

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #41

1. Title:

Scaling up evidence based practice at Wanslea Family Services

2. Author(s):

Pauline Dixon, Dr Melinda Polimeni,

3. Key words:

Evidence informed practice, Implementation drivers, partnering with intermediary organization

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

Wanslea family services is a not for profit agency with 50 workers across four locations in the Perth Metropolitan area of Western Australia. Since 2009 the agency has been working in partnership with the Parenting Research Centre, a National intermediary organisation on a systematic approach to scaling up evidence based practice across their family services programs.

b. Methods

This paper will describe the development and implementation of an evidence informed practice framework which has been adapted across Wanslea for HOW work with parents is done (e.g., engagement, assessment, goal setting, support planning, etc) and evidence based intervention approaches or 'WHAT' is done with families across various programs including prevention of separation, family support, and reunification. An examination of the implementation drivers which have been instrumental to the success of adoption and implementation of these changes will also be outlined, including the use of training, supervision and coaching, leadership and policy approaches, and partnering with an intermediary organisation.

c. Conclusion:

Implementation science and a common elements approach were key factors in allowing a family support agency to adapt evidence informed approaches to their work - allowing for consistency in HOW practitioners work with parents, whilst also allowing flexibility to provide evidence informed services to for various target groups and programs.