

## Children and Young People Policy Scan Issue 12, December 2010/January 2011

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### Consultation Opportunities

**Youth at risk initiative – discussion paper**, Department of Communities, November 2010.

Feedback is sought on the Youth At Risk Initiative which aims to strengthen the youth service system in Queensland by consolidating eleven funded initiatives into a single initiative. Feedback will be used to inform the development of program guidelines and outcomes measurement for the Initiative, which is due to commence on 1 July 2011.

Submissions are due by **28 February 2011**.

<http://www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/youth/documents/yari-discussion-paper.pdf>

**Learn or earn – discussion paper: Implications for young people in-care and post-care**, Testro, P. for CREATE Foundation, November 2010 (published December 2010).

Feedback is sought on how to collaboratively progress discussions and address the issues impacting on the educational and employment outcomes of young people in-care and post-care. See the 'Child Protection' section (below) for detail.

Submissions are due by **25 February 2011**.

[http://www.create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Learn\\_or\\_Earn\\_Discussion\\_Paper\\_web1.pdf](http://www.create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Learn_or_Earn_Discussion_Paper_web1.pdf)

### Reports, research papers, policy initiatives etc

#### ***Child Protection***

**I'll make it work: Young people's views of leaving care in Queensland**, Tennent, L., Jenkins, B., Fraser, E., *Children Australia*, Volume 35(4), December 2010.

This paper by the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian presents selected findings from the Commission's 2009 survey of Queensland children and young people in foster and kinship care. While the survey attracted 2727 responses, the paper focuses specifically on the views of 124 young people aged 16 to 18 years.

Young people were surveyed on a range of issues including leaving care, their health and wellbeing, education, placement histories, and perceptions of both their current placement and the care system in general. Findings reveal that most young people are optimistic about managing independent living but anticipate needing a range of supports, especially financial assistance and help finding accommodation.

Over half would prefer to continue living with their foster or kinship care family and more than three quarters would like ongoing contact with the family after they leave care.

These findings underscore the need to address the numerous structural and personal barriers that care leavers may encounter when they leave their care as well as the need for flexibility in terms of the age at which young people must leave their care situation. The authors emphasise, that in order for such changes to occur, they must be reflected in legislation and supported by detailed policy frameworks and benchmarks.

For more information please contact Lee Tennent on 32116865 or email: [lee.tennent@ccypcg.qld.gov.au](mailto:lee.tennent@ccypcg.qld.gov.au)

**Learn or Earn discussion paper: Implications for young people in-care and post-care**, Testro, P. for CREATE Foundation, November 2010 (published December 2010).

This paper seeks to promote debate about how to improve educational and employment outcomes for young people who are or have been in care. Stakeholder organisations are asked to consider how they can contribute to the discussion.

In August 2010, CREATE commissioned the preparation of the discussion paper to:

- promote awareness of the Learn or Earn policy in relation to young people in-care and post-care
- improve young people's access to education, employment and transitional opportunities, and
- ensure that young people are not disadvantaged in accessing youth allowance.

The paper provides an overview of the Learn or Earn policy and identifies the broader national policy context relating to young people in-care and leaving care. It also:

- reports on young people's awareness of, and views about, the policy
- examines whether young people are learning or earning
- examines the factors impacting education and employment outcomes drawing on the views of young people and available literature and research
- examines issues with young people accessing Youth Allowance
- identifies strategies for improving education and employment outcomes drawing on the views of young people and available literature and research, and
- provides concluding comments and encourages continuing discussion and about the Learn or Earn policy and how it can benefit young people in-care and post-care.

[http://www.create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Learn\\_or\\_Earn\\_Discussion\\_Paper\\_web1.pdf](http://www.create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Learn_or_Earn_Discussion_Paper_web1.pdf)

**Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders: A pilot study, stage 2**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, January 2011.

This pilot study report is based on data from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. The study population of almost 4700 children, included children in grades 3, 5 and 7 at government schools who participated in education department-based reading and numeracy tests between 2003 and 2006.

The pilot study found:

- a considerable proportion of children on guardianship/custody orders are not meeting the national benchmarks for reading and numeracy.

- results varied considerably across states and grades. For reading, the proportion who did not achieve the benchmark for their year level ranged from 56% for Grade 5 students in Queensland in 2005 to 4% among Grade 3 Tasmanian students in 2003. For numeracy, the proportions ranged from 68% of Grade 7 children in Tasmania in 2006 to 7% of Grade 3 children in Victoria in 2004.
- the benchmark achievement of children on orders was lower than children with a non-English speaking background and those living in remote areas, but similar to that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the general population.
- within the study population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on orders were about half as likely to achieve the literacy and numeracy benchmarks. This suggests that Indigenous children are a subgroup at increased risk of poor academic achievement within an already disadvantaged group.
- length of time on orders and living arrangements were not significant factors in benchmark achievement, though the report suggests further analyses using other outcomes measures would be worthwhile to confirm these findings.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/37/11775.pdf>

**Online interactions involving suspected paedophiles who engage male children**, Grosskopf, A., *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No 403, Australian Institute of Criminology, December 2010.

This paper summarises the results of a small scale study which examined the online interactions of suspected paedophiles with undercover Australian police posing as male children.

As much of the existing research relates to female victimisation, this study provides insights into the behaviour of persons who use the internet to exploit male children. The study highlights how those behaviours can differ from online interactions which target female children and discusses the implications these gender differences have for policing methods.

For example, the study found:

- interactions with male children were less sexually explicit and less aggressive than those undertaken with females
- predatory strategies focused on establishing friendship and centred on the male body and sexuality
- predatory strategies ranged from explicit sexual conversation to more cautious and subtle grooming
- some offenders appeared to be intent on procuring a child over time, with contact as the ultimate goal
- police strategies, focusing on a quick arrest, rather than engaging in protracted interactions, may exclude more serious offenders from arrest.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/C/8/C/%7BC8C25B82-6F4A-4119-BC62-75840BA8D22A%7Dtandi403.pdf>

**Issues for the safety and wellbeing of children in families with multiple and complex problems: The co-occurrence of domestic violence, parental substance misuse and mental health problems**, Bromfield, L., Lamont, A., Parker, R., and Horsfall, B., Australian Institute of Family Studies, December 2010.

This paper investigates the impacts on parenting of parental substance misuse problems, mental health problems and domestic violence and presents evidence regarding the extent to which these problems co-occur, heightening the risk of child abuse and neglect. It discusses how families with these multiple, often inter-related problems are also likely to be living within a wider context of isolation and disadvantage.

As these families are a primary client group for child protection services, the authors then overview the research and theory for working with families with multiple problems and explore the implications for the child protection system. They suggest practitioners should be supported and prepared to know how to work with these families as a matter of routine practice.

Suggestions made for practitioners who provide early intervention for these families include:

- basing an assessment on the nature of the parent child-relationship, rather than the risks associated with the parental problems
- considering the extent to which the children are aware of the parental problems
- planning an intervention strategy prioritised according to the hierarchy of needs over time, not attempting to deal with everything at once which could overwhelm the family
- understanding that effective parenting has to be learned and can be influenced by a variety of other factors; and
- assisting to heal the parent-child relationship.

The authors conclude that an integrated service system prioritising early intervention and prevention may, in turn, ease demand on statutory child protection services and lead to better outcomes for disadvantaged children and families.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/issues/issues33/index.html>

**Child Protection Australia 2009–10**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, January 2011.

This report provides statistical information on state and territory child protection and support services, and describes some of the characteristics of children within these systems. It also examines emerging trends in child protection notifications and substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out-of-home care.

The report shows that nationally in 2009–10:

- the number of children subject of a child protection notification decreased by 10% to just over 187,000 and the number subject to a substantiation of a notification decreased by 4%, to around 31,300 children. Over the six year period from 2004–05 to 2009–10, there has been an overall decrease of 8% in substantiations. This may reflect a genuine decrease, however other factors impact the data including changes in community awareness regarding child abuse and neglect and/or changes to policies, practices and reporting methods.
- the number of children on care and protection orders increased by 7% to just over 37,700 and the number of children in out-of-home care has risen by 5% to around 35,900. Since 2005, there has been a 57% increase in children under care and protection orders, with a 51% increase in the number of children in out-of-home care.

- children in out-of-home care were either in foster care (46%), in relative or kinship care (46%) or in residential care (5%) – a distribution which has remained consistent over the last six years.
- there were almost 8,050 foster carer households. Of these households, 48% had one foster child placed with them, 47% had between two to four foster children and 5% had five or more children.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain over-represented in all areas of the child protection system. The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a substantiation is almost eight times the rate of non-Indigenous children; nine times the rate of non-Indigenous children on care and protection orders and almost 10 times the rate of non-Indigenous children in out-of-home care.

[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/39/12223.pdf](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/39/12223.pdf)

**An outline of National Standards for Out-of-Home Care**, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs together with the National Framework Implementation Working Group, December 2010.

The National Standards for Out-of-Home Care have been designed to deliver consistency and drive improvements in the quality of care provided to children and young people. The Standards focus on those children and young people whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children’s Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive.

One of 12 priority projects of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009–2020*, the National Standards have been developed based on broad consultation with children and young people in care, service providers, carers and governments. The 13 Standards focus on the key areas within care that directly influence positive outcomes for children and young people, including:

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • health                | • transition from care            |
| • education             | • training and support for carers |
| • care planning         | • belonging and identity, and     |
| • connection to family  | • safety, stability and security  |
| • culture and community |                                   |

Children and young people in care will be surveyed annually and their views on care will form part of the process to monitor progress against the Standards. The Standards will commence in July 2011.

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/nat\\_std\\_4\\_outofhomecare/Documents/PAC\\_national\\_standard.pdf](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/nat_std_4_outofhomecare/Documents/PAC_national_standard.pdf)

## ***Youth Justice***

**Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child friendly justice**, Council of Europe, 17 November 2010.

The guidelines outline a declaration of principles and provide practical guidance for European governments to enhance children's access to, and treatment in, any sphere of justice – civil, administrative or criminal – through the implementation of internationally agreed and binding standards for in-court and out-of-court proceedings.

The guidelines benefit from the input of over 3700 children from 25 countries, whose comments helped shape provisions on the right to be heard and to receive information, to have independent representation, as well as the right to access independent and effective complaints mechanisms.

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=23529&flag=news>

**Children's Court Queensland Annual Report 2009-2010**, November 2010.

This report examines 2009–10 Children's Court youth justice data in relation to juvenile defendants by court level, and offences before the Children's Court, Magistrates Courts, and Supreme and District Courts of Queensland.

While the trends indicate an overall increase in the number of charges against young people of about 3.4%, the report finds that this is moderate and may allow for normal temporal adjustments. The report highlights a statistic which is encouraging, namely, that there has been a 7% increase in the number of Justice conferences held during 2009–10, with 48% of the conferences as a result of police referral.

The report also notes the 2010 legislative changes to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, including:

- amendments to the provisions relating to community service orders and supervised release orders
- the widening of Court powers to permit publication of a young person's identifying information
- the imposition of curfews on young people as a special condition of probation, intensive supervision order or conditional release
- the requirement for courts to have regard to the sentence, order or other order that is likely to be made upon a finding or plea of guilt
- bail may now be refused for the reason that a young person's safety is endangered because of the alleged offence
- where a young person fails to attend court following an unsuccessful youth conference or drug assessment and education session, courts are now able to issue a warrant, and
- where orders are made transferring the young person from a youth detention centre to adult custody, the courts now have the option of making a transfer order at the time of sentencing a young person. Such orders can only be made where the young person is aged 16 years or more and the sentence is of such a length that it will detain them beyond the age of 18.

<http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/1340.htm#CC>

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People**

**School readiness: What does it mean for Indigenous children, families, schools and communities?** *Issues paper no. 2*, Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, Dockett, S., Perry, B., & Kearney, E. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, December 2010.

This paper investigates school readiness for Indigenous children from the basis of the strengths of children, families, educators and communities. School readiness is presented as a multi-faceted construct in which children's abilities and health, family capacity, early childhood services and supports, schools, as well as the broader community, all play a role.

The paper rejects the perspective that readiness for school resides in individual children and that some children could be considered 'unready' for school. Rather, it argues that children's readiness and later success at school is influenced not only by their own abilities, but also by the readiness of the school, family and communities in which children live.

[http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/issues\\_papers/ctg-ip02.pdf](http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/issues_papers/ctg-ip02.pdf)

## **Education**

**Education and the social web: Connective learning and the commercial imperative**, Friesen, N. *First Monday*, Volume 15, Number 12, 6 December 2010.

This journal article argues that advertising interests of corporations occupy the centre of socially oriented web technologies, instead of placing the learner at the centre of networks of knowledge and expertise and potentially leading to new methodologies of learning and education.

Although connectivist theories of learning encourage the liberation of learners beyond the classroom and promote safe spaces on the social web free of commercial influence, the author argues that such theorists are naïve because the structure of services like Facebook has been designed purposefully around its business model of advertising.

The author suggests that the social web offers limited potential for education and learning because commercial social networks are much less about circulating knowledge than they are about connecting users with advertising. Their surveillance functions shape an environment intrinsic to the needs of the business model of social networking, which runs counter to models of online student interaction that promotes collaborative knowledge building and inquiry.

<http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3149/2718>

**Giving voice to the impacts of values education: The final report of the Values in Action Schools Project**, Education Services Australia, October 2010 (published December 2010).

This report presents the learnings and outcomes of the Values in Action Schools Project and features many first-hand stories about the project's impact on teachers, students and parents of participating schools.

The project aimed to further develop an evidence base for informing improved school policy and practice in values education. Conducted between December 2008 and November 2009, the project involved 86 schools working in 15 cluster groups. Each group received funding to develop local targeted projects around special interest areas of student wellbeing, resilience and positive education, civics and citizenship and Indigenous, interfaith and intercultural approaches.

[http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/resources/VASP\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_2010.pdf](http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/resources/VASP_FINAL_REPORT_2010.pdf)

## ***Law and Justice***

**Integrated responses to domestic violence: Legally mandated intervention programs for male perpetrators**, Day, A., Chung, D., O'Leary, P., Justo, D., Moore, S., Carson, E., and Gerace, A. *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice*, No 404, Australian Institute of Criminology, December 2010.

This paper describes the impact of a perpetrator program delivered by the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response Service in Queensland. The Service focuses on the provision of legally mandated interventions, consistent with a justice reform model. The data reported is drawn from 38 men who attended the men's program between 2006 and 2009.

Collectively, the pattern of findings reported suggests grounds for some cautious optimism about the value of group intervention programs in bringing about change in male perpetrators of domestic violence. It is not possible, however, to generalise these findings to other programs or other types of intervention.

The paper also outlines the substantial barriers and challenges to evaluating any response to domestic violence intervention programs and refers to debates about how to define and measure program success. According to the authors, significant investment in program evaluation is required, with funding for multi-site controlled trials across Australia.

From a public policy perspective, domestic violence is economically, socially and personally costly. Nearly half of all domestic violence incidents involve physical injury and approximately two-thirds of all women who are murdered are killed by their husband or live-in partner. Domestic violence is also a significant risk factor for children's health and wellbeing. For example, in 2007, of the 156 child deaths known to the Department of Community Services in New South Wales, domestic violence was known to be present in the homes of over half.

It is critical, the authors argue, that domestic violence perpetrator programs develop robust and timely entry pathways and program curricula and that there are consequences for individuals should domestic violence continue or escalate.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/en/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi404.aspx>

**Juveniles in detention in Australia, 1981–2008**, Richards, K., Lyneham, M., Australian Institute of Criminology, December 2010.

This report documents changes in youth detention in Australia between 1981 and 2008. The report details an overall decrease in the number and rate of young people entering detention over this period, despite increases in recent years.

The number of young people in youth detention in Australia has fallen from 1352 at 30 June 1981 to 841 at 30 June 2008, a 38% reduction in the total number of young people in detention over the past 27 years.

The report also highlights the over-representation of Indigenous young people in detention compared with their non-Indigenous counterparts. At 30 June 2008, Indigenous young people were 24 times as likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous young people.

It is further reported that of the 30,732 youth people who were found guilty of an offence in the children's court in the 2007–08, a total of 1744 (or 6%) were sentenced to custody in a youth detention facility. The most frequent types of offences for which young people were sentenced to youth detention were unlawful entry with intent (32%), acts intended to cause injury (28%), robbery, extortion and related offences (16%) and theft and related offences (10%).

<http://apo.org.au/research/juveniles-detention-australia-1981-2008>

## ***Health and Wellbeing***

**The children left behind: A league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries**, Unicef, Innocenti Report Card No 9, December 2010.

This series is designed to monitor and compare the performance of economically advanced countries in securing the rights of their children, particularly those at risk of being left behind. The report presents an overview of inequalities in child well-being for 24 of the world's richest countries (including Australia), by focusing on the three dimensions of material well-being, education and health and asking the question, *'how far behind are children being allowed to fall?'*

The report assesses how far the most disadvantaged children are allowed to fall below national norms in each country (represented by the median value). Nine indicators were chosen as having available and comparable data for a large majority of the OECD countries.

In relation to the three dimensions, the selected indicators are:

- material well-being: disposable household income, possession of educational items and household living space
- educational well-being: reading, maths and science literacy; and
- health well-being: self-reported health complaints, healthy eating and vigorous physical activity.

An acknowledged weakness of the report was the lack of data available for early childhood, as most data reflect the well-being of older children and adolescents.

In compiling the league table, the report's authors found that a small group of countries, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Switzerland are leading the way in promoting 'bottom-end inequality' in child well-being, with countries such as Greece, Italy and the United States, allowing children to fall furthest behind. Not only does this lead to dire consequences for the rights and welfare of individual children, but also nations.

The report suggests that by allowing their vulnerable children to fall behind, nations are incurring lost opportunities that translate into future national economic and social disadvantage.

The analysis in the report also highlights the successful social and economic strategies used by the better ranked countries which provide a template for future policy development and an empirical model for 'the just society'.

[http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc9\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc9_eng.pdf)

**Supporting young parents: CAFCA Practice Sheet**, Price-Robertson, R. Communities and Families Clearing House Australia (CAFCA), December 2010.

This Practice Sheet overviews issues facing young parents and provides practical guidance for service providers working with and supporting young parents and their children. It presents methods that child and family services can use to support young parents, including:

- developing a holistic understanding of the young parents' lives and their developmental phase (eg. biological, psychological and social)
- being sensitive to the needs of young parents when delivering services
- remembering and including young fathers
- adopting a strengths-based approach, and
- collaborating with other local community groups and services.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/pubs/sheets/ps/ps3.pdf>

**Drinking patterns in Australia 2001–2007**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, December 2010.

This report uses data from the three most recent National Drug Strategy Household Surveys (2001, 2004 and 2007) to examine the trends in alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm, alcohol beverage of choice, and under-age drinking. Between 1000 and 1900 people aged 14–17 years participated in the surveys each year.

The major findings relating to young people include:

- the proportion of young people aged 14–17 years that reported being a recent drinker has remained above 60%, with the majority of these drinking less than weekly. A slightly higher proportion of young females were recent drinkers compared with young males.
- alcohol consumption by young people aged 14–17 years has slightly declined from 66% in 2001 to 62% in 2007
- the prevalence of risky or high-risk drinking among young males and females aged 14–19 years has decreased over the years
- more than seven in ten young people sourced their alcohol from friends or parents, and 8% reported buying their alcohol from retailers, and
- nine in ten young drinkers report that it is very easy or fairly easy to obtain alcohol.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/phe/133/11895.pdf>

## **Society and Culture**

**Adoptions Australia 2009–2010**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, December 2010.

This report highlights national trends in adoptions by Australian families of Australian children and children from overseas over recent decades. The report details that since the early 1970s, there has been a 21-fold decrease in the number of adoptions in Australia, with around 400 to 600 children adopted each year in recent years. This decline is due to a decline in the adoption of Australian children.

The report shows that in 2009–10, there were 412 adoptions in Australia, 54% of which were inter-country adoptions. The majority of inter-country adoptees came from the Asian region (82%), particularly the Philippines (22%), China (14%) and South Korea (14%). Ethiopia was the most common country of origin for children adopted by Australians outside the Asian region (15%). Overall, 65% of all adopted children in Australia in the period were aged under five years.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11957>

**Young people and children in social housing**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Bulletin 85, December 2010.

This bulletin looks at:

- how many young people and children are in social housing
- differences in demographics of different household compositions
- long term assistance for young people and children
- repeat periods of housing assistance, and
- inter-generational assistance in public rental housing and state owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH).

Young people and children make up a considerable proportion of residents within social housing. Many of these young people and children have resided in social housing for long periods. At 30 June 2009, 2.8% of public rental households, 5.8% of SOMIH households, and 6.4% of mainstream community housing households had a main tenant who was aged 24 years or under.

In households newly allocated for 2008–09, about 22,500 young people and children were housed in either public rental housing or SOMIH. This represented 50.9% of newly allocated persons in public rental housing and 68.4% of newly allocated persons in SOMIH. Young people and children also represent a large group of tenants in community housing, with more than one in four households surveyed in the 2007 National Social Housing Survey of community housing tenants being a household with children (27.7%).

Children are also often assisted through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). In 2008–09, clients presented with accompanying children in about one-quarter (26%) of all support periods, with 79,100 children accompanying clients. This is consistent with the fact that more than one in four homeless people in Australia on Census night 2006 were members of a homeless family with children. Further, the largest group of clients in SAAP in 2008–09 were young people aged 15–19 years (18%).

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/bulletin85/11587.pdf>

## Submissions prepared by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

**Submission in response to the Queensland Strategy for Reducing Homelessness 2010-2020 Discussion Paper**, January 2011.

The Commission recommended that the Queensland Strategy for Reducing Homelessness 2010-2020 (the Strategy):

- specifically identify and prioritise young people leaving child protection and youth justice systems as a key target group (Priority 2) and in discussion of 'no exits into homelessness' (Priority 3)
- initiate negotiations with Child Safety, Youth & Families, Community Participation to develop an option that allows young people to remain with their foster carer until age 21 and identify the responsibility of each service in jointly supporting this option
- provide greater housing flexibility to support integrated responses that are case managed and tailored to address the complex needs of highly vulnerable young people, including those who self place from out of home care and have challenging behaviours
- initiate the engagement of Child Safety Services in the planning of regional solutions, such as the Homeless Community Action Plans, to improve stakeholder coordination and intervene early when responding to highly vulnerable young people
- participate in Transition from Care planning early in the process to clearly articulate accommodation options and develop contingency plans regardless of whether or not the young person always engages in the process, and
- engage children and young people in decisions that affect them and in the development of homelessness responses that will work for them.

<http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/pdf/submissions/Submission-to-Qld-Strategy-for-Reducing-Homelessness.pdf>

## Events and Conferences

**Child Protection in Australia and New Zealand – Issues and Challenges for Judicial Administration**, Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Child Protection Conference, Brisbane, 5–7 May 2011.

This three day conference will explore many of the challenging child protection issues which impact on the work of courts, tribunals, child protection agencies, law enforcement authorities and legal practitioners who work in the area.

<http://www.aija.org.au/Child%20Protection/Program%20&%20Rego.pdf>

**6th International Drugs and Young People Conference: Making the connections**, Australian Drug Foundation, Melbourne, 2–4 May 2011.

This conference will provide access to current research, practice, community action, resources and networks to connect the many complex factors which influence and impact on young people.

<http://www.adf.org.au/6dyp>

**Positive Schools 2011: Mental Health & Wellbeing Conference**, University of Western Australia & Wise Solutions, Brisbane, 26–27 May 2011.

This conference will present ideas and strategies for creating and enhancing young people's social and emotional wellbeing.

<http://www.positiveschools.com.au/>

**National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference**, Global Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Gold Coast, 17–19 May 2011.

The conference is designed to be the largest national Indigenous gathering of community based groups, government and non-government agencies to highlight and showcase successful programs in the area of domestic violence.

<http://ica-dv.webs.com/indigenoustdvconference.htm>

**Working Together for Young People: Queensland Youth Affairs Conference 2011**, Youth Affairs Network Qld (YANQ), Brisbane, 20 – 21 July 2011.

This conference, to be held in conjunction with YANQ's State Policy Forum, will provide Queensland's youth sector opportunities for networking, professional development and exchanging skills. Conference themes include youth health, education and training, workforce development and innovation, youth housing and youth justice.

[http://www.yanq.org.au/images/stories/Documents/conf\\_2011/conference\\_2011\\_nn\\_article\\_1.doc](http://www.yanq.org.au/images/stories/Documents/conf_2011/conference_2011_nn_article_1.doc)