



# 'Here we go round the Mulberry Bush'

The Challenges of reaching high need four year olds for the B4 School Check Chris Rice & Kate Calvert



# Reaching high need 4 year olds



- Summary of aims of the B4 school Check
- Challenges
- How we have increased uptake
- Future plans





### **B4 School Check**



"To promote health and well-being in preschool children and identify behavioural, developmental or other health concerns that may adversely affect the child's ability to learn in the school environment"

Open to all Voluntary

B4 school check – handbook for practitioners – Ministry of Health 2008



## Background

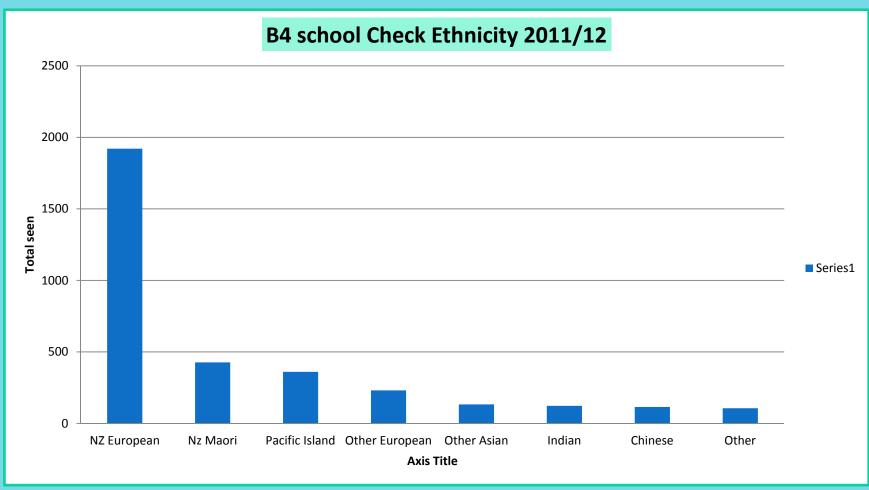


- The b4 school check is a nationwide programme offering free health and development checks for 4 year olds
- It is the 8<sup>th</sup> core contact of the Wellchild Tamariki
   Ora Schedule and replaces the 5 year old check
- Aims to identify and address any health, behavioural, social or developmental concerns, which could affect the child's ability to learn
- Could lead to referrals to a number of agers



# Ethnicity breakdown







## Who do we See?



- Targets are 80% of all eligible 4 year olds in the DHB
- 80% of all eligible Quintile 5 4 year olds (high need)

We have reached the high need targets since we started in 2009 but want to be more efficient



## Where?



- Early childhood education settings
- Community Settings
- In home





# Does one way work for all?



Invite to attend – appointment confirmed in writing - see family on the day.

In Q5 areas....invite – not seen – invite again-not seen-invite again- round and round we go!

Change our approach!





## Connectivity



- Community Worker huge local knowledge employed by the programme
- Face to face invitations to attend
- Decrease in language barrier issues
- Cultural connections
- Ability to offer help with transport
- Clinics more a 'drop in 'basis





# How Do We Find Them?



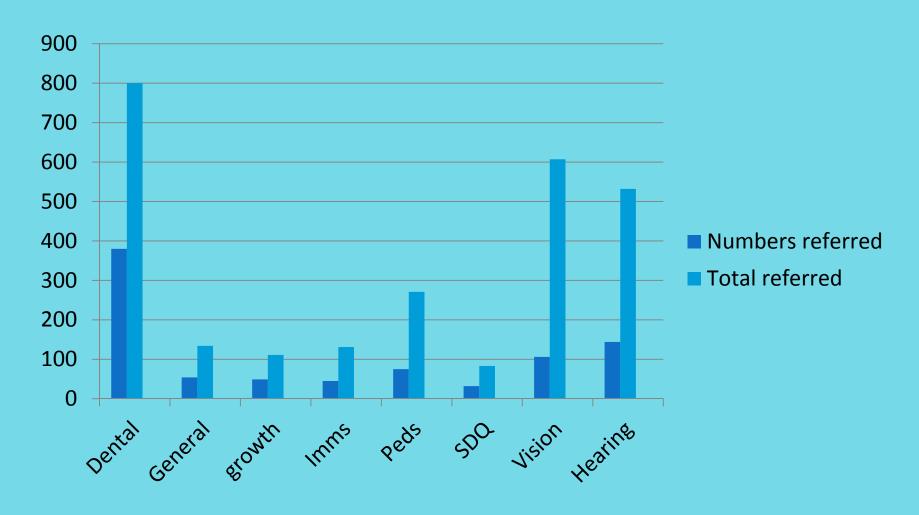
- Kindergartens in areas of high deprivation
- Aoga Amata
- Have 2 Iwi partners in Porirua who see their own clients and visit Te Kohanga Reo
- Wellington Kindergarten Association
   Participation project
- Local knowledge





## Q5 Referrals made





#### Referral Agencies for B4 School Checks

#### **Vision/Hearing Tester**

 Suspected hearing or vision loss 1<sup>st</sup> line

#### Ear Van/Ear Nurse Specialist

• Suspected glue ear

• Support, education, assist for deaf children

**Advisors on Deaf** 

Children

#### Wellington Visual Resource Centre

•Support, education and assistance for visually impaired children

#### **Social Worker**

- Post-discharge with psychosocial issues
- Suspected child abuse or neglect
- Practical support needed, e.g. financial, accommodation

#### Child Adolescent Mental Health Services

- Serious emotional difficulties
- Severe behavioural difficulties
- Attention Deficit
- Hyperactivity

#### Early Intervention Team - Special Education

- Speech/language development concern
- Learning or communication delay
- Sensory impairment
- •Social, emotional or behavioural difficulty which impacts on learning

#### Bee Healthy – School Dental Service

- Early childhood caries
- Demineralisation
- Fissures

#### **Early Childhood Education**

- Etu Ao
- Home based preschool education
- Wellington Kindergarten Association

### **Child**

Family/Whanau

#### **Public Health Nurse**

 For monitoring a child at school, e.g. suspected abuse/bullying weight monitoring

#### Child Development Team (Puketiro Centre)

- Developmental delay
- Communication difficulties
- Physical disability

#### **Strengthening Families**

 Co-ordination between agencies where more than one is involved

#### **Paediatric Dietician**

- High BMI
- Eating disorders

#### **Plunket Nurse**

•For referrals to Karitane or Kaiawhina for parental support

### Plunket Karitane Family Centre

- Parental support
- •Behaviour issues

#### **Paediatric Nurse**

- Eczema/Skin
- Continence

#### **G.P./Practice Nurse**

- Immunisation
- High BMI
- Other medical problems, e.g. poor gait, asthma

#### **Active Families**

- Overweight
- Inactivity
- Poor eating habits

#### Audiologist

- Hearing loss
- Speech problems

# The Incredible Years Parenting Program/ Salvation Army Parenting Course

- Parent support
- Behaviour strategies



## **New Initiatives**



- New Clinics e.g. WINZ
- Working with other providers
- Newsletters e.g. GPs
- BNZ flyers





# Future considerations



- Pressure on services B4 school check refers on to
- Sharing 'Best Practice' for B4 School across Aotearoa New Zealand
- Interpreting services cost vs need





### In Conclusion



- Increase in high need clinics
- Flexible booking system
- Face to face invitations
- Transport assistance

Further ideas welcome.....

