

BREAKTHROUGH ICE EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES: WHAT THE FAMILIES HAVE TAUGHT US.

N Crafti¹ H Pickard²

¹ Turning Point, Fitzroy, Victoria, ² SHARC, Carnegie, Victoria

Introduction / Issues: BreakThrough: Ice Education for Families, is a joint initiative between Turning Point, SHARC (Self Help Addiction Resource Centre) and The Bouverie Centre, funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Ice Action Plan. The objectives of this initiative are to develop and deliver a new education program for families and community members that will:

- Provide practical strategies for family and carers to appropriately respond to a drug-using friend or relative (including ice use)
- Increase family and community member's knowledge of where to get further help if needed
- Be accessible to families across Victoria, including families from Non- English speaking backgrounds and indigenous families.

Method / Approach: A broad collaborative approach has been undertaken in this project to form a partnership between several key organisations, family members with a lived experience and the community members who attend these workshops.

As this program will run for at least four years, feedback from participants and facilitators is incorporated into the program via participant evaluation, regular facilitator forums and call backs to program participants.

Key Findings

- Over 85% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the BreakThrough program as high or very high
- 98% said they would recommend BreakThrough to other people with similar concerns
- The importance of enhancing communication skills in families was highlighted
- The role of family participation as an instrument of change was strengthened
- Barriers to family participation were identified

Discussions and Conclusions:

These findings will be discussed in the context of family participation and its growing importance in the AOD sector