

ANNEX C – HIGHLIGHTS OF ASIAN FAMILY CONFERENCE 2019 (AFC 2019)

Professor Matthew Sanders, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of Parenting and Family Support Centre, University of Queensland and Founder of Triple P – Positive Parenting Program



Keynote Presentation: Transforming Lives through Positive Parenting

Abstract: A population-based approach to evidence-based parenting support has changed the landscape for the delivery of family intervention with children and adolescents. From a primary focus on early intervention with children with early onset conduct problems, new parenting interventions have evolved to address a much wider range of child, parent, family and community problems. Raising children in a global environment that is experienced as complex, uncertain, dangerous and where constant change is anxiety provoking, has raised critical issues about the kinds of social, relational and emotional competencies young people need and parents require as children move through other phases of their life. The key challenges that limit the impact existing approaches to parenting support are discussed and I make the case that there are other opportunities and contexts for delivery of parenting and family intervention in both prevention and treatment. However, to reduce the prevalence rates globally of major child problems through parenting intervention requires an integrated systems-contextual perspective that blends universal and targeted programs in place-based interventions. The challenge is to design “fit for purpose” programs for delivery in different social contexts of parents and children (school, childcare, after school, extended family, peers, workplace, housing, sport, recreational activities, artistic pursuits, and mass media). Traditional 1:1 models of service delivery reach few families. Parenting support needs to focus on building the social and relationship competencies of family members. This in turn can improve family mental

health and wellbeing and social connectedness. Developments in the Triple P system will illustrate how evidence-based parenting support has evolved to tackle a wide range of diverse social, emotional, physical and mental health problems and environmental problems.

Professor Daniel Shek, Chairman, Family Council of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR, and Associate Vice President, Chair Professor of Applied Social Sciences, and Li and Fung Professor in Service Leadership



Keynote Presentation: Impact of Parenting and Family Functioning on Child and Adolescent Developmental Outcomes in Hong Kong

Abstract: Family Environment is an important developmental context for child and adolescent development. There are theoretical accounts of how dyadic parent-child processes (such as parenting) and family functioning (such as family cohesion) influence child and adolescent development. However, while there are studies in this area in the Western contexts, comparatively fewer studies have been conducted in different Asian societies. In this presentation, we examine how parenting and family functioning are related to child developmental outcomes using two sources of research findings: a) the Parenting Study commissioned by the Family Council of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR; and b) a 6-year longitudinal study conducted within the Project P.A.T.H.S. in Hong Kong.

The Parenting Study showed several phenomena: a) while parental warmth and parent-child relationship were positively related to child outcomes, dysfunctional parenting practice was negatively related to child development; b) parenting qualities were positively related to family functioning. The findings based on the 6-year longitudinal study showed that: a) parental behavioural control and parent-child

relationship were positively related to child outcomes; b) parental psychological control was negatively related to child outcomes; and c) family functioning was positively related to child outcomes. An integration of the findings suggests that while parental warmth, behavioural control, positive parent-child relationship and positive family functioning facilitate child outcomes, dysfunctional parenting practice such as psychological control impedes child and adolescent development.

Mr Warren Cann, CEO, Parenting Research Centre, Australia (which developed the Signposts Programme)



Panel Presentation: A Relational-Invitational Approach to Working with Parents: A Framework for Practice

Abstract: Parenting support is now widely recognised as one of the most effective ways of achieving important childhood outcomes, yet the effectiveness of family centred services rests on our ability to carry out the challenging task of achieving adult behaviour change. This brief presentation will provide an overview of a practice framework designed to assist practitioners in the task of engaging parents and enhancing the motivation required to support real and sustained change in families. It will be argued that a practice framework, embedded in a context committed to data-informed continuous quality improvement, is also a promising way for agencies to fully realise the vision of evidence-based practice in their services.

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