WELCOME
- Pine Tree Tots
- Life and Dreams (LaDs) and Bella
- Companion Animal Service Employment Centre (CASEC)
- Extra Edge – Boronia Choir
- Workforce Development Centre
- Parenting and Career Solutions
- Family Rhyme Time
Pine Tree Tots - Boronia

CASEC – Hakea Men’s Prison
Child Aware Prison Program

- Opportunity to reach “at risk” parents
- To raise awareness of risk factors and share information of healing strategies
Two formats training:

- Officers and staff
- Female prisoners
Prisons

- Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women
- Bandyup Women’s Prison
- Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison
- Roebourne Regional Prison
Why female prisoners?

Majority of prisoners are mums and have been affected by abuse, drugs and/or mental health.
Parental status

- Most of the women had children (67%)
- Of the women with children around three-quarters were caring for them prior to arrest (74%)

Department of Corrective Services WA
Profile of Women in Prison 2008
A large majority of women indicated they had experienced physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives (90%), with most of them experiencing abuse as an adult (83%), and about half of the sample experiencing abuse as a child (44%).
Substance misuse statistics

- Most women had a substance abuse issue (78%)

Department of Corrective Services WA
Profile of Women in Prison 2008
Prisoners experience major mental disorders at a rate of two to four times the expected rates in the community.

Creating Hope: Mental Health in Western Australian Maximum Security Prisons (2011)

Jennifer Fleming  Edith Cowan University
Natalie Gately  Edith Cowan University
Sharan Kraemer  Edith Cowan University
Roebourne Regional Prison
Project Aims

- Increase knowledge of
  - child development, early brain development and attachment
  - the effects of trauma
  - strategies to overcome trauma
- Provide information for prison staff
- Introduce services to support women post release
- Reduce recidivism
How did we do it?

- Women - hands on yarning circle
- Officers and staff - PowerPoint and group activities

“I like the learning of the brain how it develops and learn throughout birth to 3 years and adult” Prisoner
Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison
Program delivery in prisons

- Experience
- Follow policies and procedures
- Know your group, remember where you are
- Curiosity is not to be explored

“Wish I had done it years ago before having my own child.”
Prison Officer
Barriers Communicating with Prisons

- Have a liaison person
- Anticipate problems, contingency planning
- Arrive early to allow for processing time
- Be prepared - to show you understand
- Remain enthusiastic
- Retain all emails to show evidence of approvals
- Confirm all details
Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women
Engaging prison staff and prisoners

- Officers: enthusiasm, understanding, acknowledge differences in opinions, anticipate resistance
- Prisoners: cultural respect, cater for all literacy levels, enthusiasm, non judgemental

One of the officers observed:
Even though they were aware of some of the issues raised they were a bit jaded in their roles and this training encouraged them to think again
Take home resources

- Training Handbooks
- Resource file – for referral agencies in local community
Did you find the Child Aware Prison Project Handbook:

- **Easy to Understand**: 90% Yes, 10% No
- **Relevant**: 80% Yes, 20% No
- **Useful**: 80% Yes, 20% No
Challenges

- Time constraints
- Attendance
- INVOLUNTARY CLIENTS – both prisoners and staff!
Overcoming negative attitudes

- Know your group
- Remain enthusiastic
- Explain before workshop that it may be confronting. Alert counselling staff
- Ensure workshop content is balanced – talk about positive ways to overcome trauma
Bandyup Women's Prison
Evaluation with low literacy levels

- LISTEN and observe
- Evaluation forms simple to cater for all levels literacy
- Take time to talk to group afterwards

“I loved learning about this. It was interesting, helpful and useful so I know how to listen more to my son – give more love and affection.” Prisoner
**Evaluation Form**

**Evaluation Form - Mothers**

**Date:**

**Workshop:** Child Aware Prison Program

**Trainer:** Elspeth Ferrari

**Did you find the session...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>I didn't like it</th>
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**Interesting?**

**Important?**

**Helpful?**

**Was the information...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>I didn't like it</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Helpful?**

**Useful?**
Proof of learning

Did you find the training increased your awareness of child development and the impact of...
Outcomes and Discussion

- Deliver to men
- Visits area
- Officers – encourage a training culture
- Ongoing funding would benefit all – reducing the incidence of preventable conditions
Feedback from the prison officers

- “It will assist me in my role when making future assessment decisions for female prisoners.”
- “Many prisoners I work with have kids who are very important to them, however I think they lack some skills and knowledge in this area.”
- “Very well presented.”
- “Well put together, adequately communicated to a difficult audience.”
Feedback from the Women

- “Positive discussions rather than just being told facts and information.”
- “Being able to share and talk about our own experiences.”
- “It was very interesting and shows you a different perspective on surrounding situations.”
- “How to have a connection with my child and how to create a boundary around my child.”
Would you recommend this training to others?

100% of Participants indicated that they would recommend the training to others.
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