

Maternal and Child Health

NGAA Symposium

August 2022

A place for all



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.



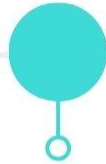
- A sector in crisis.
- A partnership approach to place-based responses.

What is Maternal and Child Health?



The Victorian Maternal and Child Health program is:

- Free
- From birth - 5 years
- Universal
- Targeted for vulnerable or complex needs (Enhanced)



A critical service that promotes health, wellbeing, safety, learning and developmental outcomes



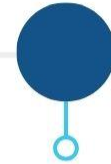
A holistic approach to factors affecting families in contemporary communities.



Delivered through 10 Key Age and Stage (KAS consultations) with 6.75 hours allocated to each child.



MCH consultations screen and refer all children, parents or other family members



Similar to Child and Family Health nursing programs that are in place in many other states

The MCH service in Melbourne's North



POPULATION

Hume, Mitchell and Whittlesea municipalities account for a combined population of

500,000

people

GROUPS

Almost

1,650

groups were held with new parents in the last 12 months



INTERPRETERS

Almost

5,500

families required an interpreter

BIRTHS

There were

7,530 BIRTHS

in Mitchell, Hume and Whittlesea in the last 12 months



VULNERABILITY

Every month, about

61

information sharing requests from Orange Door and Child Protection are received by each Council



WORKFORCE

Every month

10%

of MCH centres would be closed due to staff shortages



KAS VISITS

More than

64,000

KAS visits were made in the last 12 months



0-4 YEAR OLDS

An additional

32,000

0-4 year olds will live across the three municipalities in the next 20 years. This equates to **76,500 children** in this age group by 2041



WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

On average, **45%** of the MCH workforce are made up of nurses in the **early retirement to retirement** cohort (aged 51+)

There is a **99 to 1** per cent **female to male** gender split

1 in 3 MCH staff aged 40 and under are likely to be on **maternity leave**

Challenges to the MCH Sector

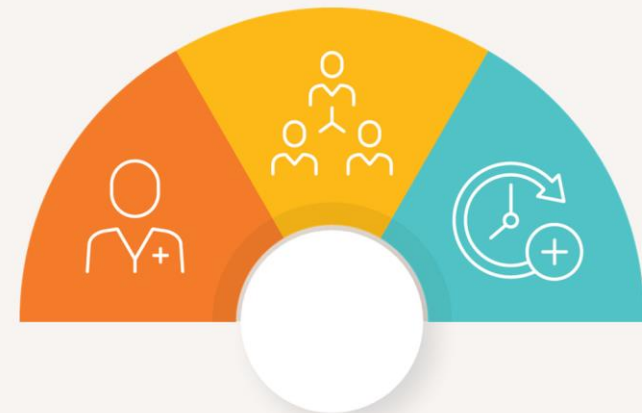
- Rapid population growth
- Workforce shortages
- Complex community needs
- Ongoing impacts of COVID-19
- Inadequate, disproportionate and gaps in funding
- Inadequate IT database
- Increased scope of the Key Age and Stage model



Pilot proposal

- Interface and Eastern Metropolitan Region Councils commissioned research and issues papers
- Collaboration between the City of Whittlesea, Hume City Council and Mitchell Shire Council
- Common issues and resolutions
- Place-based, collaborative and efficient response

MCH PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSAL ASKS



01 MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH
NURSE EDUCATOR

02 MULTIDISCIPLINARY
MCH WORKFORCE

03 KAS45



Collaborative MCH Nurse Educator

- Supporting preceptors
- Improving communication
- Increase number of student placement
- Provide a comprehensive work ready program for students

Investment:
\$3.1m
3 year pilot
3 municipalities



Multidisciplinary EMCH workforce for Mitchell Shire

- Social worker and Family Violence Worker working within the Enhanced MCH Service
- Vulnerable clients have better access to services



KAS 45

- KAS apt scheduled for 45 mins
- Improving outcomes for parents and children

- An evaluation of the KAS 45 model will be conducted during the term of the pilot, evaluating the impacts, changes, and benefits seen to nurses as well as to community outcomes.
- La Trobe, RMIT and Federation Universities will be involved with evaluation of the Nurse Educator
- The release of time pressures for MCH Nurses will likely see a great improvement in job satisfaction and therefore staff retention.