### **ABSTRACT**

**Presentation or session title**

Working with government to embed evidence in child welfare policy

**Presenting Author(s)\***

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**Country of residence**

Australia

**Type of session**

**Individual presentation**

**Theme**

Using evidence for better policy, programs and practice

Child welfare policy presents some particular challenges and opportunities in terms of embedding evidence. It is a high-risk and high-visibility area in which there has been a relatively recent push from government for evidence-informed programs. This presentation will briefly discuss the role of evidence in child welfare policy-making; consider the current state of evidence use in child welfare policy-making; and present emerging ideas for next steps.

This presentation is designed for both consultants who work with government and for government representatives. It has a practical focus and will present ideas drawn mainly from the NSW and Victorian child welfare context.

Based on our experience working with government and drawing on examples from the field we will present ideas for:

* ways in which independent consultants could work with government at various steps in policy-making
* ways to develop a shared understanding of the value of evidence
* governance structures that could assist with these processes
* the role of consultants in communicating our level of confidence in the evidence.