

# Presentation Abstracts

## Theme 4: Collaboration in paediatric allied health

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**Abstract title:**        *Interdisciplinary Paediatric Feeding Clinic: How did we get there?*

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**Introduction:** In late 2014 an interdisciplinary paediatric feeding clinic was established by clinicians at South West Healthcare. This was in response to an overwhelming patient experience which identified gaps in collaborative practice and communication between services.

**Objective:**

- To combine the knowledge and experience of the dietetics, social work and speech pathology professions to improve patient centred care for regional children with feeding difficulties.

**Methods / Approach:** The concept of an outpatient clinic for regional children with feeding difficulties was presented to management and formally approved for implementation. The interdisciplinary clinic was then developed by the clinicians within existing funding constraints and workloads. Promotion of the clinic was targeted at local maternal child health nurses and paediatricians.

**Results / Practice Implication:** The clinic operates weekly, offering one new and one review appointment. Clients attend one interdisciplinary appointment resulting in better coordination of services, reduced waiting times and improved communication between clinicians and regional services. An initial influx of referrals was received resulting in refinement to the clinic eligibility criteria. In the past twelve months the clinic received over 40 new referrals.

**Conclusion:** In its first year, the clinic has proven to be a highly valued and sustainable service of South West Healthcare and the region. The structure of the clinic allows for ongoing evolution of services in response to client needs.

### Biography

Jayne has been employed as a paediatric social worker at South West Healthcare for the last 3 years. She has previously worked in other settings including mental health, child protection and community development. Jayne has a particular interest in supporting children and their families to navigate and negotiate the healthcare system and facilitate patient centered care.