

Working Towards Family Inclusive Practice

Presented by Larry Pierce

NADA
network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

Today we're going to look at ...

- Project background
- Consultation
- What we are doing?
- Grant recipient project overview
- The outcome

*Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.”
- Jane Howard*

Background

“A new direction in Mental Health”

NSW  HEALTH

Aim: to improve the support offered to the families and carers of clients with mental illness that are accessing non government drug and alcohol services.

Why engage with families?

Copello and Orford (2002) argue that an increased emphasis on the role of families and wider social networks in routine service provision can:

(i) assist in getting clients into treatment;

(ii) improve both substance related outcomes and family functioning; and

(iii) lead to the reduction of impacts and harm for family members and others affected, including children.

“Other things may change, but we start and end with family”

- Anthony Brandt

Why not engage with families?

Reasons for not working with family may include:

- Existing verbal, physical and sexual abuse
- Unresolved conflict following separation, particularly regarding child custody issues
- Undue hardship for people to attend sessions, or where the client is emphatic that they don't want others involved
- The approach would detract from engaging with the client, disempower the client or possibly impede the attainment of identified goals.



Consultation

Key findings

- Definition of family - Broad
- 52% of agencies considered their service to be family inclusive.
- 33% of agencies have a policy/strategy for engaging with families.

Number of agencies: 33

Consultation

- 43% did not have a relationship with family and carer support services.
- 91% provide referrals to family and carer support services.

Challenges

- Geographical Location
- Resources
- Staff confidence
- Competing priorities
- Legal issues
- Promotion
- Attitudes (family & service)

How we have approached these challenges

- Toolkit
- Workshops
- Grants Program
- Support



Tools for Change:

A new way of working with families and carers

Includes:

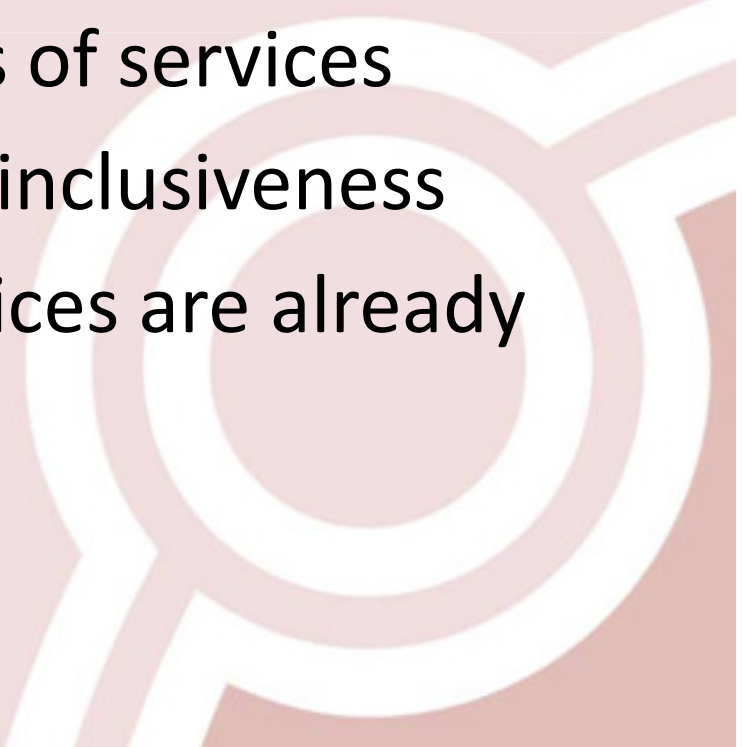
- Evidence based service models
- Interventions
- Practice tips
- Resources
- CD-Rom



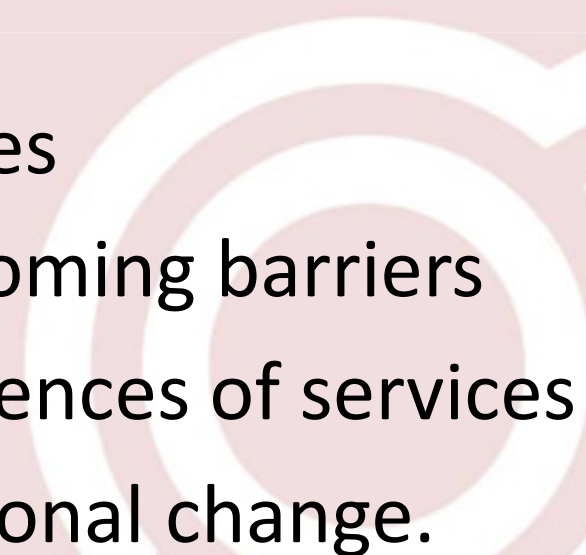
Workshops:

Working with families & carers

Included:

- Exploring the why, what & how of family inclusion
 - Family members experiences of services
 - Strategies to increase family inclusiveness
 - Panel discussion – what services are already doing
- 

Workshops

- 64 participants from 33 organisations
 - 98% participants found the theme & content relevant to their work practices
 - Range of key themes:
 - Networking opportunities
 - Barrier analysis & overcoming barriers
 - Family member's experiences of services
 - Discussion on organisational change.
- 

Workshops

Participants feedback:

“Hearing the family lived experience”


“ reflecting on practice & things that could improve”

“Ideas about how to overcome barriers
& how to engage families more”

Grants Program

- 22 Grant recipients
- Introduction to working with family and carers
 - for services that currently do not, or have little engagement with family and carers
- Effective engagement with family and carers
 - for services that already have strategies to engage and support family and carers but would like to increase their capacity to engage more effectively

Types of Projects

- Resources
 - Staff training
 - Research
 - Education
 - Support & referral
 - Accommodation & travel
 - Policy & procedure review & development
- 

Words from a grant recipient

Kerry Fitzroy,

Manager, Child and Family Team

ADFACT



What will it look like?

OUTCOMES

- Families and carers are supported
- Effective referrals
- Strong partnerships



Towards the future

- Workshops
- Evaluation
- Sustainability





Thank you

Robert Stirling
E: robert@nada.org.au
www.nada.org.au

NADA
network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

Ciara Donaghy
E: ciara@nada.org.au
www.nada.org.au