



CYRENIAN HOUSE

# Do You See What We See?

Children in Therapeutic Communities  
Donna Stambulich (Co-ordinator Saranna  
Women and Children's Program) and Shonna Grant  
(Manager Cyrenian House TC)



## Objectives

*Interactive forum*

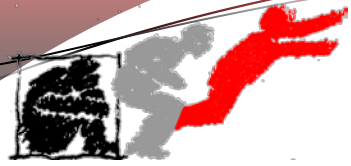
*Some preliminary discussion*

*Workshop to generate ideas for possible future directions*

## Saranna Women and Children's Program

- *14 Individual chalets for women and their children (under 12)*
- *Onsite Crèche*
- *4 stage program 3 – 12 months depending on client goals*
- *Average length of stay 9 months*





## Saranna

*Two key aspects of the program contribute to its positive impact.*

- 1. The service recognises women as mothers who can parent and recover*
- 2. The needs and interests of the child is central; promoting safety and well being of the Saranna children is a whole of community responsibility*





## Program Elements

- *General AOD (the usual suspects)*
- *Positive parenting*
- *123 magic – emotion coaching*
- *Protective behaviours (whole TC and children)*
- *Bonding and attachment*
- *Reparative experiences*
- *Staged Approach*
- *Home management*
- *Nutrition and diet*
- *Process group (grief and loss, anger, shame, schemas, emotional regulation, boundary setting, assertive communication, conflict resolution)*
- *Outreach*



# What We See

*Children of residents utilise TC tools; parallel process*

*Flags and bouquets – using the F & B system to communicate to parent their observations of parents inappropriate behaviours*

*Conflict resolution*

*Boundary setting*

*Children developing emotional literacy (child:parent, child:child)*



## What we don't see?

### **Children interacting and negotiating outside the TC**

We are in the process of collecting anecdotal data

*Preliminary findings; examples of quotes*

“mummy I am flagging you for not listening to me” .....

“mummy I am flagging you for swearing” (4 yr old Aboriginal boy)

Girl aged 7 has ‘rules’ for her bedroom.

Children have reported at school they will say “stop it I don't like what you are doing’ or tell a teacher if they are feeling uncomfortable.



What do you see?

Discussion  
Whiteboard