

PAEDIATRIC, CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

CHAPTER 4

SWSAHS has the largest number of children of any Area Health Service in NSW. Indeed, 1 in 7.5 children in NSW live in SWS. In 2001, 40% of the SWSAHS population was aged less than 25 years and 25% were aged less than 15 years. (For a discussion on Neonatal and newborn services see Chapter 3).

Paediatric inpatient units are located at five hospitals in SWSAHS: Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown and Bowral, with a small caseload at Camden Hospital. SWSAHS is a leader in developing paediatric ambulatory / nursing outreach services in NSW, with four services established at Fairfield, Liverpool, Macarthur and Bowral. Other services that deliver paediatric care in SWSAHS include Families First, Karitane, Youth Health, Child Protection, Child Development and Disability Services.

In 2002/03, SWSAHS was 66% self-sufficient in public sector medical paediatric inpatient services, providing a total of 9,219 separations and 19,468 beddays. The majority of inpatients, 80%, are admitted from a local Emergency Department (ED), where paediatric caseloads comprise 26% of total ED presentations in the Area (range 22% Bankstown to 35% Campbelltown).

Most resident outflows were to The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, which together cared for 28% of paediatric medicine separations by SWSAHS residents in 2002/03. The majority of outflows were from Bankstown LGA (28%), Fairfield LGA (22%) and Liverpool LGA (21%). SWSAHS participates in a number of networking activities through both the Greater Eastern and Southern Child Health Network and the Greater Western Child Health Network. The private sector provided 6% of paediatric medical inpatient total demand by SWS residents in 2002/03.

At a planned occupancy of 85% and assuming no change in flows, it is projected that paediatric medical services in SWSAHS Hospitals will decrease by 7% to 2006, with a decline of 3% to 2011. However service planning must recognise the significant seasonal variations that occur in Paediatric services, with very high occupancies in the winter months and with lower occupancies in the summer.

Current Services Provision

Bankstown Hospital

The level 4-paediatric service has 20 beds and four VMO paediatricians. In 2002/03, there were 1,456 paediatric medical separations, including 13% day only, occupying 3,249 beddays at an average LOS of 2.2 days.

Fairfield Hospital

The level 4 paediatric service has 12 beds, with four VMO paediatricians and works closely with the local Paediatric Outreach Service (POS) and Community Paediatrician. Part of the role of the Community Paediatrician at Fairfield is to review the medical records of all paediatric presentations to the ED and arrange follow-up if necessary. In 2002/03, there were 1,273 paediatric medical separations, including 19% day only, occupying 2,407 beddays at an average LOS of 1.9 days.

Liverpool Hospital

The level 5 paediatric service has a 25-bed ward, with one Staff Specialist and four VMO paediatricians, and links with the Liverpool Paediatric Ambulatory Care Service (L-PACS). The paediatric service recently won a Baxter 2003 Health Award in the category of Education and Training for 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of Paediatric Asthma Education'. In 2002/03, there were 2,454 paediatric medical separations, including 18% day only, occupying 5,162 beddays at an average LOS of 2.1 days.

Campbelltown Hospital

After the two specialist children's hospitals, Campbelltown Hospital has the largest paediatric inpatient service in metropolitan Sydney. It is a level 5 service with 30 inpatient beds and 10 ambulatory care beds and a paediatric nursing outreach service. There are three staff specialist (2.6 FTE) and three VMO paediatricians. In addition, a paediatrician is employed as part of the Emergency Department staff complement. In 2002/03, there were 3,029 paediatric medical separations, including 16% day only, occupying 7,090 beddays at an average LOS of 2.3 days.

Camden Hospital

Minor day surgery or short ED presentations are seen at Camden Hospital, as the inpatient beds for the sector are at Campbelltown. In 2002/03, there were 315 paediatric medical separations, including 82% day only, occupying 318 beddays at an average LOS of 1.01 days.

Bowral Hospital

In the Yeoman Ward is the level 3 service with 12 inpatient beds. Two VMO paediatricians (1.0 FTE) and GP VMOs provide medical cover. In 2002/03, there were 692 paediatric medical separations, including 22% day only, occupying 1,242 beddays at an average LOS of 1.8 days.

Non-inpatients

SWSAHS is a leader in NSW in the development of paediatric ambulatory / nursing outreach services for children. Fairfield Paediatric Outreach Service was established in 1997, with the other services established in 2001 at Liverpool, Macarthur and Bowral. The four services combined see approximately 4,200 children per annum and facilitate links between home, hospital and ED. The aim is to avoid hospitalisation, where possible, or reduce duration of hospital stay and decrease the frequency of readmissions and repeat presentations to the ED.

Other community and non-inpatient services include:

- **Families First** – A range of Families First services are provided across the Area Health Service. This includes central intake and universal home visiting provided to all parents with new babies in the Area by Child and Family Health Nursing Teams. The Department of Community Paediatrics provides coordination and strategic leadership in consultation and partnership across the Area.
- **Karitane** – currently provides one secondary level Family Care Centre in Liverpool, a Perinatal Mood Disorders Mother-Baby Unit at Fairfield and a tertiary level residential Family Care unit at Carramar. Services include residential and day stay, education, health promotion and a range of support services.
- **Family Care Cottages** - secondary services provided in most SWSAHS LGAs providing education, support and counseling services to new parents of infant children. These include Bankstown, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Fairfield. A service has yet to develop in Wingecarribee.

- **Infant and Child Hearing Services** - providing universal screening of all infants and early childhood and school audiometry in all areas. The Department of Paediatrics provides Area coordination.
- **School Health/Screening Services**- provided by sector Primary health Nurses and Child and Family Health Teams. Children are screened for basic health problems. Health Promoting Schools and School-Link also provide school health services.
- **Youth Health** - primary and secondary prevention, promotion, support, counseling and selected treatment/referral services for youth are located in Bankstown (the Corner), Fairfield/Liverpool (FLYHT), and Campbelltown (Traxside). A full Adolescent Service incorporating an inpatient unit with an adolescent staff specialist linked to non-inpatient and community services is planned for Macarthur as a lead service for SWSAHS.
- **Child Protection** - Area secondary and tertiary medical and social work services for children who are at-risk or who have been physically abused is provided at Liverpool in a network with community health-based services and all SWSAHS Paediatricians. Across the Area antenatal screening to identify at-risk and vulnerable families is implemented. This universal psychosocial screening is designed to help identify child protection related concerns such as domestic violence and parental drug usage. Changes in reporting requirements have increased workloads in child protection considerably. The Area Department of Community Paediatrics provides coordination.
- **Child Development and Disability** - Services include allied health services, the Area Developmental Paediatrician and Registrar. Services are predominately provided to mild and moderately disabled children and their parents/carers. More severely disabled children who are under school age are also seen in specialist Paediatric Allied Health services such as Campbelltown Hospital. The Department of Community Paediatrics provides support.
- **Family and Child Health Services in Community Health/ Allied Health** - provide child health prevention, health promotion, support, and treatment services in each health service. Limited services for school-aged children are provided in community health. New models of working with this age group are being explored in some areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish an Area Paediatric Service led by a Director/Clinical Academic.
- Inpatient care be provided with 24-hour registrar cover at Liverpool, Campbelltown and Bankstown Hospitals. This will be achieved through continued participation with both the Greater Western Child Health Network and the Greater Eastern and Southern Child Health Network.
- Fairfield Hospital provide a paediatric Emergency Medicine Unit (EMU) adjacent to the Emergency Department networked with Liverpool Hospital. Paediatric medical cover for Fairfield to be enhanced in line with obstetric service requirements.
- Bankstown Hospital establish a paediatric ambulatory service and appoint a staff specialist cross-appointed with Canterbury Hospital to build networks between the two hospitals.
- Area paediatric ambulatory services will work towards 7 days per week coverage.
- Paediatric and adolescent community based services be enhanced across the Area.