




## 'In the Loop'

### The Evolution of the FFMPU Group work Programme


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## FFMPU

- Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit (FFMPU) established in 2000
- Funded by the NSW Government
- A specialist unit within Victims Services in the Department of Attorney General and Justice
- Purpose - to coordinate support services for the families and friends of missing persons



## Our client group

- A missing person is an individual whose current whereabouts are unknown and there are concerns for their safety and well-being (AIC 2008)



## Statistics


- 12,278 people reported missing to police in NSW in 2011
- 95% are located within one month
- On average 12 people affected
- 1600 long term missing people in Australia
  - 650 of whom are in New South Wales



## The Work of FFMPU

We offer:

- Crisis and ongoing counselling
  - Psychological, emotional & practical support
  - Telephone, face to face, email and online support
- Group work programme
- Liaison & referral
- Clinical support and consultation
- Publications and community education



## 2003 to the current day

- From a telephone support group to regional and metro based groups for adults and young people
- Mutual support
- A voice – access to the media, young people as consultants, sharing their experience across the lifespan.

## What families tell us



- A place to turn, they feel less isolated, their experience is acknowledged
- They meet others in a similar situation
- A sense of relief
- Able to reach out to others to offer and to receive support
- Drawing strength from others

## Quilt Project



Across the lifespan:  
11 – 76 years of age

Informal and formal meetings

An opportunity to tell others about their loved one and their experience of missing

A ritual where few exist



## In the Loop



For young people 11 – 16 years  
Different relationships to the missing person  
A small core group  
(Photo removed)

For parents and carers

- Supporting parents to include and support young people
- Young people as consultants about their needs
- Overcoming hesitation
- Informing the community

## FFMPU Contact Details



For more information

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