

CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

New website - Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Find out what matters to Aboriginal children and young people, their families and their communities on the South Australian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People's new website. [More >](#)

The case for involving under-18s in politics

At one time people thought politics was just for grownups. But young people have a clear worldview of their own, and their moral clarity could be just what we need to shake up stagnant political systems. [More >](#)

When Love Meets Power

From declining mental health to unprecedented numbers of people experiencing loneliness and isolation, TACSI's ten years of practice has shown that the right combination of love and power can be fundamental in addressing many of our deeply entrenched social issues. [More >](#)

KidsRights Index 2020

The KidsRights Index is the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve children's rights. [More >](#)

The KidsRights Index 2020: Australia scores 135th on global ranking on Children's Rights

In this year's index Australia has dropped in the ranking from 19 to 135, due to the treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and discrimination against Aboriginal children, amongst others. This short report shares the country-specific analyses and recommendations for Australia on how to improve children's rights based on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's latest Concluding Observations. [More >](#)

Teen Sibs Speak Out

Since 2011, the Sibling Support Project in Seattle and Siblings Australia have co-facilitated a closed Facebook group for teen siblings, SibTeen, to share the joys and challenges of growing up alongside a brother or sister with disability. To lend insight on the experiences of teen sibs, members shared their thoughts. [More >](#)

Why children need to be taught more about their human rights

Many children have an innate sense of equality, fairness and justice and know how these concepts relate to their day-to-day lives. A lot of children also have the confidence to voice their opinions when they feel a lack of justice, but unfortunately, this is not always that case especially for children whose personal rights are violated and who face mistreatment, often behind closed doors. [More >](#)

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The Right of Children to Participate in Public Decision-Making Processes

The right of children to participate in decision-making in all matters that affect their lives is a well-established legal principle and international research indicates growing evidence that states are implementing this principle in the sphere of public decision-making. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

Silver Linings in the time of Coronavirus

Without denying or leaving unacknowledged the immense pain and suffering that has accompanied COVID 19, it can be useful at times like this to support children to recognize experiences and outcomes that feel encouraging, comforting, or reveal resilience. [More >](#)

First 1000 days: conception to two years

The first 1000 days of life are key to lifelong health and wellbeing. This comprehensive resource provides parents to be and new parents with information and advice on all aspects of child rearing. [More >](#)

Designing Child-Friendly High Density Neighbourhoods: Transforming our cities for the health, wellbeing and happiness of children

To date, no city in Australia has an explicit family-friendly design policy for high density neighbourhoods. If we are serious about ensuring that higher density neighbourhoods are inclusive to families with children and that children are provided with the best possible environments for healthy and happy development, then their needs must be meaningfully considered in the design of our cities. [More >](#)

Follow-up care and employment the keys to preventing many coronavirus-related youth suicides in Australia

Half of all coronavirus-related youth suicides in Australia could be prevented if there was better follow-up care after people tried to take their own lives, services were increased, and unemployment rates reduced. [More >](#)

When anxiety and depression in new mothers could be Complex PTSD

Research shows that all infants need a primary carer who is sensitive to their needs in order for them to have a solid sense of self for all later relationships. If this attachment relationship to their primary carer is impaired in the first year of life, it can significantly affect later mental health. [More >](#)

COVID-19 restrictions could have lasting effect on child wellbeing, warn researchers

While health, safety and education responses are the focus of restrictions, the needs of childhood independence, self-determination and play are less acknowledged, Flinders University experts explain in a new publication. [More >](#)

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Young people were already struggling before the pandemic. Here are 7 ways to help them navigate a changed world

As we start to rebuild our lives in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, we need to be clearer than ever about what kind of Australia we want to live in, what counts as progress, and how well we're succeeding is measured. [More >](#)

COVID-19 and Children Rapid Research Response

UNICEF Innocenti is mobilizing a rapid research response in line with UNICEF's global response to provide the evidence needed to scale up rapid assessment, develop urgent mitigating strategies in programming and advocacy, and to prepare interventions to respond to medium and longer-term consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. [More >](#)

"Living in Limbo" How COVID-19 is impacting young people in Australia

UNICEF Australia spoke to more than 1,000 young people aged 13-17 years from both regional towns and capital cities. about how coronavirus has impacted them. [More >](#)

Dutch youths still among 'healthiest and happiest in Europe'

Young people in The Netherlands are very positive about relationships, are unlikely to experience bullying, and have few psychological issues. These are some of the conclusions of a new report on the health and well-being of children globally that involved a survey of over 200,000 young people aged between 11 and 15 years in 45 countries. [More >](#)

How city leaders can support babies, toddlers and their carers

The Bernard van Leer Foundation, which campaigns to help children in urban settings worldwide, has developed a set of ideas for how city leaders can help babies, toddlers and the people who care for them post-corona. [More >](#)

Poverty in Australia 2020 Part 2: Who is affected?

The devastation of COVID-19 has confronted us all with the serious weaknesses in our social protection systems. Globally and domestically, people living in poverty and without a safe place to call home have been shown to be at far greater risk of the multiple effects of the COVID pandemic, in health, social and economic terms. [More >](#)

Research highlights link between a childhood in care and early unnatural death

University College London Institute of Epidemiology & Health Care has published findings from research looking at a link between a childhood in care and early death. A study of data relating to more than 350,000 people found that adults who spent time as children in care were more likely to die prematurely than those who did not, with causes mainly attributable to deaths categorised as self-harm, accidents and mental & behavioural. [More >](#)

More than isolated

Children and Young People with Disability Australia devised a survey to capture the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people and their families and identify unmet needs for resources and information. This report sets out the key findings of the survey, identifying areas requiring responses and future research priorities. [More >](#)

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Housing crisis impacting the mental health & safety of young women in regional Australia

This report finds that one in eight women on low to moderate incomes in regional Australia have been homeless in the past five years and three out of 10 young women surveyed reported feeling stressed about housing and say their mental health and wellbeing is often further impacted because of their housing and/or financial situation. [More >](#)

Changing Tracks: An action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2020–2022

A reduction to the high number and over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in foster, kinship and other state care is the first priority of the Changing Tracks action plan. [More >](#)

Strategy 2026: Realising Potential, Creating Together

The SA Women's and Children's Health Network has a clear plan to support its vision of providing leading healthcare to women, babies, children, young people and their families. [More >](#)

Reflections on COVID-19

Reflections on COVID-19 is a report in which South Australian young people reflect in their own words on the impact the coronavirus has had on their world and their futures. [More >](#)

Nurturing healthy minds together

There is widespread agreement on the need to increase investment in mental health support at the beginning of a child's life to improve long-term wellbeing. However, the small, day-to-day interactions between babies and very young children and their parents and carers can make the greatest difference. [More >](#)

Why parenting matters for children in the 21st century

This paper provides a structured overview of the existing parenting literature with the aim of developing an evidence-based and culture-sensitive framework of parenting and its influence on child development. [More >](#)

COVID-19 Carer Survey Summary of Results

This survey captured unpaid carers' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of assessing the impact of the pandemic on carers' work, income, expenses, health and wellbeing and access to services and supports. The 471 responses from carers across Australia demonstrate the considerable impact the pandemic has had. [More >](#)

Safe & nurtured

Nargneit Birrang - Aboriginal holistic healing framework for family violence

The Nargneit Birrang Framework has been created in response to the Victorian Government's intent to develop an Aboriginal-led and co-designed, statewide family violence holistic healing approach for Aboriginal communities. It recognises that Victorian Aboriginal communities have consistently led the way in the development of strategic priorities and actions to prevent and respond to family violence. [More >](#)

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Stories of housing and home: A snapshot from the Stories of Resourcing and Resourcefulness project

This report presents findings from a three-year study into how young people with complex service needs engage with both formal and informal supports over time. It highlights how these young people's housing experiences reflect their complex histories, with few finding permanent, safe and stable housing options. [More >](#)

Redesign of a homelessness service system for young people

A significant proportion (44%) of all individuals who need and seek help from homelessness services are young people and children. About 42,000 (16%) are adolescents and young adults presenting to services on their own. This research identifies measures that could reduce youth homelessness and lead to improved outcomes for young people who experience homelessness. [More >](#)

SA the second biggest spender on child protection services

Data from the latest Report on Government Services 2020 shows that SA spends more on child protection services per child than all other states except the Northern Territory. In fact, in 2018-19, SA's expenditure on child protection services was 25.1% higher than the national average. [More >](#)

Engaging with parents when there are child protection concerns: Key considerations

Parental engagement is key to the effective support of children and families. When a family has child protection concerns, or is in contact with child protection services, effective parental engagement can be particularly challenging. [More >](#)

Engaging with parents who have children in out-of-home care: Key considerations

Engaging with parents or caregivers who have children living in out-of-home care can be daunting for practitioners who do not have much experience with child protection services. This resource outlines some of the key considerations for engaging with such parents and encourages reflection on the relevance of these issues. [More >](#)

Aboriginal children and young people continue to be over-represented in care and detention

The proportion of Aboriginal children and young people in care (34.2%) in South Australia has worsened in the last five years. Worse still, many young people are likely to remain in care for extended periods of time, with only 62% living with someone from their family, community or cultural background. [More >](#)

Surviving Incarceration

This research looked at factors contributing to the over-representation of looked after children in child prisons in South and West Yorkshire. Their differing experiences whilst in custody has found that children who have been in care are more likely to develop a 'survivor mentality', a form of self-reliance that made it harder for them to focus on future ambitions for positive achievement and to leave their offending behind them. [More >](#)

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Youth justice in Australia 2018–19

This report looks at young people who were under youth justice supervision in Australia during 2018–19 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. It explores the key aspects of supervision, both in the community and in detention, as well as recent trends. [More >](#)

The PIPA project: Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent violence in the home

Adolescent violence in the home (AVITH) is a pattern (not an isolated incident) of violent or abusive behaviour used by an adolescent within their family, mostly against parents or other caregivers and siblings. The overarching aim of the PIPA project was to address a gap in knowledge concerning AVITH, specifically the initial legal response that adolescents and their families receive when their use of AVITH comes to the attention of the legal system. [More >](#)

Abused children feel like this all the time

Without knowing it, all of us have experienced a little of what abused children feel like all the time. Of course, abuse is perpetrated in children's families or in the institutions that they take part in. The trauma of abuse is far worse for children than the experience of COVID-19 has been for all of us. But in a real way, COVID-19 has given us the insight that none of these children can afford for us to forget. [More >](#)

A public health approach to preventing child maltreatment

Researchers and policymakers have called for a shift from incident-driven statutory child protection responses to greater investment in coordinated system-wide child and family focused approaches to preventing child maltreatment. However, system-wide capacity to prevent maltreatment is limited without an intelligent information infrastructure that is able to routinely examine child and family focused outcomes. [More >](#)

What risk factors are associated with being placed in out-of-home care?

The NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS) examined 17 risk factors to see if they could accurately predict whether a child would be placed in OOHC by the age of 13–14 years. The study identified six risk factors that can jointly classify children with an OOHC placement with 95% accuracy. [More >](#)

Social workers in schools: an evaluation of pilots in three local authorities in England

This report evaluates three pilot projects which embedded social workers in schools in England. The pilots in Lambeth, Southampton and Stockport explored how working in this way might help reduce referrals, support schools and reduce the need for children to enter care. [More >](#)

Playing IT Safe: Helping parents, carers and educators teach young children how to stay safe online

Playing IT Safe aims to help parents, carers and educators teach prior to school age children how to stay safe online. Starting online safety education using play-based activities at a young age sets up a foundation for safer experiences and interactions. [More >](#)

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Protecting children online: An overview of recent developments in legal frameworks and policies

The digital environment presents a wide range of benefits to children, whilst also exposing them to various risks, including cyberbullying, harmful content and inappropriate contact with strangers. This report provides an overview of the legal and policy actions that governments, international organisations and other stakeholders have taken to ensure a safe and beneficial digital environment for children. [More >](#)

Use proper names for body parts, don't force hugs: how to protect your kids from in-person sexual abuse

The Australian Federal Police have warned that child exploitation in Australia is becoming more prolific, violent and brazen. The good news is, when parents are empowered with accurate information, they can better protect their children. This article busts some of the myths and provides tips to help reduce a child's risk of being abused. [More >](#)

PlayConnect Evaluation Final Report - March 2020

PlayConnect is a supported playgroup for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or ASD-like characteristics. This evaluation shows that PlayConnect is highly valued by participants and fills an important service gap for families. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

Making space for learning

With support, children and young people can, and do, recover from the harmful effects of trauma. To do so, however, they need adults in their lives to be understanding of and responsive to their unique needs. This resource offers opportunities to build practical strategies which can be used to support children and young people. [More >](#)

Growing Up Digital Australia Phase 1 Results

It is clear that the time children spend both in and out of school on digital technologies is having a significant impact not only on their brains, minds and bodies, but also how they experience the world around them. These impacts often manifest differently depending on a child's home circumstances and the socioeconomic status of their family/caregivers. [More >](#)

City designers looking to unlock kids' creative visions

Architects are unlocking the creativity of children to help redesign and give colour to visions of cities beyond the coronavirus. Submissions have already been received from Australia, Canada, Cambodia and Spain. [More >](#)

Scotland's outdoor play initiative has lessons for the rest of the world

Currently, in Scotland, as in other parts of the western world (for example, Scandinavia, Canada, Australia), outdoor play programs are 'boutique' programs that serve and are staffed by a very small subset of families, children and early childhood educators. [More >](#)

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Don't want to send the kids back to school? Why not try unschooling at home?

As schools resume for most Australian students, a new group of parents have emerged. These parents have decided to give home education a longer term try, finding their children have improved academically and benefited from the calmer home learning environment. [More >](#)

COVID catch-up: Helping disadvantaged students close the equity gap

As schools reopen, most students will recover quickly, but disadvantaged students will need extra support to catch up. Even if remote learning was working well, disadvantaged students are likely to have learnt at about 50 per cent of their regular rate, losing about a month of learning over a two-month lockdown. [More >](#)

Participation

Children's Coronavirus Lockdown Time Capsule

There is no doubt that the world has changed dramatically. In years to come we will study this point in history that we are living through. Our grandchildren will ask us about what it was like. The following reflective activity for children has been developed in honour of this momentous time. [More >](#)

Young, Willing and Able: Youth Survey Disability Report 2019

This report compares young people with disability with young people who did not have a disability in the Youth Survey 2019 and includes the following recommendations: develop a National Jobs Plan; improve employment services for young people with disability; develop a national advertising campaign to promote employment of people with disability; embed voices of young people with disability in the next National Disability Strategy. [More >](#)

Young Queenslanders are taking on Clive Palmer's coal company and making history for human rights

In a landmark case, 25 young people aged 13 to 30 are mounting a legal challenge to the massive Galilee Basin coal project. This will be the first time human rights arguments are used in a climate change case in Australia. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

Off to work we go

Although young people may have a greater diversity of job opportunities and career options available to them, the journey from school to work is not straightforward. Given school is a key environment in which careers education is delivered, it makes sense to ask young people for their views on what they think is required to be future work ready, and whether they felt their careers education at school is preparing them. [More >](#)

The next employment challenge from coronavirus: how to help the young

Even before COVID-19, young Australians were doing it hard in the labour market. This crisis brings with it extra reasons to believe young people will be hard hit. [More >](#)

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Our World, Our Say: children and young people lead Australia's largest climate and disaster risk survey

The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–30* recognises that children and young people are agents of change and should be given the appropriate mechanisms to contribute. Over 1500 children and young people shared their thoughts in Australia's largest youth consultation on disaster risk and climate change. [More >](#)

The Big Movers: Understanding population mobility in regional Australia

Contrary to popular perceptions, between the last two national Census in 2011 and 2016 more people were moving from capital cities to regional areas than were moving the other way. The report also takes a closer look at the way that millennials (20-35-year-olds) moved to and between regional communities. The focus on this age group is of particular interest to policymakers, as it consists of families as well as other professionals. [More >](#)

University students aren't cogs in a market. They need more than a narrow focus on 'skills'

Something is going wrong in the relationship between education and employment. Education should equip young people not just with specific skills, but also with the knowledge they need to be citizens, parents, community members, and for occupations in which they can grow and develop across the course of their lives. [More >](#)