



Rapid evidence assessment of case management with vulnerable families

Appendix

This report, prepared by the Parenting Research Centre, synthesises the literature in which case management models have been evaluated with vulnerable families.

Report commissioned by the New South Wales Government Department of Family and Community Services

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Disclaimer

The Parenting Research Centre (PRC) does not endorse any particular model presented here. The searches were conducted in May 2015 and publications predating 2000 were not considered. Readers are advised to consider new evidence arising since the publication of this review.

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1. Method

1.1. Search strategy

1.1.1. Academic database search

We conducted a systematic search of the following academic databases: PsycINFO, MEDLINE, Embase and Embase Classic, Social Work Abstracts, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA), Sociological Abstracts, the Cochrane Library, and The Campbell Library.

The search was limited to the years 2000 onwards and to the English language. Syntax for PsycINFO via OVID is presented in table 1. This was converted for use with other database platforms as needed. Database results were exported and combined, and duplicate references were removed. Table 1 includes the search terms used to search OVID databases; this syntax was modified to search ProQuest and EBSCO databases.

Table 1: Search terms used to identify studies for inclusion

OID search terms
1. (Case adj (manage* or coordination or conferenc* or planning)) or (Service* adj (coordination or planning) or (multidisciplinary team*) or (interdisciplinary team*) or (casework* or wrap around or Wraparound or whole of family or whole-of-family or team around the child or teaming structure*)).mp.
2. (Randomi* OR Random* control* OR RCT OR Clinical trial* OR Control group* OR Evaluation stud* OR Study design OR Statistical* Significan* OR Double-blind OR Placebo OR meta-anal* OR meta anal* OR metaanal* OR Systematic Review* OR Econometric OR Propensity score matching OR Heckman* OR Instrumental variable* OR Natural experiment OR Bayesian or comparison group* or treat* group* or wait* list* or wait*-list* or control* condition* or quasi-ex* or quasiex*).mp.
3. (Intensive service* or Intensive family service* or Youth service* or Family preservation or placement prevention).mp.
4. (Vulnerab* adj3 (infan* or child* or minor* or toddler* or baby or babies or adolescent* or teen* or young person or youth or young people or family or families or parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
5. (Troubled adj3 (infan* or child* or minor* or toddler* or baby or babies or adolescent* or teen* or young person or youth or young people or family or families or parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
6. ((At-risk or at risk or high-risk or high risk) adj3 (infan* or child* or minor* or toddler* or baby or babies or adolescent* or teen* or young person or youth or young people or family or families or parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
7. ((ROSH) Or (Risk of significant harm)).mp.
8. (Multi-risk or multi-problem or multi-stress* or multi-need* or multi risk or multi problem or multi stress* or multi need* or multirisk or multiproblem or multistress* or multineed* or multiple risk or multiple problem or multiple stress* or multiple need*).mp.
9. ((infan* or child* or minor* or toddler* or baby or babies or adolescent* or teen* or young person or youth or young people) adj3 (maltreat* or neglect* or abuse* or harm* or safe* or reabus* or re-abuse* or protect* or welfare)).mp.

10. (foster care OR group home OR group care OR residential care OR congregate care OR kinship care OR relative care OR customary care OR shelter care OR temporary care OR looked after child* OR child* place* OR place* in care OR out-of-home care OR out of home care or foster child* OR foster youth or reunifi* OR restoration* OR adoption* OR guardian* OR legal custody OR permanence OR permanent plan OR length of stay OR days in care OR age out OR aging out OR transition from care OR transition to adulthood OR emancipat*).mp.
11. ((domestic OR family OR interpersonal OR intimate OR Intimate partner OR ex-partner OR spous* OR relationship OR couple* OR partner or marital) adj3 (violen* OR abus* or conflict*)).mp.
12. (batterer or battered wom* or battered wi* or battered spouse* or battered partner* or battered husband* or battered female*).mp.
13. ((Substance abuse* or substance use* or substance misuse* or substance addict* or drug use* or drug addict* or drug abuse* or drug misuse* or alcohol abuse* or alcohol misuse* or alcohol use* or alcoholic* or alcoholism) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father* or child* or adolescent* or youth* or teen* or young people or young person or minor or minors)).mp.
14. ((mental illness or mentally ill or mental health or psychiatric) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father* or child* or adolescent* or youth* or teen* or young people or young person or minor or minors)).mp.
15. ((delinquen* or violen* or offending or offence* or conduct) adj3 (child* or adolescent* or youth* or teen* or young people or young person or minor or minors)).mp.
16. ((intellectual* adj3 (disabilit* or disabl* or difficult* or impair* or retard* or deficien* or challenge* or handicap* or disorder* or disadvantage* or devian*)) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
17. ((learning adj3 (special or disabilit* or disabl* or difficult* or impair* or retard* or deficien* or challenge* or problem* or handicap* or disorder* or disadvantage* or devian*)) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
18. ((cognit* adj3 (disabilit* or disabl* or difficult* or impair* or retard* or deficien* or challenge* or handicap* or disorder* or disadvantage* or devian*)) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
19. ((mental* adj3 (disabilit* or disabl* or difficult* or impair* or retard* or deficien* or challenge* or handicap* or disorder* or disadvantage* or devian*)) adj3 (parent* or mother* or father*)).mp.
20. (Aborigine* or Aboriginal* or Torres Strait Islander* or Maori* or American Indian* or Alask* Nativ* or Nativ* Alask* or Nativ* Hawaiian* or Hawaii* Nativ* or Americ* Nativ* or Americ* Samoa* or Samoa* Americ* or Eskimo* or Inuit* or Aleut* or Metis or First Nation* or Indigenous).mp.
21. (Cultur* divers* or cultur* linguistic* divers* or CALD or emigrant* or immigrant* or refugee* or cultural competenc* or LOTE or language* other than English or race* or ethnic*).mp.
22. ((delay* or disab* or impair* or handicap* or retard*) adj3 (infan* or child* or minor* or toddler* or baby or babies or adolescent* or teen* or young person or youth or young people)).mp.
23. OR/3-22
24. 1 AND 2 AND 23

1.2. Study selection

The following inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to select relevant studies from the results of the database searches:

1.2.1. Inclusion criteria

- Dated from year 2000 onwards
- English language

- Focus of study is case management for (or equivalent terms such as case coordination, conference or planning, service coordination or planning, multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary team, casework, whole of family, wraparound, team around the child, or teaming structure)
- Target of the case management is vulnerable families
- Controlled study design including randomised controlled trials, well-formed evaluation studies with both pre- and post-data and a control group, prospective longitudinal studies, systematic reviews and meta-analyses

1.2.2. Exclusion criteria

- Dated prior to year 2000
- Non-English language
- Book, thesis, chapter, or conference proceeding
- Uncontrolled or qualitative-only study design
- Target of case management is adult only with no family involvement (for e.g. case management for medical or psychological condition such as heart disease or alcohol or other drug use).

NB: eligibility is restricted to studies where case management was the focus (for example, comparing case management to services as usual, or intensive case management models to case management as usual). Therefore, studies where case management was reported as a component of a larger intervention (but was not the primary focus of the paper) were excluded.

1.3. Data extraction

For each eligible study, information relating to case management methods, personnel, resources, and outcomes was extracted to spreadsheet tables under the following categories: case management for families receiving targeted prevention and early intervention services, case management for families receiving intensive services, and case management in services for young people aged 12 and over. Where a study could have been classified to more than one category, it was included in the category which reflected the main focus of the study.

In extracting data, emphasis was given to obtaining information on the intervention as delivered in practice, rather than to the theoretical focus or development of the intervention.

1.4. Data analysis and synthesis

A narrative analysis of major case management components is presented. The overall effectiveness of case management interventions is reported separately (restricted to a discussion of significant changes to outcomes for children and families) in order to give a sense of the general strength of evidence in relation to this field. It is not possible to report on the effectiveness of individual constituents of case management.

2. Results

2.1. Search results and included studies

Figure 1: Flow chart of interventions through the selection process of this review

