

**Policy Environmental Scan
August 2009**

Source	Topic	Content
Call for Response (i.e Submission, Discussion Paper, Consultation Paper, Review, Inquiry)		
Youth Affairs Network Queensland (YANQ) http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/2013/95/	<i>The Case for a Youth Disability Advocacy Service in Queensland</i> August 2009	YANQ has released a draft proposal called "The Case for a Youth Disability Advocacy Service in Queensland" and is currently seeking feedback. The proposal examines why an independent advocate is needed for young people with disabilities in Queensland and what the service would look like. There is currently no listed closing date for feedback.
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/RISC_consultations.aspx	Early Childhood Steering Committee <i>Regulation Impact Statement for Early Childhood Education and Quality Reforms</i> COAG Regulation Impact Statement Consultation July 2009	At its meeting on 2 July 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to seek further public comment on a series of options to improve the quality of early childhood education and care in Australia. These options are set out in the consultation Regulation Impact Statement for Early Childhood Education and Care Quality Reforms. The closing date for submissions was 31 August 2009. The Commission's submission is available at http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/submissions.html .
Research Findings, Reports and Policy papers, etc		
<i>CHILD SAFETY</i>		
National People with Disabilities and Carer Council http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/community_consult/Pages/default.aspx	<i>Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia</i> National Disability Strategy Consultation Report 11 August 2009	This Report presents the public consultation findings from an Australian Government discussion paper, released in late 2008, which asked the community to respond to a series of questions about their experience of disability. The findings will be used to help develop Australia's national disability framework. People with disabilities, their families, friends and carers were asked to identify what they saw as their main barriers which prevented their full participation in the economic and social life of the community. The Report's main findings were: Social exclusion and discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many people with disabilities experienced social exclusion and faced multiple barriers to meaningful participation in the community • widespread misconceptions and stereotypes continue to inform the attitudes and behaviours of service providers, businesses, community groups, governments and individuals • discrimination is a feature of daily life for many people with disabilities and their families, for example, a child care centre refused to provide care to a child with an intellectual disability

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		<p><i>Lack of services and support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than half of the submissions stated that services for disabled people were often unavailable or infrequent, unaffordable or of such poor quality as to be of little benefit • the system is characterised by a one-size-fits-all approach that offers very little choice or flexibility <p><i>The need for a lifetime care and support scheme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the disability system is unable to meet current needs and has limited capacity to meet anticipated increases in demand • there are inequities in the system, which result in people with disabilities receiving different levels of support depending on how their disability was acquired • a lifetime care and support scheme would remove existing inequities and provide the resources needed to ensure people with disabilities are able to reach their full potential and live as independently as possible <p><i>Lack of meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • too few people with disabilities have access to meaningful employment • negative attitudes and misconceptions about disability means few employers, whether government, non-government or corporate, appear willing to employ anyone with a disability <p><i>Difficulties accessing buildings, facilities and information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for people with disabilities a lack of access to buildings, facilities and public transport is a significant barrier to full participation and inclusion within the community • people with a sensory impairment or intellectual disabilities find accessing information is problematic because information is rarely provided in alternative accessible formats, including plain English versions <p><i>Poor educational experiences</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most submissions noted that the education system has little capacity to meet the needs of students with disabilities • parents reported particular frustration at their lack of choice of educational setting and the desperate lengths they were forced to go to in order to ensure their child's basic needs were addressed <p><i>Social isolation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people with disabilities and their families often experience social isolation, exclusion and loneliness • family, friends and other carers reported feeling abandoned by both government and the community and felt there was too little support for their all-important role. Many expressed frustration that they alone were left to fill the gaps in the service system. • greater support and flexibility for families and carers would ensure that they were able to continue in their important role. <p>The National People with Disabilities and Carer Council believes that the National Disability Strategy should act as an overarching policy statement, setting the national view, establishing future direction and identifying priorities for people with disabilities and their families, friends and carers. It should address four strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the social, economic and cultural participation of people with disabilities and their families, friends and carers

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing measures that address discrimination and human rights violations • improving disability support and services • building in major reform to ensure the adequate financing of disability support over time. <p>The Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians made a joint submission to the federal government highlighting the issues affecting children and young people with a disability. This submission is available at http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/submissions.html.</p>
<p>South Australian Government</p> <p>www.gcyp.sa.gov.au</p>	<p><i>The Significance of Quality Contact between Children and Young People in Care and their Case Workers</i></p> <p>Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People</p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>This Inquiry examined the significance of quality contact between children and young people in care and their case workers in November 2008. Twenty-eight children and young people in care were interviewed and a focus group was conducted with case workers. Evidence was taken from the case files of 96 randomly selected children and young people and a review of the literature was undertaken.</p> <p>The Inquiry found that the quality of the children and young people's relationships with their case workers is significant to their wellbeing. Children and young people in care value a positive relationship with their case worker for a sense of safety and happiness, assistance to resolve issues, access to goods and services and empowerment in decisions. While case workers do not provide these things alone, children perceive them as powerful in making them happen.</p> <p>Specific findings from the Inquiry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of contact between a child and case worker is desirable, but case file evidence suggests that only one in five children have the required monthly face to face contact. • Continuity of case worker is imperative because good relationships are built over time, however, only half of the children have the same case worker over a year and case file evidence suggests that one in five children do not have enough contact. • Children want their case worker to be accessible and reliable, however, case workers reported that there are barriers to being accessible, such as lack of resources, cars, volunteers, paper work etc. • Children valued a good relationship with their case worker and wanted to spend time with them and for the case worker to know them. They say the case worker as important to their safety and in resolving issues. • Half the children said their views had been taken into account on important decisions, and case file evidences suggests that some attempt had been made in 12 months to include two in three children in major decisions. Case workers feel there are perceived and real impediments to full participation of children, including time, competing demands.
<p>National Youth Agency (UK) and Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education)</p> <p>http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Care-and-prejudice</p>	<p><i>Care and prejudice: A report of children's experience by the Children's Rights Director for England</i></p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>This Report is based on a survey of 362 children from children's homes and foster care across England. The Report highlights the views and experiences of children living in care and the prejudices they face as a result of being in care. Overall, children in care believed that the general public has a negative view of children in care. The report found that almost 50% of children in care worry about other people knowing their background. Their reasons were because they feared being judged, bullied or treated differently.</p> <p>Children reported that the best things about being in care were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting new people • having good staff or carers who look after them well • having more activities and opportunities and sometimes better education than children not in care • having their own possessions. <p>The worst things reported by children were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • missing their family

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling different from other children because they lived away from their family and had different life experiences • not being able to do things that other children do, for example sleeping over at friends' houses. <p>The survey findings revealed that children who were in care for a long time were more likely to report that they had been treated worse, rather than better, for being in care.</p> <p>The survey also indicated that being in care could make a difference to how other children, teachers and other professionals reacted to a child or young person. Sometimes the reaction was good, while other times it was bad because often people have fixed views about children in care which are not often good ones.</p>
<p>Australian Institute of Family Studies</p> <p>http://www.aifs.gov.au/nc/pubs/sheets/rs2/rs2.htm</p> <p>!</p>	<p><i>The economic costs of child abuse and neglect</i></p> <p>Bromfield, L., Holzer, P. & Lamont, A.</p> <p>September 2009</p>	<p>This Resource Sheet examines expenditure related to child abuse and neglect that is made by departments responsible for child protection services in Australia.</p> <p>Some of the national expenditure data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately \$2 billion was spent on child protection and out-of-home care services in 2007-08, which was an increase of 13.6% from 2006-07. Of this expenditure, out-of-home care services accounted for the majority (64.0% or \$1.3 billion). • For every child aged 0-17 years in the Australian population, real recurrent expenditure (expenditure that does not result in fixed assets) on child protection and out-of-home care services was approximately \$395 per child in 2007-08. This varied across jurisdictions, from just over \$300 in Western Australia to over \$600 in the Northern Territory. • Over the period 2003-04 to 2007-08, real recurrent expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care services per child aged 0-17 years increased in all jurisdictions except for the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. Decreases in expenditure in these jurisdictions were attributed to service costs that were included in previous years that were not included in 2007-08. • At least \$179.2 million was spent on intensive family support services for families at risk of child removal and for families already in the child protection system across all state and territories. Over the past five years, expenditure on intensive family support services has increased in real terms each year, from \$95.9 million in 2003-04. This represents an average annual increase in expenditure of 16.9% over the period. <p>The authors make a strong case for greater investment in prevention and early intervention to reduce long-term costs, but more importantly, to prevent children from being harmed.</p>
<p>National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies</p> <p>http://www.aifs.gov.au/nc/pubs/sheets/rs4/rs4.htm</p> <p>!</p>	<p><i>Fatal child abuse</i></p> <p>Compiled by Mel Irenyi and Briony Horsfall</p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>This Resource Sheet examines information available in Australia about child deaths. According to the most recent national data, in 2003 the leading cause of death among children aged 0-14 years was injury, which is broken down into five subcategories: transport accident, drowning, assault, falls and suicide.</p> <p>In 2003, assault was the third most common type of injury causing death for Australian children aged 0-14 years. It resulted in the deaths of 73 children in 2001-03, compared to 327 deaths of children from transport accidents and 139 drowning deaths.</p> <p>A total of 815 Australian children aged 0-14 years died from injuries in 2001-03 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005). On average, 25 Australian children are killed by their parents each year (Mouzos & Rushforth, 2003).</p> <p>UNICEF (2003) estimated that of the 30 most economically developed nations, Australia had the 9th</p>

Source	Topic	Content
		lowest rate of child death resulting from child abuse and neglect.
Australian Youth Forum (AYF) – Australian Government http://www.youth.gov.au/ayf/pages/response.htm	<i>Violence and Safety – Your Say</i> August 2009	A report has been compiled from young people’s input at the first national youTHINK event, held on 20 February 2009 and from submissions to the AYF. Young people’s ideas and summaries were incorporated into the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for better awareness among young people about the causes and consequences of violence • the link between violence and alcohol • personal experiences of violence in schools and in public places, and • ensuring safe spaces and understanding authority figures.
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE		
University of Melbourne newsroom http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-58	<i>Study to ensure best investment in early childhood education for Australia’s children</i> August 2009	The Australian Research Council (ARC) is coordinating a study into the quality of early childhood education and care in Australia and how Australia can make the most of the \$3.03billion it invests annually in early childhood education and care. The five year project will draw on expertise from education experts in Australia, Canada and the UK along with the Victorian and Queensland Governments. Principal Investigator Professor Collette Tayler, Chair of Early Childhood Education and Care at the University of Melbourne, says there is evidence that access to early learning programs is a critical determinant in an individuals’ educational and life outcomes, and has an enduring impact on adult productivity and social participation. While an absence of an early childhood education and care program can predict poor progress. Professor Tayler stated that there is little understanding of what exactly constitutes quality in these programs. The study will analyze a typical suite of early childhood education and care programs in diverse Australian communities including remote, regional, urban, disadvantaged and wealthy and will consider the outcomes for children who do not access early childhood education and care programs.
West Australian Legislative Assembly, Community Development and Justice Standing Committee http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Evidence+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/A5428B473AEEA336C82576100007ACF9?opendocument	<i>Inquiry into the Adequacy of Services to Meet the Developmental Needs of Western Australia’s Children.</i> August 2009	This Inquiry found that many Western Australian children were starting school with at least one developmental vulnerability, compromising their capacity to learn and their social skills. This had serious longer term social and economic consequences. Although there were many health care and support programs available in the community, these were often poorly distributed and insufficiently coordinated. The report acknowledges the benefits that flow from investment in the early years, especially in 'at risk' infants, including savings from a reduced need for specialist health and education staff and a decrease in long-term mental health problems, criminality, homelessness and substance use. The main recommendations are for an integrated, whole-of-government framework for early childhood at the state policy level, placing all the relevant health, education, care and parent support programs (except statutory child protection services) under one Minister. Both ante and post-natal parenting programs are recommended to enhance the skills and knowledge of parents and it is suggested there may be benefits in tying the receipt of the Commonwealth baby bonuses to attendance at post-natal parenting classes. An increase in the number of child health nurses was recommended to increase home visits and improve children’s health centres. There were also specific recommendations around Foetal

Source	Topic	Content
		Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, indigenous families and hearing screening.
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/EarlyYearsLearningFramework.aspx	<i>Belonging, being and becoming - the early years learning framework for Australia</i> Endorsed by COAG 2 July 2009	The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) developed the Early Years Learning Framework to assist educators to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning. The Framework describes the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. The Early Years Learning Framework will underpin universal access to early childhood education and be incorporated in the National Quality Standard in order to ensure delivery of nationally consistent and quality early childhood education across sectors and jurisdictions.
Australian Bureau of Statistics http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4402.0June%202008?OpenDocument	<i>Childhood Education and Care</i> 29 July 2009	This Report presents estimates of child care arrangements and early childhood education compiled from the June 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey. It is the first national survey measuring attendance in preschool programs in both preschools and long day care centres. Key results for 2008 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven out of 10 young children attended a preschool or a preschool program. Similarly, seven out of 10 children aged 3-6 years who were not attending school usually attended a preschool/ preschool program in long day care. • 82% of children aged 4-8 years had attended a preschool program in the year before commencing school. • Of all children aged 3-6 years usually attending a preschool, 23% attended for the 'benchmark' 15 hours or more per week, but children attending for 10-14 hrs per week was more common (47%) • 43% of all children aged 0-12 years attended child care with 22% attending formal care and 29% using informal care. • Grandparents cared for 19% of children aged 0-12 years who were usually in some type of child care arrangement. The next most common type of care was long day care (12%). • Parents of 75% of children aged 0-12 years attending formal care reported work related reasons for their children's formal child care, with 29% believing that this care was beneficial for the child. • Parents of 58% of children aged 0-12 years using informal care reported work related reasons, followed by personal reasons (31%), including giving parents a break or time to study. • Attendance in formal child care rose from 17% of children aged 0-11 years in 1999 to 22% in 2008. Usage of informal care fell from 37% to 34% over the same period. • A range of work arrangements were utilised by parents to facilitate caring for children aged 0-11 years, including flexible working hours. Part-time work was the most common child care arrangement (42%) used by employed mothers and 5% of employed fathers.
JUVENILE JUSTICE		
ABC Four Corners (24 Aug 2009) – Reporter, Matthew Carney http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2009/s2662	<i>'Kids Doing Time: Crowding, cuts and crisis'</i> August 2009	On Monday 24 August 2009, ABC's Four Corners presented a program which investigated the New South Wales (NSW) juvenile justice system. The program suggested the 'tough on crime' policy is failing, juvenile crime rates are rising and the NSW juvenile justice system is in crisis. Interviews were conducted with individuals closely involved in the juvenile justice system including five young people who were in diversionary programs or detention centres, representatives from community and youth legal advocacy groups, former magistrates, the Minister for Juvenile Justice and the NSW

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775.htm		<p>Attorney-General.</p> <p>The problems with NSW's juvenile justice system are being attributed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the government's 'get tough on crime policy' • police targeting repeat young offenders • difficulties in meeting bail conditions, and changes to the Bail Act. <p>The problems identified regarding the NSW juvenile justice system include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overcrowding of detention centres • high numbers of young people on remand • lack of appropriate transitional arrangements • government's "get tough" policy has resulted in young people in NSW are incarcerated at 4 times the rate of young people in Victoria <p>Proposed solutions recommended by front line organisations dealing with juvenile offenders were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place more resources and money into diversionary programs (for example the Victorian juvenile justice system places a high emphasis on programs that prevent young people from entering the juvenile justice system) • amend the Bail Act to make it easier for young people to apply for bail by removing the requirement that a person can only apply for bail once.
<p>Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>http://www.abs.gov.au/au_sstats/abs@.nsf/Products/30134EE2D24B29E4CA25761E0023B8AB?open_document</p>	<p><i>Recorded Crime - Offenders, Selected states and territories, 2007-08</i></p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>This Report provides a profile of alleged offenders, including their age, sex, Indigenous status, principal offence, how often they have been proceeded against by police, as well as a count of proceedings that may result in court actions.</p> <p>Data for Queensland shows that for 2007-08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the young offenders aged 10 to 19 years, the highest offender rate for males occurred at age 18 years, while for females it was at age 15 years. • Males aged 18 years offended at a rate more than three times higher than the rate for all male offenders • The offender rate for females aged 15 years was almost four times the rate for all females. • The predominant principal offences for youth offenders were theft (23%) followed by public order offences (22%). • While theft was the most prevalent principal offence for offenders aged 11 to 16 years, after the age of 15 years the rate generally decreased. • Between the ages of 16 and 18, public order offences increased sharply.
LAW		
<p>Australian Institute of Criminology</p> <p>http://www.aic.gov.au/en/publications/current%20series/tandi/361-380/tandi380.aspx</p>	<p><i>Child complainants and the court process in Australia: Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice</i></p> <p>Richards, K.</p>	<p>In recent years, it has been recognised that child complainants in the criminal justice system can experience difficulties over and above those of other complainants and that children can find the court process to be extremely traumatising. This can be exacerbated if children are complainants in child sexual offence matters and if they have to give evidence against a family member.</p> <p>This paper has three primary aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines the major factors that contribute to making court processes harrowing for child complainants, including giving evidence and being cross-examined; poor perceptions of child witnesses; and a low likelihood of conviction.

Source	Topic	Content
	August 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It outlines some of the main initiatives that have been introduced to address these factors, including modifying the physicality of the courtroom; use of closed-circuit television; pre-recorded evidence; support persons and child intermediaries; restrictions on committal hearings; restrictions on cross-examination by the accused; improving interview techniques and child witness statements; new offence categories; and specialist jurisdictions and services for child witnesses. • It weighs up the evidence about initiatives designed to assist child complainants. <p>The authors conclude that such initiatives have had only limited practical impact for child complainants in the criminal justice system. The limited impact is attributed to the need to balance the rights of the accused with consideration for the complainant, a failure to translate legislative changes into practice, the impact of judicial discretion and/or a focus on protecting child complainants at the expense of increasing convictions.</p>
<p>Herald Sun</p> <p>http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0%2C21985%2C25951543-5005961%2C00.html</p>	<p><i>Willy-nilly circumcision sparks legal fears for doctors</i></p> <p>19 August 2009</p>	<p>This media article describes the current legal discrepancy relating to protection from genital surgery conducted on boys (circumcision) and girls (female genital mutilation).</p> <p>It highlights a review to be conducted into the legalities of male circumcision by the Tasmanian Children's Commissioner, Mr Paul Mason, and the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute. Mr Mason cites High Court rulings and United Nations conventions and legal consent in terms of bodily integrity which argue against parental-consent circumcision.</p> <p>Public submissions to this law reform review closed on August 28 (Tasmania).</p>
<p>Australian Government Attorney General's Department</p> <p>http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Publications_ChildrenBeyondDispute-April2009</p>	<p><i>Children Beyond Dispute: A four year follow-up study by Dr Jennifer McIntosh of outcomes from Child Focused and Child Inclusive post-separation family dispute resolution</i></p> <p>McIntosh, J., Long C.M., & Wells, Y.D.</p> <p>This document was completed in April 2009 and released by the Attorney-General in August 2009.</p>	<p>This four year follow-up study assesses outcomes from post-separation family dispute resolution. It compares outcomes for two groups of separated parents who attended mediation over parenting disputes and engaged either in Child Focused (CF) mediation or in Child Inclusive (CI) mediation. In both groups, the views of children were sought but it was how their views were used that differentiates the two groups. In the CF group, mediators focused the attention of parents on the needs of their child/ren. Interviews were conducted with children but their views were not incorporated into the sessions. In the CI group, feedback obtained from interviews with children were used to focus parents during the mediation sessions.</p> <p>Statistically significant outcomes for the CI group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less legal action over care and living arrangements • lower rates of return to mediation • higher rates of overnight contact with fathers • greater stability of care and contact arrangements • higher satisfaction with care and living arrangements (father/children) • greater reduction in parent acrimony for both mother and father • greater confidence of father in parenting capacity • better management of parenting disputes • lower impact of fathers new partner on parenting disputes • more reports of parents having learned something about their child • lower conflict between parents as perceived by children • children feeling less caught in the middle between their parents • children feeling less distressed by their parents conflict • children feeling closer to their father • lower levels of conduct disturbance in children.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
<p>Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society</p> <p>http://apo.org.au/research/secondary-students-and-sexual-health-2008</p>	<p><i>Secondary Students and Sexual Health 2008: Results of the 4th National Survey of Australian Secondary Students, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health</i></p> <p>Smith, A., Agius, P., Mitchell, A., Barrett, C. & Pitts, M.</p> <p>July 2009</p>	<p>This is the Fourth National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health. Nearly 3,000 Year 10 and Year 12 students from more than 100 secondary schools across Government, Catholic and Independent school systems and from every jurisdiction in Australia participated in the survey.</p> <p>Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV knowledge remains relatively high and there has been some improvement in knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STI). Knowledge of human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer (measured for the first time in 2008) was very poor. • 78% of students have experienced some form of sexual activity, with more than one quarter of year 10 students and just over half of year 12 students having experienced sexual intercourse, with 69% using a condom the last time they had sex. A considerable proportion of sexually active students have sex with three or more people in a year. In 2008 38% of young women reported ever having unwanted sex. • Almost one quarter of students reported smoking marijuana. • Although there has been a reduction in alcohol consumption overall, students continue to drink considerable amounts of alcohol, with 21% reporting drinking either weekly or more frequently. Young women in year 12 reported higher rates of binge drinking in 2008 compared to 2002. Few students (2%) have injected drugs.
<p>Family Planning Queensland</p> <p>http://www.fpq.com.au/publications/teachingAids/WhereDoIStartDVD.php</p>	<p><i>Where do I start? DVD and guide: Supporting healthy sexual development in early childhood A Guide for Early Childhood Services</i></p> <p>27 July 2009</p>	<p>The DVD provides information about children's sexual development for those who work with and care for young children. It demonstrates ways to support young children's healthy development and shows positive responses to children's curiosity, questions and behaviours.</p> <p>The guide is designed to assist early childhood professionals and services to create a healthy and safe environment in which children learn about bodies, relationships and being safe. It contains information, resources and tips to help incorporate sexuality education into everyday care and education of children.</p>
<p>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</p> <p>http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10775</p>	<p><i>Trends in access to dental care among Australian children</i></p> <p>Ellershaw, A.C. & Spencer, A.J.</p> <p>12 August 2009</p>	<p>This Report shows that for the period 1994 to 2005, at least 4 in 5 children had visited a dentist in the last 12 months with children aged 5–11 years slightly more likely to visit than those aged 12–17.</p> <p>While the percentage of older children (aged 12–17) who saw a private dentist remained steady at about 55%, there was a sharp increase in the percentage of 5-11 year olds who saw a private practice dentist, rising from 40% in 2002 to 53% in 2005, reflecting a decline in the use of School Dental Services.</p>
HOMELESSNESS		
<p>Swinburne University of Technology and Hanover Welfare Services</p>	<p><i>The right to belong: family homelessness and citizenship</i></p>	<p>This Report presents the findings of research which investigated how homelessness affects the everyday experiences of women with children and how homelessness affects citizenship. The research was undertaken in a context in which homelessness amongst families is increasing, with most homeless families comprising women and children. The research involved interviews with women living with at</p>

Source	Topic	Content
http://www.homelessnessinfo.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1060:the-right-to-belong-family-homelessness-and-citizenship&catid=99:mental-health&Itemid=85	<p>Hulse, K. & Kolar, V</p> <p>July 2009</p>	<p>least one of their children in transitional housing.</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from the research were as follows.</p> <p>1. Exercising agency in conditions of uncertainty and lack of control Many of the women had not had stability in their lives for some time, however, many tried to exercise their agency as citizens. For example, the primary concern of the women was providing a safe and stable home for their children.</p> <p>2. The status of client rather than citizen Active agency was difficult to exercise when the women were treated as a client. Being in contact with many different agencies as a client, each having its own criteria and conditions which had to be met before gaining assistance, was often stressful for the women. Whilst the assistance was appreciated, it was time consuming, particularly for those dependent on public transport.</p> <p>3. Gendered rights and responsibilities: caring and its risks The primary concern of all the women was the effect of homelessness on their children and on their capacity to exercise their rights and responsibilities as a primary carer. They all expressed the same priorities: to have children living with them, to secure stable housing, and for their children to develop and make friends. For many, kinder and school provided the primary means of ensuring stability and enabling their children to connect socially; for some, they were also a conduit to additional assistance. The women are aware of the risk of losing their children as a result of their homelessness. This is particularly the case for those who are involved in disputes about custody and access arrangements and who have had contact with child protection workers.</p> <p>4. Seeking a sense of belonging A key aspect of citizenship is a sense of belonging in civic life and feeling an equal member of different communities. This study shows that the cumulative experience of homelessness adversely affected the emotional wellbeing of the women, for example, guilt at putting children through such circumstances.</p>
<p>Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)</p> <p>http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/search.asp?ShowSearch=False&Search=Properties&Keywords=Flatau&Year=&Centre=&Search-Title=&Search-Summary=&Search-Author=True&PublicationType=&Sort=Search-Title&Direction=ASC</p>	<p><i>Intergenerational homelessness and the intergenerational use of homelessness services</i></p> <p>Flatau, P., Eardley, T., Spooner, C. & Forbes, C.</p> <p>20 July 2009</p>	<p>This Paper aims to outline the prevalence, nature and impact of intergenerational homelessness in Australia. It examines the literature to explore patterns and determinants of intergenerational homelessness and homelessness service-use, and the role and impact of service delivery and policy interventions designed to avert or break the cycle of homelessness across generations.</p> <p>The Paper highlights the impact of homelessness on children who experience homelessness either alongside their parents or who are separated from their parents as a result of parental homelessness. These children are more likely to experience higher rates of morbidity and developmental delay, more likely to go hungry, more prone to depression, anxiety, social isolation, low self-esteem and low aspirations, poorer educational outcomes and behavioural problems. These events and experiences increase the risk of experiencing homelessness in later life.</p> <p>A study proposed by the AHURI to further explore the prevalence, nature and impact of intergenerational homelessness in Australia is described. The study includes a particular focus on children and will explore the role of the child protection system in intergenerational homelessness.</p>

Source	Topic	Content
EMPLOYMENT		
<p>Australian Fair Pay Commission</p> <p>http://www.fairpay.gov.au/fairpay/NewsPublications/Commissionedresearch/</p>	<p><i>Young people with poor labour force attachment</i></p> <p>Pech, J., McNevin, A. & Nelms, L.</p> <p>July 2009</p>	<p>This Report draws on labour force data and previous research findings to identify populations of young people who may be at risk of making a poor transition into the workforce. It focuses particularly on the 'not fully engaged' (NFE) group of young people aged 15-20 years and its changing composition over the past decade.</p> <p>In 2008, 16% of young people were not fully engaged in either education or employment. Although the proportion of NFE young people has declined slightly over the past decade, the composition of the NFE population has varied significantly during that period, for example, the proportion working part-time has increased while unemployment has decreased.</p> <p>The Report also summarises previous research into a range of possible risk factors for poor labour force attachment in the first five to seven post-school years, such as early school leaving, young motherhood, disability, being Indigenous and having a language background other than English.</p>
USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION		
<p>Australian Communications and Media Authority</p> <p>http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311819</p>	<p><i>Use of Electronic Media and Communications: Early Childhood to Teenage Years</i></p> <p>Findings from <i>Growing Up in Australia; The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children</i> (3 to 4 and 7 to 8-year-olds), and <i>Media and Communications in Australian Families</i> (8 to 17-year-olds), 2007</p> <p>July 2009</p>	<p>This Report provides a snapshot of young people's use of electronic media from early childhood through to teenage years, and parents' views about that media use. Information is presented on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media equipment in family homes, and the level of access to electronic media and communications devices. For example, computers were available in 71% of homes with 3–4 year olds, rising to more than 90% of homes with 7–8 year olds, and in 98% of homes with 8–17 year olds. • The extent to which children and young people participate in media activities. For example, Internet use becomes increasingly important for high-school aged children (83% of 12–14year olds and 88% of 15–17year olds), particularly for doing homework and chatting online. The average time spent per day online increased from 30 minutes for 8–11year olds to one hour and 32 minutes for 12–14 year olds and two hours and 24 minutes for 15–17 year olds. • The average amount of time children and young people spend doing media activities. For example, 94% of 3 to 4-year-olds watched television for an average one hour and 11 minutes per day, and 91% watched DVDs or videos for an average 44 minutes per day. • How parents mediate their children's use of electronic media and communications. For example, for parents of 3 to 4-year-olds, managing television viewing by their child was very important: 94% of these parents had rules specifically about television content, and 64% had timing rules.
MISCELLANEOUS		
<p>Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>http://www.census.abs.go</p>	<p><i>Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2008</i></p>	<p>This annual ABS publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident population of Queensland by sex and age. Key data for Queensland as at 30 June 2008 show that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimated resident population was 4.29 million • Compared to the rest of the state, south-east Queensland had a noticeably lower proportion of its

Source	Topic	Content
v.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/3235.0~2008~Main+Features~Queensland?OpenDocument	August 2009	<p>population aged less than 15 years and a higher proportion of its population aged 20-34 years. This reflects a pattern of young adults migrating from regional areas to pursue work, education and other opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of the population who were children (aged 0-14 years) was 20.1%, which was the second-highest proportion in the country (following the Northern Territory at 23.8%). • In June 2008, south-east Queensland had a lower proportion of children (19.5%) than the remainder of the state (21.4%). • Following the pattern of LGAs with the lowest median age, LGAs with the highest proportions of children also had high proportions of Indigenous people. The three LGAs with the highest proportions of children (and more than 2,000 residents) were Northern Peninsula Area (R) (36.8%), Yarrabah (S) (36.6%) and Torres Strait Island (R) (35.2%).
Events/Seminars		
<p>Youth Accommodation Association</p> <p>http://www.homelessnessinfo.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1059:yaa-2009-youth-homelessness-matters-early-bird-registrations-open&catid=146:homelessness-news&Itemid=43</p>	<p>YAA 2009 Youth Homelessness Matters Conference</p> <p>12-14 October 2009</p>	<p>The Youth Accommodation Association is hosting the 2009 Youth Homelessness Matters conference at the Twin Towers Hotel in Tweed Heads from 12-14 October.</p> <p>The timing of this conference will provide an opportunity to consider, prepare and position work in relation to the rollout of and implementation of <i>The Road Home</i> and <i>NAHA</i> reforms within the contexts of the current policy and funding environment.</p> <p>The conference will showcase new ideas, new research, and good practice to support / resource organisations and workers opportunities and challenges ahead for our work of ending youth homelessness in Australia.</p> <p>This conference will also mark 30 years of YAA.</p>
Media Releases/Speeches		
<p>Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth</p> <p>The Honourable Kate Ellis MP</p> <p>http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Ellis/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090813_080656.aspx</p>	<p><i>State of Australia's Young People Report</i></p> <p>12 August 2009</p>	<p>The Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis, released a snapshot of the upcoming inaugural State of Australia's Young People Report to the National Press Club on 12 August 2009.</p> <p>The Report will highlight the issues that impact on young people and provide key statistics about the current generation of Young Australians. Figures highlighted by Minister Ellis include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in four Australians aged 16-24 years old have a mental health disorder with young people, especially girls highlighting self harm and unhealthy body image. Hospitalisation rates for intentional self harm among young people increased by 43% between 1996 and 2006. • More than 25% of year 8 Australian students report that they know someone who had been cyber-bullied • Young people are more likely than others to be affected by crimes such as violence. • Teenagers aged 15-19 years had the highest hospitalisation rates for acute intoxication from alcohol among all age groups. <p>Ms Ellis expressed concern about the growing prevalence of self harm, particularly amongst Australian girls.</p>

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<p>Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth</p> <p>The Honourable Kate Ellis MP</p> <p>http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/ellis/media/releases/pages/article_090807_092444.aspx</p>	<p><i>Helping families to get their kids school-ready</i></p> <p>7 August 2009</p>	<p>The Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis has announced 14 new locations for the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY), an important initiative that helps parents to prepare their kids for school.</p> <p>The program offers home tutoring, books and educational resources to preschool aged children. The Government is providing these services with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.</p> <p>The Australian Government has committed \$32.5 million over five years to roll out the HIPPY program in 50 communities. The program will assist up to 3000 families nationwide. Currently the program is operating in 22 locations across Australia with two in Queensland (Inala and Riverview). The program will be rolled out in an additional 14 locations during 2010, including Mount Morgan, Logan Central and Pioneer (Mt Isa) in Queensland.</p>
<p>Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth The Honourable Kate Ellis MP</p> <p>Joint Media Release with The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Social Inclusion</p> <p>http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Ellis/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090803_075238.aspx</p>	<p><i>\$3 million for National Pilot to increase Cyber-Safety in Schools</i></p> <p>2 August 2009</p>	<p>The Australian Government has announced a \$3 million national pilot project aimed at addressing cyber-bullying in Australian schools. At least 150 schools across Australia will be involved in the pilot program which will run until 30 April 2010. It will help confront safety issues in e-communications, including cyber-bullying and examine the effectiveness of existing cyber-safety programs in schools.</p> <p>The Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study and Behind the Scenes: Insights into the Human Dimension of Covert Bullying, provide valuable insights into the changing nature of bullying. This research shows that with the emergence of new technologies, cyber bullying after school has become a serious issue for many young people.</p> <p>The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, has also recently announced a new Youth Advisory Group made up of 305 young Australians to advise Government on online issues such as cyber-bullying. The group is part of the Rudd Government's \$125.8 million cyber-safety plan.</p> <p>The pilot program will be developed and conducted by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, who will provide a report and recommendations to the Government.</p>
<p>Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport</p> <p>The Honourable Phil Reeves</p>	<p><i>Boost for vulnerable Indigenous children in the Cape</i></p> <p>31 July 2009</p>	<p>The Bligh Government has committed more than \$45.6 million over four years to establish 11 safe houses in Indigenous communities in the Far North.</p> <p>The first seven safe houses will be in Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and Aurukun, Napranum, Yarrabah, Doomadgee and Palm Island, with another four safe houses scheduled to be established in Northern Peninsula, Torres Strait, eastern Cape York and Mornington Island.</p> <p>The Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and Aurukun safe houses are expected to be completed in early 2010.</p>