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Child Development Council

Respect & listening

Parents can promote gender equality and help prevent violence against women
From birth, children learn about gender-appropriate attitudes and behaviours through gender socialisation. The degree to which they internalise and adopt stereotyped attitudes and behaviours can have long term effects on their attitudes, behaviours and values. More >

A strategy to put children at the heart of Europe
This short video outlines Eurochild's strategy for creating a society that respects the rights of children by influencing policies, building internal capacities, facilitating mutual learning and exchanging practice and research. More >

Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities: guidelines for researchers and stakeholders
The health, wellbeing and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples continue to be the focus of much research to promote positive outcomes. This guide provides a set of principles to ensure research is safe, respectful, responsible, high quality and of benefit to ATSI people and communities. More >

And Beyond: a bold vision for the future
CRIN is a creative think tank who defies the status quo with bold ideas because many things need to be changed for the better. Through humour, artwork and their vision for the future on issues which, whether we know it or not, affect children and young people, they encourage people to think differently about the world we live in. More >

Children who have lost a parent to family violence need to be listened to
Children of those involved in intimate partner homicide experience an extreme lack of control in the situation. That's why, to restore control as much as possible, it's important to take their opinion seriously in later decisions about their future. This isn't only crucial for mental health, it's a child's right, as acknowledged by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to participate in decisions about their life. More >

Three essential resources to help you work collaboratively
Engaging people is an essential starting point for effective change and the way in which we interact with people can have a real impact on how effective that engagement is. These resources are designed to help organisations work together productively on complex challenges. More >

Inequality in Australia: a young person's perspective
Understanding how issues affect young people starts with listening to them and hearing their perspectives. Many organisations and stakeholders try to work in the interests of young people without asking their views on the issues that affect them most. More >

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Health & wellbeing

The state of homelessness in Australia's cities: A health and social cost too high
This report which includes the results from data collections undertaken in Australia over the last seven years, was undertaken to find out about the needs and circumstances of those experiencing homelessness, and the findings point to very high personal, health and social costs for people who are homeless. More >

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Selected Findings from Waves 1 to 16
The HILDA Survey has examined many aspects of family life since its inception in 2001. Information is collected annually on household and family structures and relationships, use of child care, contact with non-resident children, the quality of family relationships and a variety of other family-related topics. More >

Prototyping an after-hours NDIS service
An issue most disability service providers are familiar with is coordinating responses to after-hours calls from clients accessing services and support workers seeking guidance. These duties usually fall to team leaders who assume responsibility as part of a rotating roster. More >

Australia's mothers and babies 2016: In brief
This report presents an overview of key statistics about Australian mothers and babies from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection. It also looks at trends of pregnancy and childbirth of mothers, and the characteristics and outcomes of their babies. More >

Young people's experience of homelessness: Findings from the Youth Survey 2017
Mission Australia's Young people's experiences of homelessness report, reveals that one in six Youth Survey respondents had an experience of homelessness. It compares those who have no experience of homelessness to those who have couch surfed and/or had an experience in transitional housing/living in a refuge. More >

The effects of city living on a child's health
The question of whether children raised in cities are more likely to be better informed about exercise and good diet is a complex one. Yet it's just one strand of the whole conversation about how living in a big city affects a child's health. More >

Who is left behind under the new child care subsidy?
Australian families are increasingly relying on childcare but a change in policy may leave those who need it most locked out. The new subsidy introduces an activity test linking the hours of subsidised childcare more closely to work, study or volunteering activities, a consequence of which is that children in families with low or no maternal employment hours will now be entitled to fewer hours of subsidised care. More >

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More children are living in high-rise apartments, so designers should keep them in mind

Families raising children in private, high-rise, housing are a new phenomenon in Australian cities. This study explored their experiences and the implications of these findings for children's health. It found while parents appreciated that apartments offered affordable housing close to employment, they found the design challenging for raising children. More >

The four words that can protect your child's mental health

Children (aged 12 to 13) with parents who never or rarely told their children they were proud of them were nearly five times more likely to have suicidal thoughts, nearly seven times more likely to formulate a suicide plan and about seven times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers. More >

What promotes social and emotional wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children? Lessons in measurement from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children

Social and emotional wellbeing is central to the holistic view of health held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Limited quantitative studies indicate that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have significantly higher rates of social and emotional difficulties, mental health problems and psychological distress than non-Indigenous children. More >

Homelessness can affect anyone

Between 2011 and 2016 the number of people experiencing homelessness in NSW increased by 37%, while in Sydney it increased by 48%, which is far higher than the national increase of 14%. This increase is largely due to a lack of affordable housing. This article discusses what led to one family to becoming homeless and details the support they received from Mission Australia. More >

Paediatricians call for 'Gonski' approach to child health

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians says higher levels of obesity, mental health and behavioural problems among children from low socio-economic groups meant that finding 'innovative' solutions was essential to break the cycle of intergenerational health disadvantage. More >

The cost of a child in 2018

Many families in the UK have found it increasingly difficult to cover the cost of bringing up children in recent years. Costs have risen faster than incomes. Parents are reluctant to see their children go without essentials, yet those on low incomes may face a stark choice between not meeting their children's needs, making severe material sacrifices themselves or going into debt. More >

Diagnosing children with mental health difficulties: Benefits, risks and complexities

Like adults, children experience mental health difficulties. In some cases, the psychiatric labels we give to these difficulties play an important role in children's treatment and recovery. Yet in other cases, such labels can be misleading and even harmful. More >

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Children and young people's mental health – policy, services, funding and education
This briefing on children and young people's mental health policy in England covers: Government child and adolescent mental health services policy since 2010; Select Committee enquiries into children and young people's mental health; and mental health in schools, including the impact of the *Children and young people's mental health green paper* on schools and forthcoming reforms to mental health education in the curriculum. More >

Safe & nurtured

Young people involved in child protection and youth justice systems
A compilation of recent resources and short articles that explore the intersection between the child protection and youth justice systems in Australia. More >

Online abuse and the experience of disabled people
This UK inquiry into online abuse and the experience of people with disability was prompted by a petition which called for a specific criminal offence to cover online abuse and a register of offenders. It presents draft recommendations from conversations with and evidence from people with disability, the police, social media companies and legal experts, to allow consultation with people with disability and their families. More >

Lifelong connections for children in permanent care: What supports families to make contact work?
International evidence presents a mixed picture of the impact of birth family contact on children in permanent care. When successful, family connections help children adapt, overcome attachment difficulties and come to terms with their loss. When it does not go ahead as planned, children can feel rejected and disappointed. More >

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination in child protection
The participation and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the decisions that impact the care and protection of their children has long been recognised as critical to improving outcomes. A full recording of this webinar explores promising initiatives that support the self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and agencies in child protection matters. More >

PEP Talks: Keeping children safe
This resource aims to assist parents to support children with disability to feel and be safe, including when being cared for by others. More >

Answering parents commonly asked online safety questions
This blog answers some of the questions parents and carers most frequently ask about online safety. Topics covered include: teenagers spending too much time online; under 13s joining social networking sites; and playing games that have an older age rating. More >

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Ending the physical punishment of children will protect their rights
Following a consultation with the public and key stakeholders, the Welsh Government will introduce legislation to remove the defence of reasonable punishment which will end the physical punishment of children in Wales. More >

How libraries provide safe spaces for (all) youth
This article highlights how libraries are successfully providing young people with the support they need. It offers lessons and suggestions for others in doing the same, as well as providing evidence of the need to place libraries at the heart of youth policies. More >

'Are they shouting because of me?'
Much of the research into the impact on children of living in households with domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and mental health is from the perspective of adults, with limited insights from children themselves. In this study children told researchers how it affected their emotional wellbeing, school life and relationships with friends, and the ways in which they attempted to cope. More >

Research summary: The impacts of domestic and family violence on children (2nd ed)
Sixty five percent of women who had children in their care when they experienced violence by a partner, reported that the children had seen or heard the violence. This summary is designed for practitioners and policy-makers who want to know more about ANROWS research on the impacts of domestic and family violence on children. More >

Inquiry into local adoption: Australian Human Rights Commission Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
All children have a right to be safe from all forms of abuse and neglect, and to be provided with the care and protection needed to ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing. While adoption can provide positive outcomes for children, it is not a step to be taken lightly and should not be seen as a solution to the significant problems of the existing out-of-home care and child protection systems operating nationally. More >

Enjoying & achieving

Three quarters of young carers feel lonely during summer holidays
This survey of young carers under 18 found nearly half (47 per cent) spend more than four hours a day during the summer caring for a relative, the equivalent of losing an entire week of their holidays, and one in five (20 per cent) said they have never been on a summer holiday with their family. More >

Fewer teenagers plan on further study, with disadvantaged teens most at risk
A survey, by the Australian Council for Educational Research has found that a smaller proportion of Australian teenagers are expecting to go to university or TAFE than they did 15 years ago. More >

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Antisocial behaviour during the teenage years: Understanding developmental risks

Because young people with underdeveloped decision-making and less-controlled emotions lack the psychological resources to successfully resolve issues through conventional strategies, stressful situations can be especially strong catalysts for problems. As a result, pursuing violence and illegal behaviours may be one way they cope with the challenges of day-to-day life. More >

Children as citizens – social justice in the early years

The younger children are encouraged to give philanthropically, the more likely it is that giving will become a common practice in later life. In this project children attending the Wellbank Children's Centre embarked on a journey with a special focus on the social justice issues of homelessness, the refugee experience, and poverty. More >

A place to belong: the role of youth organisations in addressing youth loneliness

The core work of youth organisations is ideally placed to be a key part of the solution to addressing youth loneliness. They offer young people safe spaces to engage, a sense of belonging, opportunities to build social networks, and have someone to talk to about their experiences. They also provide opportunities to develop skills to empower young people to address their own loneliness and support young people to access specialised help when necessary. More >

The introvert playground

Western society as a whole seems to favour the extrovert ideal with our brainstorming sessions, open space offices and group projects, but quieter, less action packed and more contemplative play can be a gateway to creative thinking and the traits that are very similar to those used by critical, creative thinkers. More >

Bear finds a voice: gender bias in children's books

This study found that more than twice as many books on the top 100 bestselling kids' books list in Australia had a male author in comparison to those with a female author. It also found that all male characters featured in almost half of the books written by males compared to one in 10 books written by women. More >

Participation

The city of tomorrow reconquers cities for children

This educational project aims to include children and adolescents in the construction process of public space (squares, neighbourhoods, cities), equipping them with the necessary tools to develop their creativity from art and architecture, in order to provoke the awakening of a new view of the spaces that they inhabit. More >

Young people have a say on voting age

Providing the opportunity for 16 and 17 year olds to vote recognises them as citizens and contributors to society, and gives them a formal platform to participate in and express their views about policy decisions in Australia. More >

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Prepared for adult life

Connecting the worlds of learning and work

This report suggests that schools alone cannot foster all of the skills and capabilities that young people need to find success in work and life. One way to make sure all young people get the education they need is by forming school-industry partnerships. More >

Millennials face poverty in retirement without super overhaul, think tank warns

There are growing fears that younger Australians who are not contributing enough to their low super balances and have little chance of owning their own home, a key stepping stone for a financially stable retirement, could end up wholly dependent on the age pension and at risk of poverty. More >

Yarning the way: the role of Indigenous education paraprofessionals in guiding the post-school transitions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth

The Yarning the Way research project aimed to explore the wisdom of Indigenous Education Paraprofessionals in their 'connecting' and 'translational' role, particularly as this related to guiding Aboriginal students towards post-school education options. More >

Story of Our Rights and Freedoms

These free online educational resources explore Australia's democratic freedoms. The 18-lesson unit for Years 7-10 will broaden students' understanding of democracy and its function throughout history with captivating curriculum for history and civics and citizenship classes. More >