

CYP Matters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2018)

Most Australian children grow up in safe, healthy environments and do well. However, there are some children whose rights are not adequately protected, which impacts negatively on their wellbeing and ability to thrive. [More >](#)

An unfair start: inequality in children's education in rich countries

This report, which ranks Australia in the bottom third of the league table, uses the most recent data from 41 of the world's richest countries. It examines inequalities across childhood, from access to preschool to expectations of post-secondary education, exploring in depth the relationships between educational inequality and factors such as parents' occupations, migration background, the child's gender, and school characteristics. [More >](#)

Caught in the crossfire? Anti-terrorism legislation and its impact on children

Approaches that undermine human rights are now widely understood to be counter-productive, as they consolidate the social conditions in which terrorism can flourish. Nonetheless, States commonly regard human rights as an operational impediment and are allowing them to erode. No group has been more vulnerable to this than children and young people, particularly those from marginalised minority groups. [More >](#)

Tasmania poised to become first state to have gender optional on birth certificates

The proposed changes, which include allowing parents to choose whether their child's gender is recorded on birth certificates, will need the support of the independent-dominated Upper House to become law. The sex of the child would still be recorded on medical records. [More >](#)

This place I call home: The views of children and young people growing up in Queensland

This report, published by the Queensland Family and Child Commission, explores the views of young people in Queensland about their community, their aspirations and the issues that are important to them. [More >](#)

Kindness, emotions and human relationships: The blind spot in public policy

There is growing recognition of the importance of kindness and relationships for societal wellbeing. This report argues that there have been very good reasons for keeping kindness separate from public policy but that the challenges of our time demand an approach that is more centred on relationships. With technology and artificial intelligence transforming the way we do things, it is imperative that we focus equally on our emotional intelligence. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

Beyond Blue launches Be You – a major new mental health initiative for schools and early learning services

One in seven young people aged between 4 and 17 has experienced a mental health issue in the past 12 months. Be You makes it easier for educators to nurture the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. [More >](#)

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent and youth health and wellbeing 2018: In brief

Youth is a key transition period when decisions are made about relationships, education, career paths, employment and finances. The social, economic, environmental and technological changes that have occurred in recent decades mean that young people now face issues that previous generations may not have experienced. [More >](#)

Study links childhood poverty to violent crime and self-harm

This research using data from Denmark shows that children growing up in poverty are seven times more likely to harm themselves and be involved in violent crimes as young adults. It highlights the importance of providing child friendly public services, housing and education. [More >](#)

Healthy Minds program to support young Australians

A thousand adolescents across Australia will trial an award-winning psychological skills and wellbeing program delivered by accredited and specially trained professionals with the aim of preventing the onset of symptoms of depression and anxiety, while also reducing the risk of eating disorders. [More >](#)

We all pay the price: Our drug laws are tearing apart Australia's social fabric, as well as harming drug users and their families.

There are complex two-way interactions between the punitive approach to drug use and problems including poverty, social disadvantage, unemployment, homelessness, family violence, child protection interventions, mental health, stigma, discrimination and suicide. The human and financial costs of the negative impacts of the current drug laws are borne not just by people who use drugs, but by their families and communities, and the nation as a whole. [More >](#)

A good community where young children can thrive

International research shows that disadvantaged communities with limited resources and opportunities can generate poor child development outcomes which can then persist from one generation to the next. However there are also many factors that can promote healthy child development, including parents and families who actively participate in the community, active community organisations, and neighbourhoods that are safe to walk in and have good places to play. [More >](#)

Growing up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children 2017: Adolescent help-seeking

Understanding who adolescents go to for help for their personal and emotional problems is important to inform appropriate pathways of care. This chapter describes the past help-seeking behaviours and future help-seeking intentions of adolescents, focusing on who adolescents go to for help. [More >](#)

Material deprivation and social exclusion among young Australians: a child-focused approach

There is a growing international consensus that addressing poverty among children and young people is an urgent task. Those who experience poverty in their early years often incur long-term negative effects – scars that are carried into adulthood. [More >](#)

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Safe & nurtured

Siblings, contact and the law: an overlooked relationship?

This report looks into the legal implications of siblings in care in England and Wales and how they are treated by the care system and family courts. Key findings include: relationships between full and half siblings are given greater weight than foster or step siblings; older siblings are more likely to lose out when decisions are made; adoption is the most serious risk to their relationship when siblings are not placed together. [More >](#)

Realising the potential of early intervention

This report outlines the benefits of early intervention for children's physical, cognitive, behavioural and social and emotional development, as well as key actions for government to take. Recommendations include: establish a long-term investment fund to test the impact of early intervention using a whole-system approach; engender a culture of evidence-based decision-making at a local level. [More >](#)

Review of child abuse systems in SA

Social work experts at Flinders University will lead a major new review of South Australian child protection systems to tackle child abuse and neglect. Research will focus on practice and building evidence about what actually works to assist children and families and involves experts in the social work and related fields working closely with government, agencies and other service providers to review current child protection policy and practices. [More >](#)

Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People Annual Report 2017-18

The Report covers the Guardian's role and activities as the Guardian for Children and Young People, the Child and Young Person's Visitor and the Training Centre Visitor. [More >](#)

Stepping up, stepping down: how families make sense of working with welfare services

This UK study interviewed 20 families about their experiences of working with multiple services. Key findings include: fragmented services can result in a lack of responsibility for families, causing stress and frustration; good interpersonal skills are highly valued by families, especially honesty, courtesy, respect and empathy; involve families in service design and utilise their experience of the child welfare system. [More >](#)

Who knows what about me?

This UK report looks at how data is collected on children's use of websites, apps, toys and public services, how this information is used, and the short and long-term risks of data collection to children's safety and wellbeing. [More >](#)

What does it mean to support a child who's experienced trauma?

Trauma has become a significant word in the early childhood profession, and for good reason. We increasingly understand its impact on children's early and later development, at various levels of severity, and that means we can advocate strongly for action. [More >](#)

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How Supportive Housing Uplifts Families in Crisis

Keeping Families Together is a radically different approach to families in crisis; one that both recognizes the complexity and multiplicity of challenges that so many families face and completely restructures the system for helping them, putting families at the centre. [More >](#)

Evidence-based early years intervention: eleventh report of session 2017-19

Early intervention is a loosely-defined term that refers to taking action to resolve problems as soon as possible before they become more difficult to reverse. This UK report considers early intervention in relation to childhood adversity and trauma, to tackle the potential long-term problems that those who encounter such experiences are more likely to encounter. [More >](#)

Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee Annual Report 2017-18

Since 2005, more than one in every thousand children in the Far North region died before the age of 18. This is three and a half times higher than the state average. Also of note is the rate of death of Aboriginal children in South Australia, which is almost four times higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal children. [More >](#)

The Family Matters Report 2018: Measuring trends to turn the tide on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care in Australia

The rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are being removed from their families is an escalating national crisis. The Family Matters Report 2018 finds that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are now 10.1 times more likely to be removed from their families than non-Indigenous children. [More >](#)

Keeping children safe from bullying

Recordings, presentations and resources from this conference which focused on a community approach to reducing the impact of bullying on children and young people. Participants who attended the conference and consultation included educators and people who work with children and families in government, non-government, not-for-profit and community organisations. [More >](#)

Breaking barriers: A national adoption framework for Australian children

Among its main findings, this report recommends that the Commonwealth work with the states and territories to enact a national law for the adoption of Australian children. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

Should Urban Studies be taught in high school?

British Columbia has released a new urban studies curriculum for year 12 students that will start in 2019. It includes studying urbanisation as a global phenomenon, learning how local and regional government works, how city policies impacts our daily lives and examining critical issues like homelessness, transportation and livability. [More >](#)

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Learning music early can make your child a better reader

There is a clear relationship between music and language acquisition and learning music in the early years can help children learn to read, but disadvantaged students are least likely to have music learning in their schools. [More >](#)

Raising Expectations – getting more care leavers to uni

The Raising Expectations team recognise that people who have spent time in out-of-home care can face challenges and have limited support going on to, and completing, higher education. That's why they provide resources, support and services to help young people in care, and care leavers, access higher education. [More >](#)

Participation

Inclusive play design: why, how and who

Integrating play components that everyone can access and use encourages interaction and engagement of children of all abilities while minimising stigma relating to difference, and placing play components of different levels of difficulty near each other gives children of differing ages and abilities the opportunity to play in the same space resulting in growth, empathy and learning for each child. [More >](#)

Rights: Now! Engaging with children on matters that affect them

Rights: Now! is a level 2-3 education resource from New Zealand that introduces children and their teachers to children's rights and the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The resource has a specific focus on a child's right to have their say, participate and be heard on issues that affect them. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

New resources and a learning game for young people leaving care

The GOM Central website is for all young people in care or who have been in care. Playing the GOM City game teaches some basic skills like budgeting, remembering important events and managing a household. There is huge potential in the framework of the game to add in other levels to incorporate other skills. [More >](#)

Building a New Life in Australia Research Summary

Young people from humanitarian backgrounds have enormous potential to actively participate in Australian society. This group of young people come to Australia with an array of strengths, including being multilingual, having well-developed cross-cultural skills and global networks, and having strong aspirations to achieve educationally and contribute to Australian society. [More >](#)

Young people leaving care

Many care leavers, especially those with complex needs, are not well prepared to leave care and start living independently. Planning for young people leaving care and referrals to leaving care providers often happens too late, and many young people are not effectively engaged in their plans. [More >](#)