

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Advancing Equitable Care Through Advanced Nursing Roles in Neurodevelopmental Care at the Child Health Centre

Te Tai Tokerau Nursing Conference 2023

Jenae Valk – Nurse Practitioner

The Identified Need

- **Arduous whanau journey**
- **Long waitlists**
- **Complicated clinical pathways**
- **Disconnection between services**
- **Increasing referral numbers**
- **Clinician discomfort in ND space**



Neurodevelopmental Pathway

**A multidisciplinary approach
for all children referred in
requiring a
neurodevelopmental lens**

Clinical Nurse Specialists

Nurse Practitioner

Paediatricians

Psychologist

Occupational Therapists

Speech Language Therapists

Physiotherapists

**Child and Adolescent Mental
Health Practitioners**

**Collaborative
approach with
whanau and
community**

Clinical Nurse Specialist Model

Nurse led clinics:

- KBITS
- Griffiths
- ADOS
- Developmental history
- Observational data

Joint clinics with Paeds & Psychology

Case co-ordination

Medication titration support

Consistent contact for whanau and the community



The NP Model

Offer an alternative model of care to a paediatric outpatient clinic that includes intensive, wrap around support for whanau

Prioritise:

- Maori
- Pacifica
- Quintile 4 or 5,
- High social complexity
- Other health co-morbidities
- Whanau in crisis

Undertake the full FSA

Assessment, diagnosis, treatment

Responsive and individualised Straddle secondary and primary care

Whanau ora approach



The Impact

A better whanau journey

- Reduction in declined referrals
- Streamlined pathways
- Closer to home care
- Highlighting the whanau voice
- Flexible model of care
- Strengthened connection with whanau and regional links
- Skill advancement
- Strengthened team collaboration
- Addressing waitlists



The Challenges and Lessons

- **Under pressure service that isn't meeting demand**
- **Service specs vs workload vs whanau need**
- **Geographical spread**
- **Non-equitable Regional Disability Supports**
- **Exploring scopes of practice**
- **Evaluation and reflection has been crucial**

Looking Ahead

- **Whanau voice and feedback**
- **Delve into the data**
- **Research**
- **Continued lobbying on regional and national level**
- **Formalising equity enhancing practice**
- **More Neuro MDT in rural centres**



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Ngā mihi nui

A decorative background pattern consisting of a dark blue field. The upper portion features a repeating geometric motif of concentric diamonds and zig-zags in a lighter blue color. The lower portion features a dense, vertical pattern of thin, light blue lines that resemble grass or reeds.