



International Research

Evidence on What Works

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Literature Review Introduction

- Can CRE assist all couples and individuals achieve their relationships aspirations?
 - CRE is not the silver bullet but should be part of the solution
- “glass half empty” vs “glass half full”.
 - “We know enough to take action but we need to take action to know more” (Scott Stanley)
- Working together: building a national relationship movement.





Effectiveness of CRE

- Is CRE effective and cost effective?
 - Need to be realistic about what CRE can effect and what can be measured.

- How effective is CRE?
 - “The average person who participated in a premarital prevention program was better off after the program than 79% of the people who did not receive a similar educational experience” (Carroll & Doherty) .



Effectiveness of CRE continued

- How cost effective is CRE?
 - In 2006 the average cost per divorce was £29,816.
 - In 2007 Caldwell et al calculated a return for government of \$1.85 for every \$1 spent on screening and empirically supported marital therapy.
 - Turvey & Olson quote an estimated loss off \$6 billion by American businesses due to decreased productivity from marriage and relationship distress, and in the year post divorce employees were absent from work an average 168 hours (4 weeks).

- What CRE programmes are effective?
 - Setting minimum standards of practice





Ongoing Research: Longitudinal studies

- Building Strong Families: USA
- Supporting Healthy Marriage: USA
- Community Healthy Marriage Initiative: USA
- Proposed research study: Australia



Work in Progress

- CRE for low-income couples and individuals
 - Nurturing emotionally-, personally-, and commitment-safe relationships
- CRE for individuals
 - “sliding vs deciding” : combating relationship inertia





Conclusion

- CRE has an important part to play in helping couples and individuals achieve their relationship aspirations.
- “trains and tracks”
- The critical role of Government
“ Meta-messages”



Questions for discussion

- How effective is CRE?
- Can the limitations be effectively addressed?
- ‘We know enough to take action, but we need to take action to know more’
Discuss
- How persuasive do you find the case for investment in CRE?

