

DoCS Research to Practice Update

A regular update for staff on the latest national and international research

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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:

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Research Publications – What's New!

DoCS

Risk Assessment in Child Welfare: An Issues Paper

Undertaking risk assessments is a primary component of the caseworker role. This paper explores different approaches to undertaking risk assessments and their application to decision making in child welfare. It offers a rationale for using risk assessment instruments and an overview of risk assessment approaches. The paper concludes with a discussion on issues with risk assessments, with a particular focus on accuracy and implementation.

Models of Service Delivery and Interventions for children and Young People with High needs

This research paper assesses the effectiveness of services and interventions for children and young people with high emotional and behavioural needs in the child welfare system. It includes a discussion on the application of services and interventions in Australia, and examines approaches for the coordination and integration of multiple services for children and young people with high needs.

A Research to Practice Note summarising the key findings of this report and highlighting implications for service delivery and development is now also available.

These and other DoCS research publications can be viewed online at:

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/news_publications/research_practice.htm

Early Intervention & Prevention Research

What We Do - And Don't Know - About Preventing Child Maltreatment

Portwood, S. (2006) *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 12 (3/4) 55-80

This article reviews theory and research relevant to prevention programming. The author identifies and examines the two dominant models of child abuse prevention to be child empowerment and parent education. The article emphasises factors that appear to contribute to program success (e.g. early intervention, sufficient time commitments, cultural sensitivity) and to weaknesses (e.g. poor implementation).

Available at:
www.haworthpress.com/store/ArticleAbstract.asp?sid=DU5J6H7MHTR88NMAA3J4SUBNK9M2B7SD&ID=54827

Individual and group-based parenting programmes for the treatment of physical child abuse and neglect (review).

Barlow, J. Johnston, I. Kendrick, D. Polnay, L. & Stewart-Brown (2006) *The Cochrane Collaboration: John Wiley & Sons*

This review assesses the efficacy of group-based or one-to-one parenting programmes in addressing child physical abuse or neglect. It explores the applicability of interventions to predominantly identified 'targets' (e.g. having a single parent, parental history of

abuse) and identifies alternate targets (e.g. parental psychopathology, parenting attitudes) for intervention. It also includes a section on 'implications for practice.'

Available at: <http://www.thecohcranelibrary.com>

Randomised controlled trial of parenting intervention in the voluntary sector for reducing child conduct problems: outcomes and mechanisms of change

Gardner F. Burton J. Kilimes I. (2006) *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 47:11, 1123-1132

This article examines the U.K. Webster-Stratton 'Incredible Years' parenting program which builds on parent's strengths and expertise. This paper offers an overview of the objectives of the parenting program and discusses the implications of the approach, including both advantages and disadvantages.

This paper can be viewed at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1469-7610.2006.01668.x>

Multi-agency working: implications for an early-intervention social work team.

Moran, P. Jacobs, C. Bunn, A. & Bifulco A. (2006). *Child and Family Social Work Online*, December ed.

This article examines a study on multi-agency work undertaken from October 2004 until September 2005, from the perspective of social workers within an early intervention family support team. This report focuses on one component of the study, identifying the challenges to multi agency work and defining best practice ideas that emerge from the research. The report promotes the benefits of inter-agency and multi-agency work.

This article is available at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2006.00452.x>

The Children and Parents Service (CAPS): A Multi-Agency Early Intervention Initiative for Young Children and their Families

White, C & Verduyn, C. (2006) *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 11 (4), 192-197

This paper examines the U.K.'s Children and Parents Service (CAPS), an early intervention service for young children and their families. The article discusses the model of service delivery utilised, the obstacles to service implementation and the strategies used to overcome them.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1475-3588.2006.00410.x>

Home Visitation: Assessing Progress, Managing Expectations

Daro, D. (2006) Ounce of Prevention Fund and Chapin Hall Centre for Children: Chicago

This provides a review of the evolution of home visitation programs, which reach between 400,000 and 500,000 young children and their families in the U.S each year. The report discusses research that has evaluated the effectiveness of home visitation programs to improve the quality of life of young children. The study also discusses improvements that have been made to home visitation programs and outlines reasonable expectations for such programs in the future.

The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/publications/Home%20Visitation.pdf>

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research

Family violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman (2006).
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Canberra

This report presents information on the extent of violence (in particular family violence) in the Indigenous population, using existing surveys and administrative data collections. Information is presented on the prevalence of violence, associated harm and services for victims of violence, as well as on those in contact with the criminal justice system. The report also discusses gaps in existing information, the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are identified and strategies to improve the information on family violence.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10372>

The 'Growing Up' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children: A Literature Review

Robyn Penman (2006)
Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This literature review was commissioned as part of Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children. It aims to consolidate information previously gathered about Indigenous children, and to highlight what information gaps exist. It considers the data available for understanding the care giving environment of Indigenous children, and child-specific topics such as early childhood, the school years and pathways outside of school.

This review can be viewed online at:
<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops15.htm>

Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse

Developed by Attorney General's Department NSW (2006)

This is a new website launched in November 2006. The aim of the clearinghouse is to promote discussion and disseminate relevant Indigenous justice information to government policy makers and those working in the Indigenous justice field. It includes a resource database and an online forum.

www.indigenousjustice.gov.au

Other Research

ABS: NSW in Focus 2006

This document produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides extensive information about the people, economy and environment of NSW, and includes a family and community section. Each chapter consists of a summary table followed by more detailed statistics relating to key issues identified in each domain.

This report can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1338.12006?OpenDocument>

From the child's perspective: A qualitative analysis of kinship care placements.

Messing, J. (2006) *Children and Youth Services Review*, 28 (12), 1415-1434

This paper emphasises that the use of kinship care has become the dominant 'first option' considered when looking for placements for children who can not remain in the care of their biological parents. This option is based on the view that it is in the best interest of the child/young person. This study is valuable as there are few studies that describe, from the child's perspective of living in the care of a relative.

This article is available at:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01907409>

Sexually abusive youth: A review of recidivism studies and methodological issues for future research.

Fortune, C. & Lambie, I. (2006) *Clinical Psychology Review*, 26 (8), 1078-1095.

This article explores the NZ experience of working with high needs and high cost kids who have been perpetrators of sexual abuse in terms of case planning and program implementation for their clients. The current review looks at recidivism among sexually abusive youth and then focuses on outcome studies of adolescent sex offender treatment programmes.

This article is available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02727358>

What works in residential child care: a review of research evidence and the practical considerations.

Clough, R. Bullock, R. Ward, A. (2006) National Children's Bureau: UK

This report is based on a residential child care project which considered the purpose and future shape of residential care services for children in Wales with the aim of establishing a sound theoretical basis and strategic direction for the development of an effective, quality service. It explores research from both throughout the UK and the USA. The conclusion of the report highlights 'what works in residential care.'

This report is available at: http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx8775sm_82989731416944k58t106275481

Changes in the form of knowledge in social work: From the 'Social' to the 'Informational'?

Parton, N. (2006). *British Journal of Social Work Advance Access*, October, 1-17

This paper examines the changing form of knowledge over the past 30

years, and its implications for theory and practice in the U.K. It considers the impact of enhanced systems related to new information and communication technologies, including the use of electronic records, the Integrated Children's System (ICS), the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), and the Information Sharing Index (IS Index). There is a shift from a narrative to a database-focused way of thinking and operating.

<http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/bcl337v1>

Transitions: Young adults with complex needs

London Social Exclusion Task Force (2006). Cabinet Office: London

This report focuses on identifying how U.K. services can best fit the needs of 16 to 25 year olds with complex needs as they make the transition to adulthood. It examines the problems faced by young people, exploring the areas of thinking and behaviour, age boundaries, holistic services and the notion of the trusted adult.

The full report can be downloaded on: www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=785

Practice Resource

Parenting Websites Information Resource

This resource offers a brief overview and easy access links to quality websites relating to a wide range of parenting topics.

This and other DoCS resources can be accessed online at: http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/news_publications/research_practice.htm

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The New South Wales Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention 2006 edition

This resource is a practical guide on interagency cooperation in child protection, promoting a joint approach towards working with and responding to children, young people and their families.

This is available online at: http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/comm_partners/childprotection_guidelines.htm

New Books

Working With Abused Children

Celia Doyle (2006). Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan

Doyle attempts to help understand the behaviours of children in abusive situations. Using several approaches (i.e. the development of child-care law, individual case histories and practical illustrations of work with abused children) the author offers step-by-step guidance through the mechanics of direct work with individual children, groups and families. The book includes exercises to link the reader back to earlier references and case studies as well as to their own practice, encouraging the development of the critical and reflective approach which the author advocates.

A review of this book can be viewed at: <http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/36/7/1249>

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.

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