Welcome to the fourth edition of the GCNC NIDCAP Newsletter for 2017. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact: Nadine.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au

Neuroprotective Care (NC) is a term utilized to describe developmentally supportive practices for infants and their families. In the NEO-ACQUA study units were identified as either high or low quality developmental care units. They were assessed against the following criteria:

- Open parent access to the unit
- Kangaroo care opportunities
- Holding during procedures
- Pain assessment
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain management strategies
- Interventions to reduce infant expenditure of energy and promote physiological stability

If we were to compare ourselves against these items how do you think we would compare? Would an evaluation of our practice benefit the unit?

The NIDCAP team are continuing with their training, keep an eye out for Ruben and his NIDCAP AP recommendations.

Is there an infant that you believe would benefit from a NIDCAP observation? Please contact Nadine and we will arrange for a member of the team to follow up with the infant and their family!

The NEO-ACQUA study explored the application of NC in the NICU and found:

- Improved language for preterm infants at 18 months is linked to increased parental talk
- Infants of parents that had a greater opportunity to hold them scored higher in sentence comprehension
- High levels of infant centered care improves regulation and decreases excitability in NICU graduates it also improves their scores in social, motor and emotional functioning

Montirosso R et al, 2017, Child Development Perspectives 11 (1), 9-15

Name the Newsletter Competition!!

When the newsletter started we picked a name to describe our initial focus. A year later and we think the name does not accurately reflect the majority of the content. We are seeking submissions from staff to rename our newsletter. Submit your idea for the newsletter name by the 28th April. The winner will receive a prize!