

**BC (NAME SUPPRESSED)**

At approximately three months of age BC was transferred from a remote location to Princess Margaret Hospital where he was treated for febrile illness with multiple splenic lesions/abscesses with IV antibiotics. BC was discharged with plans for follow up investigation of his enlarged spleen once the antibiotics were completed. The follow-up appointment was not attended. BC deteriorated in the community and died in Royal Darwin Hospital at 5 months of age. The coroner reviewed communication between metropolitan and regional health services, and between health services and the mother.

The Department of Health's Coronial Review Committee reviewed these findings and directed the recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders for review and response.

WA Country Health Service established a working group with representatives from relevant policy units and health services, as well as the Department of Child Protection and Family Services. This group reviewed the recommendations and developed strategies to improve coordinated care for vulnerable children with complex health needs.

The Aboriginal Ambulatory Care Coordination outreach program has been funded until 30 June 2018 through the Foot Prints for Better Health program. WA Country Health Service has developed the Health Country Kids Program: An Integrated Child Health and Development Service Strategy 2016-2018 which provides direction for WACHS early years services.

The WA Country Health Service:

- is working with the State-wide Obstetric Support Unit to develop maternity patient journey maps making it easier to identify a primary health care provider where relevant information should be sent
- will be trialling newly developed referral and clinical handover forms to facilitate the sharing of information, where possible, between hospitals that

provide services to children and community centres closer to the place of residence

- is evaluating options for the implementation of a community health information system to facilitate the sharing of information between hospitals and external health providers
- has updated the Guidelines for Protecting Children to provide detailed guidance for the identification and response to concerns of neglect.

Of the five recommendations made by the coroner, one has been duly considered and deemed completed, and four are ongoing at the time of this report. Progress will be updated in the next report.