

Conclusion

Family support services are like families themselves—a concept everyone understands, but one in which there are many types and many definitions.

Defining what family support services are without being tied to notions of funding programs, specific target groups or particular policy directions has been a challenging process, and one which may never be totally 'final'. Just as families change, so do the services which are developed to meet their particular needs. This study has attempted to describe what services currently exist in this area, within a set of boundaries, and what is collected about what these services do. It is one more step in a long and ongoing process to provide meaningful, useful and beneficial information about an important area of community services.