

Australia. For this reason four local practitioners and researchers presented aspects of their clinical work or research at the symposium. To provide an interactive environment and include as many views as possible in a short space of time, four discussants responded.

These papers and the discussants' responses have been reviewed and edited for publication as both proceedings of this symposium and this special issue of *Children Australia*. The edited presentations which follow are:

- Ms Gill Callister's overview of current Department of Human Services (Vic) directions, mentioned above;
- Ms Deborah Walsh's study of the experience of violence of pregnant women attending a major Melbourne maternity hospital;
- Dr. Brigid Jordan's description of a case in which painstaking psychosocial assessment, and in particular, a detailed assessment of the baby, revealed that its mysterious and serious failure to thrive was the infant's response to intimate partner violence;
- Ms Wendy Bunston's description of the PARKAS program which helps older children recover from living in violent families; and

- Ms Julie Hall's exploration of some of the dilemmas in responding appropriately to such families in the maze of a huge paediatric hospital.

This is not an easy area in which to work. The competing claims of mothers, fathers and children can immobilise the health or welfare professional. It is hoped that these papers, based in sound experience and drawing on current research, make a useful contribution to knowledge in this field.

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REFERENCE

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence & Strategic Partners Pty. Ltd.
(Co-ordinated by Commonwealth Office of the Status of Women)
(2002) *Domestic Violence Prevention: Strategies and Resources for Working with Young People*, April, p.iii.

INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

The following websites provide information on topics relating to child abuse and family violence:

- **Partnerships Against Domestic Violence :**
www.padv.dpmc.gov.au
A Commonwealth Government initiative, working with the States and Territories and the community to prevent domestic violence. The PADV Secretariat is located in the Office of the Status of Women
- **Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse :**
www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au
A comprehensive national resource on issues of domestic and family violence, providing a central point for the collection and dissemination of Australian domestic and family violence policy, practice and research (including links to Australian state and federal government initiatives, community organisations, inter-agency initiatives, indigenous sites, prevention sites, as well as more broadly related sites and international sites).
- **National Child Protection Clearinghouse:**
www.aifs.org.au/nch
- **Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (Vic) :**
www.dvirc.org.au
- **DVlink (NSW) :**
www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au
- **WESNET The Women's Services Network**
www.wesnet.org.au