

COVID and Family homelessness, the UK and Australian experiences: How do we as a community respond to families during a pandemic?

The team: Assoc Prof Yvonne Parry* (AUST-lead), Prof Monica Lakhanpaul (UK-lead), Prof Eileen Willis (AUST), Dr Nina Sivertsen (AUST), Assoc Prof Nadia Svirydenka (UK), and Mr Matthew Ankers (AUST). *presenter

*
Associate Professor Yvonne Parry

PhD, MHIthServMgmt, GradCertEdu (Higher Ed), BA (Psychology & Public Policy),
RN

Acknowledgment of country



- We will begin by acknowledging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on all the country on which this presentation is taking place today. We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians, whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today.
- We would also like to acknowledge the land that we work, live and learn on what is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and that we are privileged to be here.
- We recognise that Flinders University operates on Indigenous people's traditional lands and waters and acknowledge their continued responsibility to care for country at the University's various teaching locations, including the lands and waters of the following peoples: Kurna, Arrernte, Boandik, Bungarla, Gunditjmara, Jawoyn, Larrakia, Nauo, Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk, Ramindieri, Wurundjeri, Yolgnu.
- We acknowledge the losses incurred by all first nations peoples in sharing their lands with us.

This presentation will cover:

- **Background**

- **The aims of both studies**

- The aims of these projects, and the UK and Australian collaboration, is to illustrate the experiences of parents/carers living with and caring for children while homeless during a pandemic

- **Methods**

- Scoping reviews: The completed scoping reviews from Australia and the UK has provided information related to access, coverage, and healthcare utilization. Our conceptual framework and logic models being presented here provide a foundation for future research



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Australian scoping review and study Recommendations:



Impact of COVID 19 in Australia

- The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the homeless and those experiencing housing insecurity varied across Australia.
- In some states the pandemic increased homelessness as individuals became unemployed, were evicted, or became victims of domestic violence.
- In other cases, families were not able to self-isolate, work from home, or quarantine during the lockdown due to their housing type, their low socioeconomic status, or insecure employment.
- Further, where children were required to stay at home once schools closed, those with insecure housing were negatively impacted by the crisis due to the very nature of their housing status.
- Homeless families are also considered to be at a much higher risk of contracting COVID-19 as 'stay at home orders' have created over occupancies in supported accommodation and/or placed hosting families at a higher risk of transmission



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“We
were all
dumped
in one
room”

* Paterson D
2021.

Australian scoping review and study Recommendations:

Scoping review

This scoping study used the following Stages*:

- Stage 1: identifying the research question
- Stage 2: identifying the relevant studies
- Stage 3: study selection
- Stage 4: collating, summarising and reporting the results

*Parry et al 2016

Three main themes from the literature

- The noticeable impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the homeless (temporarily housed) families
- Theoretical concepts of family was different for homeless families when compared to other groups
- Access to community is driven by the individual's circumstances, the systems of governance within the society and the types of institutions able to function or respond to a particular disaster



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Conceptual framework:



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Literature Review

- Gaps in services for Children
- System created
- Poly service response
- Health status unknown

Research Question:

What are the needs of children accessing homelessness services?

Mixed methods:

Gaps according to Staff, Parents, Children

Models of care to address the gaps

- Measure children's health status
- Maps services available
- Measure referral uptake and needs
- During COVID what were the additional needs

Research
pilot

Australian scoping review and study Recommendations:



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Impact of COVID 19 in Australian studies

Conversations with housing insecure families identified the importance of charity organisations during disasters, including:

- Helping with essential needs such a food.
- Provide linkages to help clients access other welfare and health services.
- Assist clients to access government benefits.

For these reasons, these agencies should be supported in their role.

The scoping reviews and research show the impact of COVID and lockdowns on health and the family's concepts of community.



CHAMPIONS Project



Economic and Social Research Council

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UK Scoping Review



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1.Scoping Review:

Research existing global strategies and interventions which are effective for improving coverage, access and use of Early Child Health programmes for marginalised and excluded children under 5 years old



UK Scoping Review

Article Inclusion



Pubmed:
8,937

Scopus:
9,374

Initial Extract



917

Title Screen



363

Abstract Screen



31

Final Inclusion



22

Snowball Add



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Screening tools and Selection Methods:



- All articles were extracted and compiled in a single spreadsheet.
- Duplicate study filter, inclusion filters) and selection columns applied.
- Inclusion filters completed by an independent reviewer.
- Selection filters were applied independently by three reviewers
- All studies selected by two reviewers were included.
- 2 rounds of screening were undertaken



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Children <5 years living in homeless families

Mapping the needs of the < 5 living in temporary housing in the UK

Previous interventions
Scoping reviews

Collecting stories of families living in homelessness with children under 5 years

Interventions developed and evaluated from HIC and understanding the reach and focus

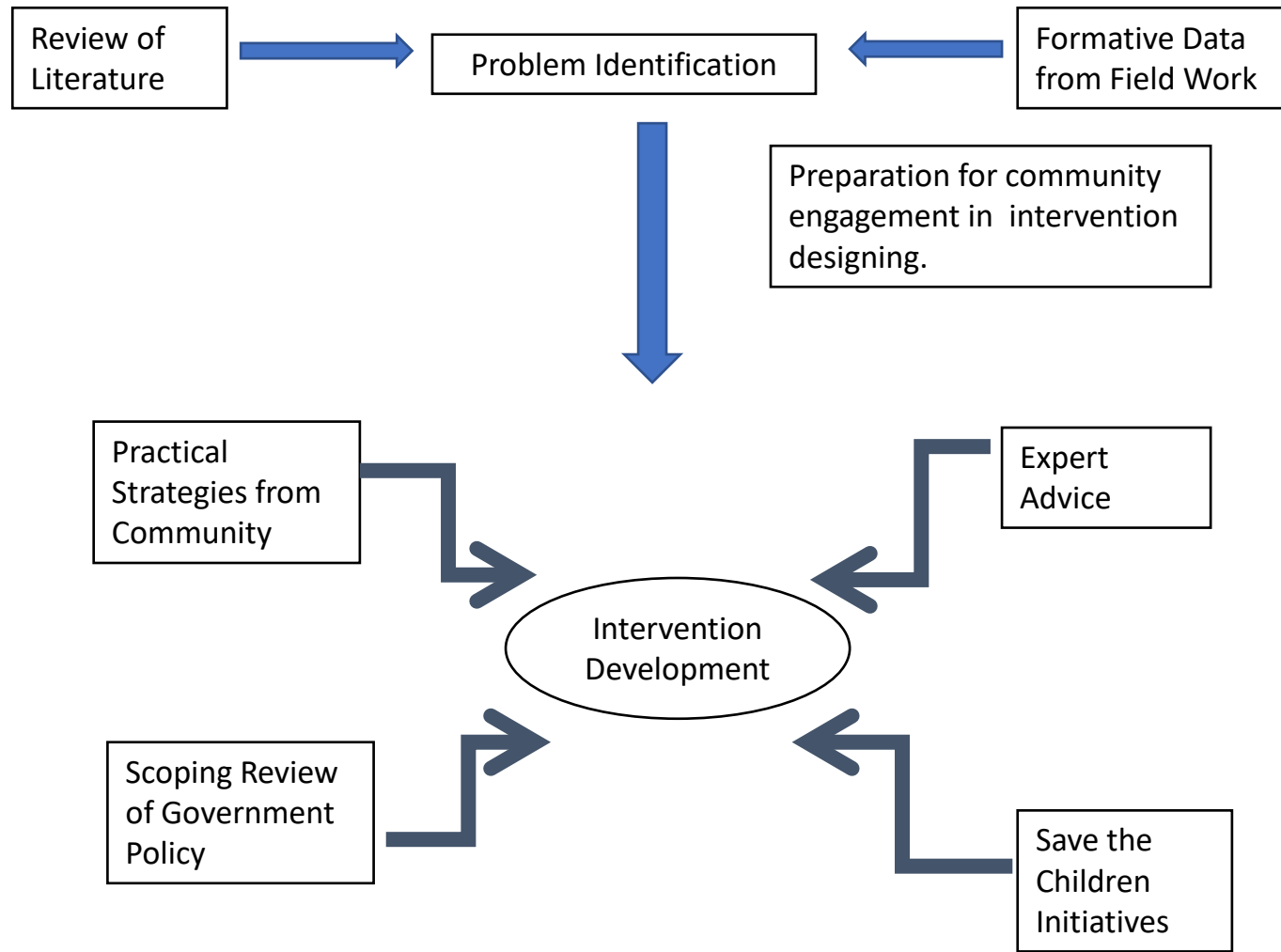
Interventions from LMIC and understanding the reach and focus

Developing an intervention prototype

Understanding the impacts of Environment, Cultural/religion, individual (children/families) and social circumstances on children's development in the homelessness with children under 5 years



Stages in Co-designing Intervention



Conclusion UK and Australia:

Both literature reviews have informed research projects

Conclusions and Implications

- The impact of COVID-19 has highlighted the dire situation of homeless families.
- Children from non-Caucasian backgrounds are three times more likely to be homeless.
- Housing-instability, places children, especially First Nations children, at a much higher risk of adverse psychological, developmental, and physical outcomes and while 3% of the Australian population, they are 20% of all homeless in Australia.
- Recognition of the detrimental impact of housing instability and homelessness on children, needs to be explicitly embedded into nursing care, health, welfare, and educational services if we are to address this problem.



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Update on the CHAMPIONS Project, July 2021

https://www.championsproject.co.uk/files/ugd/8b3961_b390e069dffa4fcdb4ba9730d71cd19a.pdf

Any questions?

yvonne.parry@flinders.edu.au

<https://open.lnu.se/index.php/icchnr>

