

CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

What Lies Beneath: Silence

So many rights violations continue unabated worldwide largely owing to factors that lie in the shadows unchallenged. And children, just like all humans, are affected by these if not more so because they are children. For its first edition, What Lies Beneath explores the role silence plays in the issues we work on and how its power is fostered either by its absence or its presence. [More >](#)

The Justice Project: Final Report – Part 1; Children and Young People

Children and young people often experience age-related legal problems but are reluctant to take action in response due to limited financial resources, poor knowledge of their legal rights, uncertainty about available avenues to address legal problems and possible legal remedies, and a perception that the legal system is intimidating, complicated, expensive and biased against them. [More >](#)

The courage to talk - Childline annual review 2017-18

Childline UK is a safe, supportive and confidential space where children and young people can be listened to, seek information and advice, and ultimately feel valued and empowered so they can start to get the help they need to improve their wellbeing. The focus of this review is on young people's mental health issues because the young people who reach out for help are uncertain, unconfident or unable to be heard elsewhere. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2018

Findings from this report include; the number of young people reporting concerns around mental health has risen by 10% since last year; the top three personal concerns were coping with stress (43%), school or study problems (34%) and mental health (31%). [More >](#)

Don't lock up children for drug treatment!

Despite a collective outcry from medical, legal, child rights, and health and community services, the South Australian Government is insisting on advancing the Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Amendment Bill 2018. Many commentators are concerned at the lack of medical or scientific evidence to support the proposals in the Bill and that it may in fact lead to harm. [More >](#)

'Bright Spots' is helping children in foster care

With the largest survey measuring the well-being of children and young people in care, the Bright Spots programme helps local authorities better understand what life in care is like for children. Research has identified domains and indicators of wellbeing common to all children and those unique to children in care. [More >](#)

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UK fights child obesity with over £150m from sugar tax

In April the British government introduced the Soft Drinks Industry Levy in an effort to fight childhood obesity. Now the 'sugar tax' has raised over £150m which will be used to fund physical education and breakfast clubs in at least 1700 schools. [More >](#)

New Tool Assesses Business Impacts on Children

The Children's Rights and Business Atlas is an online, interactive and data-driven tool designed to be used by companies to proactively manage actual and potential business impact on children by integrating children's rights into strategic planning for positive, sustainable change. [More >](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent and youth health and wellbeing 2018

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may face additional obstacles in making a successful transition to adulthood. The effect of inter-generational trauma, racism and prejudice, and socioeconomic disadvantage are all relevant in understanding the experiences of young Indigenous people today. [More >](#)

Children's and young people's experiences of loneliness: 2018

This report from the UK attempts to address the data gap on loneliness among children and young people. It looks at how often children and young people feel lonely and why and the importance going through transitional life stages such as the move from primary to secondary school and, later, leaving school or higher education and adapting to early adult life, plays. [More >](#)

The best opportunities in life

This strategy is a shared commitment to protect, improve and sustain the health and wellbeing of children and young people living in the Northern Territory, aged from 0 - 24 years. It represents a collective understanding that health and wellbeing in the long term is only possible with strategic investment and a focus on those factors that support and matter to children and young people so they can grow, thrive and achieve their full potential. [More >](#)

Breakthrough for Families

Breakthrough for Families is a new program announced by the Queensland Government. Delivered as part of the Action on Ice Strategy, the program aims to provide families and the broader community affected by ice and other drugs access to free, accessible information and tailored strategies to help themselves and others. Queensland Health is supporting Breakthrough for Families service providers with state-wide program resources, training and support for workers. [More >](#)

Support for new parents and babies in New South Wales

Supporting new parents is key to ensuring that every child has a happy, healthy start to life. Pregnancy and birth are times which present unique opportunities to help parents. They offer chances to identify parents who are struggling or vulnerable and help break the cycle of disadvantage. [More >](#)

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Defining the Indefinable: Descriptors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Cultures and their Links to Health and Wellbeing

In Australia, there are currently limited data that establish or define the relationship between health, wellbeing and culture and the mechanisms through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural determinants impact on health and wellbeing. [More >](#)

Safe & nurtured

The Year in Review 2017-18

In her *Year in Review 2017-18*, the SA Guardian for Children and Young People considers progress in prevention and early intervention, foster and kinship care, residential and emergency care, progress in universal therapeutic care and how well we are listening to the voices of young people. [More >](#)

National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey

This survey found that Australians are less likely to hold attitudes supportive of violence against women now than in 2013, are more likely to support gender equality, and fewer people reported believing that domestic violence could be excused if it resulted from men getting angry and losing control. While the results are encouraging they also indicate worrying trends showing that many Australians also believe some common myths regarding sexual assault and unequal treatment of women. [More >](#)

Invisible Practices: Intervention with fathers who use violence

Structured interventions with men who use violence mostly occur through the criminal justice system and specialist men's behaviour change programs. While other services, such as child protection and family services, work with fathers who use violence, this work has never been documented or formalised. This report highlights the need for organisations to undertake systemic change to embed these new practice approaches. [More >](#)

Signs of possible trauma in children and adolescents

Studies of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in adolescence published from 2000 to 2011 indicate that adolescents are at greater risk of experiencing trauma than either adults or children, and that the prevalence of PTSD among adolescents is 3–57%. Many young people keep these issues to themselves and often experience a range of difficulties at home and school due to a lack of diagnosis and self-medication, with many showing that these problems may persist into adulthood. [More >](#)

Safety in residential care

The SA Guardian for Children and Young People's Office has formed a picture of the safety and security issues of young people in residential care from visits to residential care and advocacy, brought together with the December 2016 paper *Safe and Sound* to represent the residents' view of their state of safety and security and their suggestions on how make it better. [More >](#)

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Sex education needs to evolve to keep pace with trends like sexting, experts say

Research published this year suggests one in seven teenagers have sent explicit texts and one in four have received them. It has prompted the Australian Medical Association to overhaul its youth outreach program, Dr YES (Youth Education Session), to include more up-to-date information about sexting and health. [More >](#)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: A guide to support implementation

This new resource is designed to support a holistic understanding and the full and uniform implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. It provides information on best practice and examples from across the country of promising approaches to implementing each of its five elements. [More >](#)

Parenting and pornography: findings from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom

Exposure to pornography is recognised as a real risk for children online, ranking highly, alongside cyberbullying and contact with strangers. It can negatively impact a young person's mental health and wellbeing and their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and expectations about sex and gender. [More >](#)

New early intervention pilot program aims to keep families together

The State Government will pilot a ground-breaking new early intervention program specifically developed for South Australian families at risk of having their children enter the child protection system. The program's aim is to ensure children are not experiencing abuse and neglect earlier and to keep families together, if safe to do so. [More >](#)

Implementation of recommendations from the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: annual progress report 2018

Since the Australian Government published its response to the final report on 13 June 2018, it has been looking closely at the recommendations that were listed as 'for further consideration' or 'noted'. Work has progressed on these including the recently announced national centre for the prevention of child sexual abuse. Ongoing action is needed and this report highlights some of the projects that will continue in 2019 and beyond. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

Updated physical activity guidelines for US children and youth

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the second edition of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. There are new key guidelines for children aged three to five and updated guidelines for young people aged six to seventeen. [More >](#)

WA primary schools to make play a priority for 2019

Education experts, teachers and parents have previously warned that the demise of play-based learning for Australian four and five year olds in schools was a crisis demanding attention. Comprehensive and conclusive research shows that children need to be involved regularly in a range of high quality indoor and outdoor play experiences to optimise their learning, development and well-being. [More >](#)

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Young children with autism can thrive in mainstream childcare

Growing numbers of children with autism are being diagnosed in toddlerhood. New research shows that with support educators can effectively include and teach children on the spectrum in mainstream childcare, alongside their non-autistic peers. [More >](#)

Active lives children and young people survey

Attitudes towards sport and physical activity are often shaped by experiences in childhood. This survey explores the behaviours of children and young people, their attitudes towards sport and physical activity, and the extent to which being active links to mental wellbeing, individual development and social and community development. [More >](#)

Improving the educational outcomes of children in need of help and protection: interim findings

All children and young people deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential and achieve the best educational outcomes possible. Yet for some, the reality of adversity or trauma in childhood diminishes that chance, putting at a disadvantage those who lack the safety, stability, and opportunity that most children take for granted. The ambition of the Children in Need review (UK) is that every child should have the opportunity to realise their potential. [More >](#)

Participation

Not Just Ticking A Box: Youth participation with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

This resource focuses on youth participation with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and helps organisations consider ways they can support and enable them to participate in decisions that affect them. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

Financial literacy education in Reserve Bank's and ASIC's sights

The Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) are arguing for a greater focus on economics in high schools, saying that not only can this be the pathway to a well-paying career, but it will also empower more young Australians to make better financial decisions in the future. [More >](#)

Part-time purgatory: young and underemployed in Australia

Youth unemployment remains high and more than double the rate of overall unemployment. It's the emergent threat of youth underemployment, however, that shows how the linear path to adulthood has shifted for many more young people, and pathways have become ever more uncertain. [More >](#)

From aspiration to opportunity: Developing Independence in out-of-home care

This report presents evaluation findings of a program aimed at helping young people in out-of-home care to prepare for independence after care. The program targeted 15–25 year olds who are service-connected and do not have personal, family and community networks to support their capabilities, and was aimed at improving young people's engagement with education and employment. [More >](#)