



A game changer in child and family services

The Parenting Research Centre's PracticeWorks method is a flexible new way of making evidence-based practice a reality when working with children and families.

For organisations working with families and children: it helps you take a genuinely collaborative approach that builds parents' and carers' skills and capacity. This way of working is more effective for them – and for you.

For those who commission and fund services: it's a practical way to support evidence-based practice that drives continuous improvement. Ultimately, this

will drive better outcomes for children and families, and resources can be most effectively invested.

PracticeWorks helps child and family organisations define what good practice looks like, support it, and continually improve on it. It's built on insights gleaned from a decade of working alongside our clients to deliver better results for families.

Making evidence-based practice a reality

We all want to make a difference to families. And we all know that evidence-based practice is the gold standard to get us there. But doing this in an effective and sustainable way can be challenging.

For a start, the scientific process can be too slow for those that need answers today. And though many good evidence-based programs exist, they don't always meet individual needs.

But what if you could:

- 1 Better tailor your practice to the context and needs of the families you serve?
- 2 Fit the good programs you're using into a bigger, flexible framework that builds effectiveness into your day-to-day work?

- 3 Embed a coaching approach in your organisation that builds capacity in staff, parents and children?
- 4 Bring to life the data you collect from your clients in ways that serve them better?
- 5 Ensure everyone in your organisation has a shared understanding of what quality practice looks like – so your families get the same quality of service no matter who they're working with?

We think our PracticeWorks method does all of these things. Our clients do too.

What our clients say



"Our whole process feels alive. There is a vitality in the way we are working. We've had staff telling us 'this is the best work day I've ever had' when they see results with families."

CATHERINE WOOD OPERATIONS MANAGER, WESLEY BRIGHTER FUTURES METRO WEST, WESLEY MISSION NSW



"We really wanted to know we were making a difference to people's lives and helping them to build the future that they wanted. To do this better we wanted more clarity around how we work and an ability to keep improving."

DR LYNETTE BUOY CEO, WINDERMERE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

How does it work?

Depending on what you're trying to achieve, we can help you clarify your approach to practice, better express it, redesign it completely – or all three.

The end result is collaboratively developed with you. This allows us both to harness the rich in-house expertise you already have and achieve something that works in your world.

You can choose to focus strategically on *how* to work with parents and carers, or *what* specific or practical tactics you'll adopt, or a combination of the two. You'll empower your staff to become active change agents who can harness their clients' potential to change and grow.

We'll also work with you to design shared tools for making decisions and solving day-to-day practice challenges.

PracticeWorks will deliver you a fully operating and integrated continuous practice improvement system.

Our method has three main phases:



DISCOVERY

A process to help you gather organisational insights into the theory of change underpinning your program and what the evidence says about achieving desired outcomes.



DESIGN

Where we work together to develop practices and activities, test and tailor them, then build a feedback system for continuous improvement.



DELIVERY

Technical assistance for you every step of the way – from initial consultation to full implementation.

Make PracticeWorks work for you

With the PracticeWorks method, the solution is tailored to your needs because it's guided by your decisions on what level of customisation and support you require. You can choose to adapt our core framework or develop something unique to your organisation. There are:

- No restrictions on modifying your approach as you continue to learn
- No ongoing licence fees
- No accreditation hurdles.

Our six steps towards evidence-based practice

DISCOVERY

01 Program analysis

- We start with what's already in place.
- We ask: How do you think this program works?
- We sequence your program DNA to discover what outcomes you think are needed to successfully help your clients – and how these fit together. This is called the outcomes chain.

02 Evidence analysis

- We look for research evidence to support your outcomes chain.
- Depending on what we find, we collaborate with you to modify the outcomes chain based on what the evidence says.



DESIGN

03 Practice design

- We work with you to develop activities and practices that make your outcomes chain operational and bring a high degree of precision to your organisation's practice.
- We bring to the process a raft of strategies and tactical practice components you can adapt to your own context.

04 Rapid test and learn cycles

- Together we test activities and practices to see if they work on the ground.
- Then we adjust them to make sure they work in your context.



DELIVERY

05 Data-based feedback system

- We work with you to design prototype data feedback loops that suit your workflow.
- We help you engineer team-based processes that put data in the hands of those who can use it best. This can help you drive continuous improvement and tell a compelling story about program effectiveness.

06 Implementation support

- Technical assistance from initial installation to full implementation.
- We use strategies informed by implementation science.



END RESULT: A fully operating and integrated continuous practice improvement system

Think we can help?

We blend real-world practice expertise with research rigour and a highly developed collaborative process refined over 20 years of working in partnership.

This powerful combination helps our clients uncover solutions that are both practical and long-term.

We'd love to hear from you

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