Theme 1: Innovation in models of care

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Abstract title: *Implementation of a Developmental Dysplasia of Hip (DDH) Clinic*

Introduction: Prior to 2015 there was no clear referral pathway or standardised clinical guidelines for infants with suspected or diagnosed Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) in Ballarat and the Grampians region. Infants requiring Paediatric Orthopaedics were referred to Melbourne or Geelong for appropriate screening and management.

Objectives:

- To improve patient care by providing access to a local DDH clinic.
- To provide timely multidisciplinary screening and management for infants with DDH.
- To reduce costs and burden for families and health services.
- To potentially reduce late diagnosed DDH by providing early, coordinated clinical assessment of infants with risk factors for DDH which has been shown to improve early detection and allow optimal management.

Method: The clinic was developed using the Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (AMP) Operational Framework (Department of Health 2014). Support was provided by Barwon Health DDH Clinic, existing Melbourne DDH Clinics and local stakeholders.

Results: Since July 2015, 130 babies have been referred via the standardised referral pathway. Infants attend a multidisciplinary clinical and ultrasound assessment by AMP & experienced Sonographer. Evaluation has revealed positive feedback from stakeholders regarding the improvement in service; however has also highlighted the impacts of a new service on other Departments; such as BHS Orthotics. Planning for sustainability of the clinic has also been considered.

Conclusion: The establishment of a DDH clinic in the Grampians region has improved family centred care, minimising the burden of travel and reducing the time between investigation, diagnosis and treatment of DDH.

Biography

Teresa has more than 25 years of clinical experience, including over 15 years as an Orthopaedic Physiotherapist at Ballarat Health Services. She has a particular interest in paediatric musculoskeletal condition and has completed postgraduate certificates in Musculoskeletal and Paediatric Physiotherapy to develop skills and knowledge in this area.

Teresa completed the Specialist Certificate in Paediatric Orthopaedics (SCIPOP) in 2013. SCIPOP training has provided her with the opportunity to work in an Advanced

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy role at Barwon Health Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) Clinic and to facilitate the implementation of a DDH clinic at Ballarat Health Services.