

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Healthier Futures for Queensland: how Starlight Children's Foundation is partnering with Children's Health Queensland to expand their Healthier Futures Initiative.

2nd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care, Melbourne, 11-13 November 2019

Helen-Louise Usher¹, Jo Dann²

1: Children's Health Queensland, South Brisbane, QLD, Australia;

2: Starlight Children's Foundation, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

Since the opening of the Queensland Children's Hospital in November 2017, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service and the Starlight Children's Foundation have enjoyed a strong partnership. The Starlight Express Room is nestled on the 6th floor of the Queensland Children's Hospital and bustles with life and laughter as children interact with the Captain Starlights throughout their day.

Children's Health Queensland is a specialist state wide hospital and health service providing high-quality, family-centred care for children and young people from across Queensland and northern New South Wales, Australia and from regions further afield. The Starlight Children's Foundation in-hospital programs provide a positive impact on seriously ill children, young people and their families.

In 2013, Starlight collaborated with health services in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to develop the Healthier Futures Initiative to support the health of children in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Through an integrated care approach, partnering with health services, Starlight has provided many positive benefits including improved health clinic attendance, decreased anxiety in children being hospitalized, health message promotion, and early intervention.

By 2016, Captain Starlight was seeing 8,667 during their health partner visits to children living in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Western Australia and Northern Territory.

In 2019, Starlight received their first federal grant to fund a Healthier Futures Initiative expansion into Queensland and South Australia. Children's Health Queensland welcomed this opportunity and in March 2019, Starlight launched their Queensland Healthier Futures program work in Cherbourg, working alongside the Children's Health Queensland's Deadly Ears specialist team. The visit was an outstanding success, and Starlight was invited to join the Mornington Island Deadly Ears outreach specialist clinic soon after.

The strength of the Children's Health Queensland-Starlight partnership has opened up the chance to collaborate with a broad range of clinical teams across Queensland, and this work is supporting health professionals to trial some novel approaches to providing healthcare.

Usher; Healthier Futures for Queensland: how Starlight Children's Foundation is partnering with Children's Health Queensland to expand their Healthier Futures Initiative.

This presentation will discuss the new Queensland arm of the Healthier Futures initiative, the scope of work being supported, and the benefits and challenges of working in partnership to support clinical teams.