

# The prevention of child abuse

PART TWO

## Strategies to change attitudes and behaviour

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*In order to improve attempts at the prevention of child abuse, a large scale program to change community attitudes and behaviours is required. An approach based on the Yale model of persuasion is described. The particular messages to be promoted are discussed with an emphasis on positive rather than punitive messages. Alternatives to officialdom for making contact, and for delivery of assistance to carers under stress are seen as desirable, including additional programs at local neighbourhood level. A series of recommendations which reflect principles known to be effective in changing attitudes and behaviour is made.*

**T**here is a clear need for an increased emphasis on the prevention of child abuse. While community resources to assist people before they become abusers do exist, coordination of these community resources is poor and it is not easy for interested parties to obtain information and then assistance.

This difficulty is amplified by a public attitude of denial towards the problem.

Prevention of abuse involves changing those individual and community attitudes, beliefs and behaviours, and circumstances which allow the abuse to occur.

(National Child Protection Council, undated, p.9).

Psychological theory in the area of attitude change and persuasion, offers a framework around which attempts to modify public attitudes and behaviour might be sensibly structured. This paper explores the application of such theory.

Futile attempts at prevention still rely on the hope that the threat of criminal prosecution or a report to the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) will deter offenders. Most abuse is not carried out in cold blood, however. Often, it is a case of a 'snapping point' being reached, where the offender is past

rational consideration of what is right or wrong or the possible consequences.

The authors believe that to understand another person, one must have empathy. Empathy can be defined as putting oneself in another's place - seeing a situation from the other's point of view. It may be difficult for some of the better educated, financially secure, non-substance abusing, and reasonably stable members of the general public to look at the 'other side' of child abuse. Not always, but certainly often, people who abuse children experience a reality which consists mostly or only of poverty, disillusionment, depression, frustration and dependency, resulting in their emotions and thinking being vastly different in form and degree from that experienced by the majority of society. This must be a most important consideration when developing strategies to prevent child abuse.

### The model for persuasion

Although there should be no question of condoning or excusing abuse, a campaign to prevent it must address the issues of why it occurs and what should be done to prevent an offender reaching the snapping point. A learning theory approach (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991:135) assumes that

attitudes can be changed and new ones adopted provided certain processes are activated. The Yale model of attitude change (figure one) requires that those targeted for change must first attend to the message which is being promulgated, must understand it, accept it, retain it and finally act in accordance with it. In other words, it is essential that the right kind of message is actually given to the specific people it is aimed at; the message must be relevant and interesting enough to hold attention; it must be very easy to understand, and must show that by accepting the message some desirable results may be obtained. Ideally the message is repeated at later stages to ensure retention. The newly formed attitudes will then guide new behaviours.

New information can lead to changes in attitudes and then behaviour (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991). However, before accepting new ideas people must be receptive to them, and strongly defined attitudes which have become fixed in adulthood are very resistant to change. Such attitudes can be seen in parents who abuse their children in the same way they themselves were abused in childhood. Additionally, to admit one's ideas are wrong can threaten self-esteem (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991). Abusive parents often have low self-esteem and will not want to lose the little they have.

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**FIGURE ONE:**  
**Zimbardo & Leippe's (1991) modification of the Yale Model of Persuasion**

**Six steps in the persuasion process:**

- 1. Exposure to the message**  
 If the target of the message never sees or hears it, the message cannot have influence.
- 2. Attention to the message**  
 The target must pay attention to the message if it is to have influence.
- 3. Comprehension of the message**  
 The target must understand at least the conclusion of the message if it is to be influential.
- 4. Acceptance of its conclusion**  
 The target must accept the message's conclusion for attitude change to occur.
- 5. Retention of new attitude**  
 If the new attitude is forgotten, the message will not have influence in the future.
- 6. Translation of attitude to behaviour**  
 If the message is to influence behaviour, the new attitude must guide behaviour in a relevant situation.

Brochures are often used in an attempt to change attitudes and behaviour. Many of these brochures may not be effective in persuading parents to change their behaviour. The presentation of some is clinical and negative rather than inviting. They may not be read because parents may simply not associate themselves with the message from the outset and will not read on. Some slogans presented on stickers, such as those stating 'Children have rights', or 'Children are people too', may be similarly dismissed. They will not be accepted and acted on by parents who strongly believe that children need to be kept in their place and that a lack of strong physical discipline is the cause of today's high juvenile crime rates. Attractive new brochures have been produced by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN). These included such positive phrases such as 'it is better to hug than hit', 'Do works better than don't', 'Praise works better than punishment'.

It cannot be presumed that all parents who abuse their children will

seek assistance. Some will believe they are rearing their children in the correct manner. Those who do want help may not ask for it. They may be under great stress, low in self-esteem and the stigma associated with child abuse may prevent them from seeking assistance, or even picking up a brochure. Parents initially need to be presented with a friendly invitation to seek help, and given reassurance that they are not 'different'. Such questions as 'Are you like most parents and experiencing some difficulty in coping with parenthood?', 'Would you like to learn how to manage children's behaviour a little better?', may be appropriate. To be effective, persuasive messages must be able to show that new attitudes and new behaviour will better meet the needs of individuals (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991).

Castle and Briggs (1982) have stated that if parents can be offered non-threatening help with child care problems they will be more inclined to seek assistance at an early stage. Problems may be solved or improved before the occurrence of an abusive situation. If individuals are encouraged to willingly commit themselves to making some small change in their behaviour, or in taking some small step to seeking assistance in times of stress, they are then likely to make similar larger commitments (Cialdini 1993).

Two psychological theories help show that making some initial small commitment and behaving in a new way can lead to the formation of new attitudes and new behaviour. Put simply, cognitive dissonance theory (Festinger 1957) states that individuals have a great desire to appear consistent. If they can be induced to carry out behaviours consistent with the notion of being a 'good parent', they will be likely to carry out further behaviour consistent with this role. Self perception theory (Bem 1972) states that people can change their own views about themselves simply by observing their own behaviour and drawing inferences from that behaviour. If parents can be persuaded to act in new 'positive parenting' ways, this will influence their self-perception and subsequent behaviour. The essence of these theories lies in the idea that persuading parents to act in new ways towards their children will lead to further consistent behaviours.

As it has been shown that parents who are in financial difficulties, unemployed, or lacking family support are in a high risk situation regarding child abuse, it is essential that persuasive messages relating to the prevention of child abuse actually reach these parents. Maternity hospitals are now being targeted by some organisations. Information is being placed in the hands of new parents. New parents are highly receptive to information, and display a high potential for learning in the period surrounding the birth of a new child, especially a first child (Boger, Richter & Weatherston 1983).

The 'Don't Shake The Baby' campaign, being conducted jointly by NAPCAN and the South Australian Child Protection Unit, is an example of information being presented in maternity hospitals. All new mothers will be presented with information regarding the dangers of shaking a baby. An excellent pamphlet has been produced. It is written in a way which relates to all parents, and has an easy to understand, believable message which invites acceptance and action. This appears to be a hopeful beginning in educating new parents, one which could certainly be extended to include the presentation of additional information relating to parenting, child behaviour management, and coping strategies.

### Message development

Messages must first be formulated. In this case, the primary theme should be that child abuse is unacceptable and preventable. Secondary important themes are that:

- 'child abuse is everybody's business', a theme used during the 1993 Child Protection Week promotion organised by NAPCAN;
- there is a need to provide assistance to those under stress to avoid abuse;
- that prevention is not only effective, but cost effective.

The source of the message is important - who presents it, and whether the presenter is attractive, trustworthy or credible from the target's point of view can make the difference between acceptance or rejection.

Part of the message will be information. For example, it will show people how to recognise abuse, for some regard violence as a normal pattern of behaviour. It will also

overcome ignorance, for abuse is sometimes unintentional. The South Australian NAPCAN president told the researchers that he had spoken to women who admitted they had no idea that shaking a baby could result in serious harm. Other parents are ignorant of the emotional distress they cause their children by criticism, negative responses or cruel comments. Information will also address sources of assistance - where to go for help or advice.

As anti-smoking and AIDS campaigns have demonstrated, educating people on the facts and advocating desirable behaviour is not enough to prevent them all from taking up smoking or indulging in unsafe sex. Further persuasion is needed for retention of a message and translation into action. New behaviours must be viable. A committed conservationist, for example, will throw recyclable items in the bin if other disposal becomes too complicated. Prevention of child abuse must therefore make good parenting easier. Assistance must be on tap and its availability promoted as part of the message.

## Identifying the targets

There will be several targets - one will be the potential abuser. A nationwide survey in 1970 (Gil, in Trickett & Susman 1988) showed that 87% of abusive behaviour towards children involved a parent or parent substitute, and in nearly two thirds of cases, the abuse followed parental attempts to discipline the child or control its behaviour. Physical abuse may therefore often be seen as extremely severe physical punishment.

Trickett & Susman's study showed that abusive parents found parenting more difficult and less satisfying than non-abusive parents. Less expression of positive emotions and more conflict existed in abusive homes and less reasoning was used to control children. Abusive families often isolated themselves from the world; there was low recreational and cultural orientation, such as joining sports teams or going on outings, and less contact with others who could influence child-rearing practices. More worry about the child was expressed and failure by the child produced frustration and disappointment. These parents also reported receiving harsher physical punishment from their own parents

than those in control groups. Already difficulties can be seen in campaigning against abuse, for example in reaching isolated people, and in changing already learned social patterns which perpetuate harsh treatment.

Bugental, Blue & Cruzcosa (1989) found abused children were more likely to be premature babies, chronically ill, have learning disabilities, physical or communication handicaps, and they were low in empathy or social skills. Care givers could not cope. Abusers also tended to show a higher reactivity to life stressors and low arousal thresholds, for example, to the crying of a baby. Such parents react more violently to irritation and are in need of greater back-up support and 'time out'.

Bugental, Blue & Lewis (1990) observed that adults with low perceived control respond with greater negative affect, helplessness and elevated arousal to 'difficult' children. Abusive mothers were more likely to believe they could do little to prevent negative outcomes. People with such attitudes of learned helplessness will lack the initiative to seek help. Persuading them to act will be difficult.

Skurray & Ham (1990) and Preston (1986) found an association between abuse and poverty.

The link between broad economic and social issues and the prevalence of child abuse is clear and undeniable.

(National Child Protection Council, undated, p.45).

Trickett, Aber, Carlson & Cicchetti (1991) found that when stresses relating to poverty decreased in abusive families, parenting satisfaction did not increase as it did in a control group which experienced similar alleviation. This finding may reflect the fact that other problems may be causing both the poverty and the abuse, for example unemployment may be a factor in both poverty and child abuse. Ney, Fung & Wickett (1992) found immaturity, marital problems and substance abuse to be present in abusive situations, and a *Four Corners* report on child abuse (ABC, 25 Oct 93) stated that drug or alcohol abuse was present in almost all cases involving child abuse, though it was usually a symptom of a wider problem. If unemployment or other problems cause a parent to drink, mass media appeals urging those

who abuse children to seek counselling are of limited value.

Targets for attitude change must include legislators and voters. The notion that violence is not an acceptable course of action is problematic given that violence is currently condoned in sport, and corporal punishment is still used in some schools. Australia has also had to struggle with its response to the sexual mutilation of little girls (genital infibulation and clitorrectomy) in the context of its multicultural society (Rivard 1993, in National Child Protection Council, undated).

The public must accept the responsibility of intervening in what has been traditionally regarded as the private business of families. The National Police Working Party on Law Reform (1991) states:

... fear of the reaction from the offender, insecurity in their own role or even laziness' prevent people from intervention in violence towards children. (p.13)

Child protection has to become everybody's business. Many individuals believe that children are the parents' responsibility only, and that parents have a right to discipline them in any way without interference from others. There is also an overall indifference to violence and abuse by some individuals in the community. Some, even doctors or other professionals in a position to observe child abuse, may have a typical 'bystander' attitude. These individuals tend to ignore signs of abuse, presuming that someone else will observe the abuse and report it (Oates 1982).

## Attention, comprehension and acceptance.

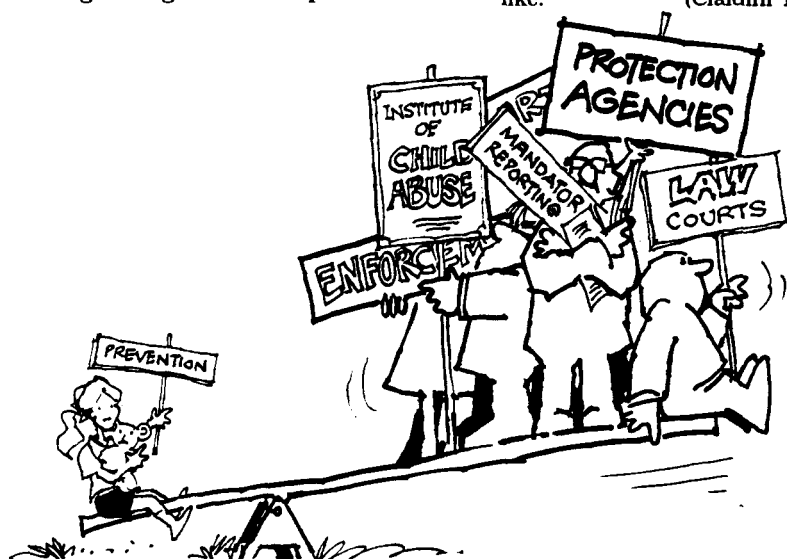
Donovan & Francas (1992), recommend a mass media campaign to educate the public and raise awareness of the problem of child abuse (National Child Protection Council, undated). The 1993 Child Protection Week was a good way to start, but further mass media campaigning is needed. It is best conducted at national level and it must create a favourable first impression. Brickman, Redfield, Harrison & Crandell (1972) showed experimentally that repeated exposure to initially disliked stimuli led to even more negative responses, so the way the message is introduced must be carefully considered. The message must be positive rather

than threatening. Too much emphasis on reporting of abuse can arouse hostility in the abuser and a sense of being a 'dobber' in the concerned observer. This is not to say that the unacceptability of child abuse is not stressed, but help rather than condemnation must be a central theme. If people are caught in a seemingly hopeless spiral of poverty, stress, depression or irritation, particularly if they have a 'difficult' or handicapped child, condemnation is not a positive approach, but an optimistic message can give them hope.

officers and doctors are used to reinforce the message, and since experts and authority figures are usually assumed on the basis of heuristics to be correct, the result may be change.

Liking is a very important principle to bear in mind when attempting to persuade people to behave in a certain way. People who are familiar and who are liked should be used to present the message:

We most prefer to say yes to the requests of people we know and like. (Cialdini 1993:136)



An effective alternative to straight advertising promotions is the use of television and radio programs where entertainment can be combined with the promotion of a message. Donovan Research suggests the soap opera as a medium (National Child Protection Council, undated). The ABC program 'GP' has integrated a number of social problems, including child sex abuse, into its scripts. Such an approach makes use of what Cialdini (1993) calls the 'principle of social proof':

We view a behavior as correct in a given situation to the degree that we see others performing it. (p.95)

Many aspects of behaviour are learned and modelled on behaviour observed in others. (Bandura, 1977). Since in most cases we look at others similar to ourselves to judge the appropriateness of behaviour and attitude, a message which features parents or carers who are experiencing similar difficulties will be understood by targets. The norms for behaviour can be presented, and the power of authority can also be invoked. Characters including police

The reason why so many people follow soap operas is bound up with familiarity; popular characters can have very significant influence.

Ongoing back-up information is needed during and after any mass media campaign. Messages must continue to reach people through their everyday lives; in public places, transport, doctor's waiting rooms, supermarkets, schools, public toilets, hotels and workplaces. Men are not sufficiently targeted at present. Hotels, sporting clubs and workplaces should feature posters. Without special training, people are only able to pay full attention to one thing at a time (Spelke, Hirst & Neisser 1976), so each poster or paid advertisement should try to incorporate only one of the campaign themes at a time. Every piece of information should contain a contact point to encourage action. The message should also be kept simple.

The message must reach the parents and citizens of tomorrow if prevention is to work, so the concern of bodies such as NAPCAN and the Children's Interest Bureau to intro-

duce educational programs into schools is warranted. Programs should cover:

- what abuse is,
- why it occurs,
- how parenting skills can help,
- what assistance is available to prevent the abuse beginning or continuing,
- where to go to report the abuse if all else fails.

Workshops, seminars and public meetings can supply valuable information to helpers in the field, but they are usually attended only by the converted, and reach a very limited audience. As part of a campaign to reach the community at large this method of educating is limited, but the workshop-seminar approach may be used to train voluntary or professional workers, particularly if local network schemes integrate voluntary workers, such as those involved with Neighbourhood Watch, into a child protection strategy.

Ultimately, the isolated parent, or those who have learned helplessness in the parenting role, will need to have the message taken to them on a one to one basis. Interpersonal influence by home visitation schemes and introductions to local support groups with which parents can identify, and interact in a learning process, may be necessary to gain attention and acceptance for new attitudes and behaviour.

### Facilitating action

Fear often prevents an abuser or potential abuser from seeking help. An approach to the Police or government welfare agencies can result in possible criminal charges or removal of the child from the family. When former Victorian Premier, Joan Kirner, made a public joke about social workers and Rottweilers (the difference between the two is that the Rottweiler eventually lets go of the child), she was hitting a sensitive note in the audience. Even confirmed abuse may not warrant the removal of a child under a care order, and in fact this is not always done. There is now an emphasis on attempting to treat the family as a whole rather than dividing it. There is, nevertheless, a fear of possible intervention at this level. Fear also discourages neighbours and friends from intervening; at best unpleasantness results, at worst reprisals or even more damage to the child.

Under S 91(2) of the South Australian *Community Welfare Act Amendment Act, 1987*, people in the caring professions are required to report abuse or risk of abuse. Approached by a person who feels they may harm a child or who has already done so, professionals are forced to betray the confidence. Often they then feel that they face a dilemma (National Police Working Party on Law Reform, 1991:13). Any relationship formed with the person is undermined, and professionals fear a report may do more harm than good.

There can be little doubt that being forced to recall the details of the abuse, survive cross-examination and facing the abuser in a court setting has a deep adverse psychological effect on the child... (p.12)

People may feel reporting abuse to be a waste of time. Strains on workloads at present mean that many instances are not investigated and help is not provided, as the National Police Working Party on Law Reform (1991) has pointed out in discussing the situation in Victoria.

There will be little incentive to report abuse if the result is inaction or reprisals, and little incentive to admit to abuse or its possibility if the outcome is punishment, degradation or humiliation, and breakup of the family. A good salesperson does not begin a sales pitch with threats. Something is offered, even a free sample: a campaign must offer something also. The Hare Krishna Society solicits contributions by giving a flower to the target. They engage the principle of reciprocity - give something to get something back (Cialdini 1993:23). A message can successfully change attitudes if 'its arguments promote the belief that adopting the message's position will result in reinforcement' (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991:135). That is, rewards will follow, in this case a better life for parents and children. Targets must see action resulting in reward, not punishment.

One way to move away from threatening aspects in a campaign against abuse may be to provide alternative sources of assistance besides those controlled by personnel who fall under the mandatory reporting laws. NAPCAN (1990) have advocated using the 'Neighbour Network' approach, a concept similar to the New Zealand Neighbourhood Support Scheme which involves local people and organisations in giving assistance

and intervening in violent situations. In their booklet, *Neighbour Network* (1990), NAPCAN suggests ways of operating:

- local meetings to identify concerns and ways of helping;
- working through existing Community Centres, domestic violence organisations and Senior Citizens Clubs;
- utilising Neighbourhood Watch and/or Safety House networks to extend current protection initiatives to protection from child abuse;
- working through youth clubs run by police or other organisations. In some parts of Australia, child protection through Neighbourhood Watch is currently being trialed. The organisation already has structure, is well known and is a community initiative rather than an authoritarian one.

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The delivery of assistance through local networks is not only efficient and non-threatening, it provides a chance for another model of influence, namely group dynamics, to operate. Membership of a group provides identity, confidence and self-esteem as well as assistance, and aids the learning process by providing new models for new behaviour. Learned helplessness, negativity and hopelessness can be addressed by showing how new behaviour overcomes problems. Modelling of behaviour on that of others (Bandura 1977) is a most effective learning process. Backed up by appropriate models in media images and advertising, the local community can use the influence of groups to break old patterns of violence. The interaction and interpersonal influence will help members of the community overcome their inhibit-

ions about intervention in situations where intervention is needed.

A high level of neighbourhood cohesiveness and a low level of social stress seem to account for lower rates of child maltreatment. (Edgar 1990)

Cohesiveness involves membership of local groups, a sense of belonging to the area and mutual commitment to the well-being of local people. To introduce those who are isolated into new groups can be an effective way of teaching new attitudes and behaviours. Community leaders or professionals can inform and influence and the group can satisfy needs for companionship and a sense of identity. The community can learn to involve itself in other ways, besides simply reporting abuse, though volunteers would need training in how to deal with child abuse situations. In conjunction with home visitation schemes and early intervention programs for parents under stress, neighbour networking could prove valuable.

One scheme operating from an American hospital warrants consideration. Volunteers, who are experienced parents, visit new parents in hospital presenting information and videos on parenting. They meet again in the home of the new baby when it is four weeks old, and soon after this accompany the new mother to her first meeting with a local support group. Many older, experienced parents volunteer to help and undergo short training periods prior to commencing duties with new parents. The same scheme also operates a 'warm line' telephone service which all new mothers are encouraged to make use of if they need any additional advice or support. (Boger et al 1983)

It has been estimated that the annual cost of child abuse to welfare departments in Australia is \$90 million, but this does not include other costs, for example health and correctional services. (National Child Protection Council, undated) Evidence suggests that preventive measures pay for themselves. The mothers in one early intervention program subsequently received less welfare help, had fewer emergency medical problems and fewer subsequent pregnancies. In another study, home visitor and local support schemes have been successful in reducing abuse (National Child Protection Council, undated). The concept of one-to-one persuasion or small group learning, which may sound expensive, seems actually to be cost effective.

## Retention and action: continuity & viability

The receptive ability of the masses is very limited, their understanding small; on the other hand they have a great power of forgetting.

(Adolf Hitler 1933:77)

One exposure to a message, even if it is understood and accepted, is unlikely to achieve dramatic or lasting results, especially if it comes up against entrenched attitudes or behaviour patterns (Zimbardo & Leippe 1991). Many presentations will be necessary to ensure retention of new attitudes or to initiate action at a later time. Follow-ups (eg, annual Child Protection Weeks) are also needed to take advantage of the 'sleeper effect', which is a delayed action effect in attitude change. A message which is understood but rejected the time it is first heard, may remain in the memory. Cognitive processing may continue unconsciously until the argument presented prevails over previously accepted attitudes.

A mass media campaign would lay a groundwork for changing the current situation of denial. During the 1993 Child Protection Week a 'hot line' was made available for making contact with authorities in respect to abuse. It was basically for reporting abuse, however, rather than preventive assistance. A 'warm line' is therefore suggested, on a permanent basis to provide a direct and immediate response and direct callers accurately to the appropriate assistance needed. The concept of a warm line reduces the threatening aspect of talking about abuse.

Persuasion can go so far, but only practical assistance can facilitate new behaviour even if new attitudes have been achieved. Recently a judge, in handing down a suspended sentence to a woman convicted of poisoning her baby to keep it in hospital, described the case as 'a great human tragedy' (Advertiser, 29 Oct 93:3). She was mentally ill and could not cope with the baby's medical problems while raising her two other children. The woman needed respite and assistance. Parents do not have time off, nor do those under stress have respite care, such as that becoming available for carers of the elderly and disabled. There is a need for provision of respite facilities to parents under stress, without the involvement of courts.

## Conclusion

Prior to any strategies being undertaken, those responsible for campaigns relating to the prevention of child abuse must endeavour to see the information they intend to present through the eyes of the targets at whom they are aiming the information. New information will not be accepted simply because it is given. Information must be shown to meet a need, otherwise it is unlikely that it will ever be accepted. Because of the burdens and stresses associated with parenting, any information directed towards parents virtually needs to be placed in their hands. It cannot be presumed that they will seek out information for themselves or read literature distributed throughout the community.

## Recommendations

- A mass media campaign using the Yale model of persuasion should be undertaken as a matter of urgency, to raise public awareness of child abuse and its causes, and to change the current community attitude of denial to one of prevention.

- In order to provide advice and assistance alternatives to official agencies should be expanded, so that targets will not be deterred by mandatory reporting requirements from approaching contact points. Information on the availability of assistance should be readily accessible and publicly displayed on a permanent basis.

- Education programs should be a primary focus point in preventive strategies.

- There should be one single telephone number established on a permanent basis for enquiries and advice on parenting problems and stress situations. It could become known nationally as the 'warm line', and be perceived as non-threatening. Operated by trained volunteers who are experienced parents, it could provide helpful advice and someone to talk to in times of stress. Those operating the line would have, on hand, a reliable list of further contact numbers for specific problems they cannot solve and may, on request, contact a help agency on behalf of a distraught parent in a crisis situation.

- Early intervention programs should be implemented, including

home visitation schemes and local support groups for parents and carers, starting with areas where low socio-economic conditions prevail.

- 'Neighbour networks' should be promoted to link into existing community organisations, with the aim of providing both local assistance and intervention in situations involving violence. The scope of Neighbourhood Watch should be expanded to include protection of children as well as property.

- To prevent abuse occurring, funding should be provided to expand counselling services for groups working with families under stress. Those groups currently involved in this work are not able to satisfy present levels of demand.

- Adequate government provision should be made to alleviate conditions which are underlying causes of abuse, such as inadequate housing and unemployment.

- The profile of Child Protection Week should be raised to provide a regular reminder for the need for prevention of child abuse and the means by which this is to be achieved.

### Postscript:

An implementation of the first recommendation has already occurred. The findings of our report led to a 'family competition', which brought together the energies of church and social groups and received considerable support from business, community leaders and media. The competition was launched by the South Australian Minister for Family and Community Services, the Honorable David Wotton, on Friday 18 March 1994 and had the final presentation as part of the 1994 Child Protection Week. ♦

In Part One of this article, 'The prevention of child abuse: Community resources', which appeared in *Children Australia* v.19, no.3, there was a consistent error in the abbreviation of 'Child and Family Health Service' which instead of being CAFHS was CATHS. *Children Australia* apologises for this mistake, and also for the misspelling of Russell Hawkins's name on the contents page.

