

## **Objectives/Background**

The Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) Early Links Program aims to enhance the safety, health and wellbeing of pregnant women and their infants by providing a comprehensive early antenatal risk assessment, case planning and referral service. It identifies expectant mothers whose infant may be “at risk” of harm, and aims to ameliorate that risk by linking them with appropriate hospital and community based services.

While the Early Links Program has now been running for around 10 years, almost nothing is known about its effectiveness. In a joint study by FMC and the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) we will examine the service pathway from FMC into this core community-based service for evidence of engagement with those identified as “at risk” by Early Links.

## **Method**

Electronic FMC antenatal and perinatal data will be linked to data extracted from a CaFHS case audit for “at risk” infants born at FMC over a two month period (n~100). Uptake of referrals made through the Early Links program, women’s subsequent engagement with CaFHS services, and the health and safety outcomes of infants, will be examined through to the infant’s 6 month health check.

## **Results/Discussion**

Results will explore: maternal risk profiles; referrals made in the antenatal, perinatal and postnatal periods; initial and sustained service engagement with CaFHS services; and infant health and safety data.

## **Key words**

antenatal, psychosocial screening, early intervention and prevention

## **References**

Psaila K, Fowler C, Kruske S, Schmied V. (2014). A qualitative study of innovations implemented to improve transition of care from maternity to child and family health (CFH) services in Australia. *Women and Birth*, 27:e51-e60.

Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Austin M-P. (2014). The impact of routine assessment of past or current mental health on help-seeking in the perinatal period. *Women and Birth*, e20-e27.