



NSW Child Health Networks

# Allied to Kids

Issue 14

July 2009

*Allied to Kids will be circulated regularly to provide updates and information to support allied health professionals who work with children.*

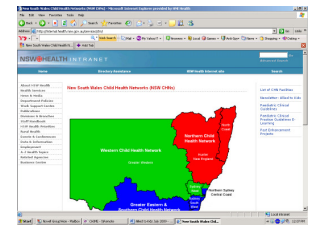
## How would you feel if Allied to Kids was gone?

As you know, funding for professional development and support is always tight. The NSW Child Health Networks have put forward a submission to NSW Health for continued funding to support allied health professionals who work with children. Your feedback is important in arguing for this continued support. So, if you would like to provide any feedback regarding the initiatives undertaken by the NSW Child Health Networks, and more specifically by the Allied Health Project Officers, **now is the time!!**

Send your comments to Jenny, Carmel or Sonia (see the back page for contact details).

## Child Health Network Webpage goes LIVE

One of the initiatives that the “Supporting Allied Health Professionals Working with Children” Project focussed on was the creation of a static webpage for the NSW Child Health Networks. We are pleased to announce that this webpage has gone live. You can find a quick link to it on the NSW Health Intranet page.



It contains information about Child Health Network facilities, past enhancement projects and has links for past editions of Allied to Kids.

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## Changes to S.A.R.R.A.H Scholarship Programs

Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) is the national manager of three Australian Government funded scholarship programs. They are three components of the suite of long term initiatives by the Australian Government to increase the number of health professionals in rural and remote areas of Australia and include:



**S·A·R·R·A·H**  
Services for Australian  
Rural and Remote Allied Health

Allied Health Clinical Placement Scholarship Scheme (AHCPSS) - Scholarships for students to undertake clinical placements in an Australian rural or remote community.

Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme (ARRHPS) - Postgraduate scholarships for qualified clinical health professionals.

Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme (RAHUS) - Entry level scholarship scheme for allied health and oral health students.

The Federal Budget announced on 12 May 2009 included a new nursing and allied health scholarship and support scheme commencing from 1 January 2010. The new scheme will include the current SARRAH managed scholarship programs. SARRAH as a stakeholder will be involved in meetings to discuss the proposed new guidelines for the new scheme. The initial effect of this change is that the opening of applications for the next round of the RAHUS and ARRHPS scholarships will not occur before early August. Updates will be posted on the SARRAH website <http://www.sarrah.org.au>.

## Greater Southern Paediatric Feeding Outreach Visit

In 2008 the GESCHN Allied Health Secondment Project received numerous expressions of interest from speech pathologists within the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) about opportunities to further develop their knowledge and experience in the assessment and treatment of paediatric feeding issues.

A number of possible strategies were considered by the GSAHS Speech Pathologists, Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH) Speech Pathology Department and GESCHN Allied Health Project Officer. In the end, it was decided that rather than have the GSAHS Speech Pathologists go to SCH, Melissa Parkin, Speech Pathologist from Sydney's Children's Hospital would go to Greater Southern.

A two-day outreach visit to a site in Greater Southern was organised. Several speech pathologists within GSAHS who had been identified as clinical leaders in the area of paediatric feeding were active in the collaborative planning of the visit. It was agreed that Queanbeyan Community Health Centre would host the visit, as it had a multidisciplinary Infant Feeding Clinic already established.

Five Speech Pathologists from across GSAHS (Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Moruya, Albury and Queanbeyan) were supported to attend the paediatric feeding outreach visit through the funding of their travel and accommodation expenses by the GESCHN Allied Health Secondment Program. Funding was also available to support clinical backfill for the two day period, should this be available.

Day one was filled with lots of discussion about the development of paediatric feeding clinical competencies for the GSAHS including thoughts on what the competencies should look like and how they could be implemented.

Within this discussion ideas on what was considered the important parts of a comprehensive feeding assessment were outlined. These included; the assessment process, what clinical tools and resources were necessary, report writing and the importance of communicating with other involved health professionals.

In the afternoon each clinician presented a feeding case study to the group which provided an opportunity to discuss specific complex clients and problem solve about possible solutions.

Day two was mostly clinical, with three clients with feeding difficulties from the Queanbeyan Infant Feeding Clinic (QIFC) attending. Also on this day the local Child and Family Health Nurse and Dietitian who are a part of the QIFC attended. The cases were presented with background information and the presenting feeding issue was addressed in a collaborative way with Melissa Parkin's expertise guiding the session.

The two day visit proved to be a valuable experience for all those who attended and gave lots of food for thought for the clinicians. The development of the paediatric feeding clinical competencies for the GSAHS is an ongoing project for those speech pathologists who attended and they have developed a working party to continue developing these.

**Gabrielle Webb**

**Speech Pathologist**

**Queanbeyan Community Health Centre**

*It is anticipated that ongoing contact between GSAHS Speech Pathologists and the SCH Speech Pathology department will be undertaken through regular phone contact. Other possible strategies for the provision of ongoing support include the establishment of a GSAHS Paediatric Feeding network which may utilise TeleHealth sessions and/or an email listserv to facilitate communication.*

***Thanks to the GSAHS Speech Pathologists and Mel Parkin for all of their work in coordinating the above outreach visit. The sharing of clinical experiences and expertise was valuable for all involved.***

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## Paediatric Feeding Support Networks

Paediatric feeding is an area of clinical practice for which many Speech Pathologists seek additional clinical support and professional development. The following clinical networks are available to provide support and networking opportunities to clinicians working in the area of paediatric feeding:

### NSW Acute Paediatric Feeding EBP Network

[http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001/specialties/ebp\\_sp\\_path/groups.html](http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001/specialties/ebp_sp_path/groups.html)

Contact: Kimberley Achurch

[Kimberley.achurch@email.cs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kimberley.achurch@email.cs.nsw.gov.au)

### NSW Disability Paediatric Feeding EBP Network

[http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001/specialties/ebp\\_sp\\_path/groups.html](http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001/specialties/ebp_sp_path/groups.html)

Contact: Nitha Thomson

[Nintha.Thomson@dadhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nintha.Thomson@dadhc.nsw.gov.au)

### Paedspeak email listserve

A state-wide online forum for Speech Pathologists who work with children.

To subscribe, send an email to:

[Majordomo@lists.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Majordomo@lists.health.nsw.gov.au)

Leave the subject line blank

Type in on 2 separate lines

Subscribe paedspeak

end

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## SNUG: Special Needs Unlimited Group

Children with disabilities, their parents and siblings, face many challenges. For those in rural communities—far away from the resources and infrastructure of cities—these challenges can be overwhelming. Visits to distant cities to access specialist services must be planned with military precision; appointments coordinated; accommodation booked; and the needs of all family members considered. Opportunities to network with families in their situation and to holiday in a place that can offer respite care are rare.

SNUG is an outreach program that offers hope for rural families facing these challenges. We host week-long residential programs and coordinate all of the appointments. The family is accommodated at Lake Macquarie's Myuna Bay Recreational facility, giving them the opportunity to relax and foster friendships with other families in similar situations—all of which enhances resilience and family wellbeing.

For further details please contact Heather Hawes, SNUG Program Coordinator.

Phone: 02 4921 5241

Email: [snug@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:snug@newcastle.edu.au)

Postal: SNUG Program, The Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle, Callaghan NSW 2308

**Special Needs Unlimited Group**



## The Garling Report – recommendations & response

### Recommendations

The Special Commission of Enquiry – Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals, conducted by Peter Garling SC made 139 recommendations. Some of the recommendations of most relevance to paediatrics and allied health professionals (AHP) are summarised below:

#### NSW Kids

- Establishment of a children’s and young people’s health authority, to be known as NSW Kids.
- NSW Kids should publish and implement a strategic service delivery plan for the health care of children and young persons. This would include determination of whether all Sydney metro area based ICUs should be combined into a single unit at a single facility and whether a similar facility should be established at the John Hunter Children’s Hospital.
- NSW Kids should investigate and report on the needs for, the desirability of, and the possible locations of a new NSW Kids hospital.

#### Allied Health Workforce

- NSW Health should address deficiencies in the workforce of and delivery of services by AHP including:
  - institution of policies which mandate timely action of dealing with vacancies of AHP to ensure that replacements occur when AHP are on any period of leave which exceeds 5 working days;
  - ensuring that when new models of care are introduced which require input by AHP that the appropriate contribution is sought recognised and incorporated;
  - determining the appropriate means by which AHP should receive ongoing education and providing such education and training.

#### Training & Education

- NSW Health should consider the enhancement of the training and education provided for AHP. This would include consideration of funding as well as the feasibility of creating specific positions for the provision of education to the particular allied health specialties.
- Establishment of a NSW Institute for Clinical Education and Training to:
  - design, institute, conduct and evaluate training for all new postgraduate professionals clinical staff employed in NSW public hospitals, including leadership training for clinicians to enable them to become clinical leaders and health system leaders.
  - liaise with tertiary education institutions to make more efficient the respective education and training regimes.

The Institute will adopt the guiding principle that clinical education and training should be undertaken in a multidisciplinary environment which emphasises interdisciplinary team-based patient-centred care.

#### Governance

- A director or co-ordinator of allied health services be appointed in each hospital or hospital facility. That person should be a senior allied health practitioner with knowledge of the range of all allied health roles.
- But for the institution of NSW Kids, there be no further alterations to the current area health service governance structure.

### Government Response

In response, the NSW Government’s *Caring Together: the Health Action Plan for NSW* accepted 134 of these recommendations. There are three stages of the government response, supported by an additional \$485 million - Stage 1 (now); Stage 2 (in 6 months); Stage 3 (12 months later). Below is a brief summary of those recommendations of greatest relevance to paediatric allied health services.

#### Stage 1:

- Enhancing allied health numbers to support after hours care in critical areas.
- Support for allied health education.
- Review of hospitals – linking community need and workforce capacity to deliver safer patient care.

#### Stages 2 & 3:

- Agree the best way to implement NSW Kids, the Institute of Clinical Education and Training, and the Clinical Innovation and Enhancement Agency.
- Implement patient care committees at each facility.
- Implementing allied health coordinator role.

The above provides a very brief overview of just a few of the 139 recommendations detailed in the commission’s report and the government’s response. To review all of the recommendations in detail or to ‘Have Your Say’ about any of the recommendations go to [www.healthactionplan.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthactionplan.nsw.gov.au).



**NSW Child  
Health Networks**  
NSW HEALTH

**Supporting Allied Health  
Professionals Working with Children**

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

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## Events & Resources: 2009 ...

### Initiate, Participate and Achieve

[www.otnswact.com.au](http://www.otnswact.com.au)



The Conference and Exhibition will:

- aim to discover and debate theory, intervention strategies and service provision
- address continuing professional development needs
- offer a variety of professional networking opportunities
- provide an opportunity to strengthen professional connections and build or update professional knowledge
- enable access to a large number of exhibitors and sponsors relevant to occupational therapy practice

For more information, please contact the Conference Office, Think Business Events on 02 8251 0045 or email on [otnswact@thinkbusinessevents.com.au](mailto:otnswact@thinkbusinessevents.com.au).

### Developmental Assessment and Introduction to Early Start Denver Model for Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Monday 24th August 2009  
9:00am – 4:30pm  
Liverpool Catholic Club  
Cost: \$150  
Dr. Laurie Vismara & Dr. Cynthia Zierhut  
UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, USA**

In this workshop, Dr. Vismara and Dr. Zierhut will discuss developmental assessment of children.

Methods and strategies will be discussed in relation to assessing and observing young children in order to facilitate determining a diagnosis. Specific topics will address how to administer and complete a developmental assessment of children's skill levels and develop individualised, developmentally-appropriate interventions. The session will also cover the theoretical and empirical framework, curriculum and teaching principles of the Early Start Denver Model, a developmental, behavioral and relationship-based intervention program for infants and toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ages 12-60 months.

For further information regarding registration, please contact: Maribel Helene on (02) 9616 4245.

For other general enquiries contact:  
Lily Lee on (02) 87171700 or email Lily at [lily.lee@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lily.lee@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

**The Department of Community Paediatrics and the Perinatal & Infant Mental Health Service (PIMHS) Infant, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service present:**

### Toddlers & Preschoolers Assessment & Management Trauma

**One-day Seminar**

**Friday, 11th September 2009  
8am – 4:30pm  
Liverpool Hospital (see map attached)  
COST: \$80**

Topics presented will include:

- Chain of survival: Childhood Trauma and neuronal development;
- Effects of trauma on young children's development and behaviour: Lessons from our refugee and indigenous populations;
- The role of Brighter Futures in working with families who have experienced Trauma;
- From a background of trauma, how can little children survive preschool and then transition to school?
- The impact of sensory processing on carer interaction;
- The impact of trauma on communication development;
- Management of children experiencing trauma.

For further information please contact:  
Sezan Malcok or Chris Leonard on (02) 9827 8011