

# Allied Health Assistants in Paediatric Rehabilitation

Sally Flanagan & Kristy Lucassen Paediatric Rehabilitation, Perth Children's Hospital

## BACKGROUND

Kids Rehab WA is the paediatric rehabilitation department at Perth Children's Hospital and Allied Health Assistants have been working in Kids Rehab WA since 2007. Allied Health Assistant's are an integral part of the Paediatric Rehabilitation team and are utilised throughout the department, within both the Inpatient and Outpatient settings.

## AIM

The overall aim of Allied Health Assistants in Kids Rehab WA is to support and assist the clinicians as well as the families and patients.

'Using upper limb robotic technology during therapy'



## METHOD

Kids Rehab WA Allied Health Assistant's provide support to the six clinical programs in the department. Their role enables children to consolidate new skills acquired during therapy, and supports therapists using a broad variety of techniques specialised to paediatric rehabilitation. Capacity building for Allied Health Assistant's at Perth Children's Hospital is a combination of hands on experience, input from the clinical team, formal training, certification and involvement in research.



***"The Kids Rehab WA Allied Health Assistants form an integral part of our workforce . They increase our capacity to deliver cost effective, evidence based, goal directed paediatric rehabilitation, improving outcomes for children and families."***

## RESULTS

Paediatric Rehabilitation Allied Health Assistant's work with a broad variety of disciplines including:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Pathology
- Psychology
- Education
- Social Work

Allied Health Assistant roles can include following therapy programs targeting exercise and mobility, cooking, activities of daily living, speech and feeding, just to name a few.

There is a large amount of administration within the AHA role, including scheduling, organisation of transport and interpreters, family liaison and editing of video footage.

## FUTURE DIRECTION

Increasing the profile of Allied Health Assistants across the hospital and developing a network of support to share knowledge and training opportunities.

