

POLICIES

POLICIES for Prevention of Mental Disorders

[3] Indicated Programs

- a) Biological factors
- b) Psychological factors
- c) Social factors
 - i Child victims of abuse
 - ii Juvenile Justice clients

[3 c i] Child victims of abuse

MHYFVic advocates a child-focused policy approach by the Department of Human Services for child protection. This would be one which responds to notifications by a prompt outreach contact with the family to offer support and establish a relationship of trust and communication whilst undertaking an assessment of needs, risks and family functioning. The preferred intervention would be to improve family functioning with the child at home, although temporary respite and other supports may be necessary. Intensive therapeutic work with the child and family will ascertain whether child's needs can be met, or alternative long-term arrangements are required.

Corollaries include:

- Child Protection workers require training and skills for assessment and treatment of child and family dysfunction.
- Out-of-home care would be the exception rather than the rule.
- When out-of-home care is necessary, kinship care would generally be considered preferentially.

For a further discussion of Child Protection and Out-of-Home care , see Project Evidence PE2c iv.

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Last updated 2/3/2019