



Safe from the Start 2012 eNewsletter



editorial

I am very pleased to announce the first edition of the **Safe from the Start** Newsletter. Over the past few years many people have suggested a regular **Safe from the Start** newsletter to remain in contact about new resources and to be kept updated on the project's progress.

The project commenced in 2006/7 with the original intention for a specific family violence project in Tasmania. This has grown into a national project recently winning the top national **Crime and Violence Prevention Award** in 2011 and a **Child Protection Award** in 2010. The project has been an exciting journey encouraged by many people around Australia with interest extending to overseas including New Zealand.

During this time we have met many dedicated people who feel the same concern for the safety of children and passion to work collaboratively to address the issue of the effects of exposure to family violence, abuse and trauma on children.

This project has been a fantastic collaborative effort and I need to acknowledge a number of amazing people and organisations who have contributed to the success and implementation of the project. The original idea was discussed with UTAS researcher, Dr Erica Bell who enthusiastically accepted the challenge and worked with local women's refuges to consider the specific needs of children aged 0-5 exposed to family violence. The 'States of Mind' research recommendations included identifying children's needs, using therapeutic play for children, and developing staff training.

The Salvation Army employed Dr Angela Spinney in 2008/9 to undertake the action research project which resulted in the Safe from the Start training program and the development of a Resource Kit. Angela's passion for the issue, her hard work travelling all around Australia to conduct training has hugely contributed to the project's success. In partnership with Swinburne University Safe from the Start Training continues to be conducted nationally.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge funding from the Commonwealth Government - FaHCSIA - Office for Women, Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, Tasmanian Community Fund, Calvary Foundation and The Salvation Army. We also acknowledge support from the Brainwave Trust in New Zealand.

I would like to thank the clients in the refuges who participated in the research, the people and organisations from all states for facilitating training, providing feedback and support which has contributed to the success of the Safe from the Start project. The quote "**A child who lives with violence is forever changed, but not forever 'damaged' - and there is a lot we can do to improve their future prospects (Baker/Cunningham, 2007)**" inspires us to listen to the voices of children and, in doing so, prevent further damage to them and give hope for healing.

We hope this newsletter enables us to keep you up to date with Safe from the Start projects, latest research relating to children exposed to violence, notify about relevant new resources, and enable other organisations to promote their projects.

With best wishes
Nell Kuilenburg

latest news!

• Train the Trainer Training

Training has been conducted in all Australian states in 2010/11, all capital cities including: Hervey Bay, Forbes, Geelong, Murray Bridge, Lithgow, Rockhampton, Alice Springs, Tweed Heads, Shepparton, Wangaratta. Training continues in all states in 2012. For costs please contact us.

• Safe from the Start Resource Kits

Over 520 kits have been distributed nationally including New Zealand, Canada, Singapore and the Maldives. For Order Forms please contact us.

• Brochures & Posters

Safe from the Start brochures have been reprinted with National Domestic Violence Hotline phone numbers and have been distributed nationally.

• Aboriginal Project

Recommendations from 'States of Mind' (UTAS) research report, SFTS evaluation and feedback from participants at training sessions in all Australian states, identified the need for Aboriginal resources for inclusion in the kit. This project is currently being conducted in Tasmania in partnership with Swinburne University (Vic) with researcher Dr Angela Spinney. A Northern Territory Indigenous project is planned for later this year in partnership with Charles Darwin University (NT).

• Aboriginal Project Children's Book

We are currently liaising with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to write a special topic book to include in the resource kit due to the lack of specific suitable Aboriginal children's books. Funded by Tasmanian Community Fund.

• Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Project

In partnership with the Phoenix Centre and Swinburne University, a CALD version of the resource kit is being developed. Culturally appropriate resources are currently being trialled and will be included in the existing kit. It has been affirmed by all specialist workers that both CALD, Aboriginal and Australian children should use the same diverse range of resources.

• Counselling DVD

A counselling and training DVD is being developed which includes ideas of how to work therapeutically with children and will be available in July 2012.

• New resources

A number of new resources have been sourced, but were not part of the original research. Some of these are being trialled in current projects. Refer to page 2 for some great books about feelings, grief, being different or moving house. Most are available on online book distributors websites.

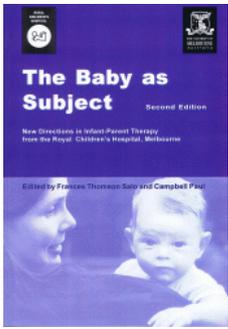
• Request

If you are aware of relevant Indigenous/CALD resources or research re children exposed to violence or therapeutic tools you use we would love to hear from you. Please email us with the details.

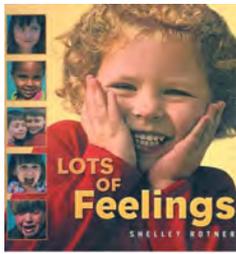
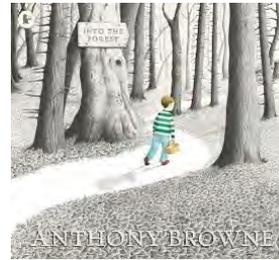
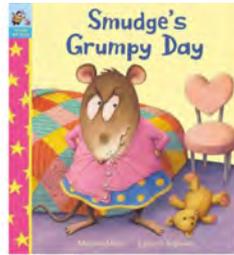
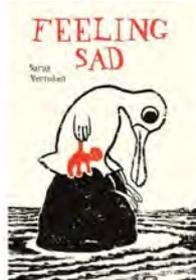
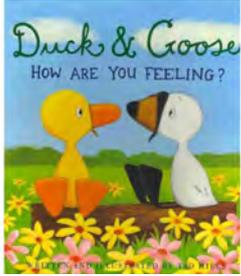
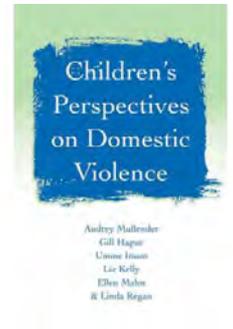
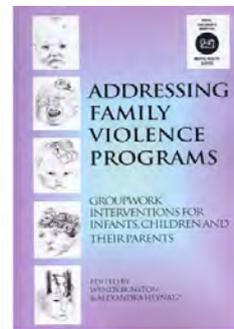
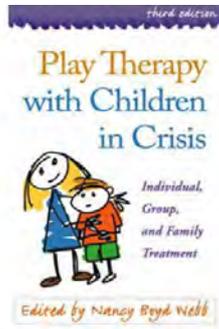
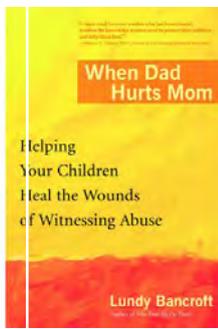
For further information, feedback, questions, kit order forms, brochures or Training details



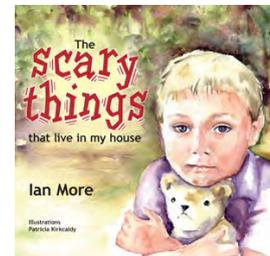
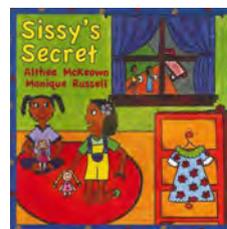
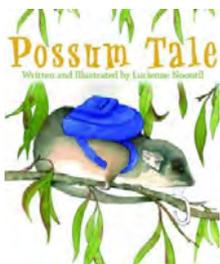
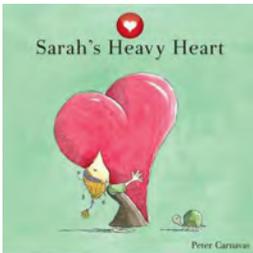
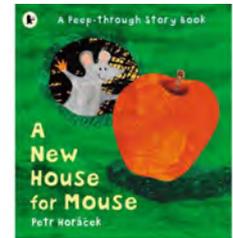
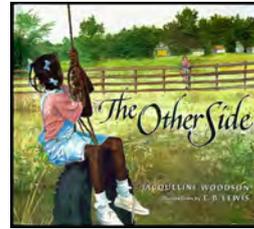
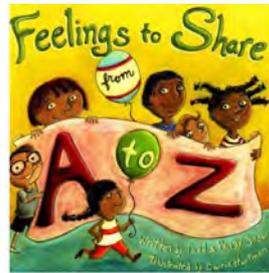
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Books used in research



CALD Books



Indigenous books

