

Title	Type & Matter	Summary
Hidden worlds: How child sexual abuse offenders portray themselves in clear-web paedophile community interactions and dark-web survey responses	Quantitative Online child sexual abuse	- This study uses computer-mediated discourse analysis to compare how online child sexual abuse (CSA) offenders present themselves in private clear-web chats versus anonymous dark-web surveys. It investigates how these different online environments and audiences influence the way offenders construct their identities and rationalise their criminal behaviours. - While clear-web community members often glorified their actions and dehumanised victims in supportive "echo-chambers," dark-web survey respondents were significantly more likely to express shame and self-loathing. This divergence suggests that offenders strategically tailor their self-presentation based on whether they are interacting with like-minded peers or being observed by "outside" researchers. - It concludes that online communities play a critical role in radicalising offenders by reinforcing harmful ideologies and providing a sense of belonging. It recommends that treatment programs must address these identity-tailoring behaviours and focus on countering the dehumanising cognitive distortions prevalent in online offender spaces.
Examining representations of and responses to children affected by parental alcohol consumption in Australian health and social policy	Qualitative Parental substance use Adverse childhood experiences Health and social policy	- This article examines how Australian health and social policies represent the relationship between children's adverse experiences and parental alcohol consumption. - The study found that Australian policies consistently represent parental alcohol consumption as directly causing children's adverse experiences, using moral judgments that emphasise individual responsibility while largely ignoring social and structural factors. This framing uses gender-neutral language that erases men's disproportionate role in alcohol-related harms and constrains the scope of potential policy responses. - The analysis reveals that these representations constrain policy responses and limit government accountability. The study argues for more nuanced approaches that acknowledge gender differences, social determinants, and the complexity of children's experiences rather than simplistic cause-and-effect relationships.
Suicidality following sexual abuse among children aged 10 to 17 years	Quantitative Adolescent mental health Suicide prevention Child sexual abuse	- Survivors of CSA frequently face long-term trauma-related consequences, including elevated risks for developing psychiatric disorders. The study compared the characteristics of those who experienced subsequent suicidality against those who did not, using electronic health records of children aged 10-17 from a child advocacy centre in the United States. It further explored how the victim-perpetrator relationship influenced this outcome. - Approximately 11 per cent of the youth experienced suicidality within three months, with nearly 22 per cent of that group attempting suicide. Risk factors included identifying as sexual and gender diverse, having prior depressive symptoms, or being abused by a nonrelative rather than a family member. - The study concludes that ongoing suicide screening is vital both at the time of initial evaluation and in the subsequent months. Prompt and trauma-informed mental health care is critical to prevent further harm for high-risk youth.
Reframing outcomes in intensive family preservation services: practitioners' perspectives on positive change	Mixed methods Family support services Workforce practice	- This study examines Intensive Family Preservation Services in Flanders (Belgium), focusing on how frontline practitioners define and achieve "success" during short-term crisis interventions intended to prevent OOHC placement. - Practitioners define success as meaningful progress like improved communication or restored routines, even when underlying family vulnerabilities remain. These are enabled by four dynamic dimensions: structural alignment, relational co-construction with the family, professional directivity, and the moral sustainability of the work for the practitioner. - The study concludes that success should be reframed as achieving realistic movement within a bounded intervention space rather than total elimination of family problems. It recommends that organisations provide robust clinical supervision and reflective spaces to help staff manage the emotional and ethical challenges inherent in high-stakes crisis work.

Evidence summary

Title	Type & Matter	Summary
A pedagogy of connection: building young peoples' resilience through social prescribing	Qualitative Adolescent mental health Community support Workforce practice	- Social prescribing is a person-centred, community-based intervention that connects young people with non-clinical resources and relationships to improve their mental health and well-being. By bridging gaps between education, health, and social care, this model offers a relational and preventative alternative to traditional medical approaches that often over-pathologise emotional distress. - The research highlights how social prescribing integrates youth work principles and social pedagogy, using a "Head, Heart, and Hands" framework to balance critical reflection, empathy, and practical action. Practitioners act as trusted figures who "walk with" young people, providing the necessary scaffolding to help them build confidence and move toward independent community participation. - Evaluation of the "Connect Together" pilot showed that 88 per cent of participants reported improved emotional well-being and 78 per cent felt better equipped to manage life challenges. These successful results were driven by a "no wrong door" philosophy and a whole-family approach that addresses wider social determinants of health, such as sleep, diet, and school attendance.
Food insecurity and mental health among high school students: Evidence from national and Virginia Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data	Quantitative Adolescent mental health Food insecurity School policy	- Amidst a rising adolescent mental health crisis, this study used 2023 surveillance data to examine how food insecurity impacts the well-being of students in Virginia and across the United States. Researchers developed a new multidimensional index to track both immediate meal skipping and long-term nutritional compromises. - The results show a consistent link where increased food insecurity predicts higher odds of persistent sadness and hopelessness in both state and national samples. Vulnerability was notably higher for female students and those experiencing bullying, with mental health risks rising as food scarcity worsened. - The findings suggest that nutritional scarcity is a major risk factor for poor mental health and recommends that schools integrate food assistance programs with behavioural health supports.
Suicide prevention guidelines for young people in youth justice detention settings in Australia: an expert consensus study	Mixed methods Suicide prevention Youth justice Workforce practice	- Incarcerated youth in Australia face a suicide risk estimated to be three to 18 times higher than their peers, yet frontline staff often lack evidence-based guidance on how to best support them. This study addressed this critical gap by using a Delphi expert consensus method to establish the first set of best-practice guidelines specifically for Australian detention settings. - The expert panel reached consensus on 237 items, emphasising that building trust and positive relationships are the most vital tools for identifying mood changes and mitigating suicide risk. Notably, experts strongly rejected the use of restrictive interventions like isolation and handcuffs as primary prevention measures, indicating these can increase a young person's suicidal distress. - The study concludes that suicide prevention must shift from traditional "care and control" models toward therapeutic, relationship-centred approaches that prioritise child-centred support. It recommends that youth justice departments immediately integrate these guidelines into their policies and use them to develop specialised suicide prevention training for custodial staff.
Kinship care and Aboriginal children with disabilities in out-of-home care: "My boy, I was his voice"	Qualitative Indigenous children Kinship care Children with disability	- This study explored the experiences of 46 Aboriginal kinship carers in Western Australia who support children with disabilities. It addresses a critical evidence gap regarding the needs of this over-represented and often "hidden" population within the child protection system. - Carers face insurmountable barriers to obtaining timely disability assessments, which often results in missed early intervention and children being criminalised before receiving support. Findings also highlight a systemic lack of training and advocacy, forcing carers to navigate complex health and welfare systems without adequate departmental assistance. - The study calls for urgent systemic reform, significant investment in co-designed culturally safe services, and the adoption of trauma-responsive support models.

Evidence summary

Title	Type & Matter	Summary
Leadership beyond boundaries: Unifying fragmented services in youth re-engagement through strategic systems thinking	Thesis System fragmentation Cross-sector collaboration	- The study explored how strategic leadership can help coordinate education, workforce and social services for unengaged young people. - Findings showed that youth faced the greatest challenges at service transition points (i.e. leaving school, entering workforce, referral to mental health service, etc). - The findings suggest leadership and system misalignment, rather than lack of services, are drivers of system fragmentation, with a need for stronger cross-sector coordination.
Bridging competency gaps understanding school counsellor perceived preparedness for suicide prevention among LGBTQ+ youth	Quantitative LGBTQIA+ youth Suicide prevention School-based support	- The study examines how prepared school counsellors felt to support LGBTQ+ youth at risk of suicide, and whether preparedness differed by demographic and professional characteristics. Sampled from US schools. - Counsellors who were themselves LGBTQ+ reported higher levels of knowledge, attitude and competence than straight counsellors, and doctorate-level counsellors reported greater suicide-prevention skills and competency than master level or below counsellors. - Findings suggest that LGBTQ+ specific competence and training are associated with stronger suicide-prevention competency to support at-risk youth.
Financial hardship and psychological distress among Indigenous children: The buffering role of family and community	Quantitative Indigenous children Financial hardship Child wellbeing Health and social policy	- The article examines the relationship between financial difficulties and psychological distress among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, assessing both immediate and cumulative effects of financial stress. - Children who experienced financial difficulties reported higher levels of psychological distress, and persistent financial difficulty was associated with greater long-term impacts. Positive child-mother relationships, supportive communities, and the child's primary carer's psychological wellbeing were found to have a buffering effect on the negative psychological impact of financial difficulties. - The data demonstrates that financial stress within Indigenous families is deeply systemic and intergenerational, operating through the emotional well-being of the primary caregiver. Policy and practice must design holistic, culturally responsive interventions that intentionally foster resilience at both the family unit and the broader community level.
Arguing the need for Aboriginal-specific testing of attachment theory as a foundation of culturally informed child protection and attachment best practice	Review Child protection Indigenous children Cultural safety	- This paper draws on cross-cultural research and 25 years of clinical expertise to critique the uncritical application of mainstream attachment theory within Australian child protection systems. The author argues that a predominantly non-Indigenous workforce frequently misclassifies distinct Aboriginal parenting practices, such as collective caregiving and kinship obligations, as developmental deficits, driving a crisis where Aboriginal children are removed at 11 times the rate of non-Indigenous children. - The study highlights that while the standard Strange Situation Procedure (SSP) has been validated in over 40 countries, it has never been empirically tested or validated with Aboriginal Australian populations. Empirical testing of SSP with Aboriginal populations is urgently needed, alongside measurable cultural competency standards for the workforce across systems, to interrupt the misclassified child removals and intergenerational trauma.
Improving community sport volunteers' response to abuse of children in sport: a theory informed educational workshop	Mixed methods Community sport Child safe organisations Child abuse	- This study evaluates an educational workshop grounded in the COM-B theory of behaviour change, designed to help Australian community sport volunteers better recognise and respond to child abuse. It addresses the critical gap between high-level safeguarding policies and implementation. - While volunteers initially showed high motivation, they lacked the specific capabilities and opportunities needed to act; however, the workshop significantly increased their knowledge of trauma-informed care and reportable conduct. Despite these improvements, persistent fears of social repercussions and confusion over where "tough" coaching ends and abuse begins remained significant barriers. - The researchers conclude that while theory-driven education effectively builds individual confidence, systemic cultural shifts are still required to overcome the normalisation of abusive behaviours in sport.

Title	Type & Matter	Summary
Health literacy of Pacific Islander, Northeast Asian and Southeast Asian young people living in Queensland	Qualitative Health literacy Culturally and linguistically diverse Youth voice	- Health literacy is a critical health determinant influencing equity, access and outcomes of care. Given the entrenched health inequalities among culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia, this study used the voice of culturally and linguistically diverse migrant young people to inform future interventions. - Findings suggest culturally and linguistically diverse young people value good health, but experience challenges in achieving it, including competing priorities, navigating stigma and cultural taboos, long wait times and use of inaccessible medical terminology. - Authors concluded that achieving health equity for young migrants in Australia requires adapting healthcare systems to their specific cultural and health literacy needs while actively dismantling systemic and historical barriers to care.
A systematic metareview of the Impact of Social Media Use on Adolescent Mental Health	Systematic reviews Adolescent mental health Child and adolescent health	- The current study aimed to summarise and evaluate existing reviews in social media and adolescent mental health and examined whether the literature established a causal relationship. 15 of the 32 reviews found high levels of social media use associated with poor adolescent mental health, while 15 found mixed results and the remaining two found positive effect on sense of belonging and social connection. - The findings suggest a negative trend linking social media to poor adolescent sleep, yet establishing mental health causation remains challenging. The authors noted that the evolving nature of technology makes it difficult to draw definitive conclusions.
Governing through 'Othering': Problematising 'culture' in the NSW child protection system	Qualitative Child protection Culturally and linguistically diverse Institutional racism Child safety practice	- The article examines how "culture" is represented in the NSW child protection system, arguing that "culturally safe" practice is institutionalised through policy. It shows that "culture talk" is produced mainly for racialised children and families via the population category "culturally and linguistically diverse," framed through fixed, performative indicators of cultural competence and lifestyle. - It finds that policy links "culture" primarily to interpersonal experiences of racism, while rendering institutional whiteness and institutional racism largely invisible. Drawing on Critical Whiteness perspectives and related scholarship, it argues this reinforces Otherness by treating Western parenting norms as the benchmark against which non-White practices are assessed. - Although the reforms are often well intentioned, the overrepresentation and racialisation of child protection persist. The article suggests solutions include revising discursive assumptions in policy, treating culture as relevant to all families, and directly acknowledging institutional racism
Understanding the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and school engagement: Investigating the role of child self-concept as a mediator	Quantitative School engagement Adverse childhood experiences	- This longitudinal study uses data from Growing Up in New Zealand to examine whether early adversity (Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) measured to age eight) predicts lower school engagement at age 12, and whether children's self-concept explains that link. It finds that more ACEs are associated with reduced school engagement, and that this relationship is partially mediated by self-esteem and scholastic self-concept measured at age eight, with similar effects across Māori, Pacific, Asian, and NZ European/Other students. - The study interprets these patterns through established mechanisms by which trauma and adversity can shift children's cognitive, psychological, and behavioural functioning, contributing to lower confidence and competence beliefs that then undermine engagement. It emphasises that the instruments and pathways tested appear to operate consistently across ethnic groups, supporting cross-cultural robustness for the proposed mediation model. - The authors argue that the findings strengthen the case for primary ACE prevention, early identification of at-risk children, and trauma-informed, supportive school environments. They also suggest that building self-esteem and scholastic self-concept could be a practical intervention target.