

# Children Visiting Parents in Mental Health Facilities

Research Team: Louise O'Brien,  
Donna Gillies, Sophie Norrish, Mark  
Fallon & Trish Brady




# Aim

➤ Experiences

➤ Barriers

➤ Needs

# Background

- Hidden children - COPMI
    - Demographics
  - Children's vulnerability
- 

# Why ask the question?

Children tell us it is the hardest of times..


*“Reveal that Consumers with dependent children in the Adult Mental Health Service had over 23,000 hospital patient bed days.”*

(Maybery, Reupert, Patrick, Goodyear & Crase, 2005, p.135.)

# What parents & children tell us

- 9 year old boy
- 12 year old girl
- Parent of a toddler
- 6 & 9 year old siblings

# Method

- Recruitment
  - Participants
  - Data collection
    - Sample size
  - Ethical issues
- 

# Time line

- Ethics approval January - till now
- April - nuts'n'bolts, setting up
  - May - November
  - December - February
  - February - March

# Costs


- Personnel - interviewing time
- Posters, printing & envelopes
  - Transcription
    - Travel
  - Budgeting

# Outcomes

Jerry & George



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Identify information
  - Working group
  - Communication of findings
- 

# Level of Innovation

- Un- addressed need
- Has not been done before
- Challenge to contemporary practice

# What difference will it make?

- Inform our response to COPMI needs and those who care for this population group
- Reduce the exposure to children of potentially frightening events
- Caring for children = care for parents & vice versa

# Where to from here?

- Direct focus on this issue - good place to be
  - Spread the word
- Put the outcomes into practice

