

THE DALWOOD SPILSTEAD MODEL

- ✓ For decades, the Dalwood Spilstead Service (DSS) has been highly effective at helping vulnerable families and children at risk. It is an internationally recognised, holistic, multi-disciplinary approach for the most vulnerable people in society.
- ✓ The success of DSS is due to the provision of support and services utilising a wide range of trauma-informed programmes, including professional child and adult assessment, counselling, parenting and life skills and a therapeutic pre-school.
- ✓ *This “one-stop-shop” for parents and children under one service umbrella, from one team is fundamental when helping the most vulnerable children and families.*
- ✓ The service helps 150 children/year from approximately 90 families
- ✓ The staff at Dalwood Spilstead see the most complex family situations, which other services struggle to engage and maintain. with a 96% level of engagement, compared to an average engagement level of 63% for other service organisations.
- ✓ **83% of the families referred to Dalwood Spilstead Service completed the program with goals achieved compared to the state average of only 33%.**
- ✓ Without the reinstatement of funding, Dalwood Spilstead Service will be unable to offer the range of services needed to deliver its evidence-based, successful and cost-effective whole family service model. This situation is creating uncertainty for vulnerable families and staff who care for them.

Instead of being ROLLED BACK, the Dalwood Spilstead Service model needs to be ROLLED OUT!!!

- ☒ For years, the Dalwood Spilstead Service has attempted to convince policymakers of the value of its model via formal research, advocacy, consultation and parent testimony to no avail.
- ☒ DSS has been repeatedly dismissed for a plethora of reasons including:
 - Based in Northern Sydney families must have a lower level of need
 - It must be more expensive
 - It's not scalable
 - The research doesn't include randomized control trials (RCTs)
 - It doesn't fit nicely into one government department
- ☒ All these excuses have been refuted:
 - Referrals from DCJ around NSW are screened for the same level of risk, therefore level of family need is independently assessed and uniform around the state.
- ☒ The cost effectiveness has been demonstrated over many years and relates to:
 - Monetisation of staff retention.

- Critical mass of clients accessing programs.
 - Reduced brokerage for private services and therapies.
 - The model has been replicated elsewhere – successfully for 10 years.
- ☒ During his review of the model in 2014, Professor Ted Melhuish, leading expert from Oxford University, explained that due to the extensive research around the world outlining the clear negative trajectory of the children referred – any positive change in direction as a result of intervention is understood as evidence-based. He finalised his review by stating that **“there would appear to be a powerful case for extending the Dalwood Spilstead model more widely across NSW, and indeed Australia.”**
- ☒ Government silos are well understood to be less productive and effective.
- ☒ This snub is being repeated as the DCJ minister has just released her Redesigning Family Preservation in NSW discussion paper here. **Why isn't the DSS model, which has been locally designed, researched and internationally acclaimed as world's best practice, not been included as one of the recommended models to be considered for the new look DCJ service across the state?**

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