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Respect & listening

The KidsRights Index 2018
Australia ranks at 21 in the sixth KidsRights Index which synthesizes the performance records of 182 countries in the following five domains: Right to Life; Right to Health; Right to Education; Right to Protection; Enabling Environment for Child Rights. More >

Paying the price of welfare reform: the experiences of Anglicare staff and clients in interacting with Centrelink
The research concludes that although welfare reform may be leading to cost savings for the Department of Human Services, substantial costs are being shifted to vulnerable customers and the community services that support them. It is they that are paying the price of welfare reform. More >

Childhood bullying: How are parents coping?
This report examines parental knowledge, attitudes and experiences in relation to childhood bullying. It found while most parents have a good understanding of what bullying is, its serious potential effects on children, half of all parents still said they needed more information on how to protect their child. More >

Using data to inform and evaluate anti-bullying strategies
This UK guide provides advice for schools and education authorities on how to address bullying in schools with a focus on using data to improve anti-bullying strategies. The guide covers: creating an anti-bullying culture in schools; finding ways for students and staff to report bullying incidents; finding ways to record and review the data on bullying; and communicating the anti-bullying messages. More >

Aboriginal cultural rights in youth justice centres
This report details a series of interviews with youth justice stakeholders and Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders about how young people in Victoria's youth justice centres could be better supported to maintain and develop their connections to culture and community. More >

Health & wellbeing

Diagnosis in child mental health: Exploring the benefits, risks and alternatives
Children are profoundly dependent and sensitive to their contexts. Despite the widespread propagation of biological explanations of mental health, the strongest predictors of child mental health difficulties are family and environmental factors. This paper aims to encourage practitioners in the child and family welfare sector to examine their own understanding of diagnostic systems, and to critically reflect on the role that diagnosis plays in their work with children and families. More >

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Child Mental Health: A Time For Innovation
Child mental health has long been marginalised in policy and funding discussions. This Policy Brief identifies an urgent need to formulate a comprehensive, sustainable and evidence-informed plan to effectively promote and improve the mental health of children and the adults they become. More >

Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines: For trans and gender diverse children and adolescents
These guidelines aim to maximise quality care provision to trans and gender diverse children and adolescents across Australia, whilst recognising the unique circumstances of providing such care to this population. More >

Disrupted Childhood: The Cost of Persuasive Design
This report explains how persuasive design strategies, deployed to maximise the collection of personal data, impact on children's social, mental and physical development. It questions the legitimacy of commoditising childhood and sets out a series of practical and immediately applicable recommendations for the tech sector, Government, parents and investors. More >

What works to enhance the effectiveness of the healthy child programme: an evidence update
This report looks at the evidence for approaches to early intervention for mothers and infants. Findings include: good evidence showing that mental health screening is beneficial to mothers diagnosed with mental health problems when combined with evidence-based treatments; home visiting in highly vulnerable families has the best evidence of reducing child maltreatment during infancy. More >

Lifting the weight: understanding young people's mental health and service needs in regional and remote Australia
This report summarises research on young people living in regional and remote Australia. The aim of the report is to gain a better understanding of young people's lives, including the benefits and challenges of living in regional and remote areas, the mental health of young people living in these areas, and their service needs. More >

Adolescent and young adult substance use in Australian Indigenous communities: a systematic review of demand control program outcomes
Identifying preventative approaches to substance use in Indigenous communities is the foundation for developing evidence-based responses. This study reports the findings of a systematic review of the published literature evaluating the impact of substance use programs on Australian Indigenous youth. More >

Research summary: The impacts of domestic and family violence on children
This summary outlines the major issues identified in research relevant to children; the factors preventing effective service delivery; and the policy and practice changes recommended by the researchers. It concludes with future research directions and a list of additional relevant resources. More >

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Aboriginal kids: a healthy start to life
This report focuses on key improvements in the health of Aboriginal children in NSW in the first five years of life. It emphasises the importance of services and programs being carried out in partnership with Aboriginal people, their communities, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector and across government. More >

Safe & nurtured

'It's been an absolute nightmare': Family violence in kinship care
This study has demonstrated that significant amounts of violence from family members are being experienced by kinship carers in Victoria and the children in their care and provides recommendations to address family violence and enhance the capacity of carers and practitioners involved. More >

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: Government of South Australia's response to the Final Report
The government's response outlines what will be done to reduce the risk of sexual abuse in South Australia and its approach to better support victims and survivors. The government is responsible for 104 of the recommendations, the majority of which have been accepted or accepted in principle. More >

State of play – youth, kids and digital dangers
This report completes the eSafety Office's research series which examines how young people aged 8–17 in Australia deal with the challenges they face online, including: managing their social media; contact with strangers online; sharing of personal information and passwords; dealing with negative online experiences; how the negative experiences of young people compared to those of adults. More >

"It's like a big circle trap." Discussion paper on children and young people's vulnerability
This discussion paper presents a unique perspective on vulnerability, using the voices of children and young people who clearly articulate what helps and hinders their wellbeing. More >

Speaking up and being heard: how do we listen and respond to children's experiences, needs and hopes?
How can we ensure we hear directly from children so we know how they are feeling, what support they need, and what they are struggling with? This blog explores strategies children find themselves experiencing when dealing with trauma, and how important it is for us to listen to their needs so proper support can be provided. More >

Co-parenthood: Fostering a Family
Co-parenthood is a shared-parenting model of foster care which helps parents and carers work together to return children home. This evidence-informed model was co-designed with families and practitioners and leverages lived experience to heal trauma, build parent's social networks, and turn intergenerational cycles of disadvantage into cycles of opportunity. More >

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A guide for creating a child safe organisation
This resource from Victoria incorporates recent legislative changes and additional experience gained in creating and supporting child safe organisations. More >

Australian Government Response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
The Australian Government's response and accompanying papers outline the way the Government is responding to each of the 409 recommendations in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Final Report. More >

Improving parenting skills for mums and dads with a drug or alcohol problem
This blog discusses parents' experiences of taking part in the NSPCC Parents Under Pressure programme to support families where parents have a drug or alcohol problem. Findings indicate that many parents thought participating in the programme had made a big impact on their lives, helped them understand their child's experiences and in some cases, led to changes in behaviour. More >

Pioneering therapeutic foster care in Australia: Building our own evidence base about what works
The long-term effectiveness of the TrACK Program represents how important it is for Governments to consider locally developed evidence-based interventions for children in out of home care. These programs do not require complex adaptations as they have evolved as part of the existing legislative, policy systems and frameworks. More >

National framework for protecting Australia's children indicators
This release updates the online data visualisations for indicators under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care*. It includes updated child protection indicators, along with a variety of other measures that focus on whether Australia's children are safe and well. More >

A fresh start: progress report 2018
This report is the final update within the first phase of child protection reform in South Australia; acknowledging what has been achieved, while providing opportunity to re-examine the previous government's response to the recommendations outlined in *The life they deserve* report. More >

Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children
This report examines the multi-agency response to older children who are living with neglect following inspections of six local UK authority areas. It found that: neglect of older children sometimes goes unseen; work with parents to address the neglect of older children does not always happen; adult services in most areas are not effective in identifying potential neglect of older children; and the behaviour of older children must be understood in the context of trauma. More >

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Assessing the quality and comprehensiveness of child protection practice frameworks
This report provides an analysis and evaluation of a range of child protection practice frameworks, in terms of the way they respond to the values, principles and approach to working with children and families applicable to the continuum of child protection practice. More >

Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (UK)
Sharing information is an intrinsic part of any frontline practitioners' job when working with children and young people. The decisions about how much information to share, with whom and when, can have a profound impact on individuals' lives. It helps to ensure that an individual receives the right services at the right time and prevents a need from becoming more acute and difficult to meet. More >

Turning legislation into practice together: first report on corporate parenting activity in Scotland
The Scottish Government has published a report looking at how children, young people and care leavers have benefitted from the support of corporate parenting since it was established in 2015. The report is based on information drawn from approximately 124 corporate parenting plans. More >

National Risk Assessment Principles for domestic and family violence
The National Risk Assessment Principles provide an overarching national understanding of risk and managing risk in the area of domestic and family violence. More >

Therapeutic interventions after abuse and neglect
A quick guide for practitioners and managers to help and support abused and neglected children, young people and their families. The guide includes age appropriate evidence-based interventions to consider when working with children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect as well as principles to consider. More >

Enjoying & achieving

Settlement outcomes of humanitarian youth and active citizenship: Economic participation, social participation and personal wellbeing
This research summary reports on how young people aged 15-25 years old who had recently arrived on a humanitarian visa are settling in Australia. Participants report higher levels of discrimination with longer time in Australia and show higher levels of psychological distress than in the general population. More >

PISA Australia in Focus Number 1: Sense of belonging at school
Gaining an understanding about the non-cognitive aspects, including students' motivation, engagement and beliefs, for achieving success in school and in the future is another important goal of PISA. This report explores students' sense of belonging at school. More >

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Your Future – Your Way
The 2018 youth strategy recognises that every young South Australian has the right to find their own pathway to success. It looks at the social and economic pathways that lead to thriving futures, encapsulates a commitment to listening to young people and delivering on opportunities that suit their aspirations and circumstances. More >

Multicultural Youth Australia Census 2017
The Multicultural Youth Australia Census is the first nation-wide study of Australia's multicultural youth. It provides a comprehensive account of how young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are faring in different spheres of life. More >

Playful science engagement in pop-up Knowledge rooms
The Knowledge room is a pop-up mini science centre, set up temporarily in empty shops, former bank branches, or restaurants, in different districts of Vienna, Austria. They are typically located in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, reaching out to individuals and social groups that usually do not visit museums or other learning spaces. More >

One in three Australian children 'exposed to disadvantage'
The long-term health and wellbeing of Australian children suffers if they live in neighbourhoods lacking basic amenities like schools, parks and libraries, says a new study. Changing Children's Chances looked at the experiences of more than 5,000 children, identifying patterns in their experiences of 'disadvantage' and how this related to their development in the longer-term. More >

Research shows books are best for kids' learning
New Australian research of almost 5,000 children has found that books – not prestigious schools or expensive gadgets – are best for children's learning. The study showed that parents who read regularly to their toddlers have children with better language skills as they grow older, and also have a stronger likelihood of better academic achievement. More >

Ability School Engagement Program
This program is designed to reduce school truancy rates by bringing together young people, parents, teachers and police, with the intention of empowering at-risk students rather than punishing them. It is aimed at students between 10 and 16 years, who have attendance rates of 85 per cent or less over the past three years without legitimate cause. More >

Forgotten children: alternative provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions
This UK report looks at the process of exclusion and referral and how to overcome the obstacles and problems encountered by parents and children in that process. It sets out the issues and challenges faced by alternative provision providers and what good practice looks like. Recommendations include: a Bill of Rights for pupils and parents in order to make schools more accountable for excluded children. More >

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Participation

Teens, social media & technology 2018
This survey from the US looks at the evolving landscape of teen's use of social media and technology platforms. 95% of teenagers report that they have a smartphone or access to one, and describe the effect that social media has on their lives as mostly positive (31%), mostly negative (24%), and neither positive or negative (45%). More >

How do young people grow up to be good friends and good citizens in this time of rapid technological change?
The online world is not an optional extra for young people in Australia; it's an inseparable part of life. In a world of instant sharing and quick judgement, how do young people learn to make good choices and what sorts of ethical decisions do they encounter? More >

New Zealand school project connects rural and urban children
The CLASS-ified Moostery Challenge paired 150 rural and 150 urban schools and challenged them to work out each other's name and location, while getting to know more about each other. Each school carried out detective work to help the pupils identify their 'mystery match'. The challenge is seen as a way of creating empathy and 'real world' connections between children in cities and in the countryside. More >

Prepared for adult life

The New Work Reality
Following the journeys of 14,000 young people over a decade, this report reveals the factors that accelerate the transition to full-time work, including the skills, mind-set, and confidence young people need to navigate our changed world of work. More >

Leaving care, leaving well
Each year 11,000 young people leave care in England. Many face significant challenges as young adults. The stability and length of their care experiences, and success in school all contribute to the likelihood of a successful transition to adulthood. More >

A kick-start in life and career: Participation by Indigenous students in Australian School-based Apprenticeships
Australian school-based apprenticeships, are an educational pathway that combine paid employment as an apprentice or a trainee, with off-the-job vocational training and senior secondary school studies. This report outlines findings and provides guidance on what works to support Indigenous school-based apprenticeships. More >

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