


Submission by:

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## The factors that increase the risk of abuse and neglect occurring, and effective preventive strategies.

- Education for parents eg; Parenting groups. Setting up supportive social networks
- More child protection workers – better pay and better conditions. The child protection system needs to be cleaned up there are many workers who have not got the ability to engage and communicate with the clients.
- Need to look at the way children are given back to families and do this in a slower process due to the carers having attachment with the child also
- Cost effective – parent, child and community education
- Cost effective – putting a social worker, a nurse in each school and deal with the issues as they arise, this would be more cost effective than children in the child protection system. The issues that children are facing are many these days and we cannot expect teachers to deal with these so we need to place the workers in the schools to deal with this.
- Preventative and supportive network at local community levels
- Greater knowledge and community awareness of child sexual abuse.
- We need Aboriginal workers or people who have worked with Aboriginals in the child protection system. I feel that the current workers are not working appropriately with Aboriginal people and children. I wonder how many child protection workers have cultural awareness training. This would also be the same for the other CALD groups.
- Need to have the child as the primary client but to work with the families also
- Do not give parents so many things to do – they are just being set up to fail

*are accepted by the community*

- Child protection needs to be a national organisation
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- It would be a benefit to families to have information, guidance, and help in connecting with resources as they meet the challenge of parenthood.

**Strategies to enhance early identification of, and intervention targeted at, children and families at risk including the role of adult, universal and primary services. This should include consideration of ways to strengthen the capability of those organisations involved.**

- Need to employ support workers at playgroups etc, building relationships with families, having great networking and they can provide the families with information and referrals to the services they require
- Need support workers to provide help before child protection is needed. There is child first but there are still the same feelings about child first as there is about child protection. People feel like they are being targeted even if they are sent to child first
- Workers being trained to identify issues and help families. Workers trained to understand the links between say drug and alcohol, overcrowded houses etc and child abuse

- The court system needs to work in a more parent friendly way – it would be shocking to come to court and be made feel the way the court system makes you. With the child protection workers sitting in an office and you are just part of the whole court system.
- Need to look at family decision making – how can workers help early instead of waiting until child protection is involved. Once child protection is involved this adds a whole new risk area to the problem – parents become scared, get their backs up etc