



July2000
 Newsletter of the
 Association of
 Childrens
 Welfare
 Agencies

Minister tables Amendments to the C&P Act and a new Adoption Bill

The Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Faye Lo Po' MP, tabled a number of Bills in Parliament on June 21. These were:

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Permanency Planning) Bill 2000

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2000

The Children's Court Amendment Bill 2000

The Adoption Bill 2000

In her speech to Parliament on the Permanency Planning amendments the Minister said (inter alia) that:

"This Bill aims to provide a clearer focus for courts and child protection workers on this important issue, and to put some legislative checks and balances in place. It seeks to ensure that permanency planning is firmly on the agenda when decisions are made about a child's future."

and further that:

"The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 already contains a reference to a need to consider whether there is a "realistic possibility" of the child being returned to his or her birth parents.

The Bill proposes that this concept be elevated as a threshold issue to be considered by the courts before a final order is made."

and

"The court's finding as to whether a "realistic possibility" of return to the birth parents exists will then determine the sort of caseplanning required.

If it is found that a "realistic possibility" of return exists, then the court will require the preparation of a "restoration plan". If not, then a plan for another form of "permanent placement" must be developed.

A permanent placement must provide a stable long term home for the child. It may include adoption as the most permanent long term option available, although the Bill recognises that this may not be feasible in all cases."

On adoption, The Minister said:

"The adoption of children in long term foster care has always been ((p3)technically possible, although not well utilised, under our existing system.

These proposals aim to more actively encourage consideration of adoption as an option for children who may otherwise spend their entire childhood in long term foster care . . . The only option which offers real permanency, and real security, is adoption."

On parental contact Mrs Lo Po' said:

"Children are much more than the chattels of their parents - and where those parents cannot be trusted to provide a safe and nurturing environment, then the children are totally reliant on the child protection agencies and courts who intervene on their behalf.

We owe it to these children to get this right for them.

There has to be a point, in some cases, where enough is enough and we need to more actively protect children from incapable parents. We have to draw the line somewhere."

"In addition to challenging the notion that restoration to birth parents is something which must be pursued in every single case, this Bill also proposes a number of mechanisms to ensure that cases are dealt with by the Children's Court as expeditiously as possible."

The Bill is expected to 'lie on the table' for some time and it is hoped that this will allow ample opportunity for the legal and practice implications of the legislation to be fully explored. There is little doubt or debate as to the importance of stability and the need for permanency planning for all children for whom there is no realistic chance of restoration. What needs to be carefully thought through is whether the Bill will help achieve this objective and what are the support and intervention processes and the accompanying resources that need to be provided when families are in trouble and children are at risk.

This legislation attempts to provide a strong direction that will protect children but it needs to sit alongside a strong body of knowledge about children's need for a sense of connection to their birth family and the potential issues for future contact where the parents are being shut out. (see editorial p2)

The Miscellaneous Amendment Bill seeks to tidy up some areas in the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 prior to its implementation. Most are procedural but it does make some important changes to the restraint provisions, the Aboriginal placement principle and the recording of evidence for care proceedings. Finally there is the Adoption Bill 2000. Not just a series of amendments to an existing piece of legislation, this is a whole new Bill to replace the Adoption of Children Act 1965 and the Adoption Information Act 1990 and will set the scene for Adoption in the next decade and perhaps beyond. The Adoption Bill derives from the extensive consultation and review conducted by the NSW Law Reform Commission in 1996/97. Key features of the new Adoption Bill include: Aboriginal child placement principles, encouragement of open adoption, development of Adoption Plans as agreed by the parties, changes to consent procedures and grounds for dispensing with consent, setting equivalent standards for children adopted locally and from overseas and provision of Adoption Information

All of these Bills, as well as the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, can be accessed in full on the News page at the [ACWA](#) website

ACWA, in conjunction with other key organisations, will be hosting a Forum on permanency planning on Friday July 28 2000 at a venue to be advised. The Purpose

will be:

To promote and facilitate discussion on issues of permanency planning for children in care

To provide explanation, interpretation and discussion on the Permanency Planning Amendment Bill

To provide explanation, interpretation and discussion on the Adoption Bill

To inform the preparation of submissions on the legislation

It will be a full day forum with two (largely self contained) half day components to allow participants to attend one or both. More details to follow.

Excessive Punishment

Lastly, in our focus this month on legislation, the Upper house of State Parliament voted to hold an inquiry into the Crimes Amendment (Child Protection - Excessive Punishment) Bill 2000 tabled by the Hon. Alan Corbett MLC of the Better Future for Our Children Party.

The Inquiry, to be conducted by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, has very general terms of reference to "inquire into and report on" the Bill and is to do so within five months.

Very briefly, the Bill seeks to allow the defence of "lawful correction" (which can be used by parents charged with assault of their child) only where the application of physical force is reasonable. It then further seeks to exclude from "reasonable" use of any stick, belt or other object" and any force to the head or neck.

While not seeking to outlaw corporal punishment of children by their parents, the Bill makes an attempt to disallow beatings with an implement or blows to the had or neck area. ACWA is on record as supporting the Bill when it was introduced into Parliament and will be making a submission to the Inquiry. Members are invited to make their own submissions to the Committee (see www.parliament.nsw.gov.au or email <lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au>) or send their views to Nigel Spence at ACWA.

Foster Carer Allowances

The Department of Community Services announced new foster carer allowances to come into effect from July 1. Major foster care providers were invited to a briefing by Carmel Niland , Director-General and all providers should by now have received the explanatory information.

The text below is from the DoCS Fact sheet and is reproduced to ensure no misinterpretation of their words.

"A new financial assistance package for NSW foster carers will begin July 1, 2000 - which will see carers receive the highest average base care allowance in Australia. The base allowance will increase to a flat rate of \$350 a fortnight to help foster carers cover many of the day-to-day costs of looking after children in their care. The increase is a result of extra funding gained in the 2000/2001 Budget. The new Care Allowance "rolls up" some of the old contingency money into this new base rate - saving carers time in having to get receipts for special expenses and claim them back from DoCS. Where children have special needs there will still be provision to pay a higher allowance for those children with the greatest need. This new payment package is fairer for all foster carers and recognises the critical need to support carers and the children they take into their homes. The Government

has provided an extra \$19.7 million for assistance in the 2000/2001 financial year, bringing to \$60 million the total in financial support to the State's 3000 foster carers. Carers currently receive a standard allowance ranging from \$129 to \$272 a fortnight, but from July 1 this year they will receive an increased allowance totalling \$350 a fortnight.

The new Care Allowance will replace the Standard Age Related Fostering Allowance (SARFA). In addition to this increased standard allowance, a Care +1 and Care +2 payment - providing a 50% and 100% loading respectively on the standard payment - will recognise the demands of children and young people with special needs. These two categories will replace the existing 12 categories of special needs allowances which make current assessment and review of the needs of children in care time consuming and expensive.

The restructured base allowance is intended to significantly reduce the demand for additional one-off payments for day-to-day expenses associated with caring for children and young people. Such costs had spiraled and are out of proportion to the increase in numbers of children in care. This has made it difficult for DoCS and government to plan for and predict expenditure. The enhanced allowances, coupled with clearer and more comprehensive guidelines, will enable better management of the foster care payment system, delivering benefits for everyone involved.

The new allowance also means that carers can meet the day-to-day needs of foster children and young people and make decisions about those needs without seeking DoCS' approval. This is in line with the directions set by the new Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998, to be proclaimed later in 2000.

What will the payments cover?

The new Care Allowance is intended to meet costs associated with housing, food, clothing, footwear, energy, household goods and services, pocket money, health, transport, leisure, holidays and personal care.

The enhanced allowance is based on the latest "costs of children" research published by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling in Canberra.

This is the first time in Australia that payments to carers are being based on economic modelling which tracks the costs of caring for and raising children. In the case of infants and young children, the allowance also makes a significant contribution towards the cost of childcare.

However, additional money will still be available for extra costs for children and young people, approved in their care plans, including additional childcare, specialist medical and dental treatment, respite care and support workers, schooling and tuition fees and costs related to contact with the natural family. These requests will be assessed at the local Community Service Centre as part of the child's case plan." (end of quote) (see ACWA or DoCS websites to download the full text of this information sheet)

This appears to be a positive and welcome breakthrough and while in some instances it will still not be enough to attract carers and meet all the costs, the situation for the majority of carers will be considerably improved. (see editorial page 2)

The increases are greatest for younger children and would be the least for a teenager with high educational and health costs. The procedures for claiming educational and health costs beyond the first \$1000 and for recording expenditure are not yet in

place.

Allegations of Child Abuse Against Employees

The Ombudsman's Office has put out revised Guidelines for Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse Against Employees. This is an area that came into the Ombudsman's jurisdiction with the passage of legislation in late 1998 and is one that has a major impact on any organisation where there is the possibility of allegations against staff.

The Guidelines are extensive and demanding and it is important that affected services are familiar with them. ACWA will be responding to the "Draft for Consultation" and will be pleased to hear from any organisation that is also making submissions or has had experience of the process to date. If you want to know more about the Guidelines or the Ombudsman's role contact Anne Barwick or Ann-Marie Hudson at the Ombudsman's Office on 9286 1000.

Working With Children

The Commission for Children and Young People has a website for its Working With Children Check - the new employment screening process for those working with children. It is at www.kids.nsw.gov.au/check/index.html

There are links to this page and other Commission material at the ACWA website.

Children's Guardian

The advertisement for the Children's Guardian has appeared in the press and we look forward to the appointment of a person who can put in place an effective accreditation process for designated agencies, a meaningful review process for individual children and young people and be a strong effective voice for those under her/his guardianship .

Care 2000

On 27 June the group which had met for the substitute care Mediation process in the first half of 1999 was reconvened as a Roundtable to review progress since the time of the Mediation and to consider next steps in improving the out of home care system. Robin Clark chaired the meeting which included senior staff from DoCS led by the Director- General Carmel Niland, the Community Services Commission, Agency representatives and ACWA.

The Roundtable reviewed the work and progress of the Care 2000 Reference group, which had just completed its term, and debated what should be the next steps in building a better out of home care system including how to sustain and appropriately fund substitute care agencies.

ACWA and the agencies proposed that the following steps be taken:

Service Improvement

Collaborative development of a Vision, Objectives and Directions statement for oohc in NSW, including clarity about the target group (Target group to include both "placement" and "placement prevention")

Implementation of Accreditation for all out of home care services, using the approved Standards. (More emphasis on quality and effectiveness, to balance the current emphasis on quantity of service)

Planning

Reliable and accessible data to be made a reality by establishing agreed definitions,

a minimum data set for oohc and an integrated data collection system across DoCS, and all community partners providing oohc

Examination of the Community Services Commission Inquiry findings and adoption of the recommendations as the guiding framework for oohc reform

Integration of the Children's Guardian into the future planning and reform of oohc

Establishment of a Care 2000 #2 Reference Group incorporating the Community Services Commission and Children's Guardian as lead agents. The Group to have broader Terms of Reference to include all oohc not just ACC funded services

Funding

Speedy allocation of the Service Innovation and Improvement Fund for Aboriginal Agencies (\$1m) and all oohc Agencies (\$2m)

Careful scrutiny and evaluation of the data being collected on outcomes and performance indicators before any targets are set for performance in 2001/2002.

DoCS to collect and report on the same data being required of non-government services

Enhanced recurrent funding to commence during 2000/2001

Treasury indexation to be passed on to all funded oohc services

New funding Agreements from 1 July 2001 which provide "full funding for approved service models operated by Accredited agencies, with agreed outputs and which provide placement and placement prevention services for children and young people who are referred through an agreed process"

This was largely accepted by DoCS and will be merged with DoCS proposals for ongoing reform. This will then form the Terms of Reference for a Care 2001 Group to meet over the next 12 months to progress the work. Membership and chair of the Group are yet to be finalised.

Other significant developments include:

DoCS will review whether agencies need to collect information on hours of client related work (As contained in the new Schedule to the recent Funding Agreements) Agencies will be reminded that they are to continue the Alternate Care Information returns

DoCS confirmed that agencies funded under the ACC system are no longer required as a condition of their funding to put in 20% of agency funds. Although it is hoped that most agencies will continue to make a substantial contribution

The Minister has approved non-recurrent funding of \$1m to be allocated to Aboriginal out of home care agencies and \$2m to be allocated to all out of home care agencies to sustain services and to assist service improvement.

*The Minister has also approved recurrent funding of \$1.5m for out of home care services which will be commenced in the latter stages of the 2000/2001 financial year, once agreement is reached on service models and outputs

Support for Aboriginal Foster Carers

A new initiative to arrange better support, information and training for Aboriginal Foster Carers in NSW has now been announced. The project which is funded by DoCS, will be jointly established and run by the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat and ACWA.

Funds were allocated for Aboriginal Foster Care support in the "Premier's announcement" in 1996 at the same time as funding was announced for the Foster Care Association. However, until now, the funds have not yet been applied.

Planning of the project including establishment of a State wide Advisory Group and appointment of an Aboriginal Project Worker is now commencing.

Contracted Services

Readers will recall that there are still a group of "contracted services" for young people with high support needs.

16 contracts were initially established in 1994 when several DoCS' institutions were closed. In 1997 there was a bitter dispute between the agencies and DoCS when the Contracts were due for renewal and several agencies subsequently chose not to continue.

Contracted services (Model 3s and Model 2s) are currently operated by:

Marist Community Services (2 contracts) Metro West Area

Centacare Sydney (2 contracts) Metro South West

St Saviours (2 contracts) Southern

Burnside (2 contracts) Western and Northern

Stretch-A-Family Inner West

Caretakers Cottage, Metro South East

Centacare Wagga Wagga, Western

Wollongong Youth Accommodation Service, Southern

4 of the contracts relinquished by Baptist Community Service have not been re-issued to non-government agencies.

In 1998 following the closure of the last two DoCS institutions Ormond and Minali contracts were offered to agencies to provide individual crisis/short term placements for young people with high support needs. A small number of agencies have these contracts. It remains unclear as to how many of the promised 52 Ormond/Minali replacement beds have been established across the State.

With some contracts being due for renewal ACWA recently convened a meeting of the "Contracted Services" and also non government providers of short term crisis (Ormond/Minali replacement beds).

A number of important areas of common interest were discussed and a clearer picture emerged on where each service is up to. There are both positive and negative experiences of the contractual relationship with DoCS and the resultant placements being provided. Significantly there was agreement that there is no common process or framework for contract renewal or addressing issues that might need to be renegotiated.

To build on this meeting ACWA will undertake to hold a further meeting hopefully with the DoCS Director Community Partners and will try to establish a framework that will assist services deal with the contract renewal process in a more productive way than was the case in 1997.

New Shadow Minister

ACWA welcomes the appointment of Brad Hazzard as NSW Shadow Minister for Community Services.

We look forward to communicating with Mr Hazzard and to briefing him on issues affecting vulnerable children, young people and their families.

His official title is Mr Bradley Ronald Hazzard, M.P. B.A., Dip.Ed., LL.B.(N.S.W.), LL.M.(Syd.)

Member for Wakehurst.

Families First Update

In this edition of ACWA News you will find an update flyer from Families First, the NSW Government's prevention and early intervention strategy to enhance the level and impact of support for families with young children.

Families First is in its second year of implementation on the Mid and Far North Coast of NSW and in metropolitan South Western Sydney. \$3.4 million was allocated in the 1999/00 State Budget to support the development of Families First in these areas, with \$2.4 million in DOCS' budget and \$1 million allocated to Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast and South Western Sydney Area Health Services. Families First commenced in a second group of areas - Hunter, Orana Far West and Inner West - in February this year with the first planning round having just been completed.

The flyer outlines the key developments and changes which are in progress in the first three areas. It highlights changes to services which directly impact on families and which have been generated through local planning and provides an update on statewide issues.

For more information contact:

Regional Project Leaders

Far North Coast-Rossi Lyons: 6620 1673 or lyonsr@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Mid North Coast-Lynda Fletcher: 6650 1308 or fletchl@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

South West Sydney-Anne Marie Dwyer 4629 9632 or

dwyera@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Hunter - Ann See: 4924 6295 or seea@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Orana Far West- Jo-Anne Lawrence 6882 3630 or lawrenj@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Inner West Sydney - Kati Krsevan 9797 8133 or krsevak@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Or if Families First is not yet in your region:

Dianne Hudson (Sydney) 9228 5598

Peter Goth (Sydney) 9228 4136 familiesfirst@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au

Federal Youth Initiative

The Federal Minister for Education, Training & Youth Affairs, David Kemp, has announced a number of initiatives which it is claimed will improve communication between the Commonwealth Government and youth sector organisations.

These are the establishment of a new forum of youth organisations, new on-line resources for communication and improved consultation.

The first meeting of the Australian Forum of Youth, which will meet twice yearly, is scheduled for 6 July, 2000 in Melbourne. For this first meeting, twelve national youth organisations, with combined memberships of around 750,000, have been invited to send two delegates, at least one of whom will be aged under 25.

DEETYA also established an Internet Directory of Organisations Working with Young Australians. The Directory is accessible through the Government's youth website the source (www.thesource.gov.au). Organisations with a significant interest in young people are encouraged to register themselves, and will be able to maintain their own password-protected data to ensure information is kept as accurate and up to date as possible.

Lastly the Government is also establishing an email discussion list, Youth.Comm, to allow subscribers to engage discussion of youth issues, provide feedback to the Government, and enable the Government to provide information about youth issues

directly and promptly to interested subscribers.

Contact: Voicesofyouth@detya.gov.au

(The above information is based on a circulated letter from the Minister)

Library News

Shifting Ground: Competition and Tendering in Community Services. NCOSS: NSW Council of Social Service. 1999

In the second half of the 1990s, micro economic reforms are reshaping most of our public and social services. They are finding their way into human services via the introduction of a competitive contracting funding regime. Community organisations cannot avoid the impact of these reforms.

It has been evident for some time that community organisations require assistance in dealing with the impact of microeconomic reform in general and the application of competition policy in particular. This handbook will assist community organisations to:

negotiate the process of change

contribute meaningfully to the development policy and to the design and management of programs and services

formulate tenders and enter contracts.

Child Poverty Across Industrialized Nations. Bradbury, B. & Jantii, M. UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Florence & Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW, Sydney. 1999

"While child poverty is everywhere seen as an important social problem, there is considerable variation in both anti-poverty policies and poverty outcomes across the industrialized nations. In this paper we present new estimates of child income poverty in 25 nations using data from the Luxembourg Income Study.

These estimates are presented using a range of alternative income poverty definitions and describe the correlations of outcomes with different demographic patterns and labour market and social transfer incomes.

The paper also tests the robustness of these results to different poverty definitions and to more comprehensive measurements of child living standards. Evidence on cross-national patterns of non-cash income receipt suggests that more comprehensive measures, which include non-cash benefits would be unlikely to change the overall pattern of poverty.

We then examine the impact of household savings patterns (particularly via house purchase) on child consumption and conclude that this also does not change the picture provided by income measures alone.

The paper concludes with an analysis of the sources of the variation in child poverty across nations. Much of the previous literature has focused on the differences in welfare state institutions and social transfer outcomes. Our results, on the other hand, suggest that variations in the market incomes received by the families of disadvantaged children are more important".

Training News

Courses on-line

All CCWT courses for 2000 are now searchable on our web site:

www.acwa.asn.au/ccwt

There's also a registration form to download at that site. Please try out the on line database and email any feedback to ccwt@acwa.asn.au or phone Karen Walsh on 9281 8822.

Free workshops

Effective case conferencing November 22nd and Lets go shopping; Advocacy for young people leaving care October 17 are being offered at no charge this semester in recognition of the importance of the workshops to people working in out-of-home-care and the difficulties in accessing specialist training. Numbers are limited, with a maximum of 2 registrations from one organisation.

EXTRA courses

EXTRA courses advertised on the new wallchart have been added to the Semester 2 program for Sydney due to high demand for those workshops.

These include:

New managers & coordinators July 10

Supervision skills for managers July 11 & 12

Motivational interviewing July 11 & 12

Solution focused brief therapy July 13 & 14

Time management Sept 8

Cultural diversity in child protection August 28

Working with non-offending parents of children who have been abused October 12

If you haven't received your copy of the Semester 2 Wallchart (blue), or your 2000 Course Handbook has gone missing, phone CCWT on 9281 8822 or 1800 649 613 for a copy.

Staffing news

CCWT will say farewell to Karen Walsh on Friday 28th July. Karen has for the past 3 years been the mover and shaker behind the development and maintenance of our annual Calendar course programme. Each year she has delivered to the sector a comprehensive training smorgasbord. Karen has brought enthusiasm and creative ideas to the position along with a sense of humour and ability to troubleshoot when necessary.

Although designated Calendar Coordinator, Karen has on a number of occasions acted as Training Manager and has also taken on many complex tasks in addition to those of her core work. We shall all miss her here at ACWA/CCWT, and wish her the very best as she moves to Victoria to seek fame and fortune!

CCWT also welcomes Beth Macgregor to the position of Training and Development Coordinator. Beth comes to CCWT with a wealth of experience in a number of areas including child protection, counselling, parent education and child and family research. She has taken up a number of Calendar and Customised Training commitments which she is undertaking with enthusiasm and flair. She is enjoying her contact with course participants immensely and we look forward to her ongoing contribution to the work of ACWA/CCWT.

Foster Carer Training

The Foster Care Training Project is nearing conclusion and with the wonderful work of Paula Hayden, Louise Mulronev and CCWT training staff has produced a comprehensive and high quality fostercare training package entitled Shared Stories Shared Lives for prospective carers. The training process has delivered not only excellent content but has provided a quality adult education experience for

participants through the pilot phase.

With the support of the Project Steering Committee Paula has also undertaken a massive networking and consultation process across metropolitan and regional NSW enabling the input from carers, caseworkers, birthparents, children and young people to be built into the project.

As a result, the project has produced more than a high quality product. It has reinvigorated networks between carers, Departmental and agency workers. Through four pilot training courses, prospective carers from DoCs, and non-government agencies have received training with case workers and managers in attendance. The process has laid to rest any doubts that cross sector training is a credible, efficient and highly effective way to ensure quality training for carers across the sector. Using a joint training approach experienced carers have been involved as co-trainers in the courses with birthparents, and young people providing input as guest speakers.

While the funding for the current Project will come to an end in August 2000, ACWA has received resounding support from agency and Departmental staff and foster carers, to advocate for the continuation of the Project. Of immediate concern to the sector is the need for ongoing funding so that ACWA can continue to facilitate the regular training of prospective carers across NSW and develop ongoing specialist training modules for existing carers. A move towards accredited training for foster carers now seems an achievable outcome. ACWA/CCWT strongly support the continued rollout of a fostercare training project to be funded by the Department over the next 3 years.

Paula has done an exceptional job and ACWA/CCWT looks forward to her ongoing involvement in fostercare training and development into the future. For more information contact Paula Hayden or Mhairi Barnes on 9281 8822.

EnAct

Tier 1 of the EnAct Training for non government services providing services for families, children and young people in vulnerable circumstances is nearing completion.

Co-ordinated by CCWT this process will be a valuable starting point for services needing to come to grips with the new legislation. It will be followed by Tier 2 towards the end of the year.

The EnAct Training Co-ordinator also provides ACWA and FSSA members with a monthly Q&A Sheet and No. 5 will reach you with this edition of ACWA News.

If you have any questions about EnAct Training for NGOs contact:

Louise Mulronev

Ph 9281 8822 Fax 9281 8827

Email: louise@acwa.asn.au

Other News

Ted Noffs Awards

For the second year the Ted Noffs Foundation will be hosting the Ted Noffs Awards. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge the exceptional work being done by individuals and organisations and to promote best practice methods in the drug and alcohol field.

The Annual Ted Noffs Awards give you the opportunity to nominate yourself, or another well deserving group or individual to receive industry recognition and congratulations.

Award categories are: Treatment service; Prevention ; Organisational excellence; Individual contribution; Youth specific initiative; and Service targeting a special target population.

Last year's winners included:

Sandra Sunjic, South Western Sydney Area Health Service for her outstanding individual contribution; the Wellington Aboriginal Corporation acknowledged as an outstanding organisation; The Block for excellence in prevention, and the Manly Drug Education Counselling Centre for their youth specific treatment programs. The Kirketon Road Centre and Freeman House were commended for work in Adult Treatment.

The awards are also to honour the life-long work of Ted Noffs.

Awards will be presented on Thursday 24th August at the Bondi Room, Easts Leagues Club. Dinner commences at 7pm, with the award presentation and entertainment to follow. Tickets are \$35 per person, which includes dinner and entertainment.

Sponsors of the event are NSW Health and Quality Management Services.

For those who attended this event last year you will remember what an uplifting and inspiring night it was - a fabulous way to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by so many people in this industry.

We are looking forward to another exciting night.

For further information on the Ted Noffs Awards, or on the Ted Noffs Foundation, please visit our website www.noffs.org.au or phone (02) 9310 0133.

Conferences

World Forum 2000 - Register Now!

Only one month to go to World Forum 2000! Don't miss out on this special experience!

Whether it is management and leadership or best practice in child and family welfare this is for you! This is the most extensive conference program yet put together by ACWA with a wealth of local and international expert presenters and a wide range of topics relevant to your practice. If you haven't already - register now!

Visit the conference website

www.acwa.asn.au/wf2000

where you will find the whole conference program and registration details or contact Capital Conferences tel. 9252 3388

Be My Family is hosting a forum with Toni Single from the Child protection Unit at John Hunter hospital Newcastle as the speaker. it will be held from 9.30 to 12.30 at the Elm Centre in North Parramatta on Tuesday August 22 and the cost is \$35 for BMF members and \$40 for non members. Contact Elisa Elwin on 9949 8414.

People with Disabilities (PWD), The Community Services Commission and the Commission for Children and Young People are jointly hosting a forum to discuss and explore recent developments in policy and legislation affecting children and

young people with disabilities. . It will be held at the offices of the Commission for Children and Young People, Level 2, 407 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills on Friday July 21 from 9am to 4pm. Contact Luke O'Connell at PWD on 9319 6622.

The Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses Queensland, in partnership with the Mater Children's Hospital & the Royal Children's Hospital & district health Services is holding a conference from 24 - 26 May 2001. (Note new dates) The theme is The dawn of a new era of children's health and the conference will be held at the Carlton Crest Hotel Brisbane. See flyer in this mailout for details or contact 07 3858 5494.

ACWA News

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