

Volume 22 Number 4

1997

# Children

---

# Australia

**In this issue...**

Good enough parenting

**Mental health issues in child protection cases**

A study of protective cases in the Family Division  
of the Children's Court, Victoria

**Moral anguish and systemic failure**

Notes on state child care and protection in Australia

**Tracing the connections between family poverty and  
problem behaviour in early childhood and adolescence**

Some research evidence

**Shaping our children's future**

Current and past trends

# Children Australia

Volume 22 1997

ISSN 1035-0772

Editor: Lloyd Owen

Book review editor: June Allan

Sub-editing, layout

& production: Lorraine Redshaw

Cartoons: Jock Macneish

Subscriptions: Lorraine Redshaw

Printed by: XL Colour Printing

## 1997 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Standard \$50pa

Concession \$35pa

Overseas \$65pa

Published quarterly in March, June,  
September and December

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise change of address promptly to  
Oz Child at the address below, including both  
old and new addresses.

## NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

- Contributions to *Children Australia* from those interested in the well-being of children are encouraged. The preferred length of article is 3500-4000 words. Longer articles on topics of particular significance may be accepted in consultation with the editor.  
The journal would also welcome brief reports of research or policy and program developments (500-1500 words).
- Contributions should be submitted on disk (5.25 or 3.5), preferably using Word for Windows Version 6.0, or a compatible program. Three hard copies of the manuscript should also be submitted.
- Document setup should include A4 size paper; double line spacing; wide margins.
- REFERENCES: Please ensure that your references are accurate. References should be referred to in the text by quoting in brackets the surname of the author and year of publication of source material, and then listed in alphabetical order at the end of the article as follows:  
BOOKS: author's surname and initials; year of publication; title of book in italics; name of publisher; location of publisher; page reference if appropriate.  
ARTICLES: author's surname and initials; year of publication; title of article; title of journal in italics; volume and issue number; page reference.
- Do not use footnotes, and keep endnotes to a minimum.
- Each article should be prefaced by a brief abstract of the article.
- Contributors are requested to submit brief biographical details, together with a contact address, for inclusion with their article.
- All articles submitted will be reviewed by three referees. Manuscripts may be accepted for publication, returned for revision, or rejected. The Editor's decision is final.
- Contributions and editorial communications should be addressed to:  
The Editor, Children Australia  
c/- Department of Social Work, La Trobe University  
Plenty Road, Bundoora, Vic 3083  
  
All books for review should be addressed to the Book Review Editor at the same address.
- All rights of reproduction are strictly reserved.

Published by




Oz Child: Children Australia

PO Box 7020, Dandenong, Vic 3175

Tel: (03) 9792 1301 Fax: (03) 9792 1550

© Children Australia

## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	2
<b>Australia/New Zealand in a weekend or Seeing the Southern Cross .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Debbie Jones and Hilary Corrick	
<b>Good enough parenting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Sue Tregeagle, Amanda Cox and Louise Voigt	
<b>Mental health issues in child protection cases.....</b>	<b>14</b>
A study of protective cases in the Family Division of the Children's Court, Victoria Rosemary Sheehan	
<b>Moral anguish and systemic failure Notes on state child care and protection in Australia .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Judith Bessant and Richard Hil	
<b>Tracing the connections between family poverty and problem behaviour in early childhood and adolescence Some research evidence.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Frank Ainsworth	
<b>Shaping our children's future Current and past trends.....</b>	<b>31</b>
Michael Lynch	
<b>Book reviews .....</b>	<b>36</b>
 <b>Child abuse and child protection A guide for health, education and welfare workers</b>	
 <b>Who calls the tune? A psychodramatic approach to therapy</b>	
 <b>Kids and kindergartens Access to pre-school in Victoria</b>	