Interprofessional Family Conferencing with Children & Young People

At the end of November, the Children’s Healthcare Network Allied Health Educators headed to Moruya Hospital in the beautiful Eurobodalla Shire to run a simulation-based workshop on Interprofessional Family Conferencing with Children & Young People.

Interprofessional family conferences are a vital part of patient care, bringing together the treating team with the patient and their family. Effective family conferences require careful planning, facilitation and communication skills. The training session comprised two parts: a workshop including DVD scenarios and group discussion; and a simulated family conference. This provided participants with the opportunity to both develop knowledge and practice their family conferencing skills.

The workshop was attended by clinicians from Southern NSW Local Health District including a Child Protection Counselling Service Social Worker, CAMHS Social Worker, Community Health Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist. The group engaged actively in discussions as well as the simulated family conference. As a result, the simulation-based workshop proved to be an effective learning opportunity as indicated in comments from the workshop evaluation:

“The mixture of video, theory, discussion, simulation and debriefing was useful for mixed modality learning”

“Thank you for your time and for travelling down to see us!”

We would like to thank all of the participants and particularly Megan Kurtz, Allied Health Educator, Southern NSW LHD for making the day a success.

The Allied Health Educators have been involved in the development of the HETI Interprofessional Family Conferencing Project, including the development of an eLearning module (due for release end 2015) and simulation training workshop (pilots due to commence early 2016).

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Quality Use of Medicines in Children

The Allied Health Telehealth session on the 3rd November titled 'Quality Use of Medications in Children' was presented by Pathma D Joseph, Senior Pharmacist from The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

This presentation was aimed at allied health clinicians involved in the medicinal management of children. The presentation discussed the complex therapeutic needs in children because of their unique pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic and physiological requirements. This is further compounded by the lack of safety and efficacy evidence from clinical trials in children necessitating off-label and off-licence prescribing and administration of medicines. It is thus critically important that the best therapeutic evidence that is currently available is used by the multidisciplinary health professionals to ensure better outcomes in child healthcare.

Throughout the presentation Pathma stressed that children are not “little adults” and there are particular peculiarities that need to be considered when prescribing and administering medicines. It is important to synthesise existing evidence to inform the therapeutic needs of children.

Several paediatric medicine resources and guidelines exist to support prescribing and administering medicines. Useful paediatric websites discussed included:

- Children’s Healthcare Australasia: [https://children.wcha.asn.au/](https://children.wcha.asn.au/)
- Cochrane Child Health: [http://childhealth.cochrane.org/](http://childhealth.cochrane.org/)

Following the session a question was raised regarding references for herbal and complementary medicine. The following two are available online via CIAP on the following links:

- Database: AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine)


If you missed this or other telehealth sessions, the instructions for viewing recorded sessions online are also available on the website [http://www.nchn.org.au/a2k/index.html](http://www.nchn.org.au/a2k/index.html). Alternatively, contact one of the Allied Health Educators (page 8).

"Children are one third of our population and all of our future."
Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health, 1981

Deidre Russell Award for Service - Melissa Parkin Speech Pathologist

The Service Recognition Award was established in 1991, to recognise members of the Speech Pathology community or profession who have, in a non-paid capacity, made a substantial contribution to the education of students in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (now The Discipline of Speech Pathology). In 1997 Deirdre Russell was chosen as the recipient of the award, which was presented posthumously after her untimely death from cancer in April 1997. In 1998 The Service Recognition Award was renamed The Deirdre Russell Award for Service.

Congratulations to Melissa Parkin who was chosen as the recipient of the 2015 Deidre Russell Award for Service. Melissa is the Manager of the Speech Pathology Department at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. Melissa is an extremely skilled and dedicated clinician and manager who also dedicates time to teaching at the University of Sydney. She was recently successful in completing a re-design project for cleft palate services across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. Congratulations again Melissa.
Southern LHD Paediatric Interest Group - Occupational Therapy

The Southern Local Health District Paediatric Interest Group was set up in May of 2014 to enhance communication, networking and learning through effective collaboration and sharing of experience or expertise by Occupational Therapists working in paediatrics within the Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD). The interest group meets four times a year via videoconference for 2 hours. At the time of this review the group had met 6 times.

The primary objectives of the interest group are to:

- Create an opportunity for staff to use and share their knowledge, skills and experience to provide the best possible care to paediatric patients, their families and carers.
- Provide an opportunity for clinicians to work collaboratively and support each other in their paediatric work.
- Discuss cases that present an opportunity for shared learning.
- Link clinical practices, assessment and intervention to research and best practice.
- To discuss and inform SNSWLHD OT Managers and OT District Advisor of important changes to external agencies (e.g. ADHC, NDIS, Cerebral Palsy Alliance) and influences that could impact on paediatric services.
- Developing paediatric OT practices, structure and processes, where possible, that are consistent across the District.

Significant projects undertaken in the last 12 months include:

- Developing a paediatric infection policy that therapists have modified to suit each of their sites e.g. toy hygiene and maintenance. Members of the interest group worked together to review this policy and adapted it accordingly to specific sites.
- Reviewed paediatric report writing processes of different therapists which has aided clinicians across the area with improved documentation.
- Sharing of professional education that occupational therapists have attended to maximise learning opportunities for rural paediatric therapists.
- Participated in consultation of policy documents for the district including occupational therapy service provision and paediatric priorities.
- Each member has the option to complete either a clinical case review or present a paediatric journal. This has enabled a group supervision framework to discuss complex clinical cases and critically appraise literature.

The interest group was evaluated recently by a questionnaire sent to all participants. Feedback identified that there was great value in the quarterly interest group meeting, with participants identifying an increase in their knowledge base and also improved communication and support options to access across the area. Participants identified frustration associated with the use of videoconferencing for these meetings, however over time most staff are using ‘jabber’ desk based videoconferencing and have improved skills in using this technology. The group will continue to operate supported by paediatric occupational therapists and senior management.

When the interest group is next reviewed the aim is to evaluate the effect of the group supports with the paediatric occupational therapists in this rural local health district.

For further information contact:
Andrea.Marsden@gsahs.health.gov.au (Chair)
Pressure Injury Prevention - Information For People At Risk

The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) has released information/education brochures for people at risk of pressure injury in the community and their families. The brochures are aimed at community members at risk of a pressure injury who are accessing outpatient services (Home visits/clinics/dialysis/prosthetics/CAPAC).

**Information for Patients and Families**


In addition to the brochures, orientation and training programs related to pressure injury prevention and management are available to support staff in the delivery of quality patient care. [HETI Online](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au) contains the following modules for staff:

- Pressure Injury Pathophysiology
- Pressure Injury Assessment and Staging
- Pressure Injury Prevention Plans
- Pressure Injury Partnering with Consumers
- Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Quiz
- Wound Management - Parts 1 and 2

For further information contact:
Project Officer, Pressure Injury Prevention Project, Clinical Excellence Commission
(02) 6369 3837 or [CEC-PsPressureInjury@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CEC-PsPressureInjury@health.nsw.gov.au)
**Advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment - needs of adult and child survivors of institutional child sexual abuse**

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is looking into the advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment needs of adult and child survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. In both public hearings and private sessions, the Commission has heard about a range of difficulties victims and survivors face when seeking support and therapeutic treatment.

Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment includes a range of services victims and survivors need to address the impact of child sexual abuse and trauma, to help them heal and lead a fulfilling and meaningful life.

It is important for the Commission to hear what services victims and survivors need, what was useful to help them survive the abuse and how service can better support survivors. Survivors, victims and service providers, are encouraged to have their say.

There are different ways you can respond including online submissions and email.

Final recommendations on advocacy and support and therapeutic services will be contained in the Royal Commission’s final report in 2017.

For more information go to [www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)
Email: [advocacyandsupport@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](mailto:advocacyandsupport@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

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**AVAILABLE SOON - Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Scholarships 2016 at the NSW Institute of Psychiatry**

It is anticipated that the NSW Institute of Psychiatry (NSWIOP) CAMHS Scholarships will be released in the next week or so. Scholarships are available to NSW Health managers and professionals who provide services for children and adolescents with mental health problems and their families/carers. These professionals may be based in CAMHS services or from programs outside of CAMHS (e.g. Paediatric Services, Emergency Departments and Adult Mental Health Services).

Scholarships will provide assistance to managers and professionals to complete CAMHS-specific postgraduate courses conducted at the NSWIOP. Notice of the scholarships will be advertised on following websites:


Due to the late release of funds there will only be a short advertising period with the closing date being Wednesday 14 December 2015.

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**Moving and Doing: Functional Outcomes of Neuro Developmental Treatment**

**Invitation for families to participate in an upcoming research project**

A research project is being undertaken at Southern Cross University on the Gold Coast from 6 January - 4 February 2016. We will be investigating the changes in performance that occur when children with neuromotor disorders, such as cerebral palsy, participate in more frequent and comprehensive intervention - especially when that therapy is focused on the goals that are most important to the family and child.

For further information, please contact:

Chris Porter, Manager, Paediatric Therapy & Workshops
M: 0412 751 741 or E: pw@paediatricworkshops.com.au

Kate Bain
M: 0417 645 198 or E: kandrbain@iprimus.com.au
First insights into the care of children and young people in NSW public hospitals

The Bureau of Health Information (BHI) has released the results of a survey of more than 8,000 children and young patients who spent time in a NSW public hospital in 2014. It is the first time that children and young patients, along with their parents, have been asked about their experiences of care.

BHI’s Snapshot Report shows that overall, 31% of respondents said the care children received in hospital was good and 63% said it was very good. It also shows 76% would speak highly of the hospital to friends and family.

Interactions with health professionals were rated particularly highly. Nine in 10 young patients said doctors and nurses were always kind and caring, and polite and courteous towards them, and a similar proportion said they were always treated with respect and dignity.

Eight in 10 parents reported having confidence and trust in the doctors and nurses treating their child, and nine in 10 said they were given the right amount of information about their child’s treatment.

Despite this, the report highlights other aspects of communication that could be improved:

- Half of parents said they did not always have the opportunity to speak to a doctor when needed
- One in 10 parents said they definitely received contradictory information from health professionals
- One in four said they were not told about the side effects of new medications prescribed
- Three in 10 said they were not fully informed upon discharge about how to manage their child’s care at home.

The Chief Executive of BHI, Dr Levesque states that “The provision of information is an important issue at crucial transitions in young people’s care, such as when new medications are prescribed and upon their discharge from hospital' and that “Children and their parents were treated in a kind and caring way, however they were not always given all information in a way they could understand by health professionals.”

When asked about their hospital experience, the report shows older children aged 8–17 years were mostly positive. However older children identified room for improvement when it came to the physical environment. Four in 10 older children said they were bothered by noise, and one in seven said the hospital room was not suitable for someone their age. Half of older children said they were definitely involved as much as they wanted to be in decisions about their care.

“It is very important to listen to what older children have to say about their own care,” Dr Levesque said. “The survey results show they would like to be more engaged, and that attention needs to be paid to ensuring the environment in which they receive care is age-appropriate.”

Most questionnaires were completed by a parent or carer on behalf of their child. A further set of questions was addressed directly to young patients aged 8–17 years.

The Snapshot Report, as well as full results for NSW hospitals and local health districts, can be found on BHI’s online Healthcare Observer data portal which provides detailed results from the Admitted Children and Young Patients Survey at bhi.nsw.gov.au/healthcare_observer. It allows users to:

- Explore responses to over 80 questions
- Compare and contrast the experiences of children and young patients across local health districts, hospital peer groups and individual hospitals
- Discover how results vary by patient characteristics such as age, gender, language spoken at home, health status and long-standing health conditions.

For more information go to: www.bhi.nsw.gov.au
Statewide Telehealth Education Opportunities

Available to allied health professionals who provide services through NSW Health

Children’s Healthcare Network Allied Health - Telehealth Virtual Education

This program is currently being reviewed and in 2016 may incorporate a range of virtual education technologies such as videoconferencing, webinars/webconferences via WebEx. Please visit the Allied to Kids website http://www.nchn.org.au/a2k/index.html for latest updates, proposed dates for 2016 and to view the 2015 sessions. Instructions for viewing recorded sessions online are also available on the website. Alternatively, contact one of the Allied Health Educators (details on page 8).

Sydney Children's Hospital Medical Grand Rounds

The SCH Medical Grand Rounds Education Program is held each Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Upcoming sessions:

- 2/12/2015 Addressing the real determinants of child health - Reflections on 5 years in the Northern Territory
- 9/12/2015 Stimulating Topics in Rehab
- 16/12/2015 TBA

For further details, or how to view SCH Grand Rounds from your desk, or technical assistance, please contact Natalie Rogers at Natalie.Rogers@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au.

John Hunter Children’s Hospital Paediatric Grand Rounds

The JHCH Paediatric Grand Rounds Education Program is held each Tuesday from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Upcoming session topics include (more specific details are released one week prior to the session):

- 8/12/2015 Trivia Quiz
- 2/2/2016 Trish Crock
- 9/02/2016 Elizabeth Hesketh
- 16/02/2016 Ronda Ticehurst
- 23/02/2016 Bruce Whitehead

For instructions on how to view these sessions online or to access previous sessions, please email Sonia.Hughes@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.
Further details regarding Allied to Kids is available at the Allied to Kids website:

For more details about any of the information included in this newsletter, or if you have something you would like included in a future edition, please contact one of us.

Submissions for Future Editions of Allied to Kids

Let us know about your workshops, new programs, events, research or positions vacant. Clinical articles need to be evidence based with a relevant (albeit short) reference list. Submissions can be sent to any of the Allied Health Educators (email details are listed above) and need to be received no later than the 25th of each month to ensure inclusion in the following month’s edition. Remember, Allied to Kids is a newsletter for allied health professionals by allied health professionals.

Please note the inclusion of event/resource details in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement by the NSW Children’s Healthcare Network. Individuals are responsible for determining the credentials of events/resources in line with their own professional standards.

Conferences/Workshops/Webinars

Treating functional somatic symptoms in children and adolescents
18 and 19 February 2016
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
This 2 day conference will be presented by the CHW Psychological Medicine Team. It is anticipated that at the end of this conference attendees will have both a theoretic understanding of functional somatic symptoms and a set of practical skills to guide the treatment of children, adolescents and families.

For further information contact:
Catherine Chudleigh: (02) 98452005 or catherine.chudleigh@health.nsw.gov.au
Catherine Cruz: (02) 9845 2005 or catherine.cruz@health.nsw.gov.au

NSW Kids & Families Paediatric Healthcare Strategy and Networking Forum
17 March 2016
Stamford Plaza at Sydney Airport Hotel
The Paediatric Healthcare Strategy and Networking Forum provides a platform for the Paediatric Healthcare Team and its key partners to share information, capture ideas and identify shared priorities and preferred approaches for communication and engagement in paediatric healthcare in NSW. The Forum will be free to attend for NSW Health staff and consumers.

For information on registration for this forum please visit http://www.trybooking.com/IXBB
For further information on the Paediatric Healthcare Strategy & Networking Forum contact Duncan Newman via dnewm@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
SAVE THE DATE
INTRODUCTION TO PAEDIATRICS - 1 DAY WORKSHOP
22nd March 2016 - The Children's Hospital at Westmead & videoconference
27th September 2016 - Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick & videoconference
These one-day workshops target allied health professionals and nurses who are new to working with children and families. The workshop will address topics including:
- Ages and stages
- Little people-big differences
- Family centred care
- Communicating with kids
- What is it like to be in hospital - a parent’s perspective
- Child Life Therapy
- Pain assessment and management in children
- Care of the dying child
In order to increase access by regional and rural clinicians, the workshops will be made available by videoconference at a number of identified sites across NSW. Facilitators will be available at each of these sites to facilitate practical, break-out sessions of the workshop.
Further details regarding the workshop and registration will be available in early in 2016.

APA CP Masterclass evening
3 December 2015
Silverwater, NSW

The Future of Health is in Your Hands: Research driving better outcomes
3 December 2015
Port Macquarie, NSW
For further information email MNCResearchConference@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

NDT Certificate Course: In the Management & Treatment of Children with Cerebral Palsy & Other Neuromotor Disorders
7-27 January 2016
Venue to be confirmed
http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=133e04713d6044373609bdf99&id=9ba2985170&e=05c479b9df

Evaluation & Management of Paediatric Toe Walking
8-10 February 2016 Sydney, NSW
11-13 February 2016 Melbourne, VIC
15-17 February 2016 Perth, WA
Developing Pretend Play Skills in Children – Advanced  
17-19 February 2016  
Sydney, NSW  

Safety and Stability for Vulnerable Children - Improving outcomes through trauma informed practice  
23-24 February 2016  
Melbourne, VIC  
http://www.criterionconferences.com/event/ssvc/

Caring for Country Kids Conference  
Children’s Healthcare Australasia (CHA) and the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA)  
17-19 April 2016  
Alice Springs, NT  
http://www.countrykids.org.au

3rd Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference - Collaboration, Education and Innovation  
16 & 17 May 2016  
Gold Coast, QLD  
http://eatingdisordersaustralia.org.au/

Skin-to-Skin: Evidence and Implementation. A One-Day Seminar with Dr Nils Bergman  
16 May 2016  
Melbourne, VIC  
17 May 2016  
Sydney, NSW  
18 May 2016  
Brisbane, QLD  
http://www.capersbookstore.com.au/product.asp?id=2034&t=Skin%2Dto%2DSkin+Evidence+and+Implementation%3A+A+One%2DDay+Seminar+with+Nils+Bergman

The Children’s Healthcare Network Allied Health Educators would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. Thank you for your participation and ongoing support of Allied to Kids. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2016.

Best wishes,
Carmel, Sonia, Sue & Jen