

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

## WELCOME

Welcome to the fifth edition of Children & Youth News, the newsletter of the ABS National Children and Youth Statistics Unit (NCYSU). Children & Youth News is designed to highlight developments in children and youth related statistics and present feature articles analysing data on topical issues related to children and youth.

## Staffing Changes in NCYSU

Lesley Martin has joined the NCYSU as the new head of the unit from the beginning of April. Lesley's role will include the leadership and management of the NCYSU work program to ensure the unit fulfils its role in the provision of leadership and co-ordination across the broad spectrum of children and youth statistics. Lesley's immediate focus over the coming months will be on leading the extensive consultation work with key stakeholders during the next phase of the NCYSU's main project - the preparation of an Information Development Plan (IDP) for children and youth. See also [Information Development Plan Update](#) on page 2.



The NCYSU team — David Povah, Shalini Bellas, Lesley Martin and Ellen O'Brien.

## IDP Information Papers Released

The National Children and Youth Statistics Unit has completed three introductory Information Papers towards a children and youth Information Development Plan (IDP). While the publication of the IDP is the main output, these three papers cover different stages of the project. These are:

[Information Paper: Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth](#)  
(cat. no. 4908.0)

This paper discusses the key issues relating to children and youth and the policies that apply. For each key issue the main questions surrounding it are identified. Data sources applicable to each issue are mentioned with details given in an appendix.

[Information Paper: Children and Youth Information Development Plan - Project Plan](#) (cat. no. 4909.0)

This project plan outlines the work to be undertaken to produce the children and youth IDP and the rationale for it.

[Information Paper: Field of Children and Youth Statistics](#)  
(cat. no. 4910.0)

This paper covers the field of children and youth statistics and the key concepts and statistical tools that apply to it. Discussion includes frameworks, policies, key concepts such as age and development, dependency and childhood, social and legal responsibilities as well as children and youth in an international context.

For information on what an IDP is, see issue two of [Children and Youth News](#).

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## Information Development Plan Update

The NCYSU is about to undertake the consultation phase of the children and youth Information Development Plan. Two rounds of consultation will be undertaken. The first round of consultation, commencing in May 2005, aims to produce a draft IDP and involves consultation with federal government departments, agencies and prominent research-based bodies to:

- refine the key issues, information needs and associated data development needs in the field of children and youth;
- identify potential data sources; and
- identify stakeholders for data development responsibility.

The second round of consultation, occurring later in the year, will focus on the draft IDP and include a wider scope of stakeholders, including state/territory governments, selected non-government organisations and collaborative bodies.

## Conference Attendance

Members of NCYSU recently attended a number of conferences. The **'9th Annual Institute of Family Matters Conference'** held in Melbourne in February 2005 looked at current issues facing families including: risk factors for childhood injury, antisocial behaviour, competing demands of female workers and early childhood intervention. The conference featured the presentation and findings of AIFS's own studies and also work from others. Papers presented at the conference can be found on the [Australian Institute of Family Matters](#) website.

**'An Update on Brain Development and the Early Years - Implications for Parents, Child Carers and Educators'** supported by [NiFTeY](#) and [Ngala](#), was held in Perth in March 2005. Dr Fraser Mustard presented his research into the application of brain development knowledge to literacy and numeracy and the evaluation of programs and approaches that inform us on what parents, other carers and educators can do to enhance children's developmental well-being. The slides of his presentation are available to download from the [Founders Network](#) website.

## LATEST FINDINGS

### School Participation and Retention

[Schools, Australia](#) (cat. no. 4221.0) was released in February 2005. It presents statistics from the National Schools Statistics Collection on government and non-government schools, students and school staff. A selection of this information is presented. For further information see [Schools, Australia](#) (cat. no. 4221.0).

At the Australian level, the age participation rates for full-time school students in 2004 were 93.4% for 15 year olds, 82.8% for 16 year olds and 63.6% for 17 year olds, the latter rising from 59.7% in 1994.

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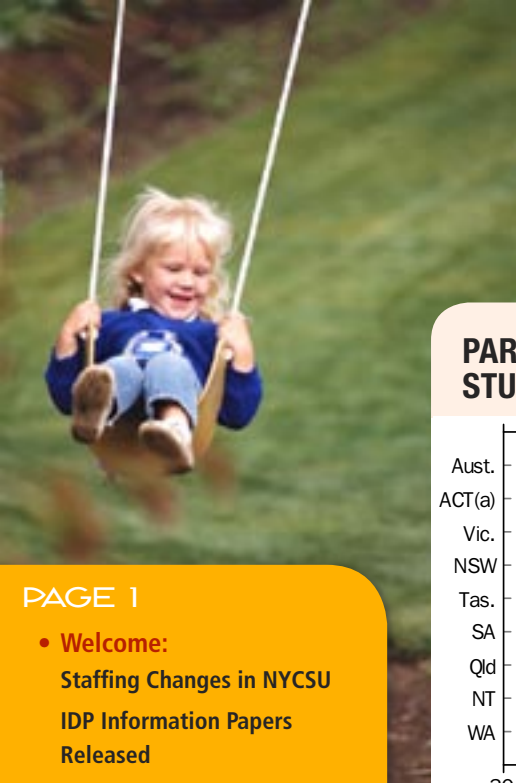
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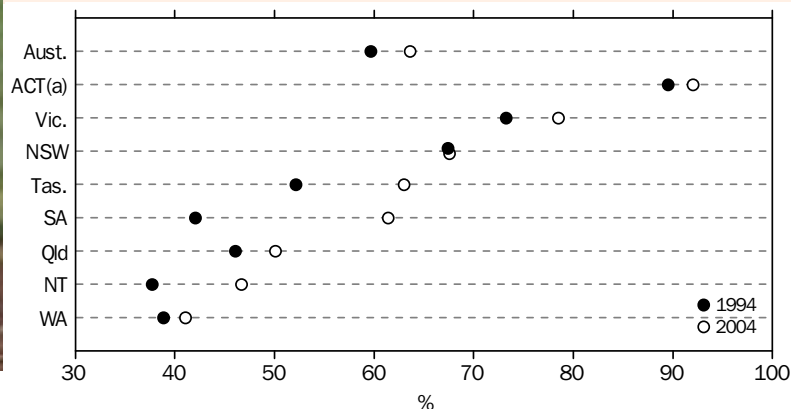
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## PARTICIPATION RATES OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS AGED 17 YEARS



(a) The ACT figures include some students who are not ACT residents.

In 2004 the apparent retention rate of full time school students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 was 75.7% compared to 75.4% in 2003 and 74.6% in 1994. Apparent retention rates for Indigenous full time school students, from Year 7/8 to both Year 10 and Year 12, have continued to rise over the last five years - the rate to Year 10 increased from 82.0% in 1999 to 86.4% in 2004, and the rate to Year 12 increased from 34.7% to 39.5%. These Indigenous retention rates are still lower than the comparable rates for non-Indigenous students. In 2004, the rate to Year 10 for non-Indigenous school students was 98.5%, while the rate to Year 12 was 76.8%.

For information on the definition of terms see the [Glossary](#).

## RECENT RELEASES

[The Social and Emotional Well-being of Aboriginal Children and Young People, Western Australia](#) (cat. no. 8937.5)

[Information Paper: Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth](#) (cat. no. 4908.0)

[Information Paper: Children and Youth Information Development Plan - Project Plan](#) (cat. no. 4909.0)

[Information Paper: Field of Children and Youth Statistics](#) (cat. no. 4910.0)

[Causes of Death, Australia, 2003](#) (cat. no. 3303.0)

[Schools, Australia, 2004](#) (cat. no. 4221.0)

[Demography, Australia, Electronic delivery, 2003](#) (cat. no. 3311.0.55.001)

[Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia, April 2004](#) (cat. no. 6285.0)

## UPCOMING RELEASES

### AIHW:

A Picture of Australia's Children  
To be released in May 2005

### ABS:

National Crime and Justice Statistical Framework, 2004  
(cat. no. 4525.0) - to be released in June 2005

Australian Social Trends, 2005  
(cat. no. 4102.0) - to be released in July 2005

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# CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

## NON-ABS RESEARCH

### The Social and Emotional Well-being of Aboriginal Children and Young People in Western Australia

A new report on the social and emotional well-being of Aboriginal children has found that nearly a quarter (24%) of Aboriginal children are at high risk of clinically significant emotional or behavioural difficulties. This compares with an equivalent figure of 15% in the general population.

The data form part of the second volume of findings of the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey (WAACHS) which focuses on the Social and Emotional Well-being of Aboriginal Children and Young People. This publication is produced by the [Telethon Institute for Child Health Research](#), with an agreement to sell copies through the [ABS bookshop](#).

### A Picture of Australia's Children

A statistical snapshot of how children are faring will be released on the 2nd May 2005. The publication will present key national indicators on Australia's children aged 0-14 years for well-being, development and health. Also included will be statistics on a wider set of influences such as crime, education and learning, and family and community. Further information can be found on the [AIHW](#) website.

## The 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released a report presenting summary data from the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Key results on drug related awareness, knowledge, attitudes and behaviour are features of this report. Comparisons with 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2001 surveys are presented and population estimates of the numbers of consumers of both licit and illicit substances are also provided.

More information can be found on the [AIHW](#) website.



CLICK  
HERE

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEME PAGE

A [Children and Youth Statistics Theme Page](#) on the ABS website has been recently redesigned and contains relevant information from the ABS and other organisations. The page highlights the type and range of data available for analysis of children and youth issues and is updated to highlight new data releases as they become available.

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## CONTACT US

### For information about the full range of ABS data: National Information and Referral Service

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email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au) fax 1300 135 211

### For further information on the NCYSU and its activities:

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