

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE



‘Bridging the Divide’ provides support services to families with members accessing treatment services

The NGO Treatment Grant is funded by:



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

'Evidence exists that family support is a key element in successful treatment outcomes'

Orford J. (1994) Empowering family and friends: a new approach to the secondary prevention of addiction. Drug Alcohol Review 1994; (13)



FAMILIES - a definition

- Nuclear family
- Extended family members
- Blended families
- Single parent families
- Non-parental primary carers
- Partners
- Friends

“Anyone who cares...”



HOW FAMILIES ACCESS SUPPORT

3 TYPES

1. Engaged

- active
- motivated
- educated

2. Engaged but disadvantaged

- active and motivated but don't know how to
- cultural, language, literacy barriers

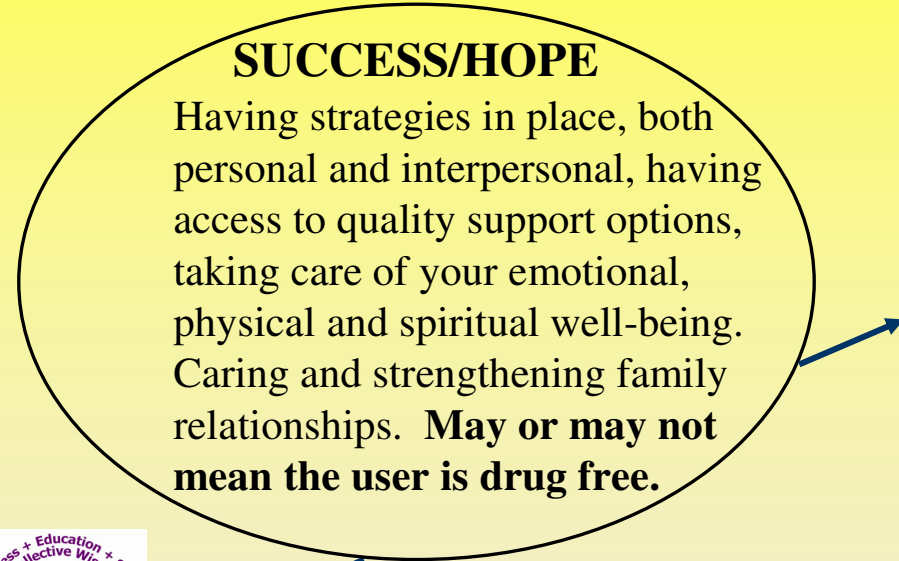
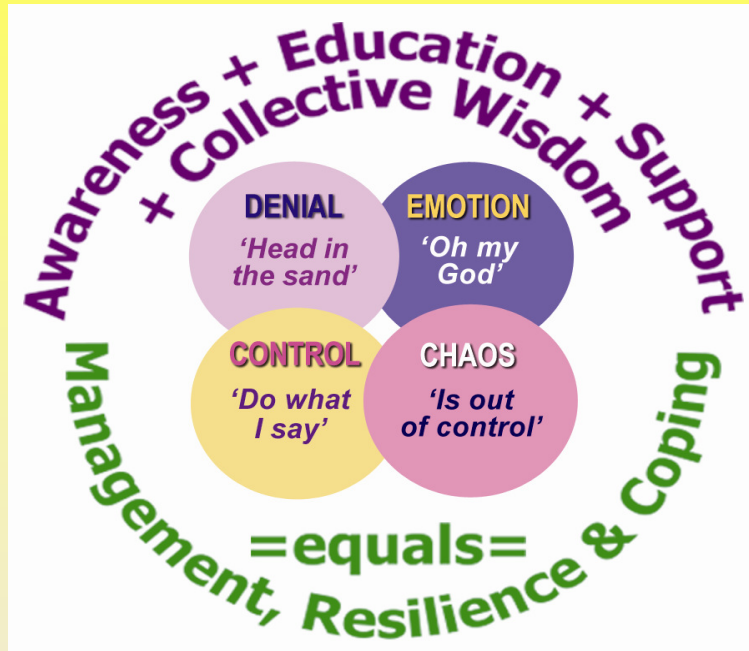
3. Disengaged

- uninvolved
- burnt out
- fearful of services
- generational drug and alcohol use (in some cases)

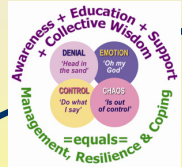
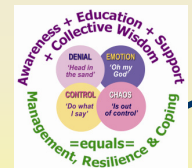
“Some do, some want to, some don’t...”



STAGES OF CHANGE – FAMILY



Drug Use Discovered



Success is not a fixed point
Success is maximising what is possible at each point along the family's journey.

Management and coping can happen at any point and are a continuous growth process.

DEFEAT/DESPAIR
Lack of help, support, education and resources can lead to exhaustion, hopelessness & disconnection.

FAMILY – What they need

Involvement ✓

Reassurance ✓

Hope ✓

Connection ✓

Support ✓

Self care ✓

Respite ✓

Understanding ✓

Structure and consistency ✓

Better treatment access ✓

Education & information ✓

Clear communication ✓

Options ✓

Solutions/answers ✗

Practical Matters ✗

- housing, transport, legal etc

Miracle ??

Reality ??



FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS

Respite

Better communication

More skills

Resilience

Balance pole

End of the journey

Success (req. Definition)

Solutions

Someone else to fix it

Answer to 'WHY'

Drug free

Instant Action & Success

Panacea/Magic fix

Way life 'used to be'



The Project has achieved

Family Inclusive Practice Capacity Building

- Audits for agencies
- Review of assessment process and treatment plan
- Policy change
- Websites updated
- Information Packs for families
- Training and workshops for workers
- Aboriginal Stepping Stones Project



Outcomes of the BTD Project

Resources available to Organisations

Family Inclusive Policy Template

Audit Tool

Discussion Paper

Training and workshops - Family Focus

Material for Family Information Packs

Assistance with developing resources

Access to current best practice and research



FLEXIBLE & TAILORED

A Family Drug Support representative in your area will discuss our range of FDS support services and tailor a program that best serves the needs of your organisation.



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE 'OUR SERVICES'

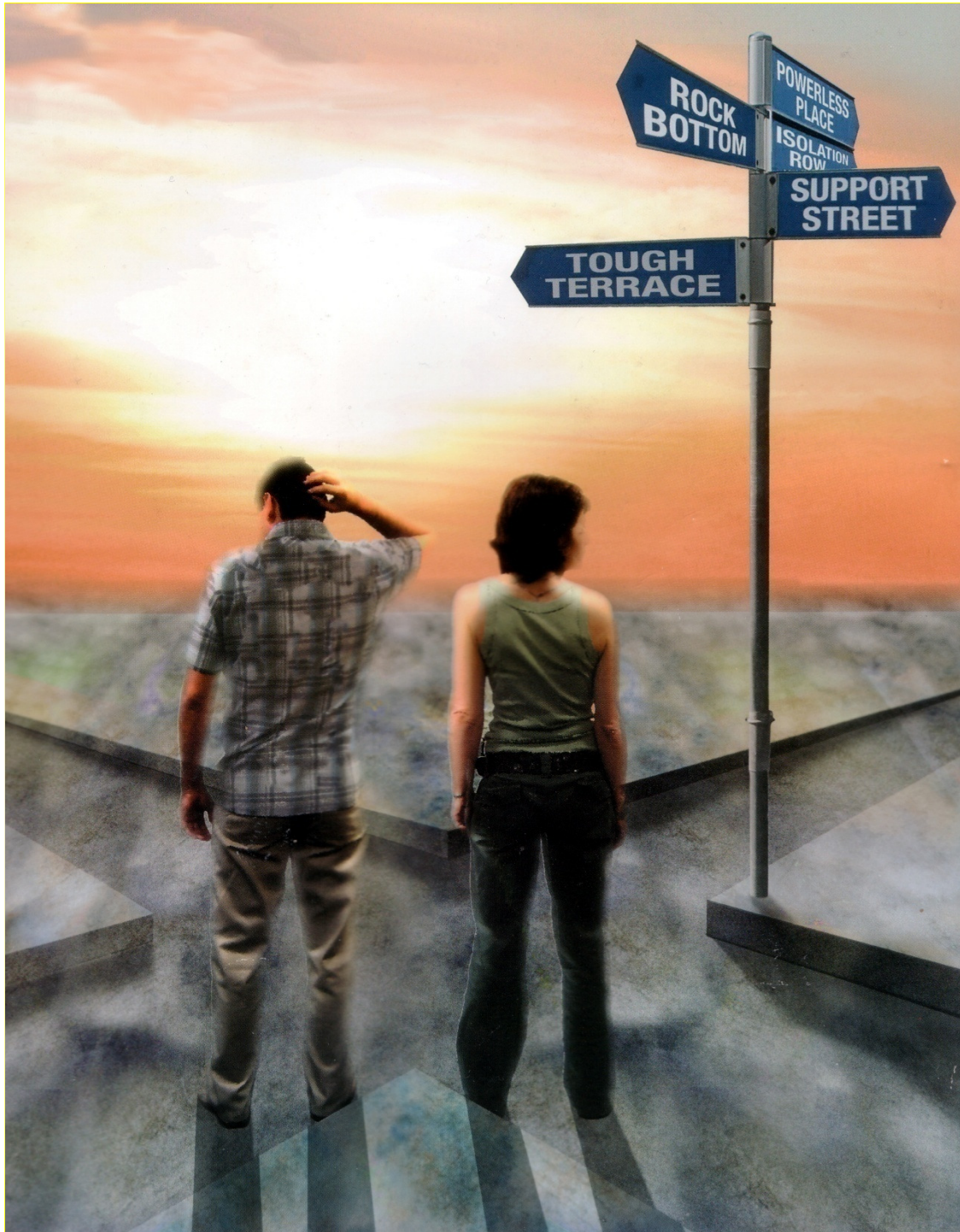
- In service training sessions and workshops
- Audits
- Family friendly Resources
- Family and Clinical Counselling Telephone Line 1300 884 186
- Stepping Stones to Success courses



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE 'OUR GOALS'

- Work collaboratively with treatment services
- Up skill treatment staff in family support needs
- Provide more pathways to support families
- Provide families with realistic expectation of treatment
- Support families and those in treatment towards better outcomes
- Increase capacity of treatment services to engage with families





BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

FAMILIES
AFFECTED
BY DRUGS



DRUG
TREATMENT
SERVICES

Families and
Treatment
Helpline
1300 884 186



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing