

DoCS Research to Practice Update

A regular update on the latest national and international research

Issue 2, December 2005

Research Publications – What's New!

Research to practice

The Research to Practice Program provides an essential link between the latest research and DoCS staff.

As part of this important initiative, the Research to Practice Update encompasses a broad range of research publications and resources to reflect the diversity of DoCS staff.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we could improve this Update to make it more useful or relevant to your work, please email the Research to Practice Team at:

- researchtopractice@community.nsw.gov.au, or
- 'Research to Practice' on the internal email.

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DoCS

Neglect: Key issues – Research to Practice Note

This Note provides a snapshot of the key findings of DoCS' neglect literature review. It was been to developed to help practitioners recognise the symptoms of neglect and gain an understanding of how it is caused and its effects.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice—
www.community.nsw.gov.au

Active engagement: Strategies to increase service participation by vulnerable families – Research to Practice Note

This Note aims to provide both caseworkers and agencies with a list of strategies designed to increase the uptake and retention of services by families in early intervention programs.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice

Quality child care as an intervention: Issues for caseworkers – Research to Practice Note

This notes aims to assist caseworkers and other operational and policy staff assessing and referring clients to centre-based child care.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice

Parenting Programs: What makes them effective – Research to Practice Note

This Note has been developed to provide a snapshot of parenting programs and assist caseworkers, and other operational and policy staff, in assessing and referring clients to parenting programs.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice

Effective components of home visiting programs – Research to Practice Note

This Note provides an overview of home visiting services and explores their effectiveness.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice

Contact Between Children in Out-of-Home Care and their Birth Families – A review of the literature

This review was commissioned by DoCS and written by Dorothy Scott, Cas O'Neill, Andrew Minge from the University of Melbourne.

View it on DoCS website under Research to Practice

Other state governments

Developing your Organisation

This resource was produced and updated by the Centre of Philanthropy and Non-profit Studies at the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Queensland Department of Communities.

It aims to assist community organisations to meet their governance, organisational and service delivery responsibilities.

This resource is available online at:
<https://olt.qut.edu.au/bus/DYO/index.cfm?fa=displayPage&rNum=1746863>

Other states cont.

Foster Carer Screening and Assessment Model

The Queensland Department of Child Safety has developed a new foster carer screening and assessment model. It was developed in response to recommendations in the *Protecting Children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care* report.

The model includes the development of a number of new forms for use by child safety service centre and fostering agency staff, as well as fee-for-service professionals.

The updated regulations are available online at http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/department/announcements/20050915fostercare_release.html

Child Safety Practice Manual

The Child Safety Practice Manual is a comprehensive practice guide which contains procedures and guidelines informing the delivery of child protection services in Queensland.

The Structured Decision Making (SDM™) tools have been integrated into the procedures and practice guidelines in the relevant chapters of the manual.

This manual is available online at http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/department/announcements/20050905childsafety_practicemanual.html

National – other agencies

Every Family: A public health approach to promoting children's wellbeing Brief Report

University of Queensland

Every Family is the largest public health trial in Australia examining the benefits of providing universal parenting support to parents of children undergoing the transition to school. The key question examined was whether the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program developed at The University of Queensland would reduce the prevalence of children's behavioural and emotional problems in the community.

Following two years of implementation of *Every Family*, a report which details project findings and recommendations for future directions is now available.

The report is available online at <http://www.pfsc.uq.edu.au/everyfamily/update.php>

Trends and patterns in domestic violence assaults

This bulletin uses data recorded by the NSW Police to provide information on the trends and patterns in domestic violence assaults. The trends in recorded incidents of domestic violence assault between 1997 and 2004 are described.

This bulletin is available online at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar

Female SAAP clients and children escaping domestic and family violence 2003-04

This Bulletin was produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, it is the fourth thematic report from the SAAP National Data Collection focusing on a particular client group.

The Bulletin provides an overview of the 2003-04 data on female clients escaping domestic violence and their children.

The Bulletin is available online at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10136>

National Comparison of Child Protection Systems

This paper is a national snapshot of Australian statutory child protection services. Data were collected in each state and territory via policy documents, procedure manuals and telephone interviews with relevant child protection personnel.

The paper covers:

- who is responsible for child protection
- intake procedures
- who notifies concerns to child protection services
- the process of providing child protection services in Australian states and territories (intake, risk assessment, investigation and case management).

Similarities and differences across states and territories in each of these areas are highlighted. Despite different legislative frameworks and some operational differences, Australian state and territory statutory child protection services are providing very similar models of intervention. Implications are explored with regard to competency standards, training and professional development; and cross-jurisdictional issues.

The report is available online at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/issues/issues22.html>

Corporate giving - a change agent for Indigenous Communities

This report showcases 14 Indigenous initiatives and reinforces the importance of corporate funding and its role as a positive change agent for Indigenous Australians.

This report is available online at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/media/media051010.html>

Useful links

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (UK)

The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) provides research-based information about the effects of interventions used in health and social care. The Centre maintains three databases and an enquiry service and disseminates results of research.

www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/index.htm

The Campbell Collaboration (C2)

The Campbell Collaboration (C2) prepares, maintains and disseminates systematic reviews of interventions in the social, behavioural and educational arenas.

www.campbellcollaboration.org

International

Family and parenting interventions in children and adolescents with conduct disorder and delinquency aged 10-17 (Review)

The aim of this review was to determine if family and parenting interventions are effective in the management of conduct disorder and delinquency in children and adolescents, aged 10-17.

Current evidence suggests that family and parenting interventions for juvenile delinquents and their families have beneficial effects on reducing time spent in institutions.

The review is available online at <http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD003015/frame.html>

Individual and group-based parenting programmes for improving psychosocial outcomes for teenage parents and their children (Review)

This review was prepared by the Cochrane Collaboration and published in *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2005 Issue 4*. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

The aim of the review was to examine the effectiveness of individual and/or group-based parenting programmes in improving psychosocial and developmental outcomes in teenage mothers and their children.

The review is available at <http://Cochrane.org/reviews/en/ab002964.html>

The Adoption and Children Act 2002—UK

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (UK) will be fully implemented on 30 December 2005.

The Act represents a comprehensive overhaul of adoption legislation and replaces much of the now outdated *Adoption Act 1976*.

To access the Act visit <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/20020038.htm>

Social Care Institute for Excellence - Fostering Practice Guide

Produced by the Social Care Institute for Excellence the *Fostering Practice Guide* is designed for foster care practitioners and anyone with an interest in good practice in fostering.

It shows how this evidence can be used in every day practice.

To access this information online please follow the links <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/practiceguides/fostering/index.asp>

Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers

This fact sheet was produced by the Zero to Three Policy Center in the US. It discusses the proposed developed of multi-disciplinary court teams to raise awareness, increase knowledge and skills, and change practice regarding the needs of maltreated infants and toddlers and their families in the child welfare system.

This fact sheet is available online at <http://www.zerotothree.org>

Improving Maternal and Infant Mental health: Focus on Maternal Depression

This paper was produced by the Zero to Three Policy Center. It discusses the impact of maternal depression on the social and emotional health of young children. It recommends specific steps that early childhood program and public health administrators can take to address the unmet mental health needs of mothers, thereby promoting the social and emotional health, school readiness, and future functioning of very young children.

The paper is available online under 'Infant Mental Health' in the 'Public Policy Initiatives' section at <http://www.zerotothree.org>

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Email your questions & ideas to:
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(on the internal email), or
· researchtopractice@community.nsw.gov.au

International cont.

Engaging and Retention in Voluntary Parent Support Programs: Final Report

New research from Chapin Hall, conducted on participants in Health Families America, one of the country's largest programs designed to help parents get their children off to a good start, examines the issue of parent engagement and retention in voluntary support services.

The purpose of this four-year effort has been to develop and test an integrated theory of parent participation that reflects the interrelationship and interdependency of individual, staff, and program attributes. The study drew its participant and program samples from a major family support initiative - Healthy Families America which has over 400 sites across the country.

The study suggests that individual, program, and community factors all affect the ability of service providers to attract and retain the maximum number of new parents in supportive interventions.

The report is available online at http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1410&L2=61&L3=129

Scaling Up High-Quality Pre-K: What can be learned from States' efforts to date?

Research indicates that high-quality early education programs can produce substantial long-term benefits for children, families, and society. Armed with this knowledge, many US states are now mounting ambitious efforts to implement high-quality pre-kindergarten programs at universal scale. This research brief describes some of the progress states have made and identifies significant policy and practice issues for the sector.

The research brief is available online at <http://www.rand.org/publications/RB/RB9101/>

New Initiatives - National

Visions of a Child Friendly Community

Visions of a Child Friendly Community is publication produced by NAPCAN in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank. It builds on the NAPCAN National Child Protection Week campaign theme *Child Friendly Communities Prevent Abuse and Neglect of Children* and gathers together a range of visions about aspects of child friendly communities. It will be launched on Wednesday, 14 December 2005.

www.napcan.org.au

Raising Children Network

The Raising Children Network has been appointed by the Australian Government to develop and manage a national parenting information website (currently under construction). The consortium consists of the Smart Population Foundation, the Victorian Parenting Centre and the Centre for Community Child Health.

More information is available at www.raisingchildren.net.au follow the links to the **Raising Children Network consortium** to review the current newsletter.

New Initiatives - International

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

Every Child Matters: Change for Children sets out the national framework for local change programmes to build services around the needs of children and young people so that we maximise opportunity and minimise risk.

The Children Act 2004 provides the legislative foundation for whole-system reform to support this long-term and ambitious programme. It outlines new statutory duties and clarifies accountabilities for children's services.

More information is available at [http://
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/)

Disclaimer

This Update has been compiled by DoCS' Centre for Parenting and Research as part of the Research to Practice Program. It has been developed to facilitate access to research publications and resources.

The content contained within these publications is provided for your information only and should not be seen as a directive or endorsement by DoCS.

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