

BC

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 intravenous antibiotics. BC was discharged with plans for follow up investigation of his enlarged spleen once the antibiotics were completed. The follow up appoint was not attended. BC deteriorated in the community and died in Royal Darwin Hospital at five 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, including service reform approaches such as prioritisation of services and coordination for vulnerable children.

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 State-wide Obstetric Support Unit (SOSU) has been working collaboratively with key stakeholders to develop a tool to assist with discharge. An interactive web-based map of WA's regions supported by a database of all available maternity service providers within each region, including information from Aboriginal Medical Services, remote clinics, child health clinics and GP services. This tool will be piloted in King Edward Memorial Hospital antenatal clinic and a postnatal ward and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service.

The WA Country Health Service has developed and published a clinical handover form to be used by WACHS community child health services which supports community health staff in accessing hospital discharge information. The WACHS is also evaluating options for the implementation of a community health information system to facilitate the sharing of information between hospitals and external health providers.

The Neglect Protocol was developed by the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) and WACHS in a collaborative process for community child health services. The State-wide Protection of Children Coordination (SPOCC) Unit has included reference to the protocol in the *Guidelines for Protecting Children 2015*. The SPOCC has also developed a supporting *Child Wellbeing Guide for Assessing Risk; Neglect is a Child Protection Issue* information sheet; and, the *Assessing for Neglect : Points to Consider* information sheet.

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