

Breaking downsilos through integrated care

Introduction

The Healthy Kids Bus Stop Project (HKBS) is a community-based integrated care partnership between Royal Far West, Western NSW Local Health District, Western NSW Medicare Local, and Ronald McDonald House Charities to address the gaps in child health needs in rural NSW.

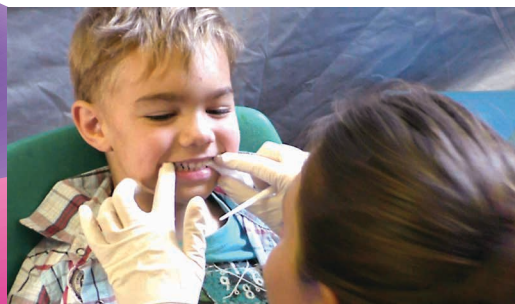
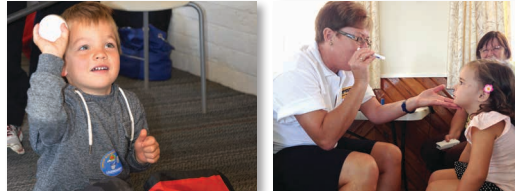
Clinical expertise provided by the four key partners, effectively changed the methodology from silo to integrated service delivery with the wider community supporting the initiative.

Key activities

The project team set out to address rural inequity and service gaps by developing and implementing HKBS, an interactive 'whole of child' health screening and pathway to care program targeting children aged 3-5 years old.

The screening component provided a multiagency, multidiscipline approach to a whole of child assessment. This was followed by a case conference that identified a pathway to care for every child that was seamless and efficient. The pathway integrated existing resources along with the enhancement of additional services to fill service gaps funded by the local community.

A key element to the success of the program was using local service providers including the child's GP as the foundation enhanced by regionally sourced paediatric specialists to create a specialised team.



Key achievements

The pilot assessed 65 children, which saw 59 (91 per cent) of these children as having health or developmental concerns, resulting in 122 referrals into the partner agencies.

A review after six months showed that the majority of local referrals had been followed up.

Thirteen of the 17 children referred to Royal Far West had been assessed and diagnosed within five weeks from the point of referral. Some significant developmental concerns were identified including the early identification of a child with severe autism.

The project provided enhanced working clinical relationships at the local and regional level including greater collaboration with shared care and practice changes.

Building on the strong partnership and commitment to child health, three other rural communities have received this program with two more scheduled in November 2014.

Acknowledgements

- Royal Far West
- Western NSW Local Health District
- Western NSW Medicare Local
- Ronald McDonald House Charities

