

Advancing Rural Allied Health Practice Through Health Service Collaboration

Rural Health Services collaborating to provide training and support prior to implementing a sub-regional Positive Behaviour Support Clinic for People with Autism

Daniel Baker (Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service & South Gippsland Hospital)

A collaborative approach to planning, training, support and service provision

- ▶ A Silver Bullet – An Advancing Practice in Allied Health (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Grant
- ▶ A collaborative approach to stakeholder, consumer and community engagement
- ▶ A common purpose and a commitment to collaborate, share resources and training opportunities and ultimately support each other in the provision of a cross service interdisciplinary positive behaviour support clinic

Learnings to date and conclusion

- ▶ Enablers: A history of collaboration and board and executive level support, shared staff, good will of allied health professionals, key stakeholders, consumers and the community
- ▶ 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 provides opportunities for rural allied health professionals to pursue advancing practice opportunities.
- ▶ Initial evaluations showed strong improvement in confidence and competence of allied health professionals to provide PBS therapy. However, 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.