Safer Care for Kids

Clinician and Health Sector Expression of Interest

OFFICIAL

Expression of interest (EOI) for Victorian healthcare workers to be a part of an expert working group (EWG) for our Safer Care for Kids project. The project will seek to address the following recommendations for paediatric patients and their families when accessing Victorian health services:

# Mandate the use of Victorian Children’s Tool for Observation and Response (ViCTOR) by all clinicians wherever children and young people have vital signs recorded.

# Implement a virtual paediatric emergency consultation system with the right infrastructure, including training and quality assurance, video links to clinicians with paediatric expertise, and retrieval services.

# Design a centralised parental and carer escalation process.

# About the project

## Project background

In late 2022, Safer Care Victoria (SCV) hosted a round table consultation with over 110 clinicians, consumers and managers to identify reasons for potential harm occurring to paediatric patients in the Victorian health sector. Following this consultation, recommendations were devised and endorsed by the Minister for Health to improve the safety of paediatric patient care in acute health services in Victoria.

To improve the safety of paediatric care in the Victorian health system, SCV will partner with lived-experience consumers, clinicians and health services to explore and understand:

* the experiences of patients and families accessing health services in communicating concerns about clinical or cognitive deterioration
* the experiences of clinicians and health services in receiving and responding to patient, family and/or carer concerns relating to clinical or cognitive deterioration
* the use of the ViCTOR observation charts in a variety of settings
* how the use of ViCTOR observation charts can be monitored across Victoria
* existing escalation of care processes in health services
* to improve 24/7 access to expert paediatric care in all health services irrespective of the health service attended

We will also co-design a system where patients and families can escalate care concerns and receive an independent medical or psychiatric review.

## Aim

To improve the safety of care for children accessing Victorian health services by partnering with consumers, clinicians and health services to avoid preventable harm to paediatric patients.

## Membership

The expert working group will comprise a maximum of 20 health sector staff with experience in caring for paediatric patients across Victoria. Members will represent a range of disciplines (including emergency transport, medical, nursing, allied health, patient flow, quality and safety staff). Members will be required to participate in two online workshops in October 2023. Representation will come from a range of rural, regional and metropolitan locations in Victoria.

## Who should apply?

We are seeking acute healthcare workers who:

* possess relevant experience treating paediatric patients (private, public, metro, regional, rural, AV)
* are passionate about improving healthcare delivery
* are committed to working collaboratively with consumers and clinicians
* may have developed and/or implemented escalation of care pathways
* challenge the norm, tell it like it is, can commit to bringing their whole selves and accept nothing less than excellence – some of our key values
* come from diverse experiences/backgrounds.

## Why apply?

Please apply if you would like to:

* share your stories and experiences to inform improvement work in paediatric space
* inform and advocate for change in paediatric healthcare
* make a difference to the Victorian healthcare system.

## How do I apply?

**STEP 1**:

Please ensure you are available for 2 online workshops, conducted via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 5 October and 12 October between 1pm-3pm.

**STEP 2**: Complete this [online form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=H2DgwKwPnESciKEExOufKD349mla5dZJle-V5JWIFMBURDJFMVFYTjlBWFJPUjFVWDVPQ01YMVJDSi4u)

If you are unable to complete the online form, please email [culture.capability@safercare.vic.gov.au](mailto:culture.capability@safercare.vic.gov.au) with the subject line ‘EOI Safer Care for Kids’ and a brief description of why you would like to be involved in the project.

**STEP 3**:

Applications close **5pm on Sunday 24 September 2023**. You will be notified of the outcome of your application via email in the week commencing 25 September 2023.