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**Wraparound New Zealand:  
An Evaluation of Fidelity and Experiences**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
Doctor of Clinical Psychology  
at Massey University, Wellington,  
New Zealand.

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2015



## **Abstract**

Serious mental health disorders are complex clinical problems which interfere with a youth's ability to live functionally within their family and community. The wraparound process is an intensive individualised coordination and care planning process for youth with serious mental health disorders and their families who present with multiple, complex, and expansive needs. Originating from the United States of America the wraparound process was introduced on a limited basis in one District Health Board in New Zealand in 2004. Although deemed a promising practice internationally, no independent research, to our knowledge, had been conducted on this process within a New Zealand context. Therefore, the studies in this thesis aimed to evaluate the wraparound process in New Zealand. Study one reviewed the needs of youth with serious mental health disorders in New Zealand, the interventions currently available, and introduced the wraparound practice model as a potential solution to the service gaps and limitations. Study two and three investigated the fidelity to, and the experiences of, the wraparound process from the perspectives of wraparound facilitators, caregivers, youth, and team members who made up 16 wraparound teams. Overall the results from these studies indicated that the wraparound process in New Zealand was experienced as positive and helpful and was being implemented as it was intended with an overall fidelity score in the above average range. The positive experience was related to four interconnected themes: the role of the wraparound facilitator; support; wraparound's philosophies and principles; and the outcomes achieved. Importantly, a degree of consistency was also found across studies between the level of adherence to wraparound principles and phases in the fidelity study and those which were perceived as important or in need of improvement in the qualitative study. Taken together the results of this research

project confirmed that the wraparound process was a viable and useful intervention for New Zealand youth and families with high and complex needs. However, future research is recommended using larger more representative sample sizes which include quantitative outcome measurement to establish the effectiveness of the process.

## **Acknowledgments**

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the wraparound teams who took part in this research project. Without your willingness to participate, this research would not have been possible. To the families, it was a privilege to meet each of you. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and sharing your experiences of the wraparound process. I was truly humbled by each of your journeys into and through the process and the strength you all possessed. I would also like to thank the team members for allowing me to come to their workplaces and fitting me into their busy schedules.

I would like to separately thank the Intensive Clinical Support Services team and all the wraparound facilitators who participated in this research project. I truly appreciate you inviting me into your team, willingly giving up your time, help with recruitment, and your overall enthusiasm about this research. A special thank you is warranted to both Roy Bergquist and Jan Tosswill. Roy Bergquist played a large part in the initiation of this research project and was always available for questions and consultation. Jan Tosswill dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to ensure this project was a success for no reward of her own. Her tireless efforts and incredible amounts of passion were greatly appreciated. Not only did she help me to navigate the wraparound process but also a new city, providing support when ever needed.

My sincerest gratitude and appreciation goes to my supervisors Dr Ruth Gammon and Dr Ian de Terte. Dr Ruth Gammon's clinical expertise, knowledge of the wraparound process, academic guidance, and feedback was immeasurable throughout this thesis. I would also like to thank her for her incredible support, patience, and encouragement. To my second supervisor Dr Ian de Terte thank you

for your guidance, in particular with statistics and in the structure of this thesis, and your quick feedback on written work.

Thank you to my parents Dr Caryll Shailer and Gordon Shailer for their constant support and patience. You have not only provided immense emotional support but also financial support nearing the completion of this thesis. Mum your encouragement, problem solving skills, and unconditional love have helped me through the harder parts of this journey.

To my wonderful partner Glenn Letts, who has also been an invaluable and unwavering source of support, I do not have words to express my gratitude. Thank you for your understanding, time, and humour as well as allowing me to pursue my career in clinical psychology which at times came at great sacrifice.

For all my colleagues and friends at university I thank you for all the joint discussions, the shared understanding you provided, and encouraging me to relax now and then. To those friends outside of university thank you for providing balance, perspective, and remembering my existence.

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