



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

Allied health services ‘while you wait’

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Aboriginal Health Team

Child and Adolescent Community Health

Department of Health, Western Australia



**Child and Adolescent
Community Health**

Child and Adolescent Community Health, Aboriginal Health Team

- Aboriginal Health Team (AHT) was established in July 2008
- Targeted child health service for families with Aboriginal children aged 0-5 years
- Aim to improve engagement and health outcomes for young Aboriginal families



Child and Adolescent Community Health, Aboriginal Health Team

- 9 teams across the Perth metropolitan area
- Aboriginal Health Workers and Community Health Nurses work together in partnership
- Deliver the Enhanced Aboriginal Child Health Schedule (EACHS)
- 14 health checks between birth and 5 years



Child and Adolescent Community Health, Child Development Service

- The Child Development Service (CDS) provides mainstream allied health services to children with developmental difficulties
- CDS acknowledged they were not providing a service that was easily accessible or culturally appropriate for many Aboriginal families




Aboriginal Health Team, Allied Health Services

- In 2011, CDS created specialised positions for an Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist to work within the Aboriginal Health Team
- To provide allied health services to Aboriginal children who typically did not engage with their local CDS



Aboriginal Health Team, Allied Health Services

How can we provide a culturally appropriate and accessible Allied Health service?

- What are the barriers that families face?
 - How can we reduce the impact of these barriers?
 - What does the Aboriginal community want?
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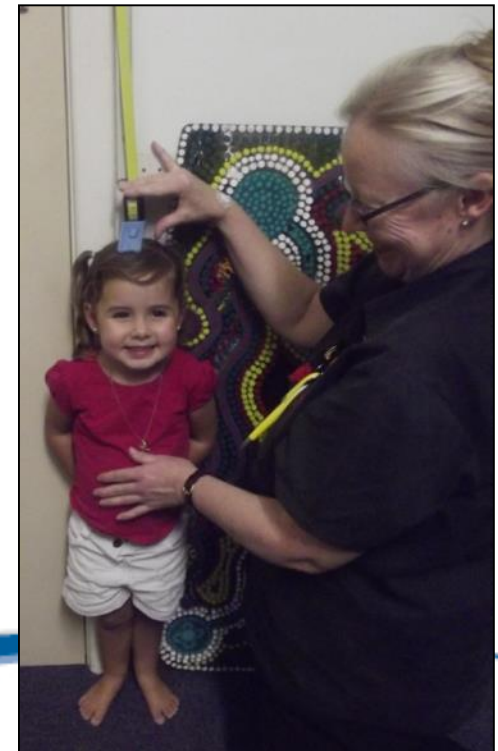
Aboriginal Health Team, Multidisciplinary clinics - background



- AHT have been delivering clinics since early 2009
- Originally the clinics had a medical focus
- Families attended the clinic to see the GP for child and maternal health concerns

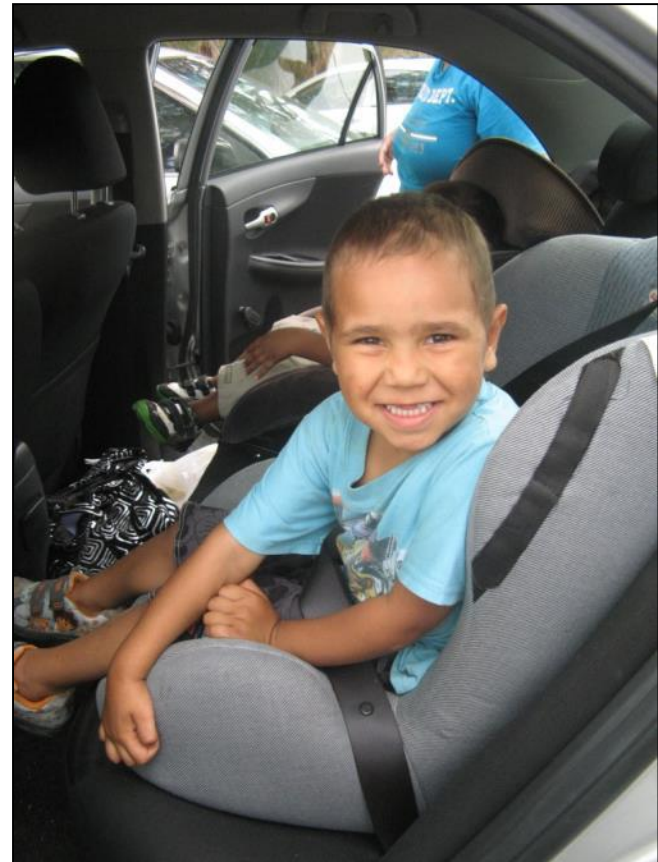
Multidisciplinary clinics

- Holistic multidisciplinary model of practice – one stop shop
- Team: GP, Aboriginal Health Workers, Community Health Nurses, Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist
- Clinics held at 7 locations in the metro area – new clinic to be added in 2016
- All day clinics delivered once or twice a month at each location



Ways AHT facilitates access to our multidisciplinary clinics

- Aboriginal staff
- Free service
- One stop shop
- Transport provided
- Flexible appointment times – can drop in
- Remind family
- Consistent day
- Consistent location
- Located close to home



Our Approach

Why the waiting room?

- relaxed atmosphere
- non-threatening
- opportunity to build trusting relationships with families
- allows us to be opportunistic
- ensures that we are approachable and visible



Our Approach

Play

- Set up activities in the waiting room and engage the children in play
- Home made toys
- Use common household objects
- Encourage adults to join in
- Model strategies



Our Approach

Yarning with families

- Build strong and trusting relationships
- Making connections
- Listening and sharing
- Talking to families about their concerns, values and priorities
- Talking about the child's strengths and interests
- Learning about their family and routines



Our Approach

Screening

- Observe the child during play and interaction with others
- Interdisciplinary approach – looking at all areas of child development
- Opportunistic
- Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
- Monitor child's development over time



Our Approach

- Provide feedback to families
- Work in partnership with families to choose goals that build on the child's strengths and make a plan to achieve goals



Our Approach


Parent education

- Conversational style
- Tips are practical and functional
- Only give one or two things to try at home so it's realistic and achievable
- Strategies that fit into existing routine
- Model strategies
- Information board



Our Approach

Referral

- Complete referral to Child Development Services (CDS)
 - Share information with families about CDS, referral process, disciplines, how and when they will be contacted
 - Provide ongoing support to families whilst they are on waitlist
 - Can refer to Koorliny Moort at PMH, for a general or developmental paediatric assessment
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Our Approach

Liaison

- Support families to access their local CDS once appointments are available
- Liaison with external providers
- Helping families to link in with community agencies
- Updating contact details
- Advocating for families



Challenges

- Busy and noisy if multiple families are waiting
 - Confidentiality in waiting room space
 - Varied attendance rates
 - Child development may not be a current priority for family
 - Limited capacity – only 1.6 FTE Allied Health for Perth metropolitan area
 - Limited culturally appropriate resources
 - Lack of normative data for urban Aboriginal children
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Multidisciplinary clinic Client Satisfaction Survey

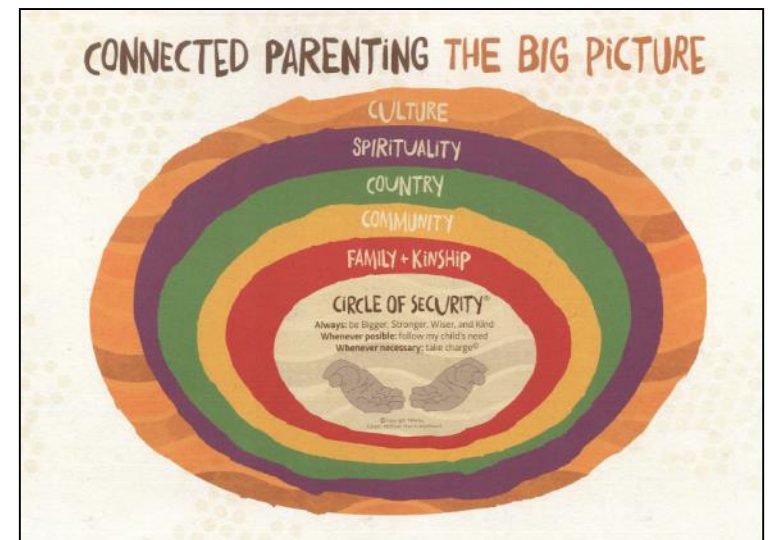


Child and Adolescent
Community Health

- Survey was conducted in June & July 2014
- Allowed families to review the facilities, services and staff based at the multidisciplinary clinics
- Results were overwhelming positive
 - 100% of respondents that saw allied health said the advice given was helpful
 - 100% of respondents were satisfied with the multidisciplinary clinic and the service provided
 - Majority of people felt comfortable in the waiting room (96%)

Where to next...

- Introducing additional developmental screening at designated EACHS checks to ensure early identification of delays
- Strong focus on infant mental health and parent-child relationships
- New community awareness initiatives
- Expand allied health team
- Continue to reflect and evaluate our approach and services



Contact Details



Child and Adolescent
Community Health



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Any Questions?