





CONCEPTION TO SCHOOL

The journey from conception to school: How families navigate through early childhood services in a Rural Victorian city.

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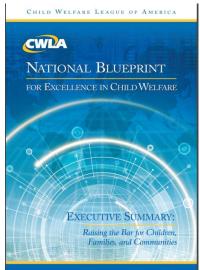












Department for Education

Children's social care reform

A vision for change

January 2016

Children and Youth Area Partnerships

"new ways of working"

"more effectively

'join up' social

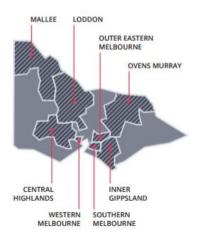
services at a

system level"

"support better outcomes"

Where they are located

Eight Area Partnerships have been established across Victoria:



expectations for vulnerable children and

of child and youth

"key foundation for achieving transformationa I change"

and broadbased model of



ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption 1



Early years services are disjointed across early childhood from conception to school

Disjointed System

Assumption 2



There is a lack of knowledge around the services that are available to parents; with no clear pathway

Lack of Knowledge

Assumption 3



There is a lack of research understanding the experiences parents have with services

User Centred Design

USER CENTRED DESIGN



GATHER The user journeys of eight parents,

capturing their first experience of moving through early childhood health and education

services from conception to school.

EXPLORE Methods that could capture, visualise and

analyse the data

CAPTURE Each individual User journey and the key

themes that emerge

VISUALISE The physical and emotional touchpoints









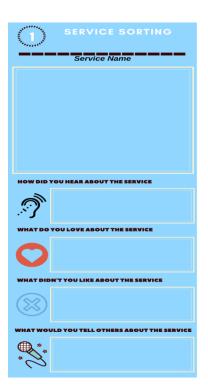


GATHER

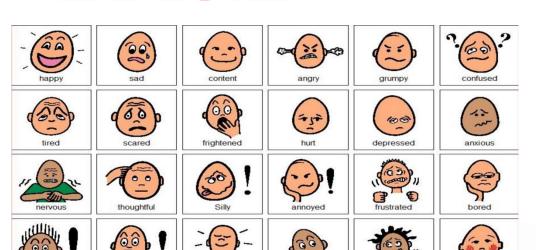
Semi-Structured conversations

- Develop guided questions "Get to know you"
- Card "service sorting" activity using feelings and emotions card set
- Service Experience activity from conception to school





EXPLORE

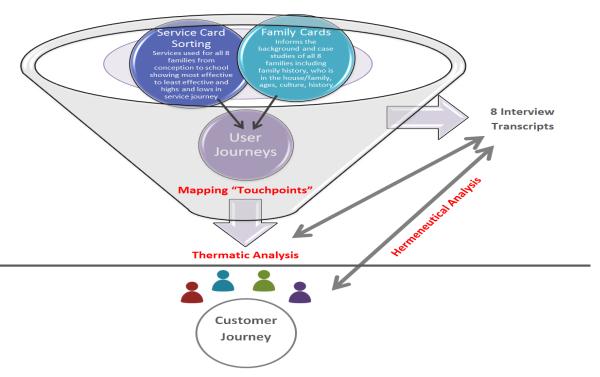


User Centred Design Probes

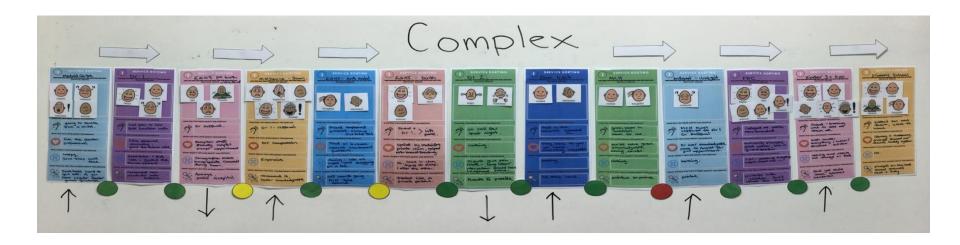


EXPLORE

Process of Data Collection and Data Analysis



CAPTURE



CAPTURE

- dissonance between expectations of childbirth/ transition to parenthood and the lived reality;
- continuum of support from ideal to going "above and beyond;"
- isolating new parents through inadequate/absent post-natal and early childhood information and support; and

to make informed choices.

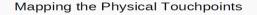
CAPTURE





VISUALISE

The "Typical" Customer Journey from conception to school





Using the representation of traffic light colours (red for stop, green for go and yellow for proceed with caution), mothers were asked to highlight what effected the ability to transition through services (only red and yellow impacts shown)

Pre-natal

The initial transition link was broken when mother's received unexpected referrals to specialist ultrasound service and also told they would be required to birth in larger hospitals due to "higher risk" pregnancy.

Birth

The dissonance between birth expectation and experience played a significant role is a mothers transition experience. Red was chosen when birthing options were taken out of their hands and they felt they had little control over the ability to make decisions.

Post-natal

Unclear processes for post-natal services when the mother gave birth within a larger regional hospital

Specialist Services

Mother's knowledge around the process for accessing specialist services, impacted on the perception of a smoother transition.

Lack of specialist services within the regional town meant travel and additional costs.

Education and Care

No clear transition process into education and care settings. Everything within health seems to flow until accessing childcare, kindergarten or school. This becomes harder when parents are required to do the searching themselves.

Once the process is known, the transition can continue.



Carina O'Neill - CHCYAP Research Collaboration, Federation University Australia, 2018

VISUALISE

The "Typical" Customer Journey from conception to school



The ability to navigate and transition though services without problems or difficulties, was less to do with the knowledge of services, and more to do with the emotional impact.

These adverse experiences broke the link in service transition and impacted on mothers significantly

Being unsure of the Having their Being able to go into a Holding their baby Respectful, and nonregular doctor service and "bawl their pregnancy process, judgmental support for the first time Advocating for created stress. eyes out and still get Services that go their child in makes them feel like treated the same" worry and anxiety The excitement of Services that are "above and beyond" relation to their in good hands having a baby knowledgeable ongoing health Getting positive and professional issues, was both results after a empowering and period of great Being made to Guiding and discouraging uncertainty "feel special" advocating for Going back to themselves to ensure Feeling isolated work and feeling Adjusting to the A perceived lack of they are given the socially isolated reality of a child practical pre-natal right information and with an adverse feel informed of their information created a Lack of congruence health issue miss-match between birthing options between birthing Feeling judged and Being "pin-balled parenting expectations expectations and reality. stereotyped from doctor to and lived reality Receiving conflicting advice, and left mothers feeling like a Regret about "not doctor", and not not knowing who to listen to. failure for not having the speaking up" Feeling ill-equipped and under getting their known This started during the Pre-natal birth that they expected. prepared for the "emotional impact" doctor period and continued throughout associated with having a baby conception to school

THANK YOU for your time!



QUESTIONS