

have services that will nurture and encourage the development of potential. How we identify children is how we develop them. They need to be provided with an 'enriched' or 'accelerated' learning environment which is designed to meet the unique needs of each child in a variety of ways. The question of "What is this girl or boy ready for?" is as significant as whether the child is gifted or not.

Consequently, a child's readiness to learn and to create is a determining factor in the type of learning experiences presented. Children identified as gifted have the opportunity for early entry to school and/or to participate in appropriate learning experiences throughout their schooling. Attitudes towards teachers and formalised education are established in early child care centres and kindergarten, so if the gifted child's needs are met at that stage then there is more likely to be confidence and interest in learning and the system.

Problems of underachievement and resulting classroom behaviour problems can be avoided. The future of these children is important to the potential of society.

Florence Rankin

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

AT LAST! CHILD SEX TOURISM BILL IS PASSED

It is now a punishable offence in Australia for an Australian citizen or resident to engage in or profit from child sex overseas. People can be prosecuted on their return to Australia for an such activities involving young people under the age of 16. Most of the recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee On Legal and Constitutional Affairs were incorporated by the Minister, Mr Duncan Kerr without the law being changed in any significant way. The Child Sex and Tourism Legislation Bill was enacted on July 5th 1994 ❀

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION: Australain Aid Projects

"The Australian Government through the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) is currently funding a number of small activities directly targeting this area - including \$27,000 for the 'Against Female Genital Mutilation' Project being implemented by the International Women's Development Agency in Tanzania.

"...In addition to funding support, Australia, represented by officers from AIDAB, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Human Services and Health, supported the resolution at the 47th Session of the World Health Assembly in May this year regarding traditional practices harmful to the health of women and children. The Resolution urges all member states to, among other things, 'establish national policies and programs that will effectively, and with legal instruments, abolish female genital mutilation... and other harmful practices affecting the health of women and children.'

"...I have also requested officers within AIDAB to use every opportunity, including their high level consultations with relevant United Nations and Commonwealth organisations to pursue this issue and look at ways in which Australia could assist further..."

Gordon Bilney, Minister for Development Co-operation, in a letter to DCI-Australia, 21 July 1994

Stop press: DCI-Senegal has written to DCI-Australia, agreeing with our Statement on FGM and inviting our participation in the work they are doing through the Children's Legal and Social Defence Centre in Senegal's capital, Dakar.