

child safety...
our first priority



Healthy Solutions for Children: Making the Right Choice

10th National Conference of the Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH)

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“Many things we need can wait, the children cannot. Now is the time their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, their minds are being developed. To them we cannot say tomorrow, their name is today.”

Source: Adapted from quote by Gabrielle Mistral, Chilean Poet, as cited by Stanley, F., McMichael, T. & Sanson, A., Introduction: The Child Cannot Wait, Children’s Health and Development: new research directions for Australia, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2002, P6

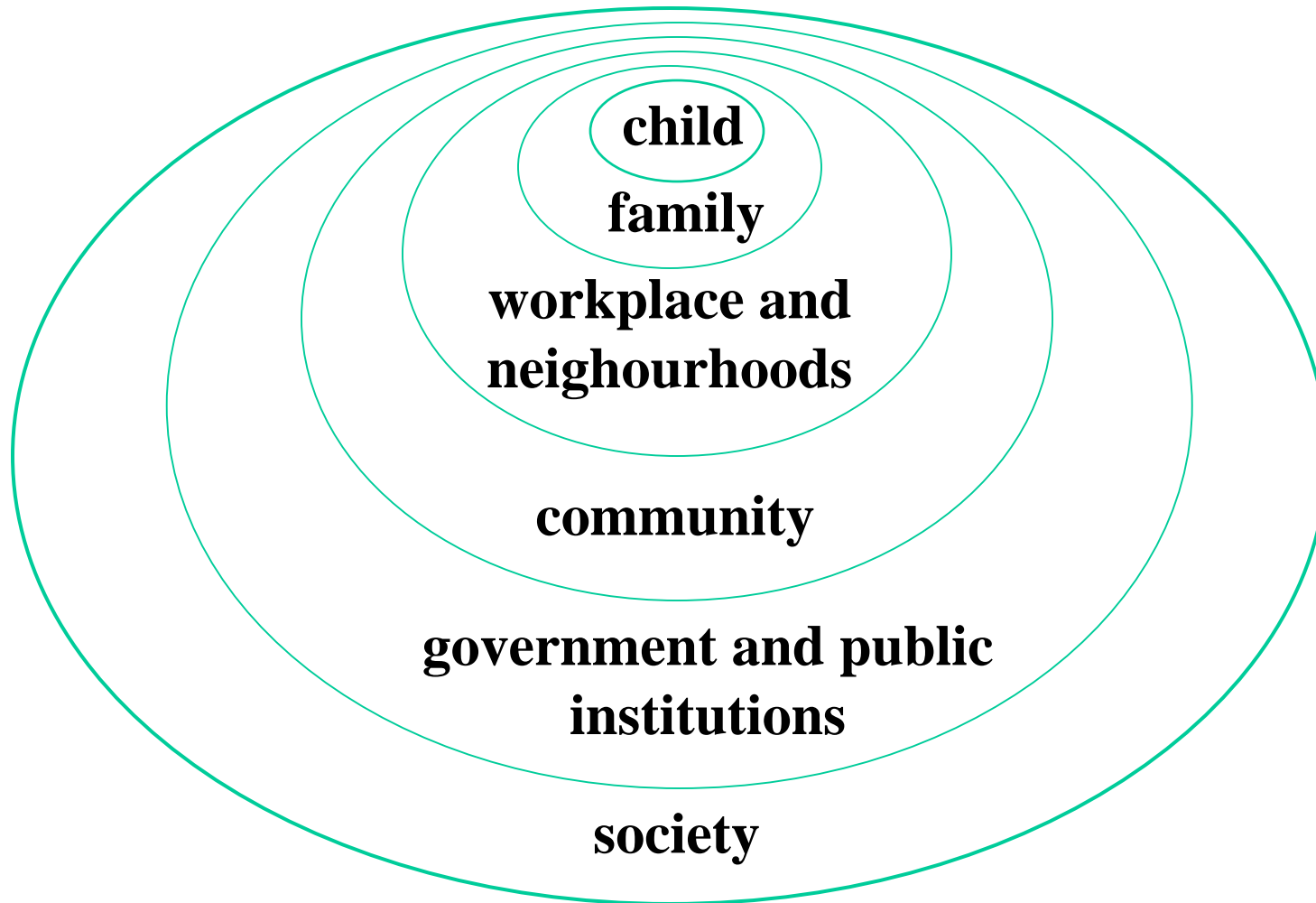
Key statistics on population and families

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Queensland Indigenous	Australia
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Population	Population aged under 18 – of all population ¹	2001	27.5%	25.8%	25.6%	46.5%	25.1%
Indigenous population	Indigenous population aged under 18 – of all population under 18 years ²	2001	5.4%	na	5.7%	100%	4.0%
Single parent families	Children aged under 15 living in single parent families – of all children under 15 years ⁴	2003	14.2%	22.8%	20.4%	38%	19.9%
Teenage births	Births to teenage mothers – of all births ⁷	2003	606%	6.1%	5.8%	19.7%	4.3%
	Births to teenage mothers per 1,000 females 15-19 years ⁷	2003	26	22.3	21.6	76.0	16.3
Jobless parents	Couple families with children aged under 15 where neither parent is employed – of all couple families with children under 15 years ⁴	2003	10.6%	7.9%	7.1%	na	6.3%
	Single parent families with children aged under 15 where parent is not employed – of all single parent families with children under 15 years ⁴	2003	55.8%	57.7%	55.6%	na	54.0%

Source: *Key Statistics on Children and Young people in Queensland*, Boorman, F., Commission for Children and Young People, Queensland, 2004.

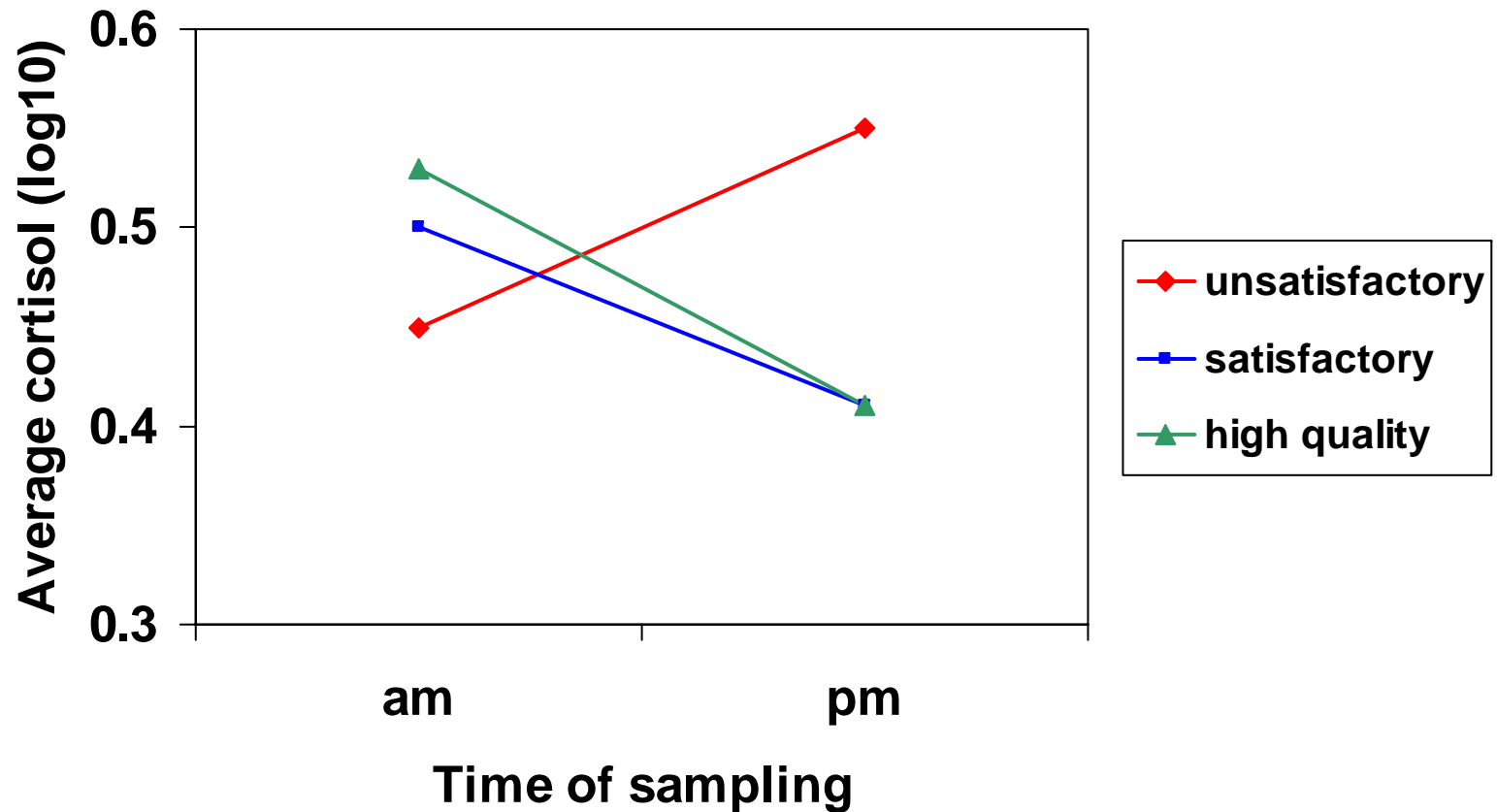


The child nested in multiple environments



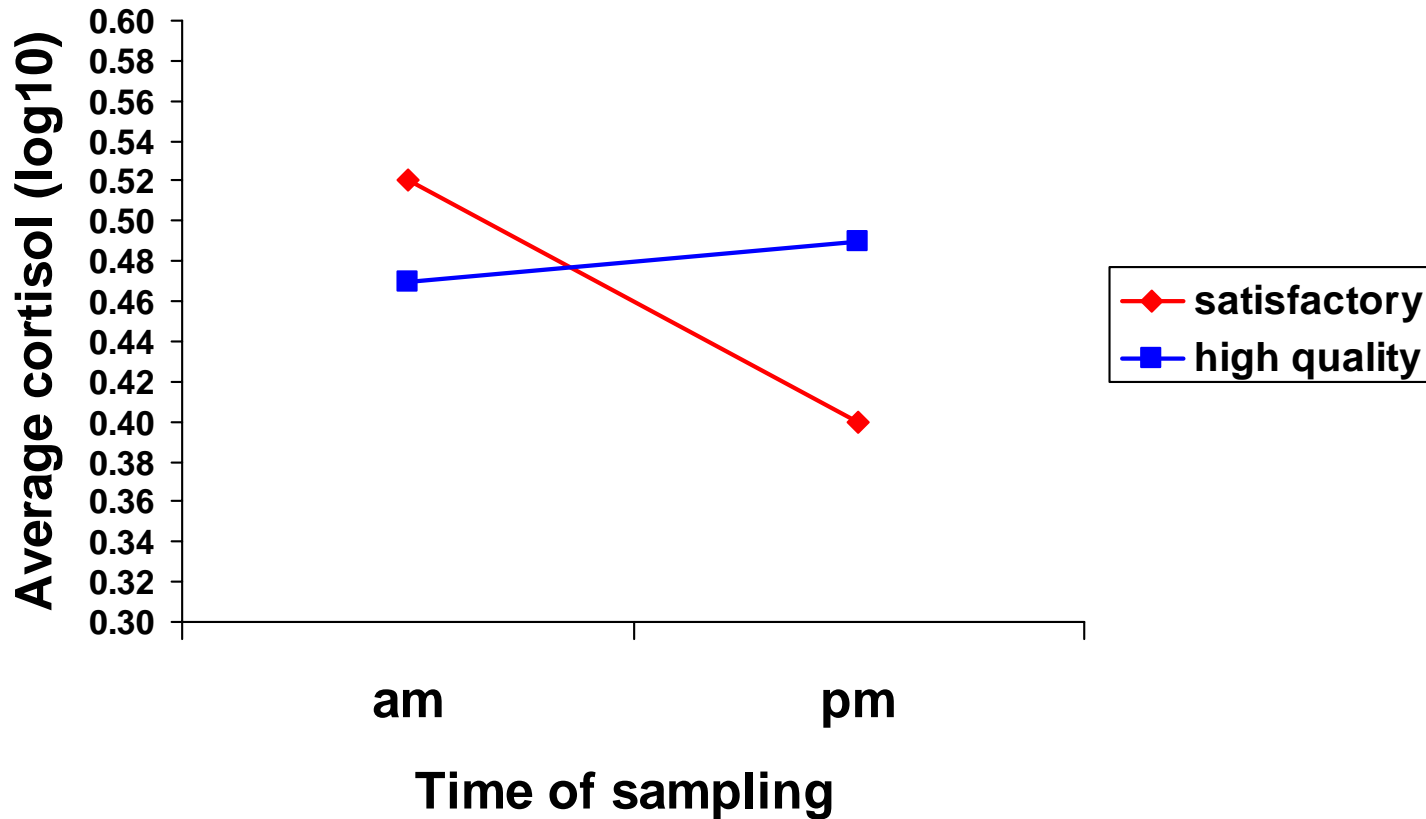
Source: Stroick, S.M., 1999, What is the Best Mix for Canada's children? Draft Synthesis Report - June 1999, Ontario, Canadian Policy Networks Inc. p8.

QIAS Principle 2.2: Individual Needs



Source: *Children's biological stress levels and child care quality: what are we doing right?* Sims, M., Guilfoyle, A., Parry, T.: Reflections, Gowrie Australia, Autumn 2005

QIAS Principle 1.2: Positive Guidance



Source: *Children's biological stress levels and child care quality: what are we doing right?* Sims, M., Guilfoyle, A., Parry, T.: Reflections, Gowrie Australia, Autumn 2005

Every Family Program

Survey 4500 parents in 3 cities

CHILDREN

31.0%	Behavioural/emotional issues in past 6 months
15.3%	Children in clinical range for emotional symptoms
18.9%	Children in clinical range for conduct problems
20.1%	Children in clinical range for hyperactivity
13.1%	Children in clinical range for peer problems

Source: Child & Health Update, Child and Youth Mental Health Unit Queensland Unit

PARENTS

Lower family income = more emotional/behavioural problems

No differences between full and part-time working parents for child behaviour problems

13.1% Parents depressed

46.3% Parents stressed

42.9% Parents smack or likely to smack

23.5% Slightly or moderately confident in parenting

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Sources of information about parenting programs:

1. school newsletters
2. word of mouth
3. brochures

Source of help:

Teachers

GPs

Child Safety Directors

- Department of Communities
- Queensland Health
- Education and the Arts
- Queensland Police Service
- Disability Services Queensland
- Queensland Treasury
- Housing
- Justice and Attorney General
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy
- Corrective Services

Common core of skills and knowledge for the Children's Workforce

- Effective communication and engagement with children, young people, their families and carers;
- Child and young person development;
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child
- Supporting transitions
- Multi-agencies working; and
- Sharing knowledge.

Source: Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce - Every Child Matters: Change for Children. Department for Education and Skills, United Kingdom. <http://dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/ccs.shtml>

Quote: Professionals working on the big picture...

“As advocates for [mental] health promotion we must move beyond, but not abandon, our traditional emphasis on ‘technical’ public health solutions to engage in the broader social and political debates; we must be agents of health promoting change; and we must ensure that the voiceless are heard....This will be new and uncomfortable territory for many and we must be careful that having recognised the limitations of a narrowly defined public health approach to promoting [mental] health we do not declare it all too difficult, repair to our comfort zone and leave it to undefined groups of ‘others’ to sort things out.

Professionals working on the big picture should also not forget that there is much that they can do personally and locally to effect change.

Source: Sainsbury, P.(2003). The pursuit of happiness: The politics of mental health promotion. Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health, 2(1), p.5.