



Literature highlights

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Aboriginal families

Social work practice and Indigenous

Australians: Notes from a remote region, by J. Wilson, in P.A. Swain (ed.) *In the shadow of the law: The legal context of social work practice*, Federation Press (2nd edn), Annandale, NSW, 2002.

Aspects of social work practice with Aboriginal people in a remote area of the Kimberley region of Western Australia are described in this chapter. The author's position involved a legislatively derived responsibility to undertake child protection and juvenile justice work. Concurrently with this position, the author had a role to engage community development with the same Aboriginal family groups and communities. The author reflects on the conflicting interests and purposes contained within these differing roles. It is argued that the responses to these conflicting roles were determined by the nature of the practice setting and the personal values of the author, rather than the legislative frameworks within which the practice took place.

Keeping them home: The best interests of Indigenous children and communities in Canada and Australia, P. Lynch, *Sydney Law Review*, vol. 23 no. 4, pp. 501-542, December 2001.

The author acknowledges that Australian Aboriginal children and Indigenous Canadian (First Nations) children have been removed from their communities from the time of European invasion, firstly in order to 'merge', 'absorb' or 'assimilate' those children into the non-Indigenous population and more recently in the name of the best interests of the child. He calls for reform of child welfare law, policy and practice which currently places a disproportionate number of Aboriginal and First Nations children in care, secluding them from their cultural identity and heritage. Although he believes that ultimately self-determination for Indigenous people should transfer responsibility for the welfare of their children back to them, in the meantime the prevailing best interests principle needs to be adapted and applied by the courts and decision makers to

acknowledge the unique nature of Indigenous culture, identity and child care practices. Decisions about where the child's best interests lie should be informed by the best interests of the community as long as this approach does not mean that a child is left in an abusive situation.

Child abuse prevention

Prevention of child sexual abuse: A survey of 87 programs, by Carol A. Plummer, *Violence & Victims*, vol. 16, no. 5, October 2001.

This article evaluates 87 child sexual abuse prevention programs. A range of variables are examined including funding, barriers (such as community denial of the problem), and the demographics of the target population.

Promoting family wellness and preventing child maltreatment: Fundamentals for thinking and action, by I. Prilleltensky, G. Nelson & L. Peirson (eds), University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 2001.

This book offers recommendations for 1) a better understanding of wellness, maltreatment, prevention and promotion; 2) value-based actions; and 3) successful policies and programs. Written by members of The Family Wellness Project Team, chapters are: Mapping the terrain: framework for promoting family wellness and preventing child maltreatment by Isaac Prilleltensky, Leslea Peirson and Geoffrey Nelson; Context, contributing factors, and consequences, by Leslea Peirson, Marie-Claire Laurendeau, and Claire Chamberland; Vision and values for child and family wellness by Isaac Prilleltensky, Marie-Claire Laurendeau, Claire Chamberland and Leslea Peirson; Social policies for promoting the well-being of Canadian children and families by Ray Peters, Jessica Peters, Marie-Claire Laurendeau, Claire Chamberland and Leslea Peirson; A review and analysis of programs to promote family wellness and prevent the maltreatment of preschool and elementary-school-aged children by Geoffrey Nelson, Marie-Claire Laurendeau, Claire Chamberland and Leslea Peirson; Programming for distressed and disadvantaged adolescents, by Gary

Cameron, Jan O'Reilly, Marie-Claire Laurendeau and Claire Chamberland; Program implementation and diffusion by Gary Cameron, Jeff Karabanow, Marie-Claire Laurendeau and Claire Chamberland; A circle of healing: family wellness in Aboriginal communities by Ed Connors and Frank Maidman; and the conclusion, Beyond the boundaries: themes for thinking and action in the promotion of family wellness and the prevention of child maltreatment, by Geoffrey Nelson, Isaac Prilleltensky and Leslea Peirson.

Child neglect

Neglect: Opportunities for collaboration between health and welfare: The Strengthening Families Program at the Royal Children's Hospital, by C. O'Neill, J. Hall, & J. Miller, *Children Australia*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2002.

Persistent neglect is thought to be just as harmful to a child as abuse. However, neglect is often difficult to assess for two reasons: firstly it often resembles poverty and secondly, neglecting families tend to have disorganised patterns of accessing health care and social support. This article looks at the importance of joint health and welfare input in interventions with families at risk of neglecting their children. The Strengthening Families Program at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital provides a model for interdisciplinary and intersectoral (welfare and health) collaboration, which offers care management to individual families and is working towards systemic changes in the hospital's response to these families. (Journal abstract)

Child protection

Confronting cruelty: Historical perspectives on child protection in Australia, by D. Scott & S. Swain, Melbourne University Press, Carlton South, Victoria, 2002.

In recent years child abuse has received a great deal of attention in the media. This book argues that contrary to the impressions created by the media, child abuse has a long history. Using case records from the Children's Protection Society and examining the changing understanding of what cruelty is, this book traces the last 100 years of child abuse, and describes the struggle between philanthropists, social workers and other professional groups for the right to

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identify and treat children who are abused. Chapters are: The image of the child; The cry of the children has finally been heard; Launching the great crusade; Poverty is a factor but not an excuse; Civilisation hangs in the balance; Neglect in the midst of plenty; The second wave of the child rescue movement - the 'battered baby syndrome'; Child protection: whose rights? whose responsibilities? Child sexual abuse: from Freud to feminism and beyond; and, The pendulum swings: a century of child protection ends.

Protecting children: Student information package, Produced by Family and Children's Services, Department for Community Development, Perth, WA, 18p, 2001, Online only (72K) http://www.fcs.wa.gov.au/_content/child_maltreatment_investigations/CH_PROT.pdf

This student information package is intended to give a broad overview of child protection to assist students, agencies and other members of the public who have an interest in this area. It defines child maltreatment and outlines the role of the Department in responding to allegations. It also covers myths about child sexual maltreatment, presents child maltreatment case studies, and offers further reading suggestions.

Child protection service system reform: A way forward, by D. Scott, *Children Australia*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2002.

This address formed part of a presentation at the 8th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in November 2001 in which the author spoke about the last three decades which witnessed a transformation in the history of child welfare. This transformation is symbolised by a shift from the use of the term 'child welfare' to that of 'child protection'. She then weighs up the credits and debits of the current system, and offers a blueprint for the way forward.

A history of child protection: Back to the future?, by A. Tomison, *Family Matters*, no. 60, Spring/Summer, 2001.

The maltreatment of children has occurred through history. This article gives an overview of the development of child protection and efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. It highlights the cyclical nature of the evolution of child protection services, noting that many of the current approaches have been tried a number of times over the last 150 years and look likely to be re-applied in the next few decades.

Hopes and reality: A sorry tale, by R. Fitzgerald, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 3, Autumn, 2002.

Many changes to the child protection and substitute care system are involved with the introduction in New South Wales of the Children and Young Persons (Care

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and Protection) Act 1998. In this article the author critically examines the promise and the reality of legislative reform and its impact on child and family practice. He argues that legislative reform alone is not enough to achieve the required practice changes and that an environment of sound planning, financial support and service delivery infrastructure is needed for legislative reforms to lead to improved service practices and outcomes.

The link between children's services and child protection: Final report, by K. Fisher, M. McHugh & C. Thomson, SPRC Report 1/00, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 2000. Online only (370K) http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/ChSer_ChProfFinal.pdf

Research suggests that access to children's services may be an important factor in preventing young children at risk of harm from entering substitute care. However, there is little empirical evidence available to indicate whether the use of such services prevents children at risk from moving further into the welfare system. The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) Office of Childcare commissioned this project to examine the relationship between children's services for children under school age in NSW and the DoCS child protection function and to examine the effectiveness of children's services as a protection and prevention strategy for children at risk. The research involved 1) a literature review of contemporary child protection issues and research undertaken in Australia and overseas on the use of children's services as a child protection strategy; and 2) field-based studies encompassing the collection and analysis of data received from children's services staff and workers in child protection. Data were collected using surveys and focus groups. This report presents the literature review, analysis of data, findings from the project and recommendations.

Report on the review of the Auditor-General's special report no. 43: Protecting Victoria's children: The role of the Department of Human Services: Forty-fourth report to Parliament, Parliament of Victoria, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, Government Printer, Melbourne, 2001.

The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee examines all reports of the Auditor-General and manages outstanding or unresolved issues. This document contains the results of the Committee's follow-up review of the Auditor-General's Special Report No. 43 which gave the findings of a 1996 performance audit of child protection services in Victoria. The

findings indicate that the Department of Human Services is not achieving maximum effectiveness in protecting and providing the necessary support for the children of Victoria, and that there is considerable scope for the Department to make cost-effective and efficient use of its existing resources.

Legislation and professional practice in child welfare, by D. Scott, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 3, Autumn, 2002.

Many changes to the child protection and substitute care system are involved with the introduction in New South Wales of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. In this article the author critically examines the promise and the reality of legislative reform and its impact on child and family practice. She argues that good child welfare legislation is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for good child welfare practice. Legislation needs to support a policy framework so that effective prevention strategies limit entry to the child protection system to those children for whom statutory intervention is necessary. And for those children in need of protection it exercises sufficient authority in a timely manner so that further damage is not inflicted. Both of these features need to be incorporated, rather than incorporating one at the expense of the other.

The effect of services on the recurrence of child maltreatment, by Diane DePanfilis & Susan J. Zuravin, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 26, no. 2, February, 2002.

Using a quantitative approach this US study examines the effect of services on the recurrence of child maltreatment during Child Protective Services intervention. Results show that predictors of recurrence were: family stress, child vulnerability, partner abuse and lack of social support. Analysis also revealed attendance at services led to a decreased likelihood of child maltreatment recurring. The study highlights the need for actively engaging families into helping services which may lessen future child maltreatment.

Child protection and the media: Lessons from the last three decades, by Patrick Ayre, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 31, no. 6, December, 2001.

In this article the effects on the child protection system of sensational media coverage of child abuse cases are examined. In order to overcome the negative perception of the system a new way of understanding and managing media

coverage is needed. The author suggests that the child protection systems needs to move away from the sensational types of abuse cases and align itself with the ongoing struggle to promote child welfare.

The influence of child protection orientation on child welfare practice, by Trevor Spratt, *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 31, no. 6, December, 2001.

This article describes the similarities and differences between a child protection orientation and a child welfare orientation in child welfare services. A child protection orientation focuses on risk management. The research explores the influence this orientation has on child welfare cases.

Risk assessment in child welfare: The art and science, by Scotty J. Cash, *Children and Youth Services Review*, vol. 23, no. 11, November, 2001.

This article examines how risk assessment of children in the child welfare system is currently handled. It discusses factors which predict occurrence and recurrence of child abuse and makes recommendations on how to formulate an effective and holistic assessment of the family.

Child sexual abuse

Two hands, three baskets and hope: Parents rebuilding after child sexual abuse, by H. Whittington, in *Family Strengths: Everybody's Business, Everybody's Gain: The Second Australian Conference on Building Family Strengths*, University of Newcastle, December, 2001. Online only (117K) <http://www.pco.com.au/familystrengths/Whittington%20paper.doc>

This paper focuses on developing a partnership with parents, after a child has been abused. The main focus is on families

where a child has been sexually abused. However, much of it is also relevant to work with non-offending family members after a child has been seriously physically abused. The author argues that a worker with a child who has been abused needs to work also with the parents, building a partnership that is respectful of the parents' expertise while offering information and therapeutic skill, and supporting the parents in paying attention to their own reactions to the abuse. The paper illustrates ways of working with parents in counselling and groupwork, towards breaking down isolation, dealing with confusion and distress, and moving into constructive action. The author illustrates her discussion by working through a composite case study.

Describing individual incidents of sexual abuse: A review of research on the effects of multiple sources of information on children's reports, by K.P. Roberts & M.B. Powell, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 12, December, 2001.

The norm in most abuse cases is that the child must provide detailed information about individual incidents. The authors of this article review the research evidence in relation to the effects of two kinds of contaminating sources on children's reports of a particular incident: 1) exposure to related events, for example, post-event discussions, watching similar events on television; and 2) repeated experience of the same incident, as in cases of multiple abuse. They discuss the effects of a suggestive interview on children's recall of a particular incident of a repeated event, and discuss the implications of their findings, providing a set of research-based recommendations for investigative interviewers.

Resiliency in the victim-offender cycle in male sexual abuse, by I. Lambie, F. Seymour, A. Lee & P. Adams, *Sexual Abuse*, vol. 14, no. 1, January, 2002.

The victim-offender cycle has been accepted as an explanation for sexual offending. This article describes a study which examined the factors that may prevent a male sexual abuse victim from entering the victim-offender cycle. The 'resilient' (non-offending) group in the study were less likely to report pleasure from the abuse than those in the victim-offender cycle. They were also more likely to have had close social contact with adolescent peers and to have had more family and non-family support during childhood. The authors conclude with recommendations for prevention of the victim-offender cycle.

Project Axis: Volume 2: Child sexual abuse in Queensland: Responses to the problem, Queensland Crime Commission and Queensland Police Service, Queensland, 2000. And online (655K) http://www.crimecom.qld.gov.au/library/CMCWEBSITE/AxisV2_.pdf

This is the second volume of the Queensland Crime Commission (QCC) and Queensland Police Service (QPS) Project Axis report. Project Axis was established as a wide-ranging inquiry into child - sex offending in Queensland, and involved strategic intelligence and research activities, as well as tactical investigation. The first volume reported on the nature and extent of child sex offending and the defining characteristics of offenders and their victims. This volume describes the responses of state agencies and community organisations to the problem of child sexual abuse in our community. It aims to identify gaps in the policies, procedures and services in place to respond to complaints and notifications of child sexual abuse.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CHILD PROTECTION REVIEW UNDERWAY

A major review of child protection has begun in South Australia. The review's Terms of Reference are as follows.

(a) Deliver a plan to the Minister of Social Justice that provides effective strategies to improve the provision of child protection services in this State and ensure better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

In doing this, the Review will:

- review Department of Human Services policy, practice and procedures and include both government and DHS funded services;
- determine the effectiveness of the legislation, practices and services in protecting children and young people;
- provide advice on early intervention and prevention strategies that prevent abuse of children;
- ensure particular attention is given to the needs of indigenous children and their families; and

- consider whether current Acts (Children's Protection Act 1993 and Family and Community Services Act 1973) adequately provide for the care and protection of children and young people and provide advice on any legislative reform.

(b) Examine the adequacy of the South Australian criminal law and police procedures in dealing with child abuse.

(c) Provide advice to government on the strategies and systems required to achieve a whole of government coordinated and integrated response to the protection of children.

(d) Provide advice to government and consider legislation to ensure organizations protect children from sexual and physical violence whilst in their care. Particular attention will be given to screening mechanisms for checking suitability of employees/volunteers, policies, procedures and training.

For more information contact: Rae Rix, Administrative Officer, Child Protection Review Secretariat, Phone: (08) 8226 6109. Email: rix.rae@dhs.sa.gov.au.

The socio-legal relationship in child sexual assault, by J. Breckenridge, in P.A. Swain, (ed.) *In the shadow of the law: The legal context of social work practice*, Federation Press (2nd edn), Annandale, NSW, 2002.

Interaction with the legal system is part of practice for most social workers, particularly so in relation to child sexual abuse. This chapter focuses on the nature of the association between the professions of law and social work, often referred to as the socio legal relationship. The author examines the possibilities and constraints intrinsic to this relationship with reference to child sexual assault in the Australian context, including: the legal aspects of practice; past and current themes characterising the socio legal relationship; and future developments in that relationship.

The legal construction of victim/survivors in parent-child intrafamilial sexual abuse trials in the Victorian County Court of Australia in 1995: A research summary, by S. Taylor, *Women Against Violence – An Australian Feminist Journal*, no. 10, July, 2001.

A brief summary is provided of the author's doctoral thesis which sought to document, identify and articulate the structural disadvantages inherent and entrenched in the legal process and judicial discourse. The researcher undertook an analysis of every contested case of intrafamilial sexual abuse that went to court during 1995, and by necessity followed two cases that went into 1996 and further tracked the appeal outcomes of several trials into 1997. The thesis 'demonstrated the nefarious link between dominant masculinist theoretical paradigms regarding intrafamilial sexual abuse and the legal response to this crime.'

Regarding children, by M. Rayner, *Eureka Street*, vol. 12, no. 3, April, 2002.

It has been suggested that the Federal government establish a Royal Commission to examine child sexual abuse issues. This paper argues that while a Royal Commission might help publicise the issue of child sexual abuse, it would not be an effective way to address the problem, and would serve as a distraction from the more important issue of establishing and defending the rights of children. The author argues that the government should instead provide a Children's Rights Commissioner. Citing the Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner for London as an example, she suggests that this would be an effective way of addressing child sexual abuse by monitoring what the government does, being accessible to children, working independently of government yet being integral to its decision making, advising on laws and policies, and focusing public attention on the state of children.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Intercountry collaboration and organizational responses, *Child Welfare*, vol. 80, no. 5, September/October, 2001.

This special section contains the following articles: Confronting adolescent bias and intolerance through cross-cultural immersion: an American-Croatian collaboration by Nan Dale, Roman Danko & Markham Breen (pp.623-630); The multinational transfer of competency-based foster parent assessment, selection and training: a nine-country case study by Maria Herczog, Rob van Pagee & Eileen Mayers Pasztor (pp.631-644); Families for children: international strategies to build in-country capacity in the Philippines, Thailand, Romania and India by Carole F. Stiles ..[et al.].(pp.645-655); Ensuring the best interest of the child in intercountry adoption practice: case studies from the United Kingdom and the United States by Joanne Selinske ..[et al.].(pp.656-667); Organizational responses to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: international lessons for child welfare organizations by Lisa Woll (pp.668-679).

Legislative responsibility for child protection and human rights in Queensland, by A. Farrell, *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Law and Education*, vol. 6, nos. 1-2, 2001.

Rising levels of public concern over child abuse have led to increased legislative and policy initiatives towards child protection as a human right. Taking Queensland's Child Protection Act 1999 and Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000 as examples of recent children's rights legislation, the author considers the issues of responsibility raised by children's rights versus child protection. She concludes that if the human rights focus of child protection policy and legislation is to be effective in practice, social structures must change: children need to be seen and heard to participate fully in society, and responsibility for children and young people must be shared throughout the community.

Clergy

Towards healing: Principles and procedures in responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church in Australia, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (rev edn), Canberra, ACT, 2000. Online http://www.catholic.org.au/statements/sexual_abuse_th2001_1.htm

This is a revision of the 1996 document which set out principles to form the basis of the Church's response to complaints of

abuse and the procedures to be followed in responding to individual complaints. It is explained that the major change in the principles is the extension of abuse to include sexual, physical and emotional abuse, formalising a change that had already been accepted as experience unfolded. The more numerous changes to the procedures aim to clarify the steps to be taken and to provide a document that is clear and able to be applied to the many and varied matters that can be brought forward. The goal of moving 'towards healing' remains paramount. The document comprises two parts: Part one: principles for dealing with complaints of abuse; Part two: procedures for dealing with complaints of abuse.

The church, confession, forgiveness and male sexual abuse, by P.O'Leary, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, no. 1, 2002.

While acknowledging that forgiveness by victims of sexual abuse can be used as part of the silencing which often accompanies abuse, the author points out its positive aspects. For some victims of male sexual abuse, forgiveness is one of the few available options for moving on with their lives, particularly when their social networks include the perpetrator of the abuse; forgiveness therefore has a valid place in therapy for sexual abuse victims. However, the author finds that forgiveness poses a dilemma in the context of the church, and in particular the Catholic Church, when those responsible for abusing children are also responsible for dispensing forgiveness and absolution. He believes that the church can find processes of reconciliation which would include collective ways of addressing the abuse that has occurred in its name. He suggests that the ways in which Australia as a nation is approaching reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians may offer directions for families and institutions to take in addressing the issue of child sexual abuse.

Cost of child abuse

The economics, by Mark E. Courtney, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 23, no. 10, 1999.

This article considers the economic cost of child maltreatment and its manifestations. No reliable data on the overall cost of child maltreatment exists. However there is considerable debate over how society should respond to this social problem. The human costs of child maltreatment are unquantifiable and it is difficult to separate the economic costs of child maltreatment from the economic costs of other social problems. Even conservative estimates of government spending show that child maltreatment is very costly. Government expenditure directed toward child maltreatment has increased

rapidly and has exceeded spending for a number of essential supports for children and families.

Outcome and cost of child abuse, by Jose E. Irazuzta, James E. McJunkin & Kapriel Danadian, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 21, no. 8, 1997.

This retrospective cohort study compares cases of child abuse in a pediatric intensive care unit with other admissions for differences in health costs specific to patients, severity of illness and mortality. Results show that interventional medical care in response to severe child abuse is very costly and is much worse than other diseases. The importance of allocation of resources to prevention is emphasised.

Domestic violence

Children's safety: Contradiction in the system, by P. Cross, *Domestic Violence, Action and Resources Magazine*, no. 12, December, 2001.

The author refers to research findings that children exposed to the abuse of their mothers by their fathers often demon-

may be unsuited to parent her children because she has failed to protect them from witnessing the abuse of their mother.

Through the kaleidoscope: An emerging model of working with families affected by sexual assault and domestic violence, by L. Luchi & D. Dale, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW, Conference papers – Seeking Solutions, Australia's Inaugural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference, September, 2001. Online (33K) <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Luchi,Laura%20and%20Dale,Deanne.pdf>

This paper describes the development of a model of clinical practice with children, young people and their families, where the effects of sexual assault and domestic violence are presenting difficulties. It describes how Wentworth Area Health Violence, Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services has been endeavouring to develop a 'joint work' model between the co-located Sexual Assault Service, providing services to adult and child victims of sexual assault and the PANOC (Phys-



strate all of the characteristics and problems experienced by children who are physically abused themselves and that these problems are just as longstanding. She then discusses Canadian legislative responses to the increased mainstream understanding of this reality which have, in turn, 'created some conflict between those working in the violence against women and child protection sectors and have highlighted some important contradictions between child protection law and custody and access law'. In Ontario, the author shows, it is possible to have a father who has been abusive to his partner granted unsupervised access to his children at the same time as child protection authorities tell the mother that she

ical abuse and neglect of children) service. It discusses the historical, ideological and organisational context of the services, and sets out what has been learned along the way that may assist other services considering this direction.

Domestic violence and child protection, Critical Directions monograph series, vol. 1 no. 1, Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Brisbane, June 2001.

In this paper an overview of research is provided into the relationship between domestic violence and child protection, with a critical view of current intervention strategies adopted. Statistics are provided on the links between child abuse and domestic violence in Queensland, throughout

Australia and internationally. The paper addresses issues of who should be held accountable, the effect of domestic violence on children and women, and how the response to protect children can be improved. It is asserted that through appropriate intervention that both acknowledges and addresses domestic violence, effective protection of children in violent families can be better achieved. A collaborative, coordinated response from both domestic violence and child protection workers is viewed as most appropriate.

Exposure to abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction among adults who witnessed intimate partner violence as children: Implications for health and social services, by Shanta R. Dube, Robert F. Anda & Vincent J. Felitti, *Violence and Victims*, vol. 17, no. 1, February, 2002.

This article explores how the experience of intimate partner violence - which harm's a woman's physical and mental well-being - increases the likelihood of her children experiencing abuse, neglect and other adverse experiences. Questionnaires about traumatic childhood experiences were administered and responses were used to retrospectively assess the relationship between witnessing intimate partner violence and the nine 'adverse childhood experiences'. Witnessing domestic violence as a child increased the prevalence of all forms of childhood abuse and led to other consequences such as substance abuse and depressed affect.

Early intervention

Strengthening parents through caring, connected communities: A community development approach to parenting education, by K. Andrews & A. Ellis, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 2, Summer, 2001-2002.

Burnside's Neighbourhood Based Family Centres in Macarthur provides support services for families with a particular focus on early intervention to prevent child abuse and neglect. The authors describe initiatives undertaken by the Burnside services to strengthen at risk families and to build protective, caring communities to support them as a strategy in preventing child abuse and neglect. Parent education is a core component of these initiatives, often achieved through groupwork programs which work positively to build networks among parents.

Nurture or nightmare: Helping vulnerable families in the first three years of a child's life, by P. Nelson, The Benevolent Society, Bondi, NSW, 2000. Online (615K) <http://www.bensoc.asn.au/research/upload/Nurture%20or%20Nightmare.pdf>; http://www.bensoc.asn.au/research/eip_monograph.html

This report identifies the scope and impact of child abuse and neglect in Australia;

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highlights the importance of the first three years of a child's life; describes how The Benevolent Society's early intervention programs prevent child abuse and neglect; and describes the outcomes of the Society's early intervention programs.

Family law

An unacceptable risk: Child contact arrangements when there is violence in the family, by Z. Rathus, K. Rendell & A. Lynch, *Domestic Violence, Action and Resources Magazine*, no. 12, December, 2001.

In this first part of a two-part document, an overview is provided of research that was conducted by the Abuse Free Contact Group, which was formed in 1997 by welfare and legal practitioners who identified concerns relating to the abuse of children during contact visits with non-residential parents. A survey of various practitioners, focus groups and individual interviews with women and interviews with staff in key agencies were conducted around Queensland. This article explores three of the assumptions upon which the research framework was based: that a pro-contact culture has emerged under the Family Law Act; that the Family Court sometimes plays a primary or 'front-line' role as a child protection agency; and that living with domestic violence affects the post separation behaviour of women.

Resolving family violence to children: The evaluation of Project Magellan, a pilot project for managing Family Court residence and contact disputes when allegations of child abuse have been made, by T. Brown, R. Sheehan, M. Frederico & L. Hewitt, Family Court of Australia, Sydney, NSW, 2001. Online only (447K) <http://www.familycourt.gov.au/papers/pdf/magellan.pdf>; <http://www.familycourt.gov.au/papers/html/magellan.html> (Executive summary)

The Family Court of Australia introduced Project Magellan as a pilot program to a selected 100 residence and contact cases involving allegations of serious physical and/or sexual abuse drawn from the Melbourne and Dandenong Registries of the Court in Victoria. In this report, Project Magellan is evaluated in order to determine what impact it made on the problems previously identified and to establish what its precise outcomes were. The report includes a description of the project, its background, the pilot program and how it was operationalised. It provides information about the case studies, the children and families, program outcomes, costs of the project, views of participants, and conclusions. The report concludes that the goals established by Project Magellan for the pilot of its new specialised case management program for residence and contact disputes where child abuse allegations were involved were achieved. Project Magellan's pilot program provided more rapid,

less costly and longer lasting resolutions of the disputes in the cases that were selected into the program. There were fewer changes in residence and contact for the children and fewer children suffered extreme emotional distress. The program attracted wide support from the legal practitioners, from professional staff in the participating organisations and from the parents. Suggestions are made for areas needing further research.

Australia's fragmented family law system: Jurisdictional overlap in the area of child protection, by F. Kelly & B. Fehlberg, *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, vol. 16, no. 1, April, 2002.

Jurisdictional overlap in the area of child protection in Australia is due to the federal system of government, in particular the distribution of powers between federal and state legislatures. This division of powers means that neither the Commonwealth nor the States has exclusive legislative competence in the areas of law relevant to family disputes. Specifically child protection



comes under state law, while disputes between separating parents concerning children comes under federal law. This article presents the findings of an empirical study of cases of jurisdictional overlap in the area of child protection. It was found that in over two thirds of the cases, the matter was moved from the Children's Court (state level) to the Family Court (federal level). The authors draw some tentative conclusions regarding prospects for reform.

The Family Court and child abuse, by S. Page, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales Conference papers – Seeking Solutions, Australia's Inaugural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference, Sydney, NSW, September, 2001 (57K) <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Page,Stephen.pdf>

Focusing on child sexual abuse, the author explores the cascading test employed by the Family Court in dealing with sexual abuse allegations, and discusses the details about a number of cases.

The Hague Convention on Protection of Children 1996, by J. Degeling, *Australian Children's Rights News*, no. 31, December, 2001.

Once the Commonwealth Parliament has ratified the Hague Child Protection Convention Australia will be party to the rules governing conflict of laws between countries in relation to child custody matters. The convention applies to children under the age of 18. Its aim is to determine which State has jurisdiction over the protection of the child, which law is to be applied in the State with jurisdiction, and who has parental responsibility. It also provides for recognition and enforcement of protection in all the signatory countries, and establishes cooperation among the authorities of the signatories. Australian State and Territory legislation will be amended to achieve uniformity with Commonwealth legislation so that Australia can implement the Convention. The author believes that the Convention has successfully promoted cooperation among the signatory countries in the development of this multilateral instrument for the protection of children.

In the child's best interest: Inter-disciplinary approaches to child abuse and family violence: Managing family violence in a family court context: Lessons learned and challenges to be faced, by A. Nicholson, Family Court of Australia, Papers and Reports - Columbus Pilot Launch and Symposium, Perth, November, 2001. Online only <http://www.familycourt.gov.au/papers/html/columbus.html>

The interaction between child and spousal abuse is increasingly being recognised as significant, particularly as it impacts upon children. While more attention is now being given, (in both legislation and case law), to the pervasive nature of such violence and to the damage it can cause, a number of unknowns and some misconceptions, still surround the issues. The Columbus initiative provides an integrated approach to the management of cases involving family violence, whether it be child or spousal abuse. In this presentation the author discusses this initiative, and the environment in which it was conceived and delivered.

Children, domestic violence and the Family Court: Specialised case management for child abuse and domestic violence in the Family Court of Western Australia, by D. Ruhl, *Domestic Violence, Action and Resources Magazine*, no. 12, December, 2001.

The Columbus Project is a specialised program for managing residence and contact disputes when allegations of child abuse or domestic violence arise during Family Court proceedings. It is being piloted by the Family Court of Western Australia, the primary purpose being to increase the safety of children and their carers, reduce litigation and improve residence and contact outcomes. This article provides an overview of the project and how it will function.

Home visiting

Supplementation of urban home visitation with a series of group meetings for parents and infants: Results of a "real-world" randomised, controlled trial, by John N. Constantino, Nahid Hashemi & Ellen Solis, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 12, December, 2001.

This study found that home visitation services are underutilized in some urban settings. In order to encourage more parents to use the service a 10-session group intervention was piloted. Findings indicate that group meetings may be effective in assisting stressed urban families to use the home visitation service.

Hospitals

Accusations that hospital staff have abused pediatric patients, by Kenneth W. Feldman, Carol Mason & Richard P. Shugerman, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 12, December, 2001.

This article examines how hospitals handle allegations of abuse by staff against young patients. Accusations of abuse where levelled at all types of hospital staff and from all areas of the hospital. The study found that few children's hospitals have formal protocols in place to handle accusations of abuse or training programs to avoid complaints.

Intergenerational transmission

Intergenerational transmission of abuse: A two-generational prospective study of an at-risk sample, by Katherine C. Pears & Deborah M. Capaldi, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 11, November, 2001.

This article examines a model of the intergenerational transmission of abuse where the abuse is mediated by parental psychopathology, early childbearing and consistency of discipline. Findings indicated that parents who had been

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abused were more likely to abuse their own children.

Kinship care

Kinship care of the abused child: The New Zealand experience, by J. Worrall, *Child Welfare*, vol. 80, no. 5, September/October, 2001.

The principle of keeping children within their own kinship, community and cultural networks is reflected in the 1989 New Zealand Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act. The Act represents a shift from the state to the family in terms of taking responsibility for children in need of care. Family group conferencing allows families to make decisions about the future of kin children and reflects the belief that even though most abuse is intrafamilial, the family is also the most committed to keeping the child safe. In this article the author draws on qualitative research in describing the experiences of carers and their kin children who have been the subject of a care and protection order.

Multi-type maltreatment

Multiple forms of child abuse and neglect: Adult retrospective reports, by D.J. Higgins & M.P. McCabe, *Aggression and Violent Behaviour*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2001.

The authors present a critical review of 29 studies assessing adult retrospective reports of multiple forms of child abuse or neglect. They identify methodological flaws in the studies which often failed to acknowledge the interacting effects of multi-type maltreatment. Where the effect of multi-type maltreatment was assessed, it was shown to result in greater adult impairment than single forms of abuse or neglect. The authors conclude that a multi-dimensional approach to child abuse and neglect needs to be taken which can address children's vulnerability to multi-type maltreatment.

Offenders

Developmental risk factors for sexual offending, by Joseph K.P. Lee, Henry J. Jackson & Pip Pattison, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 26, no. 1, January, 2002.

Using quantitative methodology and a comparative approach, this study aims to highlight the general, common and specific developmental risk factors for pedophilia, exhibitionism, rape and multiple paraphilia and to explore five issues of methodology observed in this area of

research. Analysis reveals that Childhood Emotional Abuse and Family Dysfunction, Childhood Behavior Problems and Childhood Sexual Abuse are general developmental risk factors for paraphilias. In addition, Childhood Emotional Abuse and Family Dysfunction is a common developmental risk factor for exhibitionism, rape, pedophilia, or multiple paraphilia. The results of this study have implications for child abuse prevention and sex offender treatment.

Parents

Are father surrogates a risk factor for child maltreatment?, by Aruna Radhakrishna, Ingrid E. Bou-Saada & Wanda M. Hunter, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 6, no. 4, Nember, 2001.

This research examines whether having a father surrogate in the home will affect the risk of child abuse. Findings show that children were twice as likely to be abused if there was a surrogate father, compared to a biological father or no father figure, in the home.

The effect of fathers or father figures on child behavioral problems in families referred to child protective services, by David B. Marshall, Diana J. English & Angela J. Stewart, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 6, no. 4, November, 2001.

This article examines whether the presence of fathers or father figures will affect the behavior of young children. Little difference was noted at age 4, but by age 6 lower levels of aggression and depression were noted if the child had a father or father figure in their life. However, after controlling for a number of factors the direct effect of a father or father figure was found to be no longer significant.

Male roles in families "at risk": The ecology of child maltreatment, by Michael E. Lamb, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 6, no. 4, November, 2001.

This article examines child maltreatment in the context of the children's relationships, especially with their fathers and father figures.

A three-generational study comparing the families of supportive and unsupportive mothers of sexually abused children, by Myra Leifer, Teresa Kilbane & Gail Grossman, *Child Maltreatment*, vol. 6, no. 4, Noember, 2001.

This study examined the family histories, over three generations, of supportive and nonsupportive mothers of sexually abused children. A history of conflict between grandmother and mother, and mother and child predict a nonsupportive mother. Nonsupportive mothers

also displayed a range of other problem behaviors.

Growing up with parental alcohol abuse: Exposure to childhood abuse, neglect and household dysfunction, by Shanta R. Dube, Robert F. Anda & Vincent J. Felitti, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 12, December, 2001.

This study presents a detailed examination of the relationship between parental alcohol abuse and adverse childhood experiences, including child abuse. Findings indicate that children who were exposed to parental alcohol abuse were more likely to have adverse childhood experiences than children who were not exposed.

The relationship between parental psychiatric disorder and child physical and sexual abuse: Findings from the Ontario Health supplement, by Christine Walsh, Harriet MacMillan & Ellen Jamieson, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 26, no. 1, January, 2002.

Using a quantitative approach, this study examined the link between parental psychiatric disorder history and child abuse history within a general population sample of Ontario residents. Results showed that amongst those with a prevalence of psychiatric disorder there was an increase in the rate of abuse, particularly physical and sexual abuse. Gender of the respondent made no difference to the relationship between psychiatric disorder and childhood physical or sexual abuse.

Supporting families with a mentally ill parent: European perspectives on interagency cooperation, by Rachael Hetherington & Karen Baistow, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 10, no. 5, September/October, 2001.

This article discusses and compares the cooperation between community mental health services and child protection in 11 European states. Children who have a parent with a mental illness have needs above and beyond those of other children. Many of the same needs have been identified in the different countries. This article also examines alternative ways of responding to these needs.

Primary prevention

Primary preventative intervention in a modern and diverse society, by B. Mesuraco, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy*, vol. 23, no. 1, March, 2002.

The realisation that cultural contexts were impeding access to services for many disadvantaged families and hindering the disclosure of child sexual abuse prompted two agencies to organise collaborative primary prevention strategies. Family groups were convened from the local

Cambodian, Vietnamese, Latin American and Arabic-speaking communities. Focus groups were attended by one or more members of each family. Participants contributed to the formation of a collective understanding that could then be adapted and passed on to other families in their communities. It was observed that once individual families entered this process, isolation diminished and steps towards exploration of the issues could be taken. This paper outlines a process through which family therapists can use primary prevention strategies to reach NESB groups. (Journal abstract)

Research

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing: Description and information, NSCAW Research Group Update, vol. 12, Fall, 2001.

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) was designed to address crucial program, policy and practice issues which are of concern to all levels of government as well as child welfare agencies. The study aims to provide new understandings of how the interactions between family, child, community and service factors affect children's well-being.

The future direction of Australian research on the prevention of child maltreatment, by J. Stanley & A. Tomison, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne. Conference Papers and Presentations: Paper presented at the 8th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect "One Child's Reality - Everyone's Responsibility", Melbourne, 19-22 November, 2001. Online only <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/stanley3.html>

The Australian Council on Children and Parenting commissioned the National Child Protection Clearinghouse to provide detailed assessment of the current state of child abuse and neglect prevention research in Australia, within a context of international research trends, and to develop a national research strategy for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

School-based initiatives

Mandatory notification training for suspected child abuse and neglect in South Australian schools, by R. Hawkins & C. McCallum, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 12, December, 2001.

The South Australian Education Department Mandated Notification Training program was developed to prepare educators and other mandated reporters to fulfill their reporting obligations for suspected child abuse and neglect. This article reports on a study which investigated whether Mandated Notification Training achieves its stated aims. The article describes the study methodology

and results, and discusses implications of the findings.

Where child protection systems and schools meet, by R. Best, *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Law and Education*, vol. 6, nos. 1&2, 2001.

The time has long passed since anyone suggested that child protection issues are not the province of educational institutions. In this article the author examines three broad areas where the confluence of child protection and educational systems takes place, and argues that it is necessary to achieve a better balance of the competing needs of education and care and protection. These areas are: where the school becomes aware that a child may be in need of care and protection, wherever the abuse may have occurred; where a child is being abused by other children; and where a child is being abused by a teacher.

Factors influencing school counsellors' decision not to report child sexual abuse, by J. D. G. Goldman & U. K. Padayachi, *Children Australia*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2002.

Using a state-wide sample of 122 school counsellors (52 males and 70 females) in Queensland Australia, factors which influenced their decision not to report child sexual abuse were examined. These factors were a lack of evidence; lack of confidence in the authorities to accurately evaluate or protect sexually abused children; adverse effects on the family's social standing in the community; potential to break up the family; and the fear of breaking counsellor-client confidentiality. Further, school counsellors were not likely to report all cases of child sexual abuse when they suspected it, thus confirming the popular belief that child sexual abuse is under-reported by them. (Journal abstract)

Sequelae

The relationships among childhood abuse, borderline personality, and self-harm behaviour in psychiatric inpatients, by Randy A. Sansone, George A. Gaither & Douglas A. Songer, *Violence & Victims*, vol. 17, no. 1, February, 2002.

This article explores the relationship between sub types of child abuse (physical, emotional, sexual abuse; witnessing violence) borderline personality and self-harm behaviour amongst psychiatric patients. This quantitative study found that when abused and non-abused respondents were compared there was a higher level of self harming behaviour in those with a history of child abuse as well as more borderline personality disorder diagnoses. A complex relationship was found, amongst psychiatric inpatients, between childhood abuse and Borderline Personality Diagnosis and self harm behaviour.

Child welfare workers' use of theory in working with physical child abuse: Implications for professional supervision, by Y. Darlington, J. Osmond & C. Peile, *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, vol. 83, no. 1, January/February, 2002.

A qualitative research study that examined the understandings held by child welfare workers about child physical abuse is the focus of this article. The study involved in-depth interviews and focus groups with statutory child welfare workers in Queensland. The authors outline and review the existing empirical and theoretical examinations on theory use; outline the methodology used to examine practitioners' theories; detail findings and discuss the implications of the research for professional supervision.

Safe from harm: The role of professionals in protecting children and young people: A professional development kit, by B. Goulborn, R. MacRea, J. Gleeson & C. Gladstone, Department of Human Services, Melbourne, 2001.

The Victorian Department of Human Services has put together this resource kit for people working in the area of child protection with the aim of providing training materials and information about child abuse, the broader child protection system, and the role of the statutory Child Protection Service. The kit contains four modules: Child protection context; What is child abuse?; Responding to concerns; and Industry specific materials. There is also a section containing training tools, including a glossary, references, handouts and overheads.

Community professionals and reporting to child protection services, by J. Stanley, C. Goddard, B. Saunders & J. Tucci, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, 2001. Online <http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/papers/stanley2.html>

This paper presents some findings from an Australian Research Council funded study which examined issues around reporting to protective services, using a sample of community professionals based in Victoria. The study found considerable confusion about reporting decisions, including a reluctance to report, a range of factors influencing this decision, and varying perspectives on what constitutes risk to a child. This paper provides some of the major findings from the study, the implications of these findings, and makes recommendations about measures which

can be taken to improve the reporting of child maltreatment by community professionals and thus improve the outcome for the child.

Child welfare workers' use of theory in working with physical child abuse: Implications for professional supervision, by Yvonne Darlington, Jennifer Osmond & Colin Peile, *Families in Society*, vol. 83, no. 1, January/February, 2002.

Using a qualitative approach child welfare workers' understanding of physical child abuse is explored. The study found that child welfare practitioner understanding of physical child abuse is in line with the existing theoretical literature. The study also found that this reflective approach to practice has important implications for supervision. This process will for example result in more informed practice. In addition a more reflective approach prevents workers from making hurried decisions, increases the chances of more meaningful interventions and may help to prevent further abuse.

Sibling incest

More than just child's play: A study on sibling incest, by N. Owen, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales Sydney. Conference papers – Seeking Solutions, Australia's Inaugural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference, September, 2001. Online (29K) <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/OwenNicki.pdf>

This discussion of sibling incest includes assessing the difference between childhood sexual exploratory behaviour between siblings and sibling incest; causes; effects of sibling incest on those victimised; and an overview of a research study in which ten women who experienced sibling incest as children were interviewed with the aim of exploring their retrospective perspective of the experience and whether there was a subsequent impact caused by the incest. Also discussed are disclosure and intervention.

Substitute care

Children in care: Some current Australian perspectives, by R. Thorpe, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 3, Autumn, 2002.

With the widespread closure of residential establishments for children, foster care

has become not only the predominant form of care, but the only available option. This has placed enormous pressure on the supply of foster home placements, resulting in a minimum of appropriate matching of child with placement and with the foster care systems experiencing high levels of strain. As a means of better meeting the developmental needs of children in out of home care, the Looking After Children (LAC) system, developed in the UK, is being trialled in Australia. LAC required participation in planning, not only of children and their carers, but also of natural parents. It is hoped that LAC can facilitate a more effective focus on the developmental needs of children in care, without compromising the emphasis on continuity of relationships and family reunification.

Catching the light: The fostering experience, by L. Childs, Parenting SA, Adelaide, 2000. Booklet (40p). Video (25min)

This material is the result of a collaborative project between a number of South Australian agencies: Child Protection Services at Women's and Children's Hospital, Family and Youth Services at the Department of Human Services, Child and Family Welfare Association of SA, Parenting SA, and Foundation Studios. It is intended for current and potential carers, professionals and students. The experience of foster care is explained from the child or young person's point of view, the birth parent's point of view, and the carer's point of view. There is information about how the foster care system works and the circumstances in which a child may come into care, and advice for potential carers. The booklet concludes with a set of discussion topics.

Family preservation, family reunification and related issues, by F. Ainsworth, *Children Australia*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2001.

This paper sets the context for a review of family preservation and family reunification research by briefly noting the national and international crisis that currently surrounds foster care. It then presents the recent family preservation and family reunification research from the US and Australia. Some of this material is drawn from the book by Maluccio, Ainsworth and Thoburn (2000), 'Child welfare outcome research in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia'. The decision to focus on the US material stems from the fact that these terms originated there in the 1980s and this is where the major research studies are to be found. The final comments focus on the re-emphasis on permanency planning and adoption, at least in New South Wales (NSW), and the implications of this for family preservation and reunification services. (Journal abstract)

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Foster care practice: What does the research say?, by J. G. Barber & R. Gilbertson, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no. 3, Autumn, 2002.

This article is an excerpt from the book 'Foster care: the state of the art', and has been reproduced with permission from the authors J G Barber and R Gilbertson. The authors look at evidence based practice and improving outcomes for children and young people in care. In their book, the authors review the empirical literature and practice policy from around the world in an effort to identify best practice in foster care. The article gives an overview of the following aspects of foster care practice: propositions for which there is at least a moderate degree of empirical support; propositions for which evidence is mixed or weak; and interventions worthy of further investigation.

Emotional abuse in early childhood: Relationships with progress in subsequent family placement, by Cherilyn Dance, Alan Rushton & David Quinton, *The Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry & Allied Disciplines*, vol. 43, no. 3, March, 2001.

Drawing on data from two prior studies, this paper examines the circumstances of children who were placed alone - away from siblings - with the intention of permanence. Findings show poorer outcomes for children in the first year where there is a history of being 'preferentially rejected' by birth parents. For example these children were more likely to exhibit deteriorating behaviour patterns and found it more difficult to form satisfactory relationships with new family members. Another important finding was that older age at placement meant a poorer outcome for children.

Survivors

Women's outrage and the pressure to forgive: Working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse, by J. Verco, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, no. 1, 2002.

Although forgiveness is a strong part of Christian culture and mental health practice, and is often emphasised as part of the healing process for victims of sexual abuse, the author believes that a requirement to forgive can be oppressive. She is concerned that for women in particular, who often bear the blame, self-blame and guilt for childhood abuse, forgiving the perpetrator may stand in the way of the woman who needs first to recognise feelings of outrage about what happened to her. She believes that justifiable outrage is often necessary in order for women to break free of self-blame and self-loathing,

to stop seeing themselves as victim and to start believing in their ability to care for themselves.

Forgiveness and child sexual abuse: A matrix of meanings, by A. Jenkins, R. Hall & M. Joy, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, no. 1, 2002.

The authors show that forgiveness has differing meanings and effects for different people. In the context of child abuse forgiving the perpetrator may help the healing process for the victim, but equally an expectation of forgiveness may be oppressive. The authors provide a matrix of forgiveness and atonement describing a range of positions and meanings which can help map the varied experiences of



victims and perpetrators. However, they warn that although the matrix may be helpful in promoting self-determination for victim and perpetrators, there are dangers in using such schema too rigidly to interpret and judge the reactions and responses of others.

Treatment

Healing traumatized children: Creating illustrated storybooks in family therapy, by L. Hanney & K. Kozłowska, *Family Process*, vol. 41, no. 1, Spring, 2002.

The authors argue that the treatment of the results of trauma in children requires the child to be an active participant in the therapeutic process. This article describes the therapeutic practice of creating illustrated storybooks in family therapy with traumatised children. Creating a storybook encourages participation by

children and enables a child's life story to be taken into account. The creation of storybooks is compatible with family interventions, and fosters a safe family context, strengthens attachment relationships, insures appropriate structure and boundaries, and enhances parenting capacity as well as those interactions that facilitate understanding and dialogue between family members.

Victimisation

The child abuse victim as a hostage: Scorpion's story, by N. Mudaly & C. Goddard, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 10, no. 6, November/December, 2001.

Recently authors have used findings from the field of terrorism to describe the

interpersonal relationships that may occur in the field of child abuse and protection. This paper presents the descriptions by one young person of his experience of extreme abuse and how he attempted to survive. The paper also draws out the parallels between his experiences as an abuse victim and those in a hostage situation. The case is drawn from a study in progress that seeks the views of abused children and young people about their experience of victimisation and how they understood the abuse and its impact on their lives. The research also looks at their perceptions of the resultant interventions, and aims to gain insight into the relationship between children and young people who have been abused, and their parents and/or carers.

Judy Adams is Coordinator of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

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