

# LAUNCESTON FAMILY PATHWAYS NETWORK

## OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

### *Seen and Heard 10 Years On*

*Seen and heard: priority for children in the legal process* was issued by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) in 1997. It was a report on a two-year enquiry into how children and young people are treated by Australia's legal system. It can be viewed at: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/alrc/publications/reports/84/ALRC84.html>

### **A recent Report by the ALRC shows that:**

**Children are no safer than they were ten years ago.**

**Most child offenders are escaping conviction**

**The number of children being looked after in care has more than doubled**

**Key recommendations of *Seen and Heard* have been ignored.**

According to the ALRC's Press Release, "*Reform* Issue 92, 'Children and Young People' ... examines the current treatment of children and young people in the legal process, against the backdrop of the recommendations made in the ALRC and HREOC Report.

Articles in this edition of *Reform* address over a dozen key areas for consideration including:

- the rights and life chances of Indigenous children;
- the changes made to the Family Court and the family law system over the last decade—and the positive outcomes for children and young people in family dispute resolution and legal proceedings;
- the changing legal framework for inter-country adoption;
- the effectiveness of the legal process in protecting children and young people as consumers;
- bullying and violence against young people in the workplace; and
- the legal, social and ethical issues associated with genetic testing of minors.

As *Reform* is a subscription journal, links to the more recent issues (including No. 92) only contain a short summary of the edition. The summary is available at:

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/reform/summaries/92.html>

The *Reform* may be purchased from ALRC. See:

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/reform/subscribe.htm>

## **Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Services**

The Attorney-General's Department is inviting Applications from Applicants seeking to enter into Funding Agreements for the delivery of new Post Separation Cooperative Parenting services under the Family Relationship Services Program in a number of locations, including Devonport. Details are at:

[http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/FundingandGrants\\_2008RequestforApplicationsforFunding\\_PostSeparationCooperativeParenting](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/FundingandGrants_2008RequestforApplicationsforFunding_PostSeparationCooperativeParenting)

## **Newsletters/Publications etc.**

### **Mediation in the Mosque**

A recent interesting program on the ABC's *Law Report* noted that, when Muslims divorce, they often approach their local mosque for help in mediating any disputes. The Report asks, how does this work in western countries; places like Australia, the USA and Canada? For a transcript or podcast, go to:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/stories/2008/2395375.htm>

The Australia Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Spring Newsletter is now available. See <http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/>.

Articles include a note on the Reviews of Tasmanian and Western Australian Domestic Violence Legislation.

The Newsletter also provided the following link to a Scottish literature review on better outcomes for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse (an article that provides much of interest). See;

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/04112614/0>

The GRG (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) November Newsletter contains a great deal of information, relevant to other people in the community as well as to Grandparents. If you would like to be placed on their mailing list, contact Therese Ryan at: [coordgrg@netspace.net.au](mailto:coordgrg@netspace.net.au)

The GRG Family Support Worker for the North is Bernadette Zeeman, 'phone 6331 6593, Thurs and Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Any contributions, comments or suggestions for this Newsletter should be forwarded to Peter Meadley, Liaison Officer, Launceston Family Pathways Network

[\[peterm@reitas.org.au\]](mailto:peterm@reitas.org.au). Since it is intended that the Newsletter will normally be issued on the last Friday of each month, contributions should be forwarded by the last Wednesday of each month.

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