

IMPACT STATEMENT: 'Circles of Change' and 'Circles of Change Revisited'

AT A GLANCE:

INVESTIGATORS: Kim Macfarlane
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PERIOD OF STUDY: 2004-present

GRANTING BODIES: Griffith University, Workforce Council, and
Queensland Health

AIM AND DESIGN:

Circles of Change (COC) is a method used to engage professionals from a variety of disciplines in critical reflection and conversation. The process consists of four steps and involves groups of professionals, in deconstructing, confronting, theorising, and thinking otherwise about a phenomena or issue within practice. The COC method is also relevant for healthcare professionals working within and across complex settings, such as disability and rehabilitation. Aligned with a 'design thinking' approach, it allows a process for wicked problem analysis and solution generation.

OUTCOMES TO DATE:

Publications arising from this study

Macfarlane, K. & Cartmel, J. (2012). 'Circles of change revisited: building leadership, scholarship and professional identity in the children's services sector.' *Professional Development in Education*, 38(5), 845-861.

Nolan, A., Cartmel, J., & Macfarlane, K. (2012). Thinking about Practice in Integrated Children's Services: Considering Transdisciplinarity. *Children Australia*, 37, 94-99.

Cartmel, J., Macfarlane, K. & Maher, C. (2007). Circles of Change: Innovative approaches to Field Education, *Every Child*, 13(2).

Macfarlane, K., Cartmel, J., & Noble, K. (2004) Pedagogy in the Nursery: establishing practitioner partnerships in high quality day care programs. *Australian Journal of Early Childhood* 29(4) 38-44.

A model of professional learning has been developed and shaped by the concept of open source learning, and has culminated in the development of a free on-line website.

The Early Childhood Care and Education: Developing and Sustaining Pedagogical Leadership website aims to stimulate thinking in relation to working across the early years with a focus on integrated practices.

