

Interim Project Report – July 2013

1. Aim of the project

The aim of the WHY Project is to provide HACC eligible clients with access to a broad range of HACC Allied Health and other services in the local government areas of West Wimmera Shire, Hindmarsh Shire and Yarriambiack Shire.

To promote a partnership approach between HACC Assessment Services and HACC Allied Health teams in the nominated Shires.

2. Project objectives

- To enhance allied health services in the specified LGAs
- To increase referral to Living at Home assessment officers
- To promote a person centred and enabling approach to all HACC services delivered in the specified LGAs
- To remodel the availability and delivery of personal care services through increased involvement of allied health clinicians and more flexible service delivery

3. Partners engaged in the project

West Wimmera Health Service (service provider and fund holder);
West Wimmera Shire - HACC Assessment Service,
Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital - HACC Assessment Service,
Harrow Bush Nursing Service,
Hindmarsh Shire Council - HACC Assessment Service,
Dunmunkle Health Service - HACC Assessment Service,
Woomelang Bush Nursing Service,
Rural Northwest Health,
Yarriambiack Shire Council - HACC Assessment Service,
Department of Health - HACC Program - Grampians Region

4. What (if anything) has changed since the original project brief was completed?

Since the original meeting in December 2012 to discuss growth funds and the proposal for the project the following activities have been undertaken:

A Project Team was formed with representation from all participating agencies - this group has met three times and will continue to meet regularly throughout the life of the project, July and October 2013 and February/June 2014.

An Occupational Therapist (OT commenced March 2013) and Physiotherapist (PT commenced April 2013) have been engaged by West Wimmera Health Service - these clinicians will have the key role within the Shires of West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Current West Wimmera Health Service OT and PT will provide HACC services within Hindmarsh Shire and ongoing support for the clinicians in the other two shires.

The Project Team have developed a range of agreements and implemented the following processes:

- Development of the project brief (draft) and evaluation strategy (approved)
- The development of a Memorandum of Understanding (draft) between West Wimmera Health Service and participating agencies to ensure commitment to agreed processes
- A fee policy and clarity around responsibility for the collection of fees
- A roster for the delivery of service in each of the Shires along with referral pathways
- A processes for documentation of client assessment and treatment reports
- West Wimmera Allied Health have introduced a trial of completing Client Support Plans to be provided for each client and shared with the referring party and when completing referrals

Details of each of these activities are available in the minutes from the Project Team.

5. What evaluation has been completed since the project commenced?

A data report for April to June 2013 is attached to this Interim Report.
Also attached are a set of case studies relating to Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

6. Have you encountered any barriers to implementation?

In initial discussions it was noted that access to a physiotherapy treatment room was not available in the community of Edenhope. For this reason it was agreed to provide some clients with home based treatment and a set of Criteria for Physiotherapy Home Visits was developed. Any conditions that could not be safely/effectively treated at home would be referred to either the Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital or Harrow Bush Nursing Service who both have a visiting physiotherapist who attends on a regular basis.

In initial discussion it was noted that there is an existing HACC Occupational Therapy service in Yarriambiack Shire at Rural Northwest Health - it was considered vital to liaise directly with this service to ensure that referral pathways to each service were clearly identified.

7. Have you encountered any unexpected positive outcomes?

The key positive outcome at this time is the enthusiasm that the project has experienced in relation to providing regular allied health OT and PT within the Shires of West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

All partnering agencies have maintained a positive approach to the project and remain committed to making this model work.