

Application of a single session framework in Child Development Services: advanced scope of practice for allied health clinicians

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Family expect a child focus but really it is the relationship that creates real change

The Brisbane metropolitan Child Development Service (CDS) is in the early stages of implementing a new model of care. The intent of the service model is to ensure a consistent approach to intervention and equitable access to integrated expertise for developmentally vulnerable children and families throughout the greater Brisbane metropolitan region.

Core to the new model is the need for allied health practitioners to extend their scope of practice by moving from a traditional and individualised approach to intervention to a more contemporary and trans-disciplinary model of care.

“There is an ever increasing evidence base which indicates a need to move away from traditional paradigms of practice which focus on remediating neuro-disabilities. Leaving behind the ‘treatment to cure’ approach requires health professionals to orient their service delivery differently and assume a stronger trans-disciplinary, functional participation and capacity building approach” (CDS Model of Care document, Qld Health 2014).

To support this transition in practice, CDS allied health team members participated in single session training. The single session approach to intervention was chosen because of its active emphasis on family driven practice, its trans-disciplinary applicability and its brief yet effective practice mode. With about 80% of the CDS workforce now trained, the response to the training modules has been extremely positive. Some participants have reported an almost immediate change in practice philosophy, shifting from a traditional approach to the contemporary.

It is our intent to share the findings on the elements of meaning that the single session approach holds for our allied health work force, that has helped to facilitate practice change during this period of implementation. We will also share anecdotal evidence of the way this contemporary model has been translated into practice within Child Development Services to ensure equitable and optimal service provision across the hospital and health service.