



# Department of Developmental Medicine

ERIC 06/22/07 Jan. 2007

## Prader-Willi clinic

The department coordinates this multidisciplinary clinic for children with Prader-Willi syndrome and their families. This clinic includes developmental paediatricians, an endocrinologist, a clinical geneticist, a social worker, a dietician and a clinic coordinator. As well as individual consultations, there are regular educational sessions and peer activities.

## Rett syndrome clinic

The aim of this clinic is to give families of girls with Rett syndrome an opportunity for a multidisciplinary assessment. The clinic has a paediatrician, a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist, with additional input from dietetics, genetics and orthopaedics when necessary. Bookings can be made on 9345 6558.

## Saliva control clinic

The saliva control clinic assesses and advises about treatment and management for children and adolescents for whom dribbling/drooling is a problem. A team consisting of a paediatrician, a plastic surgeon, a speech pathologist, a dentist and the clinic coordinator sees the child and his/her family.

## Spina bifida clinic

The spina bifida clinic coordinates the medical care of children with spina bifida, and provides support and liaison for integrating children into the wider community. This is a multidisciplinary team that includes paediatricians, surgeons, stomal therapists, physiotherapists, neuropsychologists and occupational therapists.

## Uncle Bobs Child Development Centre

The Uncle Bobs Child Development Centre is a family-centred early childhood intervention service that provides a range of integrated therapy, educational activities, family support and programs for children (0–6 years) with developmental delay and disabilities. Programs include:

- Early childhood intervention for children 0–3 years of age
- Early childhood intervention programs for children 3–6 years of age (this includes specialised programs for children with autism spectrum disorders)
- Family support programs
- Outreach support in the community, such as childcare and kindergarten.

## Education and teaching

### Programs are provided for:

- Parents and caregivers
- Students
- Health professionals
- Teachers.

## Research

Research is an important activity of the department. Our aim is to learn more about causes and improve the care of children with developmental problems. Our research program has been named 'Solve! At the RCH'.

## Other resources

- Booklets with translations to common languages
- Evening education program for parents and caregivers.

## Contact details

### Department of Developmental Medicine

The Royal Children's Hospital  
Ground floor, main building

Telephone (03) 9345 5898

Fax (03) 9345 5871

Email [dev.med@rch.org.au](mailto:dev.med@rch.org.au)

Website [www.rch.org.au/devmed](http://www.rch.org.au/devmed)

Hours 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Monday to Friday



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Ultimate Challenge Auxiliary





The Department of Developmental Medicine promotes the highest standards of care for children with developmental disabilities and their families in the hospital and in the community.

**We provide care for children with:**

- Developmental delay
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Intellectual disability
- Other developmental and long-term disabilities.

Services provided by the Department of Developmental Medicine include assessment, management, consultation, liaison/outreach, advocacy, education and research.

**The team**

A multidisciplinary approach is offered by our members of staff which includes:

- Clinical nurse consultants
- Psychologists
- Office manager/secretary
- Research assistants
- Paediatricians
- Social workers
- Paediatric neurologist
- Special education teachers and assistants
- Occupational therapists
- Speech pathologists.
- Physiotherapists



**Clinical services**

- Inpatient care
- Paediatric medical clinics
- Cerebral palsy clinic
- Stomal therapy
- Complex movement disorders program
- Prader-Willi clinic
- Contenance program
- Rett syndrome clinic
- Developmental assessment
- Saliva control clinic
- Dysphagia clinic
- Spina bifida clinic
- Outreach clinics
- Uncle Bobs Child Development Centre

**Inpatient care**

Some children require inpatient care. Consultation and support is provided along with planning for admission to hospital and discharge home.

**Cerebral palsy clinic**

This is a specialised clinic for the medical management of cerebral palsy and the provision of support for children and their families.

**Complex movement disorders**

The Department collaborates with physiotherapy, neurosciences, occupational therapy, orthopaedic surgery and the rehabilitation program to conduct this service. Children with complex movement problems, for example, severe spasticity being considered for intrathecal baclofen, are discussed and treatment programs are initiated in conjunction with families and their community-based clinical team.

**Contenance program**

Bladder and bowel control can be quite common concerns amongst school-age children with or without a disability. The service aims to enhance the independence and quality of life of children and young people with a disability where there are continence needs. Families are assisted to manage their child's incontinence through a comprehensive assessment with appropriate suggestions for intervention.

**Developmental assessment**

For babies and preschool children with physical disabilities and/or developmental delay or disorders.

Team members can provide:

- Multidisciplinary assessment
- Ongoing management
- Liaison/organisation of local services.

Strong emphasis is placed on inclusion into local communities and parental participation in the decision-making process.

**Dysphagia clinic**

This clinic is run jointly with the Department of Speech Pathology. Children with swallowing and eating problems are assessed and their families are given advice about investigations and management.

**Outreach clinics**

Clinics are held at Belmore, Balwyn, Glenroy, Glen Waverley, Sale and Warragul, in conjunction with Yooralla, Scope (Victoria) and the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre. The department has close links with these organisations.

**Paediatric medical clinics**

Developmental paediatricians provide assessment and ongoing care for children with developmental disabilities. A paediatric neurologist is part of the team. Consultation with local paediatricians, general practitioners and other service providers is an important part of our service.

**Stomal therapy**

Stomal therapists provide advice about urinary and faecal stomas, gastrostomies and wound management throughout the hospital and in community settings.

