



The Guiding Question

Who receives

What services

From whom

At what cost

With what effect

The Adult/65+ Measures - Queensland

Clinician rated

- Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS)
- Life Skills Profile (LSP-16)
- RUG-ADL (65+)
- Focus of Care

Consumer self-report

- Mental Health Inventory (MHI)

Background – The Project

In the past reliable quality information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health consumers was not available.

Services that were provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were inadequate and often not effective in terms of cultural appropriateness and achieving better social/emotional well-being outcomes

How is this relevant to Indigenous Queenslanders?

The Queensland Mental Health Policy Statement for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People (1996) identified seven key areas for future action.

1. *Culturally appropriate service provision*
2. *Participation and partnership*
3. *Needs based criteria for service provision and resource allocation*
4. *Workforce planning and development*
5. *Information, monitoring and evaluation*
6. *Community education and support*
7. *Across government approach to the provision of key social and infrastructure services*

Outcome measurement and Indigenous Mental Health Consumers

Current suite of outcome measures were not designed for Indigenous people.

Are they relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

- Yes and No

AIMHI Project

Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative (AIMHI)

The aim of the AIMHI project is:
to promote the health (both physical and mental) and wellbeing of people with chronic and recurring mental illness with focus on people living in rural areas, people with high support needs and Indigenous people living in remote areas.

NB. Number of streams to project

Outcome measurement and Indigenous Mental Health Consumers

What was done:

- Project to investigate in the Cairns Network Mental Health Service the validity and meaningfulness of outcome measures with adult Indigenous consumers
- Development of Principles for use with Indigenous consumers

The Principles

- Developed guiding principles to inform use of outcome measures with Indigenous consumers
- The research established the importance of utilising these principles to improve the reliability and validity of HoNOS and LSP-16 completed for Indigenous consumers in the Cairns Network.
- Provide best available evidence to inform implementation of the measures with Indigenous consumers

Principle One

ALTHOUGH CLINICIANS PROVIDE THE FINAL RATINGS FOR THE HONOS AND LSP-16, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE ADDITIONAL INFORMANTS WHEN APPLYING THESE MEASURES TO INDIGENOUS CONSUMERS.

Consider the involvement of at least one carer/family member

and

one local practitioner familiar with the consumer and community

Principle Two

THE CLINICIAN'S SCORING OF ALL ISSUES SHOULD OBJECTIVELY REFLECT UNDERLYING SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE EXPERIENCED BY THE CONSUMER AND SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT SIMILAR DISADVANTAGE IS ALSO WIDELY EXPERIENCED BY THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

The outcome measures should capture prevailing levels of social disadvantage *as well as* any additional disadvantage experienced by consumer as a result of illness or disability. Consider issues such as lack of adequate food supply, overcrowding in households.

Principle Three

THE CLINICIAN'S SCORING OF BEHAVIOURS THAT ARE SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY UNACCEPTABLE SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY HOW COMMON SUCH BEHAVIOURS ARE IN THE COMMUNITY.

Scoring should objectively reflect behaviours not sanctioned or accepted.

Example - excessive alcohol consumption, violence in home/community

Principle Four



SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS, EXPERIENCES AND BELIEFS ASSOCIATED WITH FUNERALS, RELIGIOUS OR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY ASSESSMENT ITEMS.

Confirm the observed findings are consistent with social or cultural practices that are recognised and accepted within the community. If so, do **not** rate findings.

Consider non-accidental self-injury as a result of mourning rituals and paranormal phenomena in the context of funeral, healing, religious or other traditional activities.

Modified HoNOS

(e.g. of one item)

Scale 2: Non-accidental self-injury

Do not include accidental self-injury (due e.g. to dementia or severe learning disability); the cognitive problem is rated at Scale 4 and the injury at Scale 5. Do not include illness or injury as a direct consequence of drug/alcohol use rated at Scale 3 (e.g. cirrhosis of the liver or injury resulting from drunk driving are rated at Scale 5).

Rating should be objective but socially sanctioned self harm in the context of funeral or traditional activities should not be considered non-accidental self harm.

- 0 No problem of this kind during the period rated.
- 1 Fleeting thoughts about ending it all but little risk during the period rated; no self-harm.
- 2 Mild risk during period; includes non-hazardous self-harm, e.g. wrist-scratching.
- 3 Moderate to serious risk of deliberate self-harm during the period rated; includes preparatory acts, e.g. collecting tablets.
- 4 Serious suicidal attempt and/or serious deliberate self-injury during period.

Where to from here?

He Kakano Pre-Conference Workshop
Wellington 2007

“It is important to ensure outcome measures are relevant for the purpose, and the information is of value for service users and their families, and clinicians.”

Where to from here?

Available resources

- Te Pou documents
- Queensland Principles
- Other?

Where to from here?

Future work -

- Internationally
- Nationally
- State/Territory
- Service

Where to from here?

Identify future activities, strategies and developments required to build on work already completed.

- What are implications for training?
- What needs to be done to 'translate' outcomes information to being useful for Indigenous service users?
- What questions do we want to ask of the outcome collections?
- What considerations/precautions need to be taken when considering using outcomes information for Indigenous populations