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The information service is designed to provide information to the busy person who does not always have the time to seek out various material for themselves. However even an organisation like ours is constantly on the lookout for new material. Therefore if you have anything you would like to share on a wider scale we would only be too happy to distribute it on your behalf.

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ABSTRACTIONS

The abstracts below are taken from journals, the contents page of which are included in this month's Information Service. These abstracts are provided as a response from Information Service members who have asked us to provide more information about the articles contained in our contents' page.

A Preliminary Assessment of Police Officers' Knowledge and Perceptions of Persons With Disabilities

Individuals with developmental disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to become crime victims than individuals without disabilities (D. Sobsey, D. Wells, R. Lucardie, & S. Mansell, 19950. Victimization rates for persons with disabilities is highest for sexual assault (more than 10 times as high) and robbery (more than 12 times as high). There are a number of factors related to individuals' with disabilities susceptibility to interactions with the criminal justice system. In addition to these factors, many significant barriers exist, both real and perceived, that limit investigation and prosecution of these cases. How police officers perceive and understand disability play significant roles in how these cases develop and evolve. The purpose of this study was to assess police officer knowledge and perceptions of persons wit disabilities.

Effects of Conversational Versus Technical Language on Treatment Preference and Integrity
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, Volume 46 Number 3 June 2008, pp. 190-199

Problem behaviors present a significant challenge for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Interventions based on behavioral principles are effective in treating problem behaviors; however, some caregivers have difficulty adhering to treatment recommendations. Treatment adherence may be affected by the technical nature of behavioral terminology. Research suggests that caregivers better understand and are more comfortable with interventions described in conversational language; however, the effects of technical language on treatment implementation are unknown. In the current investigation, implementation of a behavioral treatment was monitored after caregivers were given either a technical or conversational description of the intervention. Implementation was more accurate when the treatment description was written in conversational language, suggesting that clinicians should write behavioral plans in conversational language.

Successful Aging in a 70-Year-Old Man With Down Syndrome: A Case Study

The authors present a case study of a 7—year-old man with Down syndrome (“Mr. C.”) who they followed for 16 years and who does not exhibit declines in cognitive or functional capacities indicative of dementia, despite having well-documented, complete trisomy 21. The authors describe the age-associated changes that occurred over 16 years as well as provide detailed information regarding Mr. C.’s health and generic status. To further emphasize Mr. C.’s successful aging, the authors compared his longitudinal performance profile with that of 2 peers of comparable level of intellectual functioning. 1 similar-aged man with clinical Alzheimer’s disease and a younger man who was healthy. The authors present potential explanations for the phenotype variability observed in individuals with Down syndrome.
A Preliminary Assessment of Police Officers’ Knowledge and Perceptions of Persons With Disabilities
Scott J. Modell and Suzanna Mak

Effects of Conversational Versus Technical Language on Treatment Preference and Integrity
David P. Jarmolowicz, Sungwoo Kahng, Einar T. Ingvarsson, Richard Goysovich, Rebecca Heggemeyer, and Meagan K. Gregory

Factors Associated With Expenditures for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons With Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) Services for Persons With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
K. Charlie Lakin, Robert Doljanac, Soo-Yong Byun, Roger J. Staneliffe, Sarah Taub and Giuseppina Chiri

Successful Aging in a 70-Year-Old Man With Down Syndrome: A Case Study
Sharon J. Krinsky-McHale, Darlynnne A. Devenny, Hong Gu, Edmund C. Jenkins, Phyllis Kittler, Vundavalli V. Murty, Nicole Schupf, Luigi Scotto, Benjamin Tycko, Tiina K. Urv, Lingling Ye, Warren B. Zigman, and Wayne Silverman

A Comparison of Low IQ Scores From the Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Third Edition
Thoms B. Umphress

Defining Disability Up and Down: The Problem of “Normality”
J. David Smith and Edward A. Polloway

Divided We Stand, united We Fall: Personal Budgets Versus Universal Coverage
Theodore A. Kastner and Kevin K. Walsh

Detrimental Effects of Overestimating the Occurrence of Autism
Charles Steven Holburn

“Tell Then It’s Not so Bad”: Prenatal Screening for Down Syndrome and the Bias Toward Abortion
Patricia E. Bauer
Book Review

James W. Trent

Trends & Milestones

Kathryn Alba, Robert Prouty, Naomi Scott and K. Charlie Lakin
**JIDR**  
*Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*  
*Volume 52 parts eight & nine*  
*August 2008*

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QUEENSLAND Liberal Senator Sue Boyce has called for special schools to be scrapped and disabled children sent into mainstream education.

Senator Boyce, who has a daughter with Down syndrome, said it was time someone was "brave" and "crazy" enough to push for total integration of students.

"We won't fix education until we abolish special schools," Senator Boyce told a Down Syndrome Association of Queensland fundraiser last week.

Do you agree with the proposal? Tell us

"If mainstream schools had no option but to accept children with disabilities, they would concentrate on how to make it work, not how to avoid getting involved.

"And if all the human and funding resources currently tied up in special schools were handed over to the mainstream system, it would be so much easier to make it work."

Senator Boyce said her 24-year-old daughter had always gone to mainstream schools and is now a bakery assistant.

"In the 60s and 70s, no one believed a child with Down syndrome could be educated," she said.

"Special anything is a way of excluding them from the community."

She said she had yet to express her opinion to her Liberal Party counterparts because it was her "personal view".

But Education Minister Julia Gillard said special schools had an important role in educating many Australian students.

"The Rudd Labor Government has promised an education revolution to ensure no Australian kids miss out on a quality education," Ms Gillard said last week.

"Unfortunately, it seems the Liberal Party's only plan for education is to shut down schools."
Disabled groups criticise Stiller film

Chicago
August 15, 2008
The AGe

The movie stars Jack Black, Ben Stiller and Robert Downey Jr.

Mental disability groups protest 'Tropic Thunder'

The way some people are griping about the jokes in that hilarious new Ben Stiller movie *Tropic Thunder* is totally retarded.

What? That sentence offended you? C'mon, it's a joke. It's satire, thus the flippant use of the word "retarded" is perfectly fine.

At least that's the logic Hollywood executives are relying on to explain the "retard" gags scattered throughout Stiller's new flick - it's a satire about Hollywood actors and the absurd lengths they'll go to for fame and awards.

Unfortunately, that logic isn't sitting well with many who have intellectual disabilities and the wide array of advocacy groups that represent them. Special Olympics and other organisations are calling for a nationwide boycott of the film, holding protests outside some theatres and decrying the movie as a shining example of how a derogatory term has muscled its way into acceptable everyday slang.

"I think it's something that's getting more and more prevalent," said Soeren Palumbo, a 19-year-old who works for Special Olympics and whose sister has an intellectual disability. "I think we're getting to the point where the word retard or retarded is used to describe anything undesirable or anything stupid, anything that doesn't quite fit the mould."

In the film Stiller's character is an aging action hero - Tugg Speedman - attempting to make an epic Vietnam War movie. A running joke is that Speedman's previous role was as an intellectually disabled man - played to every stereotype imaginable - in a box-office disaster called *Simple Jack*. 
A fellow actor on the set of the war movie - Robert Downey Jr, playing a surprisingly non-controversial white man who has undergone a pigmentation procedure to become black - tells Speedman the movie was a flop because he went "full retard." That prompts an absurd stream of dialogue riddled with the R-word.

According to DreamWorks, the studio that released *Tropic Thunder*, the film was pre-screened in 250 theatres across the US since April, and there were no audience complaints about use of the R-word. If that's true, it either galvanises the studio's defense that the film is an R-rated goof, or it speaks volumes about how the word has comfortably settled into everyday parlance.

"Sometimes I think the word has almost lost its meaning," said Wendy Murphy, director of therapeutic schools for Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago. "I hear a lot of teenagers using the word now, like they don't know at all what it means."

The movie could be viewed as offensive to many, including blacks, Asians, gays, movie executives and anyone who cares about panda bears. DreamWorks spokesman Chip Sullivan noted: "No (organisation) was consulted in the making of it because it's intentionally outrageous."

But what irks people on the side of those with intellectual disabilities is the broader picture - the fact that a word deeply offensive to a certain swath of the population is used often and with limited social consequences.

"The great disappointment from our point of view is that the movie made it this far without this issue even coming up," said Timothy Shriver, head of the Special Olympics, which has launched a formal campaign to discourage use of the R-word.

The hope now, Shriver said, is that the controversy might educate some about why the word should go the way of other now-unacceptable slurs: "We're not making a play for pity. We're not making a play to be the language police. But as long as you perpetuate that stereotype, it has a very damaging effect on people with intellectual disabilities."
Support widespread for late-term abortion

Nick Miller
August 18, 2008
The Age

RESEARCH seen by The Age reveals widespread support for decriminalising abortion, even in some of the most controversial circumstances. These include when the baby is physically or mentally disabled.

The research shows that Victorians' support for legal late-term abortions after 24 weeks' gestation is much wider than reflected in a proposed law expected to go to state cabinet today.

The Age believes the Government has settled on the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Option B, which makes abortion before 24 weeks the choice of the mother, but strictly prescribes when an abortion can be provided after that date.

But a Victorian obstetrician, associate professor Lachlan de Crespigny of the University of Melbourne, commissioned a survey that suggests the average Victorian favours a less restrictive law. The online survey of 1050 Australians (including 526 Victorians), by Crosby/Textor, evaluated support for legal abortion after the 24-week cut-off. This was strongest for legal late abortions when continuing the pregnancy would put the life of the mother at risk, or when the baby had severe abnormalities that would lead to a short life.

There was also majority support for decriminalising late abortions when: the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, the baby might be physically or mentally impaired, the mother had a major drug
addiction, or she was aged 15 or under.

One-third of Victorians believed a late abortion should be allowed when the woman for any reason decided she did not wish to have the child, the woman or family could not afford to raise the child, or if the woman's partner died or left her during pregnancy.

There were no circumstances in which a majority of Victorians, or Australians, believed a doctor should face sanctions for performing a termination after 24 weeks.

The survey found no significant difference in opinion between men and women, or between Victoria and the rest of Australia. Those with stated religious affiliations were slightly less in favour of legalising late-term abortion, while people aged over 45 were more in favour.

"The Government had made it very clear that it wants (the new law) to reflect public opinion," Dr de Crespigny said. "This (survey) shows that opinion in great detail. The public does not want sanctions for doctors. If the Government has settled on a law that includes sanctions, it should be rethought."

He said the survey showed overwhelming support for access to termination after the 24-week deadline. But Option B would result in continuing uncertainty for doctors and limit the options for women who have a "crisis" in their pregnancy after that date.

Dr de Crespigny has a personal interest in the issue: he was involved in terminating a pregnancy at 32 weeks, after the baby was diagnosed with dwarfism. The case attracted enormous attention and criticism and was investigated by the hospital, a coroner, the police and a medical board, each of which cleared the doctors of any wrongdoing.

Although performing an abortion is still technically a crime, in the 1960s the Supreme Court created a loophole if a doctor believed the
termination was necessary to preserve a woman's physical or mental health.

The commission found that late abortions were a very small percentage of the total, with only 0.7% after 20 weeks.

WHEN IS IT OK?

WHEN SHOULD A LATE-TERM ABORTION* BE LEGAL?

_ When continuing the pregnancy would involve greater risk to the woman than termination. **Yes 81%**

_ When the baby has severe abnormalities and would be unlikely to survive long after birth. **Yes 78%**

_ When the pregnancy is caused by rape or incest. **Yes 76%**

_ When the baby may be mentally impaired. **Yes 60%**

_ When the woman is aged 15 or under. **Yes 54%**

*AFTER 24 WEEKS

SOURCE: CROSBY/TEXTOR
Govt boosts disability funding by $1.1m
August 20, 2008
The Age

Disability organisations will receive a $1.1 million boost from the federal government.

Nine disability peak bodies will share in half of the money to increase staff and training and provide services like interpreters and braille material.

A further 62 disability advocate groups will receive one-off grants of $10,000 to invest in goods and services.

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services Bill Shorten said the funding would help support people with disabilities.

"This funding will go some way to help these groups and advocates of people with a disability continue reflecting the views of Australians with a disability," he said in a statement.

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Children misdiagnosed with ADHD
Article from: news.com.au
Janet Fife-Yeomans and Kate Sikora
August 21, 2008

AT LEAST one in three Australian children is misdiagnosed with ADHD when they may have something much simpler like learning difficulties, a leading child psychiatrist has said.

Dr Jon Jureidini said in Sydney yesterday that 30 per cent was a conservative figure and warned the Federal Government's ADHD review that there is no evidence of long-term benefits of medication like Ritalin.

He is among a group of leading experts who have made powerful submissions to the national panel, which will rewrite guidelines for the diagnosis of ADHD.

His warning comes at the same time as a push to ban GPs from diagnosing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Some child education experts are concerned doctors are "too readily" labelling children with ADHD and prescribing Ritalin, potentially putting them at risk of dangerous side effects.

In their submission, a group of 14 academics has called for multi-disciplinary teams of psychologists, doctors and educational experts to replace GPs and have sole responsibility for diagnosing the condition.

The influential group, from seven universities including the University of Sydney and the University of Wollongong, has also urged the federal Government not to declare ADHD a "disability" and allocate special funding for schools based on the number of students suffering it.

A similar move in the US led to an explosion of 600 per cent in the diagnosis, or misdiagnosis, of ADHD as schools competed for the extra grants, the group said.

"It is a diagnosis that should not be used in anything other than a tiny fraction of cases in which it is made," said Dr Jureidini, head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital.

"My concern is that the ADHD label carries more costs, such as stigma, than benefits for many of the kids to whom it is applied."

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, which is reviewing the outdated guidelines at the request of the National Health and Medical Research Council, has been accused of taking too narrow a view.

Mr Juredini said that around 30 per cent of boys and girls diagnosed with ADHD do not even meet the current diagnostic criteria, which includes being inattentive and easily distracted.

But in his opinion, up to 80 and 90 per cent of those diagnosed would be better off with other treatment.

Two of the RACP's controversial draft recommendations include education programmes for teachers on dealing with ADHD pupils and special funding for schools with ADHD students.

The group of academics said this would mean children with significant disabilities including cerebral palsy and autism would miss out on funding and teaching time.

One of the group, Trevor Parmenter, foundation professor in developmental disability studies in the faculties of education and medicine at Sydney University, said ADHD was too complex to be diagnosed by sitting in a GP's office.

"It is a very complex issue that goes beyong the symptomology," he said.

"If a child has been diagnosed with ADHD, a teacher may think they should be put in a special class. they could be disadvantaged."

He said too many children were being diagnosed with ADHD out of laziness by doctors to properly investigate the child's problems.
He said the draft guidelines could see an explosion of teachers and parents self-diagnosing their children with ADHD, placing them at harm. In one case, a child who was diagnosed with ADHD was actually displaying symptoms of epilepsy and given Ritalin which triggered a seizure. Federal education minister Julia Gillard has not ruled out extra education funding for ADHD students but her office said yesterday she was awaiting the results of the RACP review.
Plans to oust the disabled angers parents

Adele Horin
August 22, 2008
The Sydney Morning Herald

PEOPLE with severe disabilities will be treated as "trespassers" if they overstay their assigned time in government-funded respite centres, a draft Government policy says.

The document, posted on the website of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, has outraged parents of severely intellectually disabled children.

The policy is designed to dissuade parents from abandoning their children - often adults - in respite centres because they cannot care for them at home or get access to permanent accommodation such as group homes.

The document sets out for the first time a process for dealing with "blocked" respite beds. But its aggressive tone and threat to reassign parental rights to the state or a guardian has frightened and angered parents.

Carers will be asked to sign "a contract of stay" which specifies exact arrival and departure times at the state's 73 respite centres. If the contract is broken, the disabled person becomes a "trespasser" and the department "no longer accepts responsibility for providing care".

There are 35 people permanently occupying respite places meant for stays as brief as a day or two.

The Opposition spokesman for disability services, Andrew Constance, said it was "mean-spirited and callous" for the NSW Government to treat families in crisis in this way. He said parents left a much-loved person in respite because of "complete exhaustion, emotional breakdown or illness", and it caused "much heartbreak and sorrow".
But a spokesman for the department said people who outstayed their time in respite reduced access for many other families, and might put those families at risk of breakdown.

It is unlikely the department will evict a "trespasser". But failure to collect the person will set in train a series of actions designed either to return them home or place them on a register for alternative accommodation.

Under the plan, parents must accept the first accommodation place offered, even if it is far from where they live. They can appeal against the placement, but not to an independent arbiter.

Following the appeal, the department will be able to apply to the Supreme Court to reassign parental responsibility for children younger than 17 to the state, or to the Guardianship Tribunal to appoint a guardian for those aged 17 and older.

Belinda Epstein-Frisch, a spokeswoman for Family Advocacy, a group for people with disabilities, said: "The policy criminalises people with disabilities and their families who are struggling for want of government-funded support."

Maree Buckwalter, whose 22-year-old son Alexander has severe intellectual disabilities and uncontrolled epilepsy, said she was eligible for two days' respite care a month because of the severity of her circumstances. Most parents get less.

She said she was frightened by the department's language.

"When someone reaches a point they can no longer do the caring, the only way they've been able to get care is to leave a person in respite. I dress my child, feed him, bathe him … and no one can strip me of my parenthood. I don't want them to get guardianship because I might object to where they want to place him."

A department spokesman said there would be wide consultation before a decision was taken on adopting the policy.
The federal disability commissioner has threatened to "name and shame" government departments and agencies which do not make public information accessible to people with disabilities.

Commissioner Graeme Innes says he has found occasions where public information has not been accessible to the hearing or vision impaired.

These included the green paper on a planned carbon emissions trading scheme and the GROCERYchoice website.

"We've seen several important reports and papers published recently, all of them initially inaccessible to many people with a disability," Mr Innes said in a statement.

"Making information as socially important and highly publicised as the GROCERYchoice website and the green paper on carbon emissions trading inaccessible to a significant sector of the population is, put bluntly, a disgrace."

Mr Innes called on the Rudd government to ensure all of its departments meet obligations set out in the Disability Discrimination Act.

"All organisations, government departments and agencies know they should be making documents and information accessible to everyone.

"If this doesn't begin to improve, we will start to name and shame."

© 2008 AAP
Primary schools are struggling with an influx of pupils with disabilities and learning difficulties, and many principals blame the parents for exacerbating their children's poor behaviour. A report from the Australian Primary Principals' Association estimates that half of primary schools have five or more pupils with medically or teacher-diagnosed special needs, but little is being done to help teachers cope with disruptive behaviour.

Principals say they believe many parents contribute to their children's problems. The report, In The Balance, says principals have identified problems among children with neglectful parents, children whose basic care and needs are not being met. Then, it says, there are "helicopter parents", who hover over their children, overprotect them and prevent them from sorting out their own problems.

The report finds that some parents have no idea of what to do with their children other than to send them to school in the hope the school will fix their difficulties.

One principal interviewed in the report described problem children as "million-dollar kids" because they required such massive resources, including teachers' aides, social workers, health workers and court intervention. Helicopter parents constantly sought to rescue their children when they came under pressure or experienced normal adversity.

Such children were not good at solving their own problems, and became poor social problem solvers as adults. Other parents sought to be their child's best friend and failed to provide proper guidance, prompting another principal to say in the report that "kids are ruling the roost because they hold all the power".

Other parents were simply neglectful. One deputy principal
reported that after waiting for five terms for a parent to organise a hearing assessment for their child while the child fell further and further behind she ended up driving the girl and her mother to a clinic for the girl to be tested. Back at school, when she was finally able to hear well, the girl had "lit up like a Christmas tree".

Another increasingly common phenomenon was the advent of "millennium kids" or those who watched television and used computers in their bedrooms well into the night. One principal said, "When children haven't had a good night's sleep or breakfast, they perform at school as if they have learning disorders."

The association's national president, Leonie Trimper, said all these issues led to more and more schoolchildren being inattentive, disruptive, undermotivated and disengaged. A disproportionate number of them came from disadvantaged backgrounds.
Parents hide disabled pair for decades

BY NASSER SHIYOUHKI
IN NABLUS
29/08/2008 12:00:00 AM

A Palestinian couple locked their disabled son and daughter in two stinking, urine-stained rooms for four decades out of fear they would ruin the marriage prospects of a healthy child if discovered, police said yesterday.

The case has highlighted the shame felt by families in Palestinian society who have children with disabilities shame aggravated by poor services and the practice of first-cousin marriages in Arab communities.

"This is sad, shameful and awful," a disabled rights activist, Imad Abumohr, said.

Few people in the rural town of Beit Awwa knew of 38-year-old Bassam al-Musalmeh and his sister Nawal, 42.

They were kept since childhood behind their family’s house in two dank, crumbling concrete rooms that stank of sweat and urine.

Police found the siblings during a raid late on Tuesday night while searching for Hamas loyalists and criminals in the village, an official said. The official asked not to be identified because the Palestinian Authority publicly denies it cracks down on the militant group.

Palestinian police commander Samih Safy said that, while police were searching the house, they heard unusual noises beneath it and went to investigate.

They found Mr Musalmeh naked and his sister wearing a flimsy nightdress. Police photographed them.

Their father was arrested, though it was not immediately clear whether he was detained for keeping his children locked up or because of his suspected loyalty to Hamas.

After media attention, the siblings appeared yesterday to have been bathed and freshly dressed, and their rooms tidied but the smell was still overwhelming.

The siblings had not been diagnosed with any specific mental illness, their uncle, Mohammed Musalmeh, said.

They did not speak or recognise other people.

The facing rooms share a small sunny square, but the area is surrounded by a high wall and cannot be seen from outside.

A door links the rooms to the main house, but it was apparently opened only rarely.

Mr Abumohr said there was a shortage of West Bank institutions caring for the disabled.

The Musalmeh case was dramatic but not unheard of.

Last year he and other activists were called on to rescue a 17-year-old youth with mental disabilities who had been thrown into a large rubbish bin.

Mr Abumohr said the boy had scars on his stomach, neck, hands and feet where he had apparently been tied up.

"I’m sure there are other cases of hidden people in the rural areas," he said.

The siblings’ father, Ibrahim Musalmeh, married his first cousin decades ago and had eight children five of them, disabled, who died in childhood, Nawal, Bassam and another son, who has since married.

Arab communities often favour marriages between first cousins as a way of keeping inheritances within the family.

It is not considered incest, and there is little awareness that marriage between close relatives increases the chances of having children with disabilities. AP