

Advanced scope of practice social work: a model of care for paediatric and maternity trauma at Sunshine Hospital.

Nicole Lind^A; Anita Morris^B

^AWestern Health, Sunshine Hospital, 176 Furlong Road, St Albans, Vic, 3021
Nicole.lind@wh.org.au

^BWestern Health, Sunshine Hospital, 176 Furlong Road, St Albans, Vic, 3021

BACKGROUND:

A gap was identified at Western Health's Sunshine Hospital for paediatric and maternity patients attending the Emergency Department (ED) and maternity patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Despite a comprehensive transdisciplinary model of allied health care in ED, there was no dedicated social work expertise to introduce and implement a trauma informed model of care to these patients and their families.

In response, the Social Work Department received Department of Health and Human Service's Advanced Scope of Practice funding for the 'Provision of responsive Emergency Maternity & Paediatric Trauma social work Services (Pre-EMPTS) project. The project aims to deliver a trauma informed model of care in the ED and ICU at Sunshine Hospital. The position responds to urgent paediatric and maternity trauma referrals and provides education and consultation to staff in ED, ICU and the broader health service.

Available evidence suggests that early intervention to prevent the cumulative effects of trauma has lifelong benefits including improved health outcomes and life expectancy. Application of a trauma informed model of care facilitates opportunities for early intervention.

METHODOLOGY:

The project employs a mixed method approach. The quantitative sample includes all paediatric and maternity referrals to the Pre-EMPTS Social Worker. The dataset captures referral details, patient demographics, risk screening, referral pathways and outcomes. The qualitative data is based on sampling all ED and ICU staff using baseline and follow-up opened ended survey questions to illicit staff's understanding of, and need for Pre-EMPTS through a thematic analysis.

RESULTS:

Data is being collected from June 2015. Preliminary results will be available in October 2015.

DISCUSSION:

Introducing an advanced scope of practice social work role at WH that utilises a trauma informed model of care has broader implications for how this model of care could be understood and adopted by other health services.