

Research Seminar – 12th December, 2006

Child abuse prevention programs: What works?

Presenters: Leah Bromfield and Prue Holzer from the National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies

Child abuse prevention programs aim to prevent the occurrence and/or reoccurrence of child abuse and neglect. There are a number of different types of child abuse prevention programs; but do they work? And on what basis are we able to draw conclusions as to their effectiveness? In this paper, six different types of child maltreatment prevention programs will be reviewed: personal safety programs; child therapy; parent education; home visiting; family preservation; and community education. Specifically, Leah and Prue will explore the available evidence concerning the effectiveness of these types of child abuse prevention programs. Leah and Prue will also discuss the benefits of program evaluation, ways in which evaluations can be conducted, and the hallmarks of a "gold standard" evaluation. To conclude, Leah and Prue will identify the implications of their research for both policy and practice.

Biographical details

DR LEAH BROMFIELD is Dr Leah Bromfield is the Manager of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at Australian Institute of Family Studies. She has completed a PhD on the topic of chronic child maltreatment in statutory child protection services. Her recent research projects have covered a range of topics including: National comparisons of child protection related policy and practice; evaluation of the Australian out-of-home care research evidence base; an audit of Australian child protection research; enhancing culturally appropriate practice for Indigenous carers; the prevalence and risk factors for maltreatment in organisations; the effectiveness of child abuse prevention programs; and the use of research by policy makers and practitioners in the child protection field.

PRUE HOLZER is a Research Officer for the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at Australian Institute of Family Studies. She has completed a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Psychology and Sociology, and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology. Some of the recent research topics Prue has been involved with include: National comparisons of child protection related policy and practice; the effectiveness of child abuse prevention programs; the use of research by policy makers and practitioners in the child protection field; and the triggers for on-going parental conflict following separation and divorce

Date and time: Tuesday 12th December 2006, 4.00pm-5.30pm (drinks and nibbles afterwards).

Location: C4-16, Centenary Building, University of South Australia, City East Campus, Frome Road, Adelaide.

RSVP: For catering purposes, please contact Elizabeth Oram at the Australian Centre for Child Protection on (08) 8302 4030 or email elizabeth.oram@unisa.edu.au by Thursday, 7th December, 2006.

Please distribute this invitation to other interested people in your organisation/networks.