

Year in Review 2015-16

FOSTERING INNOVATION IN PARENTING SUPPORT



Parenting Research Centre
raising children well

Parenting Research Centre

Year in Review 2015-16

Fostering innovation in parenting support

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Introduction

The Parenting Research Centre seeks better outcomes for children by increasing effectiveness and innovation in the way families are supported in their parenting.

Research shows that parenting is one of the strongest predictors of child development. It has a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of children in their early years, right through to adolescence.

The Parenting Research Centre seeks out, builds and applies the best evidence in parenting support to achieve better outcomes for children and their families. Our work with policymakers, service delivery agencies and practitioners helps deliver more effective parenting support that is built around the values and goals of families, and delivered by skilled practitioners.

When our clients invite us into their workspaces, we share a common goal to understand their current practice and to create new and improved pathways to help families.

In this financial year of 2015-16 we have seen governments at all levels increasingly supporting evidence-based parenting support initiatives. Our clients are influenced by this policy direction and understand the imperative to continuously improve practice. Their challenge is to find, evaluate and apply evidence in real-world settings.

We are pleased that this current policy environment is aligned with our focus on supporting agencies to implement evidence-based practice in community service settings.

Our achievements in 2015-16 included:

- conducting the Parenting Today in Victoria survey for the Victorian Government. This survey examined the experiences and needs of 2600 parents with a view to informing future parenting support initiatives and policies
- supporting the implementation of the evidence-based parenting program SafeCare with agencies in New South Wales to enhance service delivery
- helping community agencies build evidence about their practices and using this information to improve program outcomes: Uniting, Wanslea Family Services, Windermere Child and Family Services
- completing the design of a quality assurance framework for statutory out-of-home care in New South Wales
- producing numerous evidence reviews on a wide range of topics, including: out-of-home care interventions, childhood trauma and abuse interventions, implementation best practice, income management, intensive family service models, case management with vulnerable families, and engaging families in children's learning
- releasing the report *Perceptions of parenting* that maps the gaps between expert and public understandings of parenting.

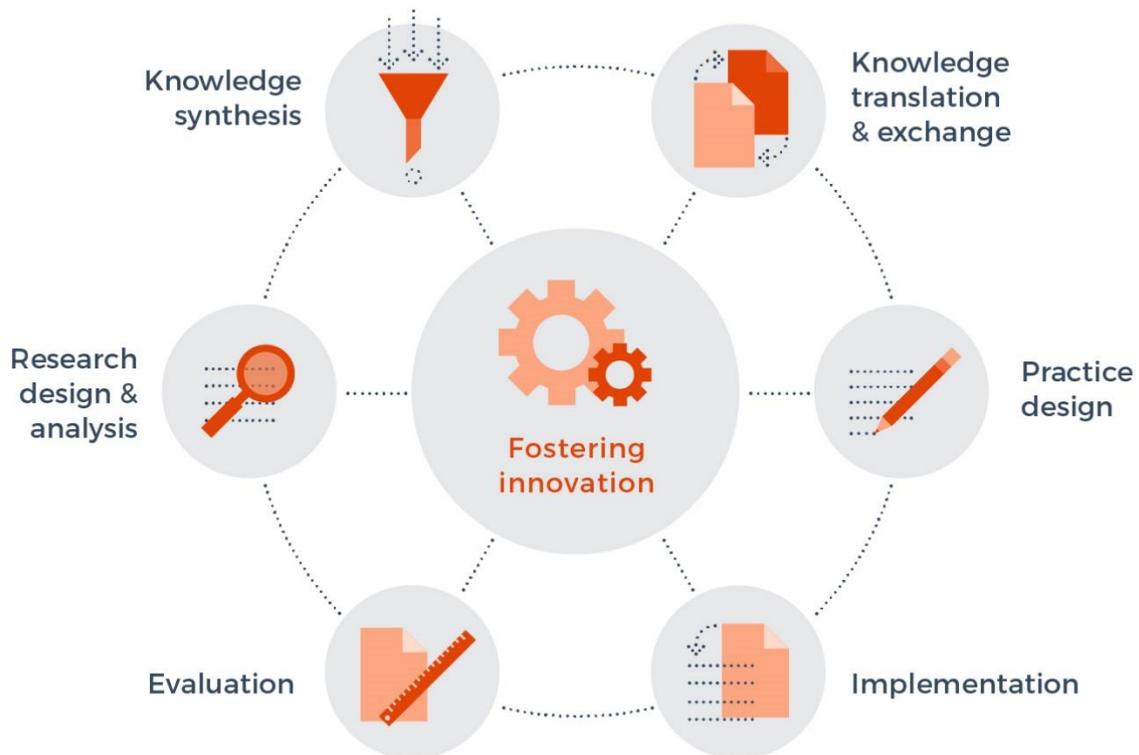
How we work

The Parenting Research Centre brings scientific rigour to the practical task of improving the quality and effectiveness of services and supports provided to children and families.

We work collaboratively with policymakers and service delivery agencies in the welfare, health and education sectors, guided by a common aim to improve services.

In partnership with our clients, we design, adapt, implement and evaluate approaches to parenting support.

We do this by drawing on our unique combination of skillsets:



Our skills, combined with our partners' capabilities, enable us to provide clients with insight, advice and recommendations that are supported by rigorous research and are responsive to their needs.

Achievements in supporting families in parenting their children

The Parenting Research Centre promotes the importance of parenting and provides practical help and support for families raising children.

Our 2015-16 achievements included:

1. Raising Children Network achievements

[Raising Children Network](#) reached a 10-year milestone in this financial period. Since our launch in May 2006, we have provided free and trustworthy information on parenting from pregnancy through to raising teenagers. We deliver this website in conjunction with our partner: Murdoch Childrens Research Institute with The Royal Children's Hospital Centre for Community Child Health. The website is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Site usage

The number of 2015-16 visitors to the site reflects the trust and credibility it has established in 10 years of operation. During the year:

- 40,000 people each day accessed over 2300 videos, apps and articles
- 12.9 million visitors viewed 22.67 million pages
- 124,000 people followed Raising Children Network on Facebook as at June 2016; 82% more than the same time last year
- 45% of visitors to the site came via a mobile device.

New content

We continued to publish new content (105 resources), and updated existing content (710 resources). Highlights included:

- [gifted and talented children](#): eight articles and four videos now support parents of the 10% of children in the community identified as gifted and talented
- [blended families and step families](#): nine new articles and five videos help parents navigate their unique family circumstances
- [free online videos and articles](#): produced in partnership with the **National Disability Insurance Agency** to be launched with the national rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in July 2016.

Access via other portals

Our resources were used by organisations that reach parents directly through their own channels, demonstrating that content is valued and relevant to a broad range of service providers. Examples included:

- The South Australian Government selected 14 of our most [popular videos](#) as part of its Positive Parenting initiative that sends new parents regular text messages with links to the videos (around 20,000 births in South Australia per year).
- The Victorian Government included 31 [Parenting in Pictures](#) graphics and numerous links to the website in the recently enhanced child health booklet *My Health, Learning and Development Record* (more than 78,000 babies born in Victoria each year).

- New South Wales Mid North Coast Health licenced the use of 42 videos to broadcast via in-patient waiting rooms in seven hospitals.
- Tonic Health Media licenced the use of 215 videos to broadcast in 3500 medical waiting rooms across Australia.

2. MyTime achievements

[MyTime](#) is a unique national program created in 2006 by the Parenting Research Centre. MyTime supports parents of children aged 0-16 who have a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

We coordinate MyTime across Australia with agency partners who deliver services in their communities. MyTime is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

In the 2015-16 period, we focused on forming stronger links with agency partners. We did this by strengthening program operations, introducing state-based monthly calls with all coordinators, and developing practice support plans for facilitators that provided professional development opportunities. Feedback from consultations at state and national levels suggested that facilitators wanted more information about practice support and on topics that parents would be interested in. We began developing these resources with a view to releasing them in 2016-17.

Another focus was increasing national marketing of the program to help recruit more participants and support parent engagement. We saw an increase in attendances as a result.

Key highlights:

- 212 MyTime groups operating across Australia
- 51,967 attendances
- 5797 sessions across the country
- [MyTime Facebook](#) launched in July 2015
- 1778 Facebook likes in the 2015-16 period.

3. Live online parenting support

As part of our commitment to supporting parents directly, we took the first steps to delivering live webinar-based parenting programs. Our initial focus was on using webinars to help parents manage early behaviour problems of children with disabilities.

With support from the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training, we finalised a feasibility study in December 2015. We also ran a pilot program that refined our approach to using live webinars as a learning methodology.

Achievements in enhancing the capacity of child and family services

The Parenting Research Centre builds the capacity of community services to improve child outcomes through effective parenting support.

Our 2015-16 achievements included:

4. Supporting the implementation of *smalltalk*

We provided implementation support for the scaled-up delivery of [smalltalk](#) to supported playgroups around Victoria. *smalltalk* supports parents in disadvantaged families to enhance the home-learning environment for their young children. *smalltalk* is funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

Highlights included:

- delivering 13 training programs to 183 playgroup facilitators in Victoria, that include a two-day workshop and practice coaching
- providing extra training to more than 115 *smalltalk* facilitators to improve effectiveness in planning service delivery, making field observations, and developing skills
- conducting 105 site visits providing coaching support to supported playgroup providers
- engaging with trained *smalltalk* facilitators via the new online community of practice hosted on the *smalltalk* website.

5. Supporting the Intensive Family Support Service, Northern Territory

We continued our unique role in supporting service providers and on-the-ground workers in delivering the [Intensive Family Support Service](#), a parenting support service for vulnerable families in the Northern Territory. In our role as an Implementation Capacity Support Service, we supported local implementation for providers in city, rural and remote communities, and developed annual support plans for each provider agency.

Our work is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Highlights included:

- supporting 5 providers in their implementation work
- supporting 7 sites: Darwin, Katherine, Ngukurr, Ntaria, Santa Teresa, Tennant Creek and Wadeye
- delivering 27 training sessions to 35 workers
- coaching 28 workers in face-to-face sessions
- delivering 4 topics to workers: Introductory, Supervisory, Booster and Yarning Mat.

6. Providing implementation support

We were engaged by a number of agencies in New South Wales to help them implement evidence-based approaches to enhance their service delivery:

- **Uniting:** completed the development of a practice framework for practitioners working with families experiencing family violence and supported its implementation

- **Waminda South Coast Women’s Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation:** focused on prevention and early intervention in parenting and child wellbeing while maintaining a strong focus on Aboriginal culture and values
- **SafeCare:** worked with agencies selected by the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services to trial [SafeCare](#), an evidence-based parenting program that addresses child abuse and neglect; we also worked closely with the agencies to adapt SafeCare to the Australian context
- **Wanslea Family Services:** delivered on-site implementation support, trained workers in four evidence-based programs, developed an evaluation framework, and reviewed reunification programs to help inform practice decisions for families whose children are being restored to their care after being placed in out-of-home care.

7. Working in early childhood education and care

We conducted a feasibility study into developing and supporting a practice development model for helping early childhood education and care services work more effectively with families.

Drawing on the experiences of parents, educators and experts through interviews, we designed a practical model that meets the needs of a service, including the following features:

- a relational framework to guide and enhance service delivery, and measure targets
- practical training for educators to help them have constructive conversations with families experiencing adversity and stress
- an implementation process that strengthens existing infrastructure with practical support, for example: resources for pre-training, online resources for educators, training for educational leaders, and skill development.

8. Collaborative Practice Framework

Our Collaborative Practice Framework for working with parents in early childhood intervention settings continues to attract strong interest. This year, we continued to refine our framework and progress our understanding of what is needed to effectively implement practice quality-improvement initiatives, working with three organisations:

- Knox City Council Specialist Services
- Western Australia Child Development Service
- New Zealand Ministry of Education, Early Childhood.

9. Developing self-directed professional training materials

The Western Australian agency, WA Country Health Service, engaged us to develop a series of video-based tutorials, interactive video conferences, and on-site coaching and implementation support in collaborative goal-setting practices for early childhood intervention practitioners working in rural and remote areas of Western Australia. This professional learning program and associated implementation support activities are designed to build the skills and confidence of practitioners in effectively engaging and strengthening the capacity of families. The program will be finalised in 2017.

10. Building evidence in partnership with Windermere Child and Family Services

The Victorian-based agency Windermere Child and Family Services engaged the Parenting Research Centre to review a number of community delivered programs for families.

As part of this process, we co-designed with Windermere a new approach for supporting community agencies to review, use and build evidence to continuously monitor and improve the quality of programs and services in order to achieve improved outcomes for children and families.

Our approach included the following components:

- **Program Assessment Framework:** this framework helped to assess the feasibility, 'implementability' and evidence-base of community delivered programs, acknowledge existing strengths and learnings and identify areas for further development.
- **Outcomes Mapping Process:** this process enabled further development and refinement of existing program logics in collaboration with community agencies to ensure a shared understanding of the mechanisms of change underlying programs; the process also helped to identify key engagement, implementation, mediating and intended outcomes for each program.
- **Literature Review:** we developed a methodology to support community agencies to review the literature including searching, reviewing and summarising the key theories and evidence underpinning programs and their activities.
- **Evaluation Plan:** we helped develop an evaluation plan that enables community agencies build evidence to help monitor program implementation and further enhance the quality of programs and services.
- **Collect, analyse and report data:** we developed a process to support community agencies to collect, analyse and report data in a way that supports the continuous improvement of programs, demonstrates program impact and supports reporting requirements.

Windermere has engaged us to continue in this partnership on the strength of the willingness and commitment of community agencies to adopt the approach and make changes to practice to improve outcomes for children and families. This success has led to us refining our approach in different contexts with other projects and agencies.

11. Delivering streamlined services for vulnerable families and children

The Parenting Research Centre was a partner in a whole-of-government Victorian initiative that focused on vulnerable children from the antenatal period through to four years of age.

For this project, we piloted a model that uses a family-centred service approach, and streamlined multi-agency service delivery. This approach is particularly important for families who need multiple services where gaps and overlaps in services can be an issue.

Highlights included:

- adapting the evidence-based model Team Around the Child, developed in the United Kingdom, to align with Victoria's service system
- trialling the model in three Victorian local government areas – Whittlesea, Latrobe, and Yarra Ranges – encompassing a range of services, including: universal and enhanced maternal and child health, specialist children's services, community health services and family support

- training 108 practitioners from a range of professions – family support workers, social workers and maternal and child health nurses – to plan and deliver services together, with parents as integral members of the team.

Our findings indicated that this model is acceptable to practitioners and parents, is suitable for meeting the needs of vulnerable families, and provides a framework for multi-agency collaboration.

Our partners were Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, The University of Melbourne and Deakin University. The project was funded by the Victorian Government Departments of Education and Training, and Health and Human Services.

Achievements in informing policy and practice

The Parenting Research Centre assists policymakers, organisational leaders and practitioners in effectively engaging with scientific knowledge of what works in parenting and family support.

Our 2015-16 achievements included:

12. Developing a quality framework for statutory out-of-home care

We were commissioned by the New South Wales Government Department of Family and Community Services to produce an outcomes-focused quality assurance framework. The framework uses valid and reliable methods to track, monitor and thus improve case planning to enhance the wellbeing of children in statutory out-of-home care.

The aim is to identify the impact of the framework on systems, processes and procedures and to develop the knowledge and skills of individuals. This project also aims to help the department implement the framework on a wider scale with local agencies.

- With our partner, The University of Melbourne, we completed the [NSW statutory Out-of-home care: Quality Assurance Framework](#). The document is an outcomes-focused, child-centred framework that includes the safety and stability of care, but also extends to a focus on child wellbeing.
- We were engaged to support a trial implementation of the framework in selected agencies. If successfully implemented, this will be the first initiative of its kind in Australia.

13. Conducting the survey Parenting Today in Victoria

In an exciting development, we completed a survey of 2600 Victorian parents to investigate parents' views on their parenting practices, their relationships with their children, their engagement in their children's learning, where and how they access parenting information, and how parents are coping.

The survey was funded by the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training, and drew on our expertise in research design and analysis. The findings will inform the government's ongoing efforts to support Victoria's families in raising children.

14. Mapping the gaps in perceptions of parenting

We commissioned the FrameWorks Institute to conduct research into mapping the gaps between expert and public understandings of parenting. The final report [Perceptions of parenting](#) was released in June 2016. Findings confirmed a gap between assumptions by the general public that 'parenting comes naturally' and the evidence that parenting skills can be learned and improved.

The report attracted strong attention from stakeholders and media, and was downloaded 413 times in the 16 days before the end of the financial year 2016.

[Download our summary of the findings.](#)

15. Engaging parents in their children's learning

We completed a significant research project for the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training on how to engage parents in their children's learning. The research will benefit early childhood education and care workers who want to build a strong relationship with parents to improve outcomes for their children's wellbeing, health and education.

We led a partnership that included the Centre for Community Child Health and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), conducting a literature review, data analysis, and qualitative research to complete the first stage of the project. These investigations helped us to:

- identify family and parent factors associated with optimal learning outcomes in children
- examine factors associated with parental engagement
- explore parental engagement with parents and teachers.

16. Engaging parents across Australia in their children's education

ARACY commissioned us to conduct a large-scale Australia-wide audit of information about parent engagement. We also consulted with education departments, schools and early education and care providers across the country to find out about their information needs regarding parent engagement. This work drew on our expertise in data analysis and qualitative research, and our strong relationships with partners across Australia.

Our work has been used to inform planning for the development of a nationally consistent approach to measuring and monitoring parent engagement in children's education. This approach aims to understand patterns in parent engagement practice and to track changes over time.

17. Assessment of campaigns with community awareness messages about parenting practices

In this project we reviewed community awareness campaigns that focus on effective parenting and on creating safe and supporting environments in the early years of a child's life.

This project acknowledges how critical the early years are for enhancing a child's learning and development. It aligns with our own focus on the importance of prioritising prevention and early intervention, and of minimising costly and less effective interventions later in life.

We conducted this research in partnership with the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital. The project was the result of our successful tender for the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

18. Informing policy and practice to drive innovation

We specialise in producing scoping reviews, rapid evidence reviews and evidence briefs, and are commissioned by clients to investigate a broad range of topics.

1. Rapid evidence assessment of implementation best practice (for Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse). [Download report.](#)
2. Scoping review on collaborative inter-agency working between domestic violence services and child protection (for Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, conducted with our partner The University of Melbourne). [Download report.](#)
3. Review of the evidence for intensive family service models for vulnerable families (for the New South Wales Government Department of Family and Community Services, conducted with our partner The University of Melbourne). [Download report.](#)
4. Rapid review of systematic reviews of interventions for families with complex needs in which children and young people have experienced abuse and neglect (brokered by the SAX Institute for New South Wales Kids and Families, conducted with our partner The University of Melbourne).

5. Evidence review of alternatives to income management (for New South Wales Department of Education, Aboriginal Affairs, led by our partner Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia). [Download report.](#)
6. Rapid evidence assessment of case management with vulnerable families (for New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services). [Download report.](#)
7. Rapid review of systematic reviews of interventions for parents and families focusing on the evidence for improving emotional outcomes for children (for Benevolent Society, New South Wales). [Download evidence brief.](#)
8. Rapid review of systematic reviews of interventions for parents and families focusing on the evidence for improving language, cognitive and communication outcomes for children (for Benevolent Society, New South Wales). [Download evidence brief.](#)
9. Rapid review of systematic reviews of interventions for parents and families focusing on the evidence for improving physical health and wellbeing outcomes for children (for Benevolent Society, New South Wales). [Download evidence brief.](#)
10. Rapid review of systematic reviews of interventions for parents and families focusing on the evidence for improving social outcomes for children (for Benevolent Society, New South Wales). [Download evidence brief.](#)
11. Review of supported playgroups for children from birth to five years (for Benevolent Society, New South Wales). [Download evidence brief.](#)
12. Scoping review that evaluated out-of-home care practice elements that aim to prevent child sexual abuse (revised edition, for Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, conducted with our partner The University of Melbourne). [Download report.](#)

19. Sharing our expertise with a wide range of stakeholders

Supporting agencies in the United Kingdom

Parenting Research Centre CEO Warren Cann was invited by the Centre for Effective Services, a UK intermediary organisation based in Belfast, to be part of a project that supported 75 UK agencies delivering a range of family and community support services. These services are funded through the UK-based Big Lottery Fund.

We anticipate further involvement with the Centre for Effective Services and their work with Big Lottery Fund in 2016-17.

Sharing our program success with Singapore

In April 2016, we hosted the Singaporean Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, who was interested in learning more about our early childhood development programs *smalltalk* and Signposts as well as Raising Children Network.

Membership in advisory committees

Members of our executive and senior staff contribute to numerous advisory committees and expert reference groups. Our involvement in these influential committees and groups ensures that we can play a role in informing research, policy and practice communities on effective implementation of evidence-informed practice.

Read the full list below.

Advisory Committees

Warren Cann, Chief Executive Officer

1. Ministerial Expert Panel for Early Childhood Development, Department of Education and Training, Victoria
2. Parent Engagement Expert Reference Group, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
3. Engaging Families in Learning Strategy Expert Advisory Group, Department of Education and Training, Victoria
4. Transition to Primary School Expert Advisory Group, Department of Education and Training, Victoria
5. Early Childhood Development Advisory Group, Department of Education and Training, Victoria
6. Paternal Perinatal Depression Initiative Advisory Committee, University of Newcastle and Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
7. Beyondblue Healthy Dads Advisory Group

Associate Professor Julie Green, Executive Director, Raising Children Network

8. Digital Policy Group, Early Childhood Australia
9. Mental Health and Parenting Working Committee, National Health and Medical Research Council
10. National Community Child Health Council, Ministry of Health, New Zealand

Annette Michaux, Director

1. Early Intervention Council, New South Wales Family and Community Services
2. Youth Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group, New South Wales Department of Health
3. Knowledge Brokering Network, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
4. Scientific Advisory Committee, New South Wales Kids and Family
5. Parent Engagement Conference Program Committee, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
6. Child and Family Futures Group, Uniting

Associate Professor Jan Matthews, Principal Research Fellow

7. Research Advisory Group, Queen Elizabeth Centre, Victoria
8. Independent Research Advisory Group, HIPPY Australia National Longitudinal Study (HANLS 2016-18)
9. Project Steering committee for the Course in Supported Playgroup Facilitation, Victoria Polytechnic and Department of Education and Training, Victoria

Dr Catherine Wade, Principal Research Specialist

10. Board member, The Association for Successful Parenting

Achievements in building scientific knowledge of parenting to drive innovation

The Parenting Research Centre builds knowledge of the factors that shape modern parenting and understanding of what effective parenting is.

Our 2015-16 achievements included:

20. Supporting adults with a mental illness

An emerging research theme for the Parenting Research Centre is how parenting support for adults with a mental illness can aid in their recovery. We are supporting the implementation of a randomised controlled trial of [Let's Talk about Children](#), a parenting-focused intervention for parents with mental health problems.

This four-year research project is funded by the Mental Illness Research Fund and our partners include Monash University, The Bouverie Centre (La Trobe University), and other research organisations and service providers.

21. Sharing new knowledge through reports, published papers and conferences

In 2015-16 we were commissioned by a range of clients to produce reports that drew on our expertise in knowledge synthesis, evaluation, and research design and analysis. We also contributed to published papers in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at conferences.

Read the full list of our reports, publications and conference presentations below.

Commissioned reports 2015-16

1. Albers, B, & Mildon, R. (2015). Implementation best practice: rapid evidence assessment. Report prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse by the Parenting Research Centre.
2. Macvean, M., Humphreys, C., Healey, L., Albers, B., Mildon, R., Connolly, M., Parolini, A. & Spada-Rinaldis, S. (2015). State of Knowledge report - The PATRICIA Project: PATHways and Research in Collaborative Inter-Agency working. Report prepared for Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) by Parenting Research Centre and The University of Melbourne.
3. Parsons, K., Katz, I., Macvean, M., Spada-Rinaldis, S. & Shackleton, F. (2016) Alternatives to Income Management (SPRC Report 08/16). Sydney, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia and the Parenting Research Centre.
4. Macvean, M., Sartore, G. M., Mildon, R., Shlonsky, A., Majika, C., Albers, B., et al (2015). Review of the evidence for intensive family service models. Report prepared for New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services by the Parenting Research Centre and The University of Melbourne.
5. Macvean, M., Sartore, G. M., Shlonsky, A., Albers, B., Mildon, R. (2015). Evidence check: Interventions for families with complex needs, in which children and young people have

- experience abuse and neglect. Report brokered by SAX Institute for New South Wales Kids and Families, and prepared by Parenting Research Centre and The University of Melbourne.
6. Spalding, K. & Michaux, A. (2015). Environmental scan: online services for parents to help them support mental health of young people aged 12-18 years. Report prepared for ReachOut for Parents.
 7. Parsons, K., Katz, I., Macvean, M., Spada-Rinaldis, S. & Shackleton, F. (2016). Alternatives to Income Management (SPRC Report 08/16). Sydney, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia and the Parenting Research Centre. Prepared for Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs, New South Wales Department of Education.
 8. Sartore, G. M., Harris, J., Macvean, M., Albers, B., Mildon, M. (2015). Rapid evidence assessment of case management with vulnerable families. Report prepared for New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services.
 9. Sartore, G., Macvean, M., Devine, B., & Pourliakas, A. (2015). Evidence brief: Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving emotional outcomes for children. Prepared by the Parenting Research Centre for the Benevolent Society.
 10. Sartore, G., Macvean, M., Devine, B., & Pourliakas, A. (2015). Evidence brief: Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving language, cognitive and communication outcomes for children. Prepared by the Parenting Research Centre for the Benevolent Society.
 11. Sartore, G., Macvean, M., Devine, B., & Pourliakas, A. (2015). Evidence brief: Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving physical health and wellbeing outcomes for children. Prepared by the Parenting Research Centre for the Benevolent Society.
 12. Sartore, G., Macvean, M., Devine, B., & Pourliakas, A. (2015). Evidence brief Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving social outcomes for children. Prepared by the Parenting Research Centre for the Benevolent Society.
 13. Sartore, G., Macvean, M., Devine, B., & Pourliakas, A. (2015). Evidence brief: Supported playgroups for children from birth to five years. Prepared by the Parenting Research Centre for the Benevolent Society.
 14. Sartore, G. M., Devine, B., Macvean, M., Green, J. & Cann, W. (2016). Information technology-based support for parents—a rapid evidence assessment. Report prepared by the Parenting Research Centre on behalf of the Victorian Government Department of Family and Community Services. Melbourne, Australia.

Journal publications 2015-16

1. Fisher, J., Rowe, H., Wynter, K., Tran, T., Lorgelly, P. & Cann, W. (2016). Gender-informed, psychoeducational programme for couples to prevent postnatal common mental disorders among primiparous women: cluster randomised controlled trial. *BMJ Open*. DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-009396.
2. Macvean, M., Shlonsky, A., Mildon, R. & Devine, B. (2015). Parenting interventions for Indigenous child psychosocial functioning: A scoping review. *Research on Social Work Practice*.

- Nicholson, J.M., Cann, W., Matthews, J., Berthelsen, D., Ukoumunne, O.C., Trajanovska, M., Bennetts, S.K., Hillgrove, T., Hamilton, V., Westrupp, E. & Hackworth, N.J. (2015). Enhancing the early home learning environment: Study protocol and baseline sample characteristics for a cluster randomised controlled trial of a brief parenting group intervention with home coaching. *BMC Pediatrics*. 16:73. DOI: 10.1186/s12887-016-0610-1.

Conference presentations 2015-16

- Cann, W. (May 2016). The Early Home Learning Study: Designing, implementing and evaluating a real-world evidence building initiative. Invited address. Symposium, Deakin University.
- Green, J. (May 2016). Do it, synthesise it, share it: Translating and communicating research evidence through digital platforms. Clinical & Public Health Seminar, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Melbourne.
- Green, J., McCormack, D. & Cann., W. (June 2015). Parents online: connecting to quality early intervention support for young children. International Society on Early Intervention Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Michaux, A. (September 2015). Inquiries and their role in child welfare reforms in Australia. University of New South Wales. Sydney.
- Michaux, A. (October 2015). Research Directions in Child and Family Welfare Organisations. 5th Annual Sector Research Symposium. Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Melbourne.
- Michaux, A. (February 2016). Embedding evidence in policy and practice: messages from implementation science. Strengthening Evidence Based Policy: Translating evidence into outcomes. Criterion Conference, Sydney.
- Michaux, A. (April 2016). Transforming Practice through Empowerment. The Evidence Informed Practice International Invitational Workshop. University of Uppsala, Sweden.
- Wade, C. (June 2016). Parent Engagement in ECEC: Why is it important? What is it? Can we improve it? Queensland Early Education and Care Conference, Brisbane.

Leadership and governance

Board

- Tass Mousaferiadis – Chair
- Dr Alison Roberts – Deputy Chair
- Juliette Alush
- Dr Lindsay Heywood
- Alana Killen
- John Lawrence
- Tim McEvoy
- Gregory Molyneux
- Tania Phillips

Executive Team

- Warren Cann – CEO
- Associate Professor Julie Green – Executive Director Raising Children Network
- Annette Michaux – Director
- Christian Thompson – Director
- Dr Robyn Mildon (resigned September 2015)
- Bianca Albers (resigned October 2015)

Financial report

The Parenting Research Centre [Financial Report 2015-16](#) is available from our website.

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www.parentingrc.org.au

