

Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services: Adapting To New Funding Streams

Presented at Family & Relationship Services Australia National Conference, 2014

Abstract

Interrelate Family Centres was recently funded to provide community-based support services in NSW to support individuals affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The concept of clients in trauma who need support forms the core of Interrelate's existing work in relationship services, Family Relationship Centres, Children's Contact Centres and mental-health services. As a result, Interrelate was well positioned as an organisation to fit the Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services into its existing services and models.

Having said that, this client group presents highly diverse needs – examples include clients who just need to debrief about their experiences, clients who are presenting with florid mental-health symptoms, inmates of the correctional system, clients who are unable to leave their homes, survivors who are also perpetrators, and clients at imminent risk of suicide.

Other challenges met in establishing this service included the interface between the judicial process and government-funded service delivery, developing a flexible service-delivery model that could be responsive to unknown need, and ensuring organisational legitimacy and credibility in this area of specialised work.

This paper will not only report on the range of clients currently being seen through this funding (through the use of case studies), it will also discuss key organisational actions that were applied to ensure the solid establishment of this new service and the challenges faced in doing so. In addition, it will review the organisational adaptation required to deliver a comprehensive suite of services to clients within a constrained financial budget.

To learn more about *Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services: Adapting To New Funding*, contact Interrelate's Research & Service Development team on rsd@interrelate.org.au.