



Rural Health Conference Bendigo 2008

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Relationship of risk, relationship of change:

A partnership response to oral and other
chronic diseases.

Oral health is fundamental to overall health, wellbeing and quality of life. A healthy mouth enables people to eat, speak and socialise without pain, discomfort or embarrassment.

(UK Department of Health, 1994)

- Oral diseases are the most common of the chronic diseases
- The determinants of oral diseases are familiar –
 - Nutrition
 - Hygienic habits
 - Tobacco and alcohol use
 - Risk taking
 - Stress

- Traditional barriers that isolate the mouth from the rest of the body
 - Failure to include socio-dental approaches in current health policies and practices
 - Little understanding of the 'common risk factor' approach to Health Promotion activities
 - Limited cross – sectoral communication



Smiles 4 Miles is an initiative of Dental Health Services Victoria, working in partnership with local organisations to improve the oral health of the youngest children in our community

Local agencies:

- 1 Take active roles in the Health Promotion agenda in local communities
- 2 Own and drive Oral Health Promotion initiatives targeting local population groups
- 3 Partner with Dental Health Services Victoria in developing and implementing evidence-based, timely and strategic interventions addressing local community needs

Goulburn Valley Child Health Promotion Steering Committee



Building Blocks for Kids Health

Capacity Building

- Health professionals
- Early years and education professionals
- Parents and families



Social Marketing

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Moorific
- Rubbish Free
- 2008 Calendar



Kids - 'Go for your life'



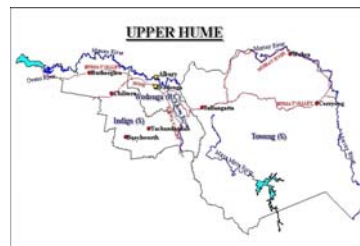
Settings and supportive Environments

- 88% kindergartens involved in Smiles4Miles
- 58% EY and PS involved with Kids - 'Go for your life'

Policies

- Nutrition Policy
- Active Play Policy

- Geographically - very large catchment
- Health Promotion Officer Coordinates S4M program as part of wider role in school settings. (S4M = 1 1/2 days p/week)
- 20 Preschools currently implementing S4M Program.
- Working with Koori Preschool and playgroup through building relationship with the local Aboriginal corporation.
- Steering committee made up of Allied health, Health Promotion, M&CH and Dental Clinic workers from agencies in outreach areas who assist in driving program in those areas.



- Integrating 'Kids Go for your Life' messages into program to ensure language is consistent with primary schools
- Sustainability of this program over the large catchment is an issue. Building capacity of staff is crucial in rural areas for sustainability.
- Mentoring System being developed so experienced preschools can assist new preschools in their area to carry out program.
- Capacity Building funding being used to broaden program into childcare and playgroup settings.



2 Local Government Areas:

- Mt Alexander Shire
- Central Goldfields

Culturally Diverse

High Levels of Social and Economic Disadvantage

- Cultural Awareness Training for the Project Worker.
- Longer lead up time for the project
- Parent Engagement over a longer period of time.

8 Kindergartens are involved in Mitchell Shire.

The oral health promotion training has been integrated across many sectors. Partnerships within Mitchell Shire have ensured that local needs start to be addressed regarding oral health promotion in young children.

In Wallan there has been a family approach to oral health promotion.

Wallan Healthy Kids Project

Questions?