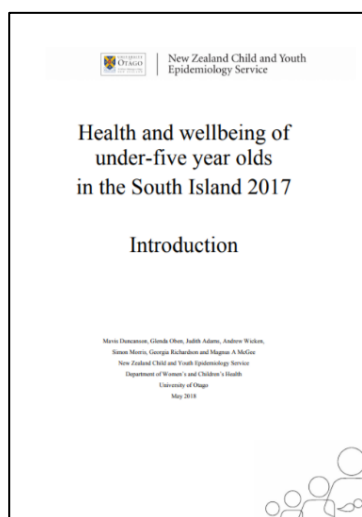


Child Health

An update from the South Island Child Health Service Level Alliance
August 2018



Health and wellbeing of under-five year olds in the South Island 2017



The latest report from the New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service is now available.

[Health and wellbeing of under-five year olds in the South Island 2017](#)

Since 2011 the South Island Child Health Alliance has commissioned the New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service (NZCYES) at the University of Otago to undertake annual reports that provide data and information to contribute to the effective planning and funding of services to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of New Zealand children in their earliest years.

Mavis Duncanson from NZCYES will be invited to present at the Child Health SLA November meeting to discuss commonalities and discrepancies across the South Island.

First 1000 days and infant mental health

Dr Clare Doocey, chair of the Child Health SLA attended the South Island Mental Health and Addictions Forum on 23 August and the Alliance Operational Group meeting on 3 September to discuss our focus on infant mental health. In particular, the opportunity to reach children early who would otherwise become 'million dollar kids'.

There is a crossover between our Child Health SLA priorities and the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee, so we will be exploring ways to work together and also identifying equity issues in this area.

SUDI Regional Plan

Ann Shaw, South Island SUDI Prevention Programme Coordinator, spoke to the South Island SUDI plan, which was submitted to the Ministry of Health on 20 July.

Key areas of focus continue to be access to smoking cessation during pregnancy/smoke free whānau after baby is born; provision of sleep spaces (wahakura or pepi pod) for babies identified as having SUDI risk factors; access to breastfeeding support services; early engagement with a lead maternity carer (LMC); access to and engagement with pregnancy and parenting education; and workforce development.



*This update is published by the South Island Child Health Service Level Alliance.
For more information, visit: www.sialliance.health.nz/our-priorities/child-health*