

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sexual Assault Services have been providing a comprehensive network of specialist health services, to children who experience sexual assault, across NSW for the past decade. In contrast, health services for children and young people who are at risk of, or who have experienced physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect (PANOC), have traditionally been delivered through generic health services. In 1994 NSW Health committed recurrent funding to Area Health Services for the enhancement of their services to children and young people who are at risk of, or experience physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, and their families.

This document represents South Western Sydney Area Health Service's first Strategic Plan for the Protection of Children and Young People from Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect (PANOC). The plan has been developed in the context of a series of state government policy and practice developments in child protection, in response to events in the Wood Royal Commission (1994 - 1997).

There are two primary goals for child protection (PANOC) services in SWSAHS:

- To reduce the incidence of physical abuse, emotional abuses and neglect of children and young people in South Western Sydney.
- To provide more effective and efficient child protection (PANOC) services which are accessible to all children, young people and families in South Western Sydney.

These goals are consistent with the following, broader goals of the SWSAHS:

- To improve the health status of the residents of South Western Sydney and ensure equity of access to comprehensive health services¹, and
- To improve health and equity of access to comprehensive and high quality paediatric services for children in South Western Sydney².

Six key planning issues were identified as essential elements of child protection (PANOC) planning for SWSAHS in the context of recent policy and procedural developments. These are represented as sub-goals of the two primary goals:

1. To further develop primary and secondary PANOC prevention services in SWSAHS.
2. To promote interagency cooperation and collaboration in Child Protection across SWSAHS.
3. To develop local policies and protocols and facilitate their implementation in all Sectors across SWSAHS.
4. To provide appropriate training for all SWSAHS staff who come into contact with children, young people and/or families.
5. To further develop tertiary PANOC prevention services across SWSAHS.
6. To evaluate PANOC services across SWSAHS.

All objectives and strategies outlined on pages 18 to 27 relate to these six sub-goals
