

DoCS Research to Practice **Update**

*A regular update for staff on the latest national and international research
Special Indigenous Edition*

Issue 4, March 2006

Research Publications – What's New!

Research to practice

The Research to Practice Program provides an essential link between the latest research and DoCS staff.

As part of this important initiative, the Research to Practice Update encompasses a broad range of research publications and resources to reflect the diversity of DoCS staff.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we could improve this Update to make it more useful or relevant to your work, please email the Research to Practice Team at:

- researchtopractice@community.nsw.gov.au, or
- 'Research to Practice' on the internal email.

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National – other agencies

Footprints in Time—The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC)

LSIC is an Australian Government initiative which aims to improve the understanding of, and policy response to, the diverse circumstances faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their families and communities. LSIC will provide a data resource that can be drawn on to provide a better insight into how a child's early years affect the way they develop and mature.

To find out more about LSIC, a copy of the Consultation Paper is available online at: www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ldi-lsic_publications.htm

Child abuse and neglect in Indigenous Australian communities

This report, developed by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, examines the incidence of Indigenous children in Australia experiencing child abuse and neglect.

While available statistics are imperfect, they do demonstrate that the occurrence of violence in Indigenous communities and among Indigenous people is disproportionately high in comparison to the rates of the same types of violence in the Australian population as a whole.

A copy of the report is available online at: www.aifs.gov.au/nch/issues/issues19.html

A copy of a resource sheet about the same issue is available online at: www.aifs.gov.au/nch/sheets/rs10.html

Child welfare approaches for Indigenous communities: international perspectives

This report, developed by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, describes a range of service models that focus on Indigenous collaboration, community development, community participation and community control.

A copy of the report is available online at: www.aifs.gov.au/nch/issues/issues20.html

Family violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities: 'Walking the talk'

Family violence and sexual assault are reported to be at crisis levels in many Indigenous communities. Developed by the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, this Briefing Paper provides an overview of the key issues and findings from recent reports and research into family violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities.

A copy of the paper is available online at: www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/briefing/b4.html

Early Learnings: Indigenous Community Development Projects

This report, developed by the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, was the principal outcome of an evaluation of projects that were supporting children and families, or addressing early childhood literacy.

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These projects looked at community-identified solutions for the serious social and health problems affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

A copy of the report can be viewed online at: www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/2005/reports/telstra2/telstra2.html#indigenous

Achieving stable and culturally strong out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

This policy paper, developed by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. (SNAICC), presents an approach to out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia. The paper focuses on foster care but also covers the whole out-of-home care 'journey'.

A copy of the report can be viewed online at: www.snaicc.asn.au/publications/index.html

New initiatives

Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies

FaCS provides funding for up to 16 Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies (AICCAs). The AICCA program was reviewed in 2004/05.

One of the recommendations was joining AICCA with the Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing Program to form a new program focusing on early intervention and prevention for Indigenous children and their families. This new program, the Indigenous Children Programme, was introduced from 1 January 2006.

A copy of the review report can be viewed online at: www.facs.gov.au/internet.nsf/content/parenting_early_childhood.htm

Other Initiatives

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Stronger Families Working Exchange

The Stronger Families Learning Exchange (SFLEX) project was funded under the Australian Government's Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2000-2004. It aimed to contribute to the formation of an evidence base from which to inform policy, practice and research in strengthening families and communities.

The Working In and With Indigenous Communities section contains a range of useful resources, including:

- Portals and directories
- Organisations
- Government services/programs
- Language resources
- Information resources

This site is available online at: www.aifs.gov.au/sf/findings/indigenoulinks.html

AIFS Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault Research Collection

This site lists both Australian and international papers about Indigenous communities and cultural diversity.

Copies of papers are available either online or are available for loan from the ACSSA collection at the AIFS library.

To view this site, visit: www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/research/diverse.html

Useful links

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy, ANU

The Centre is the only dedicated research facility focusing on Indigenous economic policy issues from a national perspective. The Centre aims to examine government policy, influence policy formulation and inform public debate.
www.anu.edu.au/cepr/

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Website

NATSIEW is an educational portal to a range of internet resources related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with a specific emphasis on education. The site is currently managed by Aboriginal Education, SA Department of Education, Training and Employment.
www.natsiew.nexus.edu.au

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. (SNAICC)
The SNAICC is the national non government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
www.snaicc.asn.au

Australian Council on Children and Parenting (ACCAP) Indigenous Out-of-Home Care Project

This project aims to identify best practice for Indigenous OOHC through a national and international literature review, consultations with stakeholders and focus groups with carers, children and young people in care and careleavers.

Information is available online at:
www.aifs.gov.au/nch/research/menu.html

The National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS)

NCATSIS has national responsibility for quality statistics relating to Australia's Indigenous peoples. The Centre also provides expert advice to government departments, organisations and other users of statistics, particularly those concerned with population, health and welfare.

The Centre can be contacted on 1800 633 216 or emailed at:
ncatsis@abs.gov.au

The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC)

The OIPC is part of the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The OIPC is coordinating a whole-of-government approach to programs and services for Indigenous Australians.

Additional information about their role is available at:
www.oipc.gov.au

Conferences

Old Families, New Beginnings: working with "Ghosts in the Nursery"

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Perinatal & Infant Mental Health Conference

Keynote speakers will focus on the impact of abuse, neglect, drugs, alcohol and family violence on developing infants and their parents. They will discuss the effects of the unremembered past (stolen generations) on the community and work with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities to improve long term outcomes of children.

The conference will be held on 5 & 6 May 2006 at Sydney Olympic Park.

More information is available online at: www.aaimhi.org/conferences.htm

Disclaimer

This Update has been compiled by DoCS' Centre for Parenting and Research as part of the Research to Practice Program. It has been developed to facilitate access to research publications and resources.

The content contained within these publications is provided for your information only and should not be seen as a directive or endorsement by DoCS.

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