

# Pot Pourri

## A.C.T. CHILD WELFARE LAWS UNDER REVIEW

The Law Reform Commission has received a reference from the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator Durack, requiring examination of the reform of child welfare laws in the Australian Capital Territory. Although the reference is related to the law of the A.C.T., it is hoped that the project will be of utility to any State as well as Commonwealth administration.

The Attorney-General has appointed Dr John Seymour of the Australian Institute of Criminology to be a Law Reform Commissioner, and Dr Seymour has taken charge of the reference on child welfare.

The work on the review of child welfare laws in the A.C.T. is seen by the Law Reform Commission as a major contribution by the Commonwealth to the International Year of the Child. A discussion paper, "Child Welfare — Children in Trouble" has been published and public comment invited.

The discussion paper is available from:

The Secretary,  
Australian Law Reform Commission,  
G.P.O. Box 3708,  
Sydney, N.S.W., 2001.  
Phone: (02) 231-1733.

## FOSTER CARE MANUAL

The New South Wales Association of Child Caring Agencies (A.C.C.A.) has published a Foster Care Manual. This manual was originally produced and published by the Family and Child Care Committee of the Australian Association of Social Workers (N.S.W.) and A.C.O.S.S. It has been re-edited and printed by the Foster Care Working Party of A.C.C.A., and is the first in a series being produced in heavy vinyl, ring binder covers for use as resource documents in the field. A second publication, "Child and Family Services Directory" will be published shortly.

The 50 page (plus) Foster Care Manual is available from A.C.C.A., P.O. Box 2244, North Parramatta, N.S.W., 2151, on receipt of payment of \$3.50 plus \$1 postage.

## AUDIO-VISUALS FOR IYC

To celebrate the International Year of the Child, the Catholic Audio-Visual Centre has released two audio-visual projects for use in educational and welfare organizations. The two programmes are "Magic Yellow Bus" and "Just Like Me". Both are on a general theme and not specifically religious. "Just Like Me" has been

purchased by the Queensland Department of Education for general use in their schools.

The Catholic Audio-Visual Centre is owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and is situated at 50 Abbotsford Road, Homebush, N.S.W., 2140 Phone (02) 76 0459.

## NO-TAX DEDUCTIONS STOPS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S PROJECTS

Many big companies had shut their doors to sponsoring major International Year of the Child projects because the Federal Government refused to declare donations tax deductible.

New South Wales Minister for Youth and Community Services, Mr Rex Jackson, said this recently.

"The Australian Government had been amongst the countries that unanimously supported the United Nations declaration of 1979 as International Year of the Child", Mr Jackson said.

"Its refusal now to grant tax deductions to companies sponsoring domestic children's projects during 1979 is highly questionable.

"Especially, when you consider that the Prime Minister (Mr Fraser) has declared donations to the recently established Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust are tax deductible and will be matched dollar for dollar by the Federal Government.

"People can form their own judgement on the strategy applied in making that decision.

"In New South Wales we have been fortunate to receive generous sponsorships from some companies.

"However, in the case of a large number of companies approached they have gone cold on sponsorship deals when told the Federal Government will not grant them tax deductions on money allocated for these children's projects.

"Recently, we had been near to finalising a \$50,000 sponsorship and the company concerned withdrew at the last minute, partly because they could not be guaranteed tax deductions.

"The New South Wales Government has earmarked \$500,000 for International Year of the Child Projects in 1979.

"However, we need private sponsorship to get other projects off the ground which include new services in local areas, helping Aboriginal mothers with parenting and nutritional programmes and a Kid's Museum.

"We have a cupboard full of projects and I am certain many more companies would only be too willing to offer their financial support if they were given these not unreasonable tax deductions," Mr Jackson said.

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## AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN 1979

The South Australian Department of Community Welfare, in conjunction with the South Australian IYC Secretariat, is planning to produce a book tentatively titled "Australian Children, 1979" for the Year of the Child.

This publication will be modelled around a book produced in the U.S.A. by the National Council of Organizations for Children and Youth to commemorate the U.S. Bicentenary in 1976.

Subject matter will include Children in Poverty, Child Health, and Family Changes. It is anticipated that an appendix specifically related to local State issues will be added.

## 2UE's TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE

As part of its contribution to the Year of the Child, Radio 2UE Sydney has run a telephone counselling service, offering help for children, and their parents and relatives.

The Project was run in co-operation with the New South Wales Secretariat for the International Year of the Child, with help from relevant Government Departments.

The 2UE 'Care for Kids Switchboard' handled most of the problems received off-air, with trained counsellors taking the calls. 2UE launched the service on the evening of Friday, June 22, with a three hour programme from 9 p.m. conducted by Ian Parry-Okeden. 2UE's regular night-time Forum programme featuring Ian Parry-Okeden attracts 25% of the listening audience.

The following morning, and for the following 6 days between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m., trained counsellors handled calls from parents and children. Confidentiality and anonymity were guaranteed.

Specifically, the service was aimed at helping children with problems they cannot discuss with anybody else and helping parents and relatives with problems they may have with their children. Such help was given through immediate counselling on the telephone and referral to other help groups.

Ms. Helen Lynch, trained psychologist, co-ordinated the project for 2UE.

## FATHERS COMMEND THE FAMILY

National Marriage and Family Week, 1979, was launched by three Victorian Fathers of the Year. Neale Molloy (Father of the Year, 1963), Denis Oakley (1972) and Ian Ellis (1978) joined forces to promote the Marriage and Family Week theme for the year, "Belonging — the Family in the Year of the Child". A discussion and activities brochure on the theme was distributed nationally during the week May 6-13, and is still available from the Children's Bureau of Australia. The brochure is suitable for use by parents' groups, schools, community and religious organizations — and by families themselves.

The National Marriage and Family Week Council is a Committee of the Children's Bureau of Australia.



Photo (left to right): "Fathers" Molloy, Ellis and Oakley at the National Marriage and Family Week launching. (Sun News-Pictorial Photo).

The International Council on Social Welfare: Asia & Western Pacific Region will for the first time be holding its regional conference in Australia in 1979. The conference will be a major contribution to International Year of the Child. The conference will be in Melbourne: 26 August - 1 September 1979 and will be attended by representatives of welfare bodies from some 20 nations in the Asia/Pacific region.

'Shaping the Future for our Children' will be about ACTION. It will help enhance the capacity of participants to take action as forceful advocates for children.

'Shaping the Future for our Children' will be a working conference. Participants will focus through working groups on: **The Current Situation** of children in the region; **Preferred Futures** we wish to see for our children; and **Strategies For Action** that will bring those futures to reality. The groups will work in a framework of 8 human service goals:

- \* Basic Material Needs
- \* Income Security & Economic Opportunity
- \* Optimal Health (Physical & Mental)
- \* Knowledge & Skills (Education)
- \* Optimal Environmental Quality
- \* Adequate Justice, Protection & Safety
- \* Optimal Personal & Social Development
- \* Adequately Organised Social Means



# shaping the future for our children



'Shaping the Future for our Children' will be opened by the Minister for Social Security, Senator the Hon. M. Guilfoyle. Invited speakers include:

MRS. TARA ALI BAIG—President, International Union for Child Welfare.

MR. DAVID YOSIHARU OTANI—Director, Child Welfare Assoc., Japan.

MR. SHARAD GOKHALE—I.C.S.W. Assist. Secretary General, Asia/Pacific.

MRS. SHIRLEY HUNG—Deputy Director, Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

For further information about the Conference, and for Advance Registration Forms, contact the Conference Secretariat:

Australian Council of Social Service  
Box E158, St. James, Sydney, N.S.W.

Phone: (02) 235 8188

Contact: Ms Ngaire Chant

ENQUIRE NOW—CONFERENCE PLACES WILL BE LIMITED FOR AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPANTS.

ICSW Asia & Western Pacific Regional  
Conference

26 August — 1 September 1979  
Melbourne, Australia.

