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The authors point out that the contraceptive which is immediately effective, never fails, has no side-effects and is totally and immediately reversible does not exist. Thus the chapter on "Birth Control After Failed Contraception" is an important inclusion in the book. It carefully describes the options of post-coital intervention (the morning-after pill) and abortion. The discussion on abortion explains the procedures used, availability (including legal aspects) and possible complications. The important role of counselling in explaining procedures, presenting options (such as adoption) and providing support, is well discussed.

The book has an excellent chapter on "Making Decisions About Contraception". This chapter includes important points about the demands associated with birth control choices. Considerations to be taken into account include: assessment on ability to use a particular method, views on parenthood and family size, health factors, age and stage of relationships, and religious and cultural practices. The special needs of the intellectually and physically disabled are also included in the discussion. "One of the increasingly acknowledged benefits of a birth control method in which the users have confidence is that of

greater pleasure when sex is known to be safe". This statement should always be remembered and used as a guide when choices are being made.

Kovacs and Westmore's book provides a sound basis for making the appropriate decision.



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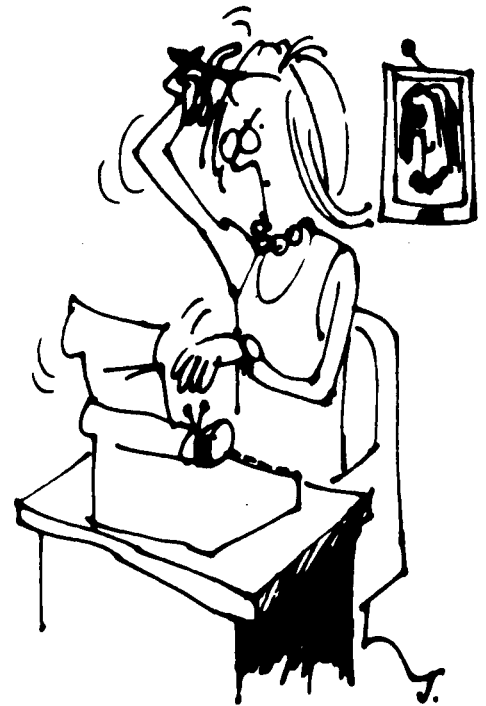
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# THE SYSTEMS FOR MANAGING CHILD MALTREATMENT IN AUSTRALIA

## A STUDY OF THE SIX STATES

**Peter Boss  
(1987)**

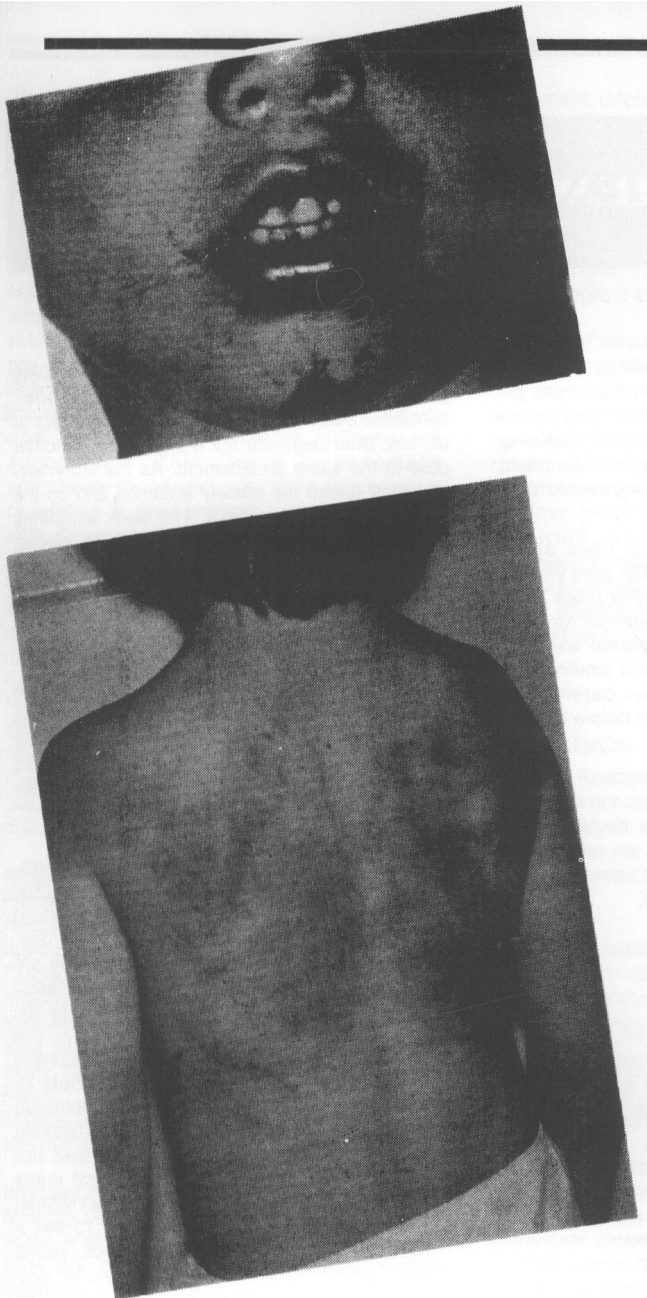
This study is based on research at first hand which was carried out in 1986 by the present Executive Director of the Children's Bureau of Australia Inc. when he was working at Monash University, Melbourne, as chairman and professor in the department of social work. The publication of the study has been made possible through generous financial assistance from the Creswick Foundation, and is published under the auspices of the Children's Bureau of Australia.

This is the first time that facts have been brought together on how child maltreatment systems are managed in the six States. Each state is, of course, autonomous in its management of child maltreatment and the study shows up both common elements and distinctive differences.

Facets covered in the study include:

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- \* definitions of child abuse
- \* notifications – requirement and format
- \* investigation process
- \* personnel in child protection
- \* involvement of public agencies and bodies
- \* involvement of other agencies and bodies
- \* discussion of findings
- \* incidence data

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