
Improving pathways

for young people leaving care

Towards Good Practice

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Background - LC events, information, etc.

- Pilots and reviews - PYFS, Quantum (2002)
- DHS reviews (2000, 2003)
- YHAP1 Evaluation (2007)
- Centre for Excellence (2006), CREATE (2000)
- Agency studies - St Lukes (2002, 2006), MacKillop (2003, 2004)
- Aust. university studies - Maunders et al. (1999), Cashmore & Paxman (2006), Mendes (2000, 2002, 2009)
- Overseas studies - Stein (1997, 2005), Courtney et. al. (2001)
- Children Youth and Families Act (2007)

Key findings of the OoH YHAP1 review

- Overall, the 15 agencies met targets, assisting 81 clients per annum (about 20% of all yp leaving care)
- Good outcomes for more than half the clients

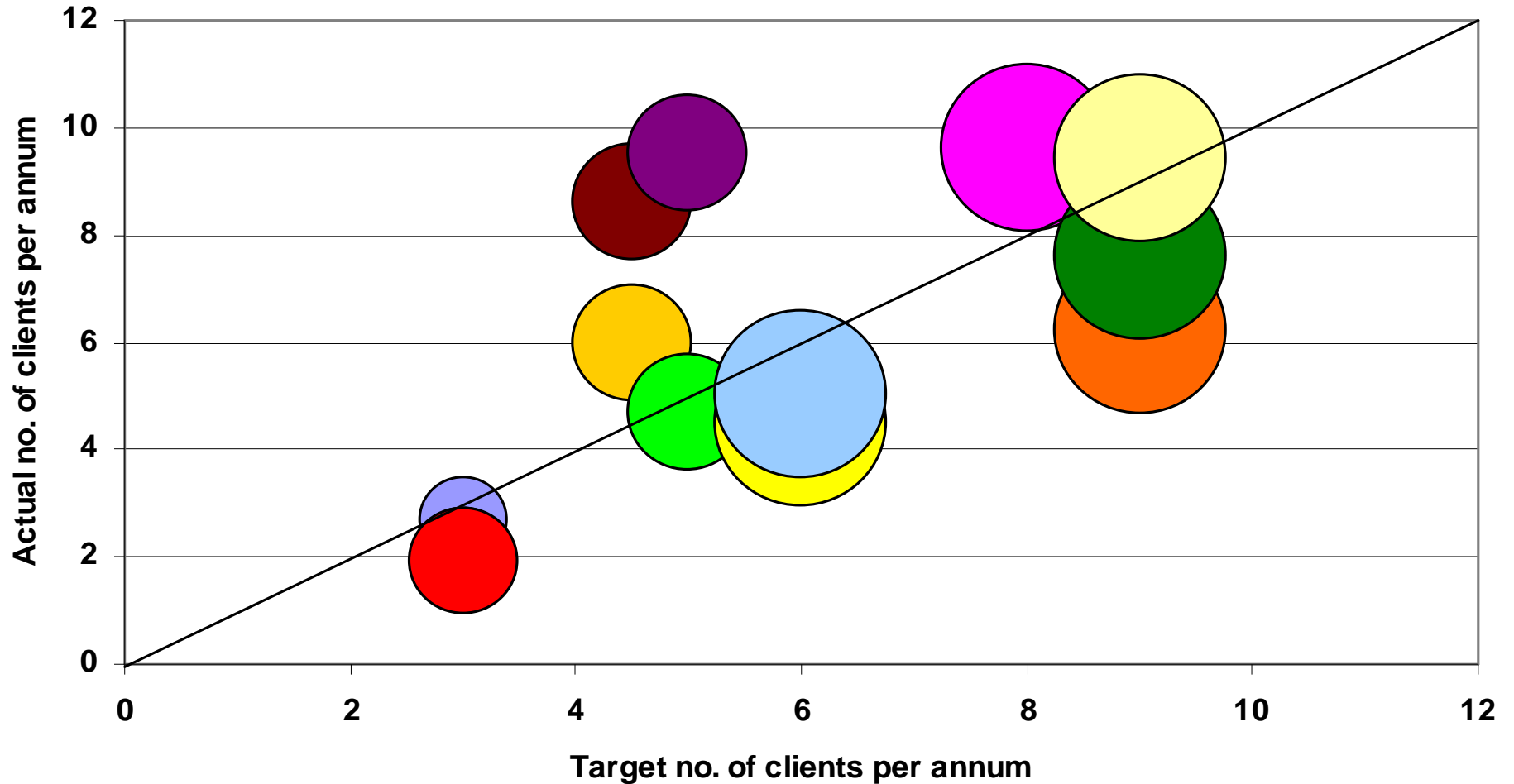
But . . .

- Differences in service models
- Access to LC services variable
- Accommod. arrangements varied and challenging
- Variation in brokerage available
- Mentoring available in some regions only
- Education, training and employment outcomes the most challenging

Summary of key findings - service models

- Case management approach (key worker)
- 6 agencies with 1 EFT, others with 0.5, 0.3 EFT
- Case loads 1:6 - 1:9 (case closure issue)
- LOS 1 month to 2 years, ave. = 41 weeks (9 mos)
- Accommodation - THM (35%), extended ACP and foster care (15%), private rental (12%), extended family (8%), friends, boarding, lead tenant
- Support varied depending on accomm. arrangements
- Statewide and regional Aboriginal response

Summary of key findings - agency performance



Summary of key findings - access issues, gaps

- Not all young people leaving care were assessed for LC support - inadequate planning and referral pathways from out of home care
- Assessment processes/ tools for LC support varied
- Young people under 16 not eligible
- Young people with high needs not included
- Access limited by resources available
- Culturally appropriate responses to Aboriginal young people leaving care not well developed
- Some young people not case managed (kinship) and not referred for LC
- Unplanned care leavers

Key recommendations (selected)

- Distinctive LC service model
- Regional and program coordination
- Resources matched to expected demand
- Regional accomm. plan - incl. dedicated properties, private rental brokerage, etc.
- Consistent assessment and referral framework
- Enhanced brokerage funds and arrangements

Current Program Context (2009)

Placement & Support
(enhanced leaving
care services)

OoH Leaving Care
(early int./
homelessness)

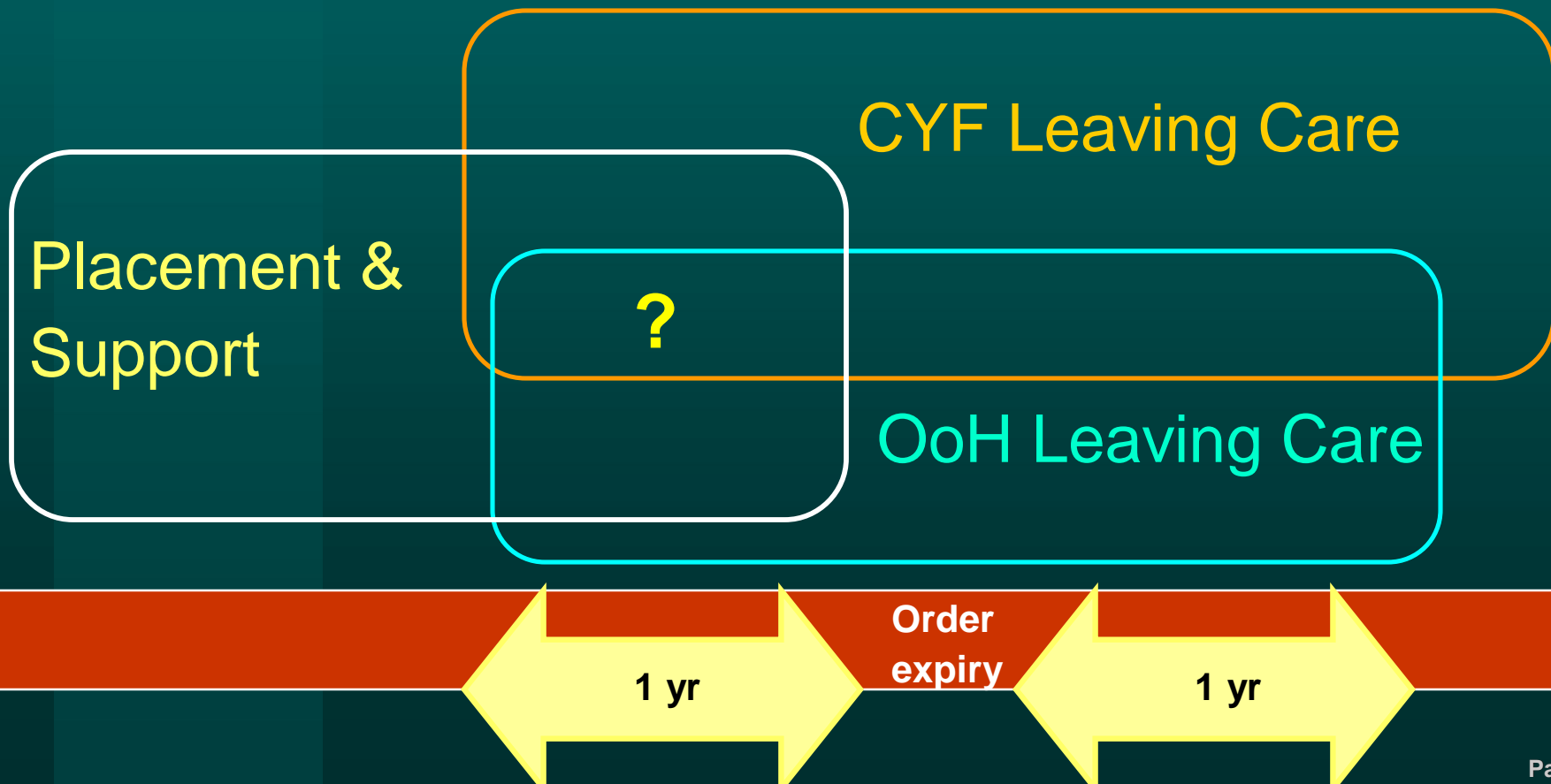
Related OoH services
(eg. hub services)

CYF Leaving Care (new):

- Post care support
- Brokerage
- Mentoring

OoH additional funding
2010 (NPA)
(early int./ homelessness)

Current Program Context (2009)



Current Program Context (2009)

In most (sub)regions CYF and OoH Leaving Care programs are within the same agency



Order
expiry

Good practice principles

- Leaving Care is 'different' from P&S, and requires collaborative arrangements - protocols, MoUs between LC and P&S agencies
- Young people are assisted with an integrated Leaving Care service (CYF and OoH)
- OoH Leaving Care is a dedicated and targeted housing and support function for young people at risk of homelessness
- CYF Leaving care is a 'generalist' support function for all young people leaving care

Good practice principles

- All young people leaving care participate in a LC assessment and are offered assistance
- Young people at risk of homelessness are identified and provided with dedicated leaving care service through OoH funded service models
- Young people receive a package of services according to their needs, which might include case work, support, referral, advocacy, information, advice, brokerage and mentoring
- Leaving care services are sufficient to meet demand

Good practice principles

- LC services are not part of the homelessness service system, but may access selected OoH funded services as required
- LC services are flexible, and based on a young person's readiness for independence
- LC services maximise the opportunity for young people to be involved in decisions which affect them
- LC services provide a culturally appropriate response, and link young people to specialist supports as required.

Good practice - Housing options

Matching a young person to appropriate housing and support arrangements is fundamental to preventing homelessness and should consider:

- Level and type of support required
- Location - public transport, facilities, services, lower risk area, familiar area
- Built environment - detached unit, or separate rooms and facilities; connection with fellow tenants, community
- Tenancy arrangements - greater security, rental history
- House rules (where appropriate)
- Contingency plan

Good practice - Housing and support options

Ideally options would include:

- 1 Extended family
- 2 Lead tenant models
- 3 Extended foster care, ACP, kinship care
- 4 'Foyer' type models
- 5 Head lease, boarding/ private rental
- 6 Transitional (THM) accomm.

Supports are provided in all cases and include a mix of:

- case worker(s)
- immediate family
- mentor
- lead tenant
- carer
- friends
- partner
- fellow students
- workmates
- fellow tenants

Good practice - Regional Level

Regional Leaving Care Alliance

- 1 Consistency - membership, terms and level of decision making
- 2 Coordination - between agency and program areas
- 3 Oversee access, assessment and referral
- 4 Planning - estimate annual demand, match resources
- 5 Service system development
- 6 Accountability and reporting

Good practice - Leaving Care Assessment

What should 'best practice' assessment include?

- 1 Independent living skills - budgeting and financial management, cooking, self care
- 2 Relationships - positive (attachments) and negative Including family, peers, workers, community, etc.
- 3 History of stability of accommodation, felt security
- 4 Educational and training achievement, aspirations
- 5 Employment prospects, aspirations
- 6 Personal material resources and income
- 7 Alcohol and drug issues
- 8 Health and mental health issues
- 9 Disability issues
- 10 Behaviours - challenging, inappropriate risk taking

Assessment of young people leaving care

What are some of the potential points of difference associated with assessment?

- 1 Deficit/ needs based versus strengths based approach
- 2 Chronological age versus developmental stage
- 3 Independence versus interdependence/ connectedness
- 4 Hypothetical versus practical/ evidence based
- 5 Point in time versus on-going assessment
- 6 LAC/ statutory versus Leaving Care/ voluntary based
- 7 'Child'/dependent focused versus 'Adult' based

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