

Name: Mette Lotinga

Evaluation of my placement at Bethany August – December 2005

School : (Copenhagen College of Social Education, Denmark )

Course name : Bachelor in social education

In my placement at Bethany Family Choices, all my expectations have been fulfilled beyond my wishes. I feel that it has been a great experience for me and has taught me a lot about the Australian way of life, their approach to working with families as well as teaching me about the Australian culture. During my placement I have had the chance to develop my professional as well as personal skills.

I felt really welcome from the first day. When I arrived I was surprised to find that my desk was ready for me with flowers and a card. Everybody in the agency seemed to know I was coming and was welcoming of me.

Bethany offered me lots of possibilities to get into different things. I was happy to get involved in working directly with families in the Family Choices program, the violence prevention school program, the holiday program and the NEWPIN program. I have been happy to get involved in such a broad range of programs, it has taught me lots of different ways of working with children and parents.

I was given the opportunity to speak with staff members together when I compared the Danish system to the Australian systems in a formal presentation. This helped me to clarify and focus the differences between the systems. For me it was also a personal challenge to prepare and conduct the presentation.

For me it has been a very positive experience that my team has been so open minded towards letting me use my creative skills in my work. It has been very inspiring for me and I have learned lots from it that I can use in my further studies and work.

Overall my placement at Bethany Family Choices was very beneficial as I learnt a lot about Social Work as well as the Australian culture.