

Position Description

Title:	GP Consultant
Department:	Kids Connect (RCH Primary Care Liaison) Quality and Improvement
Classification:	Medical Officers EBA
Responsible to:	Executive Director Medical Services
Hours of work:	Flexible; up to 10 hours per week
Contract:	Contract subject to DHS funding and for review annually

The Organisation

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne is a leading provider of specialist public health services for children and adolescents. The RCH was re-established as a separate organisation from July 2004 following the disaggregation of the former Women's and Children's Health Service.

With a staff of over 3,500 and an annual operating budget of \$210m the RCH has an international reputation as a centre of clinical excellence and is a state-wide teaching, training and research paediatric hospital providing tertiary, secondary and primary infant, child and adolescent health services.

The RCH is committed to a philosophy and practice of quality management to ensure the best possible services to patients. This entails an organisational structure which:

- Devolves decision making and accountability, within clearly defined delegations, to patient care providers as close as possible to the consumer
- Encourages and supports teamwork and coordination amongst staff
- Develops the participation of consumers and workers in the planning and evaluation processes.

The RCH has a variety of research and academic partners including Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), The University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and RMIT University for teaching medical and postgraduate nursing students and for postgraduate study and medical research.

Further information on the RCH is available at www.rch.org.au.

Kids Connect vision

Kids Connect is the RCH Primary Care Liaison program. The vision of Kids Connect is to build effective partnerships between the RCH and community healthcare providers (GPs, paediatricians, others) for safer and better quality paediatric healthcare across Victoria. Kids Connect supports each of the RCH strategic goals at the interface between the hospital and community care. See:

<http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/>

Position purpose

The GP Consultant, in conjunction with the Program Manager, will contribute to strategic developments for improved partnerships and communication between community healthcare providers and the RCH. Community healthcare providers include General Practitioners, Paediatricians and the broader community healthcare network.

The role will include planning and implementing initiatives that will:

- Improve coordination of services
- Increase timely exchange of clinical information
- Provide professional development for general practice and
- Reduce the need for acute care.

The GP Consultant will have a strong advocacy and representative role for general practice within the RCH and for the RCH within general practice.

Key responsibilities

- Advise and assist RCH on strategies to improve communication and partnerships between the RCH and general practice. This includes evaluation and support of implemented strategies.
- Bring the GP perspective to clinical services policy and planning at the RCH, in particular regarding healthcare provision at the interface between hospital and community.
- Participate in relevant planning forums for the new RCH.
- Active membership in key relevant committees pertaining to the hospital-community care interface (for example Outpatients Steering Committee).
- Consult with RCH clinical units and services regarding hospital-community care interface issues.
- Help raise the profile of general practice within the RCH.
- Work in partnership with the program manager to develop and deliver on the strategic plan and actions of the Kids Connect program.

Key Performance Indicators

- Demonstrated effective consultation and collaboration with all relevant internal and external stakeholders.
- RCH service planning and implementation includes the general practice perspective.
- Successful implementation of the Kids Connect strategic plan 2007-2010.

Key selection criteria

The innovative nature of the program demands a diverse range of skills, flexibility and the ability to work across several different and changing areas of activity.

(i) Essential

- Experienced and currently practicing local GP, registered with the MPBV and with a paediatric patient base.
- Practicing within one of the top referring urban or rural/regional Divisions of General Practice for the RCH
(MGPN, PivotWest, Westgate, North East Valley, North West Melbourne, Northern; or Central Highlands, Goulburn Valley, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Otway).
- Broad understanding of issues relating to the hospital-community care interface.
- Interest in health system reform and sound understanding of the primary care sector including policy and planning for general practice, community and hospital based healthcare.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills – proven ability to develop rapport and collaborate effectively with stakeholders and staff of all levels.
- Experience in system improvement processes, project or program planning and implementation.
- Well organised, with personal initiative and motivation.
- General computer competency including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook).

(ii) Desirable

- Experience in health services strategic planning.
- Post-graduate qualifications in health services management and/or other relevant experience.
- Be an active member of a top referring Division of General Practice (see above).
- Experience with evaluation and data analysis.
- Demonstrated ability in developing and/or providing education (ie in communication skills).

Organisational relationships

The GP Consultant will work in the *Partnerships* stream in Quality and Improvement, based at the RCH. They will work in partnership with the Kids Connect Program Manager and report to the Executive Director of Medicine.

Kids Connect has two external advisory groups (urban and rural/regional). The direction of Kids Connect is led by the 2007-2010 Kids Connect Strategic Plan, developed according to the identified needs of the RCH, in consultation with the Advisory Groups and underpinned by the Department of Human Services (DHS) framework for GP Liaison. The program is funded by the DHS until 2010 and as such provides an annual report to the Department and works within the Department priority guidelines.

Developed:	June 2008
Developed by:	Kids Connect Program Manager Quality & Improvement Department
Date of next review:	June 2009
