

Adult Assertive Community Care



Health

Innovation and exploration of new models of adult community mental health care has not happened in NSW for over 30 years. The enhancement of Adult Assertive Community Mental Health forms an important part of the NSW Government Mental Health Reform in developing new models of care that better meet the needs of their communities.

Four (4) Local Health Districts (Western Sydney; South Western Sydney; South Eastern Sydney; and Hunter New England) are improving direct client care through redesign of their adult community mental health service.

To improve integrated community mental health care the focus is on **hospital avoidant** community based care; cooperative **transfer of care** for people leaving hospital into community mental health care including private care providers and shared care arrangements; focussed **clinical competency** in the care of people with complex co-occurring conditions; and **collaboration** with Community Managed Organisation to maximise clinical and psychosocial capacity for people with significant disability or poor engagement with care.

A Symposium hosted jointly by NSW Health's Ministry and the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) was held on 24 March 2017 to showcase the outcomes of the four (4) LHD redesigns, the resources available through the ACI for networking, LHD information exchange and data collection for the purposes of service redesign.

It provided an opportunity for the remaining LHDs to learn and reflect on the potential to redesign and deliver integrated clinical services and identified several key principles of care inherent in successful models including:

- the need for seamless service provision between inpatient and community care
- the need for service redesign to include consumer input and to be tailored to the community it services

To learn more about mental health care reform in NSW visit

www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/reform

