



Young boys being held in an Australian jail, handcuffed to purpose built chairs with hoods over their heads and left alone for hours on end. Surely not? But, as last night's [Four Corners](#) Program alleges young boys being kept at the Northern Territory's Don Dale Detention Centre have indeed been subjected to vile and abhorrent treatment. At the hands of people who, first and foremost, hold a duty of care to those young people in that juvenile justice setting.

In one of his first decisive moves as Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull announced within 24 hours of the Program going to air that a Royal Commission into the Northern Territory's Youth Detention System would be held. Whilst getting to the bottom of the circumstances concerning Don Dale Detention Centre is important, it is also a contemporary reminder of the level of incarceration experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. And, if we look at the rate of incarceration of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people— they make up almost half of the juvenile justice population. SBS have an excellent article on this issue that has just gone live, '[The facts about Indigenous youth detention in Australia](#)'.

Poverty, drugs, violence and difficult family relationships are all constant themes for many of the young people in these facilities and I would hope that the [Royal Commission's Terms of Reference](#) provide scope for the Royal Commission to look more deeply at why young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people find their way into jail in the first instance.

What stories like this on the Four Corners Program give us is a 'face'/'faces' to place against the anonymous figures and data we collect. It numbs me to think that the footage shown in this program was taken in 2014 at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and again in 2015 at the old Berrimah adult prison that replaced Don Dale. In case we need to remind ourselves – we are nearing the end of July 2016 and thinking about the lives those kids were forced to lead, the Royal Commission provides an opportunity to ensure no other child faces the same experience again.

In this edition you will find information about:

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Best regards,  
Jackie Brady



## **FRSA National Conference Update**

As planning continues for the FRSA National Conference 2016, we would now like to remind those interested in Sponsorship opportunities at our Conference that our Conference Sponsorship Prospectus is available.

Sponsorship of the FRSA Conference is a great way to promote your organisation or business to the Family and Relationship Service sector. Benefits to sponsoring FRSA conference include; brand exposure, variety of sponsorship packages available, complimentary registrations and networking opportunities with leaders in the sector and conference delegates.

Prospective sponsors can view the sponsorship opportunities for the FRSA Conference in the Sponsorship Prospectus, [available here](#). If you wish for a hard copy version, please contact [Roslyn](#).

We are currently finishing off the Abstract review process and anticipate we will be communicating with those who have submitted abstracts by the end of next week.

The program will be released shortly thereafter.

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## **Children and young people in separated families: family law system experiences and needs**

**Rae Kaspiew, Briony Horsfall and Rachel Carson**

The [Australian Institute of Family Studies \(AIFS\)](#) has been commissioned by the Federal [Attorney-General's Department](#) to undertake the *Children and young people in separated families: family law system experiences and needs project*. This new project is designed to build on the existing, now extensive, empirical base on separated families to develop a better understanding of the experiences of children and young people after the separation of their parents and the extent to which their needs are met within existing family law system service formats.

Previous AIFS research shows that, parents who use family law services and courts are often affected by complex issues, including a history of family violence and safety

concerns. A core group of these families have sustained engagement with family law services. Although most children and young people in separated families are reported by their parents to be doing well (De Maio et al., 2013, Kaspiew et al 2009, Kaspiew et al 2015, Qu et al 2010, Qu et al 2014), research based on the reports of children and young people themselves indicate that adjustment to post-separation life can be challenging (for eg., Lodge and Alexander 2010). Reforms to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) aimed at supporting greater consistency with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, have had little impact on the extent to which factors related to children themselves, including their views, are raised in legal matters (Kaspiew et al, 2015).

The AIFS Independent Children's Lawyer Study also indicated that the expectations of some parents and children were not being met by the practices of Independent Children's Lawyers (Kaspiew et al., 2013). Together these findings suggest a need for an evidence base that will generate a better understanding about what is happening for children and young people while their families are involved with family law services.

This new AIFS project will address this significant gap in knowledge by enabling the examination of experiences of children and young people, whose parents engage with family law services on the basis of data from children and young people themselves. The project will involve in-depth, semi structured individual interviews with children and young people aged between 10 and 17 years of age. A short separate interview will also be undertaken with one parent of the child or young person. Children, young people and parents will be recruited using multiple strategies through family law services and online communication, with participants asked to opt-in to the study at the time services and courts are being used by the families, with the interviews to take place when the litigation or settlement processes are at an end.

The interviews will canvas issues including, the services and supports that children and young people find to be of assistance in dealing with parental separation; the issues of importance from the perspective of children and young people when parenting arrangements are made; the nature of children and young people's experiences where their families have used family law system services (including their acknowledgement and participation in decision-making) and the characteristics of effective professional practice from the perspective of children and young people.

Ethical clearance for this research project is currently being sought from the AIFS Human Research Ethics Committee.

Enquiries about the project are welcome [here](#).



### **New Ministry announcements for Liberal and Labor**

Following the July 2 election—and the unforgettable eight week long campaign—re-elected Coalition government leader, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, announced his new ministry team on the 18th of July.

Only minimal changes have been made, with all existing ministers to remain within cabinet, although there are some shifts in portfolios. ([Malcolm Turnbull Announces New Ministry, Tony Abbott Still Out](#)).

Our sector retains Social Services Minister, Christian Porter, but a newly developed partnership with the new assistant minister for social services and multicultural affairs, Zed Seselja.

For the Shadow Ministry, MP Bill Shorten announced his line up on the 23 July in Canberra, three weeks after the election.

Changes to the frontbench include Tanya Plibersek receiving the education portfolio, after it became one of the key focuses of Labor's election strategy ([Labor expands frontbench avoiding faction row](#)). Shorten described education as "a first order" social and economic priority for Labor.

Shadow Minister Jenny Macklin will continue to have responsibility for Families and

Social Services.

Click below to download the ministry list showing current ministers and their portfolios.

[Ministry list of the Turnbull Government](#)

[Ministry list of the Shorten Shadow Government](#)

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## ONE WEEK UNTIL APPLICATIONS OPEN!

The Anti-Poverty Awards recognise the many young people passionately working towards tackling inequality and injustice within Australia or abroad.

The awards acknowledge and highlight the hard work and dedication of individuals and schools across Australia who demonstrate a deep understanding of those in need.

Do you know a young person aged 16-30 working towards tackling inequality and injustice within Australia or abroad?

Do you know a school involving and educating its students about poverty-related issues?

If this sounds like you or someone you know, get ready to apply!

Applications open 1 August 2016.

For more information, please visit [here](#).



## Celebrating milestones for Family Relationship Centres and Communities for Children programmes

On 1 July 2006, the first 15 Family Relationship Centres opened their doors in Australia. 65 centres down the track, FRSA will be marking the 10 year milestone at the National Conference later in the year. We will also be looking to celebrate the 10 year milestone for the Communities for Children programme (which was actually last year).

To help prepare for celebrations, FRSA is calling out to all those in the sector who have photos, particular memories and stories that they would like to share about the development of Family Relationship Centres and CFC programmes over the years.

Please send them through to us [here](#) or call Roslyn Mertin on (02) 6162 1811 who can interview you and take down some notes to craft a story capturing your memories.



## Events & Training Calendar

[FRSA Events & Training Calendar](#) provides holiday dates, information on national days, events and appreciation weeks, and locations of upcoming sector events and trainings.

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## **Homeless Persons' Week**

Homeless Persons' Week is an annual awareness raising week held in the first full week of August (1-7) each year to highlight the over 105,000 Australians who are homeless on any given night.

Homelessness Australia provides information sheets and resources to support events all around Australia.

For more info, visit the [official website here](#).

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## **Celebrate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2016!**

Children's Day is held on 4 August each year and is coordinated by SNAICC. Children's Day was first observed in 1988, with 2016 being the 29th celebration. Each year SNAICC produces and distributes resources to help organisations, services, schools, and communities celebrate.

The theme for Children's Day 2016 is *My Country, Our Country, We All Belong*. This year Children's Day is about helping our kids feel connected and proud in culture. It's all about ensuring our kids feel like they belong.

To register your event, please [click here](#), and for more information, visit the official website [here](#).





Australian Government

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Child  
Family  
Community  
Australia

**AIFS CFCA Webinar: Placing family at the centre of mental health recovery**

Rhys Price-Robertson, Angela Obradovic and Gemma Olsen

**11 August 2016 13:30 to 14:30 AEST**

**Free Webinar**

**Online**

This webinar is a collaboration between Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) and Emerging Minds, through the Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) national initiative. The one hour webinar will outline ways in which practitioners can support healing and recovery in families affected by parental mental illness.

To read more and find info about registration, please [visit here](#).

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**ANTI-POVERTY**  
**16 - 22 October 2016 WEEK**

Anti-Poverty Week in 2016 starts on Sunday 16 October and ends on Saturday 22 October with the UN's International Anti-Poverty Day on Saturday 17 October. The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia.

To share your event plans or get further information, contact 1300 797 290 or via email: [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au).

To learn more, visit the [website](#).



The Not-For-Profit People Conference is Australia's biggest event focused on how to attract, train and retain the best people for the NFP sector. Now in its fourth year, it is back, bigger and better, taking place on November 21 & 22 at Melbourne Convention Centre.

The Conference brings together five hundred senior leaders and team leaders, HR professionals and board members, volunteer managers and CEOs to share and debate the latest ideas and best practices around the most pressing people issues. This year includes an additional stream for team leaders and program managers.

Over two days and twenty-nine inspiring sessions, issues explored fall under six core themes: Leadership, Managing people well, People and organisational strategy, Strengthening HR, Recruitment and Health and wellbeing.

For the current program line-up and the video summarising the activity of 2015, [visit the Non-For-Profit people conference home page.](#)



### **Relationships Australia Specialist Course in Couple Therapy**

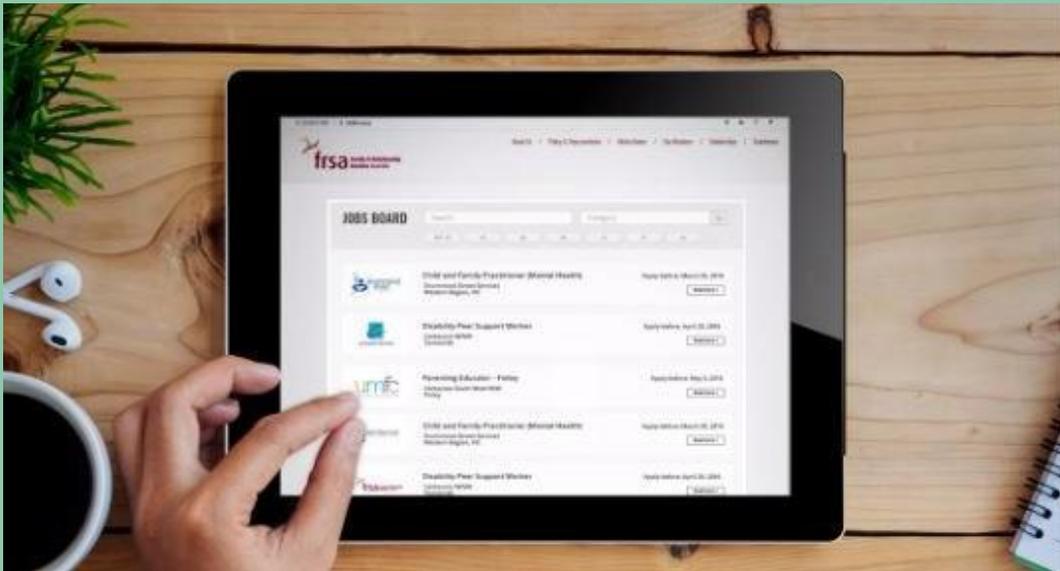
The Specialist Course in Couple Therapy provides opportunity to develop professional skills in working with couples in a intimate relationship within a counselling setting.

This course offered by Relationship Australia Victoria (RAV) aims to develop participants' knowledge and skills in assisting couples experiencing a range of difficult issues, including affairs and betrayals, separation and loss, re-partnering and blended families, and family violence.

The course starts on 7 February 2017.

For more information, please visit the [RAV website](#).

[Please click here to view the FRSA Events & Training Calendar.](#)



## **FRSA JOBS BOARD**

[FRSA Jobs Board](#) offers a space for those to advertise job opportunities and positions within their services and the sector.

If you are interested in advertising your vacancy on our board, please get in [touch](#).

Check out some of FRSA's listed job opportunities below:

### **Practice Specialist Therapeutic Services**

Relationships Australia NSW

Closes: 28 July 2016

### **Practice Specialist Group Work & Community**

Relationships Australia NSW

Closes: 28 July 2016

**Practice Specialist Case Work**

Relationships Australia NSW

Closes: 28 July 2016

**Chief Exexutive Officer**

Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes

Closes: 11 August 2016

**Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner**

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay

Closes: 20 August 2016

**Relationships Educator**

Relationships Australia NSW

Closes: 21 August 2016

Did you know we also promote jobs on the FRSA Jobs Board via Twitter?

To view job opportunities advertised, search using the #FRSAJobsBoard hashtag.

**FRSA Member Entitlement**

As a Member of FRSA, all FRSA Member delegates will be provided login details via their listed delegate email, allowing them access to the FRSA Jobs Board where free posting and advertisement is available to the sector.

To view the FRSA Jobs Board, please visit [here](#).



**Are there people in your office missing out on the FRSA eBulletin?**

Are there staff members in your office who would benefit from receiving the FRSA newsletter?

Subscription to the newsletter is simple. Just forward this email to the relevant individuals and ask them to click on the link [here](#). Please [contact us](#) if you have any queries.



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