

CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

Strengthening children's rights - Scotland

The Scottish Government has announced plans to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into law. Following an extensive public consultation a Bill will be laid before the Scottish Parliament in 2020. [More >](#)

For every child, every right: the Convention on the Rights of the Child at a crossroads

Thirty years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child at a moment of rapid global change which brought a sense of renewal and hope for future generations. [More >](#)

Youth Survey Report 2019

25,126 young people participated in the Mission Australia Youth Survey in 2019. This year's Youth Survey Report revealed that young people aged 15 to 19 years old reported concerns relating to mental health, the environment, bullying and voice. The top four personal concerns also related closely to mental health, which were: coping with stress, school or study problems, mental health and body image. [More >](#)

Children's Rights in Australia: a scorecard

This scorecard tells the story of how well children's rights are protected and promoted across Australia. It calls for Australian governments to raise the age of criminal responsibility from ten to 14 in line with a recommendation made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and also looks at the diversity of children's experiences including those of Indigenous children, children with disability, children in care, and children in rural and remote locations. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

Time to Stand Up for Child Health

At a time when Australia's GDP per capita is higher than it has ever been our children are continuing to experience significant ill health, both physical & mental. [More >](#)

What's driving poor mental health among young Australians? We asked them

Young Australians rates of mental health concerns appear to be getting worse and teenagers are increasingly ending up in the emergency department in mental health crises. [More >](#)

140th out of 146: Australian teens do close to the least physical activity in the world

The WHO guidelines for this age group recommend a minimum of one hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day. This benchmark is set based on what is known about the benefits of regular movement for good physical health and fitness, and preventing disease such as type 2 diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. [More >](#)

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Great to Eight child research project

This project aims to get better outcomes for children by assisting governments, corporate and philanthropic funders make better targeted investments, and helping researchers ensure their work is relevant and effective. [More >](#)

Reaching out: children and young people's views of mental health support

Findings of a UK survey of children and young people aged 10-17 from almost 2,400 households on their views of mental health support, and where they would go for help if concerned about their feelings or behaviours. [More >](#)

Adolescents' resilience

This research explored levels of self-reported resilience at age 16-17 and examined whether resilience differs according to characteristics of the individual and their family, peer and school environments. These insights may help us to understand which aspects of adolescents' lives are related to their resilience and how policy and practice interventions can be designed to help prepare adolescents for the transition into adulthood. [More >](#)

Food poverty at record levels – a children's book on food banks shows how normal it has become

'Wake up, mum. I'm hungry!' This is the opening line to the recently published children's book, *It's a No-Money Day*, a powerful exploration of food banks and life below the poverty line. [More >](#)

Indigenous children need traditional culture to better overcome stress and thrive in life

For a long time, Indigenous Elders have been telling us about the importance of passing on culture to their children and keeping their stories and language alive. Now there's statistical evidence to support what they've been saying. [More >](#)

An estimated 1 in 4 children and young people have problematic smartphone usage

A review of problematic smartphone usage and associated mental health outcomes amongst children and young people in the UK has found: 10-30% of children and young people used their smartphones in a pattern of behaviour that mirrors that of a behavioural addiction leading to depression, anxiety, high levels of stress and poor sleep. [More >](#)

What happened to the NDIS?

The NDIS replaces an inequitable and piecemeal disability system which aims to give people with a disability choice and control over their lives. However many participants, or would be participants, are experiencing challenges due to a mixture of design limitations, implementation problems, and political decisions. [More >](#)

Safe & nurtured

The Personal Security of Children Demands Bold System Reform

It is time think boldly about the potential that exists in broad-scale, systemic and cross-sectoral reform that fully embraces universal and primary prevention as a means to ensure children's right to personal security. [More >](#)

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Safe and Secure

Children experience family violence deep in their mind and body; they see it; they often hear it; their bodies react to it as a threat to survival; their experiences define what they can say when and to whom. This trauma informed practice guide provides help in understanding and responding to children and young people affected by family violence. [More >](#)

Inadequate placement matching causing fear among children and young people in care

The 2018-19 Guardian for Children and Young People's Annual Report has highlighted concerns about placement allocation and matching for children and young people in care, particularly those living in residential care. [More >](#)

Looked After Minds

Mental health matters to care-experienced children and young people. It is consistently raised as one of the key priorities from young people themselves, but their calls for action are not being taken seriously enough and they are often left waiting for the support they need. [More >](#)

A blueprint for children's social care: unlocking the potential of social work

Benefits of this proposed model for children's social care, based on the Buurtzorg approach to district nursing in the Netherlands, include: a.60% increase in the face-to-face time social workers spend with children and families; a.20% reduction in average caseloads due to increased numbers of practising social workers; and better continuity of the child and social worker relationship, enabling more timely support and improved interventions. [More >](#)

Report finds children in care overrepresented in youth justice

This report found almost one quarter of children and young people who are detained in the Adelaide Youth Training Centre are under the legal guardianship of the state and are likely to be living in large residential care homes. [More >](#)

Children under 12 can no longer 'commit crime' in Scotland

Evidence shows that responding to childhood behaviour in a criminalising, stigmatising way serves only to promote escalation and further harm that is neither in the interests of the child, nor of the safety of communities. The introduction of these provisions is far more consistent with an approach of prevention and early intervention. [More >](#)

New research explores children and young people's views on online sexual harm

Findings from surveys with children and young people aged 10-18 in the UK on their perspectives on online sexual harm and the education they receive on this in school include: 9% of secondary-school aged participants said they had learnt about online sexual harm from personal experience, while almost 91% of primary school and 85% of secondary school age respondents said it was their own responsibility to keep themselves safe online. [More >](#)

Co-Design Findings and Next Steps: Child and Family Support System

This report, based on findings from an initial co-design process for a new Child and Family Support System in South Australia, includes the shared directions and agreements reached between the government, non-government service providers, services users, Aboriginal leaders and the broader community. [More >](#)

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Family by Family: Disrupting disadvantage – new video

While there are other programs that use a ‘mentoring’ or ‘peer-to-peer’ model, the key difference with Family by Family is its firm focus on behaviour change. It’s not only about offering support and encouragement, but families setting their own goals and being coached and guided to make a lasting change in their lives, from ending drug and alcohol abuse, to spending more time together as a family. [More >](#)

Using algorithms in children’s social care: experts call for better understanding of risks and benefits

Algorithms using data about children have been used by some local authorities in the UK to help predict which children are at risk and advise professionals what to do next. However, there are calls to explore concerns around bias, improve understanding of terms, and involve families in the debate. [More >](#)

Not forgotten: The importance of keeping in touch with former foster carers

This report recommends: UK's governments should ensure guidance and regulations require that children and young people in care are enabled to remain in contact with former foster carers and that foster carers are enabled to support former foster children as they move home, to a permanent placement, or through the leaving care process. [More >](#)

Facebook apps used in child abuse

Data obtained from responses to a Freedom of Information request by 32 UK police forces showed Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp were used in child abuse image and online child sexual offences last year - an average of 11 times a day. Experts warn that child abuse will go undetected in future if Facebook continues with its plans to encrypt messaging on Facebook and Instagram without first putting clear safeguards in place. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

Report cards’ report card: showing potential, but with room for improvement

The final report of the Communicating Student Learning Progress project shows parents and teachers are dissatisfied with aspects of the way report cards communicate student achievement. For example, parents and teachers generally agree grades, such as the most commonly used A-E, don’t sufficiently show student progress. [More >](#)

Children learn through play – it shouldn’t stop at preschool

The transition from preschool to school is a big deal for many children and parents. So far education has been focused on play-based learning but they’re about to enter a world of formal learning. Although play-based learning does happen in schools, there tends to be a stronger focus on instruction. [More >](#)

Our Land, Our Stories resource helps primary school teachers deliver Indigenous content

Indigenous content is a requirement of the education curriculum that teachers often struggle to teach. The *Our land, Our Stories* resource hopes to make that material easier to deliver and more accessible, for teachers and students. The resource includes a series of books, cards and digital content developed in consultation with more than 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from around the country. [More >](#)

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Transformative: impacts of culture and creativity

A snapshot of current research and findings about the positive impacts of artistic, creative and cultural activity shows: it helps mitigate disadvantage, particularly with students who are 'at-risk', who are socio-economically disadvantaged, at risk of prematurely disengaging from schooling, and/or expressing anti-social or non-coping behaviours. [More >](#)

Those Who Disappear: The Australian education problem nobody wants to talk about

Many young people across Australia of compulsory school age, for multiple reasons, are not participating in school or an education program of any type. They are not absent from school: they simply aren't in one. [More >](#)

Kids and mobiles: How Australian children are using mobile phones

Almost half of Australian children aged 6 to 13 now own or use a mobile phone. This interactive report looks at the trends in children's mobile use since 2013, including: how many own a phone; what they use it for; how their use is changing; the habits of boys and girls of different ages, places and backgrounds. [More >](#)

Students with disabilities need inclusive buildings: We can learn from what's already working

School facility design has not kept pace with Australian inclusive education policies over past decades. Considering the diverse needs of children with disability, inclusive school architecture needs to learn from the best of what already exists to improve learning spaces for all students. [More >](#)

Participation

These young Muslim Australians want to meet Islamophobes and change their minds; And it's working

Social psychology research on the effects of contact between cultural groups shows interaction isn't always positive. And when there's a negative experience, prejudice and conflict can rise. Islamophobic experiences didn't deter these young Muslim Australians from engaging with non-Muslim Australians, in fact, they indicated they were keen on engaging with the very group of Australians likely to be prejudiced against them. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

16 and 17 year olds get right to vote - a historic day for democracy in Wales

The National Assembly for Wales has voted in favour of legislation to extend the vote to 16 and 17 year olds in the Welsh General Election in 2021. The new legislation will be implemented in January 2020. [More >](#)