

Presentation key points:

Leading Practice Conference “Growing Capacity, Creating Opportunities, Strengthening Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities”
28th - 30th July 2014, Novotel Rooty Hill.

Name	Andrew Cummings
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Biography	<p>Andrew Cummings is a freelance consultant who has worked in young people’s organisations for over 25 years. His roles have included working with children and young people in out of home care, adolescent and family support, and managing programs and organisations at local, regional, state-wide, national and international levels in Australia, the UK and Europe.</p> <p>Andrew has written and/or edited over 20 published works on working with young people, and has also developed and delivered a wide range of training programs on youth issues to over 2500 youth and community workers. His previous roles include being Executive Director of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (2010 - 2013), Executive Officer of the Settlement Council of Australia (2009 - 2010), and Secretary General of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (2000 - 2006).</p>
(plus photo-optional)	

Key points from Presentation

Where Youth Work and Family Work

Introduction:

- *Current Context - a shift away from seeing young people as having needs apart from within families — a shift towards generic family workers
- *Compare and contrast youth work and family work approaches - be aware of their similarities and differences

Trauma informed care:

- *Trauma often begins in adolescence (or before)
- *A whole-of-family approach might miss trauma, abuse, violence etc
- *Making young people work in families might exacerbate trauma

Place-based Approach:

- *Importance of collaboration - with other services, approaches etc
- *Focus of connection in the youth work approach - with community, context etc

Top Tips:

- *Use the best of each approach
- *Be creative
- *Collaborate - divide up the support roles for young people, parents *Think about the family situation from everyone's point of view - consider age, gender, likes etc
- *Don't just talk ... be active, playful etc
- *Take time to explain your role(s) clearly to everyone involved

Example of a Great Resource:

- *Strong Bonds website by Jesuit Social Services (Vic)
- www.strongbonds.jss.org.au