

Children's Services Unit

Clinical Nurses Role in Child Protection



Centacare

Introduction

This document is designed to assist in defining the Clinical Nurses role in Centacare and should be read in conjunction with the Clinical Nurses Practice Manual.

Nurses must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and meet the Board's Registration Standards in order to practice in Australia.

Nurses working in child protection are informed by The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. The Framework's underpinning aim is to achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect over time. The Framework consists of high-level outcomes to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

The Nurses provide health services to high risk vulnerable families who are disengaged or socially isolated from universal health services. The Nursing health services aim to address all six outcomes of Framework.

The six outcomes are:

- Children live in safe and supportive families and communities.
- Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early.
- Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed.

- Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing.
- Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support.

Decision Making Framework

Nurses must possess the appropriate skills to meet their professional, legal and ethical responsibilities in delivering and coordinating evidence based care, within the context of a multidisciplinary team.

The purpose of the Decision Making Framework is to ensure all Nurses utilise a recognised framework to make clinical decisions which meet their professional and legal obligations, and result in excellent nursing care.

The Decision Making Framework has been adapted from the Nursing practice decision flowchart to reflect the context of practice of nurses (see the Decision Making Tool checklist). The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) provides guidance to nurses and midwives by publishing a range of frameworks, codes, competency standards and guidelines.

Clinical Nurses Role in Child Protection

Clinical Nurses work in multidisciplinary teams with case managers to provide individualised health interventions for vulnerable high risk families, children and young people.

Health services are provided to families who are disengaged from universal services.

Services are home and community based, and delivered across metropolitan Adelaide and the Murraylands region.

Services include:

- Evidence based Child and Adult focused health assessments
- Health promotion and education
- In-home and community based interventions
- Developmental assessments
- Mental health assessments
- Pre and post-natal supports
- Referrals and Advocacy
- Navigating access to a range of health services
- Consultancy to address child protection risk factors from a health perspective
- Collaborative case planning
- Provides team with health sector updates
- Navigating NDIS services
- Data and other reporting requirements

Clinical Nurses Role in Non-Intensive Targeted Services

Targeted Intervention Service TIS (Stronger Families) supports families with children 0-18 years with a range of early child wellbeing and safety risk factors.

Supports are tailored to meet individual family's needs; providing assessment, case management, practical and therapeutic in-home support and connection to community.

Families working with TIS will receive ongoing case management from the allocated Family Intervention Worker. TIS can provide these supports for up to 12 months.

Outcomes

Clinical nurses will:

- Provide timely health assessments and interventions to improve children's safety, well-being.
- Increase family resilience and access health services to support families to stay together.

Clinical Nurses Role in Intensive Services

Family Preservation Program involves keeping the family together, ensuring concerns regarding the safety of children are met and that is safe for the children to stay with their families.

Families working with Family Preservation receive an intensive one-year case management service. Family Preservation provides in-home and community supports for up to 12 months.

In partnership with Department for Child Protection (DCP), Family Preservation arranges monthly care team meetings for the first three months of intervention.

Referrals Pathways

- **For non-intensive services:** Department for Child Protection; Child, Adolescent and Family Health Services; Department for Education, Child Wellbeing Practitioner & Children's Centres; Child and Family Assessment and Referral Network and non-government organisations.
- **For intensive services:** Department for Child Protection only.