Congress 2006
Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Science and the art
Current state of the
Home Visiting
practice
Translating the evidence into
Family Home Visiting Service
in South Australia
Outline:

- Realities in implementation.
- Developing a statewide evidence-based early years initiative in South Australia.
- Importance of the early years.
Early Years: The Importance of the Early Years

Clear evidence is that nutrition in the early years of a child’s life influences the infant’s brain development.

The evidence is that the early years of a child’s life influence the infant’s brain development.
Adverse Childhood Experiences Study reveals a powerful relationship between child abuse and household dysfunction as children and subsequent physical and mental health as adults.

Dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults.

Ref: Feitl VJ et al, Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults.
Major Findings: HighScope Perry Preschool Study at 40

Decreased substance abuse
- More likely to be employed
- Decreased reliance on welfare
- Mothers

Decreased substance abuse
- Decreased rates of running away from home
- Decreased delinquency
- Increased rates of graduation from high school

Adolescence
- Decreased rates of child abuse
- Decreased behaviour problems

Early Childhood

Including:

Prenatal and infancy home visitation by nurses has been shown to have multiple benefits


Figure A: Benefit-cost ratio for ECD programs.
Innovations "prevent uptake of ineffective and to been shown to be effective, and to spread of those that have not yet shown to be effective, to delay shown to be effective, that have been "the challenge is to promote uptake the challenge..."
Australia in South for Every Child
Every Chance
available evidence.

Using strategies that work on the best outcomes for children in South Australia,
developmental, educational and social achievements improved health,
Every Chance for Every Child is about
Building a Population-Level ECD Initiative in South Australia - Home Visiting
than just picking the right program. "Achieving, "real-world, success with prevention and early intervention programs is difficult; therefore, close attention must be paid to quality control and adherence to original program designs. Successful prevention strategies require more effort than just selecting the right program."
• Mainstream services.
• Non-eligible clients referred to Case Review.
• All potentially eligible families go to Pathways to Parenting.
• Standardised assessment of need.
• Starts with Universal Contact.

Program:
Towards child:
- Mother expresses poor attachment.
- Mother socially isolated.
- Torres Strait Islander.
- Child identified as Aboriginal or
- Teenage mother.

Visiting - Automatic

Entry Criteria for Family Home
• Other nurse concerns
• Abnormalities
• Child born with congenital
• Intervention from CYFS
• Drug and alcohol related issues
• Domestic violence
• Health issue
• Current or past treatment for mental

Visiting - Considered at Case Review
Entry Criteria for Family Home
chilid needs.

Program built around parent and

16 x monthly visits

12 x fortnightly visits

6 x weekly visits

34 visits over 2 years

Details of Family Home Visiting:
Key Considerations for Implementation:

- Ensuring the right service is delivered:
- Need for additional training of nurses.
- Review role of nurses and nurse practitioner.
- Develop multidisciplinary support for Aboriginal families and children, and appropriate services.
- Keeping track of information.
- Broad consultations around new service.
- Developing culturally appropriate services.
- Other specific populations.
What has been achieved?
(by March 2006)
accompanied by an explanatory guide.

- Family needs and development of
- Use of Pathways to Parenting Assessment of
  - Establish links in place with most birthing
  - Cohort - up from 85% in 2002.
  - Virtually complete enrolment by CYH of birth
  - Fully rolled out across SA - 17,500 babies.

Universal Contact:
Family Home Visiting – Rollout:

- Visits commenced in November 2004.
- Visits commenced in Riverland in July 2004.
- Visits commenced in outer northern and southern metropolitan regions in April 2004.
- Visits commenced in November 2003.

Chance for Every Child Initiative in SA Government announced.
next four years in March 2006.

Families in South Australia over the
rollout to remainder of eligible
Premier announced completion of

Cawler in July 2005.

and north-eastern Adelaide and to
service to further suburbs in south
Additional funding to extend

Family Home Visiting – Rollout: