

MCaFHNA 2022

Reflection on inaugural conference



MCaFHNA

- Formed in Jan 2021
- National professional organisation for M/CHF Nurses across Australia
- Represents M/CHFN at national forums
 - Coalition of National Nursing & Midwifery Organizations
 - ARACY
 - National Community Child Health Council

MCaFHNA

Purpose:

To promote and advocate for optimal health and wellbeing of Young Children and their families in their communities through the specialty of maternal, child and family health nursing.

1. **Leadership** – influencing high quality nursing practice
2. **Advocacy** - Actively seeking opportunities to promote the work of the profession of maternal, child and family health nursing.
3. **National Representation** - Representing a national view in its discussions, development of policy and all matters related to the wellbeing of children and their parents.
4. **Professional Development** – promoting and facilitating professional education and learning, and networking opportunities for Members



Maternal Child and Family
Health Nurses Australia

MCaFHNA 2022 Conference

EVOLUTION

Evidence, Practice & Innovation

- National Convention Centre Canberra
- www.mcafhna2022.com.au

1-3
Sept
2022



Why

- To explore current and emerging evidence and research and how it can influence and advance our practice
- To reflect and respond to the impact of change
- COVID has challenged health professionals to rethink services in both a virtual and face to face environment



Key note speakers

Anne Hollonds – Voice of the child when making policy

Prof Cath Chamberlain - Healing the past by nurturing the future.

Panel discussion – Kerry Arabena, Ruth DeSouza, Cath Chamberlain and Jessica Gatti

Prof Harriet Hiscock - Telehealth from the parent's perspective

Prof Philip Britton – Impact of COVID on young children



Key note speakers

Professor Mary Chiarella - As nurses be confident in using our voices to advocate

Prof Jantina Clifford - Early developmental screening

Prof Julian Grant – Why we need to build a body of knowledge

Concurrent Sessions

- 130 applications
- 36 presenters
- 80 posters



Feedback

"The opportunity to attend the conference was very appreciated and meeting up with other MCH nurses from all over Australia was fun and confirmed we are all essentially doing the same work in supporting babies, children, mothers, fathers, parents and families."

"We heard about many programs providing exemplary care and we also learnt of the many gaps, the breakdown of many systems within our current model of health care provision."

"It is evident as nurses are adaptable and beginning to value what we do in support of the health and well-being of the families in our community, we are often the glue that brings all other services together for families, we keep things simple and relatable, we know what is needed."

Reflections

- Hybrid conferences work
- Important forum for presenting, debating and sharing practice knowledge as we build our body of knowledge
- National perspective is important
- Sponsors are important
- The gala dinner was a highlight!!!



Conference 2024

We look forward
to seeing you
in 2024