

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

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Abstract Title: Grin and Grow Health Pathway

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Background: Children in out of home care (OOHC) have traumatic backgrounds which often can lead to poor health outcomes. There were no formal guidelines regarding the provision of preventive oral health care for children or clarity around the preventive care that should be provided to this vulnerable group. Clinical staff had limited understanding of the out of home care pathway. There was an informal and not well defined referral pathway into oral health services and an informal feedback system to Out of Home Care Co-ordinators. This contributed to an ad-hoc service provision for this population across Southern NSW and Murrumbidgee Local Health Districts (MLHD).

Approach: The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) redesign methodology was used and the following solutions implemented:

- Uniform referral pathway
- Model of care for optimal preventive care and advice
- Trauma focused service provision
- Oral health summary reports

Outcomes / Results:

The referral pathway is now 'business as usual'. Project findings showed an increase in uptake of public oral health services in MLHD, from 51% to 65%.

The model of care adopted has resulted in a pronounced increase in preventive care and advice being provided.

Visit reporting has increased significantly from 43.3% to 88%

A trauma focused oral health resource support package is being provided to OOHC clients.

The OOHC patient journey has improved with priority appointing and recall systems in place.

Take Home Message:

Providing rationale and information regarding the OOHC pathway and evidence based justification to enhance clinical practice aided the buy-in of clinicians

Creating integrated health systems improving patient-centred care is a continuous process