Case for Change

The need for Targeted interventions to address the health needs of Aboriginal communities is well documented (Closing the Gap literature 2005 to present). There are currently 3 different services on the Central Coast that are targeted and resourced to support Aboriginal mothers and children during pregnancy and early childhood - Ngiyang (CCLHD), Nunyara (CCLHD) and Yerin Aboriginal Health Service Inc.

In 2014/15 Only 20% of mothers and children identified as Aboriginal received a Targeted service from first contact with the Local Health District.

Goal

Aboriginal Women and children will have access to culturally safe and clinically appropriate maternal and child health care on the Central Coast irrespective of where they live.

Objectives

1. To increase the number of Aboriginal women and children offered cultural support through pregnancy and early childhood from 54% to 100% by July 2017.
2. 100% of parents who identify as Aboriginal will be aware of health services available to support Aboriginal families on entry to the service by December 2017.
3. To increase the number of women and children who identify as Aboriginal at Maternity Booking from 66% to 80% by July 2018.

Key Solutions

1. Revising the way the question regarding Aboriginality is asked.
2. Developing a Maternity and Early Childhood Information package that is inclusive of the needs of Aboriginal families.
3. Revision of the maternity intake process to include 1.8 plus all care options for Aboriginal families.
4. Developing an integrated model of service delivery for Aboriginal families that ensures equitable access to care, informed decision making, cultural support and seamless care coordination.

Results - Pending

The project is currently in the Implementation Phase. Significant changes to the existing model of care for Aboriginal families have been proposed and are under discussion.

July 2017 figures indicate that 100% of patients who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander at Maternity booking telephone intake were offered cultural support via the LHD or the Aboriginal Medical Service.

A full evaluation will take place in July 2018. Results will inform a planned independent review of Aboriginal Health Services in the District.

Patient & Staff Experience

Experience Surveys to be completed May 2018

The ‘To Be’

- Equitable access to care.
- Cultural Safety.
- All patients informed regarding care options.
- Seamless care coordination.

Acknowledgements

Aboriginal women and families across the current Maternity and early childhood services, especially those who have shared their stories and assisted with the project. Yerin Aboriginal Health Services Inc.

Project Objectives

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Conclusion

The redesign of health services for Aboriginal mothers and children in collaboration with the local Aboriginal Medical Service, GPs and the Aboriginal Community will foster culturally sensitive, appropriate, accessible and sustainable health care options for all Aboriginal families now and in the future.

These improvements will lead to better health outcomes for Aboriginal families and a reduction in longitudinal health care costs over the lifespan.

Acknowledgements

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Nginyang Aboriginal Pregnancy, Child & Family health service

Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service

CCLHD Maternity Services

CCLHD Child & Family Health

Kylie Cassidy (Local Indigenous artist)