



Department of Community Services

**Youth and Family
Services
in
Redfern and Waterloo**

Presentation by Ross Bennett to Shelter NSW
seminar, Sydney University, 17 June 2003

Service Mapping

- South Sydney Youth Services
 - coordination project \$52K
 - early intervention drug and alcohol project \$142K
- Waterloo Girls Centre
 - activities project \$42K
- The Settlement
 - neighbourhood centre \$94K
 - youth worker project \$73K
- The Fact Tree Youth Centre
 - information and referral project \$69K
 - detached family counselling \$75K
 - youth worker \$92K
- The Factory Community Centre
 - family support worker \$45K
- The Shop Womens and Childrens Centre
 - family support service \$167K
- Mudgin-Gal
 - family support service \$77K
- St Vincent de Paul
 - family support service \$87K

Features of the existing service system

- All centre based projects
- High use of information and referral strategies
- Many families and young people with high needs were hesitant to use services .
- A absence of service coordination

Perceptions of the Need

- Complex problems, including:
 - mental health problems
 - abuse of both legal and illegal drugs
 - alcohol abuse
 - physical and psychological abuse
 - family violence
 - sexual abuse
 - poor parenting skills
 - low self esteem

Consequences for Children

- Insecure attachments
- Poor nutrition - can result in development delays and long-term health problems
- Difficult to manage behaviour
- Erratic school attendance
- Lack of access to appropriate stimulation - physical, emotional, intellectual
- Lack of supervision and nurturing

Redfern Waterloo Family Support Services Project

- Intensive Family Support Service
 - \$1,126,250 over two years
- In Home Support for Aboriginal Families
 - \$140,000 per year for up to two years
- Family Support Counselling or CALD families
 - \$140,000 per year for up to two years

Expected Outcomes

- An increased capacity to deliver specialist services
- An increase in the quantum of services
- To provide intensive services in the area
- To build on the existing networks and infrastructure
- To develop partnerships with DoCS, and other key Government agencies, to protect children and enhance family functioning
- To develop partnerships between service providers and with families

The Street Team

- A partnership of skills

 - DoCS - child protection workers

 - CSAH - drug and alcohol workers

 - NGOs - youth services

- Accessibility

 - Evenings and weekends street outreach

The Street Team Objectives

- * an outreach service which engages
- * a reduction in of risk taking and antisocial behaviour
- * a reduction in the intervention by police or child protection
- * an increased ability to respond after hours
- * a coordinated framework for responding to need
 - * to ensure integrated service delivery



The DoCS Help Line

13 21 11

to report child abuse and neglect

www.community.nsw.gov.au