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Poster Presentation

AIC-HHC 2013: Analytical Report: Nurses Home Visiting and The Social Determinant of Health

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Introduction

The nurse home visiting program is part of primary health care program committed to close the gap in health status. This program is built based on a population health approach with particular emphasis on the preventive rather than the curative. The overall goal of a population health approach is to maintain and improve the health of the entire population and to reduce inequalities in health between population groups. The aims of this study was to explain how the nurse home visiting program addresses the social determinant of health.

Method Literature search was utilized electronic searches from data bases including CINAHL, PubMed, and Scopus using related search terms. Research papers from 1998 - 2013 were selected and studied to find consistent and contrasting views.

Results: Several studies identified issues related to nurse home visiting and the social determinant of health, most studies reported that in summary, nurse home visiting program is an approach to health that emphasises equity, community participation, and accessibility of services and the importance of addressing the determinants of health of both individuals and communities. Nurse home visiting allows child and family health nurses to assess the risk of child maltreatment and neglect. Home visiting program also provide the link between the families with others government services such as housing department and health and education department. The home visiting program also provides the link to social workers and psychologists as the complement for work of the nurses by bringing a psychosocial approach to family issues. This, in conjunction with the health focus of the nurse, provides a more holistic service and ensures that the needs of families are addressed at several different levels.

Conclusion By far family home visiting program in Australia is an effective program to support parents in caring their children. However, it needs to be evaluated and updated so that the program will be equivalent with the development and the challenges from the community.

Key words: Home visiting, the social determinant of health