

Research Seminar – 14th November, 2006

Sowing the Seeds of Innovation in Child and Family Services

Presenters: Fiona Arney and Mary Salveron

There is a rich range of promising approaches emerging in response to problems such as child abuse and neglect. However, little is known about how and why some innovations or ideas spread from one setting to another and others don't. This presentation draws upon the 'diffusion of innovation' literature to highlight how features of the innovation, the individual, the organisation and the wider environment influence the spread of innovative policies, programs and practice. It will include information about a new project being funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant examining the diffusion of home grown and imported overseas programs in Australia.

Biographical details

Fiona Arney is the Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia. She is responsible for the Centre's Research and Strategic Evaluation focus area and is involved in a range of multidisciplinary projects examining the prevention, identification and response to child abuse and neglect, with a particular emphasis on the translation of research into action. Her research interests include: parenting in a new culture; child and adolescent development and wellbeing; the evaluation of programs in child and family services; and supporting resilience and strengths in children, parents and families. Fiona has also been a member of research teams at the Victorian Parenting Centre (now the Parenting Research Centre) and the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Mary Salveron is a Research Assistant at the Australian Centre for Child Protection, located at the University of South Australia. Mary holds a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) Degree and has recently commenced her doctoral studies in psychology and child protection, focusing specifically on what helps or prevents parents visiting their children who have been placed in alternative care. Mary previously worked for the Northern and Far Western Regional Health Service as Project Officer for both the Early Childhood Intervention Program and Regional Family Birthing program where she worked with disadvantaged families and Aboriginal communities. She was also previously employed as a therapist, implementing behaviour modification techniques to children diagnosed with autism.

Date and time: Tuesday 14th November 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, 9th November, 2006.

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