

# A Checklist for Family Sensitive Practice for the Alcohol and Other Drug Field

## Assessment

1. Do the treatment/intake/client assessment procedures you use identify whether the client has a parenting/caregiver role?
2. Do your assessment procedures consider:
  - a. Multiple risk and protective factors for children, parents, families and communities (e.g. domestic violence, mental health, housing issues, employment, relationships, income/employment, etc)?
  - b. Child care responsibilities and parenting needs?
  - c. The need for child care while clients attend treatment?
  - d. The parenting role of the client as a potential stressor?
  - e. Contraception issues and pregnancy status of female clients?
  - f. Clients concerns about their children?
  - g. Validated and reliable measures of family functioning, parental mental health and child behaviour?
  - h. If clients have children who are clients of a child welfare service (e.g. statutory child protection service, child and family support service, etc)?

- i. The cultural background of families and how this may influence perception of 'family' and potential access to additional parenting supports?

## Intervention

When working with clients who have parental/care giver roles:

1. Are interventions tailored to family needs – including the specific needs of CALD or Indigenous families?
2. Are interventions focused on prevention and early intervention strategies?
3. Are families' strengths and resources considered? Are parents' coping strategies identified and supported?
4. Does strengthening parent-child relationships form part of the treatment goal?
5. Do you often see and speak to your clients' children?
6. Do you collaborate with children's services where needed?
7. Are other family members, including children, offered information and support about their parents' drug or alcohol misuse?
8. Are further resources offered for the identified needs of families?
9. Is level of parental/social support identified and developed?

10. Are interventions sustainable and prevention focused?

## A partnership and empowerment approach

1. Are clients involved in care planning? Where appropriate, are other family members, including those with child care responsibilities, involved in care planning?
2. Are client and carer groups involved in the planning and design of services and policies, especially those involving Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?
3. How involved are communities in the identification of their own needs and the development of programs and services?
4. How involved are families/carers/peers within organisations?
5. Are peer support strategies utilised?
6. Are the strategies adopted culturally sensitive?

## Multi-agency and cross-sectoral working

1. What organisational processes are in place for engagement with cross-sectoral networks and strategies?
2. Have you ever engaged any of the following services to assist a client with parental/caregiver roles:
  - a. Child care
  - b. Supported accommodation or in-home family support
  - c. Maternal and child health nurses
  - d. Domestic violence services
  - e. Children's disability services
  - f. Mental health services
  - g. Statutory child protection.

## Workforce development

1. Are workers clear about the goals of the organisation in terms of Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?
2. To what extent do workers see Family Sensitive Policy and Practice as central to their role?
3. Do job descriptions include criteria on knowledge and competencies for Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?

4. When working with clients who have parental/care giver roles do workers receive regular clinical supervision from someone experienced in Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?
5. Are staff members supported to take up training and development opportunities on Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?
6. Have staff had training in culturally sensitive practice?

## Organisational and systems development

1. Are organisational policies and guidelines on Family Sensitive Policy and Practice in place?
2. Does the organisation provide a child friendly environment?
3. Is adequate time allowed to engage in Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?
4. Are there reasonable organisational expectations and monitoring of case load size?
5. Does the organisation provide guidelines for working with other agencies that can assist with the needs of clients who have parental/care giver roles (e.g. child/family welfare, domestic violence, relationships, Centrelink, mental health, disability, etc.)?
6. Are workers' linkages with external agencies resourced and supported?

7. Do workers understand the legal duty of care requirements concerning child safety/welfare that may apply when working with clients who have parental/caregiver roles?
8. Does the organisation provide training on Family Sensitive Policy and Practice and/or support staff to engage in capacity building/workforce development activities on Family Sensitive Policy and Practice?

9. Are you aware of funding available to assist in meeting the needs of clients' children?

## Building leadership and integrated government policy

1. What government strategies are in place to ensure close linkages between alcohol and other drugs and child wellbeing/welfare services?

## Accountability and monitoring

1. When you assess the treatment outcomes for clients with parental/caregiver roles do you include 1) changes in parenting competence and 2) changes in the wellbeing and welfare of their children?
2. Is monitoring and evaluation of programs aimed at achieving Family Sensitive Policy and Practice built into the planning stages?
3. Is Family Sensitive Policy and Practice rigorously evaluated so that strategies may be confidently transferred?