

# “Including Infants”

A Network Model  
for a Rural Region

# CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

- Weekly / fortnightly visits to rural areas
- Few relationship or consultation options
- Little opportunity for accessible education
- Lack of clarity around available consultations and referral options

# IMH & WELLBEING Group

- **History**
- **“Including Infants” network model: moving IMH from the domain of “specialist knowledge” into the domain of “generalist knowledge”.**
- **Principles**
  - interagency and collaborative
  - inclusive of families (including fathers and minority groups), communities, health & welfare agencies and specialist M H services
    - operating across the continuum of infant mental health and wellbeing from M H promotion to specialist service delivery
  - promotion of service networks and linkages
    - facilitation of professional development

# “Network” Building

- Collaborative accessible ongoing
- Children’s Networks
- Best Start groups
- Schools as Community Hubs

# “Including Infants” Implementation

- **Mother Goose Playgroup**
  - early intervention
  - support for vulnerable families
  - collaborative practice
- **IMH Assessment**      - South, Central, North in Loddon Mallee region
- **Consultations**
  - CAMHS M & CH
  - CAMHS SIRT/SCS
  - informal consultations through professional relationships
- **Liaison with Existing Community Groups**
  - Best Start networks
  - Community Children’s Networks
- **Education**
  - IMH Forum
  - PD opportunities eg IMH ITSEA BITSEA

# Getting it to work

- Think about the content
  - Answer “What is Infant Mental Health?”
- Think out the process
  - Moving back and forth the disciplines
  - Making sure the clients are aware.

# Paradigm problem

- Multiple disciplines, multiple models:
  - Biomedical
  - Bio-psycho-social
  - Transactional
  - Ecological
  - Developmental
- Knowing when the person on the other end of the phone is *out of paradigm*

# Invisibility Problem

- Describing crying
- Describing an interaction
- Inferring a feeling
- Working out caseness
- Falling outside of language.