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**Implementing evidence informed program models in residential settings: panel discussion of the CARE model**

**Presenting Authors**

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**Objectives/aims**

Throughout child welfare systems in the USA, Australia and Canada, evidence informed programs are being required to ensure structures and processes produce positive outcomes for children and their families. The aim of this panel presentation is to better understand what works based on the implementation of Cornell University’s evidence based program model for therapeutic residential care, CARE: Creating Conditions for Change. The panel will provide an overview of the CARE model’s underpinning principles, its implementation assumptions, the evidence on outcomes, research on early implementation in seven separate participating agencies and considerations for large-scale implementation.

**Methods**

This session will be an interactive dialogue between the panel and audience, moderated by the facilitator, Assoc Prof Tim Moore, drawing from research on safe residential care to promote discussion. To set the scene, each of the 3 panel members will provide an initial 15 minute presentation. The panel will include Martha Holden, Director of the Residential Child Care project at Cornell University who will provide an overview of the CARE model and the outcomes research; Prof Jim Anglin who will describe the findings of a recent study to better understand the process of initial implementation and Dr Belinda Mayfield from Life Without Barriers, discussing the challenges of upscaling CARE nationally.

**Main findings**

The aim is to facilitate reflection, discussion and debate about what works, including how children and young people can inform practice and evaluation. The panel session is designed to be of relevance to a range of participants including researchers, policy makers and agencies, grappling with the challenges of implementing and sustaining evidence based programs. The panel discussion will be based on real-world impact on practice and will draw out key factors identified as being critical to successful implementation. These factors include the role of leadership, the translational research approach which provides intensive on-site support and the use of a data driven implementation process.