

Publishing

The Publishing unit documents Institute research findings and other family-related research in Australia and overseas in a variety of publications designed for the widest possible audience. Institute work informs: governments, for use in policy review; the academic community, for research and teaching purposes; the 'helping' professions, for their work with and for families; and the wider community, to assist their understanding of family and societal change.

The most visible output from a research agency is its contribution to the literature. Throughout 1999–2000 the Institute continued to publish relevant and timely information in the area of family research.

The publishing program includes the Institute's flagship publication *Family Matters*, and a range of titles published under the Institute imprint or in conjunction with other organisations and commercial publishing houses. In addition, research undertaken by Institute staff, or by external researchers using Institute data, is published in journals and conference proceedings, or appears in major Institute reports. Staff publications are listed by author name in Section 6 of this Annual Report.

To ensure the maximum reach and widest possible readership for Institute publications, most material published in print form is also published electronically on the Institute's Web site. This occurs simultaneously in the case of free publications, or subsequent to initial publication in the case of the subscription-based *Family Matters* (see Information Development chapter in this section).

Review processes

Again this year, works were published in accordance with the Institute's established publishing review policy which requires that drafts of all proposed new titles undergo rigorous internal and external review.

In-house, drafts are reviewed by the Director and the Research Manager, and by other researchers with particular expertise in the area relevant to the publication. In addition, each proposed new Institute

title is reviewed by at least two independent external reviewers. External reviewers are offered a reviewing fee and are asked to refer to the Institute's *Guide for External Review of Manuscripts* in preparing their evaluation reports. No draft may proceed to editing, production and publication without the approval of the Director.

Acceptance of all *Family Matters* material is subject to a formal review and assessment process by the Institute's Publications Committee and, as required, by other Institute or external readers with expertise in a particular area. Material is reviewed by reference to the Institute's *Criteria for Acceptance of Family Matters Articles*.

Family Matters

The Institute's research journal, *Family Matters*, is published three times a year, in Winter, Spring/Summer and Autumn. *Family Matters* is the Institute's main dissemination medium, its primary purpose being to keep its local and international readership up to date about Institute research and activities. It is also the role of *Family Matters* to keep its readership informed more generally about relevant family-related research by publishing articles from other Australian and overseas sources. Acceptance of all research papers is subject to a formal review and assessment process, and the Institute holds copyright to all articles published. A subscription rate applies, but the magazine is also distributed to an extensive free list (see Marketing chapter in this section).

The content of *Family Matters* reflects a balanced mix of articles and a diverse range of perspectives and analyses of

family research and policy options. In addition to research papers, regular informational columns include reports on Family Court activities and developments in family law, a 'book notes' section on new publications acquired by the Institute's library, a comprehensive listing of forthcoming conferences, seminars and workshops, an opinion column, and a letters page.

Last year, efforts were made to invigorate the contents of *Family Matters* by encouraging a more widespread and diverse range of perspectives. Also last year *Family Matters* acquired a new masthead design and a fresh, more modern look, thus enhancing its reader-friendly 'magazine' format while continuing to meet the highest design and production standards. General response to the 'new' *Family Matters* – both written and spoken, formal and informal – has been positive. This is reflected in the improved subscription trends (reported in the Marketing chapter), and encourages the view that this new era of the magazine will see a strengthening of its role as the main 'voice' of the Institute.

In 1999–2000, in accordance with Institute policy, *Family Matters* continued to publish the work of external authors as well as reporting directly on Institute work.

- *Family Matters*, no. 53, Winter 1999 (100 pages), featured articles on the theme of 'positive family relationships', to coincide with the Government's introduction of its National Families Strategy. Included was a comprehensive review of the literature on 'strong families and satisfying marriages', drawn from the Institute's Positive Marriage and Family Relationships Study, and a major paper with an international perspective examining the factors that contribute to those families who believe they are functioning well in life and are satisfied with their relationships with each other.

- *Family Matters*, no. 54, Spring/Summer 1999 (100 pages), had as its theme 'families, welfare and social policy', to coincide with the commencement of a period of major review of the social welfare system in Australia. The edition drew on both

Australian and overseas sources for perspectives on current and future directions in welfare policy. Contributions from the United States and the United Kingdom, both of which countries have adopted reform measures to address the issue of long-term dependency on welfare, helped place the Australian reform agenda in an international context.

- *Family Matters*, no. 55, Autumn 2000 (96 pages), reported on the findings from the Institute's Australian Divorce Transitions Project. Included were major Institute articles on the financial living standards of men and women after divorce; the experiences of men and women in relation to repartnering after divorce; the division of matrimonial property; and the situation of child support for young adult children. Other articles on the theme of 'families, divorce and family law' included a review from New Zealand of the social policies that might best support sole mothers to re-enter the workforce after separation, a report of a Queensland study of the reactions of adolescents to parental conflict, and a report of a Norwegian study of the perspectives of young children on their parents' separation.

New releases

In addition to three editions of *Family Matters* and the *1998–1999 Annual Report*, the following publications were released during the year:

Monograph

- *The UK Looking After Children Approach in Australia*, by Sarah Wise (76 A4 pages). The 'Looking After Children' approach is an assessment, case-planning and review system designed to promote positive development outcomes among children and young people who are required to live away from their families of origin. This book is a report of an independent evaluation of the approach conducted by the Institute. It provides an account of the development of the approach in the United Kingdom and, based on the experience of a Victorian pilot implementation

of the approach, an analysis of its applicability in Australia and an assessment of whether or not the approach may have measurable benefits for child care services in Australia.

Edited collection

- *Social Capital and Public Policy in Australia*, edited by Ian Winter (344 pages). This book emanated from the Institute's Family and Society research program. In drawing together contributions from authors writing from a diversity of professional experiences, academic disciplines and political positions, the book offers a number of different routes into discussion on core questions about community. Is community in decline? Is society becoming less civil? What should be done through public policy? Chapters provide insights into the origins of the concept of social capital in classical economics, sociology and political philosophy. They illustrate the practice of social capital in different arenas, and examine how social capital relates to public policy, including health, education and social welfare. The book is designed for those who wish to keep up with the latest thinking about social capital, as well as for newcomers to the concept.

Edited collection

- *Reforming the Australian Welfare State*, edited by Peter Saunders (316 pages). This collection grew out of the Institute's recent special *Family Matters* edition on 'families, welfare and social policy', and it contains revised and expanded essays from that edition as well as new contributions. It is a timely collection of essays that examines the new welfare agenda and reflects on the case for radical reform. It brings together diverse perspectives from both advocates of reform and opponents – writers who believe that the welfare system has swollen to a point where it must be re-thought, and those who warn that it is still doing too little to help the least fortunate citizens. Contributors include prominent Australian academics and political leaders, and writers working in the voluntary sector and employed by the federal government. Also featured are key writers from the United

States and the United Kingdom where debates about welfare reform have both reflected and influenced thinking within Australia.

Costs of children guide

- *A Guide to Calculating the Costs of Children*, introduced by Peter Saunders (22 A4 pages). This Guide was published in response to the large number of enquiries received by the Institute on the subject of the costs of raising children. It brings together in one publication several key articles on approaches to measuring and calculating the costs of children, reprinted from various editions of *Family Matters*. Contributors are: Ann Harding and Richard Percival of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at the University of Canberra; Peter Saunders of the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales; and Rebecca Valenzuela of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne. Also reprinted here is an earlier *Family Matters* paper by Peter McDonald of the Australian National University, which discusses Kerry Lovering's 'basket of goods' approach and Donald Lee's 'expenditure survey' approach. The Institute makes no judgement as to the relative merits of the different approaches and the calculations derived from them.

Working Paper series

The Working Paper series is another means by which Institute research findings and methodologies are made public. The series also enables the dissemination of Institute research (often during the course of a project) to policy makers, practitioners and researchers with the aim of encouraging dialogue with research and policy communities and thus obtaining review and feedback about the nature, direction and quality of Institute research. One new Working Paper was published in the financial year.

- *Towards a Theorised Understanding of Family Life and Social Capital*, Working Paper no. 21, April 2000 (24 A4 pages), by Ian Winter. This Working Paper brings the relationship between families and social capital under some scrutiny. It

defines the concept of social capital and reviews the literature on social capital within and beyond family networks. Drawing this information together reveals considerable gaps in understanding what it is about family life that generates social capital and, in turn, strengthens civil society. To redress this, the Working Paper draws upon 'risk society' theory to construct family life as a theoretical subject and to provide a framework for understanding why family-based networks and norms – and thus family-based social capital – are undergoing change.

Briefing Paper series

The Australian Family Briefing series is designed to present information about Institute research to the media and relevant key audiences in a form that is succinct, timely, policy relevant and media friendly. Two four-page A4-size Briefings were released in the financial year.

- *A Framework for Future Research in Premarriage Education*, Australian Family Briefing no. 8, November 1999, by Robyn Parker. There is increasing government and community concern about the social, emotional and financial costs of marital distress and breakdown. This Briefing Paper outlines the results of a roundtable workshop, co-hosted by the Institute, to examine the current status of premarriage research, and generate a framework for future research into programs designed to prepare couples for marriage and family life.

- *Planning the First Wave of the Australian Family Panel Survey*, Australian Family Briefing no. 9, April 2000, by Ruth Weston. The Australian Family Panel Survey represents a major research undertaking by the Institute that will help the Institute meet its principal task of identifying and understanding factors affecting the stability of Australian families. This Briefing Paper outlines some of the design proposals that have been developed.

Youth Suicide Prevention publications

The Institute's independent evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention

Strategy has been completed, and will be published in five substantial volumes. The first of these was produced in the financial year for release in September 2000.

- *Valuing Young Lives: Evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy*, by Penny Mitchell (208 pages). This attractive, illustrated book was completed for release early in the next financial year. It provides an overview of the Strategy, and a discussion of what the Strategy achieved and what was learned from the Strategy as a whole. The report includes administration, policy context, conceptual basis, and a description of activities within each of the main approaches adopted by the Strategy. It presents the evaluation methodology and a summary of major achievements and good practice findings. Detailed information about what was achieved and learned by projects within each of the particular approaches adopted by the Strategy is to be published in a series of four supplementary technical reports in the first part of the next financial year.

National Child Protection Clearinghouse publications

Four publications emanated from the Institute-hosted National Child Protection Clearinghouse in 1999–2000.

Two attractive, reader-friendly Newsletters contained information on the latest activities, projects, research and resources in the area of child abuse prevention.

- *National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol. 7, no. 2, Spring 1999, compiled by Judy Adams (36 A4 pages).

- *National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter*, vol. 8, no. 1, Autumn 2000, compiled by Judy Adams (32 A4 pages).

Two Clearinghouse Issues Papers addressed specific areas of enquiry.

- *Community-based Approaches in Preventing Child Maltreatment*, Issues Paper no. 11, Autumn 1999, by Adam Tomison and Sarah Wise (20 A4 pages).

- *Evaluating Child Abuse Prevention Programs*, Issues Paper no. 12, Autumn 2000, by Adam Tomison (20 A4 pages).

Commissioned reports

A number of studies were completed in the course of 1999–2000 resulting in the production of the following reports.

- *Evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy*, by P. Mitchell. Commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The main overview section was published by the Institute with the title *Valuing Young Lives*.
- *Patterns and predictors of teenagers' use of licit and illicit substances in the Australian Temperament Project cohort*, by B. Williams, A. Sanson, J. Toumbourou and D. Smart. Commissioned by the R.E. Ross Trust.
- *Transgenerational income support dependence: findings from a study of young Australians' values about work, unemployment, education and family life*, by P. Saunders and W. Stone. Report submitted to the Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra.
- *Torres Strait Islander parenting: The Buai Sei Boey Wagel (Family for the future) Project*, by E. Hunter, T. Batrouney, H. McGurk, R. Buchanan, J. Gela and G. Soriano. Report to the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service, Department of Health and Aged Care, Canberra.
- *The state of play: parents and families*, by S. Wise and R. Clark. Report written for the Child Care Services Branch of the Department of Family and Community Services.