Mapping Integrated Care Cases in Australia

Title of the project: Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM)

Location: This OCCM program is coordinated from Brisbane but will benefit children and families across the state of Queensland, through the broad reach of the population health intelligence and system change components of the program. The place-based partnership component of the program is already demonstrating value in across several localised communities across Metropolitan Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Project Partners
Children’s Health Queensland is leading the Our Children and Communities Matter program and is working in partnership with a range of health, education and social care providers and funders across the Queensland context:

- Queensland Department of Health
- Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network
- Primary Health Networks
- Regional Hospital & Health Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women
- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Housing and Public Works
1. SUMMARY

Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) is a health intelligence led approach to planning, which is based on the principles of Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service’s (CHQ) Integrated Care Strategy. OCCM employs a population health perspective and takes a collaborative approach to developing a needs-driven and responsive child and family-centred service system for the provision of joined up primary, secondary and tertiary health and support services.

Stage 1 of OCCM has seen the development of a data linkage capability that brings together data, information and evidence from health, education and social services, to create informed analyses of the needs of children and families across Queensland.

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2. BACKGROUND

What are the aims and objectives of the Project?

Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service’s (CHQ) Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) initiative is tackling health inequities through integrated care by working with our partners on a range of place-based initiatives. Work is occurring across multiple layers including system reform and policy, community hub infrastructure and place-based action planning, and delivering on government priorities to improve children’s health and wellbeing.

OCCM brings cross-sector stakeholders together to analyse the investment, accessibility and reach of existing paediatric services, then links this with population health and demographic data to identify hotspots, gaps and opportunities for integration.

Objectives:

• Engage cross-sector stakeholders with a shared focus on improving health, development and wellbeing outcomes of children and families

• Develop health intelligence capability which can produce integrated and place-based analyses of population health and service utilisation

• Facilitate development and implementation of place-based strategic action plans that align the priorities of different organisations and departments to make integrated investment and service delivery decisions based on evidence.

How did the Project come to being and what are the significant milestones?

Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service’s (CHQ) Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) initiative brings to life the CHQ Integrated Care Strategy which was developed in early 2018. The program has evolved in line with the maturing of cross-sector partnerships and CHQ’s population health intelligence capability.

The Queensland Government Our Future State Advancing Queensland Priorities reference the importance of investing in the early years by highlighting children’s health and wellbeing in two of the six key priorities of the plan (Give all our children a great start & Keep Queenslanders healthy). This mandate for cross-government partnerships has supported OCCM to progress and expand its scope.

How is the project funded, managed and governed?

The core components of the program are funded by Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, however partners contribute resources to support the needs analysis, action planning and implementation. Local place-based projects are managed through a cross-sector governance group with key government and non-government stakeholders involved.

How is care organised and delivered to users and patients in local communities?

Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) supports the development of joint action plans and prompts service providers to consider inter-professional and integrated service models. An example
of how the program has enabled integrated care is the operationalisation of a community hub, based in Yarrabilba, Queensland, where Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQ) is working with partners across the system to provide a community space aligned with community needs. The service model of the hub is inter-disciplinary and relies on collaboration between social, education and health services. Families can be referred to the community hub, or self-present.

How is the project being taken forward in the future?

In the future Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) aims to:

• Continue developing the enabling functions required for success (deliver health intelligence capability and cross-sector partnerships)

• Embed existing place based activities as business-as-usual

• Initiate, establish and embed new place based activities based on population need and cross-government partnership drivers
3. EVIDENCE

What is the evidence related to improvements in the experience of service users?

Anticipated outcomes of Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) include:

- Reduced duplication of services and improved equity of access to paediatric community care for children and families
- Sustainable and integrated models of care are developed and tailored to meet local community needs
- Children and their families’ health and development needs are identified and supported early as close to home as possible
- System planning is integrated and actively informed by translational health research and health intelligence

What is the evidence related to positive influences on care and health outcomes to individuals and/or communities?

Anticipated positive influences on care and health outcomes as a result of OCCM will include:

- Health promotion for children and families (across social determinants of health)
- Improved social capital and connectedness for local communities
- Improved partnerships and communication between key stakeholders involved in local regions

What is the evidence related to impact on reducing the unnecessary utilisation of care facilities (e.g. of hospitals and long-term residential homes), or the growth in use of alternatives (e.g. domiciliary care; care in the home; self-care)?

Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) aims to reduce potentially preventable hospitalisations, improve utilisation of prevention and early intervention services (education, health and social) and improve engagement through community participation activities that are positive influencers on health outcomes (e.g. sports, volunteering).

What is the evidence that suggests the project has been able to secure a more cost-effective or sustainable care solution when caring for vulnerable people and communities through integrated community care?

Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) recognises that investment in health promotion, prevention and early intervention is estimated to generate between $7 - $13 ROI (based on work of Heckman). The programs which are identified in literature to add most value are those in which children and families have access to integrated social, education and health services, which OCCM is committed to supporting.
3. EVIDENCE

Has the project ever been, or is it currently subject to a research and evaluation study?

Place-based activities will be monitored for partnership effectiveness and implementation of specific projects and actions will be evaluated using rapid cycle evaluation methods to ensure an agile response to quality improvement. Evaluation of the Our Children and Communities Matter (OCCM) program will be undertaken using Health Services Research methodologies.
About IFIC Australia

The core mission of IFIC Australia is to develop capacity and capabilities in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region in the design and delivery of integrated care. IFIC Australia seeks to achieve this by providing a platform to develop and exchange ideas and promote activities in the region in keeping with IFIC’s mission.

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