

THEME 4 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Research in this area focused on the interconnections between the health and wellbeing of families and the characteristics of their residential communities. This link is fundamental, for families are the building blocks of communities and rely on community resources for meeting the family's needs.

Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault

The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA) is the sole national centre for current information and research on sexual assault. The aim of the centre is to assist service providers, policy makers and others working in the field to improve responses to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of, sexual assault. ACSSA is funded by the Office for Women in FaCSIA under the Women's Safety Agenda.

ACSSA has been operating at the Institute since 2003. The focus of the centre is on all forms of sexual assault, but particularly the sexual assault of women and girls over 15 years of age (the most commonly reported victim/survivors), and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. The main functions of the centre are: to facilitate access, particularly electronic access, to national policy-relevant data to inform strategies to more effectively prevent and respond to sexual assault; to establish a comprehensive evidence-base, and provide information and advice on research and best practice approaches for interventions in response to sexual assault; to stimulate debate among policy makers, academics and service providers about the most effective strategies to prevent, respond to and reduce the incidence of sexual assault; and to raise awareness of sexual assault and its impact on the Australian community.

ACSSA website

The ACSSA website (www.aifs.gov.au/acssa) is a key part of its functions and activities. Through the website, ACSSA identifies new developments in the field, monitors and records new literature in the field on research, policy and practice, provides links to online documents, and publishes its publications online. It also provides up-to-the minute information on forthcoming events and conferences, and links to Australian and international organisations. There is also online access to the ACSSA library collection, located in the Institute's library.

Visits to the ACSSA website continued to increase this year, with more than 258,900 pages/documents accessed (up from 218,900 in 2005–2006). *ACSSA Issues*, *ACSSA Wrap* and articles from the newsletter *ACSSA Aware* were in demand, with more than 93,770 downloads, followed by visits to the online resource collection of bibliographies and online documents, with more than 29,400 accesses. Other features of the website that continued to be frequently accessed were the Good Practice Programs Database and current statistical information on sexual assault.

ACSSA electronic newsletter

ACSSA also publishes a fortnightly electronic newsletter of upcoming events, new publication announcements, notices about research participation, and other items of interest to the field.

Subscribers to the *ACSSA-alert* fortnightly newsletter continued to increase and now number 628 at 30 June 2007 (up from 475 last year).

Bibliographies

The ACSSA website also includes online bibliographies containing selected references, online documents published predominantly within the last five years, journal articles, reports and conference presentations from Australia and selected international sources, on key topics within the sexual assault research field. The bibliographies on the website to date are: adult survivors of child sexual assault; drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault; Indigenous communities and diverse cultures; law reform and policy; offenders – characteristics; offenders – criminal justice responses and treatment; prevention programs and strategies; sexual assault in intimate relationships; trafficking and sex workers – sexual assault and exploitation; victim/survivors – criminal justice responses; victim/survivors – service responses; victimisation studies – incidence and prevalence; and young offenders. Bibliographies on male survivors of sexual assault and young offenders were added this year.

Library collection

During the year 155 items of relevance to ACSSA were added to the library collection, and now total 1,774. Items include journals, books and research reports, government documents, conference proceedings, audiovisual material (videos and kits), training material/modules, as well as ephemera (e.g. postcards and booklets). An emphasis is given to obtaining material in an online format wherever possible and items include both Australian and overseas material. Items are obtained from a wide range of sources, including commercial publishers, government departments, non-government organisations, and service providers.

Materials held in the collection can be located in the Institute's online library catalogue via a link on the ACSSA website. They are also available for browsing in the Institute's library, which is open to the public by appointment. Items may also be borrowed through the interlibrary loan system.

Publications

ACSSA produces three types of publications.

ACSSA Aware is a quarterly newsletter that includes feature articles written on current and emerging topics in the field, with contributions by ACSSA staff and external authors. *ACSSA Aware* provides one of the few forums for publication in this field. It includes a News in Brief section; reviews of recently released books, research reports and films; profiles of services and other stakeholders; notices of upcoming workshops, training and conferences; and a listing of the latest sexual assault research from Australian and international resources that has been obtained for the collection.

ACSSA Wraps are short papers that aim to provide a briefing, particularly to a practitioner audience, on a key topic in the field, where a gap exists in the resources.

ACSSA Issues are longer, allowing an in-depth exploration of a topic, and are used to fill a critical gap in our understanding of and responses to sexual assault.

During the reporting period, ACSSA has published three *ACSSA Aware* newsletters, two issues of *ACSSA Wrap* (*ACSSA Wrap 2*: 'Male survivors of sexual assault and rape', and *ACSSA Wrap 3*: 'Young people who sexually abuse: key issues') and two

issues papers (*ACSSA Issues 6: 'Services for victim/survivors of sexual assault: Identifying needs, interventions and provision of services in Australia'*, and *ACSSA Issues 7: 'Ripple effects of sexual assault'*).

Publications are distributed to a mailing list of 6,915 subscribers and are also published on the website.

Research and enquiry service

The research and enquiry service provides stakeholders with specialist advice, information and research expertise on current issues in the field of sexual assault. The service incorporates a wide range of important functions, including literature searches and scoping; statistical analysis and interpretation of current trends and issues that impact on understanding of sexual assault; and advice on best practice approaches and/or interventions. It also reviews and critically evaluates reforms to policy and legislation relevant to sexual assault.

Research enquiries are logged, allowing the centre to monitor the types of enquiries received, details of the organisation making the enquiry, the response provided and the time it took, and the enquirer's member status on the mailing list. In this way, the log allows monitoring of stakeholder needs and interests.

In the reporting period, ACSSA received more than 200 enquiries with an average of 45 minutes spent responding to each enquiry. The amount of time on each enquiry reflects the comprehensive effort involved in responding to research queries.

The main users of the research enquiry service include: government departments (both state and federal); sexual assault services, medical and health services, sex offender services; legal practitioners; police; tertiary institutions; libraries; non-government and community organisations; and the media. The service is accessed by individuals and agencies from all states and territories.

The topics of enquiries are varied, and include statistics on the prevalence of sexual assault, statistics on the justice system and sexual assault (for example, statistics on reporting and conviction in different states), drink spiking, trafficking, offender treatment programs, the issue of consent, sexual assault in Indigenous communities, best practice sexual assault service provision, information on sexual assault for the purpose of training workers and professionals, young people and sexual assault, sexual assault as part of domestic violence, disability and sexual assault, information about current policy and laws, sexual assault law reform, and requests for multiple copies of ACSSA resources.

Good Practice Programs and Responses for Sexual Assault

Since 2003, ACSSA has been developing a national collection of Good Practice Programs and Responses for Sexual Assault. The collection aims to provide a valuable resource to service providers and policy makers by highlighting examples of good practice in service provision from each state and territory, in the spirit of sharing information and experience across the sector. There are currently 40 examples of good practice programs available for browsing in the collection.

The information provided on the database includes a description of the program/initiative and the aspects of good practice it demonstrates, particular groups targeted by the program, information about the philosophical framework, as well as research behind the program and details of publications produced.

During this year, the ACSSA team has considered and proposed revisions to the Good Practice Database and a replacement Promising Practice Database will be launched in the next financial year.

Networking, conferences and outreach

In the last 12 months, ACSSA has presented at many different events, conferences, forums and seminars focusing on issues such as law reform, sexual assault in the church, young offenders, vicarious traumatisation, and ripple effects of sexual assault. It has also held many consultations with key stakeholders in the field, providing expert advice or information, and listening to issues raised by key stakeholders.

ACSSA team members also regularly promote the services provided by ACSSA through presentations and information sessions aimed at increasing the understanding and use of the services available through the centre.

Publications

Astbury, J. (2006). *Services for victim/survivors of sexual assault: Identifying needs, interventions and provision of services in Australia* (ACSSA Issues No. 6). Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Boyd, C. (2006). Treatment of young men who sexually abuse: The involvement of family. *Family Relationships Quarterly*, 2, 6–8.

Boyd, C., & Bromfield, L. (2006). *Young people who sexually abuse: Key issues*. (ACSSA Wrap No. 3). Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Clark, H. (2007). Judging rape: Public attitudes and sentencing. *Aware: ACSSA Newsletter No. 14*. Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Crome, S. (2006). *Male survivors of sexual assault and rape*. (ACSSA Wrap No. 2). Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Morrison, Z. (2006). Family violence and sexual assault: Aspects of a new report in Victoria on law reform. *Aware: ACSSA Newsletter No. 13*. Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Morrison, Z. (2006). Results of the Personal Safety Survey 2005. *Aware: ACSSA Newsletter No. 13*. Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Morrison, Z. (2006, 1 November). *Women still on trial in rape cases*. Politics Section, Crikey.

Morrison, Z. (2006, 27 October). *Abuse: It's now entertainment*. Opinion Section, *The Age*, Melbourne, Vic.

Morrison, Z. (2007). Caring about sexual assault: The effects of sexual assault on families, and the effects on victim/survivors of family responses to sexual assault. *Family Matters*, 76, 55–63.

Morrison, Z., Quadara, A., & Boyd, C. (2007). *'Ripple effects' of sexual assault*. (ACSSA Issues No. 7). Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Quadara, A. (2006). 'Elder abuse' and the sexual assault of older women: A new Australian policy response. *Aware: ACSSA Newsletter No. 13*. Melbourne: Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Conference presentations

Morrison, Z. (2006, 20 November). *Ripple Effects of Sexual Assault*. Keynote speaker at the 20th Anniversary Annual General Meeting of the South West Centre Against Sexual Assault, Warrnambool, Vic.

Morrison, Z. (2006, 30 November). *ACSSA: Update and Future Directions*. Presentation at the Conference of the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence, Canberra, ACT.

Higgins, D. J. (2007, 19 April). *Family violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities*. Invited address to the 18th World Congress of WAS/1st World Congress of Sexual Health, Sydney, NSW.

Other (non-conference) presentations

Morrison, Z. (2007, 1 March). *Responses to child abuse and adult sexual assault in the Anglican Church*. Presentation at the Australian Institute of Family Studies Seminar Series, Melbourne, Vic.

Boyd, C. (2007, 2 May). *Young people who sexually abuse*. Presentation to the Australian Council for Children and Youth Organisations Inc., Melbourne, Vic.

Morrison, Z. (2007, 29 May). *All about ACSSA*. Presentation to Indigenous sexual assault workers, Healing Workshop, Kalgoorlie, WA.

Morrison, Z. (2007, 18 June). *Drawing together the themes*. Presentation to the Sexual Assault and the Law Forum, Victorian Women Lawyers Justice Committee, Melbourne, Vic.

External representation

Clark, H. (2006, 5 September). Attendance at seminar: The legal system's response to sexual assault: Do specialist courts offer the best way forward? Institute of Criminology, University of Sydney, NSW.

Morrison, Z., Quadara, A., & Clarke, H. (2006, 28 August). Attendance at book launch of *Real Rape, Real Pain*, Queen Victoria Women's Centre, Melbourne, Vic.

Quadara, A., & Boyd, C. (2006, 2 October). Attendance at forum: Measuring community health outcomes. Melbourne: Key Centre for Women's Health in Society.

Boyd, C. (2006, 1 December). Attendance at forum: Police response to same-sex domestic violence, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, Melbourne, Vic.

Boyd, C. (2007, 30 January). Attendance at forum: Discussion paper: Post-sentence supervision and detention of high-risk offenders, Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council, Melbourne, Vic.

Boyd, C., & Clarke, H. (2007, 27 March). Attendance at forum: Corporate pedophilia, CASA House, Melbourne, Vic.

Clarke, H. (2007, 18 June) Attendance at forum: The sexual assault forum: Perspectives on the law and sexual assault, Victorian Women Lawyers Justice Committee, Melbourne, Vic.

Boyd, C., & Clarke, H. (2007, 19 June). Attendance at the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Annual Family Law Forum: Family dispute resolution and family violence, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne, Vic.

Member, Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault (Z. Morrison).

Member, National Child Protection Clearinghouse Reference Group (Z. Morrison).

Member, National Conference on Sexual Assault Organisation Committee (Z. Morrison).

Member, Advisory Committee for Policing Just Outcomes Project (Z. Morrison).

Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia

The Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia (CAFCA) aims to improve access to information and resources to inform policy, practice and research in the fields of early intervention and child development. The primary function of CAFCA is to provide information and advice to projects funded under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS), as well as policy makers, researchers and practitioners. The clearinghouse has an emphasis on initiatives that develop and promote improved services and practices for young families, the early learning and care of children, support for families and parents, and child-friendly communities. In addition to this core role, CAFCA supports the National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2008. The clearinghouse is funded by FaCSIA through the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2009, and has been in operation since July 2005.

Research collection and library

The clearinghouse is supported by the services and collection of the Institute's library. Through the library, the clearinghouse brings together a comprehensive collection of national and international literature, including research on topics such as early intervention, child development, and strengthening families and communities, as well as research methodology and policy developments. The practice initiatives collection covers the research and policy literature on community development and capacity building, early childhood, families, and programs that support families. Key journal titles, research reports, government reports and audiovisual materials are also included in the collection. The library catalogue is available free of charge from the Institute's website. A catalogue and help desk service is provided for clients who wish to access information from the library collection and databases. Types of assistance sought included the provision of information on evaluation programs, ethics guidelines for non-government organisations, and assistance with searching the web for resources.

CAFCA website

The website provides information on the SFCS National Evaluation, links to Australian and overseas websites, electronic versions of publications, questionnaires relating to the National Evaluation, and news of forthcoming conferences and events. It also includes resources and supports for 'local evaluators' – the researchers contracted by SFCS-funded projects to evaluate the success of their project.

The CAFCA website recorded 78,570 hits and 52,402 pages were accessed or downloaded. The Evaluation section of the site was well used with more than 10,677 downloads of pages including the *Evaluators' National Newsletter*, questionnaires for services users and agencies, and questions and answers about the evaluation process. Interest was also shown in the resources pages on the site (6,789 downloads), the Stronger Families Strategy projects page (1,809 downloads), and the Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) respondent website (4,215 downloads). A password-protected area was created for SFCS local evaluators, usage of which has increased over the last year.

Electronic discussion lists

CAFCA provides an interactive, moderated medium for open use by individuals funded under the SFCS, the early childhood and community development

sectors and policy makers. There are two distinct moderated discussion lists: *CAFCA-chat* and *e-evaluate*.

CAFCA-chat provides a forum for the discussion of research, policy and practice issues relevant to the SFCS and the broad early childhood and community development sectors. Designed to facilitate discussion and disseminate knowledge, *CAFCA-chat* highlights innovative and effective practices, and informs on relevant literature, training opportunities and forthcoming events. The web information page for *CAFCA-chat* (the email discussion and announcements list) has received 2,208 visits resulting in 197 subscribers as at 30 June 2007.

The *e-evaluate* list is a moderated list that focuses on the SFCS National Evaluation. More specifically, it is a forum for Local Evaluators to offer each other peer support during the evaluation process. The list gives evaluators opportunities to share information, resources and case studies as well as providing a forum for problem solving and for building and maintaining a peer network. Additionally, *e-evaluate* allows for the timely dissemination of knowledge and resources specific to Local Evaluators, such as advice on evaluation instruments, relevant literature, training opportunities and forthcoming events. The list had 130 registered members as at 30 June 2007.

Electronic publications

A six-monthly newsletter, the *Evaluators' National Newsletter*, is published and electronically distributed to those working under the SFCS and the National Evaluation. The newsletter contains information regarding the Strategy, progress updates on the National Evaluation, links to the latest publications, resources, developments in relevant policy or legislation, and information about training, conferences and workshops. During the reporting period, two editions were published:

Evaluators' National Newsletter, edition 3 (December 2006), and edition 4 (June 2007).

Networking and outreach

CAFCA staff gave presentations at various conferences and workshops on the services provided by CAFCA, as well as reporting on the activities of the National Evaluation.

Evaluation of Relationships Australia Victoria FUN for Kids program

The main purpose of the evaluation is to assess the impact of the FUN for Kids program on participating fathers and their families. The project will have a primary focus on the father's perspective. However, it will also include the views from immediate family members and service providers. The study will seek to understand the impacts of the program on the participating fathers, their family relationships and access to community networks. The study will also consider the evaluations of other father's programs in Australia.

Stronger Families and Communities Strategy National Evaluation

A National Evaluation Consortium has been formed to evaluate the second phase of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2008. The Institute is working with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and a team of expert advisers.

The National Evaluation seeks to capture the extent to which the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2008 contributes to better outcomes for children and families, and improved capacities of communities to achieve this. The strategy is an initiative of FaCSIA. The SFCS aims to: help families and communities build better futures for children; build family and community capacity; support relationships between families and the communities they live in; and improve communities' ability to help themselves. SFCS contains four strands: Communities for Children, Invest to Grow, Local Answers, and Choice and Flexibility in Child Care. The evaluation addresses the first three and seeks to establish a strong evidence base for the development of effective programs and services in the early childhood sector in Australia.

Studies have shown that support for families during infancy and early childhood can help foster children's lifetime development and educational attainment. However, the processes involved in such interventions, their cost effectiveness and the impact they make can vary widely. This evaluation seeks to capture the extent to which the strategy helps build the capacities of children, families and communities. The project design is informed by recent theoretical and practical developments relating to the evaluation of complex social programs. Our plan will evaluate the strategy in ways that capture:

- how it assists individuals and families to fully participate in society;
- how it creates and underpins social networks amongst community members;
- how it enhances children's and families' sense of belonging and community membership; and
- how it strengthens the capacity of the service system to provide for vulnerable children and families.

The outcomes framework used in the National Evaluation aligns with the National Agenda for Early Childhood. The SFCS National Evaluation Framework was developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, and published in December 2005.

The Institute has contributed to the overall design and management of the project and is taking the lead on a number of key components.

Stronger Families in Australia

The Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) study is an integral component of the National Evaluation. It is the primary mechanism for collecting data on child, family and community outcomes in Communities for Children sites. The study extends over a three-year period covering 10 Communities for Children and five contrast sites. The first wave was completed in 2006 with a total of 2,202 families taking part. Data collection for the second wave was completed in May 2007 with excellent response rates. A participant website has been established and regular newsletters are sent to participating families.

Promising Practice Profiles

One of the key objectives of the National Evaluation is to identify 'what works' in early childhood and early intervention, and to identify, validate and disseminate promising practices arising from the Strategy. Promising Practice Profiles (PPPs) will be published on the web and are expected to provide a valuable resource for practitioners, policy makers and researchers working in the early childhood

sector. They will provide information about effective practices, service models and examples about what works in different settings. The profiles will assist in the planning of appropriate programs, provide a vehicle for peer learning and information sharing, and enhance the quality of services provided to families and communities.

The Call for Submissions for PPP Round 1 (there will be up to three calls for submission over the next three years) went out in August 2006 and closed in November 2006. Workshops were conducted in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane to assist project managers and local evaluators in the preparation of their submissions. The submissions required applicants to respond to at least two of the six criteria to be used to assess a practice as promising. These criteria were prepared in consultation with facilitating partners and local and national evaluators as well as service providers.

A PPP Reference Group comprising local evaluators from across the country, and a representative from both FaCSIA and the Social Policy Research Centre (University of New South Wales) was formed to assist the National Evaluation team at the Institute with the design and development of the validation process. The 11 submissions received in Round 1 underwent a validation process to ensure that the profiles that appear on the database are of high quality. The external review process was undertaken by an independent peer review panel, which was appointed to review and assess the submissions. The panel used a validation template that was developed at the Institute, based on the UK Quality Framework which has been found to be relevant for a range of types of qualitative evaluations, including practice evaluation and policy development and appraisal, as well as evaluation of particular interventions, schemes or programs.

The Round 1 validation process highlighted the need for the provision of ongoing expert support in the preparation and/or improvement of submissions. In this light, a Practice Evaluation Consultant has been appointed to assist in improving the submissions prior to publication.

Round 2 Call for Submissions went out in June 2007 and will close in October 2007. The level of support to be provided to the projects will be enhanced in Round 2 to include teleconferences to encourage projects in rural/remote areas to make a submission, and the conduct of workshops that cater to the specific needs of the Local Answers, Invest to Grow, and Communities for Children streams of the strategy.

Themed Studies

The purpose of the Themed Studies is to explore particular topics in depth. These studies will enhance understanding of 'what works' by exploring in more depth 'why' and 'how' things work. These studies will include the three SFCS program areas covered in the evaluation: Communities for Children, Invest to Grow and Local Answers. Some of the studies will be undertaken in partnership with Local Evaluators.

Commissioned reports

Adams, R., & Cheney, H. (2007). *Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, National Evaluation, Communication Strategy: Implementation 2007–2008*.

Adams, R., Hand, K., & Soriano, G. (2007, February). *Stronger Families in Australia Wave 2 Instrument Test Report*. A report prepared for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Cheney, H., & Soriano, G. (2007). *Stronger Families in Australia, Wave 1 Fieldwork Report*. A report prepared for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Soriano, G., & Cheney, H. (2007, June). *Promising Practice Profiles, Round 1 Report*. A report prepared for the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Conference presentations

Cheney, H., Willetts, J., & Soriano, G. (2006, 11–13 December). *Collaborative validation of qualitative evaluation*. Paper presented at the ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW.

Other (non-conference) presentations

Cheney, H. (2006, 8 December). *Using Our Knowledge(s) to Grow Up Strong Kids*, organised by Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care and Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, Vic.

Adams, R. (2006, 20–21 September). *Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia*. Presentation to the Communities for Children NGO Forum organised by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Melbourne, Vic.

Cheney, H. (2006, 20–21 September). *Stronger Families in Australia*. Presentation to the Communities for Children NGO Forum organised by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Melbourne, Vic.

Soriano, G. (2006, 20–21 September). *Promising Practice Profiles*. Presentation to the Communities for Children NGO Forum organised by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Melbourne, Vic.

Cheney, H., Oke, N., & Soriano, G. (2006, September–October). *Promising Practice Profiles*. Workshops presented to SFCS Local Evaluators and Project Managers in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane.

External representation:

Adams, R., Oke, N., & Soriano, G. (2006, 7 July). Attendance at the Early Years: From Research to Policy Practice Seminar, YMCA, Melbourne, Vic.

Adams, R., Oke, N., & Soriano, G. (2006, 7–8 December). Organisation and attendance at *Using Our Knowledge(s) to Grow Up Strong Kids*, organised by Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care and Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, Vic.

Adams, R. (2007, 1 March) Attendance at the Early Years: From Research to Policy Practice Seminar, Shepparton, Vic.

Clark, H., & Soriano, G. (2007, 4–5 June). Attendance at the Communities in Control Conference: From Advocacy to Policy – Communities Driving Change, Melbourne, Vic.

Evaluation of the Every Child is Important program

The Institute was commissioned by the Australian Childhood Foundation to undertake an independent evaluation of the Australian Childhood Foundation Every Child is Important program. The evaluation commenced in the 2006–2007 financial year and is due to be completed in 2007–2008. The Every Child is Important project is a national universal primary prevention program, aimed at preventing and reducing child abuse and neglect through increased social appreciation of children and parenting, and through improved understanding of children's developmental needs. The evaluation seeks primarily to ascertain the impact of the project materials on parents who have used them.