

**1. Title:**

Implementing SafeCare® in Australia: improving implementation readiness

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**3. Abstract text:**

There are many challenges when an evidence-based program, which is new to an organization, is actively introduced into a service setting. One critical component for successful implementation is the organization's readiness for the program (Scaccia et al 2015). SafeCare, an evidence based program shown to effectively address child maltreatment, was recently introduced in New South Wales and Wesley's Brighter Futures program in Western Sydney. To ensure that improved outcomes could be realized through implementing SafeCare®, Wesley Mission engaged in a readiness process that guided planning and initial implementation. This paper will describe the readiness and initial implementation process, i.e. building expertise at various levels, determining the "fit" of the innovation, early identification of enablers and constraints, practitioner buy in, etc.

The process of assessing and enhancing readiness builds critical capacity at multiple levels within an organization preparing to introduce a new innovation into an existing service system. The adaptation, further development and use of SafeCare® specific readiness tools is a critical component in the successful implementation of the model in any further larger scale dissemination efforts in Australasia.