

Access to Allied Psychological Services projects: Achievements to date

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Presentation overview

- Sixth Interim Evaluation Report evaluation questions
 - Has participation in the projects by GPs and allied health professionals changed?
 - Has access to and the nature of mental health care for consumers changed?
 - Have the experience of GPs, allied health professionals and consumers changed?
 - Are consumers experiencing positive outcomes?
- Summary and conclusions
- Evaluation communication strategy.....discussion

Method: Data Sources

Local Evaluation Report Data

- 84 (83%) of projects submitted as at 30th September 2005

Minimum Dataset Data

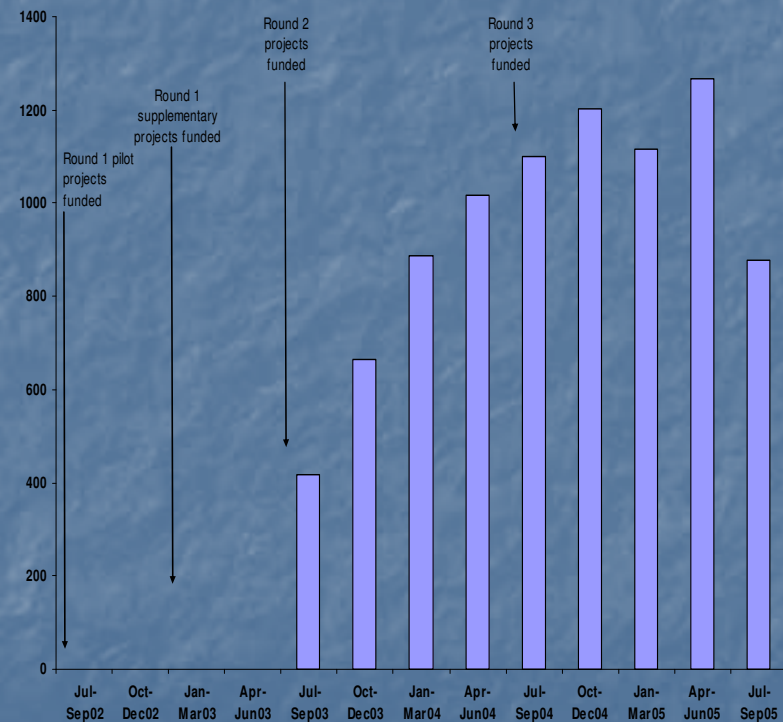
- 97 (96%) of projects submitted as at 30th September 2005

Has participation in the projects by GPs and allied health professionals changed?

YES

- As at 30th Sept, 2005 a total of 2,980 GPs have made referrals to 1,040 allied health professionals.

GP Participation

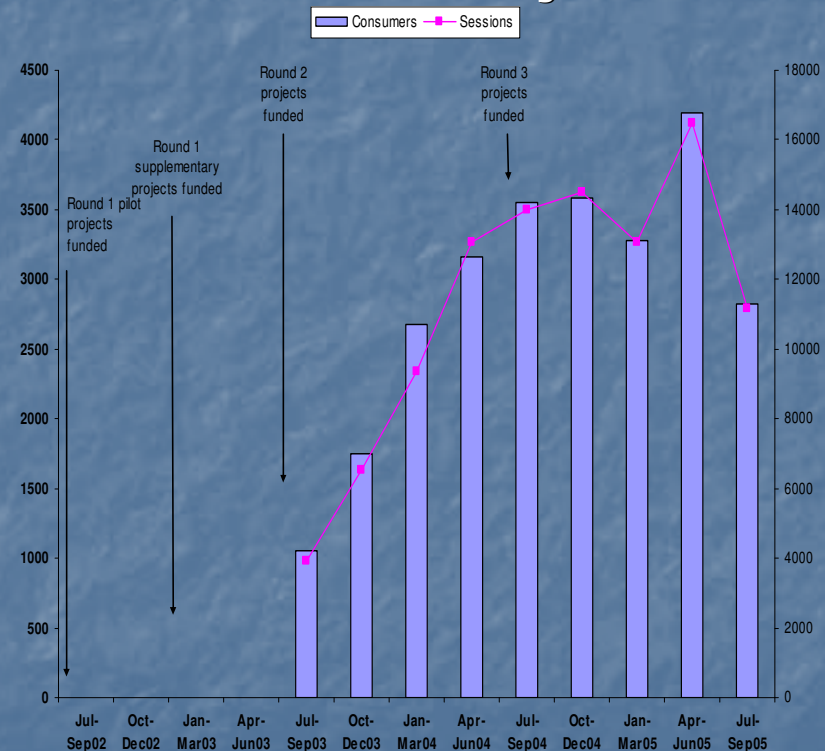


Has access to and the nature of mental health care for consumers changed?

YES

- A total of 26,444 consumers have received care through projects.
- Consumer profile:
 - typically female
 - aged around 40 years
 - on low incomes
 - no previous history of mental health care
 - diagnosed with depression or anxiety disorders.
- The charging of co-payments has varied over time inline with projects relative fluctuations in levels of funding.

Consumers Accessing Care



Have the experience of GPs, allied health professionals and consumers changed?

YES & NO !

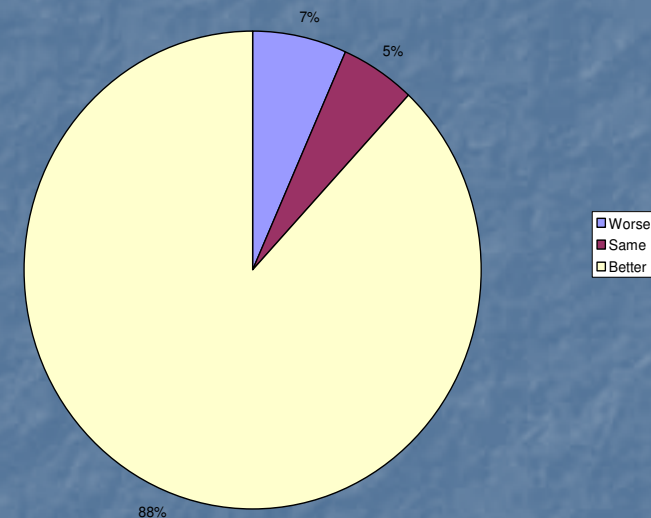
- Local evaluation reports reveal that experiences have remained consistent with relatively few new issues emerging. For example:
 - Benefits of involvement in the projects:
 - upskilling opportunities, mutual advantages of collaboration with allied health professionals, increased referral options and the structured approach to providing mental health care
 - Barriers to participation in the projects:
 - hurdles of training and paperwork requirements remain issues
 - remuneration, inadequate feedback, confusion over the operation no longer are main issues
 - Consumer equity is still a main issue

Are consumers experiencing positive outcomes?

YES

- Data available from the minimum dataset reveal that in 88% of cases, consumers who have contact with allied health professionals through the projects get better.

Outcomes for consumers



Summary & Conclusions

The Access to Allied Health Services projects:

- have become a crucial part of the mental health care landscape in Australia ;
- are reaching more people who may previously have had difficulty accessing services;
- are providing high quality care in a consistent fashion; and
- are achieving their desired results

Need to ensure that the appropriate funding and support systems are in place so that projects continue to be sustainable.

Evaluation Communication Strategy

- Evaluation role involves:
 - Support to local evaluations
 - The development of a minimum dataset
 - Synthesising evaluation lessons from the Access to Allied Psychological Services projects

Communicating evaluation findings

Evaluation Communication Strategy

Forum to discuss :

- How to strengthen communication between evaluation team and the Divisions network?
- Issues with regard to evaluation processes (eg., compliance with Minimum dataset

Via a reflection framework:

- Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation and Maintenance of evaluation findings