



# FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

February 2007

Number 6

## In This Issue

- FRMP 12 Month Report
- Professional Development
- FRMP of the Month!
- FRMP Website
- FRMP Evaluation
- FRMP Publicity Material
- Important Brokerage Update
- Brokerage Report
- Community Capacity Building Initiatives
- Other Sector News
- Future Newsletters

## Welcome!

Welcome to the sixth edition of the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter!

Again, the past 3 months has been a busy period, with FRMP supporting 84 young people in total. See breakdown of these interventions within our brokerage statistics below.

Over our recent 12month period January to December 2006 our program assisted 337 young people. Please see our 12 Month Report available from our website [www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/12monthreport%20jan-dec06.pdf](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/12monthreport%20jan-dec06.pdf)

A number of exciting regional community development initiatives continues to be supported. See our Capacity Building Initiatives report below.

Summery Regards, the FRMP Team!

## FRMP 12 Month Report

FRMP has released its second 12 month report, documenting brokerage and community development achievements from January to December 2006. As well as displaying statistical representations of the 337 young people supported by FRMP over this period, the document also details sector achievements and future directions of the Program planned for 2007. Download a copy from FRMP website [www.frmp.org.au](http://www.frmp.org.au)

## Professional Development

**“Wanna Talk About It Too?: Further Integrating Family Centred Practice Within The YSAAP Service Sysytem” 18th May 2007, Melbourne**

As a follow up to last year’s hugely successful event, FRMP is pleased to confirm the date for the second annual statewide forum this May. This free event is a FRMP funded initiative being hosted 9am-5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Forum will provide opportunities to:

- Learn from presenters who are experts in their field and have the ability to translate their knowledge into practice based learning;
- Listen to and share experiences of practitioners, colleagues, families and young people;
- Attend intensive workshops to learn about innovative practice approaches that challenge how we work with young people and their families;
- Inspire and recharge the practice of individual workers, organizations & service sector

## FRMP Website Links

*Link to FRMP  
website*

<http://www.frmp.org.au/>

*Download FRMP  
Brokerage  
Guidelines*

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/BrokerageGuidelines2006.doc>

*Access FRMP  
Online Database  
of Counsellors*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Counsellors%20-%20Area.xls](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Counsellors%20-%20Area.xls)

*Access FRMP  
Online Database  
of Mediators*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Mediators%20-%20Area.xls](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Mediators%20-%20Area.xls)

### Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions - What Does It Take?

FRMP is pleased to announce that subsidized training will be available to the Sector via the Homelessness Assistance and Community Housing Training Calendar on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007. This training is a FRMP funded initiative, delivered by Regional Extended Family Service.

This one day training will be targeted at workers from the homelessness service sector who are working with or making assessments for young people between 15 - 25 years old.

The course aims to deliver specific training to workers in the homelessness service sector in order to provide a more substantial capacity for family focused interventions when working with young people who are newly or longer term homeless. At the end of the day participants will have a sound knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings relating to the integration of issues around family and relationships into assessment and service delivery in the homelessness sector. They will have explored ideas for including the social and emotional needs of clients in relation to family connectedness into their assessment processes and will have a range of practical strategies and tools for inclusion in this process.

For further information please contact Mandy Baxter on 8625 4476.

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### FRMP of the Month!

FRMP is pleased to announce **Sarah Daly** from **Good Shepherd** in **Collingwood** as our FRMP worker of the month! Sarah has been mindful of including extended families in her case management role, and accessing FRMP funded therapeutic support for these young people and families. Important work. Well Done!

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### FRMP Website

For up-to-date information about brokerage, private practitioners, and sector news and events visit the FRMP website. A reminder that the FRMP website has an added feature for workers to give feedback about the program. Feedback can be given under the tab "Contact Us".

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### FRMP Evaluation

David Mackenzie has conducted a series of interviews with Youth SAAP services who have been identified as having a youth focussed, family centred framework of working with young people experiencing homelessness. These services were chosen at random. This will form part of an interim report, which will soon be available via the FRMP website [www.frmp.org.au](http://www.frmp.org.au)

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### FRMP Publicity Material Counseling flyer for Young People

In response to feedback received a number of services, FRMP has developed a flyer for young people about "counselling". Young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services were consulted throughout the process of developing and designing the content and artwork within this resource. For more copies or information, contact either Yasmin Thomas (8625 4478) or Trish Westhead (8625 4477).

#### Young person flyer, sticker and magnet

Participation and feedback was sought from young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services regarding the development of the FRMP flyer, sticker and magnet for young people. If you would like additional copies of these resources please contact either Yasmin Thomas (8625 4478) or Trish Westhead (8625 4477).

*Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form for Individuals*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Individual.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Individual.doc)

*Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form for Groupwork*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Groups.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Groups.doc)

*Download FRMP Request Form for Additional Sessions*

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Ranee%20-%20Request%20for%20Additional%20sessions%20with%20counselor.doc>

*Download FRMP Invoicing Guidelines and Requirements*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Invoicing%20requirements.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Invoicing%20requirements.doc)

## Important Brokerage Update - Requests for additional sessions

If a young person accessing FRMP funded counseling requires additional sessions (eg: to complete therapeutic work, or in lieu of missed sessions) please download "FRMP Brokerage - Request for Additional Sessions" from the FRMP website

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Ranee%20-%20Request%20for%20additional%20sessions%20with%20counselor.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Ranee%20-%20Request%20for%20additional%20sessions%20with%20counselor.doc) or contact Ranee Cornell / Angela Dupuche directly on (03) 8625 4479 [rcornell@mcm.org.au](mailto:rcornell@mcm.org.au)

## Brokerage Report

Brokerage statistics continue to reflect the steady momentum of the program.

**Brokerage statistics for period November 2006 to January 2007:**

Applications accepted	November - 39 December - 23 January - 22 <b>Total - 84</b>
Service accessing funds	SAAP service - 62 Youth refuge / crisis - 15 Other - 7 THM - 2
Regional breakdown of services accessing funds	Western Metro - 22 Loddon Mallee - 14 Southern Metro - 13 Hume - 12 Northern Metro - 11 Eastern Metro - 7 Grampians - 4 Barwon - 1 Gippsland - 1
Interventions funded	Reconciliation - 72 Discretionary funds - 8 Groupwork - 6 Mediation - 4
Cultural Identity of young person	Australian - 68 Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander - 1 Other - 15
Time out of Home	Currently at Home - 10 1 to 12 weeks - 13 3 to 6 months - 13 6 to 12 months - 12 12 to 18 months - 9 18 to 24 months - 6 Over 2 years - 20 Not disclosed - 3

*Download FRMP  
Interim Update  
Report for  
Individuals*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Interim%20update%20report%20\(FRMP\).doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Interim%20update%20report%20(FRMP).doc)

*Download FRMP  
Final Feedback  
Form for  
Individuals*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Brokerage%20Final%20Feedback.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Brokerage%20Final%20Feedback.doc)

*Download FRMP  
Feedback Form  
for Groupwork  
(young person)*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Participant%20Feedback.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Participant%20Feedback.doc)

*Download FRMP  
Feedback Form  
for Groupwork  
(worker)*

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Worker%20Feedback.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Worker%20Feedback.doc)

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## Community Capacity Building Initiatives

A core component of the FRMP program is community capacity building. Our intention is to promote the use of family focused practice as a central feature to all intake, assessment and casework practice within the Homelessness Service System (HSS). In the last 3 months a number of partnerships continue to take shape:

### FRMP Information Kit

A resource is currently being developed for workers in relation to Youth Centered Family Focused practice. As well as explaining the context of youth homelessness and the importance of including considerations of 'family' within all intake, assessment and case planning with young people, the resource will also define a number of therapeutic interventions in a Fact Sheet format. Feedback is currently being sought from young people, workers and families regarding their thoughts on these interventions, which will also be included as an important component of these fact sheets. For more information contact Trish Westhead on (03) 8625 4477 or [twesthead@mcm.org.au](mailto:twesthead@mcm.org.au)

### Private Practitioners

An online directory of private practitioners (psychologists and counsellors screened by FRMP) has been developed and is available for workers to view via the FRMP website. This list will continue to grow as the program develops. If workers have any psychologists and counsellors they would like to refer to this list, please contact the FRMP Team. The directory can be accessed via <http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/PP - Counsellors - Area.xls>

### Eastern Metropolitan Region Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group

This Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relating to working within a youth centered family focused approach. The group is also an important forum for workers to share information about regional trends and concerns, as well as innovations and best practice.

Next meeting is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 930am-1130am at Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care, Suite 1/ 1 Oxford Street, Oakleigh

For more information please contact Trish Westhead on (03) 8625 4477 [twesthead@mcm.org.au](mailto:twesthead@mcm.org.au) or visit the frmp website.

### Group Work Developments

Within the 2006 FRMP Guidelines, FRMP Brokerage Funds can now be accessed by SAAP & THM services to resource Groupwork programs. Please refer to FRMP Brokerage Guidelines, and FRMP Groupwork Application Form via link [www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/ApplicationKit.asp](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/ApplicationKit.asp) The FRMP Community Development Team will be available to assist workers and services in facilitating the development of appropriate groupwork programs. Please contact Yasmin Thomas (03) 8625 4478 or Trish Westhead (03) 8625 4477 for more information.

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## Other Useful Links

### Victorian SAAP Reconciliation Workers

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/irmp/resources/pdf/SAAP%20Reconciliation%20Services.pdf>

### Victorian Family Mediation Services Victorian Office of Housing

<http://www.housing.vic.gov.au/>

### Victorian Reconnect Services

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/irmp/resources/pdf/Reconnect%20Providers%20in%20Victoria.pdf>

### Victorian Family Violence Prevention Networks

[www.vfvpn.org.au/networks.htm](http://www.vfvpn.org.au/networks.htm)

### Victorian Regional Homelessness Networks

<http://net.saap.info/xchange.net.au/>

### Victorian Office of Housing

<http://www.housing.vic.gov.au/>

## Other Sector News

### Events & Useful Links

#### New Report on Young People in Detention

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released recently released the following report: *Juveniles in detention in Australia, 1981-2005* by Natalie Taylor.

Data on those young people within the justice system who are in corrective institutions show that, while the overall rates of detention for males and females, Indigenous and non-Indigenous juveniles have decreased since 1981, Indigenous juveniles are still highly over-represented and are 23 times more likely to be in detention than non-indigenous young people.

For more info: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tbp/tbp022/>

Source: YacVic

#### Youth Homelessness In Rural Victoria

In the first instalment of our *Eye on Practice* series for 2007, **Laura Jolly** investigates how young Victorians in rural areas experience homelessness.

Young people in rural areas experience homelessness very differently to their urban peers due to limited access to crisis housing, support services, and employment and education opportunities. Often, crisis accommodation and emergency services are located in larger regional cities and towns, while many young people are reluctant to leave their own town, family, friends and support network. For this reason, many homeless young people prefer to stay with relatives, on friend's couches, or in caravans, so they are able to remain within their own familiar community rather than relocate to a metropolitan region.

Additionally, although the existing accommodation services and supports may not be appropriate for homeless young people in rural areas, the small population numbers of regional towns combined with limited resources can make it impossible to provide specialist facilities.

While homeless youth in regional areas experience many of the same challenges confronting those in the city, they are also distinguished by a number of factors. Employment opportunities may be difficult to find in small communities, while the rental housing markets in small towns are often very competitive and expensive, while youth are often discriminated against as tenants.

On top of this, young people are generally not aware of the services, benefits and assistance available to them, and generally only access assistance through pre-established connections. Other factors affecting young people's access to services and accommodation include race, gender, sexuality, children, pets, employment status and disability.

Source: CHIRS

#### The state of Victoria's children report 2006

The first annual report on the status of Victoria's children (the state of Victoria's children report 2006) offers a high-level, yet comprehensive overview of the health, development, learning, safety and well being of Victoria's children and young people, against the outcomes framework of 35 areas. The report provides an important evidence-base for the further development and evaluation of policy/program recommendations.

<http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/children/ccdnav.nsf/childdocs/-B0FDF1930F07A4C0CA256E1800654A1F-E1838385D1135289CA256E1800655B37-A8B370316FDB6261CA25720C00162E5A?open>

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### New research report on sexual assault services

The report, *'Services for victim/survivors of sexual assault: Identifying needs, interventions and provision of services in Australia; a summary of the international and national literature that exists on sexual assault services'*, by Jill Astbury of the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, addresses the gap in research on sexual assault services by summarising the existing international and national literature on sexual assault services.

"Little research has been done on the services that currently exist for victim/survivors of sexual assault. Yet high quality services can minimise the harm experienced by the victim/survivor.

"This paper summarises the international and national literature that exists on sexual assault services. It focuses on the needs of victim/survivors, on existing interventions, and data on the services that currently provide these interventions."

The full text of the paper is available online (and can be downloaded) from the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault website [www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/issue/i6.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/issue/i6.html)

Source: SNAICC

### Social Inclusion and Exclusion among Australia's Children: A Literature Review

A paper has been released by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling reviewing the literature with regards to child poverty and social exclusion.

Written by Anne Daly, "Social Inclusion and Exclusion among Australia's Children: A Spatial Perspective" surveys issues surrounding comparisons of child poverty between Australia and other OECD countries, measuring the concept of social exclusion and its relationship with place of residence.

The paper concludes that Australia's rate of child poverty is higher than the national average, with those from minority groups or from lone parent households most at risk.

The most important determinant of child poverty in Australia is judged to be the employment status of parents or guardians, with low income an important factor is social exclusion.

Income was just one indicator in the reasons for social exclusion that also include demographic factors, health, housing status and educational attainment.

Research also suggested that neighbourhoods are becoming more segregated economically and could become a more important determinant of poverty.

Source: CHIRS

The second Briefing Paper from the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse - The changing role of grandparents, by Gay Ochiltree.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing2.html>

Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies

### **Cooperation is needed, says housing lobby group**

A housing lobby group is calling on the Federal Opposition to help tackle an affordable housing crisis in Australia, reported the Courier-Mail on 22 January.

The National Shelter said the housing issue had suffered because of constant blame-shifting between state and federal governments.

National Shelter chairman Adrian Pisarski said increased rental prices meant there was no respite, especially for those on low and moderate incomes.

"Even people on moderate incomes are finding that the price they have to pay for their housing means they don't have enough money left over for other things," he said.

"And in many cases they can't find housing, no matter how hard they look and they are increasingly being forced into situations where they are camping in showgrounds and things like that. It is a real crisis."

In a media release, Shadow Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek said the Federal Government should consider Labor's model of shared equity arrangements, as well as create a national settlement strategy with state co-operation.

Democrats senator Andrew Bartlett said the Government needed to develop a national housing strategy to stop the issue "falling through the political cracks" between governments.

But acting Treasurer Peter Dutton said the states had to cut property taxes and release more land for development to increase affordability.

"Property taxes, such as stamp duty and land tax, now make up, on average, 32.5 per cent of the total revenue raised by the states from their own imposed taxes," he told AAP in this article.

"This is up from 22.6 per cent in 2000/01."

The National Shelter's Mr Pisarski said more co-operation was needed.

"There doesn't seem to be a lot of forward thinking. Nobody has been looking forward, seeing the magnitude of the problem that we've got and planning to do something about it."

### **Blueprint for Indigenous Affairs**

Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, outlined the Government's blueprint for action in Indigenous Affairs this week.

Mr Brough said fundamental reform was necessary to ensure Indigenous Australians are able to lead independent lives and benefit from the economy in the same way as all other Australians.

"The Government's blueprint identifies three priority areas for special attention - early childhood intervention; safer communities; and building wealth, employment and entrepreneurial culture. "

Full Speech [www.atsia.gov.au](http://www.atsia.gov.au).

Source: AFHO



#### **Recent changes to yeeti administration:**

YEETI's target was to administer just under 2 million dollars in funding for education, employment and training initiatives to 165 young people in the youth housing sector. This target has been exceeded as YEETI has assisted over 1000 young people. As such, there are a few changes to the administration of YEETI funds.

Discretionary - YEETI is no longer accepting discretionary applications.

Managing personal futures - Funding round 9 is the final YEETI round. It is currently open and closes 2/02/07. Applications are capped at \$2,500 each and YEETI will accept the first 100 only.

Outstanding invoices - YEETI invoices now have a cut off date. All discretionary applications approved prior to the 31st of October have been notified of this. Invoices for approved applications after this date must be received by the YEETI administrator within 1 calendar month of approval, or they will be automatically withdrawn.

All outstanding invoices for managing personal futures for rounds 5, 6 & 7 must be received by the 15/12/06.

#### **Home Affordability Crisis Grows**

Eight back to back interest rate rises have hit Australian families hard, with 33.8% of family income now needed to pay off the average mortgage, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania are the hardest hit with repayments at 36.4%, 34.9% and 33.3% of family income respectively.

Three interest rate rises in a year have been extremely bad for homebuyers, and particularly first homebuyers. Potential homebuyers are caught in a vicious cycle, paying higher and higher rents and watching their home loan deposits erode. For a growing number of hard working Australians home ownership is being pushed out of reach.

Source: AFHO

#### **The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of homelessness prevention and assistance programs (Positioning Paper)**

This project provides an analysis of the incremental benefits and whole-of-government budgetary costs of both providing and not providing assistance to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless. The study is focused on Western Australia, and involves collaboration with various government departments in analysing administrative source data.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/80306\\_pp](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/80306_pp)

Source: AHURI

#### **National Youth Week 14th -22nd April 2007**

For information on National Youth Week grants (grants up to \$2000) 'for young people to organise local projects, events and activities for young people', please visit website [www.youthweek.com](http://www.youthweek.com)

### Ringwood Family Relationship Centre

The Australian Government is seeking a cultural change in services to support families. Underpinning the Government's reforms is the importance of:

Promoting healthy family relationships,

Preventing conflict and separation,

Encouraging agreement rather than litigation, and

Promoting the rights of children to have meaningful relationships with both parents.

The Ringwood Family Relationship Centre has been established as a place for family members to go for support and information at any stage in a family relationship: from the early days of starting a relationship, during marriage or long-term commitment, and during and after divorce or separation. Information and services are provided that aim to strengthen and support relationships in the family with a focus on what is best for the child/ren.

Individuals and families are welcome to visit the centre to talk to staff. Information about services is provided as well as referral to introduce individuals and families to these services. Other people who care about the family are also encouraged to attend the service to talk about the issues and focus on what is best for the child/ren.

For further information, contact Bec Jolly on telephone 9871 6300 or Email [rjolly@ringwoodfrc.org.au](mailto:rjolly@ringwoodfrc.org.au).

Amnesty International's Stop Violence Against Women campaign has just launched a new video and we would like as many people as possible to watch it and take action!

The video sends a very powerful message, one that needs to be heard, so please send the video to as many people as you can - friends, family, colleagues.

Help Amnesty International to keep fighting for an end to violence against women. <http://aigeneral.c.topica.com/maaf15qabuHyabshzuibaeQzEN/>

### Voucher Welfare System

Parents could have strict conditions placed on their welfare payments under a Federal Government plan.

Cabinet has given preliminary support to a scheme that will replace up to 40 per cent of welfare payments with food and rent vouchers, ensuring that portion of the money is not spent on alcohol and drugs.

Numerous welfare agencies, including ACOSS, Catholic Social Services Australia, the Australian Drug and Alcohol Council and St Vincent de Paul, spoke against the plan when it gained prominence earlier this month.

Source: The Daily Telegraph

### Moving Out, Moving On: Young People's Pathways Into and Through Homelessness

This report shows the key finding of Project i, a five-year study of homeless young people in Melbourne and Los Angeles (2000-2005). The study comprises surveys and interviews with young people who were experiencing homelessness, including a longitudinal study of those who were newly homeless, and surveys and interviews with service providers. <http://www.kcwh.unimelb.edu.au/projecti/home.html>

Source: Infoxchange

### **Centrelink Fraud Powers Increased**

Centrelink's powers to investigate welfare fraud have been strengthened with legislation passed in the Senate. Centrelink officers will now have the power to search and seize material, which could be later used to prosecute fraud cases.

The Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Veterans Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2006 also allows for a crisis payment to people suffering financial hardship after being subjected to domestic violence.

This could occur in cases where the family member responsible for the domestic violence has been removed leaving the victim without income.

Source: AFHO

Would you like to receive information about national homelessness advocacy, policy and research issues? The Australian Federation of Homelessness Organizations (AFHO) publishes a national weekly bulletin. To subscribe visit their website [www.afho.org.au](http://www.afho.org.au)

Email: Men's Health and Wellbeing E Bulletin - Free monthly men's health and wellbeing bulletin

### **Mindful Friday Forums**

Mindful - Centre for Training and Research in Developmental Health has released their calendar for the monthly Friday Forums for 2007.

The aims of the Friday Forum are to:

1. provide up-to-date information on theory and practice for workers in the child, adolescent and family mental health and welfare fields;
2. provide a forum for local people to present their ideas and their work; and
3. provide an opportunity for networking.

Each forum will cover a different topic, including "A whole school approach to mental health promotion", " An introduction to autistic spectrum disorders" and "Research in child and adolescent mental health".

Registration is compulsory, and forums cost \$15.

Where: Building 36, Repatriation Campus Austin Health, Heidelberg (Melway Reference: Map 31 3G)

For more info: For further information contact Mindful at [fridayforum@mindful.org.au](mailto:fridayforum@mindful.org.au) or 03 9496 4118 or visit: [www.mindful.org.au](http://www.mindful.org.au)

Source: Mindful, via Banyule Nillumbik Youth Services News

### **Forums & Conferences 2006**

XV Biennial International Foster Care Conference - Fostering Our Taonga: Children are our treasure as are those who care for them, Hamilton, New Zealand, 11-16 February 2007

The Mental Health Services 9th Annual Summer Forum 2007 - The Mental Health Workforce of the Future, Sydney, NSW, 15-16 February 2007

Human Rights Conference: Freedom, Respect, Equality, Dignity, Melbourne, Vic, 27 February 2007

#### **From Welfare To Social Investment Conference**

Some of the world's leading thinkers in social policy will be addressing this two-day conference at the University of Melbourne. Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 February.

Source: CHIRS

**Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sydney, NSW, 28 February- 2 March 2007**

**139th Banff International Conference on Behavioural Science - Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 18-21 March 2007**

#### **National youth affairs conference**

National Youth Conference: *'Are we there yet?'* Melbourne, 1-2 May 2007

A conference for young people, youth workers, educators, policy makers, academics and researchers, community workers and anyone interested in youth affairs in Australia. This is the first national youth conference in 8 years!

To register your interest and receive regular conference updates, please email [conference@yacvic.org.au](mailto:conference@yacvic.org.au) with the subject line 'conference e-list'.

This conference is hosted by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria in partnership with YAPA, YANQ, YACWA, YACSA, YNOT, YCACT and NTYAN and supported by the Department for Victorian Communities, Victorian State Government.

Source: YACVic

#### **Their Lives Our Work**

The Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia in collaboration with PeakCare Qld Inc are proud to co-host the biennial practice symposium at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, from 15 to 17 May 2007.

Expressions of Interest are called for practitioners across Australia to showcase their program relevant to the following areas:

- Early Intervention
- Domestic and Family Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Loss and Grief

Register your interest

to Peter Melrose at PeakCare Qld (email [pmelrose@peakcare.com.au](mailto:pmelrose@peakcare.com.au)) by submitting the following details:

- o Program name
- o Presenters name
- o Session name
- o Brief responses to 3 questions (see details in leaflet)
- o Contact details

Please ensure these details are submitted by 10 February 2007.

The symposium theme challenges delegates to explore the diverse and complex needs of children, young people and their families and how best to meet these needs in the contemporary context.

This is a not to be missed practice development opportunity for those working with children, young people and families with complex needs.

The leaflet with more details for the Expression of Interest is available for download below.

Contact Name: Loretta O'Brien

Contact Phone: (07) 3368 1050

Website: [www.theirlivesourwork.com.au/](http://www.theirlivesourwork.com.au/)

Brochure: <http://networking.snaicc.asn.au/news/items/2007/01/132461-upload-00001.pdf>

**National conference: Australian college of child and family protection practitioners**

Date: 20 - 22 May 2007

You are invited to attend the second national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Melbourne.

As a developing professional organisation, the college is truly multidisciplinary and aims to contribute to the debate on child and family preservation whilst striving for excellence in practice. As such, the conference provides a valuable forum for discussing the issues which are shaping contemporary practice and career landscapes. The conference reflects these dual aims with presentations by informative and stimulating speakers as well as skills transfer workshops. Key leaders in the field of child and family work have pledged their continued support and the Melbourne based organising committee are enthusiastic about putting together an exciting and challenging event.

*Themes* The conference theme "Borders and Bridges" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Diverse state data collection systems and differences in risk and safety assessment supply the foundation of a lack of systematic planning. Workforce roles are similar but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

*Who should attend?*

Workers from across the government and non-government child and family support services sectors;

Professionals interested in the health and wellbeing of Australian children;

Professionals interested in sharing information on the delivery of child and family protection services, workforce, research, policy development and service reviews.

In addition to plenary sessions featuring a range of keynote and invited speakers, the program will include a number of breakout sessions and workshops, making the event suitable for managers and service providers alike.

Abstracts are due by 31 December 2006

Where: Victoria Hotel, Little Collins St, Melbourne

For more info: Source: ACCFP

**Cultural Diversity in Ageing 2007 National Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 7-8 June 2007**

**15th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Human Development Association, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 July 2007**

**17th Annual The Mental Health Services Conference - Looking Toward Excellence in Mental Health Care in 2020, Melbourne, 4-7 September 2007**

**European Mediation Conference 2007, Vienna, Austria, 28-29 September 2007**

**NSW, Sydney, 12 December: Training Course - Sexual assault- responding to the crisis. Participants will learn about Acute Stress Disorder, PTSD and how to assist**

clients to deal with the impacts of sexual assault. Registration form available at: [www.nswrapecrisis.com.au/LatestNews/Training-Sexual\\_Assault-Oct2006.htm](http://www.nswrapecrisis.com.au/LatestNews/Training-Sexual_Assault-Oct2006.htm)

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## Training

### Victorian SAAP Training Calendar

For a copy of the latest Homelessness Assistance and Community Housing Training Calendar, July - December 2006, download:

<http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ooh/ne5ninte.nsf/childdocs/-DABB793C4B375F1BCA2571330009C35E-824F5677B0B205FBCA2571370019101C?open>

### St Luke's Summer School 2007

St Luke's, located in Bendigo, is running a number of community-oriented courses over the summer. The courses include: Strengths-based Practice: Principles and Process, The Travelling Toolshed and Strengths-based Community Building.

Source: CHIRS

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## Future Newsletters

If you would like to contribute articles or other relevant information to this newsletter please contact Yasmin Thomas, Senior Community Development Worker directly on 8625 4478 or email [ythomas@mcm.org.au](mailto:ythomas@mcm.org.au) The next edition will be published on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.