

Thinking Outside the Box

The creation of a 'Cadet' Model for Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Practitioner Candidates to gain experience and knowledge in Paediatric Palliative Care

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Background

The state-wide Queensland (QLD) Paediatric Palliative Care Service (PPCS) supports children, young people (0-18yrs) and families living with a life limiting condition. (1) The Quality of Care collaborative Australia (QuoCCA) (3) project consists of a patient led model of care which aims to build and enhance the local healthcare communities existing knowledge and strengths. This is achieved through time specific, care focused and specialised sustainable education sessions surrounding paediatric palliative care and advanced care planning.

Aim of the Model

- To create a more sustainable model for the nurse practitioner role in the paediatric palliative care team
- Provide an opportunity to support senior clinicians considering the nurse practitioner masters course
- Create opportunities for training/education of nurse practitioners working in other specialist areas who care for children with palliative care needs
- Create opportunities for nurse practitioners in other areas to gain experience in paediatric palliative care, potentially expand their scope of practice and to take valuable knowledge and skills back to their primary area of practice,



"Provided me with the opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience and challenge myself to provide high quality care, supported by a highly experienced Nurse Practitioner that has been working in the service for many years"

"Opportunity to travel to many areas across the state, giving vital insight into how healthcare is delivered in regional and rural areas and the ability to support and educate local teams to care for families with a child with a life limiting condition or at end of life."

Staff Recruitment and Training

- Project part of federal grant collaborative with an educational remit
- Additional nursing hours allocated to nurse practitioner line of well-established paediatric palliative care program
- 0.5 FTE across three years to support rotational positions 'cadetship model'

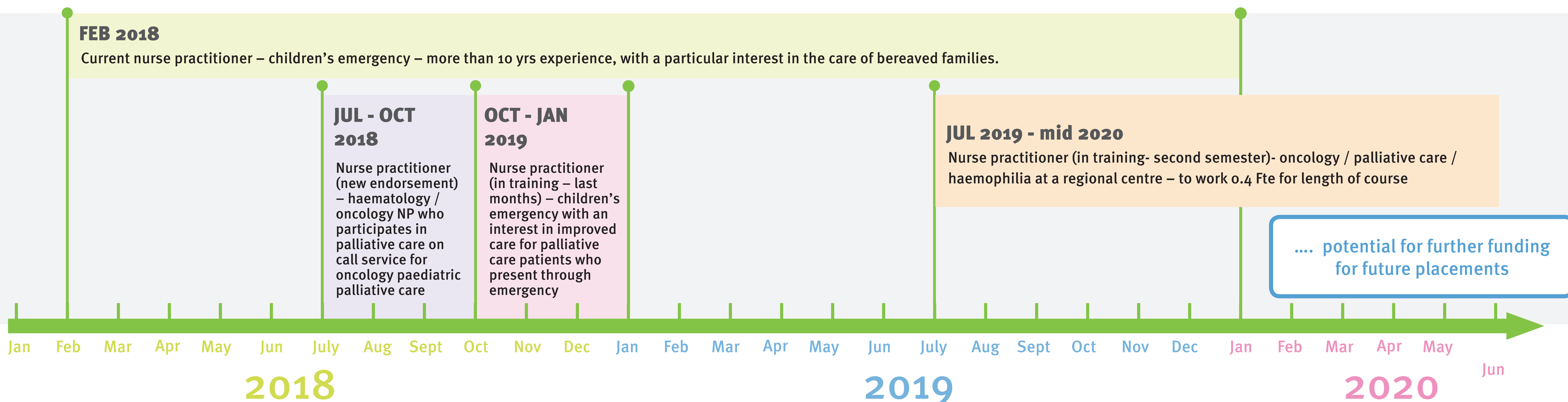
The job description was for either:

A qualified nurse practitioner from any established scope with a willingness to upskill in palliative care – preferable with paediatric skills or palliative care

OR

A nurse practitioner trainee waiting some exposure to palliative care as part of their educational development within their course – assessment/ diagnostic, prescribing, psychosocial care, referral processes

Timeline Over 3 years



Research - discovery interviews

So it does just give you that much better view of this is a family unit rather than a patient and a parent. So that's really nice. And I guess, the end of life care for the kids, there's certainly – you learn so much within this. I have done on call for a lot of years now, but I think what I'll take away from the time, actually working within the Palliative Care Team, is you're just much – how can I put it – I think you can see the problems in a better light, rather than it being after hours on call.

I think because it's so well established and you've had a nurse practitioner within the Palliative Care Team for a long time, I saw it as an opportunity to get mentorship from someone who's well embedded as a nurse practitioner, as opposed to starting a minute role and stumbling along by myself.

Nurse practitioner scope of practice is defined and regulated by their education, training, clinical experience, registration standards, endorsements and notations, positions of employment, clinical protocols and guidelines, drug formularies, and related federal, state and territory legislation.



References:

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