

FATHER LINKS PROJECT - \$10,000 small grant to the former South East Health

Objectives		Strategies	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop culturally appropriate activities to engage and support fathers from a range of diverse backgrounds in the community. ▪ Develop strategies that are sustainable after the life of the pilot project. 	<p>Strengthen the skills of Midwives and Child and Family Health staff to be able to engage fathers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide training to midwives and Child and Family Health nurses on individual strategies they can use to engage fathers in common contact situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 workshops were held on engaging with fathers facilitated by the Engaging Fathers Project from the University of Newcastle. 33 staff attended from Midwifery, Child and Family Health and paediatric hospital staff. ▪ The AHS was asked to jointly sponsor a conference by the Engaging Fathers Project held in May. Presentations from the AHS included the Sydney Children's Hospital Father Friendly Project and the Dad's At Home Group (DAH group). 6 staff and a health community participant attended the conference. ▪ A questionnaire was developed for Child and Family Health staff to use with new fathers to help engage them, loosely based on the psychosocial screening questionnaire for mothers. It was developed in consultation with fathers and trialled. The questionnaire has been disseminated through the NSW Health Families First Network.
	<p>Create environments within services that communicate that fathers are welcome and valued</p>	<p>Support interested services to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Review publicity material about the service, to be inclusive of fathers. 3. Review/develop father-specific information. 4. Where possible, schedule activities at times that allows fathers to access the service. 5. Provide father specific activities e.g. specific father antenatal sessions within antenatal groups, father-baby/child barbeques. 6. Enlist the help of fathers in a volunteer capacity to lead father specific activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed an intranet site that has links and order forms for father specific resources, father-friendly service audits and other information relevant to health services. ▪ Sourced father specific resources developed by the former Central Coast Area Health Service "Father-time" and reproduced one of the booklets for maternity services and Child and Family Health Services. A <u>limited</u> number will be printed each year funded by the health Families First budget. ▪ Purchased father specific posters for Maternity Units and Child and Family Health Centres, including posters with images of Aboriginal and CALD fathers. ▪ Support the evaluation and purchasing of resources to assist the community lead "Dad's at Home (DAH)" Group. <i>See attached report.</i> ▪ Strengthening and expanding the father / male lead antenatal sessions at St George Hospital to the other two maternity units in the south eastern Sydney area. A NSW Health Men's and Boys Grant was successfully applied for to supplement this strategy. ▪ Pilot a Child and Family Health Nursing Clinic on a Saturday at Mascot, so working fathers can attend appointments. Fathers attend about 50% of the appointments offered on a Saturday. The nursing staff have also undertaken an audit to make the environment more male friendly eg posters, male appropriate waiting room magazines and father videos on the TV. The clinic is continuing, as the current staff are willing to work Saturday. ▪ Review Child and Family Health Service brochures as new print runs are required to review the language and images used to be more father friendly. Appropriate father friendly language and images were considered in the design of an Aboriginal specific Child and Family Health Service brochure for the south eastern Sydney area (Developed by the Health Families First Program and Aboriginal Health). ▪ Sydney Children's Hospital also tapped into the resources being sourced / produced by the Father Links Project and have undertaken a father friendly audit of selected wards to improve on how they engage with fathers.

	<p>Support Fathers in developing their changing role over the first 5 years of their child's life.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Make available father-specific information. 8. Where possible, schedule activities at times that allows fathers to access the service. 9. Provide father specific activities e.g. specific father antenatal sessions within antenatal groups, father-baby/child barbeques. 10. Enlist the help of fathers in a volunteer capacity to lead father specific activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening and expanding the father / male lead antenatal sessions at St George Hospital to the other two maternity units in the south eastern Sydney area. A NSW Health Men's and Boys Grant was successfully applied for to supplement this strategy. ▪ Support the evaluation and purchasing of resources to assist the community lead "Dad's at Home (DAH)" Group. <i>See attached report.</i> ▪ Sourced father specific resources developed by the former Central Coast Area Health Service "Father-time" and reproduced one of the booklets for maternity services and Child and Family Health Services. A <u>limited</u> number will be printed each year funded by the health Families First budget. ▪ Child and Family Health Nursing Clinic on a Saturday at Mascot, so working fathers can attend appointments. The clinic is continuing, as the current staff are willing to work Saturday.
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