

Healthy Families Healthy Smiles

Overview of implementation and evaluation findings

2012 – 2015 (June)

August 2015



Introduction

Healthy Families Healthy Smiles (HFHS) aims to improve the oral health of Victorian children aged 0-3 years and pregnant women through building capacity of health and early childhood professionals to promote oral health. This report focuses on the key findings from the implementation and evaluation of HFHS for the 2012-2015 work plan. The findings and reflections in this report will help inform the ongoing planning, implementation and evaluation for the next phase of the HFHS initiative.

Key implementation findings



Partnerships

A range of partners that represent diverse sectors and disciplines were engaged. Some partnerships were already well established while other partnerships were newly developed through the project.

Professional development

Over 2,460 professionals from a variety of disciplines participated in oral health promotion professional development activities. This included online training, workshops and presentations.

Tools and resources

Tools that support professionals that HFHS is working with to use knowledge and skills in oral health promotion. For example Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program (MIOH), Bigger Better Smiles Baby teeth count too! to name a few.

Policy & Systems

Policies and systems are important to support change in practice of professionals. Training and resources support professionals to provide advice, screening and referral but professionals will be reluctant to put this into practice if they don't have a system supporting them to do it – clinical guidelines, referral pathway, joint position statements etc. Critical to translating knowledge into practice and also important for making sustainable changes.

Reporting & dissemination

Newsletters, journal articles and other publications serve to raise awareness and increase knowledge of oral health in target professional groups. Project findings were also presented at conferences to build capacity of target professional groups and disseminate findings of HFHS.

Key evaluation findings

The evaluation aimed to examine the impact of the HFHS initiative on the capacity of health and early childhood professionals, services and settings to promote the oral health of both children aged 0-3 years, and pregnant women, in Victoria.

The evaluation considered the following broad program activities:

- Capacity building such as oral health promotion capacity, networks, partnerships and policies.
- Professional development and assessment of oral health related knowledge, attitudes, skills, confidence and professional practices of health and early childhood professionals.
- Oral health promotion strategies such as interventions and resources.

The mixed-methods evaluation (surveys, interviews and focus groups) revealed that:

Capacity to promote oral health increased across the pregnancy and early childhood settings. Key findings were:

- **Training programs (for the various professional groups) increased oral health-related awareness, knowledge and confidence**
 - Baseline knowledge of oral health varied across the professional groups.
 - Training was considered useful and relevant to clinical and professional roles.
 - Training created intentions for changing practice.
- **The HFHS program was integrated across the pregnancy and early childhood sector, and other sectors**
 - The integrated approach was considered a strength of the HFHS initiative and one which was clearly needed.
 - The program enhanced opportunities for service integration and created linkages.
 - Central co-ordination and support for implementation activities was critical to the success of the approach.
- **The partnership approach and network development were highly valued**
 - Partnerships and networks take significant effort and time to be developed and maintained.
 - Shared decision-making fosters ownership.
 - Tailoring engagement approaches to each unique professional group is necessary.
 - Different professional groups were at different stages of 'readiness' to promote oral health.
- **Capacity to promote oral health has been increased across many domains of capacity building**
 - Including: participation, leadership, community structure, and role of external support, asking why, obtaining resources, skills, knowledge and learning, linking with other and sense of community.

Overview of *Healthy Families Healthy Smiles* implementation[#] and evaluation[#] findings, 2012-2015 (June)

Professional groups	Partnerships	Professional development	Tools & resources	Policy & systems	Reporting & dissemination	Reach
Midwives and other antenatal professionals	Centre for Applied Nursing Research, University of Western Sydney, Sydney and South Western Sydney Local Health District	Online training program with accessible CPD points	Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program (MIOH)*	Oral health embedded in antenatal care and during pregnancy	<i>Publications</i> – Australian Midwifery News; DHSV WoM; DHSV The Bite; DHSV Public Oral Health Agencies extranet; Maternity & Newborn Clinical Network newsletter; Women’s health book (Royal Women’s Hospital); HFHS Project Newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – ADOHTA conference 2012; Population Health Congress 2012; ANZ OHP conf 2013; Primary Health Care Research conf, Sydney; DHSV Public Oral Health conf	114
	Peninsula Health Women’s services and Dental services	Workshop for health professionals	e-referral – online referral tool*	Referral pathway strengthened		13
		Shared care CPD – Peninsula Health				Pregnancy resource – ‘Healthy Teeth Healthy Pregnancy’ fact sheet
		Presentation to KMS CPD day – State-wide (2)	-			
	La Trobe University, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Online student resource about oral health and pregnancy	Birthing Outcomes System (BOS) - Inclusion of oral health questions in BOS (under development)	Oral health embedded in Nursing & Midwifery tertiary education		
Maternal & Child Health Nurse	Department of Education and Training (DET)	Teeth manual review – survey and workshop consultations	Teeth manual for MCHN	Oral health embedded in MCH Key Ages & Stages program	<i>Publications</i> – DHSV WoM; DHSV The Bite; Maternal and Child Health Bulletin; HFHS project newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – Australian Association of Maternal and Child Health and Family Nurses conf; International Union of Health Promotion and Education World conf; Maternal and Child Health conf 2014	182
		Tooth tips resource review – consultation and re-design	Tooth tips resource	Oral health embedded in MCH Key Ages & Stages program		336
		-	Tooth Packs Pilot* and roll out – Distribution of toothbrushes, paste, oral health information through MCH at 4 sites	Oral health embedded in MCH Key Ages & Stages program		1,534 families
	RMIT University	Presentation to MCHN students		Oral health embedded in MCHN tertiary education		1,332
Early Parenting professionals	Tweddle Child & Family Health Service Queen Elizabeth Centre O’Connell Family Centre	3 training sessions to early parenting professionals (3 centres)	Baby Teeth Count Too! – oral health education program*	Oral health embedded in Early Parenting Centre programs	<i>Publications</i> – DHSV The Bite; HFHS project newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – DHSV Public Oral Health conf 2013	123
Early childhood professionals	Working group representing 8 early childhood organisations	7 training workshops to early childhood educators	Healthy Little Smiles Resource Kit	Early childhood educators supported to include oral health in early childhood services	<i>Publications</i> – DHSV WoM; DHSV The Bite; HFHS project newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – DHSV Public Oral Health conf 2013	141
	12 Services (7 councils, 1 health service, 3 non-government org and 1 state-wide)	8 Training sessions to playgroup facilitators	Baby Teeth Count Too! – Flipchart	Oral health embedded in playgroup settings		35

Professional groups	Partnerships	Professional development	Tools & resources	Policy & systems	Reporting & dissemination	Reach
	Box Hill Institute Kangan Institute	5 Sessions to early childhood education and care students	-	Oral health embedded in early childhood tertiary education		110
	Box Hill Institute	1 session to early childhood education and care teaching staff		Oral health embedded in early childhood tertiary education		10
Aboriginal Health Workers	Mallee District Aboriginal Service (MDAS) Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BDAC)	3 training sessions to Aboriginal Health Workers and other health professionals	Bigger Better Smiles – Oral health education program*	Oral health embedded in pregnancy and early childhood services in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs)	<i>Publications</i> – DHSV WoM; DHSV The Bite; Networking Health Victoria Newsletter (for GP staff); Health Victoria; VACCHO news; HFHS project newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – Loddon Mallee Region Prevention conf 2014; DHSV Public Oral Health conf 2013	29
	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)	Support inclusion of oral health in training courses	-	MoU between DHSV and VACCHO		-
GPs and Practice Nurse	Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local	Oral health CPD event (in conjunction with Healthy Kids Checks sessions) for GPs	e-referral – online referral tool*	Referral pathway strengthened	<i>Publications</i> – HFHS project newsletter <i>Conferences</i> – DHSV Public Oral Health conf	7
		Oral health CPD event (in conjunction with Healthy Kids Checks sessions) for Practice Nurse		Referral pathway strengthened		16
		Shared care CPD – Peninsula Health		Referral pathway strengthened		14
Pharmacists	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)	2 presentations as part of PSA CPD program (monthly lecture series and conference workshop – 4 sessions)	-	Joint national position statement with PSA on oral health	<i>Publications</i> – AHHA Healthcare in Brief; HFHS project newsletter	303
Dietitians	Dietitians Association Australia (DAA)	Presentation to Public Community Health Nutrition Interest Group	-	Joint national position statement with DAA on oral health	-	6
Oral Health Professionals		Professional Development seminar on Health Literacy	-	-		44
		DHSV CPD program presentation on ‘Developing skills to deliver health care messages’	-	-		50
		Presentation on oral health capacity building to BOH students	-	-		18

* Evaluated components of HFHS

Refer to full implementation report and final evaluation report for more detailed information. These reports can be obtained by contacting Allison Ridge, HFHS Program Manager, DHSV at 03 9341 1141 or Allison.Ridge@dhsv.org.au