



FESTIVAL OF CONTAGIOUS IDEAS 2016



NEW SOUTH WALES
HEALTH INNOVATION
Symposium 2016

Local Solutions

Developing a pathway for forensic paediatric services at Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital Murrumbidgee Local Health District

Challenge

Prior to 2016 children who were victims of sexual assault and physical abuse and neglect presenting to Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital emergency department were required to be transported to the ACT for a forensic medical due to lack of services in Wagga.

In 2013 a working party was established, including staff from Violence Prevention and Response, paediatrics, the hospital emergency department and Family and Community Services.

A forensic model was developed including clinical leadership and resourcing to ensure the delivery of a high standard of coordination and care to patients attending the hospital with suspected child abuse and neglect and sexual assault.

Solution

Team members invested resources, knowledge and time developing approaches to better integrate care. Their work focussed on progressing towards a system that would provide seamless, effective and efficient care that could respond to all of the child's and their families health needs across both physical and psycho-social health, with connected service provision across different providers.

Our unique rural setting provided challenges in distance and resources. Creativity in design and challenging the



systematic way of providing this service delivered outcomes.

Results

Efficiencies are demonstrated through the reduced necessity for patient transport, ambulance, clinical escort, fleet utilisation and accommodation costs for clients previously transferred to the ACT.



Families are provided with respectful and collaborative responses that

minimise barriers for receiving services at a local service. Partner agencies, Police and Family and Community Services, have provided positive feedback through interagency meetings and there has been a high standard of coordination and care to patients.

