

Practitioner perceptions of the use of parenting programs with culturally and linguistically diverse families

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Parenting programs have been found to be widely accepted and effective as a means of preventing and treating child social, emotional and behavioural problems. However their use with families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations has been low in Australia. Thus an exploratory survey of 44 practitioners who conduct parent consultations with these groups was conducted to assess the perceived suitability of such programs for CALD parents. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program was used as an example of an empirically based behavioural parenting program. Results suggested practitioners rated the program as moderately acceptable. However, concerns were raised about certain strategies and aspects of the program, when applied to CALD families. Unexpectedly, neither previous parent training nor work with specific groups affected ratings of the program. In other regards, practitioner's views were predicted: strategies to promote positive behaviours were preferred over misbehaviour management strategies and a number of practitioners recommended cultural adaptation. Compared to the results of a simultaneous survey of 47 CALD parents, practitioners viewed more barriers to CALD parents' participation and were more critical of the available delivery formats. This suggests that practitioner perceptions may be restricting the use of parenting programs with CALD groups, potentially unjustifiably. Further research needs to be conducted, as this is the first study considering practitioner's views, particularly within CALD populations.

For More Information on the research, please contact:

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