Beyond Behaviour Change Forum
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Sustainable Families Project
Kildonan Uniting Care
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Sustainable Families Project: About Kildonan Uniting Care

Kildonan Uniting Care – one of Australia’s oldest community organisations

“Empowering people to improve their lives, through the provision of effective community services and addressing issues of social and economic hardship”

Kildonan’s Programs: family support, placement prevention, youth services, energy efficiency support, financial counselling, bushfire recovery assistance and community development.

Kildonan’s expertise in supporting families and facilitating household sustainability together
Sustainable Families Project: About the Project

New Model: will pilot the development of a model to support vulnerable families in optimising energy efficiency and reducing waste.

Project Objectives: reduction in energy, water, waste; community linkages and advocacy; and information collection and learnings.
From auditing to learning…..

Guiding Principles:

Emphasis on social/cultural practices and their interaction with the technical and material;

Empowerment of service users and facilitation of their agency in both sustainability and evaluation;

Action research processes for learning at levels of household, project phases and project as a whole.

Scope:

144 households visited up to 4 times
Focus on the *Why* and *How* of Practices…

**Why?**: what we do and why is complex and often not about ‘choice’

**How?**: talk about washing and drying clothes; buying, storing, preparing food; bathing; heating and cooling; gardening; travelling/mobility.

**What?**: learn about common understandings, practical knowledge, material infrastructures and rules which constitute those practices

**Where?**: leads to new opportunities to assist practice change
Sustainable Families Project: How to take a Social Practices Approach?

**What does it mean for project aims?**

Focus on *learning* about practices and how and why they change

*Empowering* householders in learning about their practices and why they do what they do (eg. material infrastructures and/or practical knowledge etc)

Identify ways to assist practice change

**What does it mean for engaging householders?**

Developing trust and understanding

Auditing is only part of the process

Asking the right questions

Creating opportunities for questioning and self-reflection
Sustainable Families Project: How to take a Social Practices Approach?

What does it mean for project evaluation and learnings?
Assessment of practices and practice change – what happened, what needs to happen?
Assessing practice dynamics in each household helps with developing strategies for change
Assessing practice dynamics across all households helps develop strategies for broader scale practice change

What does it mean for broad scale learnings and outcomes?
Greater understanding of how and why practices are changing
Identify relationship between practice elements in changing practices
Inform the development of new projects and programs to assist practice change