Improving mental health outcomes for Aboriginal people within mainstream mental health services in Western Australia

Shirley McGough
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University
November 2011

http://bmw.curtin.edu.au
How to find us:

http://bmw.curtin.edu.au

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Building-Mental-Wealth/152130671468063

http://twitter.com/BMW_group_WA

*The story of our logo:* The logo uses the central symbol of a head to represent the field of mental health. It is surrounded by large circles which symbolize the organisations and community groups which contribute to a combined effort to improve mental health in Australia. The smaller circles in between the larger circles represent the individuals affected by mental ill-health and their families. The roads in the outer section of the logo symbolize the many pathways that lead to mental ill-health and back to restored mental health. The logo was designed by Allison Bellottie, an Aboriginal artist belonging to the Malgana and Nanda tribal groups from the Shark Bay area of Western Australia.
This study is also supported by a grant by The Nurses Memorial Trust
Positioning
Background

• Identified significant gap between the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians (Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2006).

• Limited consistent national data that specifically measures the mental health & wellbeing in the Aboriginal population.

• However consensus that Aboriginal Australians experience higher rates of mental health problems & associated social disadvantage when compared to the non-Aboriginal population (AIHW, 2008; Hunter 2007).
Background

- ↓↓ engagement of Aboriginal Australians in mainstream mental health and substance use services (Berry & Crowe, 2009; Garvey, 2008; Westerman, 2004).

- Timing of engagement: (Vicary & Bishop, 2005).


- Cultural respectful response by staff.
Purpose

• This study investigates the facilitators and barriers to the provision of culturally respectful mental health care to Aboriginal Australians.
Early findings

• Preparedness

• Levels of influence

• Process
What’s next?
References


AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2008, The Health and Welfare of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 208, ABS cat. no. 4704.0, AIHW cat. no. IHW 14, ABS & AIHW, Canberra


References


