



Children's Communities Connections Conference

Learnings from the Evidence Base on integrated practice for Allied Health in Children's Centres

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Learnings from the Evidence Base on integrated practice for Allied Health in Children's Centres

Overview

- This presentation describes the Allied Health in Children's Centres program
- and the evidence base for the program which was developed from the literature, staff and families



Children's Centres for Early Child Development and Parenting

Background

Children's Centres provide a range of services for parents and their young children in response to family and local community needs.

Services include:

- playgroups
- childcare
- preschool
- health information and support
- parenting programs
- community development activities




Allied Health Program 2011-13

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hackham West & O'Sullivan Beach ● Christies Beach & Aldinga 	1.5 Speech & OT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elizabeth Grove ● Kaurna Plains ● Enfield & Blair Athol 	0.4 Speech & 0.4 OT 0.4 SP, 0.2 OT, 0.2 other 0.6 OT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parks, Ocean View & Cowandilla ● Ocean View & Cowandilla 	1.0 OT 0.8 Speech
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pt Augusta ● Gawler & Elsie Ey ● Pt Lincoln ● Murray Bridge 	0.5 Speech 1.0 Speech & OT 0.5 Speech & OT 0.5 OT



Allied Health Program Objectives

Prevention and Early identification

Activities include:

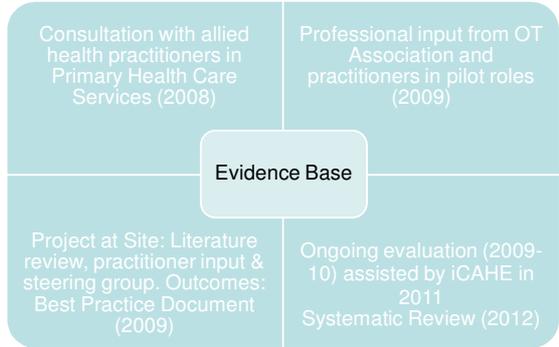
- Screening of children's developmental needs
- Consultation for parents and education and care staff
- Identification of children at risk of developmental delay
- Assistance with educational programming
- Advice regarding modifications to physical environment



Allied Health Program Objectives

- **Early intervention to minimise developmental delays**
 - Information for staff and parents (seminars, resources)
 - Parent group programs that promote children's optimal development
 - Children's group programs that promote children's optimal development
 - Assisting with referrals to other supports for children, parents and staff

Developing the Service Delivery Framework



Evidence Base

- Consultation with allied health practitioners in Primary Health Care Services (2008)
- Professional input from OT Association and practitioners in pilot roles (2009)
- Project at Site: Literature review, practitioner input & steering group. Outcomes: Best Practice Document (2009)
- Ongoing evaluation (2009-10) assisted by iCAHE in 2011, Systematic Review (2012)



AHP Service Delivery Framework

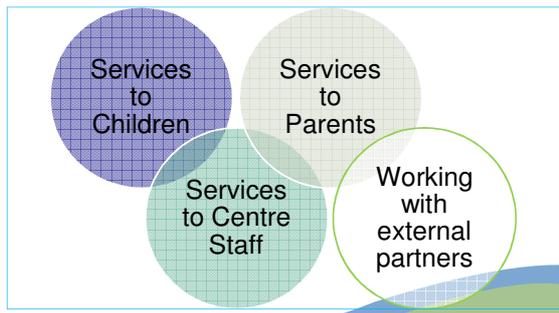
- A systems approach



- Universal and targeted focus
- Flexible framework, can be applied to community & family need



Service Delivery Framework



- Services to Children
- Services to Parents
- Services to Centre Staff
- Working with external partners

Outcomes of the AHP

Children	Parents
<p>Positive impact of AHP on development of children</p> <p>Have seen changes in their child's development and behaviour Input is helpful for their children; Children enjoyed sessions, were age-appropriate play is used – important foundation for development AHP was helpful for their children</p> <p>Attributed the gains to AHP</p>	<p>Positive impact on parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel welcome/ easy to talk to AH staff; easy access • Info is useful, can be used at home, have new ideas to use at home • Better access for families • Report increased understanding of child's needs; have new ideas to work on areas of weakness & how to interact/ play & support development <p>Overall, overwhelming positive experience of AHP</p>

Outcomes of the AHP

Centre Staff	External Partners
<p>Positive impact of AHP on Centre Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH staff easy to communicate with, supportive, welcoming and easy to access • Information provided is appropriate and can be applied • Obtained new ideas to incorporate into daily routines/ programs • Felt supported in incorporating AH input at centres • Appropriate AH support to modify environments / strategies into routines • Report an increase in skills and knowledge re strategies to address developmental delay & identify delays <p>Overall overwhelming positive experience of AHP</p>	<p>Descriptions of working with partners</p>



In conclusion

- Outcomes achieved by AHP relate to the Children's Centres Outcomes Framework
- Strong evidence base that supports the framework of the AHP and AH professionals involved:
 - From practitioner input
 - Practice based
 - Literature and research based
 - Evaluation results
- AHP is meeting its pre-defined outcomes
- AHP is progressive in having a consistent framework and being a core part of services in Children' Centres