

Building Bridges Between Services Building Capacity Within Services

Michael White
Workforce Development
Leader

Leisha Olliver
Workforce Development
Coordinator



Working together to enhance the lives of children

Funding

Funded by FaHCSIA under the
National Framework for Protecting
Australia's Children

Overview

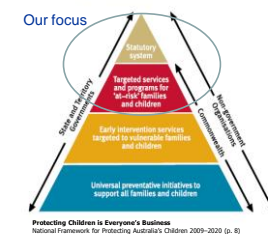
- About Us
- Known risk factors for abuse and neglect
- Potential role for adult services in addressing the known risk factors?
- Research findings – what adult services say
- Building Bridges Building Capacity Project

The Australian Centre for Child Protection

Enhancing the life chances of Australia's most vulnerable children through:

- Research and strategic evaluation
- Workforce development and professional education

Figure 1 – A system for protecting children



Known risk factors

- The key to preventing child abuse and neglect is addressing known risk factors
- The three most common characteristics of parents involved with child protection services are
 - Domestic violence
 - Drug and alcohol misuse
 - Mental health problems

Scott, D (2009) "Think child, think family";
Council of Australian Governments (2009) "National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children", Supporting Outcome 3.

Addressing known risk factors

- Parents involved in child protection are also frequently involved with adult services
- How can adult services support parents and their children who are clients of adult services?
- We asked professionals within adult services their views ...

Research findings – what adult services say

- Three national studies investigating professionals within adult services views on working with families, including:
 - The role of adult services in working with families
 - Barriers to child and family inclusive practice
 - What would help practitioners in adult services

Gibson & Morphet, 2010;
National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction (NCETA), 2010;
Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association, 2004

Role of adult services

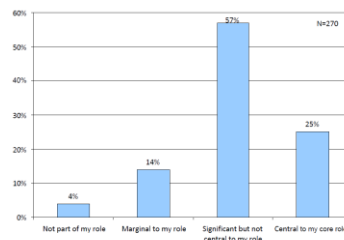


Figure 12. Level of involvement of child and parent-sensitive practice in work role
Taking First Steps, What Family Sensitive Practice Means for Alcohol and Other Drug Workers: A Survey Report, NCETA 2010

Barriers to child and family inclusive practice

- Professionals within adult services identified several barriers and facilitators, which prevented or helped them to provide child and family inclusive practice
- Barriers fell into two broad areas
 - Lack of knowledge and skills
 - Capacity and structural barriers

Barriers to child and family inclusive practice – knowledge and skills

- Some examples of knowledge gaps/needs included:
 - Talking to children
 - Child development
 - Child assessment and monitoring
 - Identifying abuse and neglect
 - Impacts of trauma
 - Identifying parenting deficits and needs
 - Supporting and strengthening parenting skills
 - Managing/responding to abuse, trauma and related behaviours

Child and family inclusive practice – capacity and structural barriers

- Some examples of structural barriers/supports included:
 - Inter-sectoral relationships
 - Service capacity including access to childcare/respite care and resources for supporting children (financial/brokerage)
 - Legal issues – risk of harm thresholds and mandatory reporting
 - Families with most complex problems not engaged with services

Building Bridges Building Capacity – what we will do

- Workforce capacity building project implementing learning and development strategies to
 1. Enhance the capacity of adult focussed services to develop child and family inclusive practices
 2. Strengthen interagency collaboration between adult services and child and family services

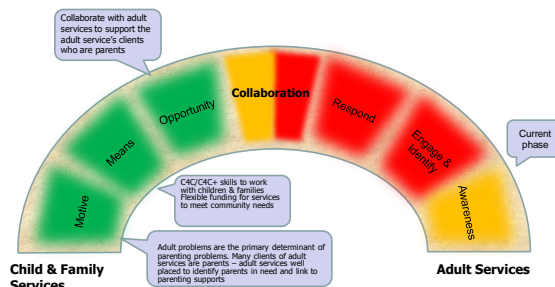
Child and family inclusive practice

A practice framework for working with families in adult services

- Child and family inclusive practice in adult services is practice which is:
 - supportive of parents in their parenting role and attends to the needs of children; and
 - provided in the context of service provision where the primary role of the practitioner is to treat or respond to a presenting adult problem
- Does not replace child & family services



Building Capacity, Building Bridges



Guiding Principles – how we intend to work with you

- Consultative
- Collaborative
- Place Based - tailored to local needs
- Culturally sensitive
- Strengths-based
- Sustainable
- Evidence informed

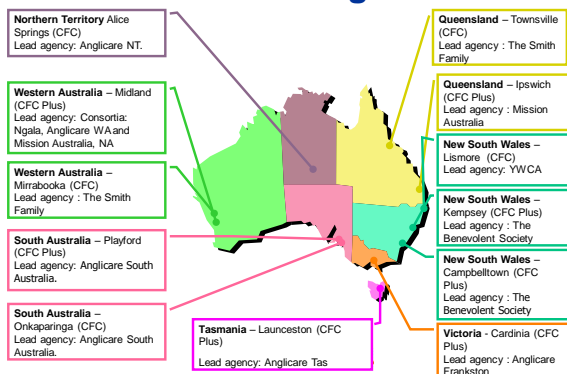


Current Activities

- Developing relationships with sites and providers
- Establishing communication strategies
- Scoping training, drafting resources and competencies
- Benchmarking current practice
- Identifying evidence based practice



Sites and lead agencies



For more information

Michael White
Workforce Development Leader
Phone: 08 8302 2955
Mobile: 0416176611
Michael.white@unisa.edu.au

Leisha Olliver
Workforce Development Coordinator
Phone: 08 8302 1384
Mobile: 0435964491
Leisha.olliver@unisa.edu.au

Australian Centre for Child Protection
Hawke Research Institute,
University of South Australia
Fax: 08 8302 2953
www.unisa.edu.au/childprotection



References

- Australian Infant Child Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association (2004). *Principles and Actions for Services and People Working with Children of Parents with a Mental Illness*. Sydney, AICAFMHA
- Arney, F., Lewig, K., Bromfield, L., & Holzer, P. (2010). Using evidence-informed practice to support vulnerable families. In F. Arney & D. Scott (Eds.), *Working with Vulnerable Families*: Cambridge University Press.
- Bloom, H. S. (2005). *Learning more from social experiments: evolving analytic approaches*. Russell Sage Foundations, New York.
- Costanza, R., & Patten, B. C. (1995). Defining and predicting sustainability. *Ecological Economics*, 15(3), 193-196.
- Council of Australian Governments. (2009). *Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*. Canberra: Attorney General's Department.
- Edwards, B., Wise, S., Gray, M., Hayes, A., Katz, I., Misson, S., et al. (2009). *Stronger Families in Australia study: the impact of Communities for Children*. FaHCSIA.
- FaHCSIA (2009). *Community and Family Partnership Guidelines*. Paper presented at the Conference [Name]. Retrieved Access Date]. from URL].
- Gibson, C., & Morphett, K. (2010). *Think Child, Think Family: Child and Family Sensitive Practice within Specialist Homelessness Services*. Adelaide: Australian Centre for Child Protection
- Harbin, G. L. (1996). The Challenge of Coordination *Infants and Young Children*, 8 (3), 68-76.



References

- Moore, T. G. (2008). *Rethinking universal and targeted services*. Parkville, Victoria: Centre for Community Child Health.
- Muir, K., Katz, I., Edwards, B., Gray, M., Wise, S., Hayes, A., et al. (2010). The national evaluation of the Communities for Children initiative. *Family Matters*, 84, 35-43.
- Rogers, R., & Moore, T. (2003). *The Early Years Project: Refocusing community based services for young children and their families: A Literature Review*. Parkville, Victoria: Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. (2010). *Working and Walking Together: Supporting Family Relationship Services to Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Organisations*
- Stronger Families Learning Exchange. (2005). *Bulletin (Vol. 7)*: Australian Institute of Family Studies.
- Taylor, K., & Guerin, P. (2010). *Health and Indigenous Australians - cultural safety in practice*: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Trifonoff, A., Duraisingam, V., Roche, A. M., & Pidd, K. T. (2010). *Taking First Steps. What Family Sensitive Practice Means for Alcohol and Other Drug Workers: A Survey Report*. Adelaide: National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders University.
- Victorian Local Governance Association. (2001). *Best Value Community Consultation Resource Guide (The Red Book)*. Retrieved 11/10/2010, 2010, from <http://www.vlgacconsultation.org.au>

