

# Preface

---

This report, the *National Audit of Child Protection Research 1995-2004*, builds on the groundbreaking work by Associate Professor Judy Cashmore and Dr Frank Ainsworth in 2004, in completing the Audit of Out of Home Care research. Their audit highlighted the small amount of research in out of home care in Australia, as does the current volume in relation to child protection research. The authors of this report greatly valued Professor Cashmore's willingness to act as a consultant and critical friend to the project.

Ideally, the database of projects identified in the current audit will continue to grow and, as such, will represent an increasingly useful resource, both for the Australian Centre for Child Protection and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Beyond the Institute and the Australian Centre, the audit and database will be available to researchers and policy makers, and will be invaluable in establishing current and future research priorities.

At a seminar she gave at the Australian Institute of Family Studies earlier this year, Professor Dorothy Scott, Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection, highlighted the need for a National Research Agenda in the child protection field. I acknowledge the vision of Professor Scott and her colleagues in commissioning this audit, which is an important step in establishing such an agenda. We are delighted to be working collaboratively with Professor Scott and the Australian Centre for Child Protection. The National Child Protection Clearinghouse, within the Institute, values highly this opportunity for collaboration.

I congratulate the authors, Daryl Higgins, Ren Adams, Leah Bromfield, Nick Richardson and Melissa Aldana, for adding an important resource to the available literature on child protection.

Alan Hayes  
Director  
Australian Institute of Family Studies

## Contributors

The primary contributors to this report from the National Child Protection Clearing-house research team and their roles in writing this report are outlined below.

- Dr Daryl Higgins – Senior Research Fellow and Manager, was the chief investigator, responsible for scoping the project, coordinating with the Australian Centre for Child Protection, writing the original brief, planning and managing the audit, and overall responsibility for planning analyses and write-up of the final report.
- Ren Adams – Project Officer, was responsible for the creation and administration of the audit database, designing the layout of the audit form, liaising with key stakeholders, checking quality of entries in the database, producing the analyses in the tables, and taking overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the project over the past 6 months.
- Leah Bromfield – Senior Research Officer, assisted with design of the audit and contributed to analysis and write-up of qualitative analysis and assisted with the write-up of the implications.
- Nick Richardson – Research Officer, assisted with design of the audit and contributed to analysis and write-up of qualitative analysis.
- Melissa Aldana – Intern, assisted with analysis and write-up of qualitative analysis.

## Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance from a number of key people:

- Associate Professor Judy Cashmore – Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, for advice on design and implementation of the audit, and for her valuable insights from her previous audit of out-of-home care research
- Professor Dorothy Scott – Australian Centre for Child Protection for not only commissioning us to conduct the research, but for her wisdom and useful suggestions along the way, as well as feedback on the final report
- Dr Fiona Arney – Australian Centre for Child Protection for feedback on the final report.
- Joan Kelleher, Carole Jean and Judy Adams – Australian Institute of Family Studies library for conducting literature searches, web searches, and assisting in the sourcing of publications
- Ellen Fish – Australian Institute of Family Studies for assisting in the planning for the layout of the final report

### ***Disclaimer:***

The views expressed in this report are those of the individual authors and may not necessarily reflect Government or Institute policy.