

CYPMatters

Every child and young person counts!

Respect & listening

Abseiling down this sea cliff, Indigenous kids are teaching the Australian military about culture and courage

Exercise Thura Yura camp at Whaler's Way on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula aims to flip the script and get local Aboriginal communities teaching Australian Defence Force personnel about their country and culture. [More >](#)

In their own words: the digital lives of schoolchildren

Key themes from a survey of 14,944 young people aged 11-16 in the UK carried out in 2019 include: content risk is more commonly experienced than contact risk, with pro-suicide content being the most frequently seen and mentioned, and vulnerabilities are likely to be amplified or exacerbated in the digital environment. [More >](#)

The Things That Matter - Views of 8-12 year olds on life, school and community

South Australia's 8-12 year olds value kindness, fairness and equality in leaders and 'doing the right thing'. They also want to ensure that everyone, regardless of age or background, can afford healthcare, education, housing and transport, and they want to learn, play, do well, and be happy, healthy, active and creative. [More >](#)

Hearing the voices of Aboriginal people in child welfare

This report aims to elevate the voices and experiences of Aboriginal peoples within the child welfare system and provide a basis aimed at achieving substantive change. [More >](#)

'Food is a marker of identity': supporting foster children's cultural heritage

The symbolic significance of food as a marker of identity and a link to a cultural heritage is well understood in the field of migrant and refugee studies but what about care leavers from ethnic minorities who may also be experiencing a sense of cultural dislocation? [More >](#)

Not a day passes without thinking about race: what African migrants told us about parenting in Australia

Twenty seven highly skilled professional African migrants from eight Sub-Saharan African countries were interviewed about their experiences of employment, belonging and parenting in Australia. Parents told interviewers they had to consider how race affected the identity, perception, opportunities and well-being of their children. [More >](#)

Podcast highlights the importance of connecting to culture

In this inspiring and insightful interview, Isaiah shares his story about life in the care system and the importance of being connected to culture and family. [More >](#)

Youth Survey Report 2020

This report reveals that young Australians aged between 15 to 19 years old have significant concerns relating to equity and discrimination, COVID-19, mental health, education and employment. [More >](#)

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Using artificial intelligence to make decisions: Addressing the problem of algorithmic bias (2020)

Governments are starting to use AI to make decisions in welfare, policing and law enforcement, immigration, and many other areas. Meanwhile, the private sector is already using AI to determine what sorts of people make the 'best' customers. However, using AI carries with it the risk of algorithmic bias. [More >](#)

A birth certificate is a human right. Why aren't they free and easier to get?

A name and nationality are every child's right and Australian academics have previously argued the UNCRC 'implicitly includes the right to a birth certificate'. Yet not every Australian child is registered or has a birth certificate. [More >](#)

What Matters to Young Australians?

This report aims to understand what young people concerns are, how they conceptualise different issues, if and how those issues and concerns are changing over time, and what they reveal about their contemporary politics. [More >](#)

Health & wellbeing

Wellbeing and healing through connection and culture

Young Indigenous peoples, including children, die by suicide at far greater rates than their non-Indigenous peers. This review summarises emerging research and knowledge, key themes and principles surrounding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives and concepts of healing and social and emotional wellbeing as they relate to suicide prevention. [More >](#)

Newcastle creatives bring Indigenous ear health to the national stage

The Hear. Listen. Yarn. campaign has sharpened the nation's focus on the plight of First Nations children's ear health. The set of screening tools developed in collaboration with Aboriginal health and early education services are the only resources of their kind in Australia that assess infants as young as 4 months to 5 years. [More >](#)

Coronavirus survey into children's mental health reveals anxiety, depression

Nearly one in five children experienced disruptive behaviour, disturbed sleep, and symptoms of anxiety or depression during coronavirus restrictions earlier this year, however, the majority adapted well to the changes. [More >](#)

Parent mental health can influence the early arrival of babies, MCRI research finds

This study found that men with persistent mental health problems through adolescence and young adulthood were more likely to have a baby born premature, and women with anxiety and depression during pregnancy were more likely to have a preterm birth. [More >](#)

Trampolines not traps: Enabling economic security for single mothers and their children

In Australia four out of five single-parent households (35%) are headed by women. Single-parent families have the highest poverty rates among family types and children in single-parent families are more than three times as likely to live in poverty (44%) as children in couple families (13%). [More >](#)

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Improving health equity among young people: the role of social enterprise

Work and employment, including the conditions and nature of work itself, are key arenas in which the many influences on health and wellbeing play out. Work integration social enterprises provide one mechanism for addressing the root causes of health inequity among young people. [More >](#)

A vision for an integrated early childhood system in Western Australia

Envisage a world where every family with a child under the age of four could get all the advice and support they need, from pregnancy to the first day of compulsory school, within their neighbourhood from friendly, well-trained staff with expertise in maternal and child health, early learning and parenting. [More >](#)

Not all babies are in the same boat

This study looked at family life and early child development in the UK during the coronavirus pandemic. Findings, based on the experiences of over 500 parents of under-3-year-olds, include: 90% of families reported an increase in enriching activities (talking, reading and playing together) during lockdown; however, socio-economically disadvantaged parents were less likely to engage in enriching activities with their children. [More >](#)

'Nobody is Normal' campaign aims to address anxiety and isolation

Thousands of UK children have been seeking help about mental health, body image, gender and sexuality during the Covid-19 pandemic. This campaign aims to help children understand that lacking confidence, feeling not good enough or that you don't fit in, is a shared experience. [More >](#)

How air pollution, green space and the 'built environment' may shape a child's body mass index

A study of almost 80,000 children living in urban areas of Spain's Catalonia region has linked exposure to higher air pollution levels and greater population density during the early months of life with an increase in children's body mass index (BMI). Greater exposure to green space could be associated with the opposite effect. [More >](#)

Doctors encouraged to learn more about mental health to better help children

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and last summer's devastating bushfires, GPs are being encouraged to undertake new mental health training to help children who've experienced disasters. [More >](#)

Woman-centred care: Strategic directions for Australian maternity services

This document outlines a national strategy to support the delivery of maternity services to women, from conception until 12 months after the pregnancy or birth. [More >](#)

Novel sources of data for monitoring food and nutrition

Monitoring food and nutrition is of significant public health importance. There are, however, limitations to many of the data sources traditionally used in food and nutrition monitoring as they are infrequently and/or irregularly collected, are subject to various biases, are expensive to collect, and/or have a high participant burden. [More >](#)

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Virtual Roundtable Recording: Children and Young People's Mental Health during COVID-19

This Roundtable considered how to protect and promote children's good mental health and resilience during and after COVID-19 and is of interest to policymakers in all spheres of mental health and child wellbeing. [More >](#)

Identifying and responding to bullying in the pre-teen years: the role of primary health care practitioners

The association between bullying in childhood and later mental health problems, including depression, anxiety and suicidality, is well established. In order to reduce mental illness burden in the adult population, effective prevention of and responses to bullying behaviours in childhood is needed. [More >](#)

Children hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic are regressing in basic skills and learning

Ofsted UK has published five reports on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic across early years; schools; children's social care; and special educational needs and disability (SEND). Findings include: some children, of all ages and backgrounds, have lost some basic skills and learning as a result of school closures and restrictions on movement; referrals to social care teams dropped when not all children were physically attending school. [More >](#)

Beyond masks: Societal impacts of COVID-19 and accelerated solutions for children and adolescents

Children remain at profound risk of the direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19. While children fare better in terms of the physical effects of the virus, the psychosocial and economic impacts are still unfolding. [More >](#)

Connecting Health & Learning Part I: The Science

The environments we create and the experiences we provide for young children and their families affect not just the developing brain and early learning, but also many other physiological systems and lifelong health. [More >](#)

Safe & nurtured

Inquiry into integrated housing support for vulnerable families

Social housing continues to be an important for women leaving domestic family violence (DFV). While it does not always offer an ideal living environment for women dealing with trauma or safety concerns, it does provide secure tenure and ongoing affordability. [More >](#)

Safeguarding children in care and detention with disability

Children and young people are generally relied on to contact the Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor regarding what is happening for them. This excludes children in care who are too young to make contact or who have communication or other disabilities that impede their ability to seek assistance. [More >](#)

New ACU research will improve supervised contact visits for 45,000 children

Contact visits, or access visits as they are sometimes known, allow children and their families to be with one another in a safe way. However, those working in early childhood education and care are often left to manage the distress children experience when visits are cancelled, parents fail to attend, or when visits are negative experiences. [More >](#)

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Safe & Together Addressing ComplexiTY for Children (STACY for Children)

This research found that practitioners involved in implementing the Safe & Together Model reported their direct practice to be moving ahead of that of their organisations', in relation to creating visibility of children, holding a focus on adult clients as parents, and keeping all family members in view around tactics of coercion and control. [More >](#)

From Risk to Opportunity: Framing Adolescent Development A Communications Toolkit

From around age 10 to 25 we discover, learn from, and adapt to the world around us, forge our sense of who we are and who we aspire to be, learn to make decisions, manage our emotions, and create connections with peers and others. Our developing brains are well suited to these tasks, but too often the systems that serve us are not. [More >](#)

Ensuring all children get the best start in life: A population approach to early intervention and prevention

Children need safe and supportive families in order to thrive. While many Australian children experience this, some experience greater adversities that can undermine their safety and wellbeing. [More >](#)

The Primary Prevention Paradox

View this insightful discussion between two experts in the child maltreatment field, who look at the complexities and opportunities of applying a public health model to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. [More >](#)

Breaking down the core topics all Child Safe Organisations should understand

In this series of four videos, experienced Safeguarding Children Practitioners talk about the important issues for organisations to consider and understand in their quest to create and maintain a child safe culture. [More >](#)

I am showing you...On the inside...I need...A free therapeutic tool to use with children and young people

This resource is for practitioners to summarise how children and young people can be supported at different states of arousal using Polyvagal theory as the basis. It offers opportunities to support parents/carers, care teams and even some children and young people to gain insight into how relational interactions can support regulation. [More >](#)

Children and young people on the edge of care, out of home and alone

Every year thousands of Australian children and young people under 16 leave home or go missing from out-of-home care placements. Yet no formal, comprehensive response to this problem exists in any state or territory. [More >](#)

Child protection service delivery standards

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK) has published a set of standards for the delivery of child protection medical assessments across the UK in order to promote equitable, high quality child protection services. The 13 standards were primarily developed for where there are concerns about physical abuse and neglect. [More >](#)

'We're just kids as well': towards recognition and support for young kinship carers

This report focuses on young kinship carers including older sisters and brothers, young aunts and uncles, and other young people who take on the care of children at considerable personal cost. [More >](#)

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Suicidality and help seeking in Australian young people

Suicide is the leading cause of death for young Australians, however thoughts and behaviours related to suicide often go undetected and unreported. This short article presents the findings of longitudinal research into suicidality and help-seeking behaviours and provides strategies to guide practitioners working with young people. [More >](#)

A year of reforms and achievements for young people in detention

Humane and respectful reforms for children and young people detained in South Australia's only youth detention centre are highlighted in the Training Centre Visitor's latest annual report. [More >](#)

Ensuring children are safe online and preventing technology-assisted child sexual abuse

InCtrl (UK) is designed to help keep children aged 9 to 13 years safe online and to prevent technology-assisted child sexual abuse. Children and young people are supported to build digital resilience by helping them recognise the risks they encounter online, promoting their emotional wellbeing and strengthening the supports around them. [More >](#)

Think b4 you type

'Think b4 you type' is a toolkit to help schools in Scotland run campaigns to prevent online bullying. The toolkit was designed in collaboration with young people and it allows young people to design and lead their own campaign around the issue of online bullying and how best to prevent and respond to it. [More >](#)

The Family Matters report 2020

The rising tide of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families continues at an alarming rate, with the majority of those children permanently separated from their parents. [More >](#)

Family Matters in conversation with the Aboriginal children's commissioners

Aboriginal children's commissioners, April Lawrie, South Australia; Justin Mohamed, Victoria; and Natalie Lewis, Queensland discuss how to make child protection more accountable to Aboriginal children and their families. [More >](#)

Enjoying & achieving

With Australian families under mounting pressure, some schoolkids will struggle more than others

Children and young people have had a tough year with most having spent at least part of 2020 learning from home. There is little data yet on how Australian children fared, but a recent British study of home schooling suggests what many feared: the pandemic has exacerbated educational inequality. [More >](#)

School of fish: how we involved Indigenous students in our investigation of a 65,000-year-old site

The Djenj Project is a great example of how grass-roots projects can provide practical benefits for Aboriginal communities, while contributing to scientific research. The model of collaborative teaching and learning from each other can be customised to benefit other communities. [More >](#)

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Measuring Australia's digital divide: the Australian digital inclusion index 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the critical importance of digital inclusion in contemporary Australia. For students from already digitally excluded households, COVID-19 has disrupted their education. Without significant support, these students are less likely than their counterparts to return to a successful educational pathway. [More >](#)

How 'school streets' could create safer, healthier cities

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, communities living in cities need cleaner air to breathe and outdoor public space to be social yet physically distanced. Recognition of these issues has led public health experts, architects and urban planners to discuss how to design cities to respond to the pandemic. [More >](#)

The report of an independent inquiry into suspensions, exclusions and expulsions in South Australian government schools

This report presents evidence, findings and recommendations derived from extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, and analysis of data provided by the Department for Education regarding the use of exclusionary discipline in South Australian government schools. It found that most SA government schools are safe and orderly. Of the 177,246 students enrolled in 2019, only 3.3% of students were sent home, 5.8% were suspended, and 0.5% were excluded. [More >](#)

Investing in Australia's Early Childhood Infrastructure

This report calls for a rethink of our fundamental approach to early childhood education and care (ECEC) to ensure that we have an accessible and high quality ECEC system. It asks us to stop treating our younger children as second class when it comes to the provision of quality education services. [More >](#)

The Blame Game

This report looks at the perspectives of South Australian children and young people on the causes and impacts of education exclusion and why we need to stop blaming children for system failure. [More >](#)

A year without NAPLAN has given us a chance to re-evaluate how we gauge school quality

The overemphasis on only literacy and numeracy scores in NAPLAN stands in the way of providing a more holistic education. We need a system that delivers confident citizens and creative problem solvers. [More >](#)

Participation

An overview of child participation: Key issues for organisations and practitioners

Children's participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of services is likely to lead to more effective services and better outcomes for children and families. Their participation, therefore, offers benefits not only to children and families but also to practitioners and service providers. [More >](#)

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'Cycling Cities' for infants, toddlers and caregivers

Incorporating the needs of children and caregivers into a city's cycling strategy benefits all users. The framework in this report offers a roadmap for a city to transition from limited opportunities or openness to cycling to a cycling city for infants, toddlers, and caregivers. [More >](#)

Delivering progress for the most excluded children

After 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all governments need to do more to reach the most excluded children and make investment in their futures a priority. [More >](#)

Voices of Children and Young People with Disability Report

This report highlights the ways in which children and young people with disability, who are experts in their own lives, want to be included in the planning and implementation of practical solutions that affect them. [More >](#)

Prepared for adult life

What can Australia learn from the UK push to bring more men into ECEC?

Gender diversity in the workforce matters because when caregiving is publicly recognised, valued and rewarded as an activity for men as well as women, young children are more likely to grow up making less constrained choices about their own careers and gender roles in families. [More >](#)

The role of labour market information in guiding educational and occupational choices

This paper examines how learners access and use information, and what this implies for the design of public study and career choice websites that aim to effectively support student choice. [More >](#)

Earning and Learning Research Project

The aim of the Earning and Learning Research Partnership was to explore the reasons why a substantial proportion of successive cohorts of students in South Australia had not completed the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or were identified as potential non-completers. [More >](#)

Educational opportunity in Australia 2020

More than at any other time, young Australians need to be prepared to face an uncertain economic and social future. Education and training in Australia are important to foster the development of a broad range of knowledge and skills. To meet future challenges, Australians must grow up resilient, adaptable and well-informed. [More >](#)