

**Policy Environmental Scan
July 2008**

Source	Topic	Content
Australian Policy Online - Reports	<i>Young people and alcohol: the role of cultural influences,</i> Ann M. Roche and others / National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction	This report comprises a comprehensive literature review addressing a wide range of social and cultural factors that potentially impact on young Australians aged 14-24 in relation to their use and non-use of alcohol. (219 pages) http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=221850
Australian Policy Online - Reports	<i>Drug testing in schools: evidence, impacts and alternatives,</i> Ann M. Roche and others / National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction	The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) was commissioned by the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) in March 2007 to undertake an independent, comprehensive and critical examination of all relevant issues involved in drug detection and screening in the school setting. The results of the review are presented in this report. Overall, the body of evidence examined indicates a strong case to be made against drug detection and screening strategies being utilized in the school setting. (202 pages) http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=221855
Australian Policy Online - Reports	<i>Living is for everyone: research and evidence in suicide prevention,</i> Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	This report sets the context for suicide prevention activity, summarising current research, evidence and statistics relating to suicide and suicide prevention in Australia. It includes material on suicide risk and protective factors for suicide, suicide trends and comparisons, evidence of what works in suicide prevention and a discussion of the Living Is For Everyone (LIFE) suicide prevention model. (92 pages) http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=221385
Australian Policy Online - Reports	<i>2006 Australian government census of child care services</i> Office of Early Childhood Education, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Conducted regularly since 1986 the census is the most comprehensive data available on Australian government approved and funded child care. It is used extensively for monitoring growth, operation of services and assisting in policy formulation and planning. The most recent Census was conducted in May 2006. The Census examines information about child care users, staff and carers and operational details of child care services for 9 service types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Playgroups and Enrichment Programs • Family Day Care Schemes • In Home Care Schemes • Long Day Care Services • Mobiles and Toy Libraries

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services • Occasional Care Services • Outside School Hours Care Services • Vacation Care Services <p>(Summary booklet 82 pages, full report 300 pages) http://www.oceccc.gov.au/child_care/2006_Australian_Government_Census_Child_Care_Services.htm</p>
Australian Policy Online - Reports	Conference: <i>Partnerships for Social Inclusion</i> 15 and 16 October, Melbourne VIC	Confirmed participants include: The Honourable Steve Maharey, Sylvain Giguere, Professor Mark Considine, Monsignor David Cappelletti, Cath Smith, David Waterford and Geoff Allen. This conference is a collaboration between the CPP, the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development and the OECD's Local Economic and Employment Development Programme. Venue: Telstra Dome Topic: Social policy
Australian Policy Online - Reports	<i>National numeracy review report</i> Gordon Stanley and others / Human Capital Working Group, Council of Australian Governments	Undertaken by a panel of experts led by Professor Gordon Stanley, this review was established to inform best practice for teaching numeracy and mathematics. The report makes 15 recommendations with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for early, systematic teaching of numeracy and mathematics that includes assessment activities to ensure that all students have the foundational skills to progress through a developmental continuum; and • increasing resources for teachers in terms of professional development and pre-service teacher education to address the identified shortfalls in both mathematics content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge to ensure quality teaching of numeracy and mathematics across the curriculum. <p>The report also covers key areas affecting vulnerable children and young people including those not in mainstream education and indigenous young people. (158 pages)</p>
Centre for Policy Development	<i>Watch this Space: Kids, Obesity and Advertising</i> by Lilian McCombs and Clare Hughes	'Should advertisers' "rights" continue to trump real concerns about children's health, or parents' frustrations at having their healthy eating efforts undermined?' This article examines the arguments about junk-food marketing and childhood obesity. http://cpd.org.au/article/watch-space-kids-obesity-and-advertising
Get Involved - Government website	<i>Balancing Privacy and Access in Adoption</i>	The Queensland Government is reviewing the laws which allow people to obtain identifying adoption information and to lodge objections that prevent information being released. These laws relate to adoptions that occurred in Queensland before 1 June 1991. The <i>Balancing Privacy and Access: Adoption Consultation Paper</i> asks whether these laws continue to appropriately protect the rights and best balance the interests of all parties to adoption orders made in Queensland. The laws in Queensland about access to adoption information are the most restrictive in Australia. Queensland is the only state to allow a party to an adoption to object indefinitely to both the release of identifying information to another person and to contact with that person and the only state to allow objections to operate in perpetuity and beyond death. (16 pages)

		http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/consultqld//index.cfm?go=consultonline.viewIssue&issuelid=343
Australian Institute of Family Studies	CDSMAC National Approach For Child Protection Project	<p>Commencing in 2006, this project commissioned for the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council examined at a high- level the similarities and differences in child protection across Australian jurisdictions. The main objectives of the project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to identify if there was a common approach across Australian jurisdictions in responding to the risks and protective needs of children and families - to provide high-level descriptions of key processes and approaches to the delivery of child protection services across Australia. <p>(129 pages)</p> <p>http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/cdsmac/projectreport.pdf</p>