



Editorial



The 1985 International Year of Youth should bring into focus the rights and needs of young people in the community. The value of a year dedicated to one group in the community is that as the group's needs of young people in the community, possibility of change in the community's awareness of the group. However, it is disappointing that these programs have had in the past few identifiable lasting effects. The overt effects of International Year of the Child 1978 are difficult to identify. The International Year of the Child coincided with an upsurge of attention to rights of individuals and minority groups. The IYC provided the opportunity to publicize these rights.

Yet there are still many areas where the rights and the basic needs of children are overridden. Armed combat between or within nations does not recognize the needs of children. Countries with high unemployment, poverty and uneven distribution of wealth are not recognizing their needs.

We do not know how many children receiving residual welfare services are doing so, as a result of their parent's unemployment, loss of job or problems within the work place. Restructuring of economics is usually discussed with little reference to how children will be affected.

Family impact studies are rare, yet there is a high association between unemployment and redundancy and negative effects on families. There appears to be no major valid reasons why more use could not be made of Family Impact Studies. Often when done, the results of these studies are negotiated because families with seemingly competing interests are effected and hence some are seen to benefit whilst others suffer negative effects. However, this ignores the benefit of such studies, as the result of the studies can highlight the special needs and resource requirements of those effected by proposed changes. Decisions can then be made on whether financially and in human terms, a proposed change in policy is desirable.

In Australia, the studies being introduced by the Institute of Families Studies and the Social Welfare Commission go some way to address these needs. But it must be apparent to most that the knowledge developed and conclusions reached are used in economic policies only sparingly at best.

It would be very good if the International Year of Youth could ensure that the needs and rights of Youth will be inherently considered in the economic and social policies of all communities.

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH

In 1985 the Australian Child and Family Welfare will highlight articles on youth. I would like to call for papers from those working in the area.

Reminder

Some time ago, we commenced a 'Case Notes' Section. The purpose of this section is to encourage practitioners to write of their programs in order that Australian Practice material is disseminated. I look forward to more papers in this section.