
Women, Children and Families' Service Plan

2025–2035



Central Coast
Local Health District





Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respect to those lands that provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations before us.

We acknowledge and recognise all Aboriginal people who have come from their own country and who have now come to call Darkinjung country their home. We acknowledge our Elders who are our knowledge holders, teachers and leaders.

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter and stronger future and who will be our future leaders.

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Foreword

Women, children and families are at the heart of our community. On the Central Coast, they represent a vibrant and diverse population with unique strengths and needs. At the same time, we face challenges that shape health and wellbeing every day including higher rates of disadvantage, domestic and family violence, potentially preventable hospitalisations, and poorer outcomes for some groups, particularly Aboriginal families and those living in our northern communities.

This Service Plan sets out our shared vision for supporting women, children and families across the Central Coast. It provides a clear direction for delivering care that is safe, accessible, culturally responsive and family centred. The plan builds on the Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) Strategic Plan 2024–2027 and reflects our commitment to strengthening services close to home, reducing avoidable hospital visits, and creating healthier beginnings for children and stronger futures for families.

The development of this plan has been guided by the voices of women, families, staff, community partners and Aboriginal leaders. Their insights and lived experiences have been central to shaping priorities and ensuring the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

With the passion of our workforce and the support of our partners, we are committed to delivering services that truly make a difference ensuring every woman, child and family on the Central Coast has the opportunity to thrive.



Mr Scott McLachlan
Chief Executive
Central Coast Local Health District

Introduction

The Central Coast population is projected to exceed 400,000 by 2041, with growth across all age groups, including a 13% increase in 0–4-year-olds and a 10% increase in 5–15-year-olds. The region has the largest and one of the fastest-growing Aboriginal populations in NSW (6%). High levels of socioeconomic disadvantage reflected in above-average rates of disability, domestic violence, preventable hospitalisations, mortality, single-parent families, and lower education levels are driving increased demand for Women, Children and Families' Health Services.

The closure of the private hospital maternity service has impacted current service demands and will impact future demand for CCLHD Maternity services, with more women anticipated to elect to birth at Gosford Hospital. Given the Central Coast context, there is an opportunity to strengthen and align women, children and families' services to respond to and plan for these future demands, including providing contemporary, future facing models of care that ensure women, children and families receive respectful, equitable care that improves their experience and health and wellbeing.

The CCLHD Women, Children and Families' (WCF) Service Plan is a ten-year plan (2025-2035) that aims to guide health service delivery across acute, outpatients and community settings within CCLHD, while acknowledging key partnerships with other NSW Health entities and external organisations. It seeks

to align with the district's strategic plan and priorities and is guided by state and national frameworks such as the speciality capability frameworks, and the First 2,000 Days. The Plan also aims to proactively respond to anticipated changes to the NDIS, Closing the Gap, Violence Abuse and Neglect policy and other relevant NSW and Commonwealth policy directions.



The region has the largest and one of the fastest-growing Aboriginal populations in NSW



The scope of the plan

The purpose of the plan was to provide key strategic and service directions for Women, Children and Families’ health services for the Central Coast Local Health District for the coming 10-year horizon. Key CCLHD services considered in the plan included: maternity services, child and family/paediatric services, violence abuse and neglect/priority populations services and women’s health services.

Services related to key CCLHD services were also consulted. Services included: Ngiyang Aboriginal pregnancy, child and family health service, paediatric and adult allied health, surgical services and operating theatres for maternity, paediatrics and gynaecology, child and adolescent mental health, perinatal infant mental health, and drug and alcohol services such as substance use in pregnancy and parenting service. Figure 1 outlines that interconnectedness of services that wrap around women, children and families within the CCLHD.

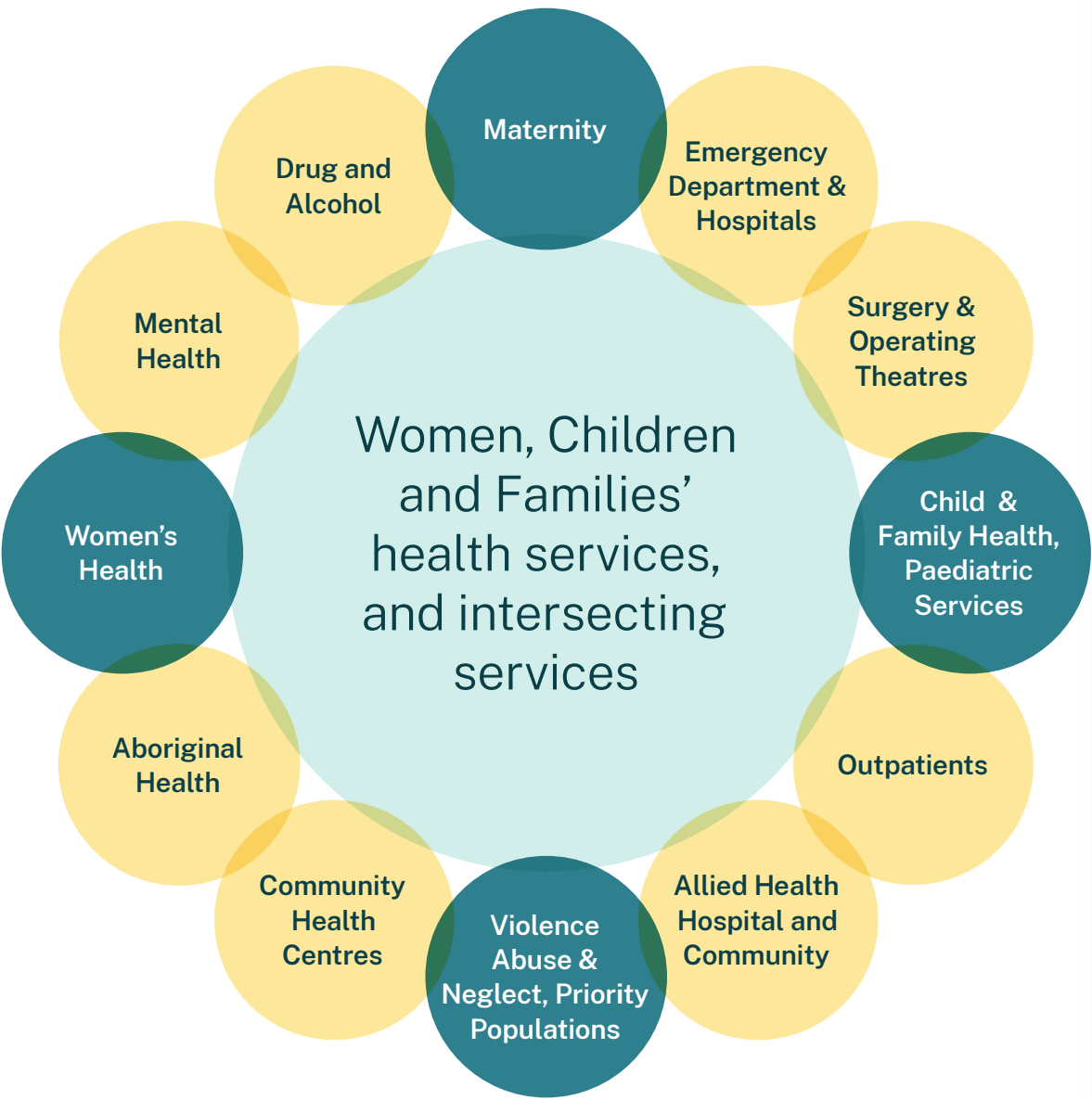
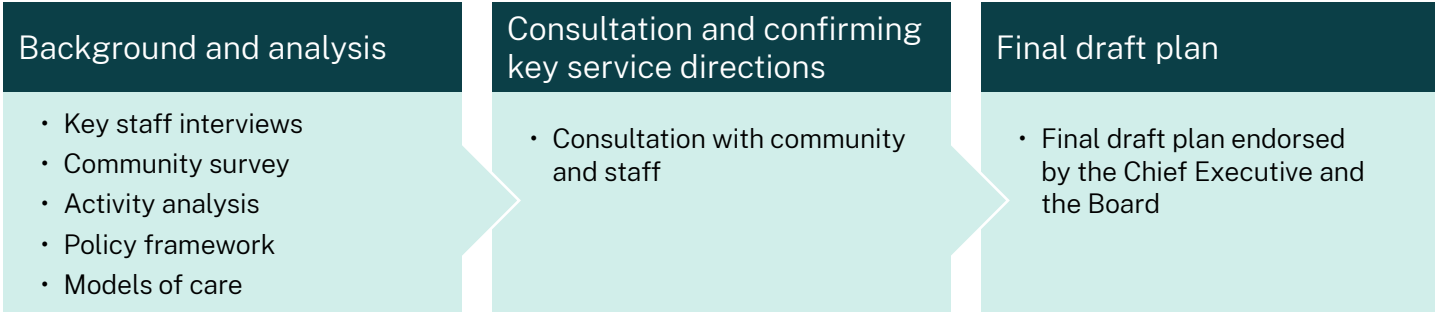


Figure 1: Women, Children and Families’ Health Services in CCLHD, and intersecting services

The planning process

The Plan was informed by comprehensive background analysis, including review of historical and projected activity, population forecasts, policy frameworks, models of care, and both qualitative and quantitative data.



Key staff interviews and community input were integral to shaping the Plan. Extensive engagement was undertaken with stakeholders, including:

- A community survey with more than 900 responses.
- Two community focus groups drawn from survey participants.
- Over 40 individual consultations and five small group meetings with clinicians and managers across Women, Children and Families’, mental health, allied health, and the Ngiyang Aboriginal pregnancy, child and family health service.

- A Women, Children and Families’ workshop with 30 key stakeholders.
- Engagement with the Women, Children and Families’ Managers Group.

Governance was provided through the Women, Children and Families’ Plan 2025–2035 Steering Group and Strategic Planning Group.

CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ health service delivery principles

As part of the consultation process, seven principles were identified as critical elements that guide and support the delivery of women children and families’ health services. These principles are:

- 1 ➤ Early intervention and prevention
- 2 ➤ Culturally supported services
- 3 ➤ Continuity of care
- 4 ➤ Whole experience – whole family – life cycle approach
- 5 ➤ Trauma-informed care and responses
- 6 ➤ Coordinated and integrated care
- 7 ➤ Value-based care

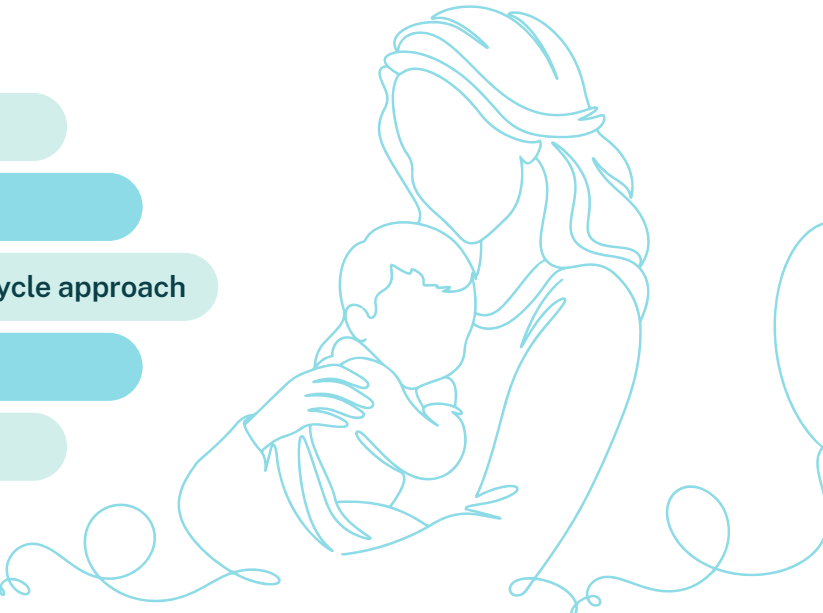


Figure 2: CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ Health Service delivery principles

Overview of CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ health services

CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ health services provide inpatient, outpatient and community-based care from pregnancy through to children aged 16 years, and young adults to 24 years, their families and carers. These services are provided in CCLHD hospitals and community health centres located across the Central Coast. The services include maternity services including a special care nursery (inpatient and ambulatory services), child and family health and paediatric services (inpatient, outpatient and community-based services), women’s health services including gynaecology, and violence abuse and neglect services and priority populations. Ngiyang Aboriginal pregnancy, child and family health service provides culturally sensitive pregnancy care, parenting support and service referral for Aboriginal families on the Central Coast for children from birth to school entry age.

Gosford Hospital is the main public maternity and paediatric inpatient service on the Central Coast and provides 24-hour midwifery, obstetric, anaesthetic and paediatric support, including a special care nursery, to support the maternity needs of the entire Central Coast community. Gosford Hospital provides a comprehensive range of tertiary level services including emergency, medical, cancer, surgical, intensive care, aged and mental health services across inpatient and ambulatory settings. Gosford Hospital is a tertiary referral Hospital, operating at role delineation level 5.

Wyong Hospital provides maternity services including Midwifery group practice and Gosford outreach midwife-led antenatal clinic. Previously Wyong Hospital provided an obstetrician-led birthing service to 2008 and then a midwife-led stand-alone birth centre from 2008 to March 2020, which was suspended during COVID. Paediatric services are also provided at Wyong Hospital. The predominant paediatric model of care at Wyong Hospital reflects an ambulatory model, whilst supporting tertiary outreach clinics for burns, oncology and complex care enabling children to receive care closer to home.

In late 2023 the Midwifery Group Practice homebirth service was introduced, following community consultation, to provide local women with more choice about where they birth.

Wyong Hospital provides a comprehensive range of district level services for emergency, medical and surgical services, intensive care, diagnostics, aged, mental health and drug and alcohol inpatient and outpatient services, and subacute services for rehabilitation (general and aged). Wyong Hospital is a district level Hospital, operating at role delineation level 4.

Integration between Women Children and Families’ health services with other CCLHD services including allied health, surgery, mental health, drug and alcohol is important. Allied health services provide a crucial role in providing assessment and therapies for Women, Children and Families’ health services. Surgery provides a crucial link for maternity, gynaecology and paediatrics. Mental health and drug and alcohol services provide assessment, therapy and support for children, as well as parents and carers. Integration and links also occur with services delivered by other entities, such as general practitioners, private practitioners and facilities, other government departments and non-government organisations. Providing trauma informed care is an important theme across these services.

Violence Abuse and Neglect (VAN) services are referred to within this Plan. However, it is noted that a Plan will be developed specifically for VAN services pending NSW and Commonwealth Government policy direction announcements.

Throughout this Plan the terms ‘woman’ and ‘women’ are used. The use of the term woman is not meant to exclude those who give birth and do not identify as female. It is crucial to use the preferred language and terminology as described and guided by each individual person when providing care.

Strategic service directions for CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ services

Based on the evidence, ten service directions (Figure 3) were identified to guide future service delivery across all women, children and families’ services including: maternity, child & family paediatric health, Aboriginal maternity and family health, women’s health and priority populations. All service directions are underpinned by considerations of trauma informed care and responses.

CCLHD aims to strengthen services to meet future population health demands, with a focus on expanding access in the northern Central Coast and addressing identified service gaps. Priorities include supporting contemporary models of care such as continuity of midwifery-led care, home birthing, shorter hospital stays with community follow-up, and multidisciplinary ambulatory services for women, children and families. The plan emphasises culturally safe care for Aboriginal people, alignment with government policy directions, and sustaining a high-quality workforce. Service delivery will be enabled by modern facilities, innovative technologies, improved information sharing, and a commitment to trauma-informed care across all services.

Strategic service directions for CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ health services

✓ Strengthen services to meet increasing future population health demands

✓ Explore potential for services delivered in the northern part of the Central Coast

✓ Support and explore contemporary models of care and practice, such as

- Continuity of midwifery-led maternity care, including complexity
- Alternative options for care delivery such as the home birthing service
- Shorter hospital stays supported by outpatient or community-based services, such as the Midwifery in the Home model of care
- Multidisciplinary ambulatory and outpatient care for assessment, monitoring and therapy for pregnancy and children and their families

✓ Explore and propose ways to address service gaps

✓ Support care for the Aboriginal population of the Central Coast

✓ Support implementation of new government policy directions and priorities

✓ Sustain and strengthen a quality workforce delivering to the high-end scope of practice

✓ Deliver services from contemporary and future facing facilities

✓ Support service delivery with innovative technologies, information systems and sharing information across service providers

✓ Continue to provide and strengthen trauma informed care and responses across all CCLHD services

Figure 3: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Women, Children and Families’ health services



Service-specific directions and proposed actions

Maternity services

The population on the Central Coast is projected to increase by 2041. Nearly 4,000 births are projected for CCLHD by 2041. The closure of Gosford Private Hospital Maternity Service in March 2025 will impact current and future demand for CCLHD maternity services, with more women anticipated to select to birth at Gosford Hospital in future years. This will bring higher demand for maternity services for CCLHD. Providing quality maternity services that encompass contemporary, future facing models of care that ensure women receive respectful, equitable maternity care that improves their experience and health and wellbeing is pivotal. Maternity services encompass ante and postnatal care, birthing services across inpatient and ambulatory settings delivered from CCLHD facilities and in the community across the Central Coast. There are 13 strategic maternity service directions (Figure 4).

Maternity services		
Continue and strengthen maternity services at Gosford Hospital	Continue and strengthen Gosford women's outpatients services	Strengthen home birthing services
Dedicated operating theatre - caesarean sections, gynaecology and EPAS, Gosford Hospital	Support birthing options for Central Coast residents	Support patient flow improvements maternity services e.g. caesarean sections and inductions
Open the new ambulatory Wyong women's outpatients services	Explore future phased approach for maternity services at Wyong Hospital	Support and strengthen continuity of midwifery care through to more complex care
Continue and strengthen Special Care Nursery at Gosford Hospital	New maternal fetal medicine for high-risk pregnancy and screening at Gosford Hospital	Strengthen and support integration with allied health, mental health, drug and alcohol services
	Continue genetic counselling services	
Culturally supportive care in all CCLHD services		
Trauma and violence informed care and responses -vulnerable families		
Enablers		
Workforce recruitment and retention including new Head of Department for Obstetrics, new Head of Department Gynaecology, new role for wellbeing consultant for obstetrics; workforce education and training including links with University of Newcastle for Midwifery Clinics and Royal Australian and New Zealand College of obstetricians and gynaecologists (RANZCOG) links for obstetrics and gynaecology training; access to allied health and general practitioners (antenatal shared care); transport; infrastructure including proposed new Community Health Hubs for northern Central Coast and Gosford; information systems and sharing; virtual care delivery		

Figure 4: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Maternity services



- Based on the above service directions the key proposed actions for maternity services include:
- Continue delivery of maternity services at Gosford Hospital, at role delineation Level 5, the main public maternity inpatient service provider on the Central Coast, providing 24-hour midwifery, obstetric, anaesthetic and paediatric support.
 - Support private patients who transfer to Gosford Hospital for birthing and maternity services due to the closure of Gosford Private Hospital Maternity Service.
 - Continue to monitor the birthing numbers and associated maternity bed use at Gosford Hospital into the future and consider the capacity for Gosford Hospital to meet maternity acute inpatient demands.
 - Explore the potential for a phased approach for maternity services at Wyong Hospital, including opening the new Wyong Women’s Outpatients at Wyong Hospital, providing antenatal clinics, early pregnancy assessment, day assessment unit, lactation and breast-feeding services and access to gestational diabetes services.
 - Continue to deliver and strengthen the Midwifery in the Home service model, exploring virtual care options and remote patient monitoring.
 - Continue to deliver the Midwifery Group Practice model with community midwifery teams caseload model of maternity care.
 - Explore potential options for a continuity of care model for women with complex maternity care needs.
 - Expand the CCLHD Home Birthing service, noting contingency on the availability of a suitable midwifery workforce.
 - Explore the potential for commencing a maternal fetal medicine service for high-risk pregnancy and screening at Gosford Hospital.
 - Provide equitable access for women requesting terminations for social reasons, with support provided by social workers.

Child and family health and paediatric services

The first 2,000 days of a child’s life has a significant impact on their development as well as their future health and wellbeing. There are high levels of vulnerability and disadvantage among the Central Coast population that contribute to higher demands on paediatric health care. Additionally, population increases are anticipated for children and adolescents aged 0 to 15 years on the Central Coast to 2041. The Central Coast also has higher than state and national proportion of 0–4-year-olds in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The Aboriginal population on the Central Coast have a median age of 23 years indicating a younger population than the non-indigenous population and suggesting population growth in future years.

Child and family health and paediatric services encompass acute inpatient care, and ambulatory/ outpatient services delivered from hospital and community centres on the Central Coast. Child and family health community-based services cover the spectrum of primary health universal care through to secondary and tertiary level multidisciplinary care and support services. Children and their families also access integrating services such as mental health, drug and alcohol and allied health services.

There are 12 strategic child and family health and paediatric service directions (Figure 5).

Child and family health and paediatric services		
Continue paediatric inpatient and ambulatory services at Gosford Hospital	Investigate, scope and develop new Paediatric Short Stay Unit, Wyong Hospital	Explore Paediatric Hospital in the Home
Explore virtual care options for service delivery	Strengthen paediatric surgery at Gosford (expand) and Wyong (commence) Hospitals	Review and strengthen paediatric ambulatory review and outpatient services, Gosford & Wyong Hospitals
Continue child & family health & developmental (primary health) services	Review and strengthen child and family secondary level support services and programs	Strengthen paediatric allied health inpatient and community services and support integration
Strengthen integration with mental health services	Strengthen integration with alcohol and other drug services and programs	Address service gaps for child and family health services on the Central Coast
Culturally supportive care in all CCLHD services		
Trauma informed care and responses –vulnerable families		
Enablers Workforce recruitment and retention; workforce education and training, including links with universities for student placements and the Royal College of Physicians; access to paediatricians, psychiatrists, allied health and general practitioners; transport and patient transfers; infrastructure including proposed new Community Health Hubs for northern Central Coast and Gosford, potential for new Paediatric Inpatient Unit, Gosford Hospital in future years; information systems and sharing; virtual care delivery		

Figure 5: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Child and Family Health and Paediatric services



- Based on the above service directions the key proposed actions for child and family health and paediatric services include:
- Continue to deliver and strengthen paediatric inpatient and ambulatory services at Gosford Hospital at role delineation level 4 (medical and surgical) for infants, children and adolescents up to the age of 16 years. This includes the ability to provide close observation beds, providing elevated care and monitoring for sick children.
 - Investigate, scope and potentially develop the Paediatric Short Stay Unit at Wyong Hospital.
 - Review and strengthen Paediatric outpatient services in hospital settings and community health centres including paediatric medical and behavioural/ developmental assessments. Consideration should be made for children identified with high priority concerns and include strengthening referral pathways. Workforce roles should also be considered, such as care navigator, Aboriginal health worker, or nursing roles.
 - Continue to implement the Sustaining NSW Families initiative for vulnerable families on the Central Coast.
 - Implement the pilot for Sustaining NSW Families Plus initiative that addresses the gap for women who exceed the criteria for the Sustaining NSW Families standard model and ensures that those with greater risk and complexity are eligible to have enhanced support in the first two years of a child's life.
 - Continue to deliver and strengthen paediatric allied health services that are integrated with child and family health and paediatric services, across inpatient and community settings. Consider the range of allied health specialties that can deliver benefits for children's health and developmental outcomes. Consider levels of service demand alongside contemporary models of care inclusive of virtual care options.
 - Embrace State led initiatives and recommendations for developmental care following the *Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding*.

Aboriginal maternity, child and family health services

The Central Coast is home to the largest and one of the fastest-growing populations of Aboriginal people in NSW. Data indicates that an Aboriginal person living on the Central Coast is a member of a cultural minority and more likely to face numerous disadvantages compared to a non-Aboriginal resident. The Closing the Gap initiative for Aboriginal people aims to improve the overall health and wellbeing for Aboriginal people to enjoy long and healthy lives. The first 2,000 days of life (conception to 5 years) is acknowledged as a critical time for physical, cognitive, social and emotional health, which can have an impact throughout life.

Providing culturally appropriate services for the Aboriginal population on the Central Coast that reflect Aboriginal social and cultural concepts of health and wellbeing in programs and services is critical. Having Aboriginal staff supporting families within CCLHD services can help build trust in the care provided by CCLHD hospitals and services. The Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service (maternity service providing pregnancy and postnatal care up to 8 weeks after birth) and Building Strong Foundations (supporting families from birth until the children reach school age) have been identified as key priority initiatives by NSW Health. There are 7 strategic Aboriginal maternity and family health service directions (Figure 6).

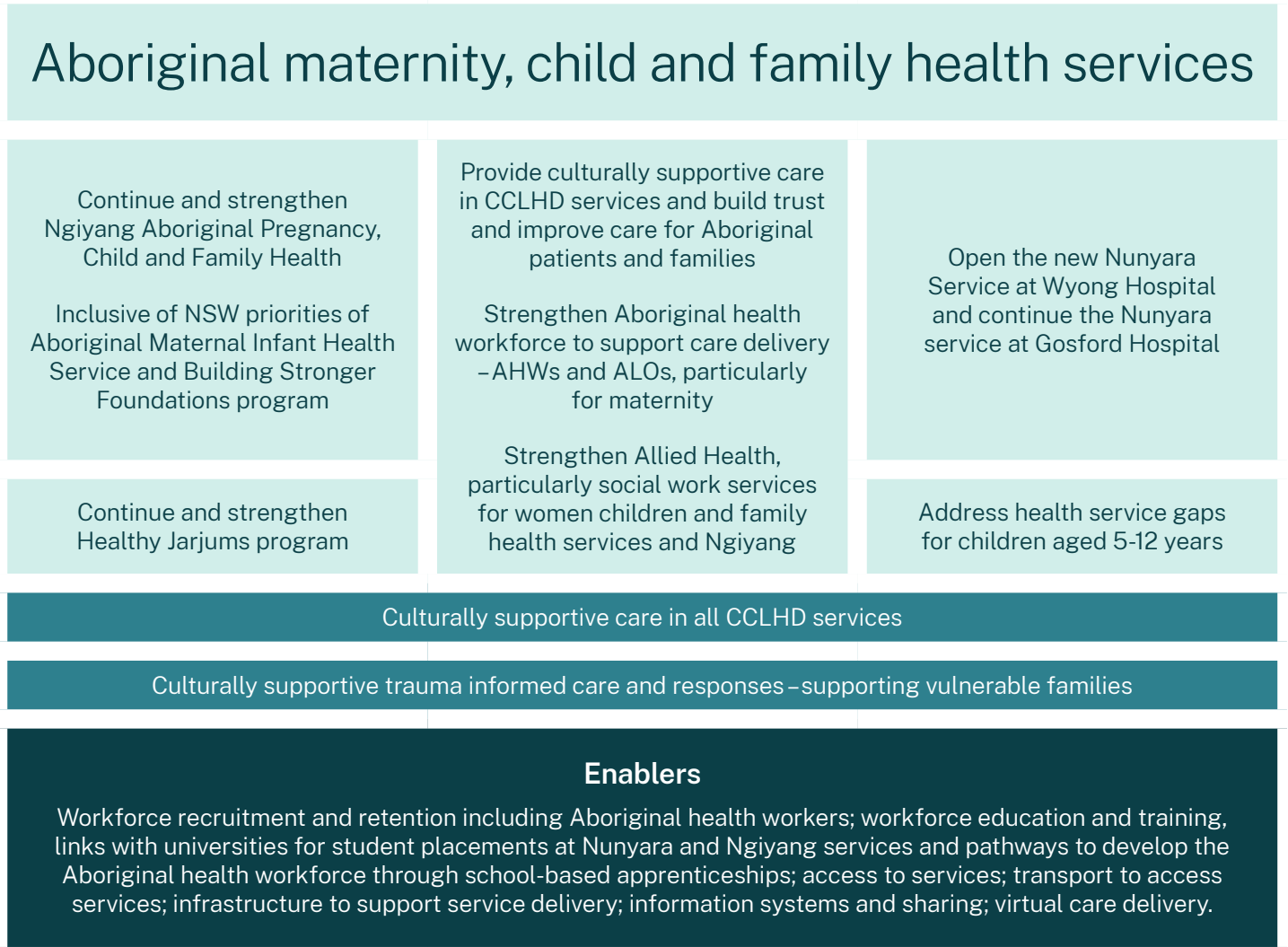


Figure 6: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Aboriginal Maternity and Family Health services



- Based on the above service directions the key proposed actions for Aboriginal maternity and family health service include:
- Continue to deliver and strengthen the Ngiyang Aboriginal pregnancy, child and family health service for Aboriginal families on the Central Coast. Review the potential to expand the services provided to encompass more families rather than focusing on those with the highest and most complex needs.
 - Continue to recruit and retain an Aboriginal Health workforce to resource the service to enhance trust among the Aboriginal population in the service including Aboriginal Health Workers (AHW) and Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALO).
 - Open the new Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service at Wyong Hospital.
 - Continue to support delivery of NSW priority programs of Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service and Building Stronger Foundations program.
 - Strengthen connections between Ngiyang Aboriginal pregnancy, child and family health service for Aboriginal families, Women, Children and Families and allied health services.
 - Continue and strengthen the Healthy Jarjums program for young Aboriginal children residing on the Central Coast.

Women’s health services

CCLHD has a role in providing gynaecology services for women on the Central Coast. Gynaecology services are provided by CCLHD inclusive of outpatient consultations and surgery, and multidisciplinary involving nursing, medical and allied health staff. Gosford Hospital is the main provider of gynaecology services, with services also available at Wyong Hospital. There are high demands for gynaecology services including outpatient clinics and surgery in CCLHD. The Gynaecology Wait List strategy is in place to address the high level of demands on this service. Sustaining the strategy to maintain Gynaecology surgery procedures and wait lists at appropriate levels into the future will be important. There are two strategic women’s health service directions (Figure 7).

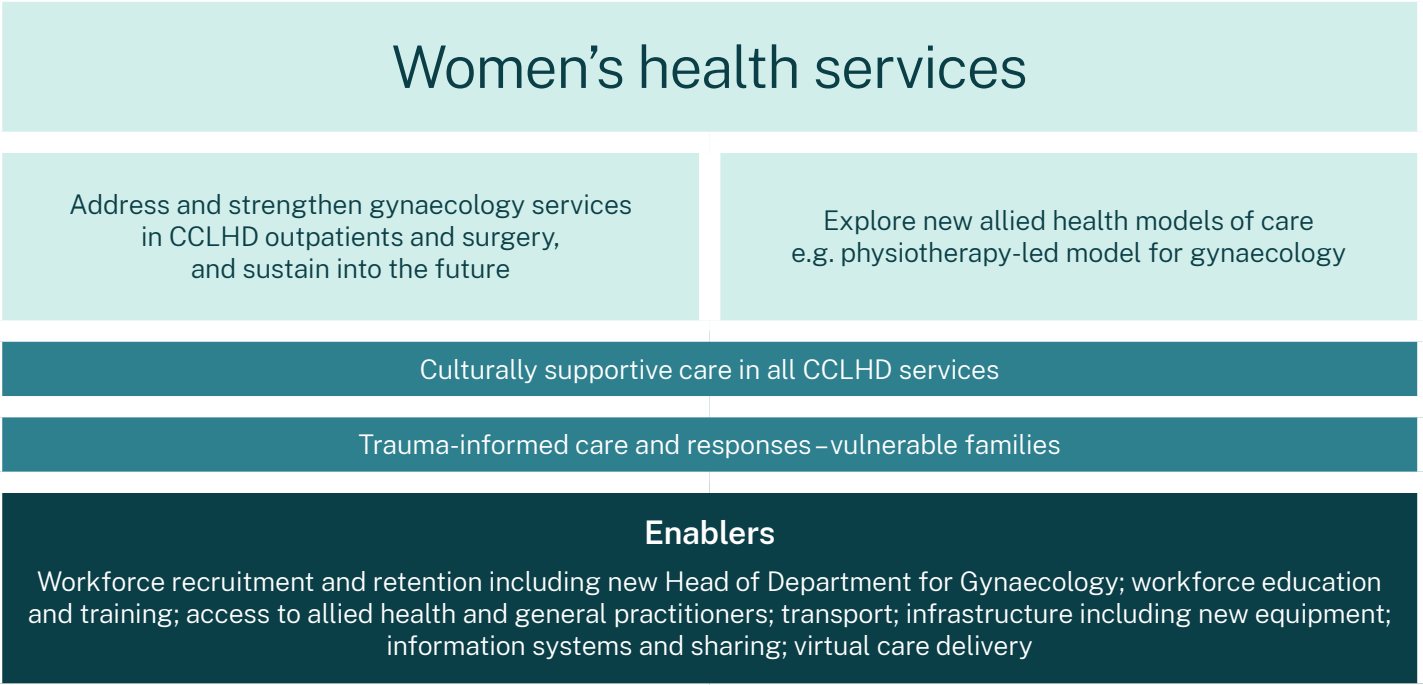


Figure 7: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Women’s Health services

- Based on the above service directions the key proposed actions for women’s health services include:
- Implement the Gynaecology Wait List Strategy in 2025, with an increase in the volume of gynaecology outpatient clinics and surgery undertaken at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals from early 2025.
 - Explore the longer-term potential for gynaecology surgery requiring overnight stays at Wyong Hospital for the future.
 - Continue links between Women Children and Families’ health services and the menopause service operating in CCLHD through Community Chronic and Complex Care Directorate.
 - Implement the new advanced practice physiotherapy service model for gynaecology patients at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals, to improve clinical outcomes for women waiting for gynaecology surgery.



Priority populations

The priority populations service stream in scope for this plan includes vulnerable adolescents and young people, and children and young people who are in Statutory Out of Home Care (OOHC). The priority populations service stream encompasses OOHC Health Pathway program, Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse (WHIN) Coordinator program, Youth Health Service and the Women’s Health Service. The priority populations service stream focuses efforts on developing integrated strategies for vulnerable children and young people to access streamlined and coordinated care across services. Providing holistic, person-centred care is paramount, as is embracing the principles of trauma informed care within service integration and delivery.

There are high levels of disadvantage and vulnerability among the Central Coast population. It is noted that violence abuse and neglect have serious outcomes for women. Further, that the outcomes of violence on health and wellbeing are cumulative and may be incrementally worse for those experiencing multiple types of abuse. Violence contributes significantly to the burden of disease. Intimate partner violence has been identified as contributing 5.1% of the burden of disease for women aged 18 to 44 years, impacting illness, disability and premature death. This is more than any other risk factor, including alcohol, tobacco use and obesity, contributes to the burden of disease. There are 11 strategic women’s health service directions (Figure 8).

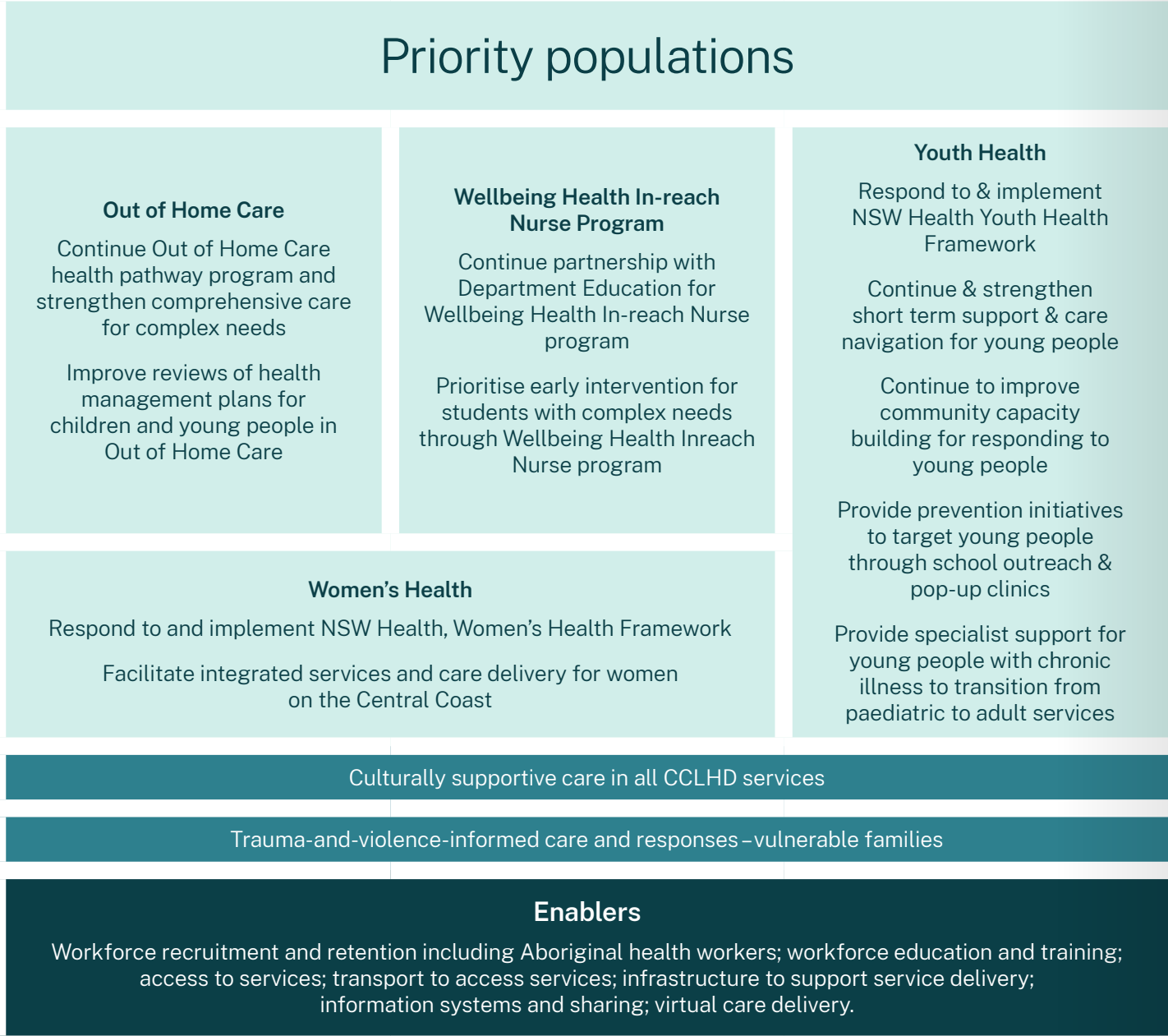


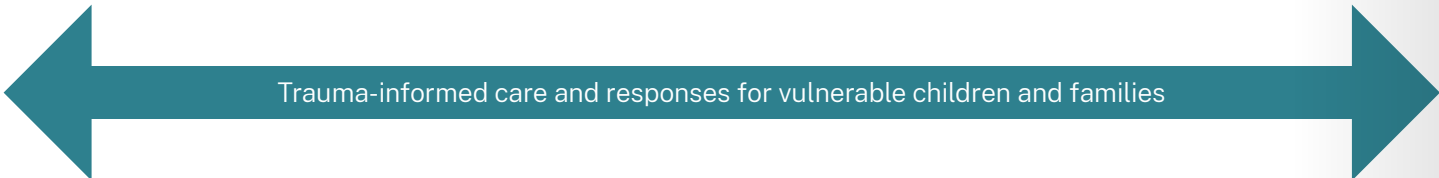
Figure 8: Strategic service directions for CCLHD Priority Populations services



Based on the above service directions the key proposed actions for priority population services include:

- Continue implementation of the Out of Home Care (OOHC) Health Pathway program and strengthen collaborative partnerships within CCLHD, private service providers and culturally supportive services to ensure comprehensive care for children and their families.
- Continue the partnership with NSW Department of Education for Wellbeing Health In-reach Nurse Program and prioritise early intervention for students with complex needs.
- Provide specialist support for young people with chronic illness to transition from paediatric to adult services.
- The Central Coast Community Women’s Health Centre will continue to provide holistic health services for women on the Central Coast inclusive of cervical screening, prevention initiatives, pregnancy choices, young mothers, postnatal care and playgroups.

Trauma-informed care



Given the high level of vulnerabilities in the Central Coast population, delivery of trauma-informed care and responses by all CCLHD services is critical. Delivery of trauma-informed care and responses involves supporting the continued education of CCLHD staff and resourcing the CCLHD services that support the impacts of trauma among the patients, clients and their families and carers of CCLHD services.

Violence abuse and neglect services supporting trauma informed care and responses in CCLHD include domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect and problematic or harmful sexual behaviours. The potential for earlier intervention and prevention initiatives for vulnerable families as well as responsive services is acknowledged. Further information will be outlined in the CCLHD Violence Abuse and Neglect Plan by the end of 2025.

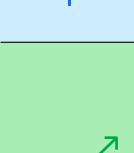
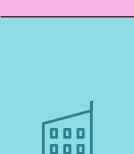
Workforce for Women, Children and Families’ health services

Ensuring a qualified, competent, capable and multidisciplinary workforce to deliver high quality health services for women children and families on the Central Coast is critical across hospital and community-based settings for services across CCLHD. The following service directions build on and complement those outlined in each section.

Continue links with universities & schools for student placements, pathways to employment, student clinics, research	Build the reputation for CCLHD as a “great place to work”	Attract, recruit, retain and sustain quality workforce
Grow leaders for Women Children and Families’ Health services	Appoint new Head of Obstetrics and new Head of Gynaecology	Support CCLHD staff to work to the top of their scope of practice and explore advanced scope of practice
Continue training for staff roles in Women Children and Families’ Health Services e.g. child and family nurses, home birthing	Align training, education and accreditation with the RANZCOG and RACP	Provide training for CCLHD staff on violence abuse and neglect e.g. domestic violence and child protection
Support and enhance recruitment and retention of Aboriginal health workers and Hospital liaison officers	Support interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary care delivery	Provide staff training for culturally supportive service provision
	Consider establishment of new medical roles e.g. wellbeing consultant for junior medical staff, and paediatrician fellow for child & family health	

Enablers

Enablers support and enhance the implementation of the *CCLHD Women Children and Families’ Service Plan 2025-2035*. The enablers build on and complement, support and enhance the delivery of the service directions outlined throughout this Plan.

	Consumer, carer, and community engagement	Connect with women, children and families across the Central Coast to ensure our care is designed around their voice, their needs, and embedded with kindness and compassion.
	Safety and quality	Provide trusted care by improving care outcomes, experiences and value, with a focus on equity and care across inpatient and community-based settings.
	People and culture	Enable staff in women children and families’ health and related services across CCLHD to deliver their best, through support across the five fundamental pillars: leadership, culture, capability, staff experience and workforce planning.
	Research and innovation	Build our research capabilities leveraging industry and academic partnerships. Deliver sustained improvement and innovation by embedding enabling systems, structures and capabilities, supported by impact measures and an improvement culture.
	Financial and environmental sustainability	Be financially sustainable, by investing in models of care and technologies that reduce costs and improve outcomes, while embedding financial responsibility and maximising management of our resources. Deliver environmentally sustainable health care by reducing our carbon footprint and effectively managing our consumption, waste, and resources.
	Digital health	Develop our digital health and data analytics capabilities to meet growing clinical, operational and organisational needs. Provide and explore information systems that support the delivery of integrated and quality health services for women children and families across the Central Coast. Explore information systems that facilitate the analysis of activity trends that define future facing health services for women, children and families’ services. Embrace the single digital patient record. Continue to seek opportunities for virtual care delivery. Explore strategies to incorporate artificial intelligence into health care design and delivery.
	Transport for accessing health services	Continue to advocate for transport solutions to support our local community to access health services when and as required, particularly for the northern regions of the Central Coast.
	Quality future facing infrastructure to support the delivery of health services for women children and families	Continue to advocate for two new Community Health Hubs at Gosford and northern Central Coast to accommodate the delivery of health services for women children and families, that will be positioned to meet future healthcare demands. Acknowledge the potential for a new contemporary future-facing Paediatric Inpatient Unit, Gosford Hospital, consistent with Gosford Hospital Master Plan to 2050. Continue to monitor the capacity for the ongoing delivery of Maternity services (inpatient care, birthing suites and ambulatory clinics) at Gosford Hospital, given the context of the closure of Gosford Private Hospital Maternity Service.
	Partnerships in health care	Continue to partner with health, social and related services on the Central Coast to support healthcare delivery including general practitioners, Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network, private health providers, government and non-government organisations, Central Coast Council, education and university sectors, local community organisations and the local community.

Priorities for the next two years and a phased approach to implementation

There will be a phased approach to the implementation of the *CCLHD Women Children and Families’ Health Services Plan 2025-2035* over the coming ten-year period and beyond. This section focuses upon priorities for implementation in the next two years.

The service directions for CCLHD Women Children and Families’ Health services for the next two years are focused on exploring the potential to initiate and expand services (paediatrics –inpatient and ambulatory and maternity – ambulatory) in the northern part of the Central Coast, as well as strengthening maternity and paediatric / child and family services at Gosford Hospital. Drivers for these service directions are responding to the closure of the Gosford Private Hospital Maternity Service, large volumes of paediatric presentations to Wyong Emergency Department and the high volume of paediatric transfers from Wyong to Gosford Hospital, addressing the wait list for gynaecology outpatient clinics and surgery, strengthening child and family health services in the community and embedding trauma informed care across all CCLHD services.

The priorities for focus over the next two years are:
✓ Open Wyong Women’s Outpatients at Wyong Hospital
✓ Open the Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service, Wyong Hospital
✓ Commence the Sustaining NSW Families Plus program for families with complex needs
✓ Collaborate with the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub Central Coast for 0–12-year-olds for mental health needs at Tuggerah
✓ Explore the potential and options for a Paediatric Short Stay Unit at Wyong Hospital
✓ Investigate potential for a dedicated operating theatre for obstetrics and gynaecology at Gosford Hospital
✓ Address waiting lists for gynaecology outpatient consultations and surgery
✓ Explore options for paediatric surgery at Gosford (expand) and Wyong (commence) Hospitals
✓ Identify, assess and review alternative pre-admission locations for women requiring caesarean sections and for paediatric surgery at Gosford Hospital
✓ Incorporate and undertake the NSW Health Paediatric Capability Framework Assessment for CCLHD, inclusive of the initial comprehensive assessment in 2025, followed by regular annual update on service levels, risk management and service development plans
✓ Strengthen trauma informed care and responses by CCLHD services
✓ Transfer Gosford Private Hospital Maternity Service patients to to Gosford Hospital’s public maternity service
✓ Develop the CCLHD Violence Abuse and Neglect Plan.

ⁱ NSW Government, Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence Abuse and Neglect Framework.

