ACACIA: The ACT Consumer and Carer Mental Health Research Unit



Partners in Recovery Evaluation

The Partners in Recovery (PIR) program was an Australia-wide mental health care coordination program.

PIR was created to provide tailored, wrap-around care for people with severe and persistent mental illness and complex care needs.



What we did

Participants (n = 25) of the PIR program completed a survey at two different time points to measure changes in their quality of life, social inclusion, perceptions of recovery, and experience with the program.

Service providers (n = 14) also completed a survey about their experiences, and what they thought made PIR work well or not.

Six PIR participants, two carers, and four service providers were also interviewed about their experiences.

What we found

Compared to how participants rated themselves before they started the PIR program, their quality of life, social inclusion, and attitudes towards recovery all significantly improved over time.



PIR participants felt they were a central part of their recovery-oriented care. This was helped by a good match and relationship between the participant and the Support Facilitator. A poor match could cause problems for participants and their carers.

According to service providers, uncertain funding was the biggest problem preventing the PIR program from being sustainable. Service providers felt that the PIR program succeeded in building relationships between services. These relationships were created through the personal approach of the Support Facilitators.

What we learned

The results of our study suggest that the PIR program was able to achieve its goals in the ACT.

We also found that the Support Facilitators were the driving force behind the program's success.

Want to learn more?

For more information about ACACIA's research projects, head to the "Our Research" page on the ACACIA website:

http://cmhr.anu.edu.au/acacia



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