Method **Implications** Findings

## A systematic narrative literature review

## SEARCHING FOR LITERATURE

Arbenita read 10%. Jenny and Arbentia compared results and agreed which to include.



### ANALYSING AND SYNTHESISING

enny identified themes in the tudies and created columns fo

enny edited the final draft usin

#### What contextual factors How serious do social workers perceive influence social workers neglect to be? perceptions of neglect?

#### The state

#### The family courts

#### The organisation

- service availability
- workload

#### The social worker:

- life experiences
- ethnicity/ culture
- experience
- qualifications

Social workers may be underestimating the emotional harm caused by chronic neglect.

Reflective, supportive supervision may help social workers recognise how their perceptions of neglect may be influenced by their personal circumstances and stress levels.

Social workers would benefit from greater support and training in how to evidence the harm caused by neglect in the court arena.

**Policy** 

Failure to provide support services is likely to lead to increased involvement on a statutory basis for children experiencing neglect.

Research

Caution is needed when using informant reporting as an indicator of neglect as thresholds are not entirely consistent.

For qualitative studies into neglect, generalisability may be improved by purposefully sampling cases from social workers and organisations with a diverse range of characteristics.

For quantitative studies into neglect, it may be necessary to control for variables such as national policy and caseloads which influence thresholds for neglect.

There is a lack of knowledge about perceptions of neglect in older children and those with disabilities, more modern forms of potential neglect (e.g. childhood obesity, online supervision) the "tipping point" for intervention following cumulative neglect, variation between countries and over time

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Physical abuse

and

Sexual abuse

Physical neglect

Inadequate supervision

A child begs for food. The child has not eaten in a day (Craft and Staudt 1991)

Emotional and behavioural neglect A child consistently wears clothing that is ill-fitting and

in disrepair (Craft and Staudt 1991)

Parent does not comfort a 6 year old child when upset

(Rose and Meezan 1995)

Regularly no action is taken when discipline is

indicated" (Craft and Staudt 1991)

A child does not have appropriate toys and the parents

make no effort to obtain them (Craft and Staudt 1991)

**LEAST SERIOUS** 

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# Social workers' perceptions of child neglect