College of Child and Youth Nurses, NZNO monthly news bulletin
Friday 6 January 2017

MSD - Children, Young Persons and their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Bill

The second tranche of the vulnerable children/ CYFs reform legislation – Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) has been introduced.

This omnibus Bill covers a wide range of legislative reforms to establish the statutory framework for the new operating model for the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki. It includes changed provisions for children with disabilities; information sharing; youth justice; statutory responsibilities for child workers, etc.

NZNO is seeking members’ feedback on this new legislation. In particular, we ask you to consider your own working environment and how this new legislation might operate in your current practice situation.

An overview of the Bill is available here: and more detail and context is provided in the Departmental disclosure statement:

Feedback Due: Please send feedback to MarilynH@nzno.org.nz by 31 January 2017.

Adolescent health

The following articles is not freely available in full text but should be available via a DHB library, the NZNO library or resources offered through an academic library readers may have access to. Check databases such as CINAHL or Proquest.

Supporting young people's transition from children's to adult services in the community

Chloe McCallum


Read abstract here

Autism and Aspergers. As children with autism age, services to help with transition needed

One in 45 children is diagnosed with autism. As these children age, experiences such as leaving school, finding jobs and living alone can be stressful for adolescents with autism as well as their caregivers. Researchers have conducted the first study analyzing the perspectives of adolescents with autism to identify challenges as they “age out” of services. The researchers say these findings highlight the need for social workers and providers to assist children with autism as they transition to adulthood.

Read more here
Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) among children and young people with type 1 diabetes


This fact sheet provides the most recent available data on hospitalisations for diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) in Australia, based on data from the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Although DKA can occur in older people with type 1 diabetes and in those with type 2 diabetes, this fact sheet focuses on children (0–14 years) and young people (15–24 years) with type 1 diabetes.

Read more here

Evaluation of SPARX

This evaluation report looks at the SPARX (Smart, Positive, Active, Realistic, X-factor thoughts) e-therapy programme. It is designed to help young people aged 12 to 19 years who have mild to moderate depression.

Read more here

What comes before new-onset major depressive disorder in kids, teens?

Early-onset major depressive disorder (MDD) is common in individuals with a family risk of depression. So what signs or symptoms might precede that initial onset of MDD during adolescence among a high-risk group of children with depressed parents?

Read more here

Working with young people with complex mental health issues

Understanding and responding to emerging personality disorder, trauma history, self-harm and suicidal behaviour and difficulties with identity, emotions and relationships

Read more here

I am whole: A report investigating the stigma faced by young people experiencing mental health difficulties

“This report seeks to get under the surface and understand the real experiences of those with mental health difficulties. This is done by examining the prevalence of this stigma, who is experiencing it and how they are doing so, the impact of this stigma, and the potential solutions that the young people themselves have identified.” Source: YMCA

Read more here

Obesity, sugar and weight management

Clinical Guidelines for Weight Management in New Zealand Children and Young People

This publication provides updated clinical guidance for primary health care practitioners and others who provide advice on weight management for New Zealand children and young people aged 2 to 18 years.

The Guidelines follow a four-stage process: monitor, assess, manage, and maintain. The key components of management are FAB: Food and drink, Activity (including reducing sedentary time, and supporting sufficient sleep), and Behavioural strategies.
School nursing

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‘Best-placed?’ School nursing services' role in providing early mental health interventions
Maya Motamedi
British Journal of School Nursing, Vol. 11, No. 10: 510-514
Read abstract here

Is there a role for a primary health nurse in a learning support team in a disadvantaged high school? Evaluation of a pilot study
Sarah Dennis, Ted Noon and Siaw Teng Liaw
Australian Journal of Primary Health - Volume 22(6) 2016
Disadvantaged children experience more health problems and have poorer educational outcomes compared with students from advantaged backgrounds. This paper presents the quantitative and qualitative findings from a pilot study to determine the impact of the Healthy Learner model, where an experienced primary care nurse was embedded in a learning support team in a disadvantaged high school. Students entering high school with National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) scores in the lowest quartile for the school were assessed by the nurse and identified health issues addressed. Thirty-nine students were assessed in 2012–13 and there were up to seven health problems identified per student, ranging from serious neglect to problems such as uncorrected vision or hearing. Many of these problems were having an impact on the student and their ability to engage in learning. Families struggled to navigate the health system, they had difficulty explaining the student’s problems to health professionals and costs were a barrier. Adding a nurse to the learning support team in this disadvantaged high school was feasible and identified considerable unmet health needs that affect a student’s ability to learn. The families needed extensive support to access any subsequent health care they required.

LGBTQ students are still experiencing high levels of bullying: What can we do?
Ian Peate
British Journal of School Nursing, Vol. 11, No. 10: 480-482.
Read abstract here