**Country:** Australia

**Project Name:** Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program (ANFPP)

**Project Reach:** 13 sites

**Project Time Period:** 2009 - ongoing

**Project Impact areas:** Health

**Project Funding:** National Budget

**Project Website:** [https://www.anfpp.com.au/](https://www.anfpp.com.au/)

**Project Description:**

The ANFPP is an evidence based, nurse-led home visiting program provided by the same Nurse Home Visitor for the duration of a client’s involvement or until the child reaches two years of age. The ANFPP is a highly structured, evidence-based program modelled on the international Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model. The NFP model was developed by Dr David Olds from the University of Colorado in the United States of America.

The ANFPP includes a number of agreed adaptations that have made it more culturally acceptable for the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander setting. These adaptations include the addition of a cultural support role (Family Partnership Worker), eligibility criteria based on the Indigeneity of the child, acceptance of multiparous women and the adaption of materials and resources to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context.

The program supports women pregnant with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander baby who may benefit from a more intensive level of support to improve their own health and the health of their baby.

The ANFPP is a voluntary program that provides valuable support and advice to mothers that helps with the baby’s development in their early years, with regular home visits from a Nurse Home Visitor and an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Family Partnership Worker. A Nurse Supervisor manages the day-to-day operations of the service and provides supervision and support to Nurse Home Visitors and Family Partnership Workers. Nurse Home Visitors undertake home visits with a case load of up to 25 mothers. Family Partnership Workers provide the interface between the Indigenous community/families and the program and assist in recruitment, program promotion and ensuring cultural safety.

The ANFPP is a part of the Australian government’s commitment to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with the ANFPP providing valuable support and sharing information with mothers to promote their baby’s development in their early years. The program is currently being implemented by thirteen implementing services across Australia, in four states and two territories.
The program aims to improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices; support parents to improve their child’s health and development; and help parents develop a vision for their own future, including continuing education and finding work.

Program Evaluation:

A Stage 1 Evaluation of the ANFPP was completed by Ernst & Young in April in May 2012. This Evaluation considered the establishment and early implementation processes for the program in line with ANFPP Evaluation.

All organisations delivering ANFPP are required to continually collect and utilize data to guide program implementation, inform continuous quality improvement, ensure program fidelity and assess indicative client outcomes. As a means to streamline this process and operate under a single software solution the ANFPP National Knowledge Access (ANKA) data collection system was developed. The ANKA system provides live summary information of program implementation both nationally and at an individual site level.

Lessons Learned:
The ANFPP is based on the NFP home visiting program developed by Professor David Olds in the United States. Informed by rigorous research, the program has developed over more than three decades. The positive impact of the program has been demonstrated through three separate well-designed and implemented randomized controlled trials. These occurred at:

- **Elmira, New York in 197** which targeted white low-income women located at semi-rural population
- **Memphis, Tennessee in 1987** which involved low-income urban African-American mothers
- **Denver, Colorado in 1994** which included large number of Hispanic families

A recent report reviewed the feasibility of implementing the ANFPP in a remote Australian community. The report (Feasibility of Implementing Infant Home Visiting in a Central Australian Aboriginal Community) is available here.

The Department of Health is in the process of establishing an evaluation for the ANFPP. It is anticipated that the evaluation would commence in 2019-20.

The differences between the US context and the Australian Indigenous context were considered significant enough to warrant inclusion and testing of specific adaptations to the program, outside the fidelity elements. Therefore, the ANFPP includes three endorsed adaptations to the original model.

These are:

- the inclusion of an Indigenous worker (Family Partnership Worker) in the home visiting team, who introduces the program to the client, family and community and reinforces cultural safety;
- the inclusion of multiparous mothers in the client group where sites consider this to be suitable; and
- the adaptation of promotional, teaching and client materials and the creation of new documentation to suit the Australian Indigenous culture and context.
The Stage 1 evaluation of the ANFPP contained limited reliable quantitative data on activities and objectives and was considered too early to determine a return on investment. The Department will look to address these limitations within a future evaluation.