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What is RCUS

- RCUS is an evidence-informed, demonstration project funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (Vic) as part of the Family Violence Therapeutic Interventions projects.
- It is a service for children and young people, aged 0-18 years, who have experienced family violence.
- It is a voluntary service at no cost
- Support may continue for up to 12 months

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Partners

Staffs are co-located to ensure that services are delivered in locations best suited and least disruptive to the child

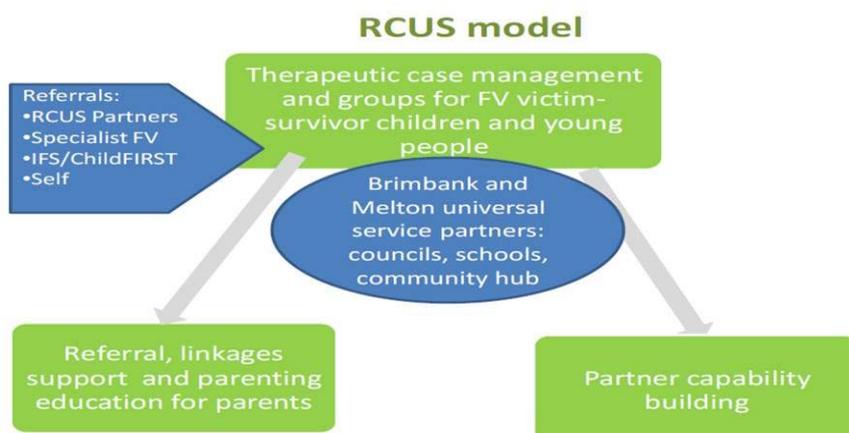
- For 0 -4 years: **Brimbank City Council, Maternal and Child Health, Melton City Council**
- For 5-12 years: **St Albans Primary School**
- For 12-18 years: **Kurunjang Secondary College**
- For 0-18 years: **Community Hub**

St. Albans Primary School



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The aims of RCUS are to:



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Therapeutic groups

Circle of Security - evidence based

Tuning Into Kids – evidence based

Children's groups – Evidence informed therapeutic group



Outcomes:

- Strong attendance and engagement
- High proportion of CALD clients
- Family Violence focus

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Community capacity-building

- Training session with school staff – focusing on understanding and working with developmental trauma and strategies
- Over 100 staff attended
- 100% satisfaction in feedback
- 47 secondary consults



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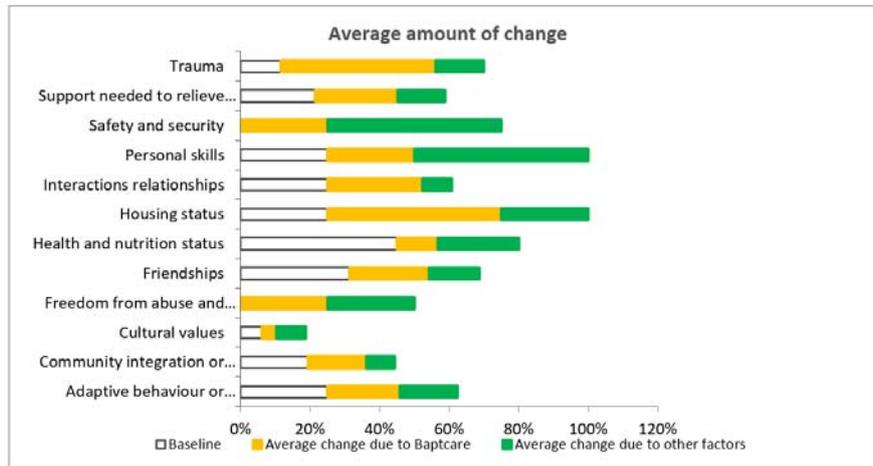
Outcomes

- Constant waiting list, demonstrates the unmet need in the community
- EMDR and equine therapy
- Targets already exceeded before year end
- Strong engagement rates with hard-to-engage clients
- Strong relationships with partners and community “an onsite social worker that can make connections with families within the school community and build relationships with the children and families in a familiar environment. This program supports the school to provide high quality education for all students.”

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RCUS Outcomes – So far

For individual case management



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Next Steps

- Extension of funding for a second year of project
- All 5 partners have signed up for the second year
- DHHS evaluation through EY Sweeney underway
- University of Melbourne evaluation commencing



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Case study

All the information has been changed to protect the identity of the clients.

Mia, 2yrs old and her mother, Rani, 24 yrs are from a CALD background. Rani's marriage was arranged by her parents, and she arrived in Australia in 2013 on a spouse visa. Husband, John is 10 years her senior, a heavy drinker with violent outbursts. Violence towards Rani started immediately after they married. It involved physical, emotional, financial and social abuse. Rani was put under enormous pressure by her in-laws to keep silent and stay in the relationship.

Mia and Rani were referred to RCUS by MCHN because Mia was displaying challenging and distressing behaviours including crying and screaming, hitting other children, delayed speech development.

Mia was exposed to violence both in utero and after birth and on several occasions tried to prevent dad from hurting mum. On few occasions, while drunk, John fell when holding Mia, causing bruising and distress. They are now separated after a FV incident where police attended.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME!

