
Messages from Research

Obstacles to Research Use

- ▼ **Lack of resources**
- ▼ **Existing policy**
- ▼ **Organisational interests**
- ▼ **Lack of practitioner knowledge and skills**
- ▼ **Non- practitioner friendly dissemination**
- ▼ **Research too general for specific practice**
- ▼ **Research does not address key issues**

Adding Meaning to Measurement

- ▶ We need to complement quantitative research with qualitative research which captures the lived experience of those who provide services and those who use services.

Donald Schon, 1983

“In the varied topography of professional practice, there is a high, hard ground where practitioners can make effective use of research-based theory and techniques, and there is a swampy lowland where situations are confused ‘messes’ incapable of technical solution ... in the swamp are the problems of greatest human concern.”

First Time Parent Groups

- ▼ If it takes a village to raise a child, then what might it take to rebuild the village?
- ▼ Take up rate – 60%+ of all first time parents
- ▼ 80% of groups self-sustaining after 2 years
- ▼ Practice wisdom in engagement skills

Messages from this study

- ▶ You can use data which already exists and combine it with quantitative and qualitative data which is collected
- ▶ The research will have more impact if written up in a practitioner friendly style

“Family Friends”

- ▼ **A mentoring program for young women with history of homelessness and disadvantage**
- ▼ **Lessons from this study:**
 - **Geography a barrier**
 - **Crisis may not be a time for new relationships**
 - **Need to consider significant others**

Parental Experiences in Child Sexual Abuse Cases, a qualitative study

▼ Key themes:

- Trust and anxiety
- Power and authority
- Myth of “counselling as cure”
- Contamination of sexuality
- Creation of “the damaged child”
- Wider family and social relationships

Messages from this study:

- ▼ **Keep an open mind re abuse allegations**
- ▼ **Need for holistic assessment of child, family and social context**
- ▼ **Need for engagement of fathers**
- ▼ **Need to be aware of our capacity to do further harm**

Meta-Messages?

- ▼ Aim for “knowledge informed practice”
- ▼ Be humble about what we do not know
- ▼ Nurture hope