

Project	Name:	Victorian Stroke Telemedicine Program
	Lead agency:	Florey Institute auspiced by Ambulance Victoria Linked to Wimmera Health Care Group, Horsham
	Key Contact:	Jarrold Hunter, Clinical Nurse Consultant - Stroke Care Coordinator, Wimmera Health Care Group (WHCG)
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Wimmera PCP role:	None	
Objectives	The VST program is a virtual system which links rural and regional Victorian hospitals to a network of Melbourne-based neurologists who can provide treatment advice about patients with acute stroke symptoms.	
	The program relies on audio-visual communication between neurologists, patients and local doctors and there is real-time access to brain imaging to facilitate the remote consultations.	
	Other key objectives of the program are to evaluate the potential benefits of telemedicine for enhancing capability in regional hospitals, reduce diagnostic delays and improve access to effective acute stroke treatments. In particular, improving access to intravenous thrombolysis which is proven to lead to better patient outcomes	
Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up activities identified (new template)	
Governance	WHCG Clinical Governance Memorandum of Understanding with the Florey Institute	
Infrastructure/ software	Stand alone Videoconference unit provided by the initial project and grant. The unit is not used for other VC meetings and is serviced annually.	
Clinician Engagement	Has been very strong and supported by good project communication, education and explanation of the benefits to patients.	
Consumer Engagement	Consumers are provided with a good explanation by the WHCG clinicians on how the VC consultation works. There has also been significant media and consumer engagement during the project development with meetings held with a wide variety of community groups.	

Adaptability to other areas of service delivery	Yes, processes could be adopted for other areas.
Evaluations	<p>The Florey Institute has conducted significant evaluation of the program and more information can be found on their website here http://www.vst.org.au/</p> <p>The Victorian Stroke Telemedicine (VST) Program was a finalist and award recipient (honourable mention) in the 2016 Ko Awatea International Excellence in Health Improvement Awards.</p>
Learnings & new activities	The Victorian Stroke Telemedicine program improves patient outcomes and requires ongoing momentum and education to keep clinicians competent and confident to deliver this care, which is core business at WHCG.

Last updated: 9/11/17