

Welcome to: **A focus on health**

EVIDENCE CENTRE
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

A seminar with presentations by:

- **Valmai Copeland, Principal Advisor Oranga Tamariki – *Medical Child Abuse – literature review***
- **Dr Patrick Kelly, Clinical Director of the Starship child protection team and Honorary Associate Professor, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, University of Auckland – *Medical Child Abuse – a practice perspective***
- **Sarah Williams, Nurse Consultant and Educator, Starship Hospital – *Silos and Systems: the relationship between primary schools and health services in New Zealand***

EVIDENCE CENTRE
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

Medical Child Abuse

- An international literature review

Medical Child Abuse

- Literature Review about medical child abuse and social work practice
- Commissioned Allen&Clarke to do the review for us
- Focused on 2010 on, but included research from before that if it seemed significant
- Searched for International and Aotearoa research

The literature review purpose

Multiple intended uses:

- to learn of current understanding of the topic
- to share with kaimahi, particularly social workers
- to inform professional practice responses to requests for assistance when Oranga Tamariki has kaimahi working with families or whānau where medical child abuse may be present
- to inform future policy and practice work.

The literature review

- Focus on **harm to children**
- Search terms included:
 - Medical Child Abuse
 - Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another (FDIA)
 - Munchausen syndrome by proxy
 - Fabricated or induced illness
 - Malingering by proxy
- 44 journal articles or reports were used
- Key gaps in the literature were identified, including no information directly relevant to whānau Māori affected by child medical abuse or FDIA

What I learnt

- Reports of Child Medical Abuse are rare in NZ and internationally
- It is probably under-reported
- Identification can be difficult
- The consequences are often severe and long-lasting for the child experiencing the harm and often for the wider family
- The person imposing the harm is most often the mother
- Social work focus is on the safety of the child

The report location

- The literature review is on the Research page of the Oranga Tamariki website

www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/child-medical-abuse/