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We owe it to our grandchildren and their children to achieve much more in improving the wellbeing of young Australians.

As I write this in 2011, it is 10 years since a small group began planning for the establishment of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. This early support has carried through and blossomed so that ARACY now has 1500 members and our publications reach more than 3000 people.

The challenge we face is to build on that goodwill and assist our strong supporter base to make practical improvements in the wellbeing of children and young people in Australia.

Wherever I go and speak to people about our work, there is widespread recognition that the principles on which ARACY was founded — prevention, evidence-based action and collaboration to solve complex problems — are as vital today as they were 10 years ago.

I am pleased to report 2010 was a year of strong consolidation and advancement with significant outputs in all areas of our activity. The support demonstrated for the development of the Action Plan for Children and Young People is enormously encouraging. One of the personal highlights for me was to see the strong attendance at the Middle Years Symposium in November and the enthusiasm for exploring these issues which are currently under-researched.

ARACY’s sponsors, supporters and members are the beating heart of the organisation and make our successes possible. I also thank CEO Dr Lance Emerson, who has delivered outstanding results with his team.

In closing, I thank my Board colleagues for another impressive year of service. Our Board members are high profile and busy people who still manage to carve out the time to offer guidance and advice because they believe in what ARACY does. I pay tribute to former Board members Dr Jeff Harmer and Peter Mason, who both left us this year. Jeff made a singular contribution to ARACY as our federal government representative. I can only add my own thanks and congratulations to the plaudits he has received on announcing his retirement from the ranks of Australian Government Secretaries. Peter Mason brought valuable insights to ARACY from his wide experience across many fields and will also be missed. In 2010, we were fortunate to be able to welcome to the ranks of the Board, Lisa Paul, Secretary of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Those of us who sat down together 10 years ago to plan ARACY knew that success would not happen overnight. We have made a strong start, but we owe it to our grandchildren and their children to achieve much more in improving the wellbeing of young Australians.
The key strengths of ARACY are our members, the Board, our staff and our evidence-based and collaborative approach to prevention. We are making a practical difference in improving the wellbeing of young Australians.

In 2010 ARACY made strong progress on many fronts. Our membership increased by 22% over the year to 1481 organisations and individuals. This membership growth reflects expanding support for ARACY’s approach, as well as giving ARACY a stronger voice and an expanded expert capacity to support our activities.

Our annual member survey confirmed continuing support for ARACY’s activities and increased effectiveness in most areas. 81% of respondents confirmed that “ARACY provides value for me and / or my organisation”, and 84% agreed “ARACY is having a positive impact in improving the wellbeing of children and young people”.

Advocacy is a critical element of our work, one that rarely sees the spotlight but has the potential to pay significant dividends. Over the year, ARACY created opportunities or took advantage of existing mechanisms, to present significant and compelling arguments to key decision makers across the public, private and community sectors. The measure of our success was not that each approach was immediately rewarded, but that we made a strong and effective case on behalf of children and young people. Over time, I know we will be able to build the membership base and cross-sectoral support that will ensure lasting improvements for young Australians.

The promotion of evidence-based action is at the heart of ARACY’s activities. Following the Australian Government’s decision to cease funding to all research networks which led to the closure of the ARACY Research Network in 2009, ARACY nevertheless continued the New Investigators Network and the Seed Funding Program in 2010. Under the direction of Professor Ann Sanson and others, the Research Network had developed enormous expertise and goodwill, and 2010 saw active exploration of strategies to build on this goodwill and further build the research and evidence base supporting children and young people.

All our collaborative projects advanced strongly over the year, with ARACY members and a wide range of other stakeholders actively participating and engaged in think tanks, roundtables, and forums:

- ARACY broke new ground with the Middle Years Symposium held in November. A survey prior to the symposium identified 83% of ARACY members agreed with the proposition that early adolescence was a distinct developmental phase, while 76% supported the development of a dedicated Middle Years Agenda or Action Strategy.
• The Advancing Collaboration Practice program was launched with a hugely successful Collaboration Summit, followed by the development and publication of 10 fact sheets, three case studies and three practical papers. These resources are being used by many Commonwealth and state government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, private industry and international non-government agencies.

• The Preventing Youth Violence project included the launch of an evidence-based discussion paper Preventing youth violence: what does and doesn’t work and why, a roundtable with 45 of Australia’s leading ‘thinkers and doers’ in the area of preventing youth violence, an expert panel discussion at our Annual Forum, and the delivery of six access grid seminars.

• The development of the Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) continued strongly with the final project report for the first phase submitted to the Australian Government in June. CAARS offers a new way of supporting people who work with children and their families (such as doctors, teachers, counsellors and child care workers) to identify and assist vulnerable children and families, before a crisis occurs. A proposal for the next phase of the project was submitted to government and under fruitful discussion at the end of the year.

• Flowing from the 2009 ARACY Conference declaration, a workshop was held in December to develop the National Action Plan for Children and Young People. Over the longer term, this project will transform the lives of young people in Australia. The Plan will bring services, programs, research and policy together to provide a roadmap for protecting children and young people, and ensuring their development and wellbeing is a national priority.

At the end of the year, Professor Ann Sanson stepped down as Research Network Coordinator after five years of fruitful and valuable service in which she drove significant research and collaboration activities. Her work will have lasting benefits for children and young people in Australia and she will be greatly missed by the staff and the many people whom she mentored or collaborated with.

Overall, 2010 was a year of purposeful and positive activity, fully using the strengths of our Board, partners, members, supporters and staff. I thank everyone who joined with us in another successful year.
Our Board
Our Board as at 31 December 2010

Professor Fiona Stanley AC (Chair)

Executive Director, ARACY and Director, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Trained in maternal and child health epidemiology and public health, Professor Stanley has spent her career researching the causes of major childhood illnesses such as birth defects. For her research on behalf of Australia’s children, she was named Australian of the Year in 2003 and in 2006 she was made a UNICEF Australia Ambassador for Early Childhood Development. Concerned by the increasingly negative trends in the key indicators of child health and wellbeing in Australia, Professor Stanley was a key driver of a collaborative partnership between like-minded researchers, practitioners and policy makers that saw the establishment of ARACY. Professor Stanley is also the founding Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, a unique multidisciplinary independent research institute focusing on the causes and prevention of major problems affecting children and young people. She sits on the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the Indigenous Implementation Board.

Ms Elaine Henry OAM

Chief Executive Officer of the Smith Family (as at 31 December 2010)

Elaine Henry has been a CEO of non-profit organisations for more than 25 years. She joined The Smith Family in 1998 to effect organisational transformation concentrating on disadvantaged children, families and communities. She was a founding member of Social Ventures Australia and Inaugural Chair of Nonprofit Australia Limited. As well as being a founding Board Member of ARACY she has served on a wealth of committees at the state, national and international levels, including as Chair of the Australian Government’s Stronger Families and Communities Partnership, which had a major role in the development of the Communities for Children initiative, and as a Member of the former Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership. She is a member of the Advisory Boards of: The Global Foundation; the Committee for Economic Development of Australia; the Centre for Social Impact; the Australian School of Business (University of NSW); the Faculty of Education and Social Work (University of Sydney); and the Vice-Chancellor’s Advisory Board (University of Wollongong). She is also a member of the Australian Government Financial Literacy Board and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and a Trustee of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Elaine is passionate about the power of education to transform the lives of disadvantaged children across Australia.
Ms Heather Ridout  
**Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group**

Heather Ridout is Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group, a leading industry association representing a broad spectrum of Australian industry including manufacturing, construction, automotive, ICT, transport, defence, labour hire and other industries. She has a deep interest in public policy and is a member of a number of key national policy setting and consultative groups including the National Workplace Relations Consultative Committee; Infrastructure Australia; and Skills Australia. She was also a member of the Henry Tax Review. Her other appointments include Director of Electrolux Home Products and Trustee of AustralianSuper. She heads an organisation committed to helping Australian industry with a focus on building competitive industries through global integration, skills development, productive and flexible workplace relations, infrastructure development and innovation.

Mr Tim Goodwin  
**Deputy Chair of the National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia**

Tim is a member of the Yuin nation, an Aboriginal nation that occupies the south east coast of NSW. Tim is currently a Lawyer with Allens Arthur Robinson in Melbourne after graduating with Bachelor Degrees in Arts and Law with Honours from the Australian National University in 2007. Tim was the Associate to The Hon Justice AM North of the Federal Court of Australia from 2008-2009 and to The Hon Justice M Bromberg of the Federal Court of Australia from 2009-2010. Tim serves on the Editorial Boards of the Australian Indigenous Law Review and Ngiya: Talk the Law. From 2008 to 2010, he was a member of the Steering Committee for the establishment of a National Indigenous Representative Body. This work resulted in the creation of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples. Tim is currently the Chair of the National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia (NIYMA).

Professor Rob Moodie  
**Professor of Global Health at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne**

Rob Moodie is Professor of Global Health at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Between 1998 and 2007 he was the CEO of VicHealth. He is the chair of the National Preventative Health Task Force, and member of the Commission of AIDS in the Pacific. He was the inaugural Director of Country Programs at the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Rob chairs the Technical Panel to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s HIV prevention program in India. He has worked for Save the Children Fund, Medics Sans Frontieres, Congress, the Aboriginal Health Service in Alice Springs, the Burnet Institute and for the World Health Organization.

Dr Norman Swan  
**Award-winning journalist and broadcaster**

Host of the Health Report, on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s Radio National, and presenter of Health Minutes on ABC NewsRadio, Dr Norman Swan was one of the first medically qualified journalists in Australia. He was born in Scotland, graduated in medicine from the University of Aberdeen and later obtained his postgraduate qualifications in pediatrics. Norman also edits his own newsletter, The Choice Health Reader, which is published in partnership with CHOICE, Australia’s leading consumer advocacy organisation. On television, Dr Swan has hosted ABC Television’s science program, Quantum, and been a guest reporter on Catalyst and Four Corners. He hosted Health Dimensions on ABC Television, and created, wrote and narrated a four part series on disease and civilisation, “Invisible Enemies”, made for Channel 4 (UK) and SBS Television. He also co-wrote and narrated “The Opposite Sex”, a four-part series for ABC Television. Norman Swan has been the Australian correspondent for the Journal of the American Medical Association and the British Medical Journal and consults for the World Health Organization in Geneva.
Ms Lisa Paul PSM

Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Lisa Paul, PSM, FAIM, FIPAA, has been Secretary of the Australian federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) since 2007. The portfolio focuses on productivity and is central to Australia’s economic growth through people’s productivity - their education, skills and labour force contributions. The department is organised by the lifecycle: early childhood, schooling, young people’s transitions from school, vocational education, higher education, employment and workplace relations. Prior to this role, Lisa was Secretary of the Department of Education, Science and Training from 2004 to 2007. She has more than 20 years public sector experience and has held senior positions in education, welfare, community services, health and housing, in state and Commonwealth governments. Lisa has also sat on the Boards for the Australian Research Council (ARC), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as well as the Boards for the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) and the Education Investment Fund (EIF) and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia.
Mission and vision
The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) is a national non-profit organisation working to create better futures for Australia’s children and young people.

Australia is overall a wealthy, developed country, yet crucial aspects of the health and wellbeing of our young people are declining. ARACY was formed to lead the development of evidence-based action to prevent the major problems that affect our children and young people.

ARACY is building collaborations with researchers, policy makers and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines. 1500 members are working with us to foster collaborative and evidence-based solutions, so we can turn knowledge into action and help all children achieve their potential.

Our mission
Our mission is to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, by advancing collaboration and evidence-based action.

Our vision
Our vision is a future in which Australia’s children and young people thrive and their wellbeing is a national priority.

Our guiding principles
The following principles guide our strategic directions and decisions about priorities and activities.
ARACY focuses on:

- **Prevention** — We promote and support evidence-based prevention and early intervention to enhance the wellbeing of Australian children and young people.

- **Life pathways** — In progressing prevention strategies, we consider the complex and interrelated social, environmental, economic, political and cultural factors impacting on a young person’s development and wellbeing.

ARACY operates by:

- **Providing a neutral space for organisational collaboration** — Addressing the problems confronting Australia’s children and young people is beyond the capacity of any one organisation or individual. We facilitate interorganisational collaboration, which involves sharing of information, expertise, resources and experience.

- **Working across sectors and disciplines** — Preventing and solving complex problems requires a holistic approach across sectors and disciplines. We bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from diverse fields, including academia, business, government, industry and the broader community.

- **Value-adding** — We recognise that there are many organisations and individuals working to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in Australia. We encourage innovation and research to fill knowledge gaps; we identify existing knowledge and evidence, and build on it; and we collaborate with others to advocate and implement solutions.

- **Progressing sustainable, evidence-based action** — Much is already known about what is required to improve the health and wellbeing of young Australians. There is, however, a significant gap between what is known and what is done. We advocate evidence-based solutions that are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

- **Focusing on the long term** — We recognise that solutions to the complex problems affecting children and young people may take generations to address; we believe in the importance of these long-term solutions.
Our challenge
ARACY asserts the health and wellbeing of children and young people should be elevated to a national priority and considered in all policy, decision-making and service delivery.

In Australia, support for children is often a complex balance between parental responsibility, employer practices and the funding and provision of services by all tiers of government such as health, childcare and education.

We know that:

- prevention is more effective than costly attempts to treat or manage problems once they have developed
- effective solutions require engagement and commitment from non-traditional partners, and behaviour and attitude change on a large scale.

The countries achieving positive outcomes for children place a high value on children, young people and families, and have struck a balance between economic, social and environmental development.
The ARACY response: a focus on prevention
Advocacy and engagement to improve child and youth wellbeing

ARACY advocates for the increased wellbeing of children and young people through partnerships with governments, researchers, service providers, community organisations and philanthropic organisations and individuals.

This advocacy takes the form of:

• meetings with parliamentarians, government ministers and officials
• partnerships on issues of mutual interest such as protecting children from abuse or neglect
• frequent meetings and symposia on research priorities
• presentations at conferences
• submissions to governmental inquiries and reviews the preparation of opinion pieces and articles.

ARACY also publishes regular newsletters to more than 3000 recipients in which the CEO and member organisations advocate on topical issues.

To showcase the breadth and depth of this advocacy in 2010, this report includes a number of case studies. A comprehensive list of advocacy activities is included in Appendix 1.
Case study — innovation through collaboration

ARACY’s partners provide invaluable support to our work in a range of practical ways and highlight a key aspect of our mission — to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, by advancing collaboration and evidence-based action.

Investment in ARACY’s research is crucial to our success, as is investment in our knowledge and the knowledge of our members.

In 2008, the National Australia Bank (NAB) entered into a partnership with ARACY to identify the points of intervention which could improve the readiness to learn of children living in poverty. Through this partnership ARACY was able to consult with experts and examine national and international best practice, with plans to implement a randomised controlled trial in two disadvantaged communities. At time of writing, $2.1m has been pledged in philanthropic support for the pilot tests from three Australian trusts — this was only possible through the initial investment of NAB.
ARACY was founded under the principle that many of the problems that affect child wellbeing can’t be solved by a single person, organisation or sector. And only by combining the knowledge, skills and resources of a broad array of people and organisations can we understand the underlying nature of these problems and develop effective solutions to address them. We are therefore committed to building sector-wide capacity to develop successful collaborative practice.

In May, Liz Forsyth, Partner of KPMG’s National Health and Human Services Practice, worked with ARACY’s national collaborations team to facilitate a national forum on collaboration. Designed for executives, policy-makers and researchers across government, not-for-profit, philanthropic and corporate sectors, participants examined themes of collaboration, innovation and creativity, as well as considering policy and practice developments to promote collaboration through practice examples and case studies.

Timely identification of appropriate support services for vulnerable children and their families is often impeded by the lack of a comprehensive directory of support services. AMP technical specialists have been working with ARACY to develop technical specifications for a National Directory of Universal and Targeted Services which will feature capacity to search for detailed information on specific services in geographic locations.

The National Directory will be a critical resource supporting ARACY’s development of the common approach to preventing child abuse and neglect through The Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) Taskforce. The CAARS project is another ‘pilot initiative’ by ARACY — realised through investment from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and now generously supported by AMP.

To discuss ways in which your organisation could collaborate with ARACY, contact Chantal Lewis on (02) 9085 7247.
Case study – National Action Plan for Children and Young People

“A National Action Plan for Australia's children and young people is urgently required so our children and young people benefit the most they can from the money and effort spent on their wellbeing.”

Dr Norman Swan, ARACY Board Member

On 2 December, an inaugural planning meeting was convened by ARACY at Parliament House in Canberra, to progress the first stage of the National Action Plan for Children and Young People.

The Plan arose from the 2009 ARACY Conference, when the 560 delegates overwhelmingly endorsed the Conference Declaration, including the proposal to develop a comprehensive and integrated framework to support young Australians aged 0-24 years.

Respected ABC broadcaster and ARACY Board member Dr Norman Swan facilitated the proceedings. The meeting brought together 80 participants — including parliamentary representatives of the major political parties, and Australia’s top academic, policy and service delivery leaders from a diverse range of sectors and organisations — to discuss how the Plan should be developed.

Through the generous support of The Caledonia Foundation, the Change for Children website was also launched at the meeting to build a strong network of support for the progression of the Plan.

The Plan aims to bring services, programs, research and policy together to provide a roadmap for how we can work towards becoming a society where all children and young people are protected, and their development and wellbeing is a national priority.

The meeting participants agreed that ARACY should continue with the development of the Plan, including the establishment of a governing body, examination of the existing evidence base, comprehensive consultation with youth and industry professionals, and formulation of a robust implementation plan.

2011 will see ARACY establishing a Steering Committee to oversee the development of the Plan, which will involve extensive consultation with other organisations, service agencies, children and young people, and many others.
Case study — social and emotional development and wellbeing in the ‘middle years’

There is a growing body of evidence indicating that major biological, psychological, neurological and social changes occurring as children transition into adolescence exert a potent influence on children’s developmental outcomes.

ARACY supports a holistic approach to the developmental needs of children and young people to ensure that physical, intellectual, social and emotional, and spiritual needs of all young Australians are addressed within an integrated policy and practice framework.

While public policies have increasingly acknowledged and invested in developmental opportunities for children in the early years, a similar investment in the development needs of children in the early adolescent years (ages 9-14) has yet to be realised.

Middle Years Project

ARACY’s Middle Years Project commenced in mid 2010 and aims to achieve a more comprehensive and coordinated “holistic” response to the developmental needs of children as they transition into and through the early adolescent years, with a particular focus on children’s social and emotional development. Social and emotional wellbeing is critical to a child’s later life outcomes and there is significant evidence our society is not meeting these needs effectively.

During 2010 ARACY:

- conducted preliminary interviews with a small group of key stakeholders to identify issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of 9-14 year olds, as well as policy and practice priorities for addressing these issues
- conducted a Middle Years E-Survey to test whether there was more broadly-based support for the issues and solutions identified in the preliminary interviews
- staged a national Middle Years Symposium to promote a shared understanding of the developmental issues and challenges facing 9-14 year olds and begin the process of building a collaborative commitment towards addressing these issues and challenges. More than 150 people attended this symposium and post-event evaluations by participants confirm that it was an outstanding success.

Several proposals on how best to advance the middle years agenda were under discussion at the year’s end.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Middle Years Project.
Social and emotional wellbeing indicators

Effective policy-making to improve the social and emotional development and wellbeing of young Australians requires reliable data. An agreed set of measures is required to undertake monitoring, however, due to definitional and measurement difficulties, no set of measures has yet been developed for Australia.

With the support of the Fred P Archer Trust, managed by the Trust Company, and working closely with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and UNICEF Australia, the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales was commissioned to produce a report on the Conceptualisation of Social and Emotional Wellbeing for children and young people, and policy implications. This report (which is not specific to the ‘middle years’ but rather applies to the social and emotional wellbeing of all young Australians) is the most sought after report published by ARACY.

The report also stimulated discussion regarding measurement of social and emotional wellbeing among children in the middle years. Potential projects, including a proposal for a multi-national study, were under consideration as the year closed and are being further progressed.

A workshop comprising a wide range of experts was convened by AIHW and ARACY to consider the report’s findings, focusing on the proposed conceptual framework. An ARACY roundtable on the same topic, with eight expert panellists leading the discussion, was conducted as part of the 11th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference. About 100 people attended this symposium.

At year’s end, a proposal was under discussion with the aim of developing suitable social and emotional wellbeing indicators. Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments.
Supporting our members
The New Investigators Network offers early career researchers an opportunity to learn from and work with distinguished and expert mentors.

The Australian Government’s decision to cease funding to all research networks led to the closure of the ARACY Research Network in 2009. However, ARACY continued to support the New Investigators Network into 2010, commencing another round in the second half of the year.

For the second round, the mentors included:

- Professor Stephen Zubrick, Head of the Division of Population Science, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
- Professor Ann Sanson, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne
- Professor Brian Head, Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland
- Associate Professor Jan Nicholson, Principal Research Fellow & Mental Health Stream Co-Leader, Healthy Development Theme, Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- Associate Professor Kate Taylor, Director of the Centre for Developmental Health (CDH), Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute
- Dr Robyn Mildon, Director, Knowledge Transfer, Parenting Research Centre.

Case study New Investigators Network — Dr Robyn Mildon, mentor
Case study New Investigators Network — Dr Rebecca Glauert, researcher
Case study — New Investigators Network mentor

Dr Robyn Mildon

Robyn Mildon is the Director of Knowledge Exchange at the Parenting Research Centre in Melbourne.

“I am really excited about being part of the network... I get a lot out of working with and mentoring passionate, energetic researchers — encouraging them (and pushing myself) to think about how we work within a Prevention Science framework to improve the lives of children and young people.”

Robyn’s work focuses on two main areas: the use of innovative and effective knowledge translation and exchange strategies aimed at improving the utilisation of evidence-based information and practice in parenting and family support programs; and bridging the gap between ‘what we know’ and ‘what we do’ by improving the science and practice of implementation in relation to the use of evidence-based practices and programs.

“My work in this area has shown me the value and importance of working collectively and collaboratively towards a shared set of socially important outcomes (improving the wellbeing of children and young people) and the need to focus, in a planned and structured way, on the concrete implementation of what we know can work.

I am really looking forward to working with the new investigators and believe this program will make a solid contribution to the prevention science area and further build on the top class skills present in the group of new investigators who are participating.”

Case study — New Investigators Network researcher

Dr Rebecca Glauert

Researcher Rebecca Glauert graduated from the UWA School of Psychology with a PhD in 2008 and has since been employed at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research as a Research Manager of the Developmental Pathways in WA Children Project (DPP), the largest cross jurisdictional data linkage project in Australia.

The DPP links together information from a range of WA departments including Health, Education, Child Protection, Corrective Services, and Disability Services, with others expected to link their data in the coming years. The project aims to understand the trends and factors that influence both positive and adverse life outcomes for children, including poor mental health, disability, child maltreatment, school failure, and juvenile delinquency.

“This project is an excellent example of the benefits of having researchers, policy makers and practitioners working together with the common goal of improving child health and wellbeing. Through this project, I am developing a program of research in youth mental health, focusing on understanding the individual, family and community risk factors for deliberate self harm, suicide and poor mental health, from birth through adolescence.

I am a strong believer in the benefits of cross sectoral research, and the importance of knowledge transfer, and believe the only way to effect change in our society, and to improve outcomes for children and youth is to have a universal approach that joins up policy makers, researchers, heads of government, practitioners, social service sectors, and community members.

I believe effective information and knowledge transfer are key to any research having an impact on policy, practice and prevention, and the New Investigator Network offers a fantastic opportunity to further develop my research, translation and networks.”
Participants at the first ARACY Collaboration Forum in May 2010 were actively engaged in the dialogue with the panel members.

Resources for collaborators

Advancing Collaboration Practice

ARACY established the Advancing Collaboration Practice program to encourage and support cross-sector collaboration to address the complex problems facing children and young people in Australia.

Collaborative action requires a unique and multifaceted management environment, as well as management and leadership skills that are not usually developed in traditional work places.

The program assists people and organisations by providing a management framework for collaboration. It describes the theory of collaboration in practical terms, uses real-life examples of how theory has been applied and links participants with each other and with collaboration experts and practitioners.

In May 2010, the first ARACY Collaboration Forum was held at the KPMG offices in Sydney. Moderated by KPMG partner Liz Forsyth and senior consultants, the forum drew together over 50 senior staff from across all sectors to discuss the impact of systems on the success of collaborative action. The forum presented lessons from the environment, health and human services sectors and an anti-smoking campaign. Our thanks go to KPMG for a successful event which we plan to repeat.

During 2010, the program also continued to expand its online content. The first 10 in a series of 14 fact sheets were completed. Prepared by Associate Professor Robyn Keast from Queensland University of Technology and Emeritus Professor Myrna Mandel from California State University, Northridge, they provide an accessible approach to collaboration management theory. ARACY has had an excellent response to the fact sheets from across all sectors.

Three case studies were released at the end of 2010 as well as two practical papers. The Q&A papers pose questions to collaboration management teams who respond and initiate a ‘conversation’ within the document. The first Q&A paper was prepared by the management team from the ‘Children’s journeys through homelessness and child protection’ collaboration.
Two webinars were held on the Key elements of collaboration and Using Collaboration Technology, with an average of over 50 sites attending each webinar.

As 2010 closed, plans were underway to examine the impact of systems on the effectiveness and success of collaborative action. The fact sheet series was also to be completed and a second round of case studies to be commissioned. Preparations for a blog were also underway to become a hub for an online community of collaboration practitioners.

Read the latest information on the Advancing Collaboration Practice Program.

Case studies – Advancing Collaboration Practice publications 2010

1. The Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium - a case study of collaboration in a research context. The Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium is an example of a successful collaboration solving a complex research problem — how to integrate large scale data sets from multiple research sources to enhance the quality of, and confidence in, research outcomes.

2. High Water Theatre - a successful 10 year collaboration between the arts, health and education. The High Water Theatre program is the product of a powerful, three-party collaboration, which has not only achieved positive outcomes for its young participants, but has also successfully promoted greater community understanding of the issues faced by marginalised young people.

3. The Blue Skies collaboration - addressing a complex problem with a compelling vision. Blue Skies is a collaboration of leaders from different parts of the disability sector in Queensland who share a common vision: an inclusive community for people with disability and their caregivers. They are working to reinvigorate the disability sector in Queensland.

Practical papers

This paper outlines issues faced by senior executives in developing and managing a collaborative partnership, focusing on the Tresillian Family Care Centre and Kathleen York House partnership to deliver parent education and support to women in drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Using collaboration technology

This paper outlines the technology available to assist and enable effective collaboration practice.

Funding innovation: the Macquarie Group Foundation model

This paper outlines the Macquarie Group’s funding structure for supporting innovative and collaborative community programs, and the benefits of engaged philanthropy.
Question and answer paper

The management team from the “Children's journeys through homelessness and child protection” collaboration

The management team of a successful research and practice collaboration discuss the development, challenges and success factors of their partnership.

Fact sheets (5-10)

Key elements of collaboration
Exploring the essential elements of a collaboration and how they contribute to the long-term success of a collaborative project.

Collaboration – getting going
Activities that should be completed to ensure collaboration is properly structured and managed to achieve its purpose.

Are we ready to collaborate?
Questions to consider before committing your organisation to a collaborative endeavour.

Managing collaborations
Good management techniques for working collaboratively.

Collaborative leadership
The type of leadership — facilitating, rather than directing — required when collaborating.

Evaluating collaborations
When evaluating collaborations, the aim is to assess relationships and processes and how they facilitate both the collaboration and its outcomes.

Read all the fact sheets and other publications available under the Advancing Collaboration Practice Program.
In 2010, a Knowledge Brokering workshop was held in Melbourne in March, specifically aimed at knowledge brokers within community service and research organisations working in the areas of child and youth health, development and wellbeing. The presentations had a particular focus on preventive initiatives.

This workshop was a partnership between the ARACY Research Network, The Benevolent Society, the ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, and the Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare. Read the materials from the workshop.

The book “Bridging the ‘Know–Do’ Gap: Knowledge brokering to improve child wellbeing” was published in 2010. This arose out of the ARACY Research Network. It was edited by Gabriele Bammer, Annette Michaux and Ann Sanson, being developed in partnership between the ARACY Research Network and two constituent organisations: The Benevolent Society and The Australian National University's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

The book drew together contributions from a diverse group of experts to explore how to improve knowledge transfer between the worlds of research, policy and practice. It explained how researchers, policy-makers and service delivery organisations could turn existing research and evidence into practical benefits for children and young people. It also explored new ground in how we can improve children’s wellbeing by linking researchers and their new knowledge better with policy developers and practitioners in the field.

Bridging the ‘Know–Do’ Gap: Knowledge brokering to improve child wellbeing is available as a free download from ANU E Press.

A paper entitled Informing policy with evidence: successes, failures and surprises was also published during 2010.

Read the latest information on the Knowledge Brokering Network.
ARACY maintained a strong program of events including seminars, webinars, workshops and the ARACY Annual Forum. Most of these events were open to members and were either free of charge or offered to members at discounted registration prices.

Number of Events and Participants

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*The number of ARACY events and participants reduced in 2010 due to a decrease in infrastructure funding to support networking events and the closure of the ARACY Research Network at the end of 2009.

Research seminars

**Ethics and Consent Issues related to Involving Children and Young People in Research**

Presentations from Dr Merle Spriggs and Dr Jonathon Sargeant focussed on the ethical issues of involving children in research.

**Turning evidence into action: Thinking differently about how we think**

Lisa Smith of Minds At Work presented a workshop which examined the type of creative thinking required to generate ideas, develop concepts, make great decisions and then put them into practice in the context of today's highly pressured modern world.

**Review of international and national integrated service models for young people in the preadolescent and adolescent years: benefits, barriers and enablers**

Clinical psychologist Dr Margaret Brechman-Toussaint explored models of integration, inclusive governance models, benefits, barriers and facilitators, and outlined some of the policy implications arising from her review of national and international integrated service models for young people.

**Children and young people as researchers: the why and the wow!**

Professor Mary Kellett of The Open University UK addressed the issue of why it is important to empower children and young people as researchers in their own right and explored some of the challenges and critical issues.

**Developing indicators for the health and wellbeing of children and youth with disabilities**

Professor Gwynnhyr Llewellyn from the University of Sydney discussed the challenges of developing robust and useful indicators of the health and wellbeing of children and youth with disabilities in a global context.

**Building practice-based evidence through program evaluation**

Professor Patricia Rogers and Ms Kaye Stevens of RMIT University presented and facilitate discussion of a proposed agenda to build our knowledge of how to ensure that evidence from practice informs policy as well as evidence from research.
Measuring the outcomes of community organisations

Roundtable

The roundtable was held in Canberra with 15 stakeholders across the not-for-profit, government and philanthropic sectors, and considered the relationship between the Measuring Outcomes for Community Organisations project and the Australian Productivity Commission report ‘Contribution of the not-for-profit sector’ and the National Compact with the Third Sector.

Early childhood research

National workshops on early childhood development research gaps

Workshops were held around Australia to map current research on early childhood development, especially as it pertains to national policies, including information on significant research evaluations; and to identify gaps in current evidence on early childhood development needs, especially as they pertain to national policies.

Collaboration

The key elements of collaboration: webinar

Dr Robyn Keast discussed the fundamental management components of collaboration in order to successfully address the complex problems that are facing our young people.

Using technology for collaboration: webinar

Collaboration and knowledge management technology specialist David Hennessy presented the issues and recommendations raised in his paper Using Collaboration Technology, and examples of how these technologies can be used to the benefit of collaboration participants.

The National Collaboration Forum: Conditions for success - presented in partnership with KPMG

This forum brought together experts and practitioners from across sectors to discuss collaborative activity in Australia directed at social inclusion and supporting young people.
Preventing Youth Violence

Six Access Grid seminars on Preventing Youth Violence

1. Understanding the brain to understand behaviour
2. Challenging our understanding of thinking, feeling and acting
3. The influence of friends, family and other associates on adolescent alcohol and drug use
4. Rethinking the impact of social disadvantage on youth violence
5. Violence among young people: Social and cultural determinants and strategies for prevention
6. Preventing youth violence: what does and doesn’t work and why?

ARACY Annual Forum - Preventing youth violence: Why simplistic solutions won’t work

Facilitated by senior Sydney Morning Herald journalist, Mark Metherell, five expert panelists shared their insights and understanding on different dimensions of youth violence from policy, practice, research, political and youth perspectives.

Roundtable

The roundtable had a dual focus on the promotion of social and emotional health, and the prevention of violence in the early adolescent years. The event was generously hosted and supported by law firm Allens Arthur Robinson.

Middle Years

Middle Years Symposium

More than 150 people from across broadly based disciplines and sectors attended ARACY’s Middle Years Symposium in Canberra. The Symposium focused on the developmental needs, issues and challenges facing children aged 9-14 and featured presentations and panel discussions on individual, relationship and social factors that impact on children’s developmental outcomes as they move into the early adolescent years.

National Action Plan for Children and Young People workshop

(See Case study)

To read about other ARACY events, visit the ARACY website.
ARACY published a range of materials and resources for members and supporters during 2010. Publications were available free of charge on our website. Major publications are listed below. See the Case Study on Advancing Collaboration Practice publications for a complete list of collaboration resources published in 2010.

Conceptualisation of social and emotional wellbeing for children and young people, and policy implications

Preventing youth violence: What does and doesn’t work and why?

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians

Submission to the inquiry of the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia

Children, young people and social inclusion: Mobilising to address disadvantage on the NSW North Coast: A literature review

Fathers and families – working with fathers

Indicators of health and well-being for children and young people with disabilities: Mapping the terrain and proposing a human rights approach

Making the case for prevention science in Australia: A discussion paper

Review of international and national integrated service models for young people in the preadolescent and adolescent years: Benefits, barriers and enablers

Informing policy with evidence: successes, failures and surprises

ARACY Annual Report 2009

ARACY Research Network Annual Report 2009

For a complete list of ARACY publications, visit the Publications Library on the ARACY website.
### ARACY Update

The ARACY Update is a monthly online newsletter which includes topical information on ARACY’s work and issues of relevance to members about the wellbeing of children and young people.

The December 2010 issue was distributed to more than 3000 members and subscribers, an increase of 600 since the previous year.

The latest format was established in February 2010 to reflect online delivery and the expectations of online readers. In ARACY’s November 2010 member survey, 90 percent of respondents described the newsletter as ‘very useful’ or ‘somewhat useful’.

### eBulletin

The ARACY eBulletin is provided as a service to members and provides readers with a concise summary of Australia’s biggest political and news stories of the week affecting children and young people. The eBulletin was distributed on a weekly basis to nearly 2900 subscribers, a 27% increase on the previous year.

In ARACY’s November 2010 member survey, 88% of respondents found the eBulletin ‘very useful’ or ‘somewhat useful’. This was comparable with the two preceding years.

### Blogs and online member services

As 2010 closed, the Collaboration Team was preparing to launch three blogs:

- Social and Emotional Development
- Collaboration Management
- Children and Media

The blogs provide an opportunity to build a strong network of ARACY members and other readers interested in:

- exchanging information
- talking about their ideas, expertise, concerns and questions
- sharing practice and research information and reports.

Over time, the blogs are intended to be expanded to other topic areas. They offer members more targeted access to a network of people with a common research or practice interest than was possible with the previous members’ online discussion forum, which experienced reduced activity during the year.

At year’s end, some 400 members were registered for the Member Connect networking service and members also used the ‘Submit an event’ option on the ARACY website with an average of 60 visits per month over the year to this site.
Facilitating research collaboration

the formation of multidisciplinary, multi-sector collaborations to do the preparatory work needed to develop proposals to secure funding from other sources.

During 2010, the Seed Funding program continued to support projects commenced in previous years.

Bid to establish a Cooperative Research Centre for Young Australians

2010 also saw the active exploration of strategies to build on the goodwill, expertise and networks developed by the ARACY Research Network under the direction of Professor Ann Sanson. While the CRC bid to fund the establishment of a prevention-focused Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Young Australians was unsuccessful, a range of options were subsequently under consideration including a further bid in 2011-12.

Research sub-networks

The convenors of the ARACY Research Network (2004-09) facilitated and supported several sub-networks to bring together people with specific research interests and expertise. As the year ended, a proposal was under development to continue to develop and support these research-based networks.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments in research collaboration.

Seed funding collaborations

Over the five years of the ARACY Research Network from 2004-09, $1.08 million in seed funding was awarded to 51 new collaborations. The program provided funding of up to $40,000 to support
Collaborative projects
Events

ARACY staged a series of five Access Grid seminars on *Understanding adolescent behaviour from different perspectives*, attended by several hundred people. Expert presenters explored dimensions of adolescent behaviour from biological, psychological and sociological disciplinary perspectives. A further seminar presented by Lisa Smith from Minds at Work took participants through practical exercises to encourage creative thinking and problem solving focused on applying evidence in policy and program decisions.

The ARACY Annual Forum featured a panel discussion on the topic *Preventing Youth Violence: why simplistic solutions won’t work*. Experts from research, policy, service provision, the youth sector and the media took part in the forum in Canberra. The discussion highlighted the need for broad strategies that operate on multiple levels of the young person’s life to more effectively promote prosocial behaviour and reduce antisocial behaviour.

ARACY conducted the *Preventing Youth Violence roundtable* in July in Melbourne to build collaborative capacity. More than 40 people from across policy, practice, research, community development, advocacy and youth sectors participated in the roundtable meeting which had a dual focus on the promotion of social and emotional health, and the prevention of violence in the early adolescent years. The event was generously hosted and supported by law firm Allens Arthur Robinson.

More than 150 senior personnel from across broadly based disciplines and sectors attended the one-day *Middle Years Symposium* in Canberra, Symposium. Fifteen expert presenters contributed to sessions and panel discussions on factors that influence social and emotional development in early adolescence, and the current and required policy and practice responses to these influences. The last session of the Symposium was dedicated to *identifying actions* required to take forward a ‘Middle Years Agenda’.

This project aims to develop collaborative strategies based on the best available evidence of ‘what works’ to reduce violent and antisocial behaviour in young people.

Premised on the assumption that youth violence is symptomatic of a breakdown in the socialisation process that supports children and young people to develop emotional and social skills, the project focuses on children aged 9-14. During these crucial ‘middle years’ major biological and neurological changes are coupled with expanding social influences which, together, provide an opportunity for effective early intervention.

During 2010, ARACY conducted a range of activities to promote a shared understanding of factors that influence behaviour (both prosocial and antisocial) among young people and to inform evidence-based decisions and actions aimed at promoting social and emotional health and prevent violent and antisocial behaviour by young people.
Reports and submissions

The report Preventing youth violence: what does and doesn’t work and why reviewed the evidence on youth violence prevention programs. Prepared for ARACY by Professor Sheryl Hemphill and Rachel Smith of the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, it included a summary of the key principles and success factors of programs and approaches that are most effective in preventing youth violence. The authors also presented their findings at an Access Grid Seminar.

ARACY gave evidence to a Parliamentary inquiry into the impact of violence on young people. The inquiry report drew significantly on ARACY’s submission, with many of the recommendations aligning with those made by ARACY.

ARACY also made a submission to the Inquiry into the mental health of children and young people in Western Australia conducted by the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Commissioner was due to report in early 2011.

Middle Years E-Survey

ARACY conducted a preliminary Middle Years E-Survey of members and stakeholders, testing support for a targeted policy and practice response to the developmental needs and issues facing children aged 9-14. Early results indicated strong support for the proposition that early adolescence represents a distinct developmental phase which requires a targeted approach and that the developmental needs of children aged 9-14 were not being adequately addressed.

Conclusion

Based on input from members and stakeholders, the Preventing Youth Violence Project was being reframed towards the end of 2010, with a primary focus on promoting social and emotional health in early adolescence.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Preventing Youth Violence Project.
Preventive and non-stigmatising, the model is based on establishing a trusting partnership and on modelling behaviour while supporting the young mothers and their immediate family. The model works on multiple levels to address the various factors that contribute to the development of the young child, including the health of mother and child, mother’s confidence in her parenting skills and abilities, connection to the community and the mother’s employment or education prospects.

The Nurse Family Partnership model developed by Professor David Olds (University of Colorado, Denver) stood out as the best practice model. This rigorously researched and evaluated program has demonstrated significant long-term impact over the past three decades.

ARACY developed a business case for the development of an Australian model of a nurse-led early home visiting service based on best practice, working with leading Australian experts and two collaborative community projects to conduct a randomised controlled trial the program in disadvantaged areas. The trial will run over four years and provide the evidence needed to inform future policy decisions about home visiting programs in this country.

The development phase of the project and partnership with NAB concluded in April 2010 with the presentation of the business case for funding of the proposed intervention.

During 2010, ARACY began fruitful discussions with several major Australian philanthropies and was successful in obtaining the commitment for significant support. Fund raising will continue in 2011, with good prospects to start the development work by mid-2011. (See Case study on Innovation through collaboration.)

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Child Readiness To Learn Project.
In August, ARACY hosted a roundtable of 23 experts, practitioners and policy makers in the areas of media, education, and parenting and early childhood development at the Australian Children’s Television Foundation in Melbourne.

The roundtable participants considered strategies to enhance media literacy of children, parents, carers and teachers; and strategies to facilitate the development of appropriate content for children in this age range.

The roundtable concluded with agreement that cross-sectoral action needed to be taken to address these issues, and further that:

- quality age-appropriate television programs are widely considered beneficial to the development and wellbeing of children
- preschool television in Australia is poorly funded resulting in a corresponding drop in quality and Australian content
- there is a need to empower parents to make informed choices about their children’s media exposure.

As the year closed a project proposal was under discussion to provide parents and carers with tools and resources to help them make informed choices about media to ensure that their child’s media experience is a positive one.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Young Children and the Media project.

Media use in the early years of a child’s development is critical, and media patterns established in this period have long-term implications for cognitive development and future media use. This makes the focus on the patterns of media use and the content of media consumed in the early years of childhood all the more important.

This project aims to identify and act on media strategies to enhance the wellbeing of young children between 2 and 8 years of age.

Young children and the media: A discussion paper, was released in April and provided a brief summary of the available Australian and international research literature on media use and the wellbeing of young children aged between 0 and 8 years.
It also limits our ability to assess the success of the sector as a whole and determine the effectiveness of policy and resourcing decisions made by government and other funding agencies.

In 2010, the project completed its preliminary research phase which culminated in a roundtable of 15 experts and practitioners held at The Smith Family offices in Canberra in May. The roundtable based its discussion on the ARACY paper *Measuring the Outcomes of Community Organisations* prepared with the generous assistance of KPMG, and on a series of project options presented by ARACY and the project’s Advisory Group.

Based on the roundtable findings outlined in a *communique* issued in July, the Advisory Group was expanded. ARACY also developed detailed project concept to design a common outcome measurement framework for community organisations working with children and young people, and to facilitate and evaluate a trial of the framework.

In 2011 this project will be developed into a business case and the project partnership expanded to include required expertise and trial site organisations. ARACY hopes to start the trials towards the end of 2011.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the *Measuring the Outcomes of Community Organisations* Project.

The Measuring the Outcomes of Community Organisations (MOCO) project investigates and aims to address issues associated with evaluating the impact of community organisations working to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

Traditionally, there has been a lack of effective and agreed methods of measurement and reporting in the not-for-profit sector. Because of this failure to measure what they achieve, organisations are sometimes unable to demonstrate the value and impact of their work. This limits their ability to attract support for their programs, affecting their long-term viability and ability to deliver services to clients.
ARACY considers the best way to protect children is to prevent child maltreatment from occurring in the first place. Families and children need to be provided with the assistance and community supports they need before harm occurs.

The 2009 ARACY report *Inverting the pyramid: enhancing systems for protecting children* identifies national and international strategies that are effective in protecting children and reducing demand on tertiary child protection services. ARACY was then commissioned by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCHSIA) to take forward the strategies identified in the report. This work is incorporated under the Australian Government’s National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020.

The Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) Taskforce met in February to consider the development of the practical mechanism for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children agreed to in the previous December. This mechanism (subsequently called the Needs Identification Mechanism) aims to:

- give universal service providers (such as doctors, nurses, teachers, child care workers) a way to identify and respond to early indicators of need that is simple, flexible, easy to use, evidence-based and adaptable for use in different services
- strengthen collaboration among service providers by promoting a common language and consistent approach to information sharing and referral within and between services
- facilitate a timely and child- and family-friendly pathway of support for children, young people and their families.
A separate Technical Working Group provided expert advice on the key components of the mechanism including:

- practice principles
- wellbeing domains and example indicators against which needs and strengths are mapped,
- professional judgement questions and prompts
- a self-assessment questionnaire.

Following a period of consultation with key stakeholders the final report was for consideration at the CAARS Taskforce meeting in June. It included a plan for piloting the needs-identification mechanism and options for testing. With the agreement of the Taskforce the final report was presented to the Federal Families Minister Jenny Macklin on 30 June.

A proposal to trial the approach in the community was developed by ARACY in 2010 and under consideration by the Australian Government as the year ended.

In addition, AMP have generously assisted ARACY in scoping the IT specifications for a national directory of services database. It is hoped that this will be progressed alongside the CAARS work in the future.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the CAARS Project.
The project objectives include:

- mapping current research on early childhood development, especially as it pertains to national policies, including information on significant research evaluations
- identifying gaps in current evidence on early childhood development needs, especially as they pertain to national policies.

The project is being overseen by a Reference Group made up of experts from across the early childhood development sector.

As part of the consultation process workshops were conducted in four capital cities in October and November. There was also considerable interest in issues such as ‘what is good parenting?’ and how does one communicate this to all parents. Related to this there was general acknowledgement that whole communities need to become engaged in the early years of children — with a focus on creating dialogues across sectors, professions and jurisdictions.

ARACY then partnered with Charles Sturt University to develop the project further.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Early Childhood Development Research Gaps Project.
Climate change and children

The project involved:

- a brief literature review of the likely social, economic and health/wellbeing impacts of climate change on the children and young people including reviewing various methods used to assess these impacts on children and young people, and examining ways for integrating children’s and young people’s views and opinions in decision making

- investigating the views of 24 well-known climate change and child and youth health and wellbeing experts including young people in two consecutive rounds of interviews using an adaption of the Delphi method. These experts shared their views on the importance, impacts and challenges posed by climate change on health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Overall, the project has received considerable support and encouragement. Most of the people interviewed were well informed about the impacts of climate change and considered it as an intergenerational issue that needs to be tackled by engaging in healthy conversations and discussions. They also agreed that children and young people’s involvement in policy decisions is crucial and measures should be taken to address this.

The final report will include contributions from the experts interviewed and a preliminary review of current research on the social, economic, health and wellbeing impacts of climate change in the Australian context.

Visit the ARACY website for the latest developments on the Climate Change and Children Project.
About ARACY
ARACY is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
ABN 68 100 902 921

It is a not-for-profit company and an Approved Research Institute with deductible gift recipient status and tax exemption.

www.aracy.org.au
enquiries@aracy.org.au

Staff

At 31 December 2010, ARACY employed 21 staff in offices in Canberra, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne.

ARACY staff can be contacted individually through the website, or at enquiries@aracy.org.au.

Offices

Canberra (head office)
Ground floor, 16 Mort Street
Canberra ACT 2600
+61 2 6248 2400

Perth
Level 13 Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005
+61 8 9476 7800

Sydney
Level 9, 117 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000
+61 2 9085 7247

Melbourne
Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne
Royal Children’s Hospital, Flemington Road
Parkville VIC 3052
+61 3 9345 4164
Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth

ARACY’s primary funding is received from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Since ARACY’s inception in 2002, FaHCSIA has made significant contributions to our work, granting infrastructure funding in support of our operational costs.

We are deeply grateful for the vision and commitment of FaHCSIA and the following partners that currently support our work:

- **Education Partner**: National Australia Bank
- **Research Partners**: Fred P Archer Charitable Trust
- **Governance Partner**: Ernst & Young
- **Advocacy Partner**: The Caledonia Foundation

and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

We are also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the following businesses, who are providing in-kind professional expertise in support of our projects:

**Supporting ARACY’s Protecting Children program**

- AMP

**Supporting ARACY’s Young Children and the Media program**

- Australian Children’s Television Foundation

**Supporting ARACY’s Advancing Collaboration Practice and Measuring the Outcomes of Community Organisations programs**

- KPMG

We thank our partners that provide invaluable pro-bono office space for our project managers and administrative support:

- FaHCSIA / DEEWR | Canberra office
- West Australian State Government | Perth office
- Royal Hospital for Children, Melbourne | Melbourne office
- The Smith Family | Sydney office
ARACY's capacity to achieve its mission and vision is based on strong support from a diverse range of organisations and individuals.

At the close of 2010, ARACY had 1481 members (467 organisational and 1014 individual members). This was an increase of 22% over the year.

Our members range across all aspects of research, policy, practice, service delivery and education. They work in a broad range of areas, including early childhood and adolescent development, psychology, paediatrics, epidemiology, education, justice, the social sciences, population statistics and economics.

Since ARACY's inception, membership has continued to grow, both in numbers and diversity. In 2010, there was again significant growth in new members, with the continued implementation of ARACY's Membership Strategy and refinements to develop new or enhanced member benefits.

See a list of our organisational members.
Outcomes of 2010 survey

ARACY conducted its annual survey in November 2010 to gauge the effectiveness of activities and services provided to members. The results were generally consistent with previous years.

ARACY is having a positive impact in improving the wellbeing children and young people. ARACY provides value for me and / or my organisation.
In 2010, ARACY made progress in diversifying our funding sources for project work. Whilst we continue to retain strong support from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for our membership servicing and collaborative projects, this funding was reduced from 1 July 2010 due to government funding constraints. Further, 2009 was the final year of the government's funding of all ARC Research networks. Consequently, ARACY revenue fell from approximately $3 million in 2009 to just over $2.5m in 2010.

In 2010, we entered a new project agreement with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to perform some work on early childhood development research gaps. We are also very grateful to DEEWR for assisting us to relocate our Canberra office space in 2010 and look forward to further mutually beneficial working relationships with them.

Due to our forecast revenues falling for 2010, we needed to implement some cost reductions and hence total expenditure fell from $3.8m in 2009 to $2.7m in 2010. Some of the higher expenditure in 2009 was in fact an investment in improved technologies and has meant we are now able to operate and service our membership more cost effectively.

Our ongoing investment in fundraising has resulted in pledged philanthropic donations of at least $2.1m for a project we intend to be realised in 2011.

ARACY's Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2010 was audited by Ernst & Young Canberra in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001.

A copy of ARACY's Annual Financial Report is available on request or from our website — www.aracy.org.au.
Expenditure by category

- Corporate and Governance (21%)
- Communications and Membership (11%)
- Collaborative Projects (38%)
- Other Projects; CAARS and Early Childhood (21%)
- Change For Children and National Action Plan (3%)
- Research Network and NIN (6%)
Appendix 1:
Advocacy activities during 2010

- 24 February — Presentation by Ms Deirdre Croft to the Australian Government Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impact of violence on young Australians
- 4 March — ARACY Research Network workshop convened by Professor Ann Sanson in Melbourne on A Workshop for Knowledge Brokers: What do we do, how do we do it, how do we know it works?
- 25 March — presentation by Professor Ann Sanson to the Brotherhood of St Laurence monthly professional development series in Melbourne on Improving the wellbeing of young Australians — the role of prevention science.
- 22 April — Measuring Outcomes of Community Organisations Roundtable convened by Ms Jennifer Pidgeon in Canberra
- 31 May — The ARACY Annual Forum for members was held in Canberra on the theme of Preventing youth violence: why simplistic solutions won’t work
- 1 June — presentation by Dr Lance Emerson at the Australian Health Promotion Conference in Melbourne on Tools for collaboration
- 5 July — Preventing Youth Violence Roundtable convened by Ms Deirdre Croft in Melbourne (with the support of law firm Allens Arthur Robinson)
- September — presentation by Ms Deirdre Croft to the Parenting Help line Association Conference in Perth
- 12 October – presentation by Dr Lance Emerson at the launch of the Preventing Youth Violence report via a national Access Grid.
- October — presentation by Deirdre Croft to the Masters of Criminology Course Graduates in Perth
• 27 October — presentation by Ms Jennifer Pidgeon to the Making a Difference Tomorrow Conference in Sydney on *The Pros and Cons of Cross Agency and Cross Sectoral Work*

• 3 November — presentation by Dr Lance Emerson at the Family Relationship Services Australia Conference in Melbourne on *Collaboration to enhance child protection: Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support and other strategies to identify and respond to needs earlier*

• November — Submission to the Inquiry by the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People into *The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia*

• 25 November — [ARACY Middle Years Symposium held in Canberra](#)

• 2 December — Dr Norman Swan facilitated a meeting of parliamentary representatives and Australia's top academic, policy and service delivery leaders to develop a [National Action Plan](#) for Children and Young People. [The Change for Children website](#) was also launched on this day.
Appendix 2: ARACY committees and working groups

ARACY convenes many committees, taskforces and research groups to provide high-level strategic advice and direction to guide ARACY activities. The most significant groups are listed below, with other groups available at the ARACY website.

**ARACY Research Committee**

In keeping with ARACY’s deductible gift recipient taxation status, a research fund has been established to receive all gifts. An eight-member Research Committee oversees the disbursement of any gifts received, in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Taxation Office.

**Professor Fiona Stanley AC (Chair),** Board Chair of ARACY and Director, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

**Dr John Ainley (Former member),** Deputy Director, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

**Professor Alan Hayes,** Director, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

**Professor Ross Homel AO,** Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University in Brisbane

**Professor Brian Oldenburg,** Professor and Chair of International Health, Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, Monash University

**Professor Ann Sanson,** ARACY Research Network Coordinator, Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne

**Professor Graham Vimpani,** Professor of Community Child Health and Head of the Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Newcastle

**Advancing Collaboration Practice Advisory Group**

The Advisory Group provides strategic guidance and advice on the development and implementation of the Advancing Collaborative Practice program.

**Dr Lance Emerson,** CEO, ARACY

**Mr David Hannaford,** General Manager, Tresillian Family Care Centres

**Prof Brian Head,** Professorial Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland

**Mr Rich Krasnoff,** Managing Director, Strategy and Performance Associates

**Ms Annette Michaux,** General Manager, Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society

**Ms Jan Owen AM,** CEO, Foundation for Young Australians

**Prof Ian Palmer,** Pro Vice-Chancellor and Vice President, College of Business, RMIT University

**Prof Ann Sanson,** Professor in Paediatrics, University of Melbourne
Common Approach to Assessment and Referral (CAARS) Taskforce

The Taskforce’s primary role is to guide development of a common approach to assessment and referral and improved mechanisms for sharing information and facilitating support pathways for vulnerable children and families.

Co-convenors:

The Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Professor Fiona Stanley, Chair, ARACY

Taskforce members – government:

Ms Linda Apelt, Department of Communities, Queensland
Alternate: Ms Anne Kilner, Ms Anna Moynihan

Mr Mark Byrne, Disability, Youth, Child, and Family Services, Tasmania

Mr Martin Hehir, ACT Department of Disability, Housing & Community Services
Alternate: Mr Frank Duggan

Ms Fiona Lander, Department of Child Protection, Western Australia
Alternate: Mr David Cain, Dr Susan Diamond

Mr Allan Joy, Department of Health and Families, Northern Territory Government

Ms Linda Mallett, NSW Department of Community Services
Alternate: Ms Susan Sarlos, Ms Susan Nicholson

Mr Mick Naughton, Department of Human Services, Victoria

Ms Lynette Pugh, Department for Families and Communities, South Australia
Alternate: Ms Susan O’Leary

Ms Cate McKenzie, Women & Children’s Policy, FaHCSIA

Taskforce members - non-government:

Mr Brian Babington, Families Australia

Ms Pam Cahir, Early Childhood Australia

Ms Gillian Calvert, Former Commissioner, NSW Commission for Children and Young People

Ms Debra Cerasa, Royal College of Nursing Australia
Alternate: Ms Elissa O’Keefe

Ms Belinda Ruth Epstein-Frisch, Institute for Family Advocacy and Leadership Development

Ms Lesley Fraser, Australian Guidance and Counselling Association
Alternate: Mr Tony Harris

A/Professor Kelsey Hegarty, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Professor Ian Hickie, Brain & Mind Research Institute
Alternate: Professor Stewart Einfeld

Mr Steve Larkins, Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

Professor Lyn Littlefield, The Australian Psychological Society

Ms Libby Lloyd, National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children

Dr Bob Lonne, Australian Association of Social Workers

Mr Paul Mason, Commission for Children and Young People Tasmania

Dr Chris McAuliffe, Australian General Practice Network

Mr Andrew McCallum, Association of Child Welfare Agencies

Dr Jenny Proimos FRACP, Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Alternate: Dr Sue Packer
Child Readiness to Learn Advisory Committee members

The Advisory Committee provides high-level guidance and advice to the project on activities for each stage of the project.

- **Ms Anne Lowagie**, (Chair) National Coordinator Collaborations, ARACY
- **Dr Lance Emerson**, CEO ARACY
- **Ms Perry Sperling**
- **Dr Rob Simons**, Head of Research and Evaluation, The Smith Family
- **Ms Maria Malvestuto**, Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, People & Culture, National Australia Bank

Early Childhood Development Research Reference Group

- **Dr Mindy Blaise**, Monash University
- **Prof Jennifer Bowes**, Macquarie University
- **Prof Deborah Brennan**, Social Policy Research Centre
- **Dr Sharon Goldfeld**, Centre for Community Child Health
- **Prof Anne Graham**, Southern Cross University
- **Dr Matthew Gray**, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- **Ms Marie Hamer**, Monash University
- **Ms Jatinder Kaur**, University of Queensland
- **Ms Karen Merange**, Playgroups Australia
- **Ms Jayne Meyer-Tucker**, Good Beginnings
- **Dr Tim Moore**, Centre for Community Child Health
Dr Sue Packer, Child at Risk Assessment Unit, Canberra Hospital
Mr Dawson Ruhl, Child Inclusive Learning and Development Australia
Dr Kylie Smith, University of Melbourne
Prof Jennifer Sumson, Charles Sturt University
Prof Collette Taylor, University of Melbourne
Dr Affrica Taylor, University of Canberra
Ms Ginie Udy, SDN Children’s Services
Prof Graham Vimpani, University of Newcastle
Dr John Ainley, Australian Council for Educational Research
Mr Glen Watson, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
Dr Russell Ayres, Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care, DEEWR
Ms Joan ten Brummelaar, Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care, DEEWR
Prof Donna Berthelsen, Queensland University of Technology
Associate Professor Ngaire Brown, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
Ms Pam Cahir, Early Childhood Australia
Prof Marilyn Fleer, Monash University
Prof Pauline Harris, University of South Australia
Associate Prof Linda Harrison, Charles Sturt University
Dr Susan Irvine, Queensland University of Technology
Prof Michael Keane, University of Technology Sydney
Ms June McLoughlin, Victorian Department of Education & Early Childhood

Prof Sven Silburn, Menzies School of Health Research
Dr Sarah Wise, Anglicare

Ex Officio:
Dr Lance Emerson, ARACY
Dr Geoff Holloway, ARACY
Ms Sue Ludwig, ARACY
Ms Jaya Negi, ARACY
Ms Kathryn Edmondson, DEEWR
Ms Mary Welsh, DEEWR
Ms Ngaire Hosking, DEEWR
Mr Scott Matheson, DEEWR
Ms Catherine Moore, DEEWR
Ms Gabrielle Phillips, DEEWR
Ms Robyn Shannon, DEEWR
Ms Mary Welsh, DEEWR
Cooperative Research Centre for Prevention Science for Children and Young People Bid Working Group

Professor Ann Sanson, University of Melbourne/ARACY Research Network
Professor Fiona Stanley, ARACY Board Chair
Dr Lance Emerson, ARACY
Professor Nick Allen, ORYGEN Research Centre
Dr Sharon Goldfeld, Centre for Community Child Health
Ms Ann Hampshire, Mission Australia
Prof Ross Homel, Griffith University
Professor Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales/SPRC
Dr Craig Olsson, Centre for Adolescent Health
Professor George Patton, Centre for Adolescent Health
Professor John Toumbourou, Deakin University
Professor Stephen Zubrick, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Network Advisory Committee

Professor Ann Sanson, ARACY Network Coordinator
Professor Fiona Stanley, ARACY Board Chair
Ms Anne Graham, Director, Centre for Children and Young People
Ms Anne Hampshire, National Manager, Research & Social Policy, Mission Australia
Ms Annette Michaux, General Manager, Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society

Professor Cindy Shannon, Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland
Professor Gabriele Bammer, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health
Mr Gary Robinson, Team Leader, Menzies School of Health Research
Professor Ilan Katz, University of New South Wales/SPRC
Ms Vanessa Beck, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Mr Michael White, MW Group
Ms Philippa Collin, Research and Policy Manager, Inspire Foundation
Professor Vicki Clifton, School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide
Dr Lance Emerson, (ex officio), CEO ARACY

Prevention Science Network Committee

Professor Ann Sanson, University of Melbourne/ARACY Research Network
Ms Jayne Meyer Tucker, CEO, Good Beginnings
Professor John Toumbourou, Deakin University
Ms Annette Michaux, General Manager, Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society
Prof Graham Vimpani, University of Newcastle
Dr Sophie Havighurst, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Training and Research in Developmental Health
Associate Professor Gary Robinson, Team Leader, Menzies School of Health Research
Dr Lynn Kemp, Program Manager of Early Childhood Research, Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation
Professor Stephen Zubrick, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
Knowledge Brokering Working Group

The role of this group is to develop and guide activities to build effective knowledge brokering skills among researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

Professor Ann Sanson, (Chair) Network Coordinator, ARACY Research Network
Professor Gabriele Bammer, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, The Australian National University
Professor Cathy Humphreys, Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare, University of Melbourne
Ms Annette Michaux, General Manager, Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Indicators Reference Group

This group was initially convened in 2008 to consider issues related to data/indicators on social and emotional wellbeing of children and youth at a national level in Australia. In 2009 the group was reconvened to oversee and provide advice on commissioning the two papers now being prepared by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Dr Geoff Holloway (Chair), ARACY
Professor Fiona Stanley, ARACY
Dr Lance Emerson, ARACY

Professor Ann Sanson, ARACY
Dr John Ainley, Australian Council for Educational Research
Professor Michael Bernard, Australian Council for Educational Research
Ms Adele Butler, Australian Council for Educational Research
Ms Sushma Mathur, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Dr Penny Allbon, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Dr Fadwa Al-yaman, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Mr Richard Eckersley, Australian National University
Professor George Patton, Centre for Community Child Health
Dr Sharon Goldfeld, Centre for Community Child Health
Professor Alan Hayes, Australian Institute of Family Studies
Professor Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre (UNSW)
Mr Gerry Redmond, Social Policy Research Centre (UNSW)
Mr Bob McColl, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Dr Joanne Williams, Centre for Adolescent Health
Ms Aivee Chew, UNICEF
About this annual report

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The Communication Manager
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
PO Box 5070
Braddon ACT 2612