

CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

Historic human rights win in Queensland as Human Rights Bill passes

Queensland now joins Victoria and the ACT as the third Australian jurisdiction with a Human Rights Act or Charter. The Queensland law is the broadest and most accessible and is about ensuring that the values we all hold dear – like fairness, equality, respect and compassion – are reflected in laws, policy and services. [More >](#)

ARACY 2019 Policy Priorities - Our Children: They don't vote but they do matter

Elections, particularly federal elections, are pivotal times in the lives of young Australians. It's at elections where education, housing, health, employment and other policies impacting the day-to-day wellbeing of young Australians are set. Our children may not vote, but we must all remember that they do matter. [More >](#)

School climate strikes: why adults no longer have the right to object to their children taking radical action

This philosophical discussion explores why children and young people should have a voice when the democratic system precludes this right. [More >](#)

Beta Utopia

No society is perfect. There are always things that can change for the better. But in trying to work out how our society could improve, describing (or complaining about) what we don't agree with doesn't change things on its own; we need to learn to better describe what it is we actually want to see. [More >](#)

Rethinking the rights of children for the internet age

The internet is now 30 years old, the same age as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and our understanding of its transformative effects on both society and children has developed over time. This post outlines some of the issues raised in relation to children's rights and views from children themselves on this subject. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

What Makes a Good Life?

This survey asked children and young people what a good life is and what they thought were the most important areas to focus on to make things better for all children and young people. Responses included; having fun and feeling contented, having supportive family and friends, having basic needs met, being healthy (including mentally healthy), feeling safe, having a good education and feeling valued and respected. [More >](#)

Measuring Child Deprivation and Opportunity in Australia

The intent of this report is to shine a light on the level of deprivation and wellbeing experienced by Australian children, generally, and to examine the depth and complexity of deprivation faced by children known to be at-risk; children with disability, those living in monetary poverty and those living in jobless families. [More >](#)

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Teen girls influenced by fathers' heavy drinking

Teenage girls are far more likely to try alcohol by the age of 14 or 15 if their fathers are heavy drinkers, Australian research suggests. Previous research has found both boys and girls are influenced by their parents' drinking, but this is the first time a clear link between fathers and daughters has been identified. [More >](#)

A charter for change: protecting Welsh children from the impact of poverty

This report has been formed from the experiences and views of children and young people who are, or have experienced, living on a low income. Children and young people living in poverty miss out on their most basic human rights of having their food, shelter and health needs met. The costs of attending and participating in school leads to an inequality of opportunity and children and young people also feel socially isolated because of a lack of opportunities available to them in their local community. [More >](#)

National FASD Strategic Action Plan

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a huge public health concern, with recent studies estimating a prevalence of 2-5% of the population in the USA and approximately 4% in Canada. No population-wide prevalence studies have been conducted in Australia but recent research found the highest worldwide prevalence in a prison setting, with 36% of youth in WA's Banksia Hill Detention Centre diagnosed with FASD. [More >](#)

Gender gaps: Findings from the Youth Survey 2018

This report pinpoints stark differences between female and male responses to the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2018, highlighting that more females than males were concerned about almost every topic in the survey. The findings demonstrate that females are more likely than males to report the presence of numerous barriers and are less likely to be able to access the same opportunities as their male counterparts. [More >](#)

Doulas are filling the gap where postnatal care is lacking during the 'fourth trimester'

There is a rise in new mums hiring postnatal doulas to provide the care that was once offered by family and friends and longer hospital stays. Doulas have said that mothers have lost their 'village' and they were stepping in to fill that role when parents chose to pay for private in-home care in the first weeks after childbirth. [More >](#)

A national report card on youth homelessness

This report card assesses how much progress has been made since 2008 against the National Youth Commission's *Roadmap for Youth Homelessness*' 10 'must do' strategic areas for action. Referencing the Roadmap, the report card is a review of responses to youth homelessness over the past decade from a national perspective. [More >](#)

Filling the gap: a universal dental care scheme for Australia

When Australians need to see a GP, Medicare picks up all or most of the bill. When they need to see a dentist, however, they are on their own. There is no compelling medical, economic, or legal reason to treat the mouth so differently from the rest of the body. This article promotes a move towards a universal primary dental care scheme, funded by the Commonwealth Government. [More >](#)

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Re-thinking our definition of adolescence

Adolescence has changed significantly in the last century. Puberty now starts earlier and social role transitions that traditionally indicated adulthood, like financial independence, settling down with a life partner and having children, are happening much later. This article suggests that adolescence is better conceptualised as extending up to 24 years old aligning more closely with knowledge of brain development and understandings of this life phase. [More >](#)

Our Choices, Our Voices – Close the Gap report 2019

After identifying urgent priority themes for addressing the health gap, the 2019 report highlights stories that illustrate success from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. It addresses three priority themes: targeted, needs-based primary health care; a responsive health care system; good housing for good health. The stories illustrate that ‘our choice and our voice’ are vital if we are to make gains and start to close the gap. [More >](#)

Supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools

Staff working in schools are ideally placed to recognise and respond to early signs of mental health difficulties in children and young people. This booklet aims to support all staff working in school settings to understand how best to help the children and young people in their care. [More >](#)

Living on the edge: Inquiry into Intergenerational Welfare Dependence - final report

While most Australians enjoy high standards of living and opportunities to participate and progress in employment, for some, the need for welfare ends up being long term, and the impact on their wellbeing can be dire. ‘Entrenched disadvantage’ can result, affecting individuals, their children and the community. [More >](#)

Safe & nurtured

Language That Cares: changing the way professionals talk about children in care

Language That Cares aims to change the language of the care system. Language is a powerful tool for communication but sometimes the way that it is used in social care creates stigma and barriers for understanding. Language is power, and we want children and young people to feel empowered in their care experience. [More >](#)

On the sidelines: the economic and personal cost of childhood exposure to domestic violence

Domestic abuse is a public health crisis, with 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experiencing domestic abuse in their lifetime. However, the millions of children who are exposed to domestic abuse in their homes remain overlooked, considered merely ‘witnesses’ to the abuse rather than victims themselves. [More >](#)

The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from the second national survey, 2018

This report provides an overview of results from a 2018 national data collection on the views of children and young people aged 8–17 in out-of-home care. Updated data for 8 indicators under the National Standards for out-of-home care are presented. [More >](#)

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An Intensive Support System for South Australia's children and families

Child abuse and neglect is a pervasive social problem throughout Australia and many Western countries, with devastating consequences for families and communities. This strategy is focused on the system of services that work to prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect. [More >](#)

Child protection Australia 2017–18

The rate of children receiving child protection services in Australia continues to rise. This report shows that around 1 in 35 children received child protection services in 2017–18. Over half (56%) of these children were investigated but not subsequently placed on a care and protection order or in out-of-home care. [More >](#)

Jessie & friends: online safety education for 4-7s

This series of three animations aims to give 4-7 year olds the knowledge, skills and confidence to help them respond safely to risks they may encounter online. Accompanying resources include: lesson plans, information for parents and carers and storybooks. [More >](#)

Building a workforce that works for all children

This UK paper discusses the multitude of professions and services that are key to improving the lived experiences and outcomes of children and families often before they reach the threshold for children's social care, from youth workers, family support workers and school support staff to health visitors and more. [More >](#)

Helplines and telephone counselling services for children, young people and parents

This reference guide is designed to provide practitioners and service providers with contact details and links to helplines and telephone counselling services for children, young people and adults. [More >](#)

Helping teens cope with violence in the media

As social media is fast becoming the favoured news source among young people, concerns have been raised about the potential impact violent footage may have. Adolescents are particularly affected by violent imagery as their brains are still developing and they may have trouble processing the information. [More >](#)

'It's real to them, so adults should listen': what children want you to know to help them feel safe

Many of us feel anger, despair, hopelessness and grief as we are hit by what feels like a constant barrage of bad news. It's important to take care of our mental health during such times, but it's also vital to think about how children and young people are experiencing and responding to difficult events, and the ensuing emotions. [More >](#)

National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020: evaluation overview policy report

This report outlines findings from the evaluation of the UK Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020. Findings include: the programme appears to have reduced the proportion of looked after children and the proportion of adults and children receiving custodial sentences; evidence suggests families at risk are being identified more proactively and that multi-agency working has strengthened. [More >](#)

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Out-of-Home Care in Australia: Children and Young People's Views After 5 Years of National Standards

In 2018, CREATE conducted the largest ever independent survey of children and young people with a care experience, surveying 1275 children and young people with a diverse range of backgrounds about their experiences in the out-of-home care system. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

Working Together to Ensure Equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the Early Years

All children should be empowered to realise their potential and determine their own futures. This position paper highlights key issues that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and makes recommendations to government and policy-makers. [More >](#)

Serving up bush tucker and turning around young lives

A social enterprise of Mission Australia, Charcoal Lane is shaking up Melbourne's food scene with its native bush tucker menu. With youth unemployment rates around three times higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the restaurant is also fighting Indigenous workforce exclusion through a six month training program, teaching students back and front of house skills, and giving them a leg up into a future career. [More >](#)

Overcoming the odds: a study of Australia's top-performing disadvantaged schools

Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds perform worse on average academically than more advantaged students. This study investigated Australia's top-performing disadvantaged schools in terms of literacy and numeracy results, with the aim of finding any common policies and practices which have led to their success. [More >](#)

From play to pressure; a Finnish perspective on Australian schools

Many thousands of hours have been devoted to figuring out why Finland consistently out-performs countries like Australia on OECD rankings. Finnish education Professor, Pasi Sahlberg, is noticing the philosophical differences as he settles his family into their new home in Sydney. [More >](#)

Australian Government action plan for the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

The strength of and access to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages has been shown to reap economic, social and intrinsic benefits to individuals and communities. They have been shown to contribute to improvements in the health and wellbeing of Australians, enrich Australia's cultural life, make a valuable contribution to the national economy and are seen as a cultural asset internationally. [More >](#)

Shaped by play and inclusive play

To date, playgrounds have been largely overlooked as settings for development, perhaps because it is easy to assume that play is 'just for fun' or playgrounds are just for exercise. However, research suggests children's early experiences and the settings they inhabit play a powerful role in helping children become healthy and effective thinkers, leaders and collaborators. [More >](#)

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Participation

How language can disempower young people

Language is powerful and the terms we use to define ourselves and others can have a powerful impact. Former YACSA intern, Corrine Hamdorf looks at how the language we use impacts upon and either empowers or disempowers young people, and more specifically, their political engagement. [More >](#)

Agenda: A young people's guide to making positive relationships matter

As our communities become more and more connected to one another, children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complicated and diverse world. Whilst this is to be embraced, it brings new perspectives that challenge the traditional relationships we have with ourselves, with each other and with the rest of world. Sometimes, this can be uncomfortable and we must find new ways to positively learn about one another and to make the most of every individual's talents, interests and abilities. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

Students striking for climate action are showing the exact skills employers look for

This article reports that students striking for climate action are showing the exact skills employers look for. By seeking to understand a global issue, taking action and clearly articulating their perspective, the students are demonstrating the skills, values and attitudes the curriculum states should constitute the aim of education. [More >](#)

Working through it: a Youth Survey report on economically disadvantaged young people

This report considers the similarities and differences between two groups of young people who took part in the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2018: those who reported that neither parent or guardian was currently in paid employment, compared with those who identified that at least one parent or guardian had paid employment, whether part- or full-time. [More >](#)