



## PROMOTING SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



This 8 year-old girl lives alone with her mother, and her only friend is her doll, 'Polly'. Her life experience is shown in *Polly and Me*.<sup>1</sup>

It's easy to distance ourselves from her experience, and think that extreme child abuse and neglect happens only rarely, and only by parents who either abuse drugs or alcohol, have a low socioeconomic background, or have mental health issues.

But the reality is – it happens all the time, and is a result of many associated factors not just one.

In fact, **every day** around 560 children are notified to child protection officers, and 90 children are further investigated, and have abuse or neglect confirmed.

To put this in perspective, **the rate of substantiated child abuse or neglect cases is over 33% higher than the rate of cancer diagnosed in the Australian population as a whole.**<sup>2</sup>

In NSW, it is estimated that around a third of all 15-16 year olds have been reported to Community Services at least once in their life because of concerns about neglect or abuse. A leading academic suggests that these levels of reporting were the result of placing a 'misguided reliance' on a child protection authority as the first port of call for people concerned about a child's safety and welfare, and indicate the need for a better way of responding to problems before they escalate into crises.<sup>3</sup>

The long term impacts of abuse and neglect on children are well known. Abused or neglected children:

- have a likelihood of getting into out of home care;
- if they go into out of home care, there is a 61% likelihood of them having behavioural problems, attaining 40% lower education results in numeracy, being 53 times more likely to be charged with an offence, and subsequently ending up in prison. In fact around 80% of juvenile offenders end up in prison;
- have a greater chance of witnessing domestic violence and as a result nearly 54% chance of becoming homeless if they themselves experience domestic violence;
- have a greater likelihood of becoming obese and a further 80% chance that their obesity will continue in adulthood; and
- are 2½ times more likely to have mental health issues than other children.

Then there is the cyclic impact. Abused or neglected children will:

- in 30% of cases abuse their own children
- be more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, and 40% more likely to be violent toward others
- have a high chance of remaining in poverty.

There are not only high individual costs; the financial costs to Australia are massive. It has been estimated that the overall cost of child abuse and neglect to the Australian community is conservatively around \$11 billion, with a projected lifetime cost of abuse and neglect around \$40 billion.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

There are thousands of children who are abused or neglected to varying degrees, every single day, in houses and communities across Australia – in rich suburbs, in poor suburbs, your neighbourhood. This abuse may be intentional: telling kids they are stupid, constantly yelling at kids, and a slap over the back of head once in a while. Or it may be unintentional - adults simply not knowing, or having the time to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of children.

The fact is that these children are not notified to authorities. These children never get help. These children grow up living lives they don't totally value themselves, let alone feel valued by others. Their health suffers and they find it hard to get employment or have long term meaningful relationships.

Perhaps this may help explain why *“the life expectancy for Australian children alive today will fall two years by the time they are 20 years old. After centuries of rising life expectancy, we are now staring down the barrel of a decline.”*<sup>4</sup> Not only are we struggling to cope with the current child protection crisis, we also have one of the lowest child and youth wellbeing scores in comparison to other OECD countries.

It's time to stop blaming child protection services for getting it wrong. They can't solve this problem, it can only be solved by us all, working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

## **1. Child abuse and neglect – a 'wicked problem'**

When news media shock their audiences with stories of horrific child abuse and neglect, they tend to focus on the end point of a sad journey, and point fingers of blame at child protection services. They rarely mention the complexity behind the starting point, or the 'hidden' children – those whose families remain invisible (despite early warning signs that lives are in disarray) until a crisis occurs.

*What causes child abuse and neglect?*

There is no single factor that 'causes' child maltreatment. The causes and influences are complex and often occur in combination. Child abuse has been described as a 'wicked problem' – one which defies a simple solution.

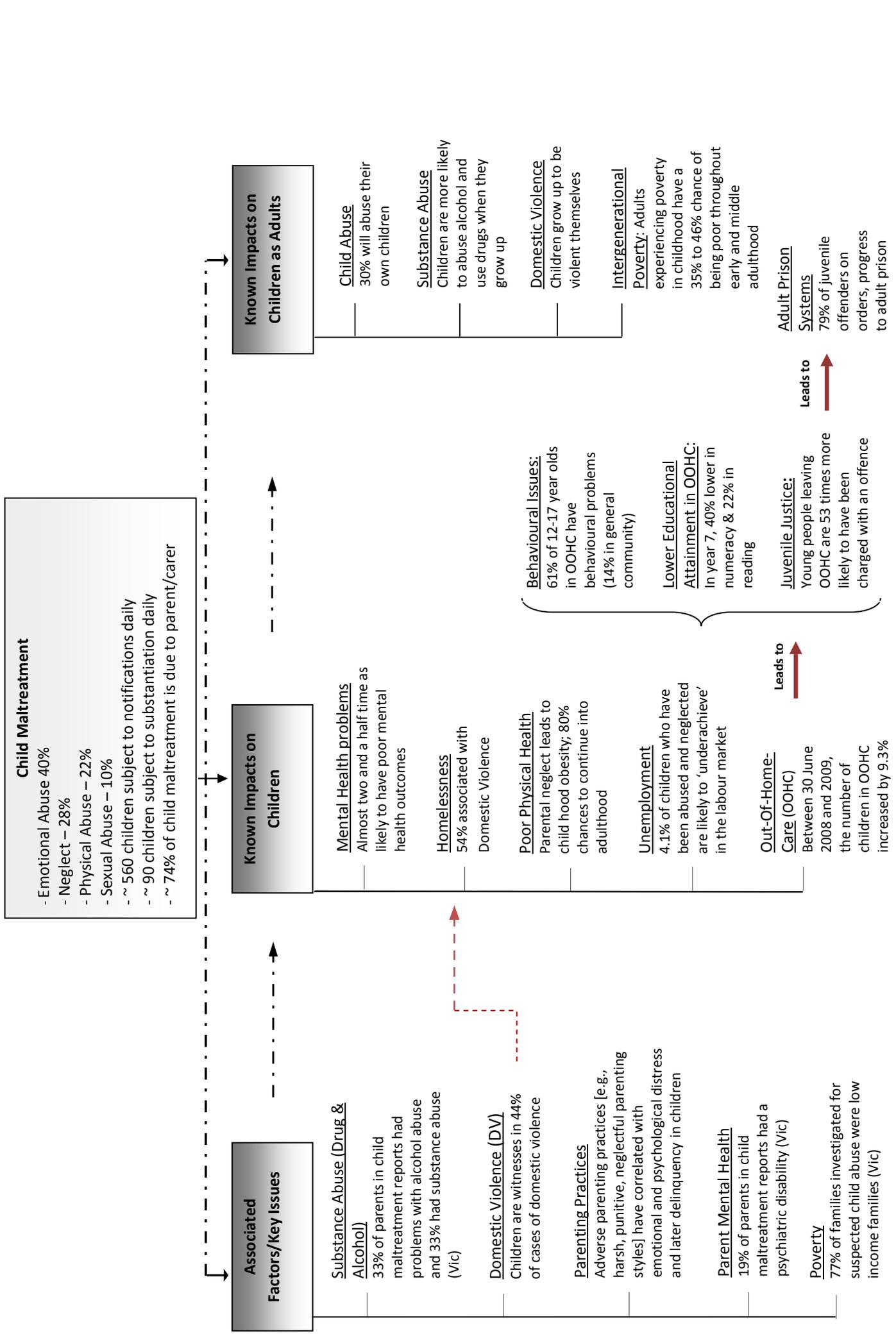


Figure 1: Child abuse and neglect – a ‘wicked problem’<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Protecting children – the current system in Australia

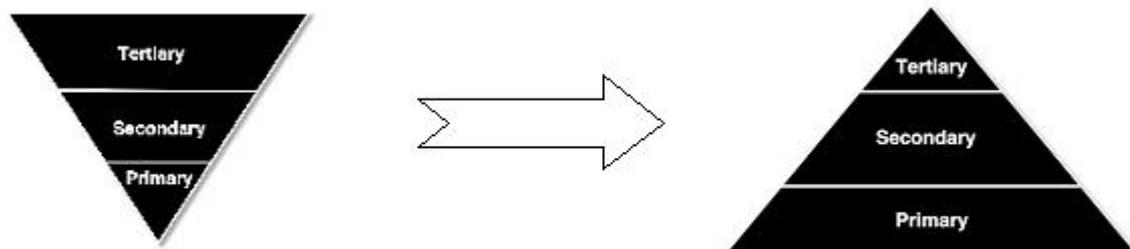
The **statutory or ‘Tertiary’ child protection system** comes into play where child maltreatment has already occurred and includes government child protection services, foster care and out of home care.

**Targeted or ‘secondary prevention’ services** work with families where one or more risk factors for child abuse or neglect has already been identified. They offer support and coping strategies for individuals and families dealing with difficult issues like substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, mental health concerns, and other stress factors.

A focus on **‘Primary prevention’** prioritises the overall safety and wellbeing of all children. Preventive programs target whole communities and promote wellbeing and family functioning. A truly preventive approach to protecting children would ensure support for all families as and when they need it and would mean that Australia’s most vulnerable children, parents and families are provided the assistance they need as soon as possible – before it’s too late.

At present the system has most of the effort and investment going into the investigative, tertiary or ‘statutory child protection’ part of the system:

For the future what is needed is a prevention focus wherein universal policies and targeted services promote and support wellbeing and family functioning, while still supporting the tertiary level:<sup>6</sup>



*Just as a health system is more than hospitals so a system for the protection of children is more than a statutory child protection service.*

*National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020<sup>7</sup>*

### 3. Shifting the balance toward prevention – where to start?

It's not easy to identify early warning signs that children might be at risk. Too often, families only gain access to support *after* things go wrong.

Supporting families in crisis is very important, but wouldn't it be even better if abuse and neglect didn't occur in the first place? It's time to debunk myths about 'bad parents' and acknowledge that raising children is hard work, and that *all* families need help sometimes. And it's also critical to acknowledge that not all families have access to the kind of support or care that would help them avert a crisis.

The rest of this paper focuses on two things – *preventing* child abuse and neglect by supporting children's wellbeing, family functioning and community support, and *providing targeted support* to those children, parents at families at highest risk of abuse and neglect.

Preventing child abuse and neglect by supporting children's wellbeing, family functioning and community support: Primary Prevention

Successful programs of prevention focus on:

#### Supporting children's wellbeing

Maltreated children are less likely to have the cognitive and socio-emotional skills required to perform well at school.<sup>8</sup>

Poor nutritional intake and poor health outcomes in early life can be associated with ongoing cognitive impairment.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Examples of what works to enhance the wellbeing of the most vulnerable children*

The **nurse-family partnership model** of preventive intervention improves early maternal and child health and future life options through prenatal and infancy home visiting by nurses. It has proven to be successful in relation to improving the outcomes of pregnancy by helping women improve their own prenatal health as well as improving the child's health and development by helping parents provide more sensitive and competent care of the child.

Evaluation outcomes: During the first 2 years of the child's life, nurse-visited children born to low-income, unmarried teens had 80% fewer verified cases of child abuse and neglect than did their counterparts in the control group.<sup>10</sup> 20,000 families in the USA resulted in a 67% reduction in behavioural and intellectual problems at age 6, a 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect and a 59% reduction in child arrests at age 15.<sup>11</sup>

**School-based personal safety programs** generate greater awareness among all children of personal safety issues. The Windale project in NSW connects school and community centre to promote the wellbeing and safety of children as well as parents.<sup>12</sup>

Evaluation outcomes: Windale moved from the worst 1% in terms of child protection notifications in New South Wales in 1999 to the best 25% in 2003.

**Solving the Jigsaw** in Victoria is an early intervention and prevention program which works with students, teachers and parents to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Developed by EASE, a domestic violence support service based in Bendigo, the program helps children learn to manage the growing threats of bullying at school and violence at home and in the community. Jigsaw's school-based programs run over 20 or 40 weeks and are delivered by a trained facilitator to a class or group. The programs are integrated into the school curriculum, school welfare support and school policy.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>13</sup>: The program has been evaluated as a best practice model by the Federal Government Partnerships Against Domestic Violence. It has also won several awards such as 'National Child Abuse Award—Community Development, Capacity Building and Strengthening', Australian Violence Prevention Award, Certificate of Merit—Australian Heads of Government, Victorian Community Safety and Crime Prevention Award—School Based Response and Human Rights Awards 200 - Highly Recommended for "Kid's Business Documentary".

More information: <http://www.solvingthejigsaw.org.au/index.htm>

## Supporting parents and improving family functioning

Adverse parenting practices [eg harsh, punitive, neglectful parenting styles] have been shown to be correlated with emotional and psychological distress and to predict behavioural disorders, cognitive disadvantage and later delinquency in children.<sup>14</sup>

### *Examples of what works to support parents and improve family functioning*

The **Triple P Positive Parenting Program** is an intensive parent and family support program providing five levels of intervention of increasing intensity: a universal population media strategy, brief primary care consultations (problems such as sleep or tantrums) and more intensive training and family intervention programs for children at risk. Parents are fully involved and the program is likely to lead to sustainable long term practices.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>15</sup> include reduced rates of parental distress, lower rates of child abuse injuries and foster care placement; reduced level of emotional and behavioural problems. More information: [www.triplep.net](http://www.triplep.net)

**Play & Learn** is developed by Good Beginnings Australia. It helps build the self esteem of all family members and enhance relationships between parents and their children. It is a universal, free program that includes free playgroups designed to provide young children with learning opportunities through play, guided by parents and a trained early childhood worker, and parenting support provided by a trained family worker. The program provides ample opportunity for the parents to interact with other parents in similar situations and to form mutually supportive relationships. Play & Learn groups can also be adapted to respond to specific concerns and may be run in partnership with other organisations or schools.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>16</sup>: In a 2007 survey, 85 percent of parents reported improved skills in playing with and teaching their children.

More information: <http://www.goodbeginnings.net.au/five-pillars/universal-supported.shtml>

## Supporting the community

Community involvement is recognised as one of the key protective factors for child and family wellbeing.<sup>17</sup>

"Businesses and the broader community can play a part in supporting families through child and family-friendly policies and practices. It is important to educate and engage the community to influence attitudes and beliefs about abuse and neglect but also more broadly about children and their needs. Informing communities about parenting and children's development can also promote understanding about the ways in which community members can better support families."

*National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-20*

### *What's the evidence that stronger communities build parental and family resilience?*

**Strong Communities** is a large-scale initiative to address child abuse and neglect through research-

and community-based prevention and intervention concepts. Strong Communities works to develop an expectation that people will watch out for each other and for each other's children in whatever environment they find themselves. It aims to change community attitudes and expectations regarding collective responsibility for children's wellbeing, to elicit a culture whereby families can feel it is their role to help each other and where it is expected that individuals ask for and offer help. There is a strong emphasis on educating all elements of the community, largely via outreach workers, and through the settings found in almost all communities, including schools, civic groups, religious organisations, businesses, health care settings, neighborhood associations, public safety and social service agencies.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>18,19</sup>: According to Dr Melton, "Strong Communities has restored my faith in humanity! At a time when there is an enormous body of evidence showing that people — especially young people — are more and more isolated, unengaged and distrustful, we've enlisted more than 5,500 volunteers in seven years in an area that has about 125,000 residents".

**Communities for Children** is a national early intervention program that has been developed with an objective to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children and families in disadvantaged communities. The Benevolent Society coordinated the Campbelltown and Southern Lakes sites in partnership with local service providers and community groups in. It aims to build better futures for children by building family and community capacity, supporting relationships between families and the communities they live in, and improve the abilities of communities to help themselves.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>20</sup>: A 2005–2009 evaluation found that the program increased social connections of young families and reduced social isolation; resulted in more child-friendly local communities through the development of child-friendly parks and play areas and a reduction in fears about personal safety in some areas; improved availability and accessibility of quality early learning and care services; increased parents' confidence and access to support networks and local services; and improved collaboration between community partners, external stakeholders and parents.

More Information: [http://www.bensoc.org.au/director/whatwedo/findaservice.cfm?item\\_id=EF8E6DB0D590D1DCE5BB0B3377B64EDE](http://www.bensoc.org.au/director/whatwedo/findaservice.cfm?item_id=EF8E6DB0D590D1DCE5BB0B3377B64EDE)

**NAPCAN's Play A Part** is a community engagement strategy to build child friendly communities. Child friendly communities are a primary prevention strategy for preventing child abuse and neglect. A child friendly community is one in which children are valued, supported, respected, provided for and actively included. From 2007 to 2009, NAPCAN worked collaboratively with five Queensland communities - Chermside, Gold Coast, Inala/Goodna, Springfield and Toowoomba - to implement a range of child friendly initiatives, unique to each community's needs. Due to the Play A Part program's success in engaging and mobilising communities in the creation of child friendly cultures, environments and practices, NAPCAN is now implementing Play A Part in two further local government areas in Queensland (Logan and Redland), with a specific focus on the communities of Beenleigh, Eagleby, Russell and Macleay Islands, Redland Bay and Victoria Point.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>21</sup>: External evaluation of the Play A Part program (Peakcare, 2010) found that:

- i. families and children were positively impacted through child friendly practices and changes implemented by community workers and agencies participating in Play A Part;
- ii. families reported an increased sense of connectivity to their community through their involvement in Play A Part inspired activities;
- iii. community stakeholders noted evidence of improvements in parenting and an increase in the safety of children whilst working with families participating in Play A Part initiatives;
- iv. participation in Play A Part encouraged and supported existing child and adult support services to refocus on preventative strategies for working with children and their families; and
- v. Play A Part increased social capital beyond parents and child-centred services, increasing support for children and parents within their immediate neighbourhood and the wider community. More information: <http://www.napcan.org.au/programs/play-a-part>

In addition, ARACY believes that a **whole of community approach** to improving child and youth wellbeing is required to really make child and youth wellbeing everybody's business. Everyday action 'on the ground' can be enabled through comprehensive awareness raising, through social marketing, to improve parental and community engagement in meeting the social and emotional needs of children and young people. Increasing understanding and action to improve the wellbeing of young children, and improving shared responsibility for reducing child abuse and neglect, could lead to social conditions (policies, values, organisational practices and individual behaviours) that would optimise and protect the development and wellbeing of children and young people.

Providing targeted support for those children and families at highest risk of abuse and neglect: secondary prevention strategies

Figure 1 outlines some of the complex issues associated with child abuse and neglect – **substance abuse, parental mental health, domestic violence and poverty**. What lies behind these issues – and how can they be resolved? The following examples illustrate the interrelatedness of risk factors and provide examples of 'what works' when an integrated, holistic approach to wellbeing is taken.

### Drug and alcohol abuse and parental mental health

13.2% of Australian children aged 12 years or less live in households where at least one adult binge drinks, 2.3% of children live with an adult who takes cannabis daily and 0.8% of children live with an adult who uses methamphetamines monthly.<sup>22</sup>

Substance abusing parents are more likely to adopt harsh and punitive, as well as neglectful, parenting styles.<sup>23</sup>

It is estimated that between 21 percent and 23 percent<sup>24</sup> of children living in Australian households have a least one parent with a mental illness with considerable evidence that parents with mental health issues are overrepresented among maltreating families.<sup>25</sup>

Where substance abuse and/mental illness are contributors to poor wellbeing outcomes for parents and children, the known impacts on children include poor parenting and lack of role models – without support, parents can be authoritarian, punitive, over-controlling, under-involved and unable to meet physical and emotional needs of their children. Impacts also include disruption of children's schooling, isolation, mental health concerns, and neglect.

The known impacts on **parents** include mental illness and emotional difficulties such as psychiatric and mood disorders, suicidal behavior, depression anxiety personality disorders, poor physical health and isolation. **Parents** can also experience poor mother-child interaction, poor parenting skills, premature delivery, parental depression, poverty, housing insecurity, family disruption and marital conflict.

*Example of what works to support children and families where substance abuse and/or poor mental health are key factors*

The **Parents under Pressure (PuP) program** is an intensive, home-based therapy program that includes strategies for improving parental mental health and parenting skills for a parent on methadone maintenance. The program is evidence-based and child and family focused, adopts a strengths-based approach, targets overall child and parent wellbeing and is culturally and socially sensitive with the program highly customised to suit each family's needs.

Evaluation Outcomes<sup>26</sup> include improvements in family functioning and parenting skills and reductions in parent methadone dose compared with the control group. More information: [www.pupprogram.net.au](http://www.pupprogram.net.au)

## Domestic Violence

It is estimated that in 30% to 60% of families where domestic violence is a factor, child abuse is also occurring.<sup>27</sup>

In 2003-04, children were recorded as being present in 44% of cases of domestic violence.<sup>28</sup>

The known **impacts on children** included increased bedwetting, physical and mental health issues, increased risk of becoming perpetrators or victims themselves and in the longer term, their own parenting capacities are likely to be limited.

*Example of what works to support children and families who experience and/or witness domestic violence*

**Bursting the Bubble** is a website which was launched in October 2003 as part of Victoria's 'Week Without Violence' campaign. Developed by Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV), the website provides support and guidance for teenagers experiencing family violence in their own homes. It assists the teenagers to develop safety strategies and ways of dealing with the emotional impact of abuse; and to understand how to seek further support. It also covers how friends can help. The site is interactive and includes quizzes and stories.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>29</sup>: Evaluation process included an online survey of young people experiencing family violence and focus groups held in Victorian secondary schools. Survey respondents and most focus group participants rated the website as effective and useful; and 75% said they now knew 'a lot' or a fair amount about support services after visiting the website. A young person who had experienced family violence and was now in foster care said 'it helped me decide if I want to go home or not' and 'it made me feel more confident plus I'm not passive anymore'. The site won an Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award in 2005. More information: [www.burstingthebubble.com](http://www.burstingthebubble.com)

NAPCAN's **LOVE BiTES** is a primary prevention of child abuse program that focuses on respectful relationships and violence prevention for 14-16 year olds. It aims to break intergenerational cycles of domestic and family violence by supporting young people, Australia's future parents, to develop respectful relationships. Since 2008 NAPCAN has:

- Delivered LOVE BiTES professional development workshops to 70 communities across Australia;
- Trained over 2 500 teachers and community service providers (including police officers, Aboriginal health workers, youth workers, domestic and family violence and sexual assault professionals); and
- Successfully adapted the program for the NSW juvenile justice system.

NAPCAN's trained LOVE BiTES facilitators have now delivered the program to more than 70,000 young people in over 100 schools and youth services in Queensland, NSW, the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>30</sup>: An independent evaluation of the LOVE BiTES program conducted in 2007 with year 10 and 11 students from schools in the Mid North Coast of NSW, 6 months and 18 months respectively after attending the LOVE BiTES program, found: 93% responded that their knowledge of sexual assault and domestic violence had improved, 76% had seen a positive change in the attitudes and behaviour among young people and 83% indicated they knew of services they could contact and how. More Information: <http://www.napcan.org.au/programs/uj>

## Poverty

A Victorian study (2002) found that of all families investigated for suspected child abuse in 2000–01, 77% were low-income families, with 63% in receipt of a pension or benefit.<sup>31</sup>

The known impacts on **children** include material deprivation (food insecurity, inability to participate in school or community activities, lack of access to essentials such as school equipment and uniforms, transport and computer/internet), financial constraints and social isolation in adulthood, low employment opportunities, low educational attainment, neighbourhood disadvantage. Known impacts on **parents** include housing insecurity, unemployment, mental health issues, depression, material deprivation and limited access to support for parenting.

*Example of what works to support children and families move out of poverty and reduce the risk of child maltreatment*

The **Early Years Program** in Victoria represents innovative 're-framing' of disadvantage into an educational and employment goal. Parents participate in a Certificate II in Child Development to get back on track with their parenting skills as they gain qualifications for employment and a steady income. The program helps parents identify their potential, is child and family focused and joins up educational, employment and parenting goals.

Evaluation Outcomes include increased parental self-esteem and self-belief, better understanding of the needs of children and improved parenting skills; and for several parents, secure employment and a pathway out of poverty. More Information: <http://www.anglicare.asn.au/documents/TheEarlyYearspaper.pdf>

**The Smith Family's Learning for Life** program supports children education by offering a suite of education and learning programs to financially disadvantaged Australian families, and in doing so provide the basis for education to break the cycle of poverty. The program assists the children through the vulnerable transition points in their development, such as moving from home to primary school and from school to further study or workforce entry. It is therefore focused on providing long term, sustainable solutions to problems of poverty and social deprivation, rather than only remedial help. The process is facilitated by Learning for Life workers who provide a range of services to the children such as mentoring, linking them with opportunities such as literacy support, life skills, personal development initiatives, and financial scholarships. The program is supported by the community through sponsorships, donations, or volunteering activities.

Evaluation outcomes<sup>32</sup>: According to the evaluation results of *iTrack*, one of the *Learning for Life* school based online mentoring programs for students in Years 9 to 11, 87% expressed their intention to finish year 12, 80% said that they had a better understanding of possible career paths, and 78% felt confident about their transition. Another program student2student was evaluated in 2008, with 92% participating students expressing satisfaction with their participation, 85% of students agreeing that participation in the program helped them feel more confident with their school work, and 90% of parents of participants agreeing that the program helped their child feel better about themselves. More Information: <http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/site/page.cfm?u=9>

#### 4. How can you help?

You can help by supporting programs and partnerships that focus on *prevention and active support for vulnerable children, parents and families*. Here's a checklist of questions to ask:

1. What is the evidence base for this project?
2. Is it child and family focused?
3. Does it take look at the positive, not just negative factors? Strengths rather than deficits? Hope rather than resignation?
4. Does it examine child wellbeing, not just child maltreatment, issues?
5. Is it cultural and socially sensitive?
6. Are children and families fully involved as equal partners in decisions and courses of action (and in research projects)?
7. Does it make connections with formal and informal support networks – and follow up on them?
8. Is it based on collaboration with all relevant community organisations and key individuals?
9. Is it likely to lead to sustainable, long-term practices?
10. Is evaluation built into the project?

#### For more information, see:

- ARACY [www.aracy.org.au](http://www.aracy.org.au)
- NAPCAN [www.napcan.org.au](http://www.napcan.org.au)
- Council of Australian Governments (2009), Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children - Implementing the First Three-year Action Plan 2009-2012, Appendix A 'Where to find more information on actions'. See [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/Protecting\\_children/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/Protecting_children/Pages/default.aspx)

#### References

1. All the references in the preface have been acknowledged in Figure 1 References (below)
2. Rate of child abuse and neglect/children substantiated in Australia = No of children substantiated (0-17)/ Total population of children (0-17).  $33,417/4,901,537 = 0.0068$ . Rate of children diagnosed with cancer in Australia/Total population =  $104,592/20,701,488 = 0.0051$
3. 'Reports of Child Neglect Hit 30%', by Adele Horin, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 July 2010 <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/reports-of-child-neglect-hit-30-20100630-zmrv.html>
4. As quoted by Hon Minister Nicola Roxon during the launch of *Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Guidelines for Early Childhood*, [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/6638490BB75290ACCA2576570020D428/\\$File/nrsp221009.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/6638490BB75290ACCA2576570020D428/$File/nrsp221009.pdf)
5. Figure 1 References:
  - Adelman, R., Wagmiller, R. (2009). Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing Up Poor, National Centre for Children in Poverty, accessed at [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_909.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_909.html)
  - Australian Institute of Family Studies AIFS (1994). Child Abuse and Neglect: Incidence and Prevention, accessed at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/issues/issues1/issues1.html>
  - Australia Institute of Health and Welfare AIHW (2002). Child protection Australia 2001-02, accessed at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/cpa01-02/cpa01-02-c02.pdf>
  - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare AIFS. Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Everyone's Responsibility, accessed at [www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/presentations/preventingchildabuse.ppt](http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/presentations/preventingchildabuse.ppt)
  - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare AIHW (2007). Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National data collection annual report 2005-06. SAAP National Data Collection Agency report Series No.11, Australia.
  - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare AIHW (2008). Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National Data

Collection annual report, SAAP NDCA report series 12, cat. no. HOU 185, Canberra, table 5.5, p. 37.

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare AIHW (2009). Child protection Australia 2008-09 , accessed at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/35/10859.pdf>
  - Australian Institute of Criminology (2010). Emerging issues in domestic/family violence research, accessed at <http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/B/7/2/%7BB720C47B-56F2-4C4D-AA2C-57A2278FD87E%7Drip10.pdf>
  - Australian Medical Association AMA (2009). Childhood obesity and abuse, accessed at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/4448>.
  - Childhelp, USA. National Child Abuse Statistics, accessed at <http://www.childhelp.org/pages/statistics>
  - Draper, B., Pfaff, J., Pirkis, J., Snowdon, J., Lautenschlager, N., Wilson, I., et al. (2007). Long-Term Effects of Childhood Abuse on the Quality of Life and Health of Older People: Results from the Depression and early prevention of Suicide in General Practice Project. JAGS.
  - James, M., 'Domestic Violence as a Form of Child Abuse: Identification and Prevention', Issues in Child Abuse Prevention, 1994. Accessed at <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>
  - Jesuit Social Services Winter Newsletter (2006), accessed at <http://www.jss.org.au/home/our-newsletters>
  - Lynch, M., Buckman, J. & Krenske, L. (2003). Youth Justice Criminal Trajectories. Research and Issues Series, Crime and Misconduct Commission: Brisbane.
  - Pryor, J., & Woodward, L. (1998). Families and Parenting. In P.A. Silva & W.R. Stanton (Eds.) From Child to adult: The Dunedin multidisciplinary health and development study (pp. 247-258). Auckland: Oxford University Press.
  - Sawyer, M., Carbone, J., Searle, A., & Robinson, P. (2007). The mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents in home-based foster care, MJA; 186: 181–184.
  - The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (2006). Snapshot 2006: Children and young people in Queensland. Brisbane: Author.
  - The Better Health Channel (2009). Obesity in children – causes, accessed at [http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/obesity\\_in\\_children](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/obesity_in_children)
  - Victorian Department of Human Services VDHS (2002). An Integrated Strategy for Child Protection and Placement Services, Government of Victoria, Melbourne.
  - Victorian Department of Human Services VDHS (2002a). The audit of children and young people in home based care services. Melbourne: Service Development Unit, Child Protection and Juvenile Justice, Community Care Division.
6. Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth ARACY (2009). Inverting the Pyramid: Enhancing Systems for Protecting Children, accessed at [http://www.aracy.org.au/cmsdocuments/REP\\_Inverting\\_the\\_Pyramid\\_Enhancing\\_Systems\\_for\\_Protecting\\_Children\\_2009.pdf](http://www.aracy.org.au/cmsdocuments/REP_Inverting_the_Pyramid_Enhancing_Systems_for_Protecting_Children_2009.pdf)
  7. Council of Australian Governments (2009). Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, Commonwealth of Australia.
  8. Twardosz, S., & Lutzker, J. (2010). Child maltreatment and the developing brain: A review of neuroscience perspectives, Aggression and Violent Behaviour, vol. 15/1, pp 59-68.
  9. Sorhaindo, A., & Feinstein, L. (2006). What is the relationship between child nutrition and school outcomes, Research Report No. 18, Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning, London.
  10. Olds, D.L. (2006). The nurse-family partnership: An evidence based prevention intervention, University of Colorado, Infant Mental Health Journal, Vol. 27(1), 5–25 (2006), accessed at <http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/cslplc/documents/Olds.pdf>
  11. Nurse-Family Partnership, USA. Proven improvements in child health and development, accessed at <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/proven-results/prevent-child-abuse>
  12. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2006). Practical child abuse and Neglect Prevention, accessed at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/newsletters/nl2006/winterab.pdf>
  13. Solving the Jigsaw, accessed at <http://www.solvingthejigsaw.org.au/awards.htm>
  14. Pryor, J., & Woodward, L. (1998). Families and Parenting. In P.A. Silva & W.R. Stanton (Eds.) From Child

to adult: The Dunedin multidisciplinary health and development study (pp. 247-258). Auckland: Oxford University Press.

15. - Center for Disease Control and Prevention, USA (2009). US Study Finds Australia's Triple P-Positive Parenting Program Lowers Child Abuse Injuries And Fosters Placements, accessed at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/136751.php>
  - Zubrick, S.R. (2002). Forecasting the mental health futures of Australian children. Presentation to Third International Conference on Child & Adolescent Mental Health, 15th June 2002, Brisbane: Australia;
  - The University of Queensland. Evidence Base, accessed at [http://www.pfsc.uq.edu.au/publications/evidence\\_base.html](http://www.pfsc.uq.edu.au/publications/evidence_base.html)
16. Good Beginnings Australia. Media Fact Sheet, accessed at [http://www.goodbeginnings.net.au/files/MediaKit\\_-\\_Media\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.goodbeginnings.net.au/files/MediaKit_-_Media_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
17. Australian Medical Association (2010). Developmental Health and Wellbeing of Australia's Children and Young People - revised 2010, accessed at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5488>
18. The American Psychological Association (2009). Community Program Successful in Preventing Child Abuse – Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month, accessed at <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2009/04/melton.aspx>
19. The Center for the Study of Social Policy CSSP. Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, accessed at [http://cssp.org/center/community\\_partnership2.html](http://cssp.org/center/community_partnership2.html)
20. The Benevolent Society. Evaluation of The Benevolent Society's Communities for Children programs, accessed at <http://www.bensoc.org.au/uploads/documents/communities-for-children-evaluation-snapshot-nov2009.pdf>
21. Peakcare Queensland Inc 2010, Stories of change: NAPCAN's 'Play A Part' project: a whole-of-community approach to creating child-friendly communities, Peakcare Queensland Inc, Paddington, Qld.
22. Australian National Council on Drugs ANCD (2007). Drug use in the family- impacts and implications for children, accessed at [http://www.ancd.org.au/images/PDF/Researchpapers/rp13\\_drug\\_use\\_in\\_family.pdf](http://www.ancd.org.au/images/PDF/Researchpapers/rp13_drug_use_in_family.pdf)
23. Working with Parental Substance Misuse, NSW Department of Community services, February 2010. Accessed at: [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/\\_assets/main/documents/researchnotes\\_parental\\_misuse.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/researchnotes_parental_misuse.pdf)
24. Maybery, D., Reupert, A., Patrick, K., Goodyear, M. & Crase, L. (2005). VicHealth Research Report on Children at risk in families affected by parental mental illness, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Mental Health and Wellbeing Unit.
25. Sheppard, M. (1997). Double jeopardy: the link between child abuse and maternal depression in child and family social work, *Child & Family Social Work*, 2, 2, 91-107
26. Department of Community Services, NSW (2010). Working with parental substance misuse, accessed at [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/\\_assets/main/documents/researchnotes\\_parental\\_misuse.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/researchnotes_parental_misuse.pdf)
27. Edleson, J. L. (1999). The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering, *Violence Against Women*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 134-154.
28. Australian Institute of Criminology (2010). Emerging issues in domestic/family violence research, accessed at <http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/B/7/2/%7BB720C47B-56F2-4C4D-AA2C-57A2278FD87E%7Drip10.pdf>
29. The Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria. Young people's views: Learnings from Bursting the Bubble.com, accessed at <http://www.dvirc.org.au/PublicationsHub/evaluationbubble.htm>
30. NAPCAN. Evaluation - LOVE BiTES, accessed at <http://www.napcan.org.au/programs/love-bites/evaluation>
31. Victorian Department of Human Services VDHS (2002). An Integrated Strategy for Child Protection and Placement Services, Government of Victoria, Melbourne.
32. - The Smith Family. Annual Report 2008/09, accessed at [http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/webdata/resources/files/TSF\\_AR\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/webdata/resources/files/TSF_AR_WEB.pdf)
  - Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (2009). Evaluation Report of the BMA Community Partnerships Program, accessed at [http://www.csr.mq.edu.au/docs/PPP\\_EvaluationReportLOW.pdf](http://www.csr.mq.edu.au/docs/PPP_EvaluationReportLOW.pdf)