



***Transition Care Program
for young people with chronic illness /disability***

Adolescence can be a turbulent time for any young person but even more daunting if you have the added stress of having to cope with a chronic illness or disability. The Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce (GMCT) Transition Care Program aims to improve continuity of care for young people with chronic health as they move from paediatric to adult health services. GMCT is funded by NSW Health.

Program Manager (Lynne Brodie) leads a team of 3 Transition Coordinators who are based at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and Westmead Hospital. These hospitals are affiliated with the 3 tertiary children's hospitals (John Hunter Children's Hospital, Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick and Children's Hospital Westmead). The Program extends across all Area Health Services in NSW.

Current initiatives:

- Collection of data about the number and profile of young people who are currently using paediatric services, those that are planning to move to adult services and those who have recently made the move
- Identification of gaps in transition services
- Development of a transition website www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/transition
- Working groups to look at specific needs of some of the larger chronic illness groups such as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, developmental disability and diabetes.
- Establishment of a state-wide databank to track young people as they move from child to adult services
- Collaborating with clinicians, young people and their families to determine what processes and resources are needed to bridge the gaps
- Provision of resources for clinicians such as fact sheets and checklists which they can adapt to suit their clients' specific needs

What's planned next;

- Evaluation of outcomes and planning for future service needs.
- A project to look at workforce needs
- A mental health transition project base in the Illawarra
- More youth and parent forums to discuss issues of concern to young people and their families

More information needed?

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