery of welfare income by government to Indigenous

families for the care of children. It was found that families and households remain highly dependent on income support. The key role played by older women in the care of children was emphasised once again. The results emphasise the importance of the extended family network in the care of children, and raise a number of important issues for policy and service delivery. The fact that child care is family based rather than household based needs to be recognised in the delivery of services to children. Many children have multiple carers who are in need of financial support for the period in which they are responsible for a child. There therefore needs to be flexibility in the arrangements so that the relevant family payments are going to the person actually caring for a child. The paper emphasises the need for a holistic approach to delivering assistance to children. This includes the importance of increasing the opportunities for employment and training among Indigenous adults, of providing recreational and support facilities for young people, and of facilitating the interaction between Indigenous people and the welfare system.

Indigenous families, welfare and work: survey results from two community case studies, by D. Smith & A. Daly, *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, vol.4, no.2, Jun 2000–2001, pp.99–109.

Given their ongoing economic disadvantage, many Indigenous families are long-term dependents on social security income support. Their well-being continues to be a critical challenge for government and Indigenous organisations. The paper presents an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data from the first year of a longitudinal survey conducted in two Indigenous communities. A range of factors are identified which influence the effectiveness and appropriateness of delivery of income transfers to Indigenous families for the care of their children (focusing on Parenting Payment and Family Allowance). Survey data on the extent of “welfare dependence” being experienced by Indigenous families are analysed, and the nature of household economies described. The interaction between the Community Development Employment Projects scheme (a work-for-the-dole scheme) and the welfare

economies operating within Indigenous households is discussed. In the context of the Federal Government’s welfare reform agenda, the paper outlines recommendations for fine-tuning policy and service delivery to address the economic and culturally based realities facing Indigenous families.

The record is wrong sometimes, by F. Chaney, *QCOSS Bulletin*, May 2001, pp.16–17.

In response to arguments by Peter Howson in *The Canberra Times* in February that the conclusions of the “Bringing Them Home Report” cannot be substantiated because cases cited in the report were “subject to legal procedures to ensure that the children needed protection”, or included a “requirement that an inquiry to establish it was in the moral or physical welfare of the child” and that in any case the removal “was appealable to a court by parents”, Fred Chaney related his personal experience of the context of the welfare and legal systems of the time.

Adolescent parents

Adolescents at risk for mistreating their children, part I: prenatal identification, by C. Stevens-Simon, D. Nelligan & L. Kelly, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.6, Jun 2001, pp.737–51.

The aim of this study was to determine if the Family Stress Checklist helps prenatal care providers identify adolescent mothers who are at risk of maltreating their children. Findings indicated that the use of the Family Stress Checklist will help identify a subgroup of mothers at risk of child maltreatment and in need of additional support services.

Adolescents at risk for mistreating their children, part II: a home- and clinic-based prevention program, by C. Stevens-Simon, D. Nelligan & L. Kelly, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.6, Jun 2001, pp.753–69.

In this study an intensive home visitation component was added to an adolescent-oriented maternity program for at-risk mothers. The study found that this intensive home visitation intervention did not alter the incidence of child maltreatment for this group. A parenting program that was more inclusive of the support network may be more effective

with adolescent parents. The findings emphasise the importance of counselling services that are specifically designed to prevent adolescent mothers from abandoning their children.

Best practice

Child care practice innovations: using a model of change to develop training strategies, by J. Horwath, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.1, Jan–Feb 2001, pp.18–34.

This paper explores how managers and trainers in children's services can best manage change and introduce innovations into the workplace. The "Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families" is used as an example test case of how a model of change can be implemented through training.

The Memorandum of Good Practice: theory versus application, by K. Sternberg, M. Lamb & G. Davies, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.5, May 2001, pp.669–81.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the quality of investigative forensic interviews in England and Wales since the implementation of the Memorandum of Good Practice. The Memorandum specified how the interviews of alleged child abuse victims should be conducted. Findings showed that the Memorandum has had little impact on the practices of forensic interviewers. The authors suggest that further training is needed for the forensic interviewers so that the superior practices outlined in the Memorandum can be properly implemented.

Selecting outcome measures for child welfare settings: lessons for use in performance management, by S. Wells & M. Johnson, *Children & Youth Services Review*, vol.23, no.2, Feb 2001, pp.169–99.

This paper summarises the current status of the development of outcome measures in the child welfare system. It presents the case for developing an outcomes-based management system. It provides tools to help in the selection of outcomes and their indicators for use in the management of performance in the system.

Sharing the care – best practice in respite foster care, by J. Elefsiniotis, Paper presented at 8th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Melbourne, November 2001.

Share Care is a small foster care program in inner Melbourne providing regular respite care for local children. This paper

describes a workshop aimed at documenting the contributing factors to Share Care's best practice achievements, and contributing to the knowledge base on the role of regular, planned respite care in preventing child abuse and neglect. Issues covered include: defining respite care; social and demographic considerations; continuity in relationships for vulnerable children; essential components of best practice; community management; parents as partners; staff continuity; caregivers as friends; giving children time; philosophy and principles; and comparing common practice with best practice.

Bullying

Parental maltreatment and emotion dysregulation as risk factors for bullying and victimization in middle childhood, by A. Shields & D. Cicchetti, *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, vol.30, no.3, Sep 2001, pp.349–63.

This research examines the links between child maltreatment and bullying and victimisation. It also examines the role of emotion regulation in the at-risk group. Findings showed that children who suffered maltreatment were more likely than non-abused children to bully other children and were at greater risk of being bullied by their peers. It also found that both bullies and victims showed evidence of emotion regulation problems.

Child abduction

Child welfare defences in child abduction cases: some recent developments, by J. Caldwell, *Child & Family Law Quarterly*, vol.13, no.2, 2001, pp.121–36.

With international travel and "international families" becoming more common, there are few people who would challenge the need for a strong presumption of mandatory return of the child to discourage and thwart any attempts by parents to circumvent the normal judicial processes of the country of habitual residence. However, there are times when return seems destined to produce significant disadvantages for a blameless child, with a resulting sense of unease that the welfare of that particular child appears to have been sacrificed in the assumed interests of children at large. The purpose of this article is to examine the extent to which considerations of the specific welfare of the individual child, and respect for the child's point of view can, on occasion, prove to be more powerful than the

general objective of mandatory return, with the focus being on reported judgments from England, New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Review of the Hague Child Abduction Convention: protecting both children and adults until and upon return? by D. Sandor, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol.15, no.2, Jul 2001, pp.80–89.

At the meeting in March 2001 to review the operation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, judicial decision makers, as well as administrative officials, were involved in the review. The purpose of this article is to highlight two particular outcomes of this meeting: namely safe return orders by courts, and protective measures by central authorities. In Australia these are located in the Attorney-General's Department. Both of these are interconnected means of better implementing the Convention.

Child abuse prevention

Developing an early intervention programme to prevent child maltreatment, by A. Naughton & A. Heath, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.2, Mar–Apr 2001, pp.85–96.

The development and implementation of a child abuse prevention program is described. This program has a unique approach and uses a variety of intervention strategies, which are described in detail. The first five years' evaluation of these clinics show a very high rate of successful outcomes.

The prevention of child abuse and neglect: successfully out of the blocks, by J. Leventhal, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.4, Apr 2001, pp.431–39.

This article reviews three questions about child abuse prevention in the United States in the last five years: how far have things progressed?; what are the new challenges?; and how will they be met?

Proximate effects of a child sexual abuse prevention program in elementary school children, by M. Hebert, F. Lavoie & C. Piche, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.4, Apr 2001, pp.505–22.

The aim of this research was to evaluate the effects of the child sexual abuse prevention program ESPACE. The results indicated that the children who participated in the program showed greater preventive knowledge and skills than non-participants. However, while knowledge gains are maintained over time, the preventive skills may fade. The majority of the parents did not report any negative side effects in their children following their participation in the program.

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Child emotional maltreatment: a 2-year study of US Army cases, by L. Jellen, J. McCarroll & L. Thayer, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.5, May 2001, pp.623–39.

The objective of this research was to determine the types of emotional maltreatment substantiated in a community of US Army families on a tour of duty and residing temporarily in Germany. The most frequently substantiated type of emotional abuse was witnessing domestic violence. Emotional abuse was substantiated more often if it was seen as a single type rather than in combination with other forms of maltreatment. The implications for clinicians in seeing emotional maltreatment as a single entity are discussed.

Child physical abuse

Antecedents and socioemotional consequences of physical punishment on children in two-parent families, by M. Eamon, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.6, Jun 2001, pp.787–802.

This study examined the relationship between physical punishment of children and poverty, maternal birth age, parents' education, maternal depression and marital conflict. Maternal depression was linked to higher use of physical punishment and higher levels of marital conflict. Children who were physically punished exhibited more socio-emotional problems than those who were not spanked.

Attitudes towards and the practice of discipline amongst parents of pre-school children in Nottingham: disciplining pre-school children, by A. Thompson & J. Pearce, *Children & Society*, vol.15, no.4, Sep 2001, pp.231–36.

This study investigates parents' attitudes and beliefs about appropriate discipline practices for their pre-school children. It then compares their stated beliefs with their actual discipline practices. Findings showed that while many parents did not believe in smacking, they still used it as a discipline technique. These results indicate that current initiatives aimed at promoting positive discipline and reducing smacking may not be sufficient by themselves in reducing the physical punishment of children.

The factors of child physical abuse in Korean immigrant families, by M. Park, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.7, Jul 2001, pp.945–58.

This study explores the attitudes of Korean immigrant mothers' attitudes toward child physical abuse. The study is based on an ecological perspective. Mothers' attitudes toward child physical abuse were measured in four areas: degree of

agreement with physical abuse; tactics used to resolve conflict; belief in the use of physical punishment; and perceptions in regard to physical abuse. Findings suggest the importance of cultural sensitivity in social work practice and the need to target more than one level of the environment for intervention and prevention strategies to be effective.

Child protection

Advice and advocacy for parents in child protection cases – what is happening in current practice? by B. Lindley, M. Richards & P. Freeman, *Child & Family Law Quarterly*, vol.13, no.2, 2001, pp.167–95.

This study examined the issues of advice and advocacy in child protection cases from the perspective of parents, advocates and social workers, in an attempt to determine if such services were successful or not. It compared and contrasted the views and experiences of the three groups, and how they thought current practice could be improved.

The care, support and protection of children: interaction between the Family Law Act and State and Territory child and family services legislation: the best interests of the child? The interaction of public and private law in Australia, by The Family Law Council (Australia), Canberra, ACT, Family Law Council, 2000.

Acknowledging that classification of matters relating to the care, support and protection of children into private and public law categories may be somewhat meaningless because of jurisdictional overlaps, this paper explains how these overlaps have come about and examines the legislative and structural regimes at both Commonwealth and State and Territory levels. It highlights the particular difficulties being experienced in the areas of family violence and child protection where jurisdictional overlaps frequently occur, and describes a number of statutory provisions and methods which attempt to overcome these difficulties. Examples of the ways in which the bifurcated system impacts in practice on families in different circumstances and in different States and Territories are provided by the inclusion of case studies. It is stated that the conclusion to be drawn from these examples is that there are instances in which the best interests of already vulnerable children are being compromised. The paper canvasses both short- and long-term possible solutions to overcome the difficulties identified, while acknowledging the various limita-

tions and the structural barriers to their possible implementation. An appendix provides a matrix that sets out the relevant child protection legislation at the State and Territory level, illustrating differences and similarities on a number of dimensions.

Children abused in contact arrangements: some implications for practitioners, by K. Rendell, *Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no.2, Winter 2001, pp.3–8.

Kathryn Rendell, Zoe Rathus and Angela Lynch recently completed *An Unacceptable Risk. A Report on Child Contact Arrangements where there is Violence in the Family*. This report was the result of a research project conducted in Queensland under the auspices of the Women's Legal Service Inc. for the Abuse Free Contact Group. The full report explores issues associated with the investigatory agencies, the Family Court and the legal aid system. This article outlines the approach taken by the researchers and provides an extract from the findings in relation to children and violence in the family. Some implications for working with children experiencing abuse in contact arrangements are offered. The report is available from the Women's Legal Service in Brisbane.

New directions in child protection and family support in Western Australia: a policy initiative to re-focus child welfare practice, by N. Parton & R. Mathews, *Child & Family Social Work*, vol.6, no.2, 2001, pp.97–113.

There is a great deal of evidence that statutory child welfare agencies are being overwhelmed by a large increase in child protection referrals which require formal investigation, and that there has been an increasing failure to develop more preventive family support services. In this paper the changes introduced in Western Australia to address this situation are described. New Directions is the term used in Western Australia to summarise the various significant changes in the way the Department of Family and Children's Services has approached child protection and family support referrals since 1995. Results demonstrate that the changes have led to a restructuring in the way the Department responds to concerns expressed about children which, in turn, have impacted on the proportion of substantiated child maltreatment cases and the way responses are prioritised and allocated. This, in turn, has provided the Department with a more explicit and clear focus for its work in a period of increasing demand and rapid change.

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Preventing child abuse, promoting healthy children, by P. Jewell, *Health Education Australia*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2001, pp. 46–48.

A brief overview of the impact around the world of the Convention of the Rights of the Child is provided in this article which then considers the situation for Australian children in relation to child health and the prevention of child abuse.

Protecting children and young people: one year on, by G. Calvert, *Rattler*, no. 59, Spring 2001, pp. 13–14.

Child protection legislation has been introduced by the NSW Government as a systematic way of checking the background of those people wishing to work with children in a range of environments in both the public and private sectors, including child care settings. In July 2000, the Working With Children Check was introduced. This paper discusses the first year of the operation of the screening process and how it is acting in the interests of children. Feedback on the legislation from the child care sector is considered along with the role of the Commission for Children and Young People, NSW.

Response to: "New Directions in child protection and family support in Western Australia: a policy initiative to re-focus child welfare practice", by S. McCallum & D. Eades, *Child & Family Social Work*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2001, pp. 269–74.

Written as a response to "New directions in child protection and family support in Western Australia: a policy initiative to re-focus child welfare practice", by Nigel Parton and Richard Mathews, this paper seeks to raise the broader issues of child protection that are relevant to many child protection agencies. Issues discussed include: changes brought about by the New Directions paper; repeat referrals; focus on professional judgement, assessment and supervision; a greater emphasis on family support; out of home placements; Aboriginal families; and the impact of the introduction of the Child Concern Report category.

Solicitors may have duty to children at risk, *Law Society Journal*, vol. 39, no. 7, Aug 2001, pp. 20.

It is suggested in this article that legal practitioners may be required to report children at risk of harm even though they are not mandatory reporters under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. Reference is made to case law and to the practice manual of the Legal Aid Commission. It is advised that any solicitor facing the question of whether to disclose confidential communication of a client in a risk of harm report should obtain legal advice about their reporting and professional obligations.

Child protection policy

Palm Beach county child abuse and neglect system redesign: initial process evaluation, by C. Koehn, R. Thompson & K. Authier, *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, vol. 10, no. 2, Jun 2001, pp. 245–254.

This article describes the redesigned child protection system in Palm Beach County. The redesigned system emphasizes family involvement and quality service provision. It is based on a managed care model. Initial findings indicate that more families are participating in and satisfied with the service. Also, children are spending less time in shelter placements.

The United States child protective system – a triangle of tensions, by S. Ramsey, *Child & Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2001, pp. 25–34.

This article examines the child protection system in the United States, especially in regard to the Adoption and Safe Families

is evidence that CSA against boys is under-reported, and that male victims are given less counselling than female victims despite the prevalence of comparable psychological sequelae. It is argued that further research into gender differences associated with CSA needs to be conducted because the conclusions of existing studies are tenuous. Future research may (a) lead to an elaboration and assessment of current conceptualisations of CSA that predominantly focus on female victims; and (b) facilitate the development and implementation of gender-based public policy in relation to CSA.

Child sexual abuse and incest: community-based intervention, by H. Itzhaky & A. York, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 7, Jul 2001, pp. 959–72.

This article describes and analyses a community intervention program in the case of child sexual abuse in an urban community in Israel. Several incidents of child sexual abuse were brought to light in the



Act (ASFA). The issue of poverty is seen as one of the major problems within the section of the population most often served by the child protection system. The author argues that until the issue of child poverty is addressed, child protection programs such as ASFA are unlikely to succeed. In conclusion a brief outline of a new reform proposal that may be more successful than ASFA is presented.

Child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse: a reality for both sexes, by J. Spataro, S. Moss & D. Wells, *Australian Psychologist*, vol. 36, no. 3, Nov 2001, pp. 177–83.

Despite growing awareness regarding the reality of child sexual abuse (CSA), a paucity of studies have examined whether the determinants, risk factors, and aftermath of CSA differ between male and female victims. This paper attempts to provide an empirical and conceptual review of research findings to date. There

community. A community intervention campaign was organised at the individual, group and community levels. Community apathy towards child sexual abuse seems to have been halted and even reversed. Implications of each level of intervention are discussed and an integrated program of intervention is advocated.

Child sexual abuse and the multidisciplinary team approach: contradictions in practice, by M. Jacobson, *Childhood*, vol. 8, no. 2, May 2001, pp. 231–50.

The author argues that the multidisciplinary approach for handling child sexual abuse cases is problematic. Changing constructions of child sexual abuse and the ways in which multidisciplinary teams are structured may lead to a mismatch between what the children need and what the team can offer. The author suggests that a model of critical practice may offer a better and more flexible framework for services for sexually abused children.

Complaints of child sexual abuse: too easy to make or too difficult to prove? by A. Cossins, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, vol.34, no.2, 2001, pp.149–68.

In challenging the rationale for the continued use of the corroboration warning in child sexual assault trials, this paper analyses the social and historical context in which the corroboration warning became entrenched, arguing that the historical sex and gender specificity has affected the way that child sex offences are prosecuted. The cultural significance of sex and class within the trial process is considered. The author suggests that the task for law reformers is to consider alternative methods of prosecuting that would preserve both the rights of the accused and promote the public policy objectives of protecting the interests of the child complainant and preventing further sexual abuse given the documented high rates of recidivism of child sex offenders.

Incest, paedophilia, pornography and prostitution: making familial males more visible as the abusers, by C. Itzin, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.1, Jan–Feb 2001, pp.35–48.

This paper explores how paedophile typologies and sex offender classifications have contributed to the invisibility of the incest offender. The author argues that the dominant discourse, in both the policing and policy areas, is concerned with paedophilia and child sex offending, thus contributing to making the incest abuser invisible. The author also presents a typology which traces the connections between incest, paedophilia, pornography and prostitution.

The prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse: evidence from a female university sample in the UK, by K. Oaksford & N. Frude, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.1, Jan–Feb 2001, pp.49–59.

The aim of this paper is to estimate the current prevalence rate and nature of child sexual abuse in the United Kingdom. The data was collected from a sample of 213 female university students. The results showed that 13.14 per cent of these students had been sexually abused in childhood.

Child welfare

Child health surveillance: its place in child health promotion, by L. Lamont-Herps & B. Robson, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, vol.7, no.1, 2001, pp.71–75.

The health of children is first and foremost a parental responsibility. However, society has a vested interest in ensuring that the rights and needs of children are respected. Promoting and caring for the

health and welfare of children is an investment in the future, and Child Health Surveillance (CHS) is a vital component of this process. CHS is an aspect of health care which is often misunderstood, maligned and considered a soft (less important) option compared with acute medical care. The aim of this article is to demonstrate otherwise by clarifying what it is, why it is done, what CHS programs consist of, and who should do them. In conclusion, consideration is given to the future of CHS.

Lessons from the past for child welfare today and tomorrow, by D. Scott, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.2, 2001, pp.4–6.

In this address the author provides a general discussion of the history of child welfare, and looks at how and by whom child welfare has been reformed. She also discusses child welfare today and the increased ability that has been gained in identifying risk factors and the effects of child abuse. The article concludes with the need to acknowledge the failures as well as achievements of the past in order to move forward.

Maltreated children's emotional and behavioral problems: do teachers and parents see the same things? Culp, Rex E., Howell, Christina S. & Culp, Anne McDonald, *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, vol.10 no.1 Mar 2001, pp.39–50.

This study examined whether parents and teachers differed in their perceptions of the behaviour of young maltreated children. The findings showed that the parents and teachers perceived the same child as behaving differently. Possible reasons for this are discussed.

Children's rights

Children's rights: we cannot wait, by R. Fitzgerald, *Rattler*, no.59, Spring 2001, pp.3–7.

This keynote address from the Australian Early Childhood Association National Conference outlines the work of the Community Services Commissioner, NSW in reviewing, monitoring and dealing with issues concerning the rights of children within the child protection system or living in out of home care, and for children and young people with disabilities who are in residential care. The author argues that it is urgent to acknowledge the rights of children and young people, to enshrine those rights in practice and to be strong advocates of those rights. Reference is made to the United Nations Convention

on the Rights of the Child; to advancements and achievements in Australia; to “at risk” and Indigenous children; to community attitudes to children and young people; to mental health problems and substance abuse; to child advocacy; and to children’s participation in decision making.

Independent institutions protecting children's rights, by UNICEF, International Child Development Centre, Florence, Italy, United Nations Children's Fund, Innocenti Research Centre, 2001.

Independent human rights institutions for children are the focus of this Digest. There is an urgent need for such institutions in every country to ensure that the educational, health, care and housing needs of children are met. Existing institutions are evaluated and the essential characteristics which are required for such institutions to adequately fulfil their functions are presented. Information about existing independent statutory bodies is included.

The relationship between attitudes toward corporal punishment and the perception and reporting of child maltreatment, by V. Ashton, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.3, Mar 2001, pp.389–99.

This study found that the attitudes of social service workers towards corporal punishment was an important predictor of reporting behaviour. Workers with higher levels of approval of corporal punishment were less likely to report child maltreatment. The challenge now facing social service agencies is to provide training in the detection and reporting of maltreatment despite the workers’ individual attitudes and beliefs about discipline and corporal punishment.

Children's wishes

Listening to the child victim of abuse through the process of therapy: a case study, by N. Mudaly & C. Goddard, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.3, 2001, pp.18–22.

When a child has been abused by his or her father or father-figure and makes the statement “I want Dad to come home”, whose voice are we hearing in treatment, and how do we interpret and respond to what the child is saying? Understanding and responding to the voices of victims of abuse is a complex issue. This paper explores the issues of listening and responding to a young victim of abuse in

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the context of the impact of the abuse on this young person, and how these issues emerged and were addressed in the therapeutic process. Amanda, a 13-year-old girl, disclosed sexual abuse by her stepfather. In the initial months of counselling she repeatedly expressed her wish for her stepfather to return home. Amanda's response to therapy, the short-term and long-term impact issues addressed, and the various therapeutic techniques that were used to assist in her recovery, are traced in the context of theoretical considerations.

Community education

Building community: a conceptual framework for child protection, by K. Barter, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 10, no. 4, Jul–Aug 2001, pp. 262–278.

This paper proposes an innovative strategy to help reclaim those children and families who are at risk. This strategy is based on a community-building framework.

Every child is important, by Australians Against Child Abuse, Mitcham, Vic, Australians Against Child Abuse, 2000.

Australians Against Child Abuse (AACA) are conducting a public education and media campaign to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the community. With the theme "Every Child is Important", the campaign aims to prevent child abuse and family violence by recognising the value and contribution children make to our lives. It encourages the community to respect children's individual rights to safety, and to support and promote children's need for protection and security. This information kit from the Every Child is Important campaign is comprised of brochures, information sheets and a poster.

More action – less talk! Community responses to child abuse prevention, by J. Tucci, C. Goddard & J. Mitchell, Ringwood, Vic, Australians Against Child Abuse, 2001.

Conducted by Quantum Market Research, this study was commissioned by Australians Against Child Abuse as part of its Every Child is Important Campaign. The key objectives of the research are to: assess the degree to which child abuse is considered a community concern; gauge the accuracy of public knowledge about the extent, nature and impact of child abuse; and track community attitudes towards the rights of children. The aim and components of the Every Child is Important campaign are explained, project methodology is described, and findings from the public polling research are presented. Recommendations for action are provided.

Decision making

Reducing recurrence in child protective services: impact of a targeted safety protocol, by J. Fluke, M. Edwards & M. Bussey, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 6, no. 3, Aug 2001, pp. 207–18.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services developed a decision-making protocol in relation to assessing and ensuring the safety of children during the initial stages of an investigation. This article summarises the impact of this safety protocol.

So much to gain: new approaches to child protection meetings, by B. Elliott, P. Kiely & S. Tolley, *Children Australia*, vol. 26, no. 3, 2001, pp. 23–26.

While participation of parents in case planning in child protection is widely accepted as desirable, in practice both workers and parents are often left frustrated by the outcomes of child protection meetings. Two models of managing the decision-making process are reviewed: Looking After Children (LAC); and Family Decision Making (FDM). Approaches to preparation, planning and conflict management are highlighted. Strategies for facilitating parental participation are identified and can be applied more broadly to child protection meetings to encourage more effective outcomes.

Domestic violence

The direct and indirect effects of domestic violence on young children's intellectual functioning, by A. Huth-Bocks, A. Levendosky & M. Semel, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 16, no. 3, Sep 2001, pp. 269–90.

The effects of domestic violence on preschoolers' intellectual functioning is examined in this study. Findings showed that children who witnessed domestic violence had poorer verbal abilities, but their visual-spatial abilities did not seem to be affected. Domestic violence indirectly affected intellectual functioning through its impact on maternal depression and the intellectual quality of the home environment. Implications for interventions for young child who witness domestic violence are discussed.

Domestic violence: analysis of a community safety alarm system, by S. Walker, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 10, no. 3, May–Jun 2001, pp. 170–82.

The findings of an analysis of a trial of a local authority community alarm system is presented in this article. The aim of the system was to protect both adult and child victims of domestic violence and make it possible for them to remain living in their own homes. The perceptions and experiences of referrers, service users and

potential services users were collected and used as part of the evaluation of the system. The system was found to be effective and cheap to operate. The advantages and disadvantages of the system are discussed and the need for further refinement is noted.

Domestic violence and child abuse: developing sensitive policies and guidance, by C. Humphreys, A. Mullender & P. Lowe, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 10, no. 3, May–Jun 2001, pp. 183–87.

This paper examines a research study in the United Kingdom that mapped the extent and range of services which are available to families experiencing domestic violence. The study also developed a framework of indicators of good practice provision in this area. This article examines in detail one good practice indicator which was identified by the research: policy development within and between social service departments in a multi-agency arena.

The impact of the 1995 amendments to the Family Law Act on women and children who have experienced domestic violence, by E. Sydenham, *Parity*, vol. 14, no. 2 Mar 2001/ *Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, Autumn 2001, pp. 31–34.

This article argues that there are problems with amendments to the Family Law Act 1995. Two problems are discussed: The Family Court's failure to ensure both the child's and the primary carer's rights to a safe environment; and the tendency for primary dispute resolution processes to coerce women into consent orders that fail to provide them or their children with adequate protection. Cuts to legal aid funding are also considered.

The needs of children who witness domestic violence: a South Australian study, by D. Bagshaw & D. Chung, *Children Australia*, vol. 26, no. 3, 2001, pp. 9–17.

There is now increasing recognition that child abuse and domestic violence are not separate phenomena and "witnessing" domestic violence can seriously affect children. This paper reports on a qualitative research project undertaken by researchers from the University of South Australia from June 1998 to January 1999, as part of the Commonwealth and States' Partnerships Against Domestic Violence initiative. The focus of the research was on assessing the needs of women, men and young people who have experienced domestic violence in South Australia. The participants identified many "effects" of witnessing or experiencing domestic violence on children, along with their needs. The findings will inform early intervention campaigns as well as broader service systems in supporting and responding to the needs of these young people.

The predictive impact of domestic violence on three types of child maltreatment, by W. McGuigan & C. Pratt, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.7, Jul 2001, pp.869–83.

This research found that there are significant relationships between domestic violence and physical child abuse, psychological child abuse and child neglect. Domestic violence in the first six months of child rearing was found to be significantly related to all three types of child maltreatment up to the child's fifth year. These findings suggest that treatment and prevention programs should provide services to at-risk families until the child is at least 5 years-of-age.

Evaluation

Consumer evaluation of an ecobehavioral program for prevention and intervention of child maltreatment, by N. Taban & J. Lutzker, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol.16, no.3, Sep 2001, pp.323–30.

This study evaluated parental satisfaction of an intensive parent training program: Project SafeCare. The Project focused on three areas of intervention: home safety; infant and child health care; and bonding and stimulation. Overall, the Project was voted to be highly successful. Parents were very satisfied with the program but seemed to prefer training by counsellors rather than training by video.

Effective interventions for child abuse and neglect: an evidence-based approach to planning and evaluating interventions, by G. Macdonald, Chichester, New York, Wiley, c.2001.

This book reviews the research on child abuse and neglect. It considers the interplay of a range of causal factors that contribute to child abuse. The research evidence is then examined to see how it can be most effectively used in child protection practice. It aims to build a bridge between research and practice. The book focuses on those interventions that are aimed at individuals, groups and communities.

Family reunification

Case study: reunion between parent and child after a long separation, by D. Bowen, *Australian Family Lawyer*, vol.15, no.1, Autumn 2001, pp.20–24.

This article describes the mediation interventions employed in a matter in which a father applied to the Family Court of Australia for contact orders in relation to his 7-year-old son whom he had not seen for the four years since shortly after the parental separation. During the marriage the child had witnessed the father's violence towards the mother. The article

describes the parents' approaches to, and involvement with, the mediation process, legal proceedings, and the reunion between father and son, as well as the therapeutic work undertaken with the boy. The outcomes and the child's perspective of the process one year later are described and discussed.

Family support services

Outcomes of family-centered residential treatment, by M. Landsman, V. Groza & M. Tyler, *Child Welfare*, vol.80, no.3, May–Jun 2001, pp.351–79.

A family-centred residential treatment program, Reasonable Efforts to Permanency through Adoption and Reunification Endeavors (REPARE), is evaluated in this article. This program aims to reduce the length of time seriously emotionally disturbed children spend in residential care.

The role of family preservation therapists in facilitating use of aftercare services, by M. Staudt, L. Scheuler-Whitaker & J. Hinterlong, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.6, Jun 2001, pp.803–17.

This study aims to examine how family preservation therapists help clients to access aftercare services and how the therapists perceive the availability and accessibility of such services. Therapists viewed aftercare services as both important and necessary. However, some therapists took a less active role in ensuring families linked to the appropriate services. Problems with service access and availability were noted, especially services for men and adolescents. Regular follow-ups to ensure families use the services they need may be necessary and systemic changes may be needed to ensure that appropriate services are available.

Home visits

Integrating family visitation and risk evaluation: a practical bonding model for decision makers, by S. Ansay & D. Perkins, *Family Relations*, vol.50, no.3, Jul 2001, pp.220–29.

This study uses a family bonding perspective which may be used to help social workers assess the risk of further abuse of children who are currently in foster care if they are returned home. A conceptual model that attaches a numerical value to a range of parent-child bonding attributes is presented. The article then demon-

strates how this model can be used during supervised visitations and the model's potential for facilitating interagency collaboration in the permanency planning decision-making process.

Lay therapy intervention with families at risk for parenting difficulties: the Kempe Community Caring Program, by J. Gray, P. Spurway & M. McClatchey, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.5, May 2001, pp.641–55.

The objective of this study was to examine which areas of family functioning could be improved by a home visiting program run by lay therapists for first time high-risk mothers. The results showed that home visits could significantly improve some aspects of family functioning. However, the areas of family conflict and stability/meeting basic needs were not improved by this type of intervention.

Incident rates

The Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, by The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (Canada), Ottawa, Ont., National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Health Canada, 2001.

This booklet provides highlights and an overview of the reported incidence of child abuse in Canada during a three-month period in 1998. It provides statistical data on physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional maltreatment. A definition of each type of abuse also included.

Child maltreatment in Canada : Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect : selected results, by D. Wolfe, [Ottawa], Health Canada, 2001.

This report contains a descriptive analysis of the findings of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. It focuses on those investigations in which child maltreatment was substantiated.

Child protection Australia 1999-00, by H. Johnstone & S. Kelly, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2001.

This report is based on the following national child protection data collections: child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations; children on care and protection orders; and children in out of home care. Statistical analysis is presented on issues including: major

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differences among States and Territories; changes to policies and practices over time; children who are in need of care and protection; admissions, discharges and orders issued; Indigenous children; and scope and coverage of out of home care data collection. The appendices provide detailed tables, technical notes on calculation rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children; and information on child protection legislation, and mandatory reporting requirements.

Child protection in the new millennium,

by J. Cashmore, *SPRC Newsletter*, no.79, May 2001, pp.1,4–5.

Increasing numbers of children have been reported to State statutory child protection authorities because of concerns about their safety and welfare. In this article the author looks at why this increase has occurred and discusses recent developments in policy, legislation and service provision concerned with child protection. She examines the problem of out of home care, the changing definitions of abuse and neglect, and the shift to a family support approach to child protection with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Community-level factors and child maltreatment in a suburban county, by J. Ernst, *Social Work Research*, vol.25, no.3, Sep 2001, pp.133–42.

This article examines the relationship between neighbourhood structural factors and the rate of child abuse. Findings showed that neighbourhood instability, poverty and family characteristics affect the rates of child abuse in different communities.

Final report, by N. Trocme, Ottawa, Ont., National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Health Canada, 2001.

This report is the first nationwide study to examine the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Canada. The report also studied the characteristics of the children and their families who were the subject of child protection investigations. The study was designed to: examine the rates of all types of abuse reported to, and investigated by, child welfare services; examine the severity of maltreatment and the evidence of risk; examine selected determinants of health for investigated children and their families; and monitor short-term investigation outcomes.

The prevalence of child maltreatment in the UK, by E. Fish, *Child Abuse Prevention*, National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter, vol.9, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.6–9.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), has recently published a report of the first major

general population study of the prevalence of child maltreatment in the United Kingdom. The study was based on the retrospective reports of a national, randomly selected sample of young people aged 18–24 years. This review of the report, *Child maltreatment in the United Kingdom: a study of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect* by P. Cawson and colleagues (2000), covers the aims of the study, issues of definition, and findings in relation to family life, physical discipline, physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse.

Intergenerational transmission

Hard wiring young brains for intimacy: the essential first step to breaking generational cycles of abuse and neglect, by P. Drielsma, *Journal of the Home Economics Institute of Australia*, vol.8, no.2, 2001, pp.19–23.

The implication of the development of an infant's capacity to connect and relate is that the creation of social capital is



largely dependent on healthy early childhood experiences. We cannot hope to build strong sustainable families and communities without the members of the community having this critical experience-mediated capacity for social affiliation and connection.

Boys and domestic violence: the implications of theories of intergenerational transmission of violence for boys who live with domestic violence, by C. Boyd, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.43–50.

One of the author's main interests in working with young men and boys who have witnessed domestic violence is in the reaction to theories of intergenerational transmission of violence, also known as the cycle of abuse. This paper aims to detail some of the precise concerns that theories of intergenerational

transmission of violence raise, and to invite critical reflection on violence prevention and the implications for the people whose lives are most affected.

Internet

Child abuse on the internet: ending the silence, by C. Arnaldo, New York, Berghahn Books, Paris, UNESCO Pub., 2001.

The Internet has added a new twist to the problem of the sexual abuse of children, especially in relation to pornography and paedophilia. This was the main focus of the "Expert Meeting on the Sexual Abuse of Children, Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet: An International Challenge" which was held on 18–19 January 1999 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This volume is based mainly on the submissions and interventions of the participants. Part 1 examines the context of the sexual abuse of children, it then attempts to define the terms child pornography

and paedophilia in sociological, psychological and legal terms. Part 2 considers what strategies are currently being adopted to help combat these problems. The Declaration and Plan of Action which was adopted by the participants is presented in part 3.

Kinship care

Kinship care and Aboriginal communities, by A. Bridge, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.8–10.

There is a strong tradition within Aboriginal communities of extended families looking after the children when the children's own parents are unable to do so. In this article the author explains that this does not mean that kinship carers and children do not need or want assistance from outside agencies, including the Department of Community Services.

Kinship care: a differentiated and sensitive approach, by J. Cashmore, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.5–8.

Kinship care, or placing children with relatives in formal care after protective intervention by the state, is a relatively recent trend in policy and practice. Previously, children in need of care were placed with foster carers outside the family. A shortage of foster carers and the recognition of the importance of children maintaining contact with their families and culture, have combined to overturn the practice of placing children outside the family. In this article the author looks at the benefits of kinship care, the different levels of financial support, services and supervision needed, and the implications for including children in kinship care within the out of home care system.

Kinship care: what is a responsible policy?

By L. Voigt, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.1–14.

This article argues that kinship placements do not need surveillance and monitoring in the way that formal out of home care does. Unlike foster care or residential care with unrelated carers, kinship placements can be damaged by overzealous bureaucratic intervention. Rather, creative and flexible ways of supporting family placements with family support is what is needed.

Male victims

“Working with males who have experienced childhood sexual abuse”, by P.O’Leary, in B. Pease & P. Camilleri, eds., *Working with men in the human services*, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen & Unwin, 2001, pp.80–92.

Aiming to introduce human service professionals to theoretical concepts that guide practice responses to males who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, this chapter outlines practice responses based on men’s own stories obtained through research interviews and practice experience. The emphasis is on the sociopolitical and cultural factors that contribute to the adversity experienced by males who have experienced childhood sexual abuse. Possible contributions that human service organisations can make to facilitate proactive service delivery and community awareness of male sexual victimisation are considered.

Media

Blaming the messenger: the media, social workers and child abuse, by P. Mendes, *Australian Social Work*, vol.54, no.2, Jun 2001, pp.27–36.

This paper explores the agenda-setting role of the media in child abuse, citing local and international examples. The author argues that much media coverage of child abuse promotes a conservative, pro-family political agenda, offering a narrow individualistic/legalistic view of child abuse as opposed to a broader structural definition. This conservative agenda is particularly reflected in media hostility to social workers involved in child abuse cases. Attention is drawn to the major manifestations of this criticism, and to some of the reasons why social workers experience disproportionate media censure. Suggestions are then made regarding the potential for a more effective and proactive social work response.

Child abuse and the media, by C. Goddard & B. Saunders, Melbourne, Vic, *Child Abuse Prevention, National Child Protection Clearinghouse Issues Paper*, no.14, Winter 2001.

This paper examines the role of the media in relation to child abuse and child protection. It argues that the media have been essential to the task of placing the problem of child abuse in the minds of the public and on the political agenda. The media have played a major role in defining what is “normal” and what is “deviant” in society, thus contributing to definitions of what is, and what is not, considered to be child abuse. Significantly, the media have appeared, at times, to have more influence on child protection policy and practice than professionals working in the field – a phenomenon described as “legislation by tabloid”. While acknowledging that the media’s portrayal of child abuse and child protection can have negative consequences for children and their families, it is argued that media coverage is vital if public concern for children is to remain on the political agenda, and if child protection services are to remain accountable.

Journalists as agents and language as an instrument of social control: a child protection case study, by C. Goddard & B. Saunders, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.2, 2001, pp.26–30.

In recent years there has been considerable analysis of how the media create images of crime. The relationship between child

abuse and the media has also been subject to greater scrutiny. This article examines the role of one newspaper in a child protection case. The part played by the newspaper in the court case led to an examination of the language used by the media in their representations of children. The researchers found that a child may be objectified in language even when the child’s gender is previously identified. The “gender slippage” may in extreme cases lead to the “textual abuse” of children, where child abuse is rewritten to lessen the impact on the reader. The authors conclude that the actions of journalists and the language they use require more critical analysis.

Men

Engaging fathers in group work: creating cooperative environments, by A. King, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.30–37.

The generative fathering framework is a model for understanding the non-deficit approach to fathering. This approach proposes that most men take an active interest in the lives of their children. In this paper, the author develops the non-deficit perspective which argues that fathers are interested in family life, and that their engagement with support services is influenced by a variety of pressures within their life. These pressures include “generative chill”, a type of anxiety resulting from a perceived or real danger of losing one’s child or children, life crises such as separation and divorce, and juggling life demands. The paper is based on the experiences at a Fathers’ Centre in Western Sydney where fathers access crisis counselling or group programs.

“Men and child protection: developing new kinds of relationships between men and children”, by M. Hood, in B. Pease & P. Camilleri, eds., *Working with men in the human services*, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen & Unwin, 2001, pp.107–21.

The intention of this chapter is to look more closely at aspects of men’s interactions with children and to suggest if and how it is possible to develop new kinds of relationships between them. How men who work in child protection areas can contribute to this process personally and in their work is considered. Issues examined include: the effect of abusive behaviour on children; what attitudes contribute to men abusing children; whether children need relationships with men; raising boys differently; new models for fathering; advocacy for children at social level; and child protection policies and men.

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Child homicide, psychiatric disorder and dangerousness: a review and an empirical approach, by J. Stroud, & C. Pritchard, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol.31, no.2, Apr 2001, pp.249–69.

This article examines the relation between child homicide and adult psychiatric disorder. The findings show that whilst the majority of parents with a psychiatric disorder pose no threat to their children, parents with a psychiatric disorder are over-represented in child homicide case samples. Most child homicides occur within the family context and mothers account for almost half the assaults. All the extra-familial murders were associated with sexual abuse. A brief discussion of practice and policy implications concludes the article.

Mental disease postpartum and parent-infant interaction: evaluation of videotaped sessions, by U. Albertsson-Karlgren, M. Graff & P. Nettlebladt, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.1, Jan–Feb 2001, pp.5–17.

This research study investigated the influence of maternal postpartum depression on mother–infant and father–infant interactions. Mothers of infants who suffered postpartum depression were compared with mothers who had suffered a somatic illness. Videotaped sessions when the infants were 10 months and 2-years-old showed clear differences in the mother–child interactions between the two groups. The fathers in the psychiatric group showed more warmth than the mothers. One possible interpretation of this data is that because of the depression suffered by the mothers the fathers adopt a more active parenting role in order to buffer the deficit in the mother–infant relationship.

Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy

"No matter how deep her craving": an exploration of Australian courts' treatment of Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, by A. Loughnan, Unpublished, 2001, Paper presented at the XXVI International Congress on Law & Mental Health, July 2001, Montreal, Canada.

This paper focuses on Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, which refers to behaviour by a carer, where that person fabricates or manufactures illness in another person, such as a child. Munchausen's becomes the concern of the law and the courts in a variety of settings, including family law hearings and criminal proceedings. In this article, the author outlines the court's treatment of Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy and the development of

the Syndrome in medical literature. She also looks at questions of gender and motherhood, and elements of the legal self.

Needs assessment

A framework for responding to vulnerable children and their families, by S. Wise, *Family Matters*, no.59, Winter 2001, pp.16–21.

In the United Kingdom, there has been an explicit move towards greater emphasis on providing family support when there is concern about a child's welfare. Experience suggests that effective assessment is the foundation upon which to configure the effective delivery of services to children and families. Continuing previous research at the Australian Institute of Family Studies on the outcomes of the UK Looking After Children approach in out of home care in Victoria (1999), the author discusses the value of the UK Children in Need assessment framework for Victorian Family Services. This approach aims to provide effective and comprehensive services to vulnerable families as early as possible within a child-focused service model.

Proceed with caution: the limitations of current parenting capacity assessments, by M. Spencer, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.16–24.

Parenting capacity assessments play a major role in what happens to families, particularly those families in which a parent or parents have an intellectual disability. The purpose of this paper is: to review the limitations inherent in current parenting capacity assessments; to discuss the implications of current parenting capacity assessments on families headed by a parent or parents with an intellectual disability; and to identify and recommend key principles in parenting assessment practice.

Paedophiles

Child sexual abuse: offender characteristics and modus operandi, by S. Smallbone & R. Wortley, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2001.

Public awareness and concern about child sexual abuse has increased in Australia in recent years. There is no clear evidence, however, that the incidence of child sexual abuse itself is increasing; rather, increased reporting rates appear partly to reflect a greater willingness by victims and others to report allegations of child sexual abuse. Indeed, many alleged child sexual offences are not reported until long after they have occurred. Nevertheless, there is widespread agreement that child sexual abuse is a major social problem.

This paper suggests that developmental and early intervention programs that are known to reduce rates of general crime may be equally effective in the reduction of sexual crime.

Counting the cost: estimating the economic benefit of pedophile treatment programs, by M. Shanahan & R. Donato, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.4, Apr 2001, pp.541–55.

Estimates of the economic impact of child sexual abuse and the benefits to be derived from implementing paedophile treatment programs are examined in this article. The basic economic calculus used to estimate the costs and benefits of paedophile treatment programs is outlined and the need for comprehensive estimates of the economic impact of child sexual abuse is discussed, including the quantification of intangible as well as tangible costs. A range of cost-benefit calculations that vary depending on the underlying assumptions on recidivism rates, the magnitude of intangible costs, and the number of victims per recidivist is presented. Conclusions indicate that, based on a reasonable set of parameters, paedophile treatment programs are likely to be of net benefit to the community.

Paedophile panic, by M. Stocker, *Alternative Law Journal*, vol.26, no.3, Jun 2001, pp.133–35.

How is it that male homosexuality has become interchangeable in the popular imagination with the sexual abuse of children? The author suggests reasons for the anxiety about predatory gay male paedophiles, and argues that these fears pose significant problems to effectively addressing the reality of heterosexual child abuse perpetrated by men who are known to their victims.

Parenting issues

Enforcement of parenting orders: the new regime, by A. Lanteri, *Australian Family Lawyer*, vol.15, no.1, Autumn 2001, pp.11–15.

The author sets out the background to the legislative amendments to the Family Law Act which establish the "parenting compliance regime" and then describes the preventative and remedial measures, and the punitive provisions. She states that the intention behind the amendments is clear. Some "breaches" can be addressed by better clarity of orders and understanding of parties as to their responsibilities. Some proportion of breaches can be dealt with by parental training. But there is a group of contraventions which are deliberate and careless of a child's welfare and which need to be addressed with punitive measures. The author concludes that the impact of the new provisions on the judicial approach to

enforcement, or even to warnings about the obligations that run with children's orders, will be the critical test of whether or not the changes are to be effective.

Errorless compliance training with physically abusive mothers: a single-case approach, by J. Ducharme, L. Atkinson & L. Poulton, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.6, Jun 2001, pp.855–68.

Errorless compliance training is a success-based approach which teaches children to comply with their parents' requests. The approach uses a hierarchy of compliance probabilities, starting with high compliancy requests and working through the hierarchy to low compliancy requests. Lower compliancy requests are introduced at a slow pace to ensure compliance and success for both the mother and child.

Personal safety

Personal safety curriculum in junior primary classrooms. Are teachers teaching it? by S. Whiteside, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.2, 2001, pp.31–36.

Previous studies have revealed that the teaching of personal safety strategies to children is spasmodic and selective, avoiding vital information that would help children to identify and report sexual abuse.



In this study a questionnaire was used to explore the views of 33 South Australian junior primary teachers regarding the teaching of personal safety to children. Results showed that most of the participating teachers claimed to teach some personal safety skills using a variety of materials and methods, but it would appear that they concentrated on "safe" topics such as road safety, and avoided topics relating to child sexual abuse and violence. It was also found that 50 per cent had not undertaken any training within the last two years even though the overwhelming majority felt that further

training was required in order to teach topics effectively. This suggested that motivation for teaching personal safety was low. These and other findings are discussed and recommendations for greater emphasis on the training of teachers and further research into this area are made.

Safeguarding themselves and their children: mothers share their strategies, by W. Mohr, J. Fantuzzo & S. Abdul-Kabir, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 16, no.1, Mar 2001, pp.75–92.

This paper describes a single part of an ongoing research program on child and woman safety. Findings from this study illustrate the ingenuity of women when they need to keep themselves and their children safe in unsafe contexts.

Research

Child welfare outcome research in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, by A. Maluccio, F. Ainsworth & J. Thoburn, Washington, DC, Child Welfare League of America, 2000.

This publication reviews outcome research about child welfare programs from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, particularly in relation to service effectiveness, duration of child placement, permanency planning, and

child development and functioning. The aim is to provide child welfare administrators, policy makers, practitioners and academics in each of these countries with a comprehensive picture of the current state of child welfare knowledge, at least in the English-speaking world. It looks at outcome research in a range of areas in traditional services, such as kinship care, foster care, residential group care and adoption, and in recent service initiatives, such as family preservation, family reunification, independent living and shared family care. Child protection services are touched on but not explored in detail.

Participatory research with children: experiences from the field, by G. Robinson, *University of Queensland Family Centre Newsletter*, no.2, Aug 2001, pp.4–6.

Research on children is often done about children rather than with children, with studies based on adults' ideas of what they think is important. This article is the story of how child research was put into practice in two studies undertaken in Tanzania between 1997 and 1999: one study by UNICEF on children in need of special protection measures; and the other study by the ILO on child labour.

Psychiatric co-morbidity in caregivers and children involved in maltreatment: a pilot research study with policy implications, by M. De Bellis, E. Broussard & D. Herring, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.7, Jul 2001, pp.923–44.

This study examined the relationship between psychiatric disorders and child abuse. Findings showed that mothers of maltreated children exhibited a significantly higher incidence of lifetime psychiatric disorders, especially anxiety disorder and depression. The natural fathers or mothers' live-in mates exhibited significantly higher incidence of lifetime alcohol and substance abuse. The majority of maltreated children reported anxiety disorders, especially post-traumatic stress disorder from witnessing domestic violence, along with depression, suicide ideation and attempts and disruptive disorders. The authors conclude that families involved in child abuse manifest significant histories of psychiatric comorbidity. The identification and treatment of comorbidity may break the intergenerational transmission of abuse.

Recruiting participants for child abuse research: what does it take? by E. Kinard, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 16, no.3, Sep 2001, pp.219–36.

This article presents the results of recruitment and retention strategies used in a longitudinal study of child abuse. This study had high retention rates as a result of considerable efforts to maintain contact with the respondents. More published accounts of recruitment and retention procedures are needed to assist researchers with this often difficult part of their research.

Resilience

A blueprint for the social competencies in children and adolescents, by A. Fuller, *Health Education Australia*, vol. 1, no.2, 2001, pp.32–39.

It is the contention of this article that the development of resilience, emotional intelligence and social competencies in young people is linked to long-term

occupational and life success, but is also associated with the prevention of substance abuse, violence and suicide. Risk and resilience factors for young people are identified, covering pre-school and primary years, early primary, middle primary, and middle to late adolescence years. Common concerns, preventive measures, curriculum and academic issues are discussed. Some suggestions for interventions for the promotion of social competencies are provided.

A micro-level analysis of developmental, parenting and family milieu variables that differentiate stress-resilient and stress-affected children, by R. Kilmer, E. Cowen & P.

Wyman, *Journal of Community Psychology*, vol.29, no.4, Jul 2001, pp.391–416.

This article discusses the benefits and problems associated with using global approaches in studying resilience. It then considers questions such as: the importance of studying resilience; the history and rationale of microanalysis in psychological research; and the purpose, methods and findings of the Rochester Child Resilience Project.

Raising resilient children: fostering strength, hope, and optimism in your child, by Robert Woods and Sam Goldstein, Lincolnwood, Ill., Contemporary Books, c.2001.

This book aims to help parents focus on their child's strengths, rather than their weaknesses. In this way the parents are helping their child to become happier and more resilient. The book offers a clear and practical guide to help parents build resilience in children.

Resilience and family psychosocial processes among children of parents with serious mental disorders, by J. Tebes, J. Kaufman & J. Adnopolz, *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, vol.10, no.1, Mar 2001, pp.115–36.

This article examines five family psychosocial processes which are central to child adaptation and resilience beyond that predicted by parental mental illness. The five areas are: diminished family financial resources; constriction of the social network; impairment of parenting tasks; increased family stress; and disruption of the parent-child bond. The results of the study showed that family psychosocial processes are a more consistent and powerful predictor of child adaptation than parental mental illness.

Resilience in ecosystemic context: evolution of the concept, by M. Waller, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, vol.71, no.3, Jul 2001, pp.290–97.

This article reviews the resilience literature across a diverse range of social science disciplines over the past 20 years. A

synthesis of recent findings suggests that resilience is a continual, ever-changing process that is determined by a multitude of factors and occurs within a given ecosystemic context. An ecosystemic context is one in which the interrelatedness and interdependency between individuals and social systems is stressed, rather than stressing within-person factors.

Social work

An introduction to working with children: a guide for social workers, by M. Williams & R. Sanders, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2001.

This book explores the questions which are of fundamental importance to social workers in the area of child welfare. In particular it addresses the questions of the causes of child abuse and how child abuse may be prevented. Theoretical debate is integrated with practice issues across a wide range of contexts in which social work with children occurs.

Young people, youth workers, process, relationships, by P. Slattery, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.38–42.

In working with young people, there are conceptual frameworks, practical strategies, ideological perspectives and political stances which help to clarify situations. However, an essential aspect of the process is the relationship that exists between the young person and the youth worker. In this article the author aims to identify the elements underlying this relationship and how they might be experienced in the way a young person and a youth worker relate.

Staff recruitment

Building child safe organisations, by B. McMenamin, *Child Abuse Prevention, National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol.9, no.1, Winter 2001, pp.3–5.

"Choose With Care" is a practical guide to preventing the infiltration of sex offenders into children's programs, and minimising opportunities for abuse to occur. It provides a cyclic approach to building child safe organisations, and brings together best practice in child abuse prevention and human services management. This article describes the background to the publication, and provides information about its aims and content.

Choose with care: building child safe organisations: an information and training program, by B. McMenamin & P. Fitzgerald, South Melbourne, Vic, ECPAT, 2001, 183pp, handbook and video.

This information and training program is designed to assist organisations to establish a safe environment for the children and young people in their care. The overall aim is to provide a systematic and user-friendly guide to child protection. The goal is to inspire child-focused organisations to gain a greater understanding of child abuse; to recognise how it can and does exist in organisations; and to assist workers to take decisive, informed and manageable steps towards establishing a child safe environment. The handbook is divided into the following three sections: Towards a child safe organisation presents the context of the program and provides an overview of what is meant by a child safe organisation; Developing child safe policies and procedures outlines the specific steps required to establish child safety in organisations; and Maintaining a child safe organisation recognises that organisations are inherently organic and must remain responsive to change in order to maintain best practice.

A guide to interviewing children: essential skills for counsellors, police, lawyers and social workers, by J. Wilson & M. Powell, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen and Unwin, 2001.

This book provides a practical introduction to interviewing techniques for a range of professionals including welfare workers, psychologists, teachers and counsellors, police officers and lawyers. It describes the key stages of an interview, and how to respond to the child's needs during an interview. It explains how to deal with children of different ages and from different backgrounds, and also how to work with their parents. The issue of sexual abuse is a particular focus, as are the problems created by multiple interviews. Evaluating the process and outcome of an interview is covered, and an appendix supplies references for interviewing different cultural groups.

Preventing unsuitable people from working with children – The Criminal Justice and Court Services Bill, by T. Thomas, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.1, Jan–Feb 2001, pp.60–69.

In order to protect children from abuse in schools, out of home care and similar

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settings, it is now an offence for people with convictions for crimes against children to apply for such work. This article discusses the background and development of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Bill.

Substitute care

Directions in out of home care: challenges and opportunities, by C. Sultmann & P. Testro, Loganholme, Qld, Paul Testro Consultancy Services, 2001.

Out of home care services, sometimes referred to as alternative care or substitute care, have a long history in Australia as a response to the protection and care needs of children and young people. From a national and international point of view, this paper explores: key concepts and principles which underpin and drive current directions; trends in the placement of children and young people impacting on service delivery; the decline of residential care; the impact of increasing demand on family based care options; and innovative service developments in response to current demands.

The Forde Report: an overview: Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, by P. Mendes, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.2, 2001, pp.37–38.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (the Forde Report) undertook an investigation into institutional abuse in Queensland institutions and a review of the current systems. This article provides an overview of the Report which provides information about child abuse, including definitions and causes; presents an historical overview of children in Queensland; and describes the history of Indigenous children in Queensland institutions, the modern child welfare and juvenile justice systems in Queensland, and Indigenous views of juvenile detention centres.

Foster care: where does the worker fit in? by C. Radburn, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no.1, Winter 2001, p.25.

Working directly with children is a demanding area, particular so in the case of children in foster care. In this article the author discusses the challenges for case workers involved in dealing with those children who have been taken from their known environment and are living in foster care.

Health care policies for children in out-of-home care, by C. Risley-Curtiss & J. Kronenfeld, *Child Welfare*, vol.80, no.3, May–Jun 2001, pp.325–50.

When children are placed in out-of-home care it is the welfare agency's responsibility to ensure their health care needs are met. Most of the 46 state child welfare agencies reviewed by this study fell short of the Child Welfare League of America's standards for the health care of children in out-of-home care.

Looking After Children in Barnardos Australia: a study of the early stages of implementation, by D. Dixon, *Children Australia*, vol.26, no.3, 2001, pp.27–32.

Looking After Children (LAC), a case management system for children in out-of-home care, has been the subject of pilot implementation in several Australian States. Barnardos Australia, in association with the University of New South Wales, implemented LAC in all of its out-of-home care programs as part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) research grant, in 1997–99. This study looks at the factors affecting implementation of Looking After Children in Barnardos Australia out-of-home care programs during the initial 12-month period (1997–98). Information collected from interviews with eleven program managers, and examination of records containing ARC material on casework files, are used to explore factors which assisted or impeded LAC implementation. Similarities are highlighted between UK and Australian experiences of LAC implementation, and issues are raised of significance to agencies considering using LAC.

Sink or swim: leaving care in New Zealand, by D. Yates, *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, no.16, Jul 2001, pp.155–73.

New Zealand has fallen behind other Western countries in its attention to young people leaving the statutory care services to undertake independent living. These young people comprise a very small and hidden population. Very little is known about long-term outcomes for them except that, anecdotally, they seem to begin to have children early and to struggle to raise them without coming to the notice of child welfare services. This qualitative study, aimed at creating an opportunity for this group to voice their issues, listened to eight Pakeha care leavers as they talked about their experiences in care, at the point of leaving care, and since

leaving care. Like their counterparts overseas, it is clear that they carry more than their fair share of emotional, social and scholastic deficits. They would benefit from legislative, policy and practice reform aimed at assisting them through a gradual transition to adulthood.

When the rehabilitation ideal fails: a study of parental rights termination, by E. Wattenberg, M. Kelley & H. Kim, *Child Welfare*, vol.80, no.4, Jul–Aug 2001, pp.405–31.

This article explores the circumstances in which parental rights are terminated due to the extreme neglect and abuse of the children by their parents. A "risk pool" of parents whose children have been removed from their care and made wards of the state are identified. Guidelines for child protection workers are presented which may help practitioners identify parents who are at risk of harming their children.

Young offenders

Developmental pathways from child maltreatment to peer rejection, by K. Bolger & C. Patterson, *Child Development*, vol.72, no.2, Mar–Apr 2001, pp.549–68.

This article examines the links between chronic maltreatment, rejection by peers, aggressive behaviour and social withdrawal. Findings show that maltreated children are more likely to be rejected by their peers and to exhibit aggressive behaviours. Implications of the findings for developmental theory and intervention are discussed.

The gender cycle of violence: comparing the effects of child abuse and neglect on criminal offending for males and females, by A. Fagan, *Violence & Victims*, vol.16, no.4, Aug 2001, pp.457–74.

This articles summarises research related to the cycle of violence. It discusses and identifies the intermediating variables that lead from child abuse to criminal behaviour, and examines whether or not these pathways are the same for females and males.

A group-based module for adolescents to improve motivation to change sexually abusive behaviour, by G. O'Reilly, T. Morrison & D. Sheerin, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.10, no.3, May–Jun 2001, pp.150–69.

This article describes a group-based intervention for adolescent sex offenders. The intervention is designed to help motivate the adolescents to change their sexually abusive behaviour. An 11-step model has been developed as the foundation of this intervention. This model is described in detail and the possibility of using this model with other groups is discussed.

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