EVALUATION OF ‘TODAY & TOMORROW’ RESEARCH GROUP

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Children’s participation in research about their lives is now considered a vital element of inclusive and socially just contemporary research designs. There is now a considerable amount of research involving children as participants in adult-designed studies, however the most challenging and cutting edge developments are in respect to studies where children and young people are leading the research. This shift is seen to be important because adult-designed studies don’t always reflect children’s interests and may not be influential or relevant to their lives.

The CCYP, in conjunction with the NSW Commission for Children & Young People, undertook to review UnitingCare Burnside’s pilot Child-Led Research Program called Today & Tomorrow, which was part of the organisation’s 2011 Centenary Celebrations. The evaluation aimed to capture the young people’s views and experiences about being a young researcher. The process involved pre and post involvement questionnaires, a guided reflective journaling process, post-involvement interviews with young people and adult facilitators and a final focus group.

The evaluation highlighted the enthusiasm and positivity of the young researchers and recommended the continuation of the Child-Led Research program. The evaluation data suggests a child-led research program can be successfully implemented (with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds) and that it potentially offers a range of positive benefits, especially for participating young people but also for the adult facilitators and the host organisation.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

March 2011 – March 2012

PROJECT PARTNER

Uniting Care Burnside, Sydney
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RESEARCH TEAM

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