



**NEW SOUTH WALES** 

Symposium 2016

# Local Solutions

## Child-at-Risk electronic medical record alert Northern NSW Local Health District

#### Challenge

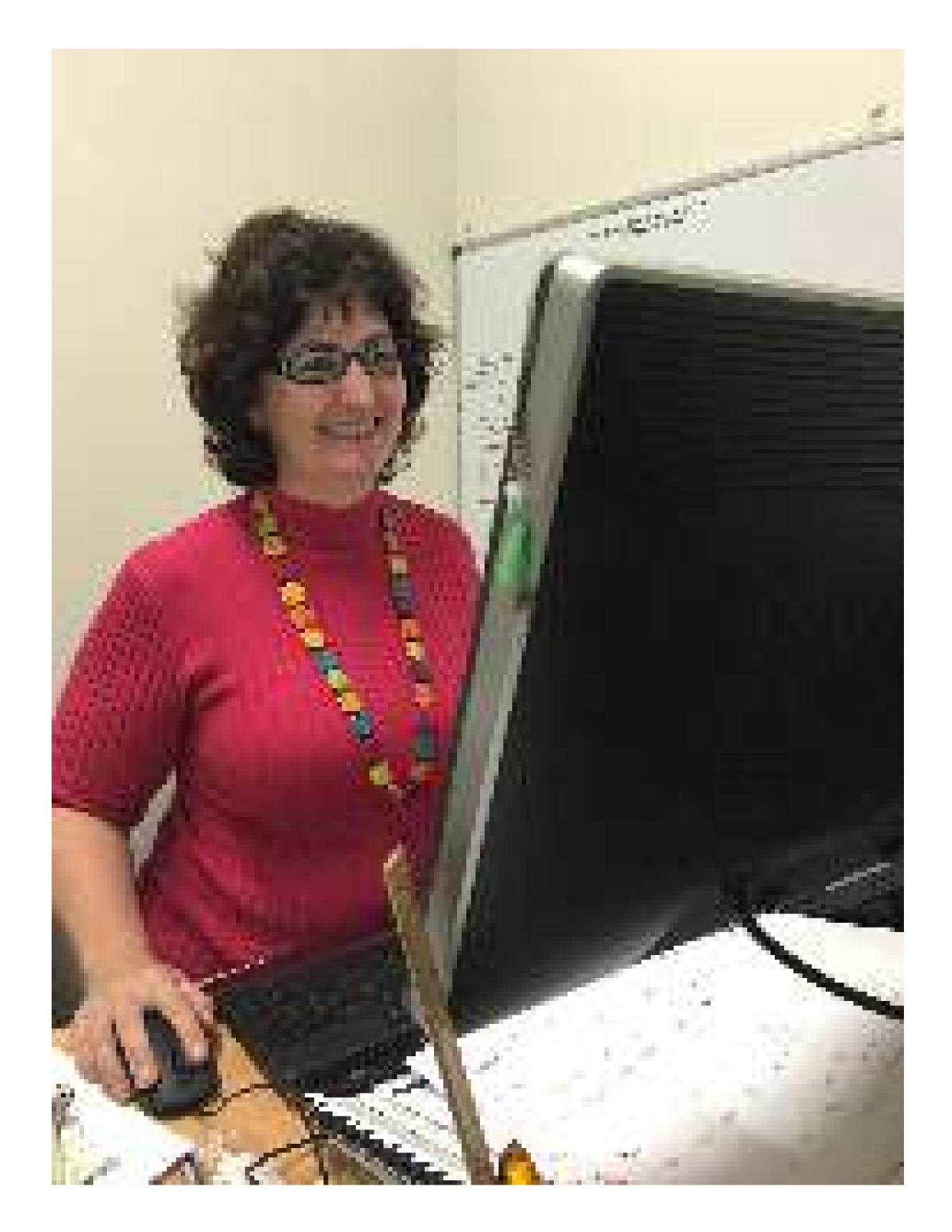
In 2015, "Child Protection" was the Northern NSW Local Health District's number one corporate risk. A suite of strategies were devised to reduce this risk including the development and implementation of the Child-At-Risk (CAR) eMR Alert. Prior to implementation of the system, the District faced the challenge of some clinicians failing to communicate suspected child abuse and neglect of patients to each other, and to other relevant agencies. The District needed a child protection information sharing system and there were a number of international jurisdictions successfully operating child-at-risk alert systems from whom we could learn.

provided a helpdesk for staff to call if they needed assistance with the CAR Alert system. Engagement + training + helpdesk = successful implementation of the CAR Alert.

#### Results

A vast variety of clinicians are applying the alerts from medical officers to social workers, nurses and allied health therapists.

The CAR Alert system makes a





### Solution

We engaged the Local Health District Governing Board to support the project and we built a CAR Alert into the eMR. We engaged managers and staff across all clinical streams e.g. paediatrics, emergency departments, mental health, drug & alcohol, Aboriginal health, child and family, during a training roadshow and

difference as clinicians assess and respond to risk to newborn babies, older children and at-risk pregnant women (on whom an unborn child high risk birth alert has been issued).

Future plans include a formal evaluation of the efficacy of the CAR Alert, identifying its impact clinician decision making.

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