

Issue 16 – May 2018

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ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

Research validates the use of image-based dietary records to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mums-to-be

Amy M. Ashman, Clare E. Collins, Leanne J. Brown, Kym M. Rae and Megan E. Rollo

Research published by the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) highlighted in a recent Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin says that using smartphone apps to capture and analyse images of meals provides useful assessment of nutrient intakes of pregnant women. The research compared results to recall over 3 random days in a group of almost 30 women.

Source: [Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute \(MDPI\)](#)

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Child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

This paper provides information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children involved in child protection and out-of-home care, and is based on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Child Protection data 2015-16.

Source: [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#)

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Supporting 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: [National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre](#)

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A systematic review of children's alcohol-related knowledge, attitudes and expectancies

Sandra C. Jones and Chloe S. Gordon

Researchers at the Centre for Health and Social Research (CHaSR) (Australian Catholic University) have published a systematic review of current literature on the alcohol-related knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and expectancies of children aged 12 years and under. Greater insight into the nature of, and transitions in, young children's alcohol-related knowledge and attitudes helps to determine the age at which we should start educating children about alcohol, and informs our understanding of the focus of such education

Source: [Science Direct](#)

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CALD FAMILIES

Caring for Muslim children and youth in foster and out-of-home care

This series of resources aim to provide practical information and advice on caring for Muslim children and youth in out-of-home care.

Source: [The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights \(AMWCHR\)](#)

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- Foster care

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- Out-of-home care

Barriers and facilitators to childhood obesity prevention among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities

Sheila Cyril; Jan M. Nicholson; Kingsley Agho; Michael Polonsky; and Andre M. Renzaho

A recent study in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health examines the barriers and facilitators of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community engagement in childhood obesity prevention initiatives in Victoria. Recommendations include system, local government and community level responses to address barriers including: competing priorities in the post settlement phase; language, cultural and program accessibility barriers; low levels of food and health literacy; junk food advertising targeting children; and lack of mandatory weight checks for school children.

Source: [Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health](#)

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Investigating the complex links between maltreatment and youth offending

This short article focuses on the complex links between child maltreatment and youth offending.

It's the first in a series of articles exploring why children and young people in out-of-home care or who have a history of maltreatment are over-represented in the youth justice system.

Source: [Australian Institute of Family Studies \(AIFS\)](#)

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Children's attitudes towards Electronic Gambling Machines

Amy Bestman; Samantha Thomas; Melanie Randle; and Hannah Pitt

This research sought to explore whether children's visual and auditory exposure to Electronic Gambling Machines (EGMs) in community clubs contributed to shaping their attitudes towards these types of potentially harmful gambling products. This research also examined children's knowledge of EGM behaviours in adults within their social networks.

Source: [BioMed Central \(BMC\)](#)

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Understanding safeguarding practices for children with disability when engaging with organisations

Sarah Wayland and Gabrielle Hindmarsh

This practitioner resource examines the abuse and neglect of children with disability, and how child-safe organisations for children with disability can be achieved.

Source: [Australian Institute of Family Studies \(AIFS\)](#)

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Children with disability: Inclusive practice and child-safe organisations

Gwynnyth Llewellyn

Recent research indicates that children with disability are at a much higher risk of maltreatment than their non-disabled peers. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recently reviewed the evidence to consider the various factors that contribute to the heightened risk of abuse for children with disability, including their over-representation in institutional care settings and greater interaction with unfamiliar adults. It also highlighted the problems with viewing disability as a stand-alone risk factor for maltreatment, rather than focusing on the particular social contexts that contribute to children's vulnerability.

Source: [Australian Institute of Family Studies \(AIFS\)](#)

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Seeking help for domestic and family violence: Exploring regional, rural, and remote women's coping experiences: Key findings and future directions

Sarah Wendt; Donna Chung; Alison Elder; Antonia Hendrick; and Angela Hartwig

Flinders University, University of South Australia and Curtin University have produced the most recent technical report on empirical research produced under Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) Research Program. Seeking help for domestic and family violence: Exploring regional, rural, and remote women's coping experiences is a qualitative study examining the experiences of women seeking help for domestic and family violence who live in regional, rural, and remote areas in Australia. The study contributes to the limited evidence on how geographical and social isolation shapes women's coping with and decisions to seek assistance for domestic and family violence, and their efforts to live safely, and the associated policy and practice implications.

Source: [Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited \(ANROWS\)](#)

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"Whatever it takes": Access for women with disabilities to domestic and family violence services

Sue Dyson; Patsie Frawley; and Sally Robinson

This research from ANROWS aims to inform the development of guidelines for good practice in tertiary domestic and family violence services for women with disabilities.

Women with disabilities who have experienced violence seek help and support from tertiary services for similar reasons that other women do, including family and intimate partner abuse, sexual harassment and assault, coercive control, and stalking. However, women with disabilities also experience abuse related to their disability, including institutional violence and denial of provision of essential care.

The research situates the perspectives of women with disabilities within case study sites and expands on the promising practice within these services through action research with local groups formed from the sites. It has informed the development of recommendations and guidelines for improved access and effective practice.

Source: [Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited \(ANROWS\)](#)

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

Social and economic impacts of implementing the voluntary earlier school starting age

A report from the Secretary of the Department of Education in Tasmania sets out the evidence on proposed changes to lower the voluntary school starting age to three years of age. Social and economic impacts of implementing the voluntary earlier school starting age canvasses the potential impact to the early childhood education and care sector and potential mitigation strategies to ensure sustainable service delivery for families in Tasmania. The report advises the Tasmanian Minister for Education to retain a school entry age of five, but instead fund the delivery and evaluation of the Working Together for 3 Year Olds – targeted pre-school initiative.

Source: [The Department of Education, Tasmania](#)

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FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE

How to be more effective in reducing disadvantage? Insights from SVA Consulting

After 10 years in the sector supporting clients working with people living in disadvantage, SVA Consulting reflects on the strategies and interventions that it has seen deliver the greatest impact.

Source: [Social Ventures Australia](#)

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Power struggles: Everyday battles to stay connected

The report presents ten case studies of low income Australians who are facing difficulty paying their utility bills. It outlines the strategies used by those on low incomes to limit their energy usage, and discusses the link between household health and wellbeing and energy consumption.

Source: [Victorian Council of Social Service](#)

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PARENTING AND FAMILIES

The opportunities, risks and possibilities of social impact investment for housing and homelessness

Kristy Muir; Michael Moran; Fabienne Michaux; Suzanne Findlay; Ariella Meltzer; Chris Mason; Loana Ramia; and Richard Heaney

The report describes what social impact investing (SII) is and its application to housing and homelessness policy in Australia, and examines different finance models and structures, SII markets and case studies. Among its key findings, the report highlights that the market for social impact investing is still in its infancy and consequently the evidence base is, as yet, limited.

Source: [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute](#)

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'No voice, no opinion, nothing': Parent perspectives when children are removed and placed in care.

Dr Nicola Ross; Jessica Cocks; Lou Johnston; and Lynette Stoker

This research investigated the perspectives and experiences of parents in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, who had their children removed and placed in out of home care (OOHC) in the last five years. It was prompted by concerns that parents were generally not active participants in child protection processes and had limited involvement in the development of recent reforms to legislation, policy and practice in child protection, OOHC, and adoption in New South Wales.

Source: [The University of Newcastle, Australia](#)

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PROTECTING CHILDREN

Holding child sex abusers to account

NSW Premier Berejiklian has announced the Government's response to criminal justice recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including an increase from 25 years imprisonment to a maximum life sentence for persistent child sex abuse.

The new offences reflect community expectations that all children and young people are safe, and sends a strong message that protecting children from abuse and harm is a community responsibility and a government priority.

The NSW government had already announced it will opt into a national redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Source: [NSW Government](#)

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National Child Protection Week 2018 resources

The National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) has released resources to promote National Child Protection Week (3-9 September). Posters can be downloaded, and webtools are available for use on websites, social media or e-signatures.

Source: [NAPCAN \(National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect\)](#)

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