



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS



ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2006

## WELCOME

Welcome to the sixth edition of Children & Youth News, the newsletter of the ABS' National Children and Youth Statistics Unit. Children & Youth News is designed to highlight developments in children and youth related statistics and provides links to recent data releases relevant to the field.

## Update on the Information Development Plan

The National Children and Youth Statistics Unit (NCYSU) has recently completed work on a draft Information Development Plan for the children and youth field. The draft Plan, entitled Improving Statistics on Children and Youth: An Information Development Plan, presents an overview of the key policy issues, stakeholders and data sources relevant to the field; the data development needs identified to date; and data development actions already underway to address these needs.

Over the next month the NCYSU will be consulting with relevant agencies at the State and Territory level to gather comments on the draft Plan and identify additional data development actions to address data gaps and deficiencies. If you would like to review the draft Plan please contact Lesley Martin on [lesley.martin@abs.gov.au](mailto:lesley.martin@abs.gov.au). Closing date for comments is 3 March 2006.

It is intended that a final version of the Plan will be released the middle of this year.



## National Data Network — Institute for Child Health Research hosted node

The [National Data Network \(NDN\)](#) is a collaborative project, lead by the ABS, to provide a library of data holdings relevant to policy analysis and research. The Network will consist of the NDN Central node (located at the ABS) linking to NDN Nodes located on servers at individual external data custodians' servers. A Node is essentially a library of meta-data about each data custodian's data holdings. These data holdings remain within, and controlled by, the custodian organisations

The Western Australian ABS office is working in collaboration with the [Telethon Institute for Child Health Research](#) to create a NDN node which will bring additional datasets to the network. The primary dataset to be accessed via this node will be the WA Aboriginal Child Health Survey. It is expected that other related datasets will be made available over time.

Professor Fiona Stanley is a strong supporter of this NDN initiative and is keen to expose Indigenous data to the network to complement health data from the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) which are now accessible. A valuable aspect of this NDN project is that it allows partners to share best practice principles, particularly in such critical areas as privacy protocols and information standards

### PAGE 1

- **Welcome:**
- **Update on the Information Development Plan**
- **National Data Network — Institute of Child Health Research hosted node**

### PAGE 2

- **Recent Releases**

### PAGE 3

- **Recent Releases (cont.)**
- **Upcoming Releases**
- **Non-ABS Research**

### PAGE 4

- **Non-ABS Research (cont.)**
- **Children and Youth Theme Page**
- **Contact Us**



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS



ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2006

## Year Book Australia 2006 out now!

The Year Book Australia 2006 is a comprehensive source of information about Australia. The latest issue is presented in one package with CD-ROM, making it great value for money. Order your copy online or telephone 1300 135 070 and have your credit card details ready.



## Now available - more ABS data free online!

You can now access the full range of electronic ABS data free of charge at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au). Download an expanded range of data on the ABS web site, including:



- electronic publications (PDF and HTML based content);
- Census Community Profiles down to Collection District level;
- time series spreadsheets; and
- other spreadsheets and data cubes.

Printed copies of publications and Census maps are still available and can be purchased either online, using our [e-commerce facility](#), or by calling 1300 135 070.

## RECENT RELEASES

### Australian Social Trends

The latest Australian Social Trends publication includes a number of articles relevant to children and youth.

#### [People in their 20s: then and now](#)

In 2001, 16% of people in their 20s were partners in a couple with children, compared with at least 40% of people in this age group in 1976.

This article compares Australians in their 20s at the start of the new millennium with those who were in the same age group in the mid-1970s. The article focuses on changes in their demographic characteristics, living arrangements, family life and participation in education and work.

#### [Grandparents raising their grandchildren](#)

In 2003, there were 22,500 Australian families in which grandparents were the guardians of their grandchildren (31,100 children aged 0-17 years).

This article presents data from the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey. Characteristics of families where grandparents are the guardians of their grandchildren are presented including data on family type and income. Data on children's contact with their parents is also presented.

#### [Young people at risk in the transition from education to work](#)

In 2004, 14% of young people aged 15-19 years (193,800 young people) were not engaged in full-time education or full-time employment, or in a combination of part-time education and part-time employment.

This article presents data from the 2004 Survey of Education and Work. Data on educational and work participation (full-time and part-time), along with socio-demographic information is included.

### PAGE 1

- **Welcome:**  
Update on the Information Development Plan  
National Data Network  
— Institute of Child Health Research hosted node

### PAGE 2

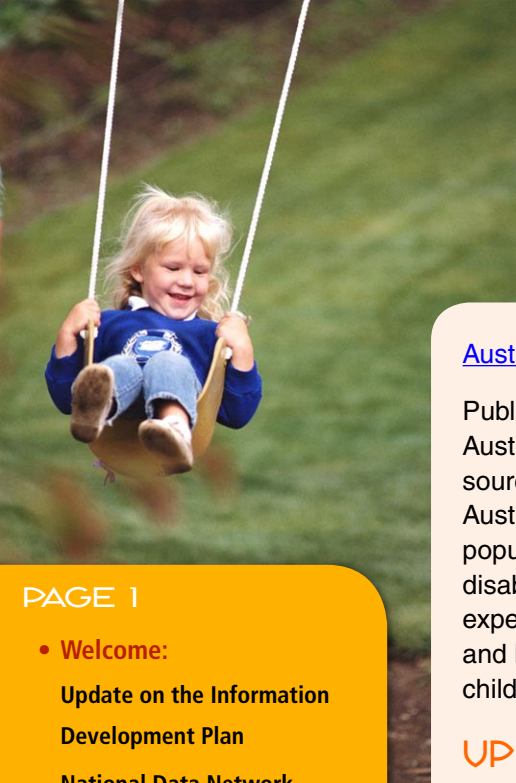
- **Recent Releases**

### PAGE 3

- **Recent Releases (cont.)**
- **Upcoming Releases**
- **Non-ABS Research**

### PAGE 4

- **Non-ABS Research (cont.)**
- **Children and Youth Theme Page**
- **Contact Us**



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS



ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2006

## [Australia's Welfare](#)

Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australia's Welfare is a comprehensive and authoritative source of national information on welfare services in Australia. Topics include indicators of the welfare of Australia's population, ageing and aged care services, disability and disability services, assistance for housing, services for people experiencing homelessness, and welfare services expenditure and labour force. It also features an extended chapter on children, youth and families.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

### February

- Demography, Australia (cat. no. 3311.0.55.001)
- Causes of Death (cat. no. 3303.0)
- Suicides: Recent Trends, Australia, 1994–2004 (cat. no. 3309.0.55.001)
- National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004–05 (cat. no. 4364.0)

### March

- Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6554.0)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4715.0)
- Child Care, Australia (cat. no. 4402.0)
- Recent Developments in the Collection of Indigenous Statistics (cat. no. 4704.0.55.001)

### April

- Crime and Safety, Australia (cat. no. 4509.0)

## NON-ABS RESEARCH

### Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey

The [Telethon Institute for Child Health Research \(ICHR\)](#) will release the third volume of results of the [Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey \(WAACHS\)](#) on March 24th 2006.

The WAACHS provides information on the prevalence, scope and determinants of developmental health problems and educational outcomes in Aboriginal children (aged 0-17) living in Western Australia. This third volume covers the experiences of Aboriginal children aged 4-17 in formal education. The results from the survey's first two volumes, which concentrated on physical health and social and emotional wellbeing, are integrated with education data in this third volume. This has enabled educational outcomes to be described along with the key factors that influence them, for the first time.

The survey sampled more than 5,000 Western Australian Aboriginal children representing around 2,000 families in rural, urban and remote areas of the state. The large scale and depth of the WAACHS means that the findings have relevance across Australia, and are applicable for use in the development of national frameworks and strategies across departments.

The survey was undertaken by the Institute in conjunction with the Kulunga Research Network. The ABS has been an integral part of the survey development, collection and output phases.

## PAGE 1

- **Welcome:**  
Update on the Information Development Plan  
National Data Network  
— Institute of Child Health Research hosted node

## PAGE 2

- **Recent Releases**

## PAGE 3

- **Recent Releases (cont.)**
- **Upcoming Releases**
- **Non-ABS Research**

## PAGE 4

- **Non-ABS Research (cont.)**
- **Children and Youth Theme Page**
- **Contact Us**



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS



ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2006

For more details on the survey and the previous two volumes released, see <http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/waachs>. A PDF of the publication will be available via the ICHR website from March 24th.

Future volumes will examine aspects of Aboriginal children and young people's:

- family and community environment (due for release in November 2006)
- experiences with the justice system (due for release in October 2007)

## Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

A number of [research reports](#) presenting data from the [Longitudinal Surveys of Australia Youth](#) have recently been released. These include—

Non-apprenticeship VET Courses: Participation, persistence and subsequent pathways (LSAY Research Report No 47)

Unmet Demand? Characteristics and activities of university applicants not offered a place (LSAY Research Report No 46)

Young People Outside the Labour Force and Full-time Education: Activities and profiles (LSAY Research Report No 45)

Participation in and Progress through New Apprenticeships (LSAY Research Report No 44)

Life Satisfaction of Young Australians: Relationships between further education, training and employment and general and career satisfaction (LSAY Research Report No 43)



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEME PAGE

A [Children and Youth Statistics Theme Page](#) on the ABS website highlights the type and range of data available for analysis of children and youth issues. This page is updated to advise users of new data releases as they become available.

### PAGE 1

- **Welcome:**
- Update on the Information Development Plan
- National Data Network — Institute of Child Health Research hosted node

### PAGE 2

- **Recent Releases**

### PAGE 3

- **Recent Releases (cont.)**
- **Upcoming Releases**
- **Non-ABS Research**

### PAGE 4

- **Non-ABS Research (cont.)**
- **Children and Youth Theme Page**
- **Contact Us**

## CONTACT US

### For information about the full range of ABS data:

#### National Information and Referral Service

telephone: 1300 135 070

email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au) fax 1300 135 211

### For further information on the NCYSU and its activities:

#### Lesley Martin

telephone: (08) 9360 5320

email: [lesley.martin@abs.gov.au](mailto:lesley.martin@abs.gov.au)