



FESTIVAL OF CONTAGIOUS IDEAS 2016



NEW SOUTH WALES
HEALTH INNOVATION
Symposium 2016

PATIENTS AS PARTNERS

Supporting families after infant loss multidisciplinary clinic Sydney Local Health District

Challenge

Our Sydney Stillbirth Study across nine Sydney hospitals from 2006 – 2012 demonstrated that hospital follow up for families could be improved. Based on data the multidisciplinary iSAIL clinic was established with seed funding from Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL to provide integrated support for bereaved families.

The core aim of the iSAIL clinic is to provide integrated multidisciplinary respectful care to families who have experienced the loss of their baby.

Solution

We have focused on community partnership from the outset with funding from Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL to establish the clinic and formal links between SIDSandKIDS bereavement support services to ensure best outcomes for families. This project was driven by a multidisciplinary team, all of whom had an interest in improving support for families after perinatal death. We also engaged with community organisations including SIDSandKIDS and the Stillbirth Foundation Australia.

We reviewed the data from our own research, published literature and recently published guidelines on the provision of effective and meaningful care after perinatal loss, and proposed solutions.

Our difficulties have been achieving initial funding and then finding



appropriate space within the hospital grounds. The initial funding was via the club grants program at Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL and followed a period of consultation and engagement with the club through the Royal Prince Alfred Newborn Care fundraising manager.

Results

The model is embedded within best practice care for families within the District, is incorporated into the Royal Prince Alfred Women and Babies Policy for stillbirth and neonatal deaths, and has become standard of care for follow up of families.

Satisfaction with follow up care has improved dramatically from our previous research study data (Fig 1). Eighty nine per cent of respondents strongly agreed and 11 per cent agreed

that they were satisfied overall with their follow up visit.

Canterbury Hospital have representatives on the steering committee and plan to replicate the model locally once appropriate space and staffing allows. Our approach to care after perinatal death has also been included in a recent (2016) National Health and Medical Research Council application for a centre of research excellence on stillbirth.

Acknowledgments

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