

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #108

1. Title:

Who puts the P in EBP: An exploration of pathways of influence on the use of EBP by Australian parenting practitioners.

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3. Key words:

EBP, influences on use of EBP, parenting, structural equation modelling

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

We need to better understand the factors that support or impede the implementation of evidence based practices (EBPs) in the real world. Previous research by Gregory Aarons and colleagues involving mental health professionals in the United States has found that provider attitudes and organisational characteristics are two factors that play a role in the dissemination and implementation of EBPs. The current study extends on previous research to explore how organisational context and provider attitudes impact on EBP implementation within the family support sector in Australia.

b. Methods

Participants were 243 practitioners who personally delivered education, training or support to parents or caregivers in Australia, recruited to complete an online survey at a single time point. Two thirds worked for government organisations and the other third for non-government organisations.

c. Results

The paper will present findings regarding influences on the uptake and ongoing use of EBPs in the sample. Structural equation modelling was used to explore the pathways of effects of organisational characteristics such as government versus non-government setting, caseload, size of the organisation and organisational support for EBP, on practitioners' attendance at training events in EBPs, as well as their use of those EBPs with families.

d. Conclusion

Consideration of the findings from this study will improve our understanding of the factors influencing the implementation of EBPs in an Australian family support context, and may therefore be critical in ensuring families receive the best possible interventions available to support them.