

Working with families of young people in out of home care.

Colin Charles
Rosemary Johnston,
MacKillop Family Services,
Melbourne

Where young people go when they leave care

- An “*Analysis of Substitute Care Data, 1991/92 - 1995/96*” found that most children leaving substitute care return to their families, approximately 89%.
Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies;
- A random sample of 138 out of 968 young people leaving care in Victoria over the three year period June 1995 – June 1998. Their findings suggest that 55 or (40%) of the sample were discharged to their parents. A further 14 or (10%) lived with other family members.
Owen et al (2000) “*Pathways to Interdependence: the Leaving Care Initiative*”

Where young people go when they leave care

- Data collected on 50 young people who had left care during a three year period from 1998 – 2001 in the Bendigo region, found that of 50 young people, 24 or (48%) returned to live with family.

U'ren, J & Bonnice, J (2002), ***“Nowhere to go”*** St Luke's Bendigo

- MacKillop Family Services research looked at 33 young people leaving care over a twelve month period during 2003 – 2004 and found that 48% or (16) of those young people returned to live with their family.

“It's a Real Shock” Zoe London (2004)

Where young people go when they leave care

- Lisa Hillan suggests that, up to 80% of young people are found to return to their family after exiting care.

Hillan, Lisa (2005), ***“Reclaiming Residential Care: A Positive Choice for Children and Young People in Care”***,

Core Elements of Family Centered Practice

- Working with the family unit to ensure the safety and well-being of all family members
- Strengthening the capacity of families to function effectively
- Engaging, empowering, and partnering with families throughout the decision- and goal-making processes

Core Elements of Family Centered Practice

- Providing individualized, culturally responsive, flexible, and relevant services for each family
- Linking families with collaborative, comprehensive, culturally relevant, community-based networks of supports and services
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm

Where has Family
Centered, Family
Sensitive, Strength's
Based Practice gone?

My Story

What parents say about our parent support group.

- “We like the parents support group as it is a place to relax. We are with people who know how we feel, and can share problems with”.
- Coralee and Joe Klement

