



Email Newsletter – December 2008

Dear all,

Welcome to the December edition of our electronic newsletter, and a special welcome to all our new members! In this newsletter, you will find details about;

- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- A range of helpful [resources](#)

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The Drug Education Network Inc. (DEN) is a state-wide organisation operating within harm reduction principles which provides health promotion programs, brief interventions, and research in relation to alcohol and other drugs in Tasmania. The DEN's services are available to all members of the community; parents, young people, schools, students, teachers, employers and other people interested in Alcohol and Other Drugs.

The mission of the Drug Education Network Inc. Tasmania is to work with communities to minimise the harms associated with drug use through the provision of effective, evidence-based information and programs. As part of the consultation process, a Learning and Support Needs Assessment is in circulation for service providers and caregivers. The needs assessment will assist planning for future training programs and identify service delivery needs in the community. For a copy of the Learning Needs Assessment in please go to our website www.den.org.au and check 'Programs'.

The ARACY Report Card on the wellbeing of Young Australians was launched at Parliament House on 21st October, 2008.

The Report Card presents a summary of the wellbeing of Australia's young people. It provides an international perspective and sets a baseline for future monitoring. The Report Card was developed with the support and assistance of UNICEF Australia and the Allen Consulting Group, and tells us for the first time how well our children are doing in comparison to those from other countries. While there is some good news, overall it tells

us that we're not doing as well as we should be for our children. The Report Card is supported by a companion technical report, which provides full details of all 42 measures.

You can download the Report Card and the technical report and read more at

www.aracy.org.au/reportcard

<http://ARACY.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT05NDMyNSZwPTEmdT01MDA1MjEyNzcmbGk9MjU1MzY1/index.html>

RESOURCES

NEW:

PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED:

- *Australian Institute of Family Studies* – This site provides a link to the papers presented during the recent conference (9 - 11 July 2008)
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afrc10/index.html>
- *International Network Foster Care* – This site provides the latest research on issues relating to foster care from around the globe <http://www.foster-care-research.org/>
- *ICASN Newsboard* - This resource is updated on an ongoing basis so check it regularly to keep abreast of Inter-Country Adoption news and information
<http://www.icasn.org/newsboard.html>
- *ICASN Perspective Paper - Search & Reunion with Natural family*
<http://www.icasn.org/perspectives/ICASN%20Perspectives%20-%20Search%20and%20Reunion.pdf>
- *Australian Government Inter-country Adoption Strategic Plan 2007*
For more information go to <http://www.ag.gov.au> and follow the links to Families >> Children >> Inter-country Adoption >> What's New
- *Transitioning from the state care system: the impacts of in-care experiences on the post-care outcomes for young people leaving care.*
http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Mendes_9.pdf
- *Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders.*
http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Hunter_148.pdf
- PPSS Referral List – we provide a list of counsellors who have been recommended to us by at least one person or family (although we don't formally recommend any counsellor as an organisation). Contact us if you would like a copy of this.
- Child Parenting Skills - educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption, fostering, permanent care, surrogacy and biological birth children. <http://www.childparentingskills.com.au/>
- Medicare subsidised counselling from psychologists – if you would like to find out more about this, the link on the Australian Psychological Society website (www.psychology.org.au) is: http://www.psychology.org.au/medicare/fact_sheet/

- Ruth Kelly from Ireland has been involved in a study on Inter-country Adoption undertaken by the Children's Research Centre (Trinity College) and the Adoption Board in Ireland. The research, which interviewed 180 families and nearly 100 children, is now complete and available as a PDF file from: www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre and www.adoptionboard.ie
- Costs of raising children in Australia - based on research commissioned by the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support and published through the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, this occasional paper (# 18) presents a collection of three reports on the costs of children in Australian families namely:
 - The estimated costs of children in Australian families in 2005–06
 - Updated costs of children using Australian budget standards
 - Costs of children and equivalence scales: a review of methodological issues and Australian estimates

A copy of the paper is available at:

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops18.htm>

- British Association for Adoption and Foster Care (www.baaf.org.uk) - books on adoption and foster care. BAAF books can also be obtained in Australia from St Luke's Innovative Resources in Bendigo (www.stlukes.org.au).
- Permanent Care and Adoption - Teachers and Parents in Partnership - an information sheet for families to give to their children's teachers <http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/library/publications/teachers-parents>
- Permanent Care and Adoption of older Children - Information for Relatives and Friends - an information sheet for families to give to relatives and friends <http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/library/publications/older-children>
- Foster Care Association of Victoria website and newsletters (lots of interesting information) <http://www.fcav.org/newsletter.htm>
- Paediatric Policy – *Health Care for Children in 'Out-of-Home' Placements* www.racp.edu.au/hpu/paed/outofHome.pdf

INTERSTATE ORGANISATIONS OFFERING SUPPORT TO PARENTS & CARERS

- Post Adoption Resource Centre, Sydney, NSW. www.bensoc.org.au/parc/index.cfm. Information and counselling for anyone affected by adoption. Email: parc@bensoc.org.au
- Post Adoption Support Services, Relationships Australia, South Australia. www.relationships.com.au/what-we-do/services/post-adoption-support-service
Tel: 08 8245 8100. Nikki Hartmann, Coordinator. Email: n.hartmann@rasa.org.au
- Adoption Research and Counselling Service WA. www.adoptionwa.org.au
Counselling, support and outreach service for anyone separated from birth family, adoption, foster care, step family etc. Email: arcs@adoptionwa.org.au

WEBSITES/EMAIL LISTS

- Educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption. www.childparentingskills.com.au
- Australian information on attachment – www.attachmentresources.com.au
- Information and news on a wide range of inter-country adoption issues - contact Lynelle Beveridge on: lynelleb@au1.ibm.com
- Advice, search and support services for the adoption triangle, care leavers and donor conception - VANISH - www.vanish.org.au
- Inter-country Adoption Service (new website addresses) - www.dhs.vic.gov.au/icas and office-for-children.vic.gov.au/placement-support/intercountry-adoption