



Evidence and
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Summit 2023
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation
Science Interventions
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



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#82 - Enhancing foster carer assessment to decrease risk of child sexual abuse: evaluating a research to practice project

Presenting Author(s)*

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Australia

Objectives/aims

The aim of this project was to develop a comprehensive assessment framework, specifically focused on eliciting information from prospective foster carers, relevant to the risk of sexual violence and abuse in out of home care. Life Without Barriers established a partnership with key researchers to collaboratively develop and to evaluate this initiative, which has included the development of a training workshop for staff and a new practice resource.

The research merits and potential benefits of this project were highlighted by the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Methods

This presentation will provide an overview of the outcome of the key project activities which included a systematic literature review, framework development and co-designed practice resources to enhance the identification of potential risks of child sexual abuse. The framework which involves a guided interview practice resource has been designed as an addition to existing foster care recruitment and assessment processes, including probity checks and not as a stand-alone approach. The evaluation has included a pre and post questionnaire to measure the results of the training workshop and follow up interviews with participants.

Main findings

The presentation will provide an overview of the main findings, including the impact of the training workshop on staff knowledge and beliefs and the uptake of the



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practice resource. This will include discussion of how the findings of the initial evaluation have informed a follow up evaluation in a second site. The presentation will also discuss some of the challenges of implementation at scale across multiple sites, and the benefits of researchers and practitioners in this field working in partnership to co-design practice resources. The evidence-base generated from this project over time is expected to advance theory, and enhance future policy and practice in this area.

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