



Kara Thomas

***Australian Child Protection Laws & Services:
Are the Kids OK?***

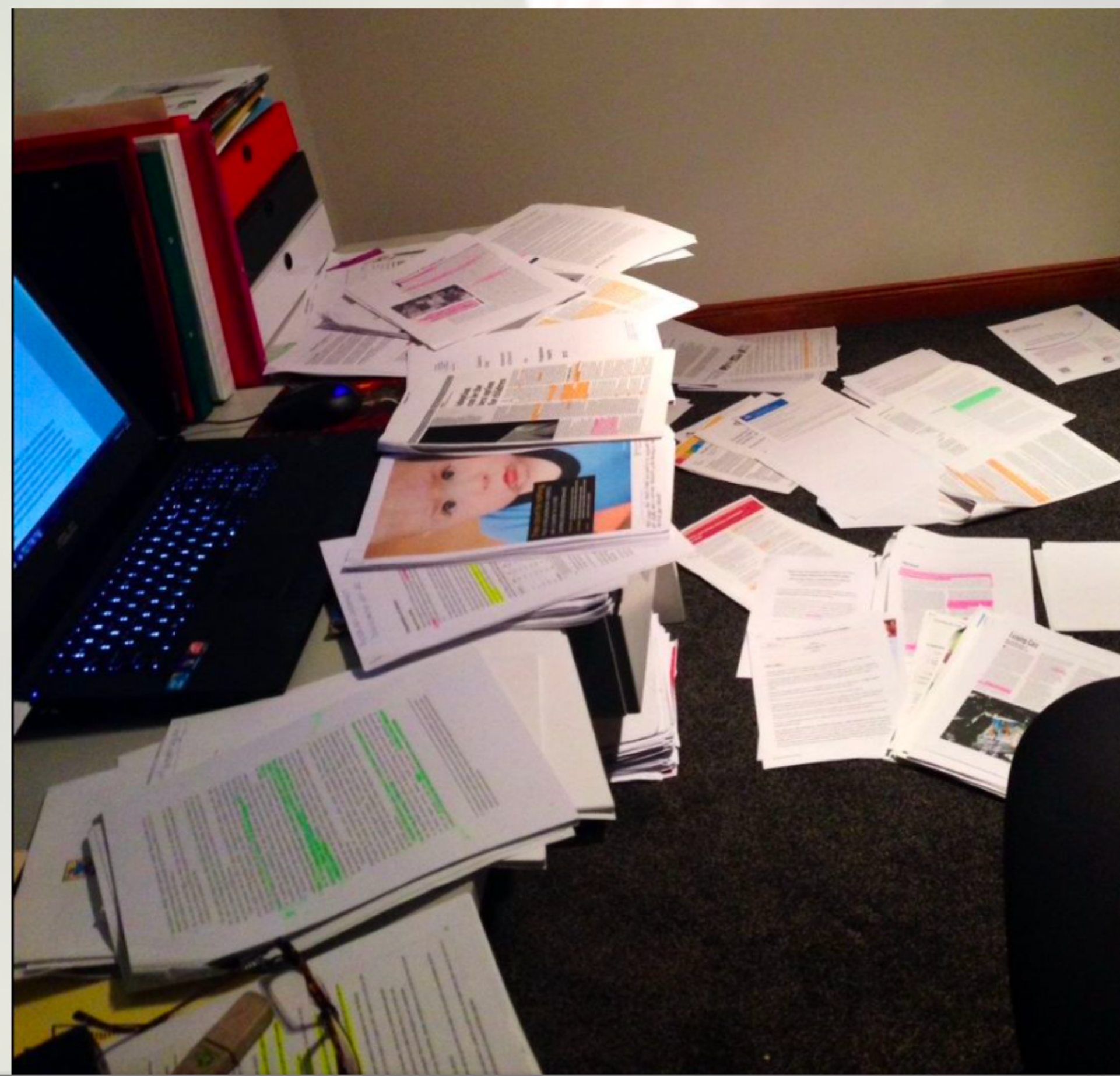




Australian Child Protection Laws and Services: Are the kids OK?

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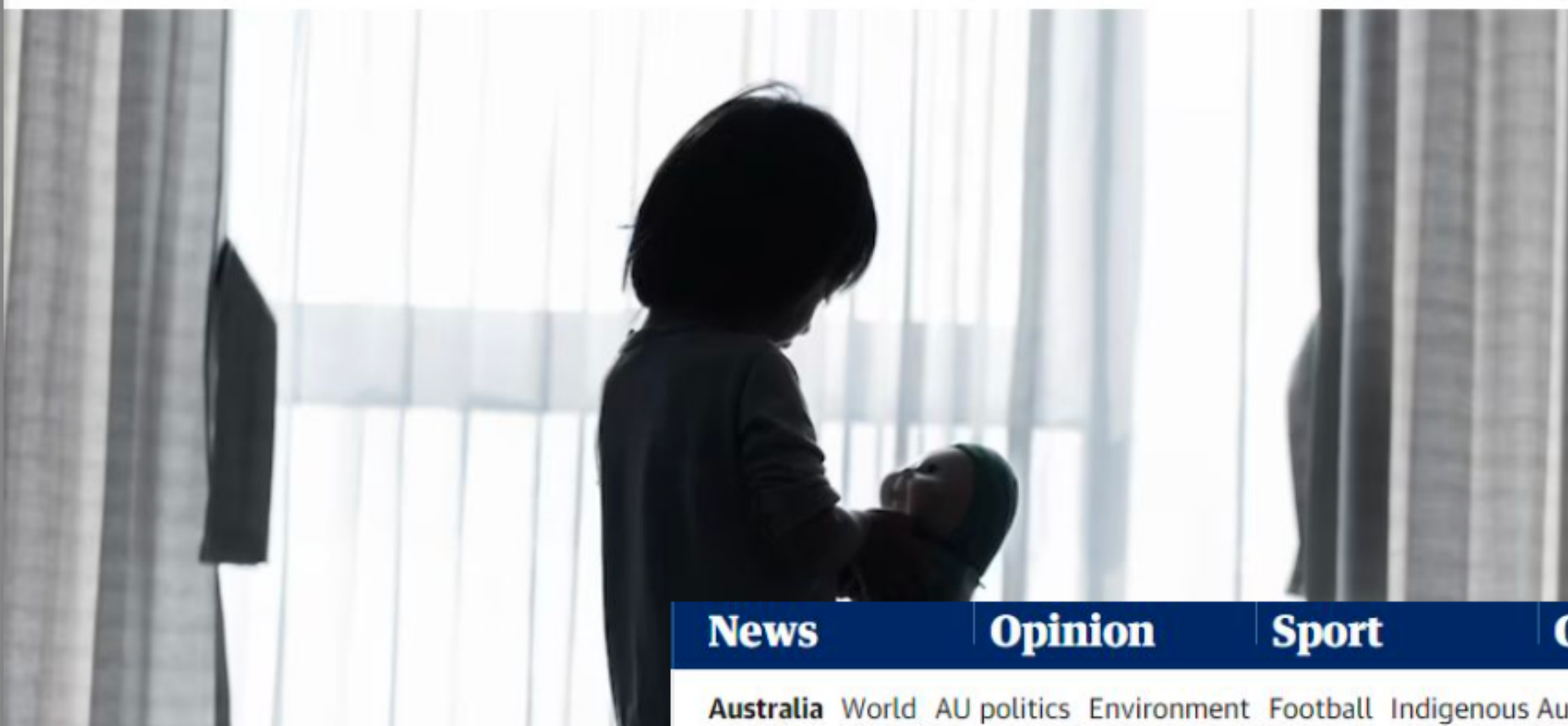
Australian Child Protection Laws and Services: Are the kids OK?



Queensland Children's Commissioner 'incredibly concerned' by rising number of infants in residential care

Beth Cramsie

Thu 6 Jul 2023 at 8:07am



News > Queensland

Shock rise in kids at risk in residential care despite pledge to get numbers to 'near zero'

The number of young kids in the state's troubled residential care system has ballooned by almost 10 per cent in the last 12 months, with dozens of them aged four and under.

Stephanie Bennett State Political Reporter

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Queensland failing children in residential care as key provider shuts its doors, peak body says

'These kids have already been let down by all of the adults in their lives,' Youth Advocacy Centre says

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Foster carer numbers decline amid cost-of-living crisis while demand for help soars

ABC South West Vic / By Daniel Miles and Jeremy Lee

Posted Sun 26 Mar 2023 at 10:21 am



THE LOST CHILDREN WHY THE UNITED NATIONS IS WRONG ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CHILD PROTECTION

An entrenched policy mindset continues to put family preservation above child safety, argues **Kara Thomas**

An escalating child welfare crisis

Every five years Australia is required to report to the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The 2016 Australian Child Rights Progress Report (the CRC report), prepared by the Australian Child Rights Taskforce, drew attention to the experiences of Australia's most vulnerable children—those who are 'known' to child protection services due to parental abuse and neglect—with the aim of holding the Australian government to account on its commitment to the Convention.¹

The purpose of the Convention, in the words of the CRC report, is to 'build a better world for children'. The report 'calls on governments to take responsibility for children by addressing specific aspects of child wellbeing and development—such as health, education, protection and participation.'²

Despite some 39 federal and state government inquiries, reviews and royal commissions into child safety over the past decade,³ the CRC report reveals that maltreatment tragically remains a very real part of childhood for an increasing number of young Australians.⁴ This is clearly shown by the publicly available child protection data. For example, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the proportion of Australian children who need to be removed from the custody of their parents and require placement in government-

children are properly cared for and protected from abuse and neglect. The report also notes that since the federal parliament ratified the Convention in 1990, there has been a dramatic increase in notifications of child abuse and neglect nationally, to the extent that state and territory child protection systems cannot sustain the current demand for investigation and removal in cases of child maltreatment.⁷

And yet the approach taken in the CRC report by the Australian Child Rights Taskforce—which is a self-appointed peak body for the promotion of child rights in Australia; which consists of 100 member organisations spanning advocacy, law and social services; and which is co-convened by UNICEF Australia—is flawed. The report's major recommendations will not ensure that Australian governments secure children's human right to be protected from maltreatment.

Doubling down on failure

In the period since at least the ratification of the Convention, child safety policy and practice in all Australian jurisdictions have been underpinned by the principle of family preservation. Targeted prevention, early intervention and family support services are employed in response to reported concerns about child welfare with the aim of



Breaking the Cycle: The Positive Impact of Timely Permanency Decisions on Child Development

A Queensland Foster Carer's Perspective

By Mrs Kara J. Thomas

Edited by Dr Daniel I. Thomas

"It is easier to build strong Children than to repair broken Men"

Frederick Douglass

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela

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Brisbane Today ☀️ 5°/23° >



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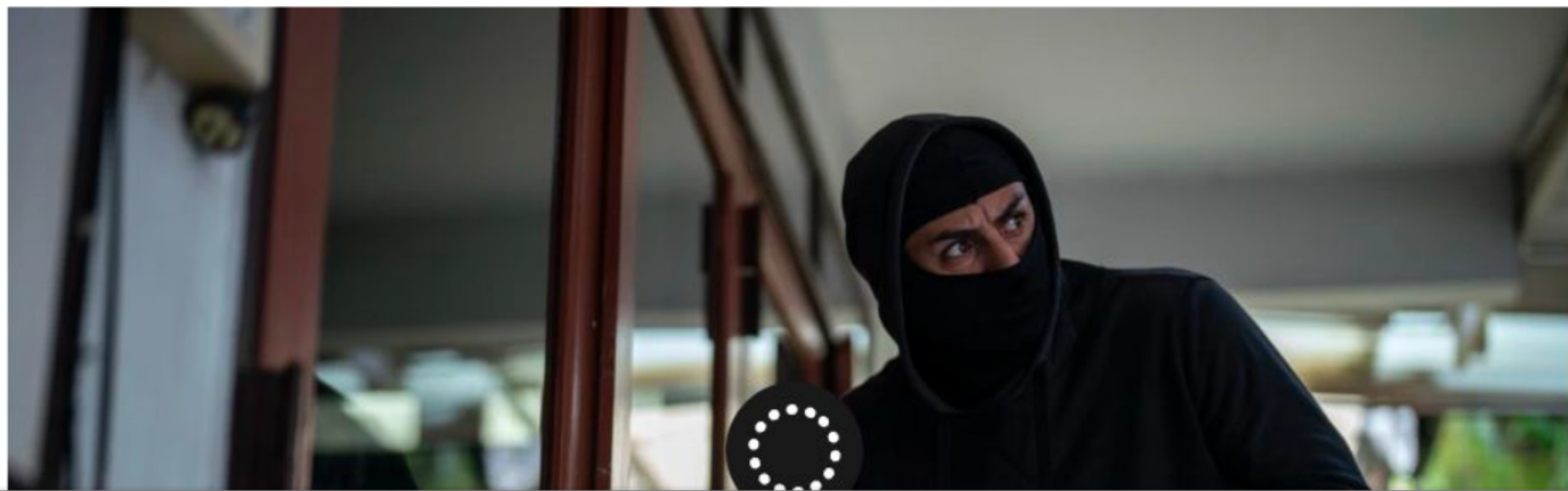
Youth crime Qld: More than 70 serious offenders in residential care

More than 70 of Queensland's serious youth offenders are living in "melting pot" state-run care homes on suburban streets where they're enticed into committing crimes, as facilities struggle to cope.

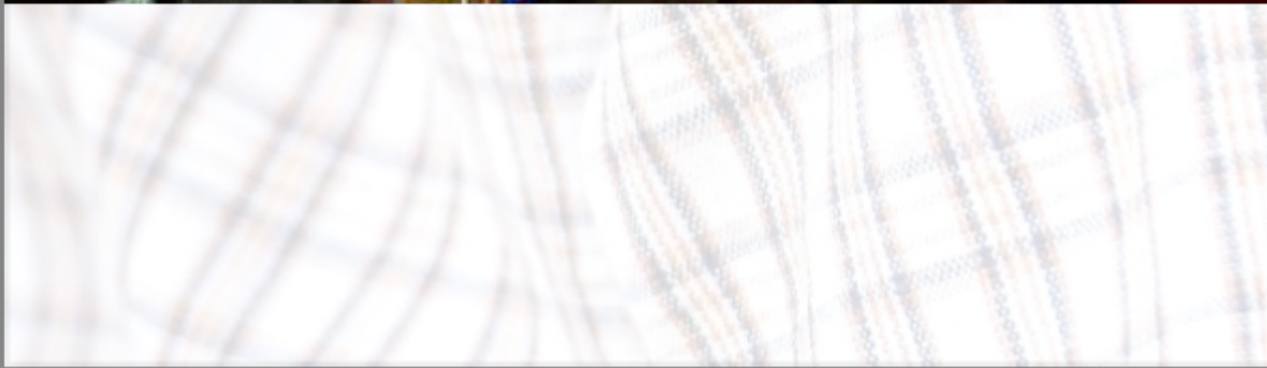
[Stephanie Bennett](#) and [Shayla Bulloch](#)

🕒 4 min read May 15, 2023 - 12:00AM Courier Mail

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SUNDAY WITH STOKER
KARA THOMAS | NURSES' PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
AUST CHILD SAFETY UNDER MICROSCOPE

The Daily Telegraph

BRITAIN'S BEST QUALITY NEWSPAPER

Lockdown 'harmed nearly half of children'

Youngsters more worried and less confident after damage to emotional development

By Louisa Clarence-Smith EDUCATION EDITOR and Blathnaid Corless

LOCKDOWNS damaged the emotional development of almost half of children, a study has shown.

Parents said that they appeared more worried, more easily lost confidence and were more prone to tantrums and low moods after Covid lockdowns.

The findings have emerged in the first study of its kind into the effect of lockdowns on children's behaviour and emotional development, after a survey of more than 6,000 parents in England by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the UCL Institute of Education.

Just under half of parents said their child's social and emotional skills had worsened during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, revealing that the effect of lockdowns has extended beyond lost academic progress.

It comes as separate research published today shows that eating disorders among children have doubled in the last six years, which Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, told *The Daily Telegraph* may have been caused by children spending more time online during lockdowns.

About 11,800 people under the age of 18 began treatment on the NHS for eating disorders in 2022-23, up from 5,240 in 2016-17.

Dame Rachel, who analysed the figures, warned children need to be "robustly protected" from harmful online content, which they may have become more exposed to in isolation in Covid lockdowns.

Commenting on research from UCL and the IFS, she said: "This study shows that the disruption the pandemic caused to children's development has been long-lasting.

"It is vital that the right social and emotional support is made available to allow children the chance to recover and go on to achieve all that they want to."

She said she was concerned about the

children's mental health is becoming more and more evident.

"I worry that the isolation many children faced in the lockdowns not only led to children being cut off from support networks and vital health services, but also to spending more time online."

The Telegraph has reported extensively on the effect of lockdowns and school closures on children.

The UCL and IFS study found that job insecurity among parents during lockdowns, including those placed on furlough, had harmed children's social and emotional development.

It is the latest evidence of the damage of Covid lockdowns, including their economic consequences, on a generation of children.

Government data show that persistent absence from school has doubled since the pandemic, with 1.7 million pupils now missing at least 10 per cent of school time.

The number of pupils who miss 50 per cent of lessons has doubled, with 125,000 now skipping most of their schooling in a phenomenon that ministers have been warned could cause a surge in youth crime.

Education leaders are also worried about the effect of lockdowns on this year's exam cohorts.

They have warned that teenagers in England who missed out on sitting their GCSEs in the pandemic will be set up for a reality check when they receive their A-level results later this month, as they become the first Covid cohort to experience a return to pre-pandemic grading standards.

Anne Longfield, who served as Children's Commissioner during the pandemic, said: "The impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing and development of many of our children is extremely alarming.

"I am not convinced though that the Government fully grasps the scale of the problem or the long-term consequences for our society and economy."

The IFS and UCL surveyed 6,095 parents living in England with children aged between four and 16 in February

Broad bows out on a high as England level Ashes



Stuart Broad and his fiancée, Mollie King, with their daughter Arrabella on the final day of the Ashes. The fast bowler secured the fairy-tale finish he wanted as England floored Australia at the Oval to square the series 2-2. The 37-year-old took the last two wickets as he headed into retirement in triumph with a 40-run win. Sport: Pages 1-7

One drink a day increases blood pressure

By Joe Pinkstone SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

HAVING one drink a day increases your blood pressure, a study suggests.

Researchers said people should avoid alcohol altogether after finding for the first time that routinely drinking, even in small quantities, can be harmful.

Studies previously suggested there is no increased risk from a small amount, but the new research shows that even a daily glass of wine a day has an impact.

High blood pressure puts strain on blood vessels, heart and other organs, such as the brain, kidneys and eyes. It can lead to problems including heart attacks, strokes and vascular dementia.

Researchers looked at seven studies in the US, Japan and Korea spanning two decades, with information on

consumed. The scientists of the study, the first of its kind, were "surprised" to find an increase in blood pressure from low consumption levels.

Medication can lower blood pressure but diet and exercise, as well as other lifestyle factors, are the best way to keep a healthy blood pressure.

"We found no beneficial effects in adults who drank a low level of alcohol compared to those who did not drink alcohol," said study author Marco Vinceti, an adjunct professor at Boston University's school of public health.

"We were surprised that consuming an already low level of alcohol was also linked to higher blood pressure changes over time compared to no consumption - although far less than the blood pressure increase seen in heavy drinkers.

"Alcohol is certainly not the sole

it is even better." For the average adult high blood pressure is considered to be from 140/90 millimeters of mercury (mmHg), according to the NHS. Systolic blood pressure - the first number in the reading - increased by 1.25 mmHg for every 12 grams of ethanol consumed.

Diastolic pressure - the second number in the reading - spiked by 1.14 units in people who consume an average of 12 grams of pure alcohol a day.

A single unit in the UK is around 10ml of ethanol, as this is the amount the

glasses of wine a week. The effect was also seen in people who drank more than a glass every day.

People who consumed 48 grams of alcohol per day saw an average increase in systolic blood pressure of 4.9 mmHg. Men consuming 48 grams of alcohol per day saw their diastolic blood pressure rise by an average of 3.1 mmHg, the authors found.

The NHS guidelines advise men and women not to drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week.

Data showed that small amounts of alcohol led to elevated blood pressure for all, but those with already high blood pressure saw greater increases.

"This suggests that people with a trend towards increased - although still not 'high' - blood pressure may benefit the most from low to no alcohol con-

"We found no beneficial effects in adults who drank a low level compared to those who did not drink"

150 million additional children plunged into poverty due to COVID-19, UNICEF, Save the Children say

New analysis reveals the number of children living in multidimensional poverty – without access to education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation, or water – has increased by 15 per cent since the start of the pandemic

16 September 2020

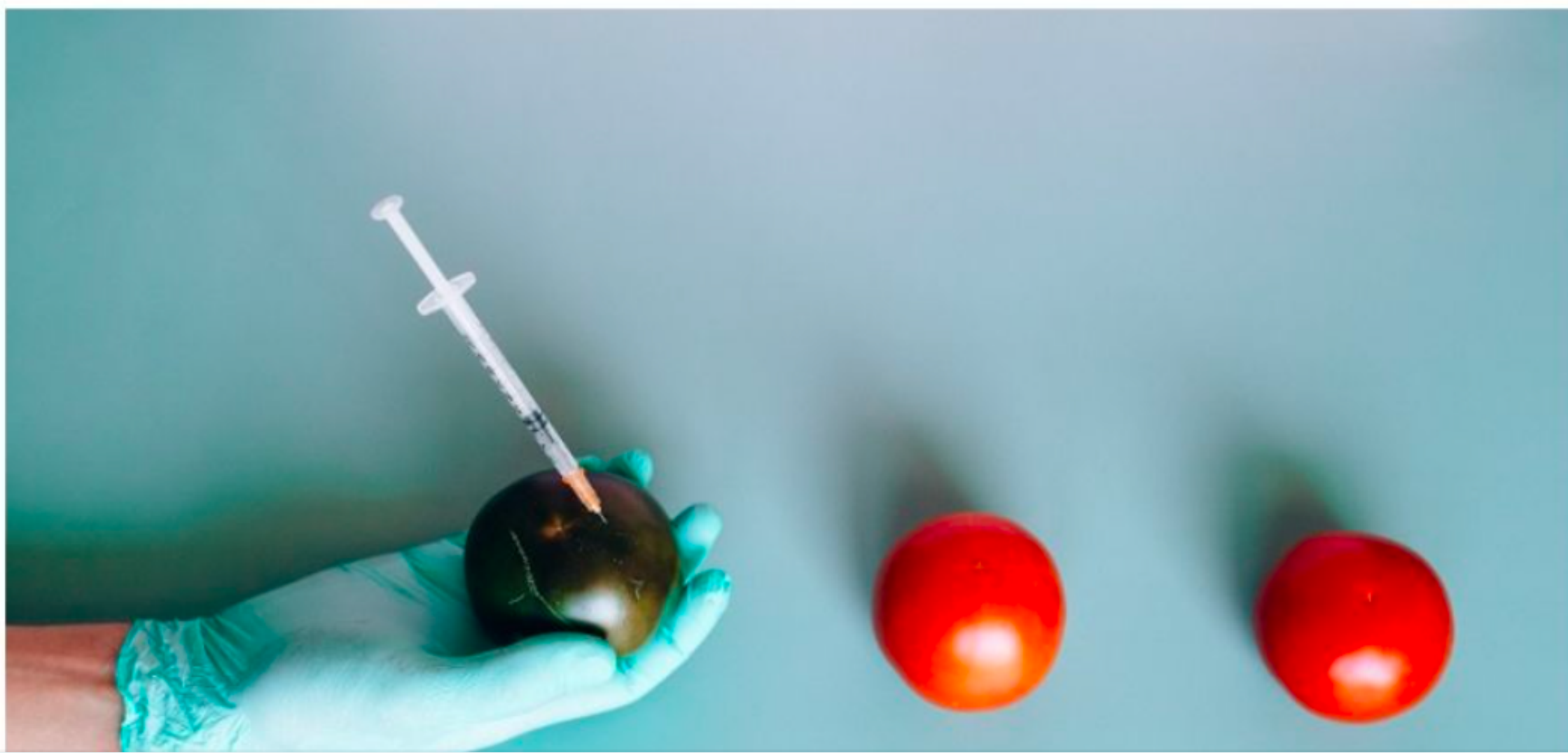


Child marriage risk increasing with COVID-19

FLAT WHITE

Australia's erosion of informed consent and the avoidable death of children

Kara Thomas and Tony Nikolic



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Thank you

