

Mem of Nov 14th
Advisory Committee: to Minister
Julia Harbrough (16 persons)
to
Ruth Calligan

1st leg Car in his last week

9

5 in my.

4 need

Am/community feed back

from Longley MP.

Show leg

"Short Issues"

Julia Harbrough is N.E. Regional
Member (1/16) of New Advisory Committee
to the Minister.

Sending kit. + brochures etc.

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14F Bookends

Indicators re the "Home."

aring
security
togetherness
acceptance

to which I add ^{credible}
Mutual Support (interfido)
Trust

example, explain female deviant behavior as "hidden protests . . . and resistance" (p. 651).

When one considers biological, psychological, and sociological explanations of substance abuse, it is clear that each set of theories has only limited applicability. The most productive course of action is to integrate explanations in a theory which will explain vulnerability to substance abuse problems in terms of a person's biological, psychological, and social history and characteristics (Gomberg & Lisansky, 1984).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Having reviewed some of the available information about women's use and abuse of various substances and having stated some of the explanations offered to explain the origins of substance abuse among women, I would recommend priority status for several research questions.

1. Definition and elaboration is needed in the distinction between *medicinal and recreational use of drug substances*. When does a social use of a substance shift to use of the same substance to reduce tension, ease psychic pain, or heighten emotions? Does addiction carry with it the component of medicinal use to diminish the painful withdrawal from the drug? Is the context in which a drug is used critical in determination of whether it is used medicinally or recreationally? Perhaps motivation theories are relevant, but will one set of motivations explain the socially-acceptable use of a substance like alcohol and the deviant, excessive, problematic use of it as well?

2. Since we have a fair amount of evidence that, at particular stages of a pregnancy, heavy drinking or heroin-addictive behavior produce *teratogenic risks*, the research question becomes one of determining the effects of prescribed medications, sedatives, stimulants, psychoactive drugs, and even patent medicines, on fetal development (e.g., Cooper, 1978; Chasnoff et al., 1983). Considering the number of women involved, it is important to know about the effects of mood-modifying drugs and other medications on fetal development. And still considering teratogenic risks, an important research question is: What is the effect of the father's heavy alcohol or drug use on the fetus?

3. Epidemiologists have given us data about *gender differences in*

Send

PHONE

14F Kits ~~K~~. ON 12/1/94

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5. Alan Hill, Community Project Officer, PO Box 347 Numbi 2480

6. Karen Shelleghar, ARCH, Rm 27A, 94 Oxford St. Darlington 2010

7. Judy Lancaster, Per Community Council -
51 Cullen St, Numbi 2480

8. Nigel Pierce, President N N + Information Centre Inc
(Chairs at Pinpura) 51 Cullen St 89/692

9. Tony Belton Housing Coordinator, Tintable Coop. of Numbi PO 2480

10. Families: A People

147.
Despatch

✓ Mrs. 160 Orion St. h.
✓ Di 10 Box 56 Nimbin.
✓ Carson 9 Tasmynne St h.
✓ Graham "Woodland" Falls Rd Nimbin
✓ Leimar "Dharmanada", Ross Rd, The C.

DN. 29/6/94

14E

Ros, Dine, Gai etc

the

know Julie Hornbrook

**KEY FAMILY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
FAMILY STUDIES.**



NEW SOUTH WALES
1994

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) was commissioned to summarise major family issues for the 1990s from their research.

The issues identified by the Institute are very similar to those identified by Government agencies and the community sector representatives consulted by the Social Policy Directorate. The following excerpts from the Institute's Report identify the major issues raised.

Juggling Work and Family Responsibilities

Juggling work and family responsibilities is a universal dilemma in countries as diverse as Italy and the United States. Work and Family is a family issue although more of the 'double burden' rests with women. Leading edge employers in Australia have already seen the cost-benefits of 'family friendly' work practices, including better morale, greater productivity and commitment, reduced absenteeism, less turnover/retraining costs and fewer accidents. The 'New Links Workplace' being piloted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Business Council of Australia is a model for new partnerships between work, family and community.

Economic Inequality and Unemployment

Poverty and the despair of joblessness rank higher than ever as a 'family issue' with disastrous effects on children. Conflict over money, guilt and anger lead to alcohol misuse, violence and child abuse. Added to this is the social stigma of disadvantage, loss of secure housing, schooling, worsening nutrition and health all of which have long term costs for children and society as a whole.

The Difficulty of Being a Parent

Both the demands of work and the inability to provide adequately for family needs makes being a parent very difficult. Little attention is given to educating, training, or even informing young couples about parenting. Connected to this we need to ask how 'family friendly' is the local community, the shopping centre, the school, public transport, the local church, the playgrounds and the local gathering places of families.

A Place in Society for Youth

ACOSS has estimated the number of young people 'at risk' (ie. not in either education or a job) at 17%. Added to this the end of schooling no longer marks a positive, optimistic step; rather, uncertainty and pessimism for many. Family life and parental support are thus increasingly important for young people. Similarly the increased number of young people remaining at home for longer has placed more pressure on families.

A Healthier Approach to Ageing

An ageing society is not a sign of failure. The 'oldest' countries usually have the highest standards of living, the best medical care, the greatest industrial developments and technology - an older population is a consequence of societal success and affluence. The ageing of our society is cause for celebration. The NSW 'Age Adds Value' campaign epitomises this approach. The goal should be to recreate inter-generational links which allow for cultural transmission, continuity and mutual respect, despite rapid social change, with every effort made to maintain health and the independent living style preferred by most of our elders.

Men 'Catching up'

"Different but equal" is the message for every citizen in a civil society, applying to race, ethnicity, religion and sex, all 'statuses' one is born into. Education in the broadest sense must prepare boys as well as girls for the dual roles of caring and earning an income. Both the formal and 'hidden' curriculum in schools and the overt and covert message of the public media must address gender attitudes and behaviour to encourage shared family and community roles.

The Violence Issue

Violence has many causes, but reflects an inability or unwillingness to use rational discussion to resolve disagreements, and a lack of respect for the rights of other people. At the most basic level, using violence as a means of 'disciplining' children has to be stopped and better methods learned of teaching self control. 'Domestic violence' is a term which softens, obscures or excuses the use of violence in one place (the home) which would be condemned in public.

Studies of local communities have found that a critical factor affecting the level of violence has been the sense of 'community', access to family support services, technology and international relationships change.

New Partnerships - Building Stronger Communities

Most families focus their lives on a neighbourhood, a suburb, a particular locality. The quality of that locality has to be the key to a healthy, positive family life. Families want choice, privacy, autonomy, but also an environment that is safe, 'friendly', in the sense of supporting their chosen way of life. New partnerships focused on where people live and work, can be developed to draw on existing resources in a wide variety of new ways. Small community accountability will be more effective in meeting the diversity of needs from available resources than the big stick from government.

To talk of 'privatising' welfare support services is to miss the point. People in society are not either 'independent' or 'dependent' - they are inter-dependent, and the public/private mix is the essential 'social cement' for a cooperative civil community.

For further information please contact:

NSW International Year of the Family Secretariat

Social Policy Directorate

Level 11, 169-183 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000.

Phone (02) 367 6806 Fax (02) 367 6810

Consultations held by the Social Policy Directorate and research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies highlight that families are faced with an increasing number of concerns and responsibilities.

Family Responsibilities

The rate of social and economic change can have a major impact on the responsibilities of families and their capacity to manage. Some families feel a loss of control over their lives.

Changing family structures mean that the socialisation of children is now frequently the responsibility of adults who are biologically unrelated to these children.

Changing roles and relationships mean that all family members may need access to training and information to better manage their responsibilities. Governments can empower families and strengthen their role in the community through access to appropriate education, training and information programs. Stronger families will improve care for their members and help prevent instability, crime, juvenile delinquency, drug and alcohol addiction.

Combining work and family responsibilities

Managing work and family responsibilities are a particular area of concern for many families. Changing employment patterns mean that more flexible caring arrangements and a greater choice of work conditions are now important to families.

Over 40% of men and women in the workforce have dependent children. 83% of married women in unskilled jobs and 64% of those in professional or semi-professional jobs give financial reasons for returning to work after having children.

The promotion and acceptance of flexible work patterns will assist in overcoming discrimination and increase the profile of family responsibilities.

Older People and their Families

Older people are a vital part of many families. They provide wisdom and experience for younger family members. Many provide their families with valuable assistance such as child care. Also, many families play a very important role in caring for older people.

With the ageing of the population, relationships between older people and their families is becoming a more significant issue for families, governments and the wider community.

Cultural Diversity

Families are culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse. Around 20% of families have cultural ties to another country. Members of migrant families often experience difficulty dealing with the difference between their family's cultural values and those of mainstream culture. This affects the capacity of these families to undertake a variety of roles. The roles and values of Aboriginal families and of families from other cultures are poorly understood in Australia.

There is an important role for government to promote understanding and appreciation of diverse family values and to assist in overcoming racial and ethnic barriers affecting the opportunities of families from different cultures.

Quality of Family Life

An emerging issue for families is the quality of family life. In a recent survey by the Catholic Bishops, members of families have commented on the lack of time they have "to be a family".

Community discussion of this issue would help build awareness and understanding about the pressures on families and involve more people in looking at new ways of supporting families and family life.

Safety within the home and the family/child friendly community

Violence in families, including domestic violence, elder abuse, child assault and adolescent violence against parents is a continuing and disturbing issue. Research suggests that as many as one in three married women may be subject to domestic violence at some stage. Recent surveys of homeless young people indicate that over three-quarters of those surveyed gave violence as the reason for leaving home.

Reducing violence is the responsibility of all. Individuals and families have to be shown different ways of dealing with frustration and anger, and community attitudes to violence have to be changed.

The need to feel safe within local communities is also a serious issue. State and local Governments have a key role in assisting communities develop more effective community crime prevention strategies.

Families of the Future

In recent surveys adults have expressed uncertainty about the future and the safety

Education

The family is the main educator of children. Fifty percent of learning takes place in early childhood. While governments invest heavily in education, early childhood education and 'parent education' is often not a priority.

Families are also concerned about the role of school education and its relationship with parental roles and family values. As a result of greater school retention rates and access to higher education, more families are involved with and concerned about education, its quality and its relevance for the future.

Infrastructure Services

All families benefit from the provision of a wide range of physical and social infrastructure by government in local and regional centres.

Key issues for families are the cost of many services, their appropriateness and access. Access issues arise particularly in urban areas with backlog needs, in rural areas and in rapidly growing areas.

Increased participation by families in service planning, design and provision could be encouraged to assist in meeting their needs.

Protection of Individual Family Members

Families are not always safe places. Services that support and assist individual family members are extremely important. Individuals may at times require legal assistance, shelter or financial support. These services must be delivered in a way that assists the physical and emotional well being of the individual.

The Role of the NSW Government

Government, the private sector and communities all share the responsibility to support the many valuable roles which families play. This Government has chosen to work in partnership with communities and the private sector to provide this support.

The Government's role is to support families in all their diversity. Their role is vital in supporting the development of children, in providing care at various stages of the life cycle and in providing educational and economic opportunity. This Government is committed to ensuring a better future for succeeding generations.

WE'RE ALL PART OF A FAMILY



NEW SOUTH WALES
1994

Families are the fundamental units of society. There is an overwhelming belief in the value of families and in supporting family relationships, particularly for the benefit of children.

Research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies on behalf of the NSW Government has found that there is a diversity of families and family life. That diversity is reflected in the following interpretations of the meaning of family.

Family means to each of us different things, so to try to generalise and say what is 'normal', 'typical', 'traditional' can mislead our thinking and ignore the diversity of realities facing families in the 1990s.

Family is not so much a matter of form, or type, or who is in it, as it is a matter of sharing emotional closeness, mutual support, caring, and creating and passing on values and traditions to the next generations.

Family involves individuals who share common resources but who also have individual needs and rights.

Family means both co-operation and conflict, both rights and responsibilities, both privacy and public obligations.

Families are valued and valuable.

Families are very diverse, not uniform.

Family policies are not just 'women's issues' but matters for men, children, young people, the elderly, the workplace, schools, every community group.

Family well-being results not just from internal family relationships but from a supportive partnership between governments, employers, community groups and families themselves.

USING THE UNITED NATIONS IYF LOGO



If your organisation would like to use the United Nations IYF Logo there are a few matters of which you will need to be aware.

The Logo is the property of the United Nations. It can only be used with permission for the following purposes:

- for information purposes;
- for fund raising; and
- commercially.

The NSW IYF Secretariat is responsible for authorising the use of the Logo for **information purposes** within NSW. The UN Logo is available free of charge to all parties committed to the objectives and purposes of the Year and intending only to use the logo for information purposes. The size of the logo may be adapted as required provided that its original proportions are not altered. It is recommended that community groups represent the logo in black.

Information purposes could include on letterhead, in newsletters or to promote a 'family related' conference or activity. When seeking permission for use of the Logo, organisations should provide information as to their general activities and programs; the purpose for which they propose to use the Logo; and explain the relevance of their particular field of interest to the Year. Details regarding its reproduction and use can be obtained from the NSW IYF Secretariat once permission has been granted.

To request permission to use the Logo for information purposes please contact:

NSW International Year of the Family Secretariat
Social Policy Directorate
Level 11, 169-183 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000.
Phone (02) 367 6806

Requests for use of the Logo on an interstate or national basis or for commercial and fund-raising activities must be made to the Commonwealth:

Office of the International Year of the Family
Department of Human Services and Health
GPO Box 666 Canberra ACT 2606.
Phone (06) 289 3736



*A heart sheltered by a roof,
linked by another heart, to symbolise life and love
in a home where one finds warmth, caring, security,
togetherness, tolerance and acceptance -
that is the symbolism conveyed by the emblem
of the International Year of the Family (IYF), 1994.
The open design is meant to indicate continuity,
with a hint of uncertainty. The brushstroke, with its
open line roof, completes an abstract symbol
representing the complexity of the family.*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY
Request to use the Official IYF Logo for Information Purposes
Proforma letter

The Manager
IYF Secretariat
Social Policy Directorate
Level 11
169-183 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Manager

I would like to apply to use the United Nations International Year of the Family logo on behalf of (Name of organisation)
.....
for information purposes only* in NSW.

The logo will be used for (Please describe how the logo is intended to be used / when the event/activity will take place)
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Information about this request can be obtained during business hours from:

Name:
Position/ Title:
Organisation:
Address:
Phone: Fax:

This organisation would/ would not like to be placed on the NSW IYF mailing list.

Yours sincerely

Name
Position

* Requests to use the logo for commercial and fundraising purposes should be directed to the Commonwealth Office of IYF, ph: (06) 289 3757.

IYF CONTACT LIST



NEW SOUTH WALES
1994

NSW SOUTH WALES

Minister responsible:

The Hon J Longley MP
Minister for Community Services,
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and
Minister for the Ageing
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Family Week

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COMMONWEALTH

Minister responsible

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Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
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NSW IYF INFORMATION KIT

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Please find enclosed the following:



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1994

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7. Key Family issues identified by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and issues for families in the nineties
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Who we are, What we do