

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Integrated Place Based Hubs - The Yarrabilba Family and Community Place - a proof of concept hub utilizing cross-sector partnerships to enable a shared focus on improving health, development and wellbeing outcomes of children and families living in a specific geographical catchment

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Background: The Yarrabilba Family and Community Place (YFCP) is a purpose-built integrated community facility on the grounds of Yarrabilba State School. This innovative cross-agency initiative which opened in October 2018, is led by an allied health project team at Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) and focuses on the provision of inclusive and flexible health, education and social services in a safe and supportive environment that encourages community connectedness and improves outcomes for children, families and the broader community.

Practice change implemented: The hub utilises soft entry approaches to engage with the community and deliver a range of support services. The literature reflects that early disadvantage can have lifelong effects - the first years of a child's life provide the foundations for health and wellbeing. Children who have a poor start in life are more likely to develop problems and these problems can have a cumulative effect over their lives.

Aim: The Yarrabilba community sits within a region of increased risk but many of these risk factors are modifiable and preventable. Cross sector collaboration and an early investment in prevention is required to ensure that this emerging community does not progress down a path of disadvantage. The collaboration allows stakeholders to work together to address complex issues not easily addressed by working alone to deliver on the vision of the hub to be a welcoming place that supports the community to stay safe, healthy and social connected.

Targeted population and stakeholders: Vulnerable families living in the Yarrabilba community are the target population for the hub. Significant collaboration and co-design with key stakeholders of the hub has included:

- CHQ, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Treasury, Department of Communities, Department of Education, Metro South HHS, Department of Social Services, Logan City Council, Logan Together, Lendlease, Brisbane South PHN
- ChaPs (DSDMIP)
- Community members

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Timeline:

- Conception of the hub was born from the Premier's commitment early in 2018
- Collaboration and co-design commenced immediately and is ongoing
- The doors to the Yarrabilba opened in October 2018

Highlights:

- 2000 children and their families are entering the hub each month, many of which are experiencing social isolation and complex social and health issues
- Full evaluation of implementation outcomes is underway and is expected by the end of 2019.
- Documented model of Service delivery

Transferability: Early signs indicate that this model of service delivery is effective and though integrated community hubs are typically successful they only form one piece of the puzzle in shifting the dial on outcomes for children and families. Replication or transferability would rely on local needs-assessment to determine context.

Conclusions: The YFCP is an exciting and innovative initiative that showcases shared service delivery to improve outcomes for children and their families. Supporting parents before conception, during pregnancy and in the early years of a child's life has significant positive impacts on health and wellbeing.

Lessons learned: Collaboration and co-design with the local community and service providers is integral to providing a suitable, sustainable community hub.