

Developing Child and Family Sensitive Practice

Children, Communities, Connections Conference 2012

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Child and Family Sensitive Practice

Aims:

- * reduce the number of families in which child protection intervention is required
- * increase parenting capacity leading to a decrease in child abuse and neglect
- * children and parents receive the right service at the right time to meet their needs.






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Parenting and Alcohol

“I think because alcohol is so socially acceptable and readily available, it’s an easy option for women who are feeling stress or going through a difficult time, to reach for a drink to cope or to relieve boredom. At first, alcohol is seen as an option to help them relax and ease their burdens because it works, but for some women, drinking leads to alcohol abuse or worse, and the impact can be devastating. Alcoholism is a progressive disease”



(Lori Butterfield quoted by Janice D’Arcy in the Washington Post 10/09/2012)

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MARJETTE ODEY

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

- * endorsed by COAG
- * substantially enhances collaboration between:
 - * the Australian government
 - * State and Territory governments
 - * non-government organisations (NGOs)
- * puts children at the centre of the service system.
- * increases expectation that adult-focused services will support their clients to meet the needs of children in their care.
- * links to other sectoral strategies (e.g., AOD, MH).

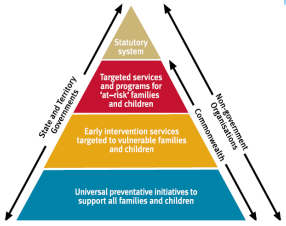






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The policy framework

...as a health system is more than hospitals so too a system for the protection of children is more than statutory child protection services.
COAG (2009)



A system for protecting children (COAG, 2009)

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Prevention and reduction of abuse and neglect

Is not simple and requires systemic changes including:

- * Ongoing policy changes at all levels
- * Improved collaboration between organisations
- * A skilled workforce of service professionals who practice in a range of disciplines, both child and adult focussed who have the:
 - * skills to identify where support is needed and
 - * ability to work with other professionals to support the provision of effective and responsive services to their clients in the context of their family situation.



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AOD Sector Recommendations

- * expand education and training aimed at building AOD workforce capacity
- * develop organisational checklist(s) to ensure child and family sensitive policies and procedures are in place
- * regularly review organisational procedures
- * include parenting roles/responsibilities in assessment tools
- * ensure clinical supervision captures the needs of children.



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