

# **POLICY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN CONTEXT OF AIDS: STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ADVOCACY**

Presentation to  
**Children and HIV: Start Early, Start Now!**  
Melbourne July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Norma Rudolph**

# Acknowledge

Wurudjeri people, custodians of the land  
where we are today

Custodians of my Country

Past, present and future

# Overview

- What kind of change do we want?
- What do I mean by
  - **'policy'** ?
  - **'advocacy'** ?
  - **'capacity'** ?
- How can we work together for change?

# Quick question

What is the perfect food for three year-old in the morning?

# Perfect food for three year-old???

- What is enough nutritious food for a child each day?
- Where does the child live?
- What is the culture of the child?
- What are local affordable nutritious foods?
- **Why can some families not afford to feed their children enough nutritious food?**
- What is the difference between **nutrition support** and **food security**?

# Different understandings

- 'Knowledges'
- 'Power'
- 'Society'
- 'Childhoods'

# Inquiry: Different world views

## Postivist

- Explain, predict, control
- Objective scientist (values excluded)
- Scientific evidence: direct link cause and effect
- Separation researcher and subject
- **Teach / tell / inform/Communicate same message**

## Interpretivist

- Make meaning, understand, critique, transform
- Objective not possible (values included)
- Link cause and effect difficult
- Build consensus through conversation/ Learn together from experience
- Participatory research
- **Create space for new ideas and innovation**

# Possible implications of ONE 'knowledge'

,

- Our knowledge and experience is not valued
- Experts always knows better
- We sometimes feel blamed or ashamed of our situation
- We feel powerless to change the situation
-



# Well-being

- Survival, growth and development
  - Highly linked processes, occurring simultaneously and affecting each other
- Involves
  - Care practices and family resources, decision making and family empowerment
  - Gender roles
- **Community aspirations**, organisation and social mobilisation

# What kind of change?

## Single message

### Treatment Action Campaign South Africa

- One message = treatment
- Get large numbers to stand behind that one goal
- Protest: marches; sit-ins; hunger strikes; openly disobey the law
- Get government to supply treatment

## Complex issues

### Young children & HIV

- What is most important?
  - Treatment
  - Stop discrimination
  - Economic strengthening, social protection
  - **Nutrition support/food security**
  - All and others
- How do we talk about death?
- What affect labelling children?

# What is 'policy'?

- Not just the words in laws or policy documents
  - **Not linear process**
    - Identify problem
    - Collect evidence
    - formulate and implement policy
  - Ongoing interlinked processes of inquiry, development and implementation
- or
- Messy ongoing dialectical relationships between: theory; research; and practice

# **‘Advocacy’ and ‘capacity’**

- **Strengthening our ability and the ability of others to work together for a better world**
- Champions motivate others to become champions
- **Everyone can be a champion or advocate**
  - Family members (including children), community members
  - Community workers, ECD practitioners, facilitators, trainers, etc)
  - Researchers
  - Policy makers
- **We need strategies and abilities to bring everyone into the same conversation**
  - (but not necessarily all in the same room at the same time)

# Three big shifts

- From problem to **appreciation**  
(building on strengths)
- From messages to dialogue  
**/conversation**
- From expert solution to  
**community solutions**

# Participatory rights-based approaches

- Know laws and policies
- Understand rights and duties
- Identify responsible duty-bearers
  - To take action individually or in groups to claim rights
  - To demand changes to laws or policy where necessary

**Building a movement through  
collaborative decision-making and  
action for a better world**

[normarudolph610@gmail.com](mailto:normarudolph610@gmail.com)

Please join the conversation!