A rural private therapy framework to support the delivery of high quality, sustainable and accessible services to rural people with disability

Wobbly Hub & Double Spokes Project

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About Wobbly Hub

› Collaborative Approach
  - Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
  - Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC) Western Region
  - 5 year National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ‘Partnerships for Better Health’ grant.

› Project Aim:
  - To develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based policies which will promote timely and effective therapy service delivery to people with disability living in rural and remote communities.
Why rural private therapists?

We learned:

- Flexibility and autonomy
- Long term relationships
- Significant workforce
- Unrecognised
- Unsupported
Rural Private Therapy Project Timeline

**Project Phase 1**
**Planning**

- WH&DS Rural Therapists' Survey (63 Private Therapists)
- Literature review on rural private therapists

July - December 2012

**Project Phase 2**
**Consultation & Development**

- Participant recruitment Rural Private Therapists
- Focus groups & Interviews with Rural Private Therapists western NSW (28)
- Analyse data & First draft development of framework

January - March 2013

- Feedback from stakeholders: Rural Private Therapist, Medicare Locals, Disability Peak Organisations Allied Health Associations (30)
- Analyse data & modify framework

March

- Feedback from stakeholders: Rural Private Therapist, Medicare Locals, Disability Peak Organisations Allied Health Associations (15)
- Analyse data & modify framework

April – May 2013

**Project Phase 3**
**Reporting**

- Feedback from Rural Disability Service Users (9)
- Analyse data & modify framework

Final framework informed by relevant stakeholders
Key elements in enabling high quality, sustainable & accessible services in rural areas

› FRAMING
  - Context frames everything
  - ‘Rural Proofed Policy

› ENGAGING
  - Preparedness
  - Collaboration

› ENABLING
  - Networks, Resources and Processes
  - Drivers
Meet Dan and Sam
When Sam arrived, she spent time talking with the Elders, Dan and his cousins until they all felt comfortable.

I can get my cousin to build a ramp.

Great Dan! Until you get your own place we can get you a toilet surround and shower chair. We can also work toward getting you a new wheelchair.

I'll be back in your area in about 8 weeks time. I can bring the equipment for you to trial then. Once the funding is approved it will take about 3 months to get the new equipment.

Sam completed a funding request form for a wheelchair to be supplied through a government funding scheme. They waited nine months for the funding to be approved and a further few months for the equipment to be delivered. Fifteen months after the initial referral Dan received his new wheelchair.
Enabling high quality, sustainable and accessible therapy services in rural areas

‘Rural proofed’ policy

Preparedness

- Service user (Dan)
- Therapist (Sam)
- Community
- Sector

Feedback

Enabling community capacity

- Resources
- Processes
- Networks

Sharing responsibilities

Setting priorities

Agreeing approaches

Opportunity, Time

Cost, Motivation

Enhanced Capacity

Dan, Sam, Dan’s community and the disability sector

Enhancing therapeutic capacity

Feedback
So what is needed now?

› Networks Solutions: Collaborative Digital Hub
  - for therapists, service users and communities

› Resource Solutions: Collaborative Community
  - celebrating and sharing community resources

› Process Solutions: Streamlined Systems
  - rural proofing
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Thank you

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