Nursery Equipment Program, Scholarships, and Updated MCH Guidelines

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MCH Nursery Equipment Program

• Formerly the Enhanced Brokergage Service
• Established to provide safe nursery equipment for vulnerable Victorian families.
• The program is open to all clients of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service, both universal and enhanced, who meet the eligibility criteria.
• The program can supply cots & mattresses, car seats, booster seats, high chairs and prams (single or double).

Targeted at:
• families where a safety concern has been identified by an MCH nurse
• families who present with risk factors such as unemployment, low household income, disability, drug, alcohol or mental health issues
MCH Nursery Equipment Program

Eligibility criteria:

- have a child under the age of 12 months enrolled in the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Service
- not be a recipient of any other government funding that can be used to purchase nursery equipment, e.g. from Child Protection
- have an identified safety concern that requires the purchase of new equipment
- have low income, mental health issues, drug or alcohol dependency or family violence issues, which adversely impact their ability to provide safe nursery equipment.

Eligibility criteria (continued):

- Low income eligibility is demonstrated by possession of a concession card, including a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card, or a Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785 or 786, Asylum Seeker Bridging Visa A-F, or Refugee and Special Humanitarian Visa 200-217.
- Clients with mental health issues, family violence issues, drug or alcohol dependency are required to be a client of the Enhanced MCH service with these issues recorded in their case notes.

Ordering:

Two step process to protect confidential client information

1. Complete client information on IRIS
2. Complete ordering and delivery information on EACH web portal

Email and fax services will be available for MCH centres without internet access.
MCH Nursery Equipment Program

Installation – CAR SEATS:
• Car seats must be installed by a recognised Restraint Fitting Station (Baby Bunting or other nearest)

Installation – COTS:
• Cots should be installed by a local government recognised service provider, according to assembly instructions.
  — Refer to council’s HACC home maintenance service
  — Refer to contractor list used by council’s home maintenance service
  — Refer to agency which provides HACC home maintenance (if not provided through local government).
• All costs associated with installation (car seats and cots) will be invoiced to EACH

MCH Nursery Equipment Program

• A letter has been sent to all CEOs, FCSM and MCH Coordinators via MAV with an outline of the program (Jan 2011)
• MAV are contacting HACC services with information about cot assembly
• EACH will distribute usernames and passwords via email within the next week
• Guidelines will be distributed within the next 2 weeks
• Start date within the next 2 weeks

Post-Graduate MCH Nursing Scholarships

Maternal and Child Health scholarships are open to people registered as both nurses and midwives who wish to undertake further post-graduate training in Maternal and Child Health nursing.

The scholarship provides $3,500 for course fees and related costs.

Allocation of the scholarships focuses on High Priority Councils, chosen based on significant workforce shortages.
Post-Graduate MCH Nursing Scholarships

From the scholarship program’s inception in 2004 until 2010, 15 scholarships were made available each year.

In 2011, DEECD increased that number and offered scholarships to 23 nurses to support them in their educational pursuits.

Congratulations to the 2011 recipients and best of luck to them for their studies.

Maternal and Child Health Guidelines

Updated Maternal and Child Health Guidelines have been approved and will replace the Maternal and Child Health Resource Guide September 2006.

Updated and new topics include:
- Key Ages and Stages Activity Framework
- Healthy Kids Check (4 year-old GP check)
- Continuity of Care communication protocol
- MCH Key Ages and Stages participation rates
- Using MCH Service and the Child Health Record for children in out-of-home care
- Responding to concerns about children or young people
- Child abuse and neglect

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The guidelines are available as a booklet and a PDF file on our website: www.education.vic.gov.au/mchservic