Improving the Health of Children in Remote Areas

The health and development of children living in remote areas will be boosted with the launch of a new educational tool that provides important information for health professionals.

Developed by the NT Government and Charles Darwin University (CDU) the Healthy Under 5 Kids education package provides practitioners with comprehensive information about caring for children under five years of age in remote areas.

Launching the education package today, Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said it was an important information guide for all health professionals who work with children in the Territory, especially remote health workers, providing a focus on preventative health.

"It’s recognised that a child’s early years play a key role in determining their future health and development," Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Healthy Under 5 Kids Program education package is designed to give all kids the best start possible.

“The education package provides essential information for health professionals including growth, assessment and action program, as well as childhood vaccination schedule.

“This education package has been designed to support the Healthy Under 5 Kids Program, an evidence-based program implemented across all NT Remote Health Centres in 2009.

Mr Vatskalis said the program was a valuable tool for parents to monitor their child’s development and health.

“The Healthy Under 5 Kids program also provides parents with appropriate advice and guidelines about different ages and milestones, and opportunities for families to discuss any of their concerns about their child’s development with their health practitioner,” he said.

“Regular and timely child health assessments mean that children’s physical, psychological and social development and wellbeing can be assessed from birth and throughout the early years.”

The Healthy Under 5 Kids education package is available to remote health workers on CD ROM and as an eBook which can be accessed via the internet.

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