
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AREA PARTNERSHIP WESTERN MELBOURNE

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Hello and welcome to the December edition of the Western Melbourne Area Partnership newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up-to-date with the work of the Area Partnership, along with what's happening locally and beyond in the collective impact space that relates to our work.

This month, we look at the Most Significant Change technique that a number of partnership members attended training on during November and December, an update on the Laverton Early Years project and information on the launch of Health West's Referral Decision Aid tool.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you enjoy time with family and friends over the festive season and that you remain safe.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Most Significant Change (MSC) technique

The Most Significant Change technique, or MSC, was originally developed by Rick Davies through his work with a savings and credit project in Bangladesh in 1994

(Davies, 1996). The process was later refined by Jess Dart (Dart, 1999) who called it the 'Story Approach' due to the focus on the collection of stories.

MSC is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation. It is participatory because many project stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the data. It is a form of monitoring because it can occur throughout the program cycle and provides information to help people manage the program. It contributes to evaluation because it provides data on impact and outcomes that can be used to help assess the performance of the program as a whole.

MSC is not used as a stand alone tool for monitoring and evaluation for accountability purposes. It is best seen as a very powerful supplementary tool for accountability based systems.

Key elements of the MSC process

- Collect stories of change
- Review and select stories
- Feedback and communicate the results

Essentially, the process involves the collection of significant change (SC) stories emanating from the field level, and the systematic selection of the most significant of these stories by panels of designated stakeholders or staff. The designated staff and stakeholders are initially involved by 'searching' for project impact. Once changes have been captured, various people sit down together, read the stories aloud and have in-depth discussions about the value of these reported changes. When the technique is implemented successfully, whole teams of people begin to focus their attention on program impact, learning occurs through discussion and areas for improvement can be identified.

MSC is now widely used in the international development sector. It can also be found across most Government sectors in Australia and New Zealand including agricultural extension, education, and community health. It is used by small community groups to large corporate organisations. There is an active email group with about 800 members.

Thank you to the Vulnerable Children's Reform Unit for organising and covering the cost of the training for all who attended.

Laverton Early Years Project

The Western Melbourne Children and Youth Area Partnership co chairs, Christine Owen and John Dainutis met with allied health service providers covering Laverton in November to discuss the report that was produced earlier in the year and recommendations.

The next step will be to bring all those interested and involved in the development of the Laverton Early Years project together to discuss and decide on the next steps.

This meeting will occur in February 2018 at the Laverton Hub. If you are interested in participating or want more information please contact Hayley Rose on cyap.western.melbourne@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 8397 0722.

Referral Decision Aid

HealthWest is pleased to share the Referral Decision Aid for children with developmental delays in Melbourne's west (zero to school-aged). This decision aid is the result of efforts to clarify and streamline referral pathways for these children and families and can be used by referrers, so children are referred to an appropriate service.

This decision aid is the result of efforts to clarify and streamline referral pathways for pre-school aged children with developmental delays in Melbourne's west.

You can help to put the Referral Decision Aid into practice by taking three simple steps:

Step 1: Download the Referral Decision Aid

Start using it and share it among your networks. The decision aid is available on the HealthWest website: <http://healthwest.org.au/referral-decision-aid/>

Here you will also find information about its development and use.

Step 2: Provide feedback

We want to know what you think of the referral decision aid, and if it is useful to you. Your feedback will help us improve future versions. Complete a short survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JHDWMFD>

All of the organisations represented in the decision aid contributed to its development and have signed off on the final product. HealthWest extends our thanks to these organisations, as well as to the many individuals and organisations who contributed to the consultations that preceded it.

You are also invited to join us to launch the Referral Decision Aid

- Hear from Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) Vic and the Association for Children with a Disability.
- Take part in a panel Q&A session as we consider NDIS and changes in our region in 2018.
- Afternoon tea will also be provided.

When: 3—4:30 pm on Wednesday 13th December

Where: Program Room 1, Newport Community Hub, 13 Mason St, Newport

RSVP: via the [event registration page](#).

More info: Referral decision aid, user information and a feedback survey available here. Queries can be directed to Mindy Allott on 9248 9658 or mindy.allott@healthwest.org.au.

Articles for next newsletter:

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the Western Melbourne Children and Youth Area Partnership Newsletter to:

cyap.western.melbourne@edumail.vic.gov.au

All articles due by 15 February 2018.

