Universal child protection
An update on ARACY’s Common Approach

Imogen Wall, May 2016, aracy.org.au
Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth
Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth

- Collaboration
- Evidence
- Prevention
Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth

The NEST – Overarching national framework to mobilise, align and enable efforts to improve child & youth outcomes
• Loved & safe
• Material basics
• Healthy
• Learning
• Participating
• Positive sense of culture & identity

Networks – Early years; Longitudinal studies; Prevention science; Knowledge brokering; Parent engagement; Fatherhood research; Student wellbeing
Overview

The Common Approach – Developments to date

• Origins, evaluation, implementation
• Projects with South Australian Dept. Education & Child Development

New perspectives

• Systems analysis
• Change models & methods
Inverting the Pyramid – Enhancing systems for protecting children pivotal ARACY Report

Timeline

2009

Primary prevention
- Few

Safety net services
- Some

Crisis services
- Many

Universal primary prevention
- Many

Safety net services
- Some

Crisis services
- Few
2009

**Timeline**

- **Inverting the Pyramid** – Enhancing systems for protecting children pivotal ARACY Report

- **National Framework** for Protecting Australia’s Children (CoAG) 2009–2020

- **National taskforce** Including 300+ practitioners working with children & families and ministers & peak agencies
Inverting the Pyramid – Enhancing systems for protecting children pivotal ARACY Report

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2012
Independent Review of Common Approach by the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC)

2011-2012
Multi-state trial of Common Approach (VIC, NSW, WA and SA)

2010
The Common Approach Final report and product developed and launched
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2015
- Child & Family Wellbeing project
  Commissioned by South Australian Dept. Education & Child Development

2016
- Train-the-Trainer
  Rolled out to SA Dept. Education & Child Development
What is the Common Approach?

A flexible framework to help everyone have quality conversations with young people and families about all aspects of their wellbeing

Everyday conversations that everyone can have
What is the Common Approach?

- Being child-centred
- Focusing on strengths
- Thinking holistically
- Working in partnership

A distillation of evidence based best practice
What is the Common Approach?

A deliberate frame for interacting with children & young people
What is the Common Approach?

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Relationships
- Material basics
- Learning
- Safety

Holistic, universal, non-stigmatising
What is the Common Approach?

Start here!

- **Action the child or family can take**
- **Informal support - friends family**
- **Support from the community**
- **Support from your service**
- **Other local services**
- **Formal targeted referrals**

Using the most appropriate response first
## Service mapping

### Eg, Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Support in the community</th>
<th>Universal services</th>
<th>Targeted services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Health</strong></td>
<td>Local facilities – swimming pool, skate park, playgrounds, baby swimming Sporting groups / dance classes Beach</td>
<td>Child and Family Centre Child health nurse Dentist</td>
<td>Specialist medical services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children/young people</td>
<td>Fitness programs Sporting clubs Cooking classes</td>
<td>General Practitioner Sexual health clinic Nutrition program</td>
<td>Specialist medical services Drug and alcohol service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Headspace School counsellor</td>
<td>Community mental health</td>
<td>Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td>Community arts centre Online information and support</td>
<td>Family Relationships Centre</td>
<td>Psychologist Carer respite Disability support services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children/young people</td>
<td>Community centres Cultural centres Online information and support</td>
<td>Women's centre Family Relationships Centre Men's Shed Family support services Peer support groups</td>
<td>Intensive family support services Family therapy Men's Behaviour Change Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Church Community groups Community garden Parents groups Online information and support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the Common Approach?

**Child-centred**
“allows us to talk about the child’s wellbeing. I can always draw focus back to the child by framing the domains of the wheel around that child.”

**Holistic**
“helped me understand how the domains of wellbeing interact, so I can better organise interventions and family action plans.”

**Strengths**
“helps the family ‘realise’ their child does have strengths, and what they thought may have been an issue is really actually a need”

**Partnership**
“a great mechanism for work to really start where the family would like to begin.”
Creating systemic change

“It is no longer viable to take ever increasing amounts of taxation from the public to deal with the ever increasing impact of failing to intervene early”

(Allen and Smith, 2008)

Common Approach

• Adaptable & flexible
• Self-sustaining
Creating systemic change

“The two public policy strengths of early intervention are … it is **less expensive** and … **more effective** than late intervention”

(Allen and Smith, 2008)

Common Approach can supplement
- Admin processes
- Intake & assessment

More crisis situations
Less opportunity for broad preventative action
Pressure on accountability to meet funding requirements
Standard medicalised assessment prioritised over holistic flexible interaction
Creating systemic change

Common Approach package:
- Implementation support
- Organisational change
- Personal change
Creating systemic change – brainstorming

LEVERAGE FACTORS

- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?

PROBLEM

- ?

CHANGE PATHWAYS

- Executive change
- Organisational change
- Personal change

VISION

- ?
Creating systemic change – brainstorming

**LEVERAGE FACTORS**

- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?

**PROBLEM**

Lack of prevention creates more crises

**CHANGE PATHWAYS**

- Executive change
- Organisational change
- Personal change

**VISION**

Universal prevention reduces crises

**PROBLEM**

Lack of prevention creates more crises

**CHANGE PATHWAYS**

- Executive change
- Organisational change
- Personal change

**VISION**

Universal prevention reduces crises
Creating systemic change – brainstorming

LEVERAGE FACTORS

Policy
Connection
Training
Promotion
Access

PROBLEM

Lack of prevention creates more crises

CHANGE PATHWAYS

Executive change
Organisational change
Personal change

VISION

Universal prevention reduces crises

https://www.facebook.com/NowThisNews/videos/1002616469828477/
Selected references


Family Partnership Model, Davis & Day,


*The Strengths Approach – Sharing Power and Creating Change*, by McCashen, Bendigo: St Lukes, 2005

*Sustained home visiting for vulnerable families and children: A literature review of effective programs*, by McDonald, Moore & Goldfeld, 2012