



# 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

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce on Violence report**, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce on Violence (Queensland), Brisbane, Qld, Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy & Development, rev. ed., 2000.

Established in December 1998, the objectives of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence were to identify the factors behind the escalation of violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Queensland and to provide advice on community-based strategies for prevention and intervention. The Task Force called for public submissions through regional and local newspapers on 30 January 1999. A literature review was also conducted. This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Task Force. Section 1 covers forms of violence, transgenerational trauma as cause and effect, and case studies; section 2 focuses on causes and contributing factors; section 3 is titled Rhetoric or reality? The extent of violence; and section 4 is titled Working for change. Discussion includes theoretical perspectives on violence and its causes; abuse of alcohol and other addictive substances; cultural and spiritual violence; socioeconomic disadvantage; neglect, abuse and violence against children; suicides, self-harm and other self-inflicted injuries; reporting rape and sexual assault; policies and services; education as empowerment; Indigenous health and well-being; families and security; the Indigenous experience of justice; land - spirit - culture - identity.

**'Aboriginal child sexual abuse and support services'**, by D. Ford, in P. Dudgeon, D. Garvey & H. Pickett, eds., *Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists*, Perth, WA, Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, pp.451-456.

The role of the Department of Family and Children's Services, WA in dealing with the issue of Aboriginal child sexual abuse is discussed in this paper which provides a case study of the Kimberley Child Sexual Abuse Group and outlines issues of: child sexual abuse in the Aboriginal community; the development of culturally appropriate

responses; accessing mainstream services; and advice to psychologists.

**'Aboriginal child sexual abuse treatment services'**, by N. Phillips, in P. Dudgeon, D. Garvey & H. Pickett, eds., *Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists*, Perth, WA, Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, pp.457-464.

The role of the Department of Family and Children's Services, WA in dealing with the issue of Aboriginal child sexual abuse is discussed in this paper which provides a case study of the Kimberley Child Sexual Abuse Group and outlines issues of: child sexual abuse in the Aboriginal community; the development of culturally appropriate responses; accessing mainstream services; and advice to psychologists.

**'Child sexual abuse'**, by D. Bessarab, in P. Dudgeon, D. Garvey & H. Pickett, eds., *Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists*, Perth, WA, Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, pp.447-450.

Ways of working with an Aboriginal child or young people who has been sexually abused, are identified in this paper which also discusses how practitioners can work with the families and outlines the rationale behind the problem solving Protective Behaviours program.

**Community consultation in an anti-social environment: part one**, by R. Bohill & G. Douglas, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol.5, no.2, Sept 2000, pp.7-9.

In part one of this two part article, the authors argue that the requirement of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 (NSW) to consult with young people and Indigenous communities is crucial both to legitimating the Act as a form of social control and to empowering community members in exercising some control over the implementation of the Act. On the one hand, consultation may be used to coerce consent to and sanction the perpetuation of assimilationist policies of child removal. On the other, effective consultation may produce positive social change. The authors suggest that which outcome prevails will depend on the ideas and

practices of consultation, decision-making and proper social relations adopted by governmental agencies. Discussion includes the objectives of the Act, and outcomes of local crime prevention plans.

**Community consultation in an anti-social environment: part two**, by G. Douglas & R. Bohill, *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, vol.5, no.3, Oct 2000, pp.8-12.

This article continues the discussion of the critical nature of consultation with indigenous communities begun in Part One (*Indigenous Law Bulletin* vol.5 no.2 Sept 2000). Ensuring that effective and appropriate consultation has been undertaken is an integral process of any new legislative or policy framework. Part One questioned the values underpinning the consultative processes directed at improving social harmony under the Child (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 (NSW). Part Two addresses the way ancestral social organisation may assume a vital role in ensuring communities are informed and are active participants in the process of consultation.

**'From assimilation to self determination: issues and priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families'**, by M. Cadd, in *Just policy, sound research and joint action: selected papers from the 2000 ACOSS Congress*, Strawberry Hills, NSW, Australian Council of Social Service, 2001.

Key tasks and ideas on how community organisations can contribute to the Aboriginal reconciliation process are identified in this paper which discusses: background information on the Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC); information on the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services; an overview of the issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families; child protection and welfare; impact of the Indigenous population's age structure on the care and protection system; juvenile justice and mandatory sentencing legislation in the NT and WA; diminished federal government support for children's and youth advocacy organisations; developments in early childhood education and access to culturally appropriate child care and preschool services; and SNAICC's policy agenda.

**Indigenous families and the welfare system: two community case studies**, edited by D.E. Smith, Canberra, ACT, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000.

This monograph presents data from the first year of a longitudinal community based research project conducted by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University and was commissioned and partly funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. The community based quantitative and qualitative research identifies a range of factors influencing delivery of and access to welfare transfers to Indigenous families for the care of their children, focusing on Parenting Payment and Family Allowances. The implications of these factors for welfare policy and service delivery are highlighted at the community, regional and national levels. Two community case studies, of Kuranda, Qld and Yuendumu, Northern Territory, are presented and compared, covering issues of: welfare economy; household structure and composition; mobility and its impact; parents, carers and child care arrangements; child health and nutrition; maintenance money and welfare income; Welfare Service Transaction Centre; the current Carer's Statement Trial; a Kids' Care Card; the cost of Centrelink service delivery; and service delivery issues.

**Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families: Commonwealth, State and Territory Government responses to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report 'Bringing them Home'**, by the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Australia), Darwin, NT, Ministerial Council for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs, 2000.

This document presents the 1998-9 Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs monitoring report on jurisdictional responses to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report 'Bringing them Home'. It also brings together responses to the recommendations from each individual jurisdiction, published at various times since 1997. Specifically, the report provides information on the activities of jurisdictions in relation to parliamentary statements; recording testimonies; compensation; promoting family reunion; records issues; culture and language maintenance; health care; parenting and family well being programs; education; and issues of contemporary separation.

**The stolen generation: psychological effects of the systematic removal of Indigenous children from their families and culture**, by B.A. Stevens & V. Bushell, *Ethos*, no. 178, Jun 2000, pp.17-19.

In 1997 the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families: Bringing Them Home documented the circumstances and effects of 150 years of systematic removal of Indigenous children from their families and community and into missions, white adoptive families and foster homes. This article discusses the psychological effects of this removal of children from their families and culture. Risk factors such as substance abuse, criminal behaviour, suicide, abuse and domestic violence are identified and a case study is presented of an Aboriginal man who spent his childhood in institutional care.

### Adolescent mothers

**Depression, self-esteem, loneliness and social support among adolescent mothers participating in the New Parents Project**, by D.B. Hudson, S.M. Elek & C. Campbell-Grossman, *Adolescence*, vol.35, no.139, Fall 2000, pp.445-453.

This study examined levels of depression, self-esteem, loneliness and social support among a group of adolescent mothers who were participating in the New Parents Project. Fifty-three percent of the participants recorded high rates of depression. A significant relationship was found between depression and self-esteem. Implications of these findings are discussed.

### Adolescents

**Adolescent physical abuse: age at time of abuse and adolescent perception of family functioning**, by K. Pelcovitz, S.J. Kaplan & A. Ellenberg, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol.15, no.4, Dec 2000, pp.375-389.

This study investigated the link between physical abuse and family functioning. Adolescents who had been abused viewed their families as less adaptable, less cohesive and less balanced than nonabused adolescents.

**Understanding dysfunctional and functional family behaviors for the at-risk adolescent**, by D. Martin & M. Martin, *Adolescence*, vol.35, no.140, Winter 2000, pp.785-792.

This article discusses the characteristics of both healthy and maladaptive families. It also examines how an understanding of family functioning can help therapists

understand adolescent development and how dysfunctional adolescents impact on other family members.

### Adoption & foster care

**Adoption: a study of post-war child removal in New South Wales**, by C. Jones, *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, vol.86, no.1, Jun 2000, pp.51-64.

After the end of the Second World War, it was believed that the institutionalisation of ex nuptial children in orphanages, foster care and adopted families was of benefit to both the children and the community. This article looks at the adoption of ex nuptial children as a means of protecting children from their single mothers, who were often thought to be unfit parents, and also as a means of punishing their mothers. With the advent of the single mothers' supporting pension and changing society attitudes where the single mother was no longer seen as a threat to the nuclear family or as incapable of caring for her children, the number of adoptions decreased.

**Children in care**, by S. Ash, *Impact*, Mar 2001, p. 12.

Emergency foster care is a significant entry point for children into the welfare system. As such it provides early warning signs for issues which will affect the welfare of children in the future. The author suggests that moves to extend mutual obligation requirements to sole parents will have a long term effect on the protection of vulnerable children.

**The discussant's response**, by S. Wise, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.23-25.

As discussant for the symposium on permanency planning held at the 7th national conference of the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Sydney in July 2000, the author provides a response to the contributors' points of view by building on their perspectives surrounding the extent to which a system of permanency planning would unconditionally lead to improvements in child welfare. Her discussion focuses on the confusion surrounding a number of principles and concepts underpinning the practice of permanency planning and the absence of theory or research to provide the necessary guidance or adequate definition related to these concepts. The author outlines the major steps in implementing a system of permanency planning and associated problems.

**Evaluation of a preventive intervention for maltreated infants and toddlers in foster care**, by C.H. Zeanah, J.A. Larrieu & S.S. Heller, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol.40, no.2, Feb 2001, 214-221.

This study evaluated the effectiveness of a comprehensive preventive intervention

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that was designed to improve outcomes for maltreated infants and toddlers who were in foster care. It found that this intervention substantially reduced the rates of repeated maltreatment but did not effect the length of time spent in care.

**Inquiry into the practice and provision of substitute care in NSW: new directions - from substitute to support care: final inquiry report**, New South Wales, Community Services Commission, Strawberry Hills, NSW, Community Services Commission, 2000.

The Community Services Commission acts as a catalyst for improving the culture, quality and reputation of community services in NSW and empowering the consumers of these services. As such it has a special interest in the circumstances of those children and young people who cannot live with their natural families and who require external services and support to meet their care. This publication is a report on the Inquiry into the practice and provision of substitute care in New South Wales, a report affecting the care of the most vulnerable children and young people in the community. The aim of the Inquiry has been to assess, at a system level, whether the current practice and provision of substitute care meet the needs of children and young people in care, and to identify directions for improving the system. The key observations of the Inquiry are that currently the substitute care system in NSW lacks sufficient capacity to focus on the needs of children and young people in care, and is unable to ensure adequate outcomes for these children and young people. What is needed is a commitment at all levels of the system to placing the safety, needs and aspirations of children and young people at the centre of the care system.

**Introducing a symposium on permanency planning**, by S. Wise, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.4-6.

A symposium on permanency planning (permanent family placement for children unable to live with their birth families) was held at the seventh national conference of the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Sydney in July 2000. The objective was to discuss the use of permanency planning as a framework for decision making in child welfare. In particular the symposium focused on issues such as: the amount of work that should be undertaken to help birth families fulfil their parenting roles; how to determine the likelihood of reunification; and the disruption rates for permanent placement. This article provides an introduction and overview to the symposium and a discussion of the meaning of permanency planning.

**New directions for NSW care system**, by C. Flynn, *Rights Now!* Mar 2001, p.17.

A brief overview is provided of the NSW Community Services Commission's report on the inquiry into the state's substitute care. Titled 'New directions - from substitute to supported care', the report clearly demonstrates that unless there is concerted, sustained and immediate action to address insufficient capacity in the NSW substitute care system, it will remain dysfunctional and unable to meet even the most basic needs of the children and young people who enter its care.



**Preventive intervention for maltreated preschool children: impact on children's behavior, neuroendocrine activity and foster parent functioning**, by P.A. Fisher, M.R. Gunnar & P. Chamberlain, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol.39, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1356-1364.

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the Early Intervention Foster Care (EIFC) program as a preventive intervention designed to reduce risk in preschool foster children. The study examined: 1) parenting strategies used by program foster parents; 2) the impact of the intervention on the initial adjustment to a new foster home; and 3) children's functioning in terms of biological indicators. The authors conclude that the research described in this article may be considered only as the first step in the prevention research process. Several critical stages of research need to be conducted before it will be appropriate to incorporate this approach into public policy discussions.

**Rights and realities in the permanency debate**, by H. Bath, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.13-17.

This paper from the symposium on permanency planning held at the 7th National Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference focuses on the tension involved in any decision making process in child welfare where competing rights and realities need to be juggled. The concept of permanence with regard to child welfare is one of many principles that influence contemporary practice; others include normalisation, localisation, deinstitutionalisation, least restrictive or detrimental alternative, and family

preservation. The competing principles are laudable in their own right when applied thoughtfully, suggests the author, but they may actually be inimical to the achievement of permanence. He reviews some of the legal and ethical impediments to promoting permanence; discusses some social and 'market' realities influencing out-of-home care practice; and reviews some of the relevant data and the implications of policy shift for indigenous children. Developmental realities include the role of identity issues in placement breakdown and the practice complications introduced by the arbitrary

termination of parental rights where best practice suggests 'open adoption' and inclusive foster parenting. Ultimately, concludes the author, the right to permanence needs to be balanced against competing rights to a secure identity and open access.

**Support, timelines and hard decisions**, by C. O'Neill, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.7-10.

A symposium on permanency planning was held at the seventh national conference of the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Sydney in July 2000. This paper from the symposium covers the following themes which are related to termination of parental rights and the movement of children from one family to another on the grounds of protecting them from abuse or neglect: whether birth parents are supported sufficiently to keep their children; how and when decisions should be made to remove children from their birth families; and the relationship between birth and permanent families. Overseas and Australian research, legislation and practice are examined, and the question of whether termination of parental rights is appropriate within the current Australian context is then looked at in the light of this literature.

**What the research tells us: permanency planning, adoption and foster care**, by J. Cashmore, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.17-22.

This is a paper from the symposium on permanency planning held at the Australian Institute of Family Studies' 7th National Conference, July 2000. It reviews research related to factors affecting

psychosocial outcomes and placement stability in out of home care, the results of which reinforce the view of the need for a variety of placement options for children. The author traces the development of the permanency planning movement; discusses outcome measures; reviews factors affecting outcomes and stability in care; explores children's and young people's views; discusses barriers to permanency and implications for policy and practice.

## Art

**Pictures in the classroom: can teachers and mental health professionals identify maltreated children's drawings?**, by M. Veltman & K.D. Browne, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.9, no.5, Sep-Oct 2000, pp.328-336.

This aim of this paper is to investigate whether teachers and mental health professionals are able to consistently identify drawings produced by maltreated children. The results show that Kinetic Family Drawings (KFD) are a more reliable technique when it is known that maltreatment is present. However, it should not be used to identify maltreatment.

## At risk children

**Childhood physical abuse, early social support and risk for maltreatment: current social support as a mediator of risk for child physical abuse**, by J.L. Crouch, J.S. Milner & C. Thomsen, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.1, Jan 2001, pp.93-107.

This study examined the links between childhood physical abuse, perceived early social support, current social support and the risk of physically abusing your own children as an adult. Results showed that childhood physical abuse was directly related to child physical abuse risk. Early social support was found to be directly related to adult perceptions of social support and adult perceptions of such support were inversely associated with child physical abuse risk. However, childhood physical abuse does not appear to impact on perceptions of social support in adulthood. The study concludes that more research is needed to identify the additional factors which may explain the association between childhood physical abuse and the increased risk of child physical abuse in adulthood.

**Parental features and quality of life in the decision to remove children at risk from home**, by B.D. Arad, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.1, Jan 2001, pp.47-64.

This study examines the decisions made by child protection workers to remove children at risk from their home. The study examined the association between

the decision to remove a child and 1) parental features (i.e. cooperation with the worker, relationship with the child, addiction and cleanliness) and 2) the quality of life that the parents could offer the child (i.e. poverty, criminality, psychological problems and cognitive impairment).

**The role of observation in the assessment of child neglect**, by K. Tanner & D. Turney, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.9, no.5, Sep-Oct 2000, pp.337-348.

This paper defines child neglect as an absence of care. This is caused by a breakdown in the relationship between the primary carer and the child. The authors note that the discussion of neglect often leads to mother blaming. They suggest that intentional, structured observation may be a useful tool in accurately assessing the complexities of the mother-child relationship.

## Best practice

**What works in child welfare**, by M.P. Kluger, P.A. Curtis & G. Alexander, Washington DC, CWLA Press, c2000.

This book presents information on research in the child welfare area that concentrates on what works, and how and why it works. The book is divided into six main sections: family preservation and family support services; child protective services; out-of-home care; adoption; child care; and adolescent services.

## Child abuse prevention

**Child abuse and neglect: part II - practical intervention and prevention activities**, by M. James, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000.

Prevention of child abuse and neglect involves taking action to stop abuse before it occurs, or intervening after the abuse has occurred to stop the abuse continuing and to help those who have been abused. This article continues Trends and Issues paper no.146, Child abuse and neglect: part 1 - redefining the issues, and focuses on practical intervention and prevention activities. It describes a number of programs that have been shown to be effective. They range from parenting and anger management programs to multi-faceted in-house services, and include: Colorado rethink parenting and anger management program; Boston community intervention to reduce the risk of child abuse; Child abuse prevention unit

in health classes in schools in Birmingham, Alabama; Don't shake the baby program from Ohio; Elmira prenatal / early infancy project; Project 12-ways from Illinois; and Family CARE project from Australia.

**'Don't Shake the Baby': towards a prevention strategy**, by J. Shepherd & A. Sampson, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol.30, no.6, Dec 2000, pp.721-735.

This paper reports the findings of a research study which was designed to inform a 'Don't Shake the Baby' campaign. Research findings are discussed and recommendations for a prevention programme are suggested.

**Handbook for child protection practice**, by D. DePanfilis & H. Dubowitz, Thousand Oaks, Calif., London, Sage Publications, c2000.

This book has been compiled for professionals working in the area of child protection. It has been structured to follow the course of a child protection case from the time of the initial report, through the various pathways in the child protection system, to the final outcome. It includes sections on: best-practice principles for responding to child abuse reports; engaging children and other family members in the intervention; developing cross-cultural practice competencies; assessing risk, evaluating safety and conducting family assessments; defining outcomes and planning interventions; evaluating risk reduction; and making permanency decisions. It also discusses the unique legal, medical, ethical and other practice issues that are involved in the child protection field.

**Preventing child abuse and neglect: findings from an Australian audit of prevention programs**, by A.M. Tomison & L. Poole, Melbourne, Vic, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

In 1999, the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, with the support of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the State and Territory government departments, undertook a National Audit of Child Abuse Prevention Programs operating across Australia. The National Audit is part of a strategy to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect throughout Australia and was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, through the National Clearinghouse. The intention was to provide an overview of child abuse prevention initiatives currently

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being undertaken nationally, to identify trends and any gaps in service provision, to identify programs from which service providers can learn, and thus avoid 'reinventing the wheel' with regard to program development, and to generate discussion of future directions in child abuse prevention. In this report an analysis of the results of the Audit is presented. Specifically, within a context of current government policies, the range and scope of child abuse prevention programs currently operating in Australia are identified and described, as are the types of groups or organisations involved in operating these programs. Finally, a number of trends in service provision are highlighted, with reference to previous Clearinghouse audits, and a number of recommendations are made with regard to future directions in the development of prevention programs.

**Prevention pays : the costs of not preventing child abuse and neglect, Fairfax, VA, Caliber Associates, [2001?].**

The purpose of this paper is twofold: to promote a greater understanding of what is already known about the financial costs of child maltreatment; and to encourage the continued examination and comparison of these costs with the benefits of prevention. The cost elements, both direct and indirect, that make up the total cost of child maltreatment are discussed. This is followed by a brief overview of the findings from selected studies, (Elmira, New York; Michigan Children's Trust Fund; Colorado Children's Trust Fund; and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania), that have conducted cost-benefit and cost-of-failure analyses. The paper concludes that in the long-term prevention does pay.

### Child abuse reporting

**Reporting abuse: personal and professional dilemmas for teachers, by R. Davis, *Children Newsletter*, no.36, Dec 2000, pp.20-21.**

If reporting child abuse procedures is part of a process that upholds the best interests of the child as a central concern, then what are the conditions under which these procedures are determined and how are they maintained? This article looks at answering this question by looking at some of the history surrounding legal and moral obligations of reporting abuse both in New Zealand and internationally. In particular, the author examines personal and professional dilemmas for teachers.

**Reporting child abuse: pediatricians' experiences with the child protection system, by A.P.Vulliamy & R. Sullivan, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1461-1470.**

This study explores pediatricians' reluctance to report suspected cases of child

abuse to child protection services. The study found that reluctance to report is an international problem. The reasons for noncompliance are discussed and theories that might help inform future research in this area are examined.

**Child abuse reporting: teachers' perceived deterrents, by M.C. Kenny, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.1, Jan 2001, 81-92.**

This study surveyed 197 teachers to determine: 1) the number of child abuse reports made by teachers; 2) their knowledge of child abuse laws and reporting procedures; and 3) their perceived deterrents in reporting suspected abuse. Most of the teachers had never made a report of suspected child abuse, however, 11% reported suspecting abuse and failing to report. The most common reasons for not reporting were: fear of making an inaccurate or false report; feeling that families are not helped by the child protection system; and there being no physical signs of abuse. In conclusion it was found that teachers need more training in child abuse signs, symptoms and reporting procedures.

### Child deaths

**1999-2000 report, New South Wales. Child Death Review Team, Surry Hills, NSW, NSW Commission for Children & Young People, 2000.**

The overall purpose of the Child Death Review Team is to prevent or reduce child deaths in New South Wales. This publication provides information about the demographic and social characteristics of children and young people in NSW, and reflects on social policy regarding children and young people. A register is maintained of all child deaths occurring in NSW, with deaths classified according to cause of death, demographic criteria, and other factors with a view to understanding causes of child deaths and preventing these fatalities. This publication presents statistics on child fatalities for 1999 - 2000, and also discusses trends in child fatalities for the period 1996 - 1999.

**Annual report of inquiries into child deaths: protection and care 2000, Victoria, Department of Human Services, Victorian Child Death Review Committee, Melbourne, Vic, Victorian Child Death Review Committee, Department of Human Services, 2000.**

The Victorian Child Death Review Committee reviews investigative reports of all deaths of children who have died while they were current clients, or within three

months of case closure, of Child Protection Services. The Committee provides advice to the Minister on measures that will minimise the risk of child deaths and contribute to a more broadly targeted strategy aimed at reducing the unacceptably high rates of abuse and neglect in the community. This annual report shows that during 1999, seventeen deaths occurred. The report summarises findings about these cases; identifies emerging themes; describes the achievements by the Committee, and continuing work; and discusses public perceptions, noting that public debate is less often characterised by emotive headlines than was the case when the Committee first met in May 1996. Rather, reporting is being made more often with an acute understanding of the complex issues that confront those workers responsible for protecting the children and young people of Victoria.

**Out of sight : NSPCC report on child deaths from abuse, 1973-2000, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 2nd ed., London, NSPCC, 2001.**

The aim of this report is to bring to public attention, and help prevent, the deaths of children from abuse and neglect. In order to achieve this aim a better understanding of the circumstances in which these deaths occur is needed. This report presents papers and recommendations on how this may be achieved.

**Reporting child deaths : the role of the media, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, London, NSPCC, 2001.**

This report was commissioned because the NSPCC felt that for a number of reasons the deaths of children following child abuse or neglect are kept out of sight. It is important to have an adequately informed debate about child killing. The media has an important role to play in informing the general public and setting the climate of public debate on child deaths caused by abuse or neglect. The report recommends that a media code of practice for reporting child deaths from abuse or neglect be developed.

### Child sexual abuse

**Children's and primary caretakers' perceptions of the sexual abuse investigation process: a New Zealand example, by E. Davies, F. Seymour & J. Read, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, vol.9, no.2, 2000, pp.41-56.**

There has been an increased interest in the investigation and criminal justice

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processes surrounding child sexual abuse, as well as a growing literature on the effects on children of criminal justice processes, particularly related to their giving evidence in court. The few studies that have investigated the effects on children of the early stages of the investigation process indicate that children's experiences depend on many factors, including their treatment by staff, the nature of the abuse, and the support given by families. This study investigated children's and primary carers' perceptions of the investigation processes, focusing on their perceptions of the early stages of the process, in particular, social work intervention, early police responses, the evidential video units, medical examinations, access to counselling agencies, and the way these interventions linked together in the first weeks after disclosure.

**The extent and nature of known cases of institutional child sexual abuse**, by B. Gallagher, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol.30, no.6, Dec 2000, pp.795-817.

This paper presents the findings of a study into cases of reported institutional child sexual abuse. While there were similarities between institutional abuse and intrafamilial abuse there were also important differences, such as the proportion of male victims and the use of techniques of targeting and entrapment. The abuse occurred in a wide variety of settings and was perpetrated by a range of occupational groups. In order to ensure the protection of all children it is necessary to direct policy and practice measures to prevent abuse towards a wider range of institutions.

**Relationship of childhood sexual abuse and eating disturbance in children**, by S.A. Wonderlich, R.D. Crosby & J.E. Mitchell, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol.39, no.10, Oct 2000, pp.1277-1283.

This research tests the hypothesis that childhood sexual abuse will increase the risk of eating disturbance in children. The results revealed that the abused children were at greater risk of eating disturbance with higher levels of weight dissatisfaction and purging and dieting behavior.

**Ritual, and child sexual abuse, but not ritual child sexual abuse**, by B. Gallagher, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.9, no.5, Sep-Oct 2000, pp.321-327.

Some of the controversy surrounding ritual (satanic) child sexual abuse concerns the way in which child protection services diagnose the cases. This paper presents two case studies of controversial clinical assessments. In both of these cases there was evidence of both child sexual abuse and 'ritual', but the agencies decided that they occurred independently of one

another and were not indicative of ritual child sexual abuse. The paper calls for the need for a broader and more balanced debate in regard to these issues and the way in which these two cases were handled in particular.

### Child witnesses

**Cross examination and the child witness**, by R. Zajac, *Childrenz Issues*, vol.5, no.1, 2001, pp.33-38.

Some of the common cross-examination techniques used by lawyers are detailed, and their impact on children, young persons and their families are then explored. Given the complexity and seriousness of child sexual abuse charges, as well as the fact that a case may come down to the word of a child against that of an adult, the reliability of children as witnesses and the best way to obtain their statements has become a matter of great concern. Problems relating to cross examination and children are discussed, including suggestibility, linguistic competence, strength of memory, interview environment, and children's accuracy. It is noted that, despite the potential for cross-examination to lead to inaccuracies in children's testimony, cross-examination has not been explicitly addressed by legal reform. It is also stated that cross-examination contravenes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, by being too complex and intimidating a process, not giving the child their right to make their opinions heard, and possibly by leaving those guilty free to re-abuse. Some possible solutions to the problem of cross-examination are outlined.

### Children's contact services

**Paying attention to our children**, by L. Anthony, *Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol.8, no.2, Summer 2000, pp.1-4.

The Government has announced a number of new children's contact services which will offer a neutral location for changeovers between resident and non resident parents and for supervised contact visits. The purpose is to provide separated parents with the skills and support they need to deal reasonably with each other for the benefit of their children. This article focuses on the strategies necessary to ensure children are receiving the attention they deserve: early intervention and prevention of problems; working with the community to provide better services and support for parents; holistic responses to problems; and using existing activities to build better approaches. Part of the Government's commitment to help families build resilience and strength is the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy which is described in this article.

**Discovering what children think: connections between research and practice**, by N. Thomas & C. O'Kane, *The British Journal of Social Work*, vol.30, no.6, Dec 2000, pp.819-835.

This paper describes a research study which examined children's involvement in the decision making process when they are looked after by local authorities. The relationship between the methods used in the research and those used in social work practice are examined. The paper argues that in both research and practice a commitment to involving children in the decision making process requires the use of methods of communication that enable children to demonstrate their competence and articulate their wishes.

### Community participation

**Community coalitions: a longitudinal study of a statewide model**, by G.L. Stevens & K.A. Lodl, *Family Science Review*, vol.13, no.3&4, Dec 2000, pp.176-181.

This article highlights a 10-year model coalition-building project, KIDS' TEAM, which was designed to bring existing statewide programs addressing youth-at-risk issues into a network to model and nurture local community coalition development. This program provides a model that can be adapted and replicated by other coalition building projects.

### Courts

**Childrens care and protection: reforms to care matters in the Children's Court**, by D. De Fina, *Law Society Journal*, vol.38, no.10, Nov 2000, pp.29-30.

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW) was passed along with accompanying legislation that amends the Children's Court Act 1987. Some of the reforms to care and protection law and to the structure of the Children's Court that are included in the new legislation are briefly reviewed in this article. These include: emphasis on early intervention and alternative dispute resolution; new grounds for bringing court proceedings and new standard of proof; new final care orders available to court; new interim applications; new Children's Court Clinic; new structure of parental responsibility for children in substitute care; and a requirement that all applications for final care orders go to a preliminary conference.

**Jurisdictional overlaps between the Family Division of the Children's Court of Victoria and the Family Court of Australia**, by B. Fehlberg & F. Kelly, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, vol.14, no.3, Nov 2000, pp.211-233.

In this article, the authors present and discuss preliminary findings drawn from an

on-going project being conducted in Victoria on jurisdictional overlaps in the area of child protection. In essence, the research so far found that cases are frequently transferred from the children's court to the family court; that there is little co-ordination or communication between the courts or between the courts and the Victorian Department of Human Services; and that although the cases where jurisdictional overlaps cause serious problems for children and families may be few in number they are cases which are made substantially more complex by their movement between two jurisdictions.

**Psychiatrists and psychologists in the Family Court process**, by A. Nicholson, *Psychiatry, Psychology & Law*, vol.7, no.1, 2000, pp.1-8.

The role of psychiatry and psychology in relation to family law is a vital one. In this article the author discusses current developments in Australian family law which affect the role of psychiatrists and psychologists in Family Court proceedings. He looks at family law reform, the Australian Law Reform Commission review of the federal civil justice system, family violence, litigants in person, interim applications concerning children, program initiatives and better management of child abuse cases. He concludes by providing observations about how mental health practitioners' expertise can best assist the Court.

**The role of the children's court in child protection**, by J. Coate, *Rights Now!* Mar 2001, pp.18-19.

The Children's Court as an institution of judicial decision making does not become involved in the child protection system until the child protection authority decides to invoke its jurisdiction. Neither does the Court have an investigative arm. It is the child protection authority (in Victoria, the Department of Human Services) which receives the notification of child abuse. The author describes the role of DHS, investigative procedures, bringing the case before the Court by initiating a Protection Application, and decision making in the Court for contested matters. She notes that the recently introduced Victorian Children and Young Persons (Appointment of President) Bill includes amendments which establish the Children's Court as an independent court, no longer a division of the Magistrate's Court, providing a specialised court catering for children and young people in both the criminal and family jurisdictions.

## Cross cultural differences

**Child abuse: a global view**, edited by B.M. Schwartz-Kenney, M. McCauley & M.A. Epstein, Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 2001.

Although child abuse and neglect is a tragic social problem affecting the lives of many individuals worldwide, the way it is defined, prevented and treated differs from country to country. This international survey allows readers to identify the differences and similarities that exist among a variety of cultures when it comes to defining and preventing the problem. Scholars in the field have provided qualitative and quantitative data on the many issues surrounding this universal problem in 16 different countries chosen to represent all regions of the world. Each chapter addresses one country and explores the ways in which it approaches the problem, including: the history of child abuse; how child abuse is defined; the prevalence of abuse; child protection and legal actions taken when abuse is suspected; remedial services available for families and abused children; legal innovations available for child witnesses/victims of abuse; legislative reforms; legal ramifications for offenders; and preventative measures. Cross cultural comparisons can help identify how each country's historical perspective and definition of child abuse and neglect determines how each society identifies, prevents and treats the issue, why the problem persists, and what might be done to prevent it worldwide. The following is a list of the countries examined: Australia; Canada; England; India; Ireland; Israel; Japan; Kenya; Malaysia; Mexico; Norway; Romania; Russia; Spain; Sri Lanka and USA. The chapter on Australia by Suzanne E and James Hatty is indexed separately.

**Multicultural men and family relationships services: challenges and successes**, by S. Bhattacharjee, *Family Services Australia Newsletter*, no.23, Dec 2000, pp.38-43.

The Multicultural Men and Family Relationship Services pilot program, developed by UnitingCare Burnside, Cabramatta Family Centre to improve culturally and linguistically diverse background men's relationship skills, education and family relationships, is described in this paper. Structural and cultural barriers are outlined and service activities and strategies to prevent child abuse, domestic violence and family breakdown for the target group of Vietnamese, Khmer and Laotian men are described.

**Reducing risk for children in changing cultural contexts: recommendations for intervention and training**, by D. Roer-Strier, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.2, Feb 2001, pp.231-248.

This paper suggests guidelines for both parents and professionals for the prevention and reduction of risk associated with cultural differences, conflicts and misinterpretations. The paper presents a framework for a five step intervention plan to be used with parents. It also recommends multicultural training for professionals.

**Valuing the field : child welfare in an international context**, by M. Callahan, S. Hesse & S. Strega, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2000.

This book provides examples of best practice in child welfare across an international perspective. Organisational structures and policies to support best practice are discussed. The book adopts an analytical approach and focuses on the topic of excellence in the child welfare area. It also provides an opportunity for a greater understanding of child welfare systems in varying jurisdictions.

## Domestic violence

**Assessing family violence interventions: linking programs to research-based strategies**, by R. Chalk, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.29-53.

Family violence and treatment programs are currently being offered without scientific evidence of the types of benefits to be gained from these programs and the types of clients who would benefit. This paper argues that it is important to develop appropriate theories, measures and datasets that will support more rigorous evaluations of these intervention programs. A recent report, "Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention and Treatment Programs" provides in-depth analysis of 114 intervention programs. The report includes policy and research recommendations that are designed to improve the quality of the evaluation of these types of intervention programs.

**The Central Violence Intervention Program - 'a model of collaboration'**, by B. Duigan & J. Felus, *Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter*, no.5, Dec 2000, pp.4-6.

The Central Violence Intervention Program began operating in October 1999 and is a pilot program drawing on the experiences of models developed both internationally and within South Australia. The program attempts to provide an innovative approach to policy, practice and service delivery which promotes the safety of women and children by focusing on perpetrator accountability for the violence and abuse. This article provides an

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overview of the program, demonstrating how its commitment to collaboration both within the team and with participating core agencies is pivotal to the development of practices which are transparent and accountable and which reflect the core principles which underpin the program.

**Children, young people and domestic violence**, by L. Laing, Sydney, NSW, *Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse*, University of New South Wales, 2000.

The relationships between children, young people, and domestic violence are explored in this issues paper. The author examines the ways in which children and young people experience domestic violence, and outlines the available data on the prevalence of this issue in their lives. This is followed by a section providing an overview of research on the impact of domestic violence on children and young people, and a discussion of the framework within which these impacts are understood. The next section describes efforts to improve ways of working with children and young people in counselling, support and prevention. The author then argues that the problems documented cannot be addressed solely through counselling, and that a multi system response is needed. The final section of the paper identifies current challenges posed by the growing knowledge about children, young people and domestic violence.

**Evaluating interventions for children exposed to family violence**, by S.A. Graham-Bermann, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.191-215.

This article provides a critical overview of the current state of evaluation research in regard to intervention programs which are currently being offered for children who witness family violence. A summary of the best intervention methods is offered. Suggestions for improving future research in the area are provided.

**Identified spouse abuse as a risk factor for child abuse**, by P.D. Rumm, P. Cummings & M.R. Krauss, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1375-1381.

This study questions whether spouse abuse should be considered a risk factor for child abuse. The study used the US Army Family Advocacy Program's Central database to identify child and spouse abuse among married couples with children and at least spouse being on active duty in the US Army during 1989-1995. The study found a strong association between an episode of spouse abuse and subsequent child abuse. Therefore, spouse abuse may serve as an independent risk factor for child abuse. Implications for care providers are discussed.

**The relative importance of wife abuse as a risk factor for violence against children**, by E.O. Tajima, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1383-1398.

This study confirms the association between wife abuse and child abuse. However, it stresses that other factors may need to be considered in our understanding of the increased risk attributed to wife abuse.

**An unacceptable risk: a report on child contact arrangements where there is violence in the family**, by R. Rendell, Z. Rathus & A. Lynch, Annerley, Qld Women's Legal Service, 2000.

The purpose of this research was to gather information on the way in which legal and welfare systems respond to women and children affected by violence and abuse after separation. Conducted over 12 months from January 1999, the



methodology comprised a literature review, interviews with staff in key agencies, a survey of practitioners including lawyers, social workers and domestic violence workers, focus groups and individual interviews with women and ongoing input from the reference group. Issues discussed include: the link between domestic violence and child abuse; the role of the Family Court in child protection; characteristics of abuse of children in contact; reporting child abuse; legal aid in Queensland; and different legal pathways for different types of relationships. A summary of recommendations is provided.

**The Way Forward: Children, Young People and Domestic Violence National Forum, April 2000, proceedings**, Barton, ACT, Office of the Status of Women, for Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, 2000.

Sponsored by the Commonwealth's Partnerships Against Domestic Violence program, Children, Young People and Domestic Violence: The Way Forward was a major national forum held in Melbourne on 26 and 27 April 2000. The forum was a showcase of Partnerships' work in research and evaluation, relationship skills, Indigenous family violence, peer education, practice standards, community education and development, and identifying the links between domestic violence

and child protection. It highlighted good practice in allied fields, including parenting skills, psychology, family therapy, education, health, child protection, police and courts. Most of the papers are individually indexed, and can be retrieved under the name of the conference.

**Working with men who use violence: accountability to women?**, by P. Woodbridge, *Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no.4, Summer 2000, pp.9-10.

The author is the coordinator of the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service which participates in the Dovetail program, an integrated approach to domestic violence. In this article the author emphasises the importance of ensuring that women's and children's safety is paramount, and must be central to the underpinning philosophy within

which the program is set. The starting point of men's behaviour change programs is the demand that the violence and abuse must stop.

### *Educational participation*

**Perceived and actual academic competence in maltreated children**, by E.M. Kinard, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.1, Jan 2001, 33-45.

The aims of this study were twofold: 1) to determine differences in maltreated and nonmaltreated children's self-assessments of academic achievement; and 2) to determine whether discrepancies between perceived and actual academic competence were related to perceptions of social support from mothers, teachers and peers. Although, maltreated children had significantly lower achievement scores, there was no difference between the two groups on perceived academic competence. Maltreated children were more likely to overestimate their level of competence in order to compensate for self-perceptions of low self-worth. Maltreated children with low maternal support were also more likely to overestimate their abilities. In conclusion, the author suggests that efforts to improve the academic achievement of maltreated children need to focus on enhancing self-esteem as well as increasing their academic skills.

**Patterns of abuse in early childhood, a cohort study of the 'Children of the Nineties'**, by P. Sidebotham & The ALSPAC Study Team, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.9, no.5, Sep-Oct 2000, pp.311-320.

This study examines patterns of child abuse in a pre-school population, especially the incidence of emotional abuse. The effects of emotional abuse are increasingly being recognized by both professionals and parents. However, these concerns are not being identified by current procedures.

## Empowerment

**Building Strong Families** by R.A. Schroeder & P. Boyce, *Family Science Review*, vol.13, no.3&4, Dec 2000, pp.165-175.

This article evaluates the parent education program Building Strong Families. The program is designed for first time, limited-resource and limited-literacy skill parents of children from birth to 3 years of age. The curriculum stresses the importance of parenting in the child's early years and is intended to empower the parents to impact in a positive manner on their children's development.

**Effective strategies and a framework for development of community-based educational programs for empowering families**, by J.A. Malia & J.E. Malia, *Family Science Review*, vol.13, no.3&4, Dec 2000, pp.149-164.

This paper presents a framework for the development of community-based educational programs for empowering families. It discusses empowerment strategies that include: process learning; decision making; enhanced self-awareness; and participation. It also discusses components of family life education which include: educational message; target population; setting; and format.

**Empowerment approaches in community-based education with parent participation**, by S.R. Foulke, N.B. Potter & J.A. Allen, *Family Science Review*, vol.13, no.3&4, Dec 2000, pp.234-238.

This article discusses two community-based education programs that use an empowerment model. Although program outcomes differ, the authors found that when an empowerment model is used a change in the perception, ways of thinking and ways of acting of the participants does occur.

**Canadian child welfare Outcomes Indicator Matrix: an ecological approach to tracking service outcomes**, by N. Trocme, B. MacLaurin & B. Fallon, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.165-190.

The Client Outcomes in Child Welfare (COCW) Project in Canada, which was designed to examine the state of knowledge about outcomes measurement, identified some of the challenges to outcome measurement which may explain the limited progress made in this field. The Outcomes Indicator Matrix was developed to focus on the administrative use of outcomes information. Indicators were selected in four domains: child protection; child functioning; permanence and continuity of care for the child; and family and community support.

**How evaluation research can help reform and improve the child welfare system**, by R.J. Gelles, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.7-28.

This article states that the child welfare system in the United States is in crisis and is unable to meet its legal mandate to protect children from harm. The article argues that a major part of the problem is that the system fails to adequately and effectively evaluate child protection programs. The article speculates on why there is so little evaluation and proposes a possible solution to the child welfare crisis.

## Family group conferences

**Family group conferencing in child protection: an evaluation**, by C. Trotter & R. Sheehan, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.37-41.

Family Group Conferencing (FGC) in child protection is a method of involving families in planning. This paper reports on a study undertaken in the Victorian child protection system, which examined (1) the extent to which the Victorian FGC program actually involves families in the planning process, (2) the extent to which FGC develops case plans which are appropriate, and (3) the extent to which FGC develops case plans which are sustained over time. Researchers observed 28 conferences and phone interviews were conducted with more than 100 participants including family members, staff members and representatives of non-government agencies providing placement and support services. The results suggest

that FGC is more successful in involving family members in case planning than more traditional planning processes. Family members believe that FGC leads to more appropriate case plans which are more likely to be sustained. Child protection workers on the other hand believe that more appropriate case plans are developed in traditional planning meetings, rather than FGCs, and that case plans developed in traditional meetings are more likely to be sustained over time. Possible explanations for these findings are discussed, in particular that FGCs may be used for more difficult cases.

## Family life education

**Family life education in school-based programs**, by D.B. Gentry, *Family Science Review*, vol.13, no.3&4, Dec 2000, pp.39-52.

Thomas and Arcus (1992) suggest that family life education needs to be subjected to a systematic analysis of the following elements: general purpose or intended outcomes; subject matter or content; assumptions and normative beliefs; operational principles; intended audiences; and methods of practice. This goal of this paper is to apply selected concepts regarding these elements to four exemplary school-based programs.

## Family support services

**Helping parents, protecting children: ideas from Germany**, by K. Baistow & G. Wilford, *Children & Society*, vol.14, no.5, Nov 2000, pp.343-354.

This paper examines recent comparative studies between England and Germany on the help-seeking process in the child protection service in each country. In Germany help seeking and help giving are more straightforward than the current system in England. The authors suggest that England could learn valuable lessons from the German model.

**Home-Start and the delivery of family support**, by N. Frost, L. Johnson & M. Stein, *Children & Society*, vol.14, no.5, Nov 2000, pp.328-342.

This article evaluates the Home-Start program. Home-Start is a voluntary organisation which offers support to mothers with children under five through volunteer home visiting.

## Home visits

**Home visiting intervention for vulnerable families with newborns: follow-up results of a randomized controlled trial**, by J.A. Fraser ... [et al.], *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1399-1429.

The overall aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of home visiting as

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a prevention and early intervention strategy using child health nurses, social workers and parent aides. The community utility of a screening tool to identify families with child abuse or neglect risk factors in the immediate post natal period is assessed and factors in this period associated with the child's environment that predict poor adjustment to the parenting role are identified. The randomised controlled trial involved 181 women with newborns, recruited from a hospital in Queensland. The results from the questionnaires are presented, covering issues of: home environment, child health, service satisfaction, social validity of the home visiting program, parenting stress index, post natal depression, child abuse risk, and prediction for poor adjustment to parenting at 12 month follow up. Conclusions indicate that the ability to identify depression levels, stress levels and coping skills of all new parents would offer a possibility for preventing some cases of child abuse and neglect in the community.

**Stopping child maltreatment before it starts : emerging horizons in early home visitation services**, by N.B. Guterman, Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sage Publications, c2000.

This book examines the ways in which home visitation services may help prevent child abuse and neglect. It explores best practice principles and discusses how home visitation may also help address the problem of family substance abuse, thus reducing child maltreatment risk.

### *Interagency collaboration*

**2000 draft interagency guidelines for child protection intervention**, New South Wales, Commission for Children & Young People, Sydney, NSW, NSW Government, 2000.

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist professionals and agencies in their work with children and families where there are child protection concerns. While individual agencies have broad responsibilities relating to strengthening families and preventing child abuse, the focus of these guidelines is the interagency approach to child protection intervention.

### *Intergenerational transmission*

**Intergenerational transmission of constructive parenting**, by Z. Chen & H.B. Kaplan, *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, vol.63, no.1, Feb 2001, 17-31.

This study examines the intergenerational transmission of constructive, rather than destructive, parenting practices. The findings of the study suggest that interpersonal relations, social participation and role-specific modeling contribute to the

intergenerational transmission of constructive parenting practices.

### *Lawyers*

**New representation principles for children's lawyers**, Law Society of New South Wales, *Law Society Journal*, vol.38, no.11, Dec 2000, pp.50-54.

After a twelve month process of consultation and refinement, the Law Society of New South Wales has now released its Representation Principles for Children's Lawyers. This first edition of the Principles is meant to provide a practical resource for lawyers. The Law Society's objective is to help lawyers overcome any confusion in determining what their relationship should be with any child they have been retained or appointed to represent. This article provides an outline of the principles. Discussion includes who the client is, the role of a practitioner, the child's capacity to give instructions, taking instructions and preferences, duties of representation, the child as witness, confidentiality, conflict of interest, access to documents and reports, interaction with third parties, ending the relationship, and issues for elaboration and consideration, focusing on criminal jurisdiction, care and protection, and family law jurisdiction.

### *Longitudinal studies*

**Child maltreatment in the United Kingdom : a study of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect**, by P.Cawson, London, NSPCC, 2000.

This is the first report of a major study undertaken by the NSPCC as part of their FULL STOP Campaign aimed at ending cruelty to children within a generation. This is a large scale study which contains a wealth of information on the childhood experiences of 18 to 24 year olds. It is intended to repeat the study within ten years to enable changes in the treatment of children and young people to be assessed.

### *Measuring well-being*

**The standardized assessment of child well-being in child protection work**, by J.G. Barber & P. Delfabbro, *Journal of Social Work Research & Evaluation*, vol.1, no.2, Fall 2000, pp.111-12.

A demonstration project conducted for the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Service (CYPFS) of New Zealand into the routine assessment of the well being of children in CYPFS's care, is reported in this article. The aim of the project was to develop a standardised assessment procedure for deciding on case closure capable of accommodating cultural variation. It is assumed that neglected or abused children have the right to a similar level of well being as that

enjoyed by children from the general, nonclinical population. The procedure was tested on nonclinical populations derived from Canada and Australia and compared with scores on well being of 64 children and adolescents from New Zealand. A method for quantifying information quality is described and results for the CYPFS sample are presented.

### *Out of home care*

**Sed quid custodiet ipsos custodes? Reflections on abuse of vulnerable children, the nature of institutions, the heart of social work, the need to speak out, shooting messengers and other important matters: an interview with Alison Taylor**, by C. Goddard, *Children Australia*, vol.25, no.4, 2000, pp.46-56.

Abuse of children in care challenges many of the assumptions made about children, their care, and those who are paid to protect them. Alison Taylor was dismissed from her position in north Wales because she was not prepared to ignore persistent and widespread allegations about the abuse of children in care. Public concern about this abuse grew and as a result a public inquiry was held. The report of the inquiry, *Lost in Care* (2000), was chaired by Sir Ronald Waterhouse. This article is an interview with Alison Taylor and represents the events leading up to Taylor's awareness of the abuse where she was working, the action she took and the subsequent results.

### *Parent education*

**One way of working with parents**, by A. Malcolm, *Connexions*, vol.21, no.2, Apr - May 2001, pp.20-21.

The aim of the Parent Education Information and Support Group developed by the North East Outreach Drug and Alcohol Service in Victoria is discussed in this article which describes the Family Working Model used by family counsellors in their work with parents of children with drug issues.

**Parents' response to parent education and support programs**, by J. Bowes, *Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol.8, no.2, Summer 2000, pp.12-21.

Limited information has been collected about parental response during and following participation in parenting programs. It is important to find out more about the mediating effects of parental response to programs to help explain benefits that flow to children, to know more about the community links of families and whether these are affected positively or negatively. This article reports on a study which reviewed 24 family support programs in the United States. Four key programs were chosen to illustrate the

range of approaches to parent education and support: Infant Health and Development project; New Chance; Parents as Teachers; and Healthy Start.

**Training parents reported for or at risk for child abuse and neglect to identify and treat their children's illnesses**, by K.M. Bigelow & J.R. Lutzker, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol.15, no.4, Dec 2000, pp.311-330.

Parents at-risk of or reported for child abuse may demonstrate deficits in infant and child health care skills. Training in identifying symptoms, using reference and record-keeping materials and determining the best form of treatment was provided to these parents. The training was effective in terms of the content and the outcomes of the program.

### Personal safety

**Teaching children to protect themselves: a resource for teachers and adults who care for young children**, by F. Briggs & M. McVeity, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen and Unwin, 2000.

A handbook for teachers and counsellors working with primary aged children, this book provides ideas for teachers and parents as well as counsellors and therapists working both with children at risk of abuse and children who have been abused. The authors have specifically focused on the protection of children from sexual abuse. Detailed guidance is provided on: why all children need a safety program; the importance of care givers and parents; responding to actual or suspected sexual abuse; integrating safety education into the wider curriculum; strategies for teaching safety skills; special challenges for children with disabilities; the Internet and online safety; and strategies for children to protect themselves. Themes and activities to work through with children are described, including: it's my body; some parts of our bodies are private; talking about touching; staying safe with strangers; secrets; and problem solving exercises.

### Physical abuse

**Family violence and violence against children**, by D. Ghate, *Children & Society*, vol.14, no.5, Nov 2000, pp.395-403.

This review of recent research concentrates on one particular aspect of family violence - physical violence against children. Three questions are posed: 1) what does the research indicate about the incidence and prevalence of violence against children; 2) what are the key causes, correlates and consequences of violence to children; and 3) what should future research focus on, especially with prevention in mind?

**Treatment research in child maltreatment: clinical and research directions**, by D. Kolko, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.139-164.

A brief overview of key studies which evaluate the treatment of children who have been sexually or physically abused is provided by this article. Specific research studies where the findings are directly related to outcome following intervention are discussed and suggestions for future research are given.

### Posttraumatic stress disorder

**Treating sexually abused children with posttraumatic stress symptoms: a randomized clinical trial**, by N.J. King ...[et al.], *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol.39, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1347-1355.

The aim of this controlled investigation was to evaluate the efficacy of a cognitive behavioural treatment (CBT) program, with and without parental involvement, for sexually abused children suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, and to assess the maintenance of therapeutic gains. Demographic



characteristics of participants are outlined and the design of the evaluation of the CBT program is discussed, along with the therapy setting and treatment integrity; treatment procedures; outcome measures; and limitations of the assessment. Clinical implications are considered with the conclusion that CBT strategies be given priority in the treatment of sexually abused children.

### Professional decision making

**Family preservation and child protection: the reality of Children's Court decision-making**, by R. Sheehan, *Australian Social Work*, vol.53, no.4, Dec 2000, pp.41-46.

Ainsworth and Maluccio (Australian Social Work, December 1998) drew attention to the increased use of kinship care for children who need care away from their parents. This paper discusses the aim of family preservation, on which

kinship care is predicated, and the challenges for legal decision-makers to meet this aim when children are before the courts in need of care and protection. It draws from findings of a study of magistrates' decision-making in child protection cases (Sheehan 1999). The paper provides examples of family situations that typically confront the Children's Court in Victoria and the court's response to them as it attempts to balance the importance of family ties and the reality of risk for a child; a reality that challenges valued beliefs about families and their ability to always care for their children.

**Prosecution decisions in cases of domestic violence involving children**, by M. Burton, *The Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, vol.22, no.2, 2000, pp.175-191.

Although it is known that children suffer as a result of domestic violence it is not known if the presence of children influences the decision-making of the police and courts in these cases. This study combines an examination of case files with observations and discussions with prosecutors. The findings indicate differences of approach between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service lawyers.

**Professional decision making and the management of actual or suspected child abuse and neglect cases: an in situ tracking study**, by A.M. Tomison, Monash University, Department of Social Work & Human Services, 1999, 2 vol.

This thesis comprises an investigation of professional decision making in the management of actual or suspected child maltreatment cases via a six-month, in situ case tracking study. Specifically, it was an attempt to highlight the realities of case management decision making, its complexity and the issues facing professionals through an in-depth analysis of the factors affecting the decision making of professionals within one complete child protection network. The subject pool consisted of 110 professionals who had been identified as playing a significant role in the reporting, assessment and/or alleviation of child maltreatment in the targeted child protection network. Overall, 260 children residing in 190

families suspected or confirmed as being physically, sexually, emotionally abused or neglected were tracked through the targeted network. The results of the case tracking were used to develop an Ecological Framework of Decision Making able to encompass current knowledge of the factors that influence professional decision making in the child maltreatment field. The implications of the Framework for decision making research and as an educational or training tool are discussed, as are the results for current child protection practice.

## Research

**Linking research to practice: challenges and opportunities**, by D. Daro, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol.4, no.1, 2000, pp.115-137.

This article provides an overview of the theoretical framework of the Healthy Families America (HFA) program. It examines the role of research in the initial conceptualization of this program. A review of the research on HFA's home visitation component is provided. These findings are compared to other evaluations of programs and policies designed to enhance child development and parental capacity.

## Resilience

**Hard wiring young brains for intimacy: the essential first step to breaking generational cycles of abuse and neglect**, by P. Drielsma, *Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol.8, no.2, Summer 2000, pp.6-11.

This article is based on the concept that if infants do not develop the capacity to attach to other living beings in a meaningful and appropriately intimate way, then as adults they are largely incapable of forming social networks, providing social support, and being part of a sustainable civil society. This has critical implications for community development and ultimately the creation of sustainable communities. Furthermore, the development of sustainable communities is critical for supportive structural networks that enhance the health and welfare of families and children in a way that protects against child abuse and neglect. The author explains that this concept is based on the meaning and operation of social capital, an understanding of how the brain develops in the first three years of

life, and the interplay of these two areas of knowledge.

## Respite care

**Planned respite care: hope for families under pressure**, by J. O'Brien, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, vol.36, no.1, Feb 2001, pp.51-65.

Respite care - having breaks from the constant demands of parenting - has long been recognised as a crucial service for families of a child with a disability. Only more recently has it been considered equally beneficial for families at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. A growing body of research demonstrates the negative impact of social and economic stress on people's capacity to raise their children effectively. The experiences of welfare workers indicate that planned respite care can be an important means of reducing stress and lessening the likelihood of child maltreatment and the possibility of children's removal to long-term care. A case is outlined for a much more substantial investment in planned respite care as part of an integrated range of family support services.

## School role

**Out of the wilderness and into the fold: the school nurse and child protection**, by M.L. Clarke, *Child Abuse Review*, vol.9, no.5, Sep-Oct 2000, pp.364-374.

This paper provides a brief overview of the role of the school nurse in child protection. The important role of the school nurse as an integral part of the child protection team is now being recognized. For many children who may be neglected or abused the school nurse is often the most significant health worker with whom they will have contact.

## Sequela

**Down will come baby, cradle and all: disagnostic and therapeutic implications of chronic trauma on child development**, by A. Streeck-Fischer & B.A. van der Kolk, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol.34, no.6, Dec 2000, pp.903-918.

This review examines the clinical outcomes associated with exposure to chronic intrafamilial trauma and explores the treatment of the psychological, biological and cognitive sequelae. The existing research literature on the subject was collected, and the research findings

were supplemented with clinical observations by the authors and other clinical writings on this topic. Results show that children with histories of exposure to multiple traumatic experiences within their families or in medical settings usually meet criteria for numerous clinical diagnoses, none of which capture the complexity of their biological, emotional and cognitive problems. These are expressed in a multitude of psychological, cognitive, somatic and behavioural problems, ranging from learning disabilities to aggression against self and others. The authors conclude that exposure to intrafamilial violence and other chronic trauma results in pervasive psychological and biological deficits. Treatment needs to address issues of safety, stabilise impulsive aggression against self and others, promote mastery experiences, compensate for specific developmental deficits, and judiciously process both the traumatic memories and trauma related expectations.

**Play and social skills in maltreated and non-maltreated preschoolers during peer interactions**, by D. Darwish, G. Esquivel & J.C. Houtz, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.25, no.1, Jan 2001, pp.13-31.

The objective of this study was to investigate whether maltreated children differ from nonmaltreated children in their social skills and play behaviors. All of the children in the study were of low socioeconomic status. The children's social skills were rated by teachers and therapists. The results showed that maltreated children had significantly poorer skill in initiating interactions with peers. They also had difficulty maintaining self-control and displayed a greater number of problem behaviors.

**Sexual abuse counselling: what is the rationale?**, by T.M. Laidlaw, F.A. Goodyear-Smith & D. Gorman, *Nuance*, no.1, Dec 2000, pp.64-85.

The causes of adult psychological problems are multi factorial, for instance current stress in combination with genetic vulnerability coupled with historical problems in the family of origin subsumed under the stress vulnerability model of mental illness. In this paper, the authors argue three points based upon scientific evidence: (1) maltreatment as a child, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect, and to a lesser extent sexual abuse, appears to contribute to adult psychological problems; (2) concentrating on childhood sexual abuse in therapy is not supported by the scientific literature, whereas concentrating on the treatment of presenting symptoms is well supported; and (3) evidence based therapy is predicated upon short term, reality based, therapeutic interventions,

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based upon cognitive, behavioural, or interpersonal theories. Furthermore, there is little evidence to support the hypothesis that emphasising childhood trauma over current problems in therapy is beneficial; it does not fit into the stress vulnerability model and conceivably such an approach may be detrimental.

## Sex offenders

**The economics of child sex-offender rehabilitation programs: beyond Prentky and Burgess**, by R. Donato & M. Shanahan, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, vol.71, no.1, Jan 2001, pp.131-139.

In 1990 the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry published an important and often cited article by Robert Prentky and Ann Burgess titled 'Rehabilitation of child molesters: a cost-benefit analysis'. Their estimates were based on the tangible costs of incarceration and particular recidivism rates. In this article, the authors' objective is to discuss some of the conceptual limitations associated with Prentky and Burgess's original economic analysis and the implications these had for their findings. They then introduce some recent advances in economic techniques, and estimate the intangible costs of child sexual abuse and a range of recidivism rates. Their conclusions suggest a number of directions for future study, which are summarised. A response to this article by Robert Prentky and Ann Burgess follows, pp.140-141.

**Recidivism of child molesters: a study of victim relationship with the perpetrator**, by D. Greenberg ...[et al.], *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.11, Nov 2000, pp.1485-1494.

The purpose of this study is to compare the sexual, violent and general criminal survival rates for five different categories of victim relationship with the perpetrator including biological fathers, stepfathers, uncles and cousins, acquaintances and strangers. This study is an extension of a body of work examining the recidivism and predictor variables of both intra and extra familial child molesters. Results are presented, with conclusions indicating that the category of stranger is highlighted as a group with a higher risk for re offence. It is suggested that the practical implications of this outcome study lie with its utility for risk assessment and management of recidivism of child molesters by various health professional and judicial officers.

## Survivors

**Activism in action: the Women's Incest Survivors Network**, by F. Martin, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.9, Dec 2000, pp.41-51.

The Women's Incest Survivors Network (WISN) Inc. is a voluntary organisation run by women survivors of child sexual assault. Its main objective is to work with and represent the needs of women affected by incest and other forms of child sexual assault. WISN also works toward systemic and social change in the area of violence prevention by advocating for the community and social interests of women whose lives have been affected by this form of sexual violence. WISN takes the view that the existence of child sexual assault is made possible by attitudes that perpetuate abuses of power over children. It is for this reason that it has established collective decision making processes which it believes offer more possibilities in avoiding potential power abuse problems within organisational structures. This article looks at the years between 1993 to 1999 in exploring the ways in which WISN functions as a voluntary organisation and focuses on the decision making processes that account for a significant part of the organisation's successes.

**Beholding: bridging the chasm between entering and exiting the sexual abuse experience**, by P. Sherwood, *ISA Journal (Incest Survivors Association)*, Spring 2000, pp.27-35.

Adult survivors of sexual abuse who are in counselling often swing from phases of denial or distancing themselves from the experience to flooding phases, where they are so overwhelmed by memories of the experience that they are unable to function in their daily lives. As a counsellor working with sexual abuse survivors, the author is interested in processes for ensuring a balance between the client being flooded by the experience of the abuse and being so distant and defended from the experience that therapeutic change is resisted. In this article the author outlines the following four different counselling techniques that have contributions to make to assist the client caught in either of these places: stress / coping techniques; experiential / expressive techniques; exploratory / psychodynamic techniques; and cognitive / behavioural techniques. She also presents

a recently developed model - philophonetics counselling, which works to minimise the oscillation between flooding and being defended against the experience, by providing a bridge for the client to travel between the two states of being.

**I wanted to be able to talk about it without being judged: issues confronting mothers of child sexual assault survivors**, by W. Foote, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.9, Dec 2000, pp.22-32.

This article explores the use of groups as a way of working with women whose children have been sexually abused. It documents the women's experiences of trauma both as a consequence of their child's sexual assault and from intervention by human and legal services. It identifies issues that women often confront in dealing with their child's sexual abuse and suggests ways in which groups can provide a positive environment for women to become empowered.

## Training

**Protecting and supporting children and young people: revised procedures**, New South Wales, Department of Education & Training, Sydney, NSW, Department of Education & Training, 2000.

The NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 now replaces the Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987. This document presents the revised procedures which must be followed by all employees of the Department of Education and Training and which must be the subject of annual training and development for all staff. Issues covered include: roles of staff; when to report child abuse; discussing reports to Department of Community Services with the children and young people involved; safeguards for people making a report; procedures for reporting abuse; procedures where concerns about risk of harm relate to actions of a student or apprentice, or of a staff member; the role of case planning; communication with parents; and record keeping. Sample request forms are included.

**Training and consultancy services handbook 2000-2001**, Victoria, Department of Human Services, Child Protection Training & Development Unit, Melbourne, Vic, Child Protection Training & Development Unit, 2001.

The Child Protection Training and Development Unit believes that training enhances service delivery and job satisfaction, which in turn has positive outcomes for staff and clients. This handbook of training and development activities contains a range of programs for practitioners and managers related to many aspects of child protection work.

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