



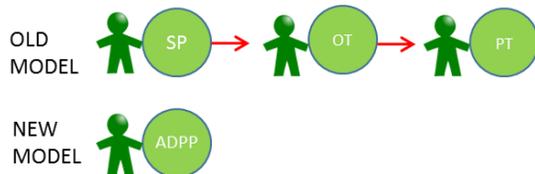
ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRIC PRACTITIONER (ADPP) – a one-stop-shop for children with developmental delay

WHY?

Children’s development in their early years has a lasting impact on their learning and education outcomes later in life. In response to increasing service demands for children with mild-moderate developmental delays, South West Healthcare, with the support of DHHS “Advanced Practice in Allied Health Workforce Grant Program” funding, developed an innovative Advanced Development Paediatric Practitioner (ADPP) role.

A NEW MODEL OF CARE

Instead of children attending assessments with multiple members of the Child Health and Development Team (eg: Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist), the ADPP provides a holistic “one-stop-shop” assessment across all developmental domains, to minimise service duplication, and ensure timely access to early assessment and diagnosis.



WHO?

A Speech Pathologist who has completed additional competency training in assessment and therapy skills that would traditionally be done by a paediatric OT or Physio, including gross motor, fine motor, play and cognition.

HOW?

A multidisciplinary team was formed to develop the clinical competency package, and clinical guidelines in order for a Speech Pathologist to work in an Advanced Developmental Paediatric Practitioner (ADPP) role.

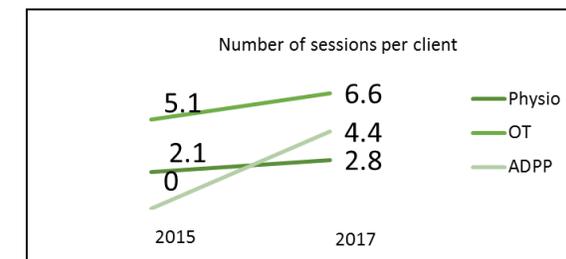
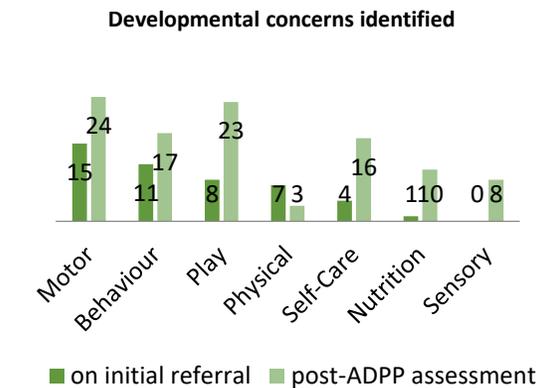
Clinical governance and risk management tools were also developed, including clinical intake processes, clinical decision-making pathways, and triggers to indicate when the ADPP would need to refer on to the specialised AHP, to ensure the ADPP is always working within their scope of practice.

OUTCOMES:

Implementation of the ADPP role resulted in:

- **Earlier identification** of developmental issues not previously identified by referrers
- Facilitation of **earlier onward referrals** for identified developmental issues
- 30% increased in therapy and intervention **service intensity** for Physio and OT, as their time was “freed up” by ADPP
- High **client satisfaction** – rated the service 4.8 out of 5 “stars”
- **Staff satisfaction** and strengthened workforce collaboration.

The ADPP role is now embedded as a valuable addition to our paediatric service, particularly in our rural and regional area, where access to an appropriately skilled and experienced paediatric workforce may be limited.



WHAT NEXT?

The competency package could also be expanded in the future to include learning and assessment for the “communication” developmental domain, so that a Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist could also be trained as an ADPP.

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