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#### Background

- 2016: 6 month pilot project, funded by DET
- Support for Young Children (0-8) Affected by Domestic and Family Violence

#### Purpose:

• To enhance and embed trauma informed child focused practice amongst professionals working in DFV Refuges in Brisbane



## **Objectives**

- Raise awareness of the impacts of • Domestic and Family Violence on young children
- Implement and review initiatives that • respond to the needs of children
- Improve the learning, social and • emotional development outcomes
- Enhance and support the healthy • functioning of parent/child relationships
- Support families to access high quality and culturally welcoming early childhood education
- Promote collaboration between DFV • services and agencies working with young children











#### Design

- Refuges were invited to participate through an EOI
- 4 Refuges chose to respond and participate

#### The three stages:

- Stage 1 Training
- Stage 2 Support and Delivery
- Stage 3 Resourcing and Review







#### Stage 1 – Training

Training topics included:

- Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting
- Impact of Trauma on Children and Young People
- Facilitating Supported Playgroups and the Importance of Play

With an emphasis on attachment, circle of security and enhancing child/caregiver relationship



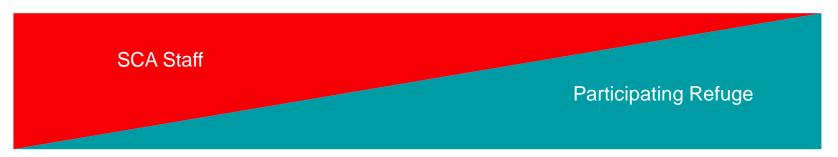




#### Stage 2 – Support and Delivery

- Week 1: Playgroup
- Week 2: Reflection and Planning meeting
- Shift from 100% STCA lead to 100% refuge lead
- Provide physical resources as well as a handbook/resource folder with key concepts from the training, meetings and onsite learnings

## Transfer of Responsibility







## Stage 3 – Resourcing and Review

- Reflection meeting at the conclusion of the projec
- Providing a resource kit
- Developing a handbook

#### **Opportunities for SCA**

- Reflective practice
- Consolidated learning from two program areas
  into one cohesive framework



"play doesn't mean having expensive things. It's about the quality of the interaction, not the price of the toy" (Participant)



Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs

- 18 playgroups were held in which children attended (out of a potential 4)
- 7 meetings, out of a possible 9 were held

Outcomes:

- 86% average score from the "Impact of DFV on Children" quiz
- 100% of participants were able to identify the benefits of play based learning AND that physical punishment is not congruent with Positive Discipline
- 80% were able to identify the impacts of DFV on children AND the consequences of using violence to discipline

"I have seen a huge improvement in the development of children that have attended group, even for such a short time" (Refuge participant)



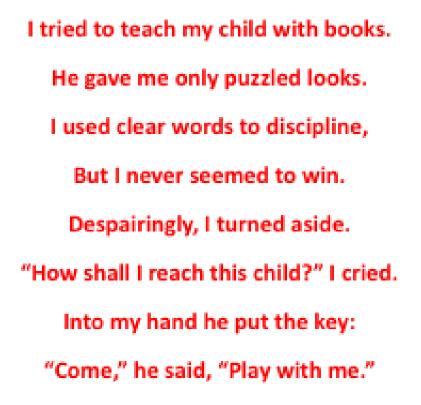






- Children as clients in their own right
- Looking at the service through the eyes of a child
- Knowledge and understanding of the children and young people accessing the service
- Fundamental principals of playgroups in place
- Child Rights





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## Learnings

- Playgroups have benefits, but are not the only or best way
- There is a gap in services and interventions for young people
- Positive outcomes require a whole team approach.
- Opportunity for SCA and other refuge staff to learn from each other and gain skills
- Learnings from different schools of thought applied in real world refuge context



## Conclusions:

- Significant positive results correlated with:
  - Time spent on site
  - Regular contact with staff
  - Participation in reflection and planning activities
- Challenges were encountered through:
  - Lack of clarity about the nature and intent of the program
  - Infrequent opportunities to spend time on site
  - Infrequent attendance at meetings
  - Introducing structured programming in a crisis environment

Overall, this project was successful in enhancing child focused practice within participating refuges, with a focus on ensuring sustained change through training, support and resourcing











#### Next Steps

- 2017 program and key messages for everyday work with young children in refuge
- 12 months to support 20 refuges across QLD
- Wider catchment (SEQ, NQ and the Gulf Region)
- Focus on key messages from playgroups and trainings



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