



Advancing Rural Allied Health Practice Through Health Service Collaboration

Daniel Baker¹, Eliza Huntley², Alex Spiller² Bass Coast Health¹, Gippsland Southern Health Service²



Aim

Develop an 'own grown' specialist sub-regional workforce responsive to an identified service gap of access to positive behaviour support.

Background:

Since the roll-out of the NDIS in Inner-Gippsland in 2017 there has been a significant increase in requests for positive behaviour support, and complex cases were outside the skill set of the incumbent staff.

In 2018, three rural health services in South Gippsland collaborated to support a joint application for a Department of Health and Human Services Advancing Practice in Allied Health Grant (Autism Spectrum Disorder). The project targeted increasing skills and confidence of a broad cohort of local allied health professionals (Occupational Therapists (OT's), Social Workers (SW's) and Speech Pathologists (SP's)) in providing Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) to meet a local service need for People with Autism.



PBS
Community
of Practice
meeting,
27/02/19

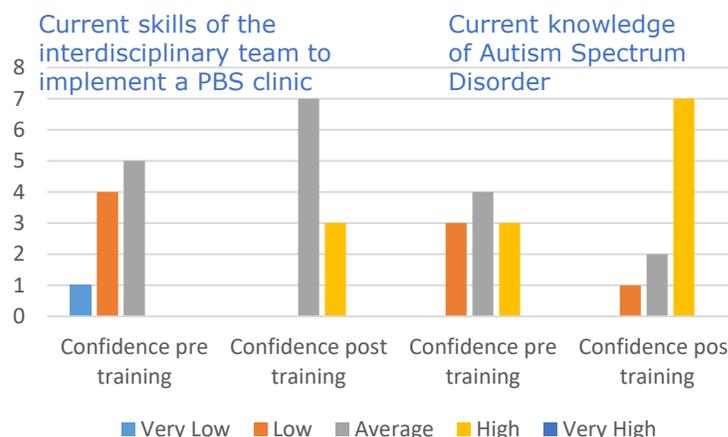
Method:

A pre-training evaluation was conducted which explored confidence providing care to People with Autism of different age groups, history of previous training in this field and confidence and capability to perform PBS therapy.

Subsequently, an interprofessional cohort of OT's, SP's and SW's shared a locally delivered 5-day tailored training program. A post-training evaluation was conducted to review the success of the training program and to identify areas that needed further support through mentoring and supervision.

Results:

10/12 participants responded to the pre and post training evaluations.



Implications for Allied Health Practice

Collaboration and joint applications for grants are a viable approach for smaller health services to develop service capabilities and meet community needs.

Health service collaboration can enable rural allied health professionals to pursue advancing practice opportunities.

A collaborative investigation into an interprofessional group's training needs pre and post a training intervention can show progression to advancing practice capability.

Strategies for Success

- Monthly Community of Practice ✓
- Supervision and mentoring from an external expert clinician in the embedding phase of the clinic ✓
- Investment in training of broad cohort of staff ✓
- Workforce collaboration to support implementation, ongoing viability and sustainability of services ✓

Conclusion:

Collaboration between small rural health services has enabled the provision of a sustainable workforce, a new service to meet community needs and to be successful in applying for an advancing practice in Allied Health (ASD) DHHS grant.

A longer term evaluation of how this clinic has been embedded and how services have been received within the community will give further insights into the success of this collaborative model.

Contact details: daniel.baker@basscoasthealth.org.au and eliza.huntley@gshs.com.au