

DHSV Research & Innovation Grant awarded to eviDent project

The eviDent project, 'Children's Dental Program', has received a DHSV Research and Innovation Grant.

Led by Prof Mike Morgan, the project aims to investigate whether school-based dental screening can retain high-needs child patients using existing publicly funded community health services.

Plenty Valley Community Health (PVCH) is one of many Victorian government dental agencies committed to community engagement and improving client access to its services. When the School Dental Services was transferred to the community health services environment in 2007, decisions on how to promote children's dental services to the community, how to manage demand, balance priority care between children's dental and adult dental became local decisions. It has been identified that the children most vulnerable to dental disease are the least likely to access services. A recent publication by the Department of Health (Victoria) showed that only 22.8% of the eligible population were treated in 2009-2010. This falls significantly below the benchmark by the Australia's National Oral Health Plan 2004-2012 that all children should receive at least one course of general oral health care including appropriate oral health promotion every two years.

Current literature assessing the uptake of existing practice of school-based dental screening programs in the United Kingdom suggests parents/guardians have infrequently participated with the overall dental caries management. A school-based dental screening has the potential to integrate school priority objectives with quality and affordable child health services. The target population are children enrolled in pre-schools and primary schools located in a disadvantaged area within the City of Whittlesea. Children will be offered free school-based dental screening with parental/guardian informed consent and attendance, and follow-up appointments will be made for dental treatment directly to Plenty Valley Community Health – Dental Services.

Ms Doreen Power, CEO of Plenty Valley Community Health says, "I commend eviDent, the ADAVB and the dental team (under the leadership of Dr Sajeev Koshy, Clinical Director) at PVCH for the proactive approach taken to researching access to dental services, by prioritising pre-schoolers located in lower socio-economic suburbs, which will be useful when assessing gaps in service delivery".



eviDent Chief Investigator, Prof Mike Morgan



eviDent Associate Investigator, Dr Samantha Lew and eviDent Research Collaborator Tan Nguyen

Electronic health record rules published

The Federal Government has published the rules under which healthcare providers can assist their patients to register for a Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR).

The rules -<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L01703> - are aimed at encouraging vulnerable consumers such as the elderly and those with chronic illnesses to register for a PCEHR and share their healthcare information with a range of healthcare providers.

Consumers can currently register online <http://www.ehealth.gov.au/internet/ehealth/publishing.nsf/content/home>, by phone or in person, but according to explanatory notes published by the Government, the assisted registration process will encourage target demographics such as people in aged care who are more likely to apply to register with the support of their healthcare provider.

The healthcare provider will need to find the patient's individual healthcare identifier (IHI) and verify the patient's identity. They must also record the patient's written consent to have a PCEHR created and documents uploaded to it, and either store that written consent for three years or send it to the Department of Health and Ageing for retention.

Dr Sajeev Koshy receives multicultural award

Dr Sajeev Koshy, Clinical Director Plenty Valley Community Health, has received a Victorian Multicultural Commission Award for Excellence 2012.

The Victorian Government initiative recognises the achievements and services of individuals and organisations that have actively supported cultural diversity and made a real impact in promoting harmony in our community.

Dr Koshy's leadership and service to dentistry is well recognised and this Award emphasises his dedication and commitment not only to the clients of Plenty Valley Community Health but to the wider community for outstanding services to Victoria's Multicultural Community.

The Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC presented the award at Government House last December.

(see cover photo also)