A presentation by Associate Professor Debbie Plath, University of Newcastle and Visiting Scholar University of Sydney

Implementing Evidence Based Practice in Human Services: Australian National Study

Date: 25th August

Time: 4 – 5.30pm

Venue: Room 612 Faculty of Education and Social Work (A35), University of Sydney

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Abstract

For the past decade social work and human services in Australia have faced both subtle and overt demands to demonstrate evidence-based approaches to practice. Whilst social workers are generally concerned with providing effective services for clients, there remain questions about both the appropriateness and the adequacy of the evidence-based practice model for social work and human services. Dr Plath is a chief investigator (with Webb and Gray) on a 3-year Australian Research Council funded Discovery Project examining the implementation of evidence-based practice in human services in Australia. This presentation will report on the findings of a survey of the attitudes and experiences of social workers across Australia regarding the use of research evidence and how evidence-based practice has been implemented. The implementation of evidence-based practice is shaped by organisational culture, resources, information systems, networks and workforce skills. Findings from an organisational case study will also be drawn upon to describe the factors that support and impede the implementation of evidence-based practice within complex organisational contexts.