

BRIDGING THE GAP

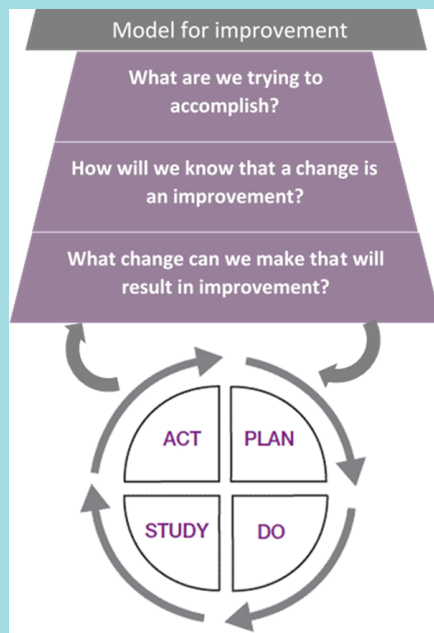
PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE IN REFUGEE CHILD & FAMILY HEALTH

NEWSLETTER #6 March 2015

“To design services that promote health equity, there must be a clear focus on specific communities at risk” Wong et al. 2015

Why you should be curious about PDSA

Bridging the Gap is all about change and “doing things differently” to improve outcomes for families of refugee background. Bridging the Gap has adopted the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) framework as a pragmatic method for implementing and testing changes through small rapid cycles of improvement with flexibility to adapt change according to feedback.



There is clear evidence as to the value of PDSA for quality improvement. The Institute for Health Care Improvement in the USA provides a good overview of PDSA, resources and blogs to inspire us in our journey in quality improvement. A recent entry on the IHI website captured our interest (see over) and you may be interested in accessing the complete blog via the link: bitly.com/IHIPDSA

The CEO of the Institute for Health Improvement challenged a colleague to name one improvement idea that should “go viral” throughout health care. She came up with lots of possibilities ... systems thinking, lean thinking, etc. The answer came when she was watching her young son play with Lego. Watching him get frustrated with constructing a tower, it dawned on her – PDSAs! In a new post to the IHI Blog – “Why You Should Be Curious about PDSAs” – Baldoza explains why Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles are so critical to improvement, and how people, even children, often unknowingly use this method for iterative testing and learning in their daily lives.

PDSA in action: language support and labour

One of the Bridging the Gap projects in the south-east is using PDSA to try out a new way of ensuring women with low English proficiency are routinely offered an interpreter close to the time they are admitted to the birth suite. Whilst this project is in its early stages, feedback from midwives participating in the trial is shaping ideas for fine-tuning of the project and raising new questions:

“...it is like you really need an interpreter for a few moments, every now and then throughout labour ... we can't keep an interpreter on the phone whilst we first get consent to do an exam, set up, do it, then have the discussion about what is happening and any decisions...”

This captures the complexity in what many of us would assume is a simple problem. But of course, if it was simple, it would have been solved a long time ago. This project continues to trial ‘doing things differently’ in supporting women in labour and captures complexities, challenges and possibilities for other projects to enhance access to interpreters in maternity care.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

MURDOCH CHILDRENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

VICTORIAN FOUNDATION FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

MONASH HEALTH

WESTERN HEALTH

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG

CITY OF WYNDHAM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SOUTH EASTERN MELBOURNE MEDICARE LOCAL

SOUTH WESTERN MELBOURNE MEDICARE LOCAL

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Having a baby in a new country engagement paper published

This paper recently published in the International Journal for Equity in Health reflects on the community and health service engagement strategies that were so central to the design and conduct of *the Having a baby in a new country* project.

The paper: Promoting the inclusion of Afghan women and men in research: reflections from research and community partners involved in implementing a 'proof of concept' project can be accessed at:

<http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/14/1/13>

Bridging the Gap in the media

In an article in The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald (January 31st) the maternal and child health service of the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) were profiled in an article about the Government blueprint for Victorian MCH "Starting Out Strong". Bernie Harrison, coordinator of CGD Maternal and Child Health, was interviewed about some of the challenges of providing a service to a culturally diverse population and the need for flexibility and innovation in service delivery. Bernie noted Bridging the Gap and MCH's involvement in improving maternal and child health outcomes for refugee families. The article was accompanied by this lovely photo of Bernie.



New website link

MCRI recently launched a new website. The link to the Bridging the Gap pages including copies of the newsletter and other resources is:

<https://www.mcri.edu.au/research/projects/bridging-gap-partnerships-change-refugee-child-and-family-health>

Coming up

Launch of Healthy Happy Beginnings
Wednesday 1st April, 11:00am
Sister Rita Douglas Centre, Werribee

Bridging the Gap Training in south east
Friday 1st May, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Regional partnership meeting west
Monday 18th May

Regional partnership meeting south east
Late May TBA

Partnership forum
Mid-year TBA

About Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is a partnership between Healthy Mothers Healthy Families research group at Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House), maternity and maternal & child health services in Melbourne's south east and west, primary health care networks, local and state government.

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This newsletter has been put together by the Healthy Mothers Healthy Families research group at MCRI. For more information please contact:

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