

CHILD HEALTH: KEY PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE HEALTH GAINS

GUEST EDITORIAL

Victor Nossar

Service Director, Department of Community Paediatrics, South Western Sydney Area Health Service

Garth Alperstein

Community Paediatrician, Community Health Services, Central Sydney Area Health Service

This is the fourth and final issue in the series exploring ways of improving the health of children in New South Wales. It examines the implementation of key programs and strategies to achieve those health gains.

The first two articles examine how health issues and programs can be prioritised, and describe the key initiatives for maximising health gain in the life stages of childhood (pp. 124 and 126). Professor Graham Vimpani provides a comprehensive summary of home visiting programs (p. 130), and Ms Caroline Wraith and Dr Elisabeth Murphy describe an effective early intervention program: 'Schools as Community Centres' (p. 131). Both these programs have been shown to enhance social capital, particularly in disadvantaged communities. More and more research reveals the profound links between social connectedness and positive health outcomes. The article by Ms Lesley King explains the rationale and importance of using a settings approach as the basis for the delivery of programs (p. 128). In a later issue an article will introduce the Families First program, recently funded by the NSW government to provide some of the key services identified as capable of improving the health of children in New South Wales.

This series has covered a wide range of topics on child health. When taken together, they provide a blueprint for the design and implementation of services capable of improving the health of children in New South Wales. ☒

CONTENTS

- 124 **Prioritisation of health issues and strategies to improve child health**
-
- 126 **Key initiatives to achieve health gain for children**
-
- 127 **Change to the MMR schedule and the NSW Health Department Immunisation Certificate for primary school entry**
-
- 128 **The settings approach to achieving better health for children**
-
- 129 **Correction**
-
- 130 **Home visiting: An essential building block to support families**
-
- 131 **Working together to support children and families in disadvantaged communities**
-
- 134 **Infectious diseases: November**
- 134 New Director of Health Protection
- 134 NSW Needle and Syringe Program: Features and public health benefits
-