

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CLEARINGHOUSE

# *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect*



*FINDINGS FROM AN AUSTRALIAN AUDIT  
OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS*

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*Australian Institute of Family Studies*

*2000*

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# Foreword

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In the past decade interest in preventing child abuse and neglect has increased substantially. This has resulted not only from the humanitarian desire to remedy or prevent the suffering of children, but as a result of the professional community's highlighting of the harmful and expensive outcomes that can result from child abuse and neglect: the physical and emotional harm, the intergenerational transmission of abusive behaviour, delinquency and adult criminal behaviour. These findings, taken together with evidence that the prevention of child maltreatment, and the investment in the health and wellbeing of children, families and communities, is socially and economically cost-effective, have led to a significant investment in child abuse prevention.

There are currently a multitude of government and non-government child abuse prevention strategies, initiatives and programs being undertaken across the nation. The diverse range of programs and the geographical vastness of Australia have hindered attempts to ensure that service providers are made aware of new developments, innovations in practice and of the existence of like-minded agencies operating programs with similar aims and objectives. Thus there has been some difficulty in ensuring that the lessons of child abuse prevention are learnt, that governments and non-government service providers have access to the latest in program development and service provision, and that program duplication is minimised.

The National Audit of Child Abuse Prevention Programs has been developed as a means of facilitating access to information on the latest developments in child abuse prevention and the promotion of child and family wellbeing. It represents the most comprehensive attempt to describe the state of the nation in this field, and is the most recent of an ongoing series of audits of child abuse prevention programs that have been conducted at the Clearinghouse. The National Audit, along with the resultant Child Abuse Prevention Programs database, will serve as a valuable resource for governments and service providers for some time to come.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies, through the work of the National Clearinghouse, has established a strong presence in the field of child abuse prevention. The National Audit represents the latest attempt to provide services with some of the information they need to keep abreast of developments in the child abuse prevention field; a resource that is likely to stimulate the development of new programs and associated research. We look forward with great enthusiasm to the continued monitoring of developments in child abuse prevention across Australia.

David I. Stanton  
Director  
Australian Institute of Family Studies

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## About the authors

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