Negotiating partnerships to build strategy for supporting young people with chronic illness in schooling

Presenters

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Who do we support?

• Approximately 1,500 referrals received from the RCH

• 125 of these referrals came from the Children’s Cancer Centre

• 75% of inpatients spend less than 2 weeks in hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>Numb of separations</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-5 yrs</td>
<td>3,912</td>
<td>2,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-18 yrs</td>
<td>16,470</td>
<td>10,215</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inpatient stay (days)</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 30</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 - 50</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 100</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
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The Nature of Support

We work with children, families, education and health personnel to ensure continuing engagement in learning and ongoing connectedness to school by:

- Conducting seminars for parents and health and education professionals
- Educators and volunteers working with children and families
- Providing information and consultancy for families and schools
- Case management
- Using information and communications technology
Why we are in the partnership

- To provide an evidence base that informs RCHEI’s future practice
- To address the RCHEIs’ Board future direction paper - to build a research capacity
- To contribute to knowledge in relation to education/health relationships
- To influence policy and practice at a systems level
Principles of Partnership

- Recognise and accept the need for partnership
- Develop clarity and realism of purpose
- Ensure commitment and ownership
- Develop and maintain trust
- Create clear and robust partnership arrangements
- Monitor, measure and learn
- Nurture a partnership culture in individual partner organisations and groups
- Involve all relevant stakeholders in a meaningful way
- Develop effective communication

Source: Nuffield Institute for Health, cited in (Hudson and Hardy 2002)
Partnership Issues

• Competing needs of key stakeholders
• Sustaining the partnership in a cost neutral environment
• Cultural shift – changing the emphasis from a programs focus to research
• Willingness of staff to support the recruitment process
• Physical location of Project Manager and Research Assistant
• Lack of understanding and clarity around the research methodology