

NURSE PRACTITIONER/REGISTERED NURSE LED UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKS: DELIVERING MOBILE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (#5649)

Topic

AS07 SUB-THEME 07: Promoting and enabling healthier communities

Authors

Parry Y.K., Willis E., Sivertsen N., Bell A., Briley A., Ankers M.

Abstract Body

Background: Deficits in children's health and development warranted research into primary health care provision. Paediatric Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses are well placed to deliver comprehensive, community-based health and development interventions for children 0-5 years. Active monitoring of a child's developmental milestones is recommended from birth to school age, to reduce the number of children entering the education system with unidentified developmental delays. Monitoring children's development aids in addressing any issues or health problems early in the life of the child thus enabling proactive and preventative health system responses. Research Objectives: This education and health collaborative project response aimed to expand health and developmental checks for children 0-5 year in urban, rural and remote area in South Australia. The objectives were to: 1. Provide readily access universal support for child development, 2. Integrate children into existing health and support services, 3. Reduce the barriers to health and developmental support Methods: NP and RN visited 20 Early Learning Centres engaging with staff and children to assess and determine the children's needs and current access to services. NP provided direct referrals to local health and developmental supports for the parents and children. Using self-reflections and parent feedback to determine part of the success of this mixed methods project. Conclusion: This presentation provides an overview of the mapping, processes and outcomes for a primary based and community support nurse led early intervention. The qualitative feedback provides insights into the engagement of communities in this innovative practice-change project.