Needs assessment – Primary Care Enhancement Program Training

Australians with intellectual disability face a number of health inequalities. The impact of this has been highlighted in recent research. Compared with people without intellectual disability, those with intellectual disability:

* Die an average of 27 years earlier 1
* Have over twice the rate of avoidable deaths 1
* Have higher rates of physical and mental health conditions 8, 9, 10
* Access preventative healthcare less often7
* Are 4 times more likely to experience a potentially preventable hospitalization2
* Have much higher rates of polypharmacy, including for psychotropic drugs and where an appropriate diagnosis is lacking 3, 4, 5, 6

Many Australian health professionals report they lack confidence working with people with intellectual disability and feel ill-equipped to meet their health needs 11- 15. This is unsurprising, given that audits of medical and nursing student curricula have found that both the degree of content on intellectual disability health, and the teaching methods used, varies greatly between institutions 16, 17. One study on medical curricula found that little progress had been made to address the gaps in education for medical students over a 20 year period from 1995 to 201518.

Locally, [PHN] has identified that… [PHN to complete based on their regional work].

In 2019, a Roundtable identified the key elements of a National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability. These included better support for health professionals to provide improved care for people with intellectual disability. A short-term priority under the Roadmap was a Primary Care Enhancement Program (PCEP) focusing on the needs of people with intellectual disability.

As part of the PCEP, the Council for Intellectual Disability led the development of a suite of training materials for health professionals. These were co-designed, with input from people with intellectual disability and their families, four lead PHNs, clinical and academic experts, disability service providers, and the Department of Health. In addition to the training, a series of accessible resources for people with intellectual disability focused on primary care were developed, along with resources for health professionals focused on communication, reasonable adjustments and care planning.

The training being delivered draws from the PCEP training materials and links health professionals to appropriate resources.

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Goals and Learning Outcomes:

[PHN to select as appropriate for their workshop and audience].

These apply to the entire training package, i.e. including the pre-and post-workshop activities.

## Goal – GPs

Increase the confidence of health practitioners to promote the best possible health care of clients with intellectual disability through accessing appropriate resources, undertaking care coordination, including liaising with other health and disability professionals and by identifying whole-of-practice reasonable adjustments which are feasible.

**Learning outcomes – GPs and practice nurses:**

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify relevant clinical resources to guide best practice when providing primary health care for people with intellectual disability.
2. Discuss appropriate accessible consumer resources to promote best practice when providing health care for people with intellectual disability.
3. Describe adjustments to standard practice that help to overcome barriers to health care commonly experienced by people with intellectual disabilities.

## Goal – other professionals

Increase the confidence of health practitioners to promote the best possible health care of clients with intellectual disability through accessing appropriate resources, liaising with other health and disability professionals and by identifying whole-of-practice reasonable adjustments which are feasible.

##

**Learning outcomes – allied health:**

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify resources available to promote best practice when providing health care for people with intellectual disability.
2. List adjustments to standard practice that help to overcome barriers to health care commonly experienced by people with intellectual disabilities.

[Please note, suggested session outlines are available in the manual].