Ensuring the visibility of children

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Partnership ACCP and COPMI

A collaborative approach bringing together national initiatives with a shared interest in vulnerable children
Child Aware practice is an emerging concept in Australia with a focus on supporting parenting and improving outcomes for children. Adult services are asked to consider the parenting role and the needs of children of their adult clients. There is also a focus on the collaborative relationship between services.
Child Aware

www.copmi.net.au
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Think about your service:

• How ‘visible’ are children in your service?
• Does the service respond differently to a parent?
• How does the service assess children’s needs?
• How do practitioners support the needs of a parent? The needs of a child?

www.copmi.net.au
Child aware

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Who has met Haley?

What service was she accessing?

How old was she?

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Activity: Reflection

How vulnerable do you think Haley is at this stage in her life?

Think about how Haley is affected by her situation.
Note: the elements of the story that cause you to be concerned for Haley.

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What do you see as the short-term impacts on Haley’s well being?

What do you see as the long term impacts on Haley’s well being?

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Activity: Reflection

How did we get to this?

What are your concerns for Haley’s future?

What opportunities are there to engage in conversations with parents in your service about the impacts of adult issues on the child?

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Missed opportunities

Children of Parents with a Mental Illness

www.copmi.net.au
Parent voice

www.copmi.net.au
Child aware: parent voice

www.copmi.net.au
Consider the qualities of the worker that Sandra identified, how are these qualities supported in your practice?

What organisational supports are in place to support practitioners to prepare for difficult conversations?
How has your understanding of child aware practice changed?

What implications does this have for your practice?
Think about your service:

• How ‘visible’ are children in your service?

• What does child aware practice mean for your organisation?

• How would you start a conversation in your organisation about the ‘visibility’ of children to inform practice and organisational change?
What practice change will you make?  

Who can support you with this change?  
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