Cradle to Kinder (C2K) Program
Supporting Families

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Introduction

We would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri People traditional custodians on whose land we stand today and pay our respects to elders past and present.

We are privileged to share the thoughts and experiences of the parents who have been involved in the Cradle to Kinder Project and be able to share their journey with you today.
C2K – Cradle To Kinder

- QEC & Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) were successful in their submission for Southern Melbourne Metropolitan Region
- Commenced in April 2012
C2K – Cradle To Kinder

- State wide evaluation by Murdoch Research Institute and Australian Institute of Family Studies

- Key stake holders, Cradle to Kinder Teams and clients
C2K – Cradle To Kinder

- Multi Disciplinary Team. There is variation in the teams state-wide

- The team is situated within the VACCA offices in Dandenong
The C2K Program

• Aims to build the capacity of parents/families to provide for their child’s safety, development & health pre birth to 4 years
• Builds the mothers self reliance through access to education and vocational training, community and social networks
• Case management model
• Brokerage is attached to program
Program Participants

32 mothers and their families are in the program including seven of the families identifying as Aboriginal.

The program is prioritized for:

- Aboriginal women and/or women pregnant with an Aboriginal child
- Adolescent women (under 25 years of age)
- Women with a learning difficulties (no age limit)
- Previously or currently in out of home care

Family centred and family inclusive
Evidence Based Practice

• Based on Best Interest Case Practice Model

All teams are provided with training in the following:
• Family Partnership Training
• NCAST
• Keys to Caregiving
• Family Star Plus
• Best Interest Case Practice Framework
Evidence Based Practice

- Family Partnership Model
Program delivery

- Community program with intensive proactive outreach support

- Engages with families who may have difficulty connecting with other services

- Assessment of family with focus on the stability, development and safety of the child/children
Program delivery

- Connection with other services and to their community and culture
- Brokerage used for emergency and material aid, education and therapeutic intervention
- Delivery of early parenting education and support
- Planned closure
Case Study

Extended Family

Paul – 20yrs

Crystal – 20yrs

Dirk - 20yrs

Bobby - 20mths
Background

- Crystal was born whilst her mother was incarcerated
- Biological father incarcerated
- Crystal’s mother poly substance misuse and mental health issues
- Step father alcoholic
- Sexually abused by family member
- Placed in out of home care
- Exposed to domestic violence
- Numerous mental health diagnosis
- Involved with Youth Justice
Key Areas of Support Offered

• Ante and post natal
• Key ages and stages
• Immunisations
• Advocacy
• Fostering positive parent child interaction
• Promote safety and well being
• Brokerage
Interventions for the Family

• Collaborative ante natal care team
• Support around impact of family violence and crisis management
• Supporting Crystal to gain self-confidence
• Supported Crystal through the process of removal and reunification process
• Worked with Maternal Grandmother and Maternal Great-Grandmother to support reunification
• Advocated for Crystal
Interventions for the family

- Accessed Psychological Counselling
- Assisted to attend health appointments
- Attended Ministry of Food Sessions
- Sing and Grow
- Budgeting education
- Support with seeking employment
Outcomes for Crystal

- Moved to suitable accommodation
- In a stable, non-violent relationship
- Has not reoffended
- Worked through challenges of professional relationship and remains engaged
- Proactive in regards to her health
- Bobby is now in Crystal’s full time care
- Exceeding own expectations of parenting
Outcomes for the Child

• Bobby born at term with no complications
• Bobby demonstrates a positive and secure attachment to Crystal, with a growing attachment with Paul
• Regularly attends child care, development age appropriate
• Up to date with immunisations and Maternal Child Health Nurse (MCHN) appointments
• Reunified with Crystal after 12 months of Supervision order to a family member
• Will be referred for three year old Kinder
• Crystal left violent relationship
CONCLUSION