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The challenges and joys of implementing an innovative model of care for children and babies with a disability and their families in a community setting – Collaboration of a private community nursing service with a charity non -government organization (NGO)

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In our community, there was a desperate need for families who had a baby or child with a severe disability to have more support, access to networks of assistance, socialisation as a family and individually; while simultaneously getting time out away from their sick baby or child, who all required professional pediatric nursing care. Following many meetings with families, Camp Breakaway (charity) Board. Allcare Nursing and Community Services (ANCS) (private community nursing), volunteers and nursing staff, a committee was established to take up the challenge. The Model implementation was a three day stay in the grounds of Camp Breakaway for 16 families while providing a hospital style ward for their babies and children.

The challenge was immense from financial to the logistics of organising a make shift hospital with-in the chosen venue, social programs, clinical and family assessments and sourcing appropriate staff and volunteers. Combining the nursing service and the charity to work collaboratively along with a dedicated team; the Model of care known as High Care Needs camp became a reality.

The joys were many with incredible stories and positive outcomes for families

Biography

Michelle is the founder and Director of Allcare Nursing and Community Services which has been established for 30years employs 80staff and cares for over 600 clients in the Central Coast region NSW Australia. Michelle is also a volunteer of a charity organisation Camp Breakaway Incorporated, which provides social inclusion respite and high care for all aged people, with all levels of disability Michelle has been awarded the highest medal Order of Australia (OAM) from the Australian Government for her work in nursing and caring for people with disabilities.

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