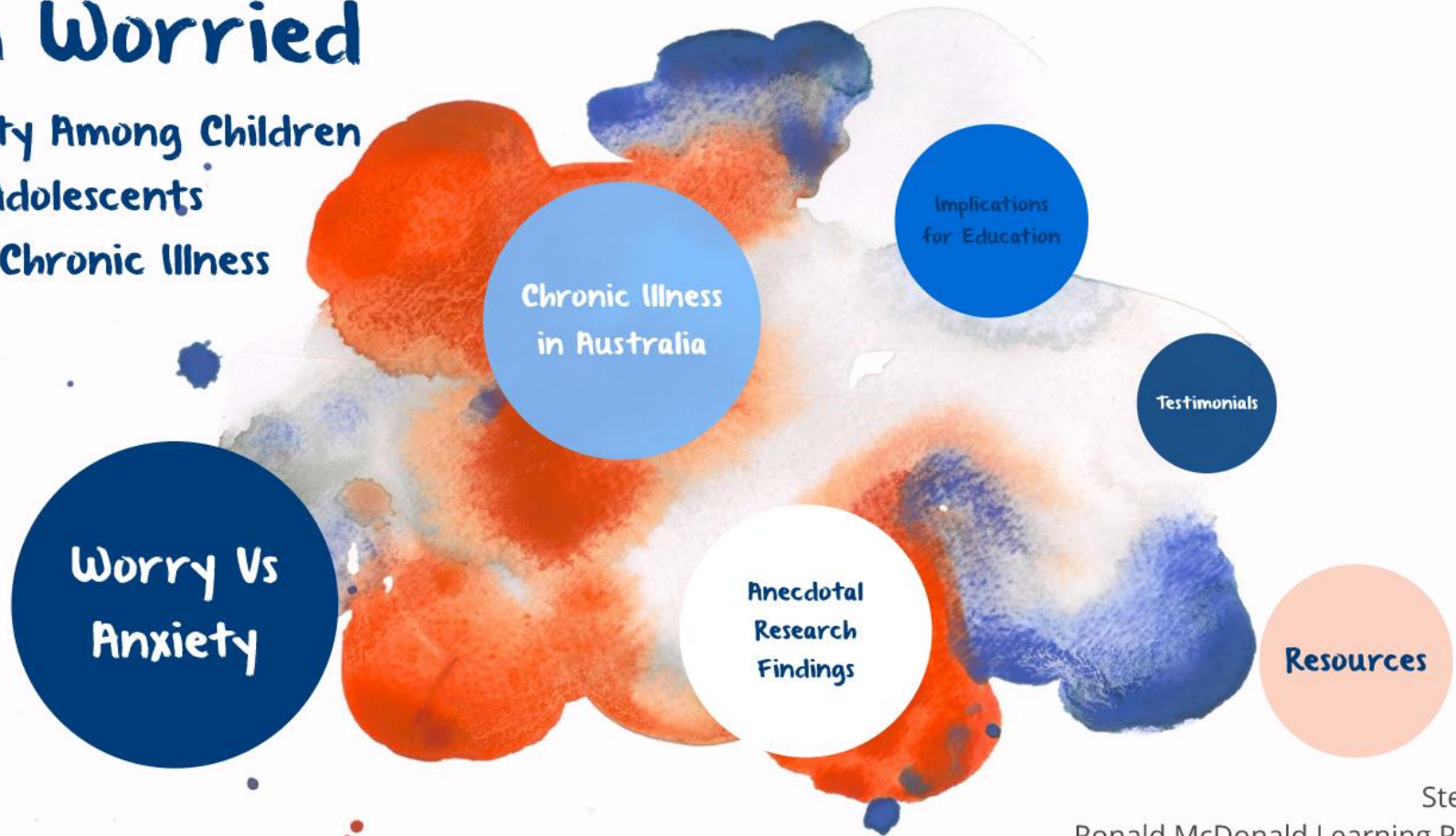


I'm Worried

Anxiety Among Children
and Adolescents
with Chronic Illness



Steph Ball
Ronald McDonald Learning Program
Education Coordinator, Perth

Worry Vs Anxiety

Worry

The thoughts, images or emotions of a negative nature in which mental attempts are made to avoid anticipated potential threats.

Anxiety

Anxiety is considered a disorder not based on what a child is worrying about, but rather how that worry begins to impact on their ability to function normally.

Identification

Identification

Physical responses

Notable behaviours

Awareness of at-risk groups
and causes

Chronic Illness in Australia

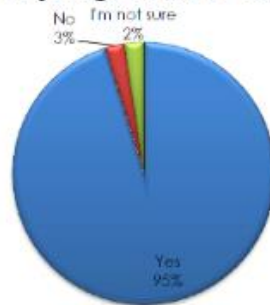
Definition of chronic illness

Prevalence in Australia

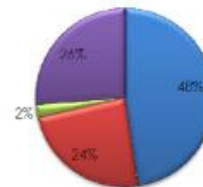
Coincidence of illness and mental health

Anecdotal Research Findings

Have you taught students with anxiety or other mental health illnesses? (Diagnosed or otherwise).



As an educator, do you feel unprepared or unsupported when assisting children with mental health issues?



- Yes, I would like further education on this topic.
- No, I feel prepared and able to assist these children.
- I'm not sure.
- Other (please specify)

I think anxiety and other mental health illnesses impact my students' academic performance.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- I'm not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

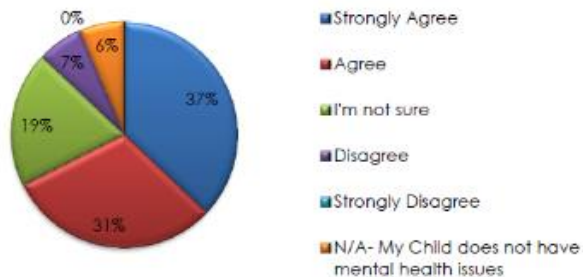
Parent Perspectives...

Parent Perspectives...

My child suffers from anxiety and/or other mental health illnesses.



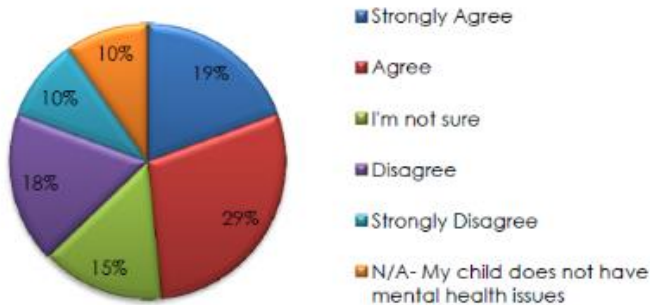
I believe my child has mental health issues AS A RESULT of their chronic illness.



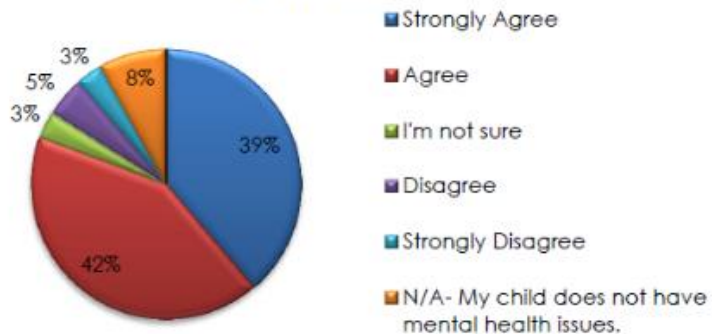
In relation to Education

In relation to Education

I feel my child's mental health illness is misunderstood, and I feel unsupported by the school.



I believe my child's mental health illness is impacting their academic performance and education in general.



The background of the slide features a soft-focus profile of a child's head on the left side, with blue and orange tones. A large, solid blue circle is centered on the slide, serving as a container for the text.

Implications for Education

Impact on learning and engagement at school.

How can we actually support these vulnerable children?

Testimonials

"Psychology should go hand in hand with chronic illness for kids."

"My daughter is worried about what her future holds"

"He once had a happy disposition, and since becoming chronically ill, his anxiety has increased; displayed by a need to carry a bag plus several notebooks 'just in case'. The school is supportive but lacks awareness and resources..."

"He is scared of anything new or out of the normal pattern of his day... I find this is a grey area that is not recognised or supported by government, health department or anything"

"What has started as a physical condition has rapidly escalated into full blown anxiety and depression".

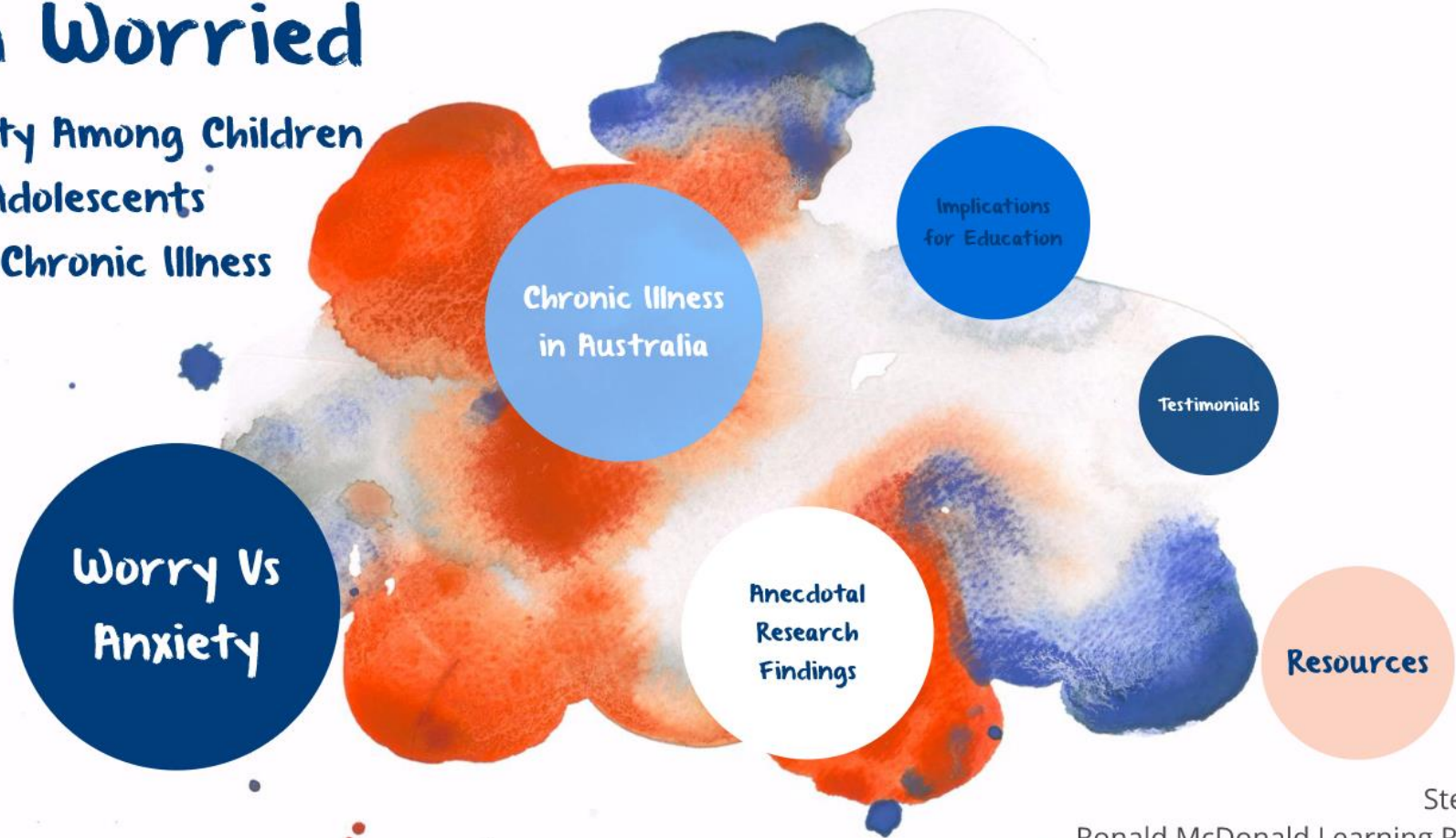
"He's not the same as he used to be..."

Resources

Resource packs are available for collection with anxiety and mental health resources, strategies and research. They are also available electronically.

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