Hunter Networks of Practice
RESEARCH & PRACTICE BULLETIN

FamilyInSight
Connecting Families

Issue 15 – February 2018

ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

Stronger Safer Together
A reflective practice resource and toolkit for services providing intensive and targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
Source: Department of Social Services

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Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017–2037
The Queensland Government has released a 20 year strategy to improve life opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
Source: Queensland Government and Family Matters Queensland

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Videos to help support pregnant women who use alcohol or other drugs
The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) has released a series of videos to help health care professionals support pregnant women who use alcohol or other drugs. The videos outline how the NDARC resource Supporting pregnant women who use alcohol or other drugs - A Guide for Primary Health Care Professionals can be used in a range of health care settings. In addition to the video series, a Quick Guide is also available to assist health care professionals to utilise the resource.
Source: UNSW MEDICINE - National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Literacy and numeracy are fundamental to a student's ability to learn at school and to engage productively in society. Improving literacy/numeracy development is a priority for many schools.
Source: Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Young carers

Diana Warren and Ben Edwards

This chapter provides information about the number of 14–15 year olds in Australia who have provided informal care for at least six months to a family member or friend either because of a long-term health condition, disability or frailty due to old age. Based on young people's reports almost 40% were young carers.

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies

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Intellectual Disability Mental Health Core Competency Framework: A Manual for Mental Health Professionals

The Intellectual Disability Mental Health Core Competency Framework describes the specific skills and attributes required by mental health professionals for the provision of quality mental health services to people with intellectual disability and co-occurring mental ill health. It also guides readers to resources that support professional development which can help to improve workplace capacity in this area.

Source: UNSW MEDICINE - Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia

Dr Lara Fergus and Dr Emma Partridge

This resource from Our Watch has been designed for practitioners engaged in activities that aim to prevent violence against women.

Source: Our Watch

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Fathers who use violence

Cathy Humphreys and Monica Campo

This paper responds to a challenge that has continued to frustrate workers attempting to intervene to support women and children living with DFV. The challenge that arises when women and children may not be in a position to separate from their abusive and violent partners, and when women and children's wellbeing and safety may not be enhanced by separation. In particular, this paper is focused on fathers who use violence and whether there are strategies that engage and address the issues for children, women and men who are continuing to live with DFV.

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

Effects of early parenting interventions on parents and infants

Mandy Mihelic, Alina Morawska and Ania Filus

A recent review suggests that early parenting interventions improve parental responsiveness and prevent infant sleep problems. Parenting interventions conducted during pregnancy or before a child's first birthday significantly improve parental responsiveness and prevent infant sleep problems, according to a recent systematic review published in the Journal of Child and Family Studies.

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies

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Promoting social and emotional development and wellbeing of infants in pregnancy and the first year of life

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

The report summarises the findings of 51 systematic literature reviews and analyses the types of interventions aimed at promoting infants' and children's social and emotional wellbeing. The report:

a) summarises the findings of a comprehensive evaluation of 51 systematic reviews that was commissioned by NHMRC.

b) provides a Working Committee's assessment and interpretation of the evidence in the Australian context through its application of the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach.

c) is designed for governments and other policymakers, researchers and service providers

d) aims to facilitate the development of evidence-based policy in Australia.

Source: The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

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FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE

The Cost of Living - Turning Off The Lights

The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

This report provides a snapshot of how people in NSW living on very low incomes are struggling to meet the costs of their essential energy needs. It is based on results obtained via an online survey of 440 people living below the poverty line, conducted between 8 April and 30 April 2017.

Source: The NSW Council of Social Service

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MENTAL HEALTH

Youth Mental Health and Homelessness Report

Mission Australia's Youth Mental Health and Homelessness Report gives findings from the Mission Australia Youth Survey, showing poor family functioning and serious mental illness are factors that impact on the risks of homelessness for young people aged 15-19 years living in Australia.

Source: Mission Australia

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PARENTING

Tips for talking with and helping children and young people cope after tragic events

The Australian Psychological Society

Useful resources on how to talk to children about difficult subjects. With our digitally savvy kids more connected than ever, it's not always easy to shield them from news that they may be too young to emotionally grapple with. Being able to have conversations about difficult subjects is important, both in providing context for children and in helping them to feel loved and safe.

Source: The Australian Psychological Society

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Assisting children to prepare for disasters and tragic events

All children and families are exposed to or affected by disasters or tragic events that happen locally, nationally or in different parts of the world. KidsMatter for Families has an excellent resource set to help parents, guardians and carers to be prepared, understand how these events might affect children and what they can do afterwards to help them.

Source: KidsMatter

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PROTECTING CHILDREN

Multiagency Investigation & Support Team (MIST) Pilot: Evaluation Report

Dr James Herbert and Professor Leah Bromfield

This report presents evaluation findings of a multiagency project piloted in Western Australia responding to severe child abuse.

Source: Australian Centre for Child Protection

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Building the Future Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries

UNICEF Office of Research

This Report Card offers an assessment of child well-being in the context of sustainable development across 41 countries of the European Union (EU). The Innocenti Report Card series is designed to monitor and compare the performance of economically advanced countries in securing the rights of their children.

Source: UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti

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Assessing the different dimensions and degrees of risk of child sexual abuse in institutions

Professors Patrick Parkinson and Judy Cashmore

This report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse explores a range of risk factors of institutional child abuse. The purpose of this research was to establish a means of differentiating between types of institutions in terms of level of risk of child sexual abuse according to the characteristics of the institution and the kinds of activities that it organises.

Source: The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

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OTHER

2016 Census Overview

The Australian Bureau of Statistics

The 2016 Census was Australia's 17th national Census of Population and Housing. It is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It aims to connect with every person in Australia to collect data on their key characteristics and the place they are staying in on Census night. While some of this information is available from other sources, only a Census can provide the information for the entire country, including small geographic areas and small population groups.

Source: The Australian Bureau of Statistics

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LGBTIQ+ communities: Glossary of common terms

Monica Campo and Jessica Smart

Child Family Community Australia (Australian Institute of Family Studies) has created a factsheet to support professionals who work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) communities. The factsheet provides a glossary of common terms, appropriate terminology and phrases for use with people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies

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