PaNSTAR® - Paediatric and Neonatal Simulation Training across the Region: From birth to infancy and beyond.

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INTRODUCTION
In 2011 Health Workforce Australia (HWA) allocated funding to PaNSTAR® (Paediatric and Neonatal Simulation Training Across the Region), a proposal from The Sydney Children’s Hospital Network (SCHN) to create a paediatric network of diverse simulated learning environments (SLE) to support paediatric and neonatal simulation for undergraduate and postgraduate learners in New South Wales, Australia.

METHOD
PaNSTAR® proposed a hub and spoke model to utilise specialist educational, technical and paediatric expertise located in two metropolitan paediatric tertiary care facilities (The Children’s Hospital at Westmead (CHW) and Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick (SCH), together known as SCHN) to support a network of diverse simulated learning environments in healthcare facilities in any healthcare facility in NSW and beyond.

A three-phased approach over a five-year period is described: Phase 1 (2011-2012) increased capacity and established videoconference outreach capability at an existing simulation facility, the Kim Oates Australian Simulation Centre (KOAPSC) at CHW. Phase 1 also involved recruitment of two simulation coordinators, a multimedia coordinator, audiovisual technician and biomedical engineer and implementation of a faculty training and mentoring program. Phase 2 (2012-2014) developed a new paediatric simulation facility, to provide second ‘hub’ of simulation expertise at SCH. The new simulation suite was designed to complement the existing facility at KOAPSC with similar equipment, operating systems and links. Together, Phase 1 and 2 will enable SCHN to increase capacity and resources available to efficiently deliver a comprehensive program in both hubs, and by in-person and remote support enable rural faculty to provide simulation-based education across a paediatric network of SLE in NSW. Phase 3 (2015) will provide asset management and governance input in order to maintain a sustainable program within the 2 hubs and across the network of remote sites across NSW.

RESULTS
From January – October 2012, projected SLE programs planned prior to PaNSTAR® totalled 1062 hours. Increased resources from PaNSTAR® have enabled 2503 hours of interprofessional simulation based education hours to be delivered across SCHN. Early outreach sites have been identified in three rural or non-metro centres in NSW and one interstate hospital serving the urban population of the Northern Territory of Australia. Recruitment of human resources with audiovisual and information technology skills has allowed solutions to emerge to previously intractable problems which were a barrier to remote facilitation of SLE based education.

DISCUSSION
PaNSTAR® is creating a sustainable network of clinicians and educators, with technical infrastructure and support, designed to enable the distribution of simulation
and paediatric expertise to increase education and training opportunities and to effectively utilise SLE across SCHN and throughout NSW.