

POLICIES

POLICIES for Prevention of Mental Disorders

[2] Selective Programs

- a) Biological factors
- b) Psychological factors
- c) Social factors
 - i Indigenous families
 - ii Immigrant families
 - iii Children involved with bullying
 - iv Child protection and out-of-home care

[2 c iv] Child Protection and Out-of-Home care

MHYFVic advocates a change of Victorian Government Child Protection policy towards a “child -centred” policy based upon achieving the best outcome for child and family (in contrast to the current “child’s rights” policy focused on removal from potential harm).

MHYFVic advocates that the Child Protection system incorporates a holistic family psychosocial assessment, case planning and treatment approach that attempts as much as possible to remediate family dysfunction whilst maintaining the child within the family, using out-of-home respite only in cases of major risk. A corollary of this is that Child Protection workers require training and skills for assessment and treatment of family dysfunction.

MHYFVic advocates that when children can’t live safely at home because of serious child abuse, neglect and family violence, the first preference is that they go to relatives (Kinship Care). Alternatively, accredited volunteer foster carers can provide care for children and young people in their own homes (Foster Care). Wherever possible, the idea is to reunify children with their birth families eventually, providing this is in the best interests of the child.

MHYFVic advocates that Permanency planning should begin as soon as it is determined that family treatment interventions will not be able to resolve family dysfunction within an acceptable timeframe for meeting the developmental needs of the children.

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