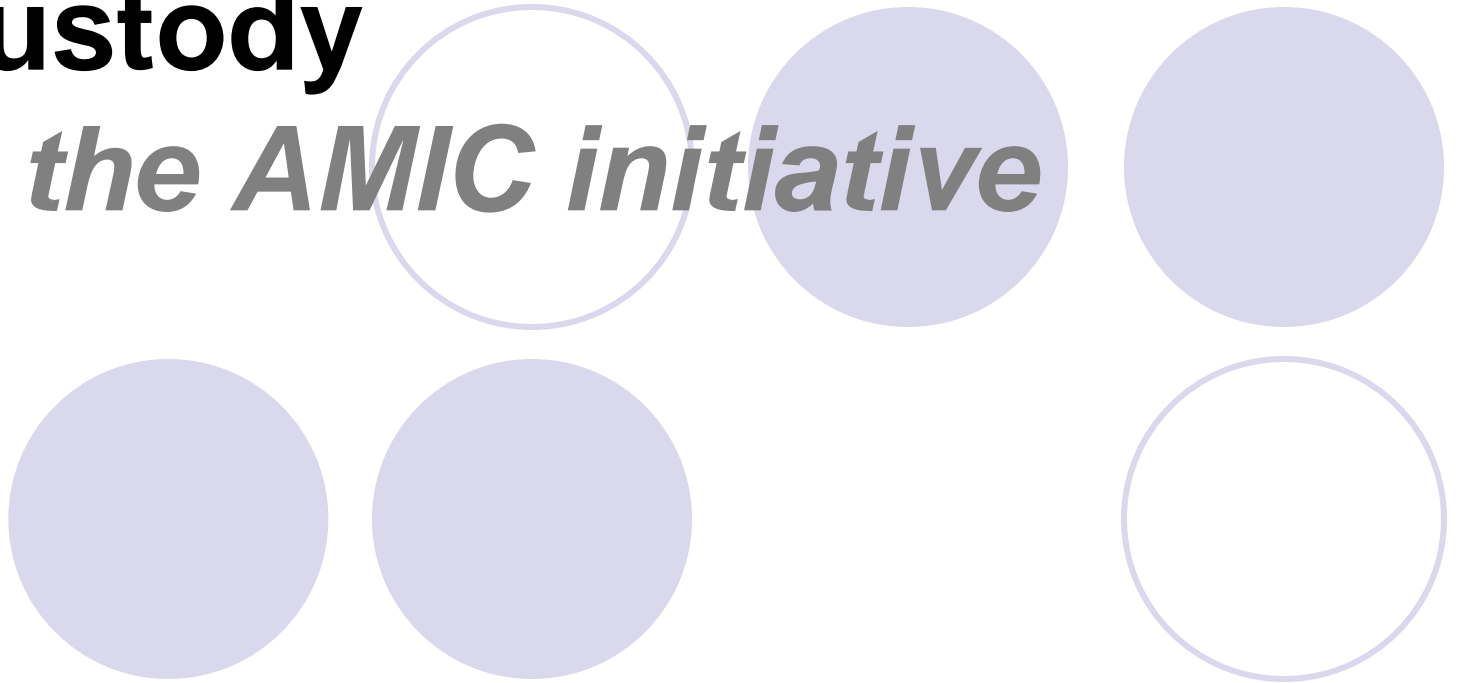


Adolescent mothers in custody *and the AMIC initiative*



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An Australian Government Initiative





The importance of parenting

- The quality of care-giving received in infancy and toddlerhood can have a significant impact on a child's cognitive, emotional and psychological development *Greenberg, 1999; O'Connor, 2002; Shonkoff, 2003; Perry, Pollard, Blakely, Baker & Vigilante, 1995*
- Family-based risk factors have been identified in etiological models of childhood psychopathology and criminological behaviour *Greenberg, 1999; NSW Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Justice, 1999*
- Links have been shown between attachment patterns established in early childhood and later psychosocial functioning and psychopathology in adulthood *Thompson, 1999; Feeney, 1999; Dozier, Chase Stovall & Albus, 1999*

Children of incarcerated parents

- The 'unintended' and 'hidden' victims of the criminal justice system
Hannon, 2006; Miller, 2006
- Common presentations / experiences
 - anxiety
 - guilt
 - shame
 - grief
 - anger
 - low self esteem
 - loneliness
 - poor peer relations
 - behavioural disturbances *Simmons, 2000; Poehlmann, 2005; Woodward, 2003; Seymour, 1998; Miller, 2006*
- Contributing factors
 - trauma related to parent-child separation
 - inadequate parenting
 - economic strain
 - stigma and social labelling *Murray & Farrington, 2006; Seymour, 1998; Gursansky, Harvey, McGrath & O'Brien, 1998; Woodward, 2003; Parke & Clarke-Stewart, 2002*

The good news...

- Early parenting and childcare interventions can alter developmental pathways towards more positive outcomes, even for the most disadvantaged children

Zeigler, Taussig & Black, 1992; Watson & Tully, 2008

- Potential benefits of prison-based intervention programs:

- Improvements in the quality of parent-child relationships

- Ease of family reunification

Phillips, Erkanli, Keeler, Costello & Angold, 2006; Robertson, 2007; Johnston, 2006; Sorbello, Eccleston, Ward & Jones, 2002

- Reduced recidivism

Healy, Foley & Walsh, 2001; Showers, 1993; NSW Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Justice, 1999; Cunningham, 2001; Seymour, 1998; Loy, 2000

- Reduced rates of intergenerational incarceration

Moore & Clement, 1998

Parenting programs in prisons

- **Overseas programs**

- Parenting education programs

Moore & Clement, 1998; Showers, 1993; Howze Brown, 1989; Harm & Thompson, 1997

- Parenting peer support groups *Boudin, 1998*

- Programs involving child visits or live-in facilities for children/ young infants

Thompson & Harm, 2000; Carlson, 1998

- **Australian programs**

- *'Good Beginnings: Prisoners and their Families Program'*

- Parenting education/individual assistance program
- Evaluated and implemented in a number of Australian adult prisons *King, 2005*

- *'Mothering at a distance program'*

- Ten-week mother-child interaction group program for incarcerated women and their young children (aged 0-5 years) at Emu Plains Correctional Centre (NSW)

Fowler, McInnes & Murphy, 2005; Perry et al, 2009

Adolescent parents in custody

- Adolescent women in custody are known to be a highly marginalized group

- childhood abuse
- neglect
- family instability
- violence
- poverty
- domestic violence
- dysfunctional relationships
- psychopathology
- substance abuse

Timmons-Mitchell, Brown, Webster, Underwood & Semple, 1997; Dixon, Howie & Starling, 2004; Cauffman, 2004; Cauffman, Feldman, Watherman & Steiner, 1998; Chitsabesan & Bailey, 2006; Katoaka, Zima, Dupre, Moreno, Yang & McCracken, 2001

- Inter-generational continuity of parenting practices

Putallaz, Costanzo, Grimes & Sherman, 1998

- Risks associated with adolescent parenting *Condon & Corkindale, 2002*

- maternal poverty
- malnutrition
- pregnancy complications
- emotional problems
- substance abuse

The 'Adolescent Mothers in Custody' (AMIC) Initiative

- A Partnership Between Karitane and the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Funded by the Attorney General's Department, through a National Crime Prevention Programme Grant
- Implemented at Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre, over a two year period (November 2006-November 2008)
- Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre:
 - The only female-specific custodial centre in NSW
 - Opened in October 2005. Prior to this young women in NSW were detained at Yasmar JJC
 - Young women detained at Juniperina can be between the ages of 10 to 21 years, but are most commonly 14 to 18 years of age
 - Young women who are detained at Juniperina may be detained on remand or on a control order (a custodial sentence)

History of the AMIC initiative



Sept 2004

'Mother and Children's working group' formed

Early 2006

Karitane and DJJ developed a proposal for a new initiative aiming to meet the needs of young women with children or who are pregnant at Juniperina JJC

July 2006

Attorney General's Department funding received (National Crime Prevention Programme Grant)

Nov 2006

Steering committee established

Feb 2007

Karitane Project Worker recruited; programs commenced

Dec 2008

Final progress report to Attorney General's Office

The AMIC Program: Overview

Rationale

- The importance of early parenting in child outcomes
- The importance of family ties in community re-integration and decreasing re-offending



Intervention target areas

- Parent-child relationships
- Parenting confidence, knowledge and skills
- Self-esteem, life choices and relationship skills
- Social support and integration with community services
- Staff awareness, knowledge and confidence with regards to parenting and family issues
- Integrated and coordinated policies and procedures



Best practice recommendations for service delivery

- Relationship-based practice
- Sensitivity to culture, gender and developmental age
- Sensitivity to issues of relevance to juvenile justice populations



Program objectives (key activities)

1. Provision of universal education for all Juniperina JJC staff
2. Provision of targeted education and clinical supervision for Juniperina JJC staff
3. Provision of programs for young women with children
4. Provision of programs for all young women in custody
5. Evaluation of policy and practice and recommendations

1. Universal staff education



Aim

To educate staff about the physical and emotional needs of children, child development, child safety, child protection, and the emotional needs of young women in custody who are parents.

Modules

- (i) 'Introduction to working with young parents in custody'
- (ii) 'Change - offering hope'

Outcomes

- Feedback from staff and stakeholders indicated increases in awareness and knowledge of the needs of young mothers in custody and their children, and improved confidence and skill in working with this population.

2. Targeted education and clinical supervision for Juniperina staff

Aims

- To increase staff knowledge and awareness of parenting issues
- To increase everyday application by staff of knowledge and awareness of parenting issues
- To increase staff confidence in supporting and working with parents, carers and their children
- To facilitate changes in Juniperina JJC service policy and procedures

Core modules

- Distance Education package
- Family Partnership Training (Davis et al., 2002)
- Staff development training day
- Additional training opportunities, including 'Core of life' training (Smith and Patrick, 2001)

Outcomes

- The distance education package was produced and commenced by 10 Juniperina JJC staff and 6 community Juvenile Justice Officers (JJOs).
- Feedback from staff that had completed or who were completing the package indicated increases in knowledge, awareness and skills relating to parenting issues.
- 10 Juniperina JJC staff attended a staff development day; 2 Juniperina JJC staff were trained as 'Core of Life' facilitators; 2 Juniperina JJC staff completed Family Partnership Training; 2 Juniperina JJC staff attended young parents antenatal and postnatal community support workshop.

3. Programs for young women with children

Aims

- To improve levels of parenting confidence for young mothers
- To improve the quality of parent-child and carer-child relationships
- To facilitate ongoing post-release support for the families of young mothers in custody at Juniperina JJC

Key components

1. Case planning
2. Advocacy
3. Long day visits for children
4. Education
5. One-to-one support
6. Referrals to community services

3. Programs for young women with children (continued)

Outcomes

- Over an 18-month evaluation period, there were 11 young women at Juniperina JJC who were pregnant or who were parents. The KPW engaged and worked closely with 5 of these young women. The most common reason for not engaging with the KPW was a short length of stay at Juniperina JJC.

- Feedback from these participants indicated:

(i) Satisfaction with the program:

“it gave me lots of ideas and helped me choose a lot of good things to in the future”

(it taught me) “how to feel good about myself” and “how to make big changes in my life for good”

(ii) improvements in knowledge

(the family matters program provided) “ a lot of knowledge of take home with me and how to manage my kids better”

(iii) increased confidence

“being a young mother like myself is very stressful at some times and I’ve learnt to control that by taking time out and being aware and not to be embarrassed to get help”

- Positive post-release outcomes were also observed, including retained custody of the children and engagement in community services

Individual case

Dear
Karitane Kaz

Thankyou heaps for
all your great support
during my stay at
Juniperina. Im really
greatful that you gave
me the strength to
be who iam today due
to giving me the best
advise ever. Im so
pleased to have met
someone like you. I
will never forget you.

thankyou heaps
lots of love

P.S. guess what iam
the best mother that
I can be

4. Life choices and early parenting education for all young women in custody

Aims

To increase knowledge and awareness amongst young women in custody in topics such as healthy relationships; attachment, infant growth and development; expectations of parenting; contraception and pregnancy care.

Program development

- The program was developed over three phases: development, evaluation and final implementation. Young women and staff were consulted during all phases.
- Education programs were integrated into the DJJ Programming Framework:
 1. A weekly 'healthy relationships' group
 2. A fortnightly pregnancy and parenting group called 'Let's get real about pregnancy'
 3. A 9-session evening parenting DVD group program (named 'Raising happy kids' / 'Baby sitters club')
 4. 'Core of Life' session, to be offered bi-annually (in partnership with Karitane)

Competition

18 girls entered a competition for a new logo, worker title, and program name

Program title:
“**Family Matters**”

The workers title:
“**Family Worker**”

Logos: *shown in poster* →

A new life is born everyday

having a baby?
are you a mum?
do you baby sit?
big sister? aunty?

FAMILY WORKERS CAN HELP!

INFO WHEN YOU ARE
Having a bub,
Being a mum,
Looking after littlies

EVERYONE GROUPS
Healthy Relationships,
Lets Get Real About Pregnancy,
Raising Happy Kids DVD Nights

JUST FOR MUMS
Support with case meetings,
Acacia visits,
Community Support

FAMILY WORKERS - WHERE?
Ask a worker or look for the
Logo on a T-Shirt or ID Card

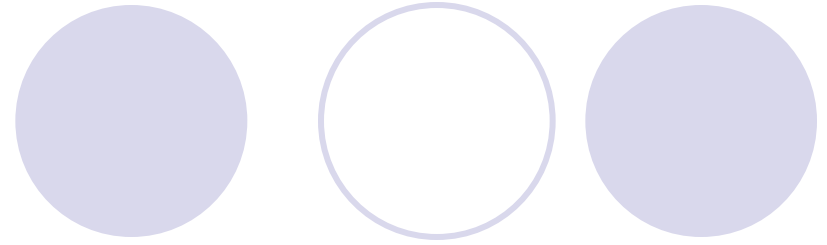
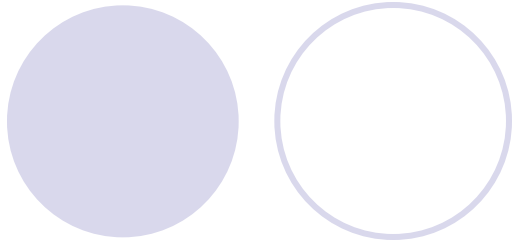
Family Matters

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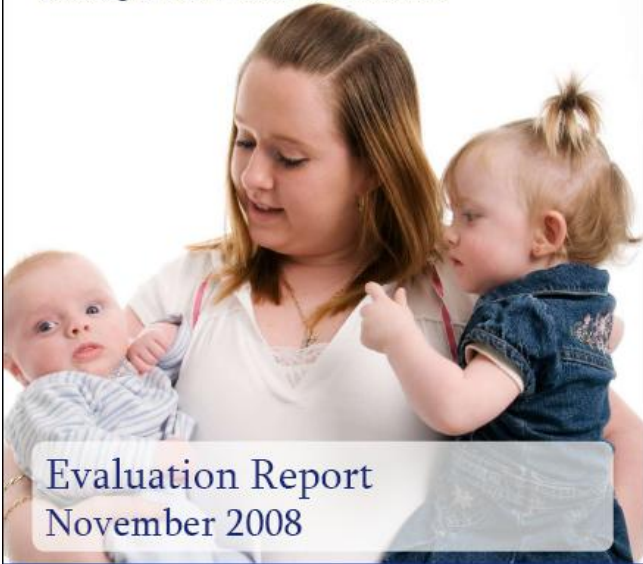
5. Evaluation of policy and practice

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) were reviewed and re-written to cover the care of young women who are pregnant or parenting
- Clinical guidelines were developed for the Family Workers
- Evaluation report included a summary of major achievements, key learnings and recommendations for future service delivery at Juniperina JJC



Adolescent Mothers in Custody

Linking to a new future for families



Evaluation Report
November 2008



An Australian Government Initiative

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