

## ACI Rural Innovation Awards 2018

The following projects were recipients of the ACI Innovation Award 2018 awarded by the ACI Rural Health Network as part of the rural LHD Health Innovation Awards annually.



### NNSWLHD – R.U Managing Pressure (RUMP)

A standardised decision making tool was developed (poster, flowchart and matrix) which helped staff select appropriate Pressure Injury Prevention equipment for individual patients and reduced hospital acquired pressure areas by 55%; potentially saving the Lismore Base Hospital \$30,000. Very transferable across the Local Health District.

**Photo:** L-R: Anthony Zuill (Lismore Base), Jenny Preece (ACI)



### MNCLHD – MNC Cancer Institute Collaborative Approach (Service Redesign)

Lateral thinking was used to reconfigure workflow: staggering nurse start times to make treatment days longer, introducing daily co-ordination huddles and matching staff skillmix with patient acuity which has resulted in decreased wait times, streamlined throughput and, improved the patient and staff experience.

**Photo:** L-R: Gillian Harrington, Caroline Ford, Belinda Kendall (Coffs Harbour), Patrick Frances (ACI Rural Health Network Co Chair)



### HNELHD – Police Ambulance Early Access to Mental Health Assessment to Mental Health using Telehealth.

This project reduced unnecessary anxiety and patient transport to a larger centre by introducing telehealth triage for Mental Health patients by Police and Ambulance in the field, by use of an iPad video-linked to a mental health professional. The Award acknowledges the cross sector engagement with Police and Ambulance which is having significant impact on scarcity of emergency resources in rural areas, and is scalable nationally!

**Photo:** L-R: Anthony Townsend, Luke Wiseman, Beth Gow, Jay Jones, Liz Newton



### WNSW – Virtual Allied Health Service

Services were reconfigured to replace the traditional hub and spoke allied health service provision model to progressively embed new virtual teams into MPS using Telehealth as business as usual. Telehealth is now central to delivering Dietetics, Pharmacy, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech Pathology interventions for small facilities across the District.

**Photo:** L-R: Tracey Drabsch, Scott McLachlan (CE), Angela Firth, Richard Cheney, Catherine Forbes, Ian Mawbey, Elissa Clark, Jenny Wheeler



**MLHD – Gale Hynes (Individual Award) –** Using robust research methodology, Gale developed and implemented numerous resources to standardise inclusion of routine haematological, cardiac and metabolic assessments for mental health patients as well as providing education across MLHD, including community pharmacists, prescribing GPs and aged care facilities. Gale will spend 2 days at ACI shadowing relevant Networks and team members to enhance her work within MLHD.

**Photo:** L-R: Jenny Preece (ACI), Gale Hynes (Young)



### **FWLHD - Direct Access Colonoscopy Clinic FWLHD**

This project adopted a service redesign approach to fast track patients with a positive faecal occult blood test (FOBT) through to colonoscopy, and ranked referrals based on symptoms rather than referral date. Introduction of innovative nurse led clinics has reduced the wait time from over 1 year to 30 days for patients to see visiting Gastroenterologists and has streamlined patient flow and colonoscopy management.

**Photo:** L-R: Kellie Hammond and Melissa Cumming, Broken Hill



### **SNSWLHD – Joint Winners**

#### **- VDOTS (Virtual Directly Observed Treatment Supervision for TB)**

This is a very transferable patient centred project using audio-visual technology to supervise treatment administration remotely and negating the need for patients to waste time on travel and lose time from work – four minutes, anywhere, anytime.

**Photo:** L-R: Catherine McKenna, Dorothy Nicholson, Denise Smillie - Queanbeyan



### **- Managing Risk by Co-Design**

Using co-design methodology with patients and staff, a risk assessment checklist was developed to enable electronic devices and mobile phones to be used by patients admitted to mental health inpatient units.

**Photo:** L-R: Peta Kleinig, Robert Young, Pavan Bhandari, Anita Bizzotto, Gabrielle Mulcahy, Tim Leggett, Cherie Puckett absent) – Mental Health Inpatient Services Queanbeyan



### **ISLHD – Clozapine Care – My GP and Me**

This project used service redesign to move Clozapine care into mainstream health by bringing the GP into the picture, decreasing reliance on Clozapine Clinics and Psychiatrists and allowing rural Mental Health patients to be managed holistically closer to home.

**Photo:** L-R: Wade Norrie and Shane Shutz - Illawarra Community Mental Health



### **Rural Health & Research Congress – ACI Excellence and Innovation in Rural Health Award**

#### **Grow our own: sustainable midwifery workforce in rural and remote areas.**

A rural and remote working Registered Nurse commenced as a student midwife in a community based rural non-birthing facility. In partnership with LHD birthing facilities, the student successfully graduated as a Registered Midwife. Along with increasing the rural and remote midwifery workforce a number of results were achieved such as 70% of women breastfeeding upon discharge, increased smoking cessation results and 90% of women accessing antenatal care prior to 14 weeks gestation. This was achieved through partnerships with CSU, NaMO and the LHD and is the first of its kind in NSW. The winning team received a grant of \$2,000 to enhance sustainability.

**Photo:** L-R: Tammy O'Connor, Clinical Midwifery Consultant and Alison Loudon, District Manager Maternity and Children's Strategies, WNSWLHD

Winning Projects are written up and published on the ACI Innovation Exchange, as a central repository for sharing innovation and resources <https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie>