

# CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

## Respect & listening

### **Ngaga-dji (hear me) – young voices creating change for justice**

Ngaga-dji is based on listening, valuing and acting on the voices of children. Born out of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement it tells the stories of children that society silences with incarceration and stigma. [More >](#)

### **Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People appointed**

The inaugural Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People for South Australia is tasked with developing policies and practices that will improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people. Key areas of focus for the role include improving health, education, child protection and justice outcomes. [More >](#)

### **Street harassment – it's not ok: girl's experiences and views**

Around the world harassment and the threat of harassment can have serious implications for girls' freedom, autonomy and perceived safety. In both the UK and internationally, evidence shows that harassment of girls and women in public places is widespread and profoundly affects their lives. [More >](#)

### **New way to challenge DCP decisions starts this October**

Children and young people in care in South Australia will soon be able to seek an external review of decisions made by the Department for Child Protection (DCP) as to their placement, care, education and health. There will be considerable work taking place to ensure that this process is as child-friendly as possible, and to ensure that the voice of the child or young person is at the centre of the decision-making. [More >](#)

### **Kids have big thoughts too. Life transitions: what children say about change**

Transitions are key times when people seek services and support, and can be instrumental turning points in life pathways. Transition resources and services will only be effective if they address the issues that children themselves consider important, and are targeted towards the supports that children themselves identify they need. [More >](#)

### **Report on consultations with socially excluded children and young people**

Far too often when the service system comes to discuss how to engage with children and young people who are socially excluded they are labelled by the terms which described how they entered the system; a child in out of home care, a young person who is homeless, a young person in detention. Often these are 'ordinary children and young people', representative of their generation, finding themselves living with extraordinary challenges drawn out by their multiple disadvantages and experiences. [More >](#)

### **The Children's Report**

Findings of this report include: Australia is not making sufficient progress in policies and programs to support children, particularly disadvantaged children in our country. We have regressed in areas of critical importance and systems designed to protect children are in crisis. [More >](#)

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## Health & wellbeing

### **Men at work: the power of paternity leave**

In a new series of articles seven dads on paternity leave or caring full-time for children wonder why others aren't. In Australia, where fathers and partners are entitled to two weeks' paid leave about 4–5% of two-parent families take up the opportunity, according to the Australian Institute of Family Studies. [More >](#)

### **In-home childcare subsidy changes leaving vulnerable families out of pocket**

In-home care is a part of the childcare system used largely by families in crisis who cannot access a regular childcare centre, due to a child or parent with a terminal illness, disability or mental health problem. Before the change-over, in-home care was fully subsidised for some, but an hourly cap has now been set on what is paid. [More >](#)

### **Childhood demand for gender transition treatment surges to record high**

The number of children seeking transgender treatment in Victoria will surge to 300 this year alone, according to new public hospital figures. It comes on the back of a 200 per cent increase over the past decade in new patients seen by the Gender Service at the Royal Children's Hospital. [More >](#)

### **Bright Futures: Young people in rural and regional Victoria**

Young people in rural and regional communities have different experiences and challenges to those living in cities especially in relation to education, employment, social opportunities, and access to mental health services. [More >](#)

### **Exploring harms experienced by children aged 7 to 11**

Over the past two decades, there has been significant investment in youth mental health services worldwide including youth-targeted services and research to promote mental health and wellbeing. Less well researched and understood is the mental health and service needs of younger children, particularly those aged under 12. [More >](#)

### **Foodbank hunger report 2018**

Foodbank provides food for more than 2,600 charities around Australia which work to feed the hungry. In addition to providing food to charities, Foodbank provides regular breakfasts to over 100,000 students in 1,750 schools across the country. The charities and community groups that work with Foodbank provide food relief to over 710,000 Australians every month, 26% of whom are under the age of 19. [More >](#)

### **Child social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage in Australia**

Poverty, social exclusion and disadvantage are complex and persistent. Child social exclusion captures the multidimensional nature of disadvantage experienced by many of Australia's children and means lost opportunity, disengagement and the risk of leading lives of unfulfilled potential. [More >](#)

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## **Online gaming and gambling in children and adolescents – Normalising gambling in cyber places**

This report found that gambling and gambling-like products are highly visible, accessible and promoted to young audiences across a range of digital media. However, there are gaps in our understanding of how gaming–gambling crossover activities influence young people in Australia, and the potential effect on gambling harm. [More >](#)

## **Child behaviour: How are Australian parents responding?**

Parents spend much time thinking about management of their child’s behaviour yet many are critical of their own strategies. Parents of younger children are especially more likely to feel stressed by their child’s behaviour. However, almost all parents try positive techniques to encourage good behaviour at least some of the time. [More >](#)

## **Focusing on people at ‘high risk’ of suicide has failed as a suicide prevention strategy**

Our long-term mental health strategy needs to focus on preventing distress through improved health and well-being, improved coping, and providing timely and adequate access to evidence-based treatments for all those who ask for help. [More >](#)

## **Safe & nurtured**

### **Abused children continuing to be disregarded by major institutions, Victorian report finds**

More than 1,300 allegations of child abuse, including both physical and sexual abuse, were made in schools, out-of-home care, churches and similar institutions across Victoria a year after mandatory abuse reporting laws came into effect, with some major institutions struggling to meet their obligations. There are still cases of children not being believed, and a tendency for organisations to pre-judge a complaint in favour of trusted adults. [More >](#)

### **Australia facing an 'epidemic of child abuse and neglect', according to experts**

In what has been described as a world-first examination of child protection reports, Australia's systems are shown to be in meltdown amid unprecedented levels of child abuse and neglect. South Australia's Department for Child Protection opened its doors to the University of South Australia's child protection experts, allowing them access to abuse notifications for the first time. [More >](#)

### **Review of the family law system: discussion paper**

This paper asks 33 questions and makes 124 proposals for change to the family law system. They focus on support for children in the family law system, improving public understanding of the family law system, accessible and coordinated service delivery, and enhanced oversight of the family law system and its workforce. [More >](#)

### **National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children: Fourth action plan (2019-22)**

The Fourth Action Plan, ‘Turning the Corner’ is the final Action Plan under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Their Children 2010-2022*. The purpose of this paper is to provide information on the evidence base for priorities explored through the consultations. [More >](#)

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## **Therapeutic residential care: An update on current issues in Australia**

Therapeutic residential care is a relatively recent service provision for young people who are unable to be placed in family-based care. This paper provides an update on, and discusses the implications of, developments in this type of care and touches on further issues to form the focus of future research and practitioner partnerships. [More >](#)

## **Resilient Families Becomes First SBB to Mature in Australia**

The Benevolent Society believes social benefit bonds can transform how social services are delivered in Australia, after its SBB significantly reduced the number of children entering out-of-home care. [More >](#)

## **Suicide intervention program trains Aboriginal communities to 'ask the question'**

In country towns, families, police and community leaders are being trained to hold suicide interventions in a bid to reduce the tragically high rate of Indigenous people who take their own lives. Suicide is the biggest killer of Indigenous children, accounting for 40 per cent of all deaths of Aboriginal youth. [More >](#)

## **Online trolls and cyberbullies in NSW face up to five years in jail under law change**

Laws will be strengthened to protect people from cyberbullying and online trolling and keep up with changes to technology. The changes aim to address an emerging trend of offenders threatening and harassing victims online through social media. [More >](#)

## **Speak out Stay Safe programme evaluation**

There are a number of barriers to children disclosing child abuse and neglect, which mean that these negative experiences are likely to be endured for longer and become more severe. Barriers include children's lack of knowledge and understanding of abuse and neglect and having insufficient language to disclose this abuse. [More >](#)

## **The Self-Reg View on: Expanding Our Understanding of the Meaning of Safe**

There is much research telling us how important it is for children's well-being that they feel safe. There has been a tendency to interpret these findings in terms of the need to stamp out bullying; yet if bullying itself is an unmistakable sign that a child doesn't feel safe, then what exactly does 'safe' mean? [More >](#)

## **Training Centre Visitor Annual Report 2017-18**

In the wake of concerns about the conduct of youth training facilities Australia-wide, South Australia's first Training Centre Visitor was appointed in 2016. The visitor's role is to 'visit, advocate, inspect, inquire and investigate matters relating to the residents of youth detention facilities'. [More >](#)

## **Child Safety Good Practice Guide**

Injury is the leading cause of hospitalisation and death in childhood and adolescence. Effective action is essential to reduce the burden of injuries on children, their families and the whole community; and to ensure that resources made available for injury prevention are directed to measures that are most likely to work. [More >](#)

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## **Youth Justice Report: Consultation with young people in out-of-home care about their experiences with police, courts and detention**

Young people in out-of-home care are 19 times more likely to be under a youth justice order compared to the general population. The majority described experiencing intense anxiety and fear during their interactions with the police and courts, as well as feeling the police were unfairly antagonistic. [More >](#)

## **Family violence perpetrators using school apps and web portals to harass, stalk and intimidate**

Technology for children, particularly for use at school, can inadvertently provide an opportunity for exploitation by abusers. This role is a recognised phenomenon in family violence and while policies vary, schools have a responsibility to protect confidential information and to respond to the online safety of students. [More >](#)

## **NSPCC: Livestreaming and video-chatting: snapshot 2**

Social media is woven into the fabric of children's lives. Every moment, every experience, can be captured and shared with an audience of followers. This snapshot considers the scale of children livestreaming and video chatting with people that they do not know in person, and proposes robust regulation for social networking sites. [More >](#)

## **Physical punishment of children and young people**

Findings from a study carried out by researchers in Canada and the USA looking at the association between bans on the physical punishment of children and young people and youth violence indicate that societies that prohibit the use of physical punishment are less violent for adolescents to grow up in than societies that have not. [More >](#)

## **Looking where the light is: creating and restoring safety and healing**

This paper sets out a culturally based practice framework for understanding and responding to child sexual abuse. The framework is designed to create and restore safety and healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. [More >](#)

## **Kinship care: state of the nation 2018**

Kinship carers are dedicated, resourceful, resilient people who have stepped in to do the right thing, but the system around them is letting them down. The findings of this UK report based on the largest survey of kinship carers ever undertaken found that nearly 32% are worried about their health and whether they'll be able to keep going. [More >](#)

## **Enjoying & achieving**

### **Children in green urban spaces 'perform better academically'**

Spatial working memory is strongly related with academic achievement particularly in maths. This research involving more than 4,700 children aged 11 living in urban areas of England looked at the role of green space in cognitive functioning. It found that those living in places with more green spaces outperformed their peers. [More >](#)

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## **WASO Crescendo program lifts NAPLAN results as schools see the benefits of music in class**

Better social and emotional wellbeing and higher NAPLAN results are reported among students since they became involved in the West Australian Symphony Orchestra Crescendo program. The free program, based on a Venezuelan model aimed at impoverished children, teaches collaborative skills through being part of an orchestra. [More >](#)

## **What would cities look like if they were designed by mothers?**

Architecture's lack of diversity shows in environments created by people who never need step-free access or to take a bus, and if teenagers designed cities, charging your phone would be a human right, there would be slow lanes on cycle paths for cruising your BMX, and for skateboarders, scooters and children learning to ride. [More >](#)

## **Amaze delivers damning report card: The Australian education system is failing autistic students**

Autistic students have the worst educational outcomes of any students with a disability, with almost 97% facing difficulties in their education and more than 56% saying they've been treated unfairly. This report finds inadequate supports in Australian schools are negatively impacting autistic students' outcomes and experiences. [More >](#)

## **Teachers Who Care**

Getting the right support from teachers can make a big difference to children in care. For teachers to provide this support, they need to be well supported themselves, with the right training, good contact with children's services, and a supportive school environment where everyone understands best practice for meeting the education and pastoral needs of children in care. [More >](#)

## **Six things you can do to get boys reading more**

Research suggests reading more can improve literacy outcomes across a range of indicators. Girls typically read more frequently than boys, have a more positive attitude toward reading and are encouraged to read more fiction. Recent research supports the relationship between reading fiction and the development of pro-social characteristics such as empathy and perspective-taking which lead to personal and social capability. [More >](#)

## **Six myths about children in the digital age**

Myths are often equated with falsehood, but their very persistence reveals society's deeper commitment to particular values. Some myths in the digital age are remarkably hard to shake, even though evidence from research and experience often contradicts them. [More >](#)

## **Measuring student progress: a state-by-state report card**

Australia puts too much emphasis on students' achievement at different points of time in their schooling, and not enough on students' progress over the course of their schooling. NAPLAN does not capture everything that matters in education, but is the only Australian test that enables comparison of student progress across schools. [More >](#)

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## **How nature can help promote higher use of play environments**

By integrating the living landscape with the built environment, studies show that children reach a higher range of active behaviour's, a greater diversity of play opportunities is offered, and the experience becomes more enriching for both children and families. [More >](#)

## **Participation**

### **Virtual reality experience replicates life as a child with hearing loss**

For anybody with hearing loss, articulating the isolation it causes is almost impossible. For a child, it's even harder. This new virtual reality experience, designed to immerse users in a playground and classroom as a child with hearing loss, is helping to foster empathy in parents, teachers and other students. [More >](#)

### **Tasmanian schoolkids give their advice on how to create a better future for young people**

Changing the school curriculum to improve young people's mental health is an issue Tasmanian youth would like prioritised. Other priority areas included teaching life skills such as paying taxes, bills, and writing resumes. [More >](#)

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Report: Youth Survey 2017**

This Youth Survey report communicates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people's hopes, aspirations and the challenges they face in contemporary Australia. It also provides valuable insight to support service and policy design that is culturally-appropriate and reflective of their unique journeys and particular needs. [More >](#)

### **Positive Stories About Teens Rarely Make Headlines – Here's why that Matters**

When we look beyond the media-fuelled stereotypes, far from being obsessed with selfies, sexting and sponging off their parents, today's teenagers may well be our hardest-working and most civic-minded generation ever. [More >](#)

## **Prepared for adult life**

### **The man box: A study on being a young man in Australia.**

According to this study, those men who were trapped inside the 'man box', or the set of traditional ideas of what is it to be a man, were more likely to feel depressed and have suicidal thoughts. Two-thirds of the young men who participated said they had been told a 'real man' behaved in a certain way since they were a boy. [More >](#)

### **Why children in institutional care may be worse off now than they were in the 19th century**

We too often hear about child protection when there is a scandal or crisis. For young people who grow up in out-of-home care, however, we need to go beyond simply reacting to terrible incidents like these and focus more attention on whether our systems are delivering the outcomes they should on a daily basis and for the long-term benefit of young people. [More >](#)