

THE WOBBLY HUB AND DOUBLE SPOKES PROJECT: DELIVERING PRIVATE THERAPY IN RURAL AUSTRALIA



FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

Enabling high quality, sustainable and accessible services: A framework for rural private therapists

Wobbly Hub and Double Spokes
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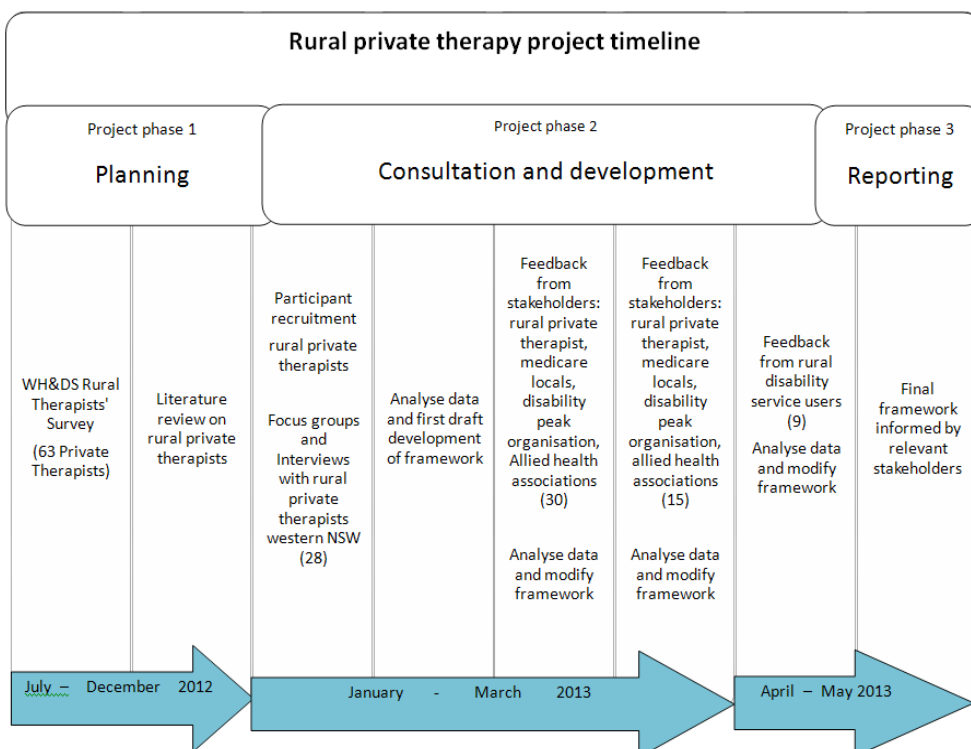
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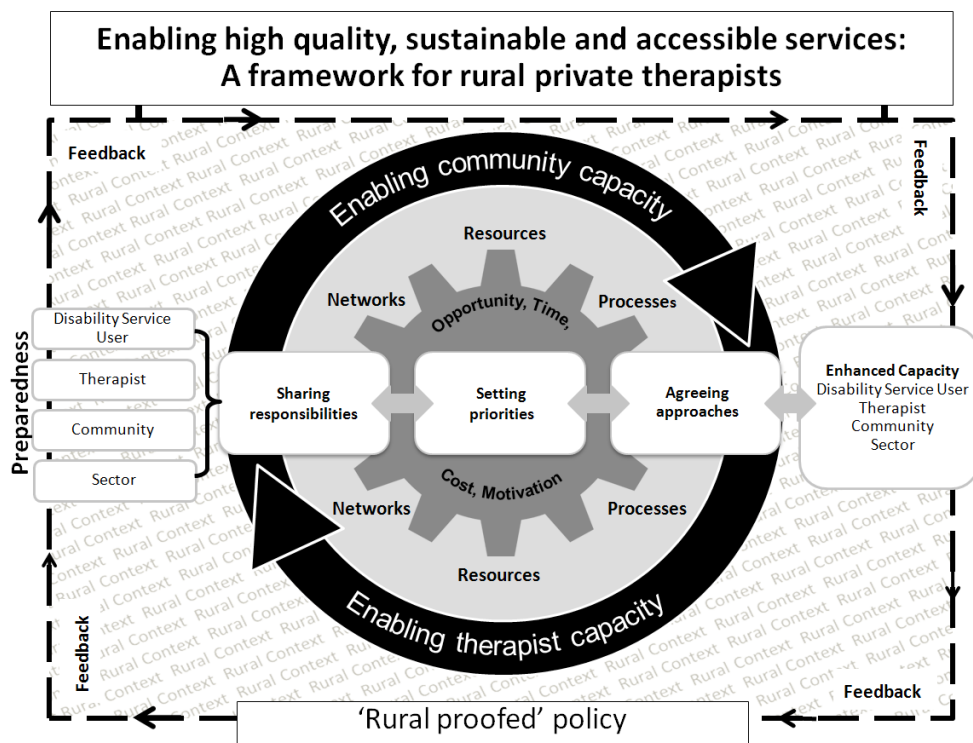
THE POTENTIAL: RURAL PRIVATE THERAPISTS

In 2012, 63 private allied health professionals in Western New South Wales completed an online survey as part of the Wobbly Hub and Double Spokes (WH&DS) research program. Analysis of this survey highlighted the potential of the rural private therapy workforce to deliver services under DisabilityCare Australia.

Private therapists are autonomous and flexible service providers, which supports the development of long term collaborative relationships with service users and their communities. The nature of this relationship has great potential in meeting the needs of people in rural areas in a changing disability sector.

Funded by FaHCSIA, the aim of the Rural Private Therapy Project was to develop a framework to assist rural private therapists to provide ongoing, high quality and accessible therapy to rural disability service users.





“The framework recognises that the service provision to the individual and the service delivery model employed by therapist are interdependent, and the outcomes influenced by the factors identified [in the framework]. The individual is a part of the community and the benefits of developing the capacity of the community cannot be underestimated in meeting individual goals.”

Online feedback participant

THE FRAMEWORK

Framing

Contextual features, such as a rural context and policy, frame and shape the therapy process. Rural context encompasses socio-cultural and socio-economic factors, with therapists, services users and community members needing an understanding of how this impacts their work and life.

‘Rural proofing’ disability policy ensures rural communities are not disadvantaged because their circumstances are different from their metropolitan counterparts.

Engaging

Service users, therapists, communities and the disability sector engage in a therapy pathway involving shared responsibility and collaborative approaches.

Preparedness of the therapist, service user and the community ensures high quality, sustainable and accessible services can be provided. The pathway, central to planning, prioritising and engaging in therapy activities through DisabilityCare Australia, facilitates enhanced capacity.

Enabling

The capacity of service users, therapists and the community is enabled through the therapy pathway drawing on and building networks, resources and processes. These are influenced by four drivers: time, cost, opportunity and motivation and are integral to enabling capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1: Network Solutions: Collaborative Digital Hub

Develop a collaborative digital hub to provide a “one-stop-information-shop” for therapists, service users and their communities.

2: Resource Solutions: Collaborative Community

Conduct community resource audits to enhance therapist and service user knowledge about and use of local community resources.

3: Process Solutions: Streamlined Systems

Develop streamlined systems including clear policies and procedures, ‘rural proofed’ policy and support for alternative service delivery models.



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