

## CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

# Development and enhancement of pathways created to Health and Social Care for clients in areas of family disadvantage in targeted Primary Schools in Sydney, Australia

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**Background:** Healthy Homes and Neighbourhoods (HHAN) is an integrated care program that supports families where adults have complex health and social needs, often impacting on their children. HHAN also aims to engage with and enhance capacity of partner agencies and the community served.

This prioritised pathway initially featured delivery of long term whole-of-family care coordination, flexible community visits, fast track Paediatric outreach clinics and consistent collaboration with schools. Over time, the pathway has been strengthened and the model of practice has been refined and expanded to address whole of school and community needs. The enhanced model includes indirect provision of consultation for a larger number of children and their families and the implementation of whole of school health promotion and community engagement initiatives.

**Aim:** To improve the established service pathway for families and the school community.

**Method:** Two local primary schools receive this pathway. The enhanced model uses qualitative measures in the health promotion programs commenced. Pre and post surveys will be completed by parents and students and semi structured interviews with school staff will be undertaken. Evidence of sustainability and incorporation into school operations will be recorded. The number of students receiving a consultative model will also be compared to the number of families referred for direct HHAN care coordination.

**Results:** This is a unique care coordination pathway linking professionals from the health, social and education sectors. Results had been previously demonstrated with families referred for care coordination through patient reported outcome measures .This has enabled trust between service providers, particularly education and healthcare providers, to develop over

time and enabled the pathway to be reviewed. The expanded model of care benefits more students and the broader community.

**Conclusion:** Establishment of this pathway has challenged partners to develop a model using creative, non-standard methods of intervention. Families in these communities have multiple needs and face multiple barriers to care. This highlights the need for place-based integrated care initiatives such as Healthy Homes and Neighbourhoods to target the needs of disadvantaged communities. The enhanced model of practice is in early stages of implementation. Further study will focus on evaluation of these initiatives.