



BANKSTOWN  
HEALTH SERVICES

WILSON ST

*Bankstown*

# ■ Our story

- Bankstown ED sees approximately 47,000 patients annually
- Approximately 8% of these patients present with a primary psychiatric disorder

■ Source: First Net.



- Bankstown ED is a 'Declared Mental Health Facility'
- Bankstown hospital has an on-site 30 bedded adult psychiatric unit 'Banks House'

The city of Bankstown is a multicultural area. In 2011 34.5% of our population were Non English Speaking, with 37% of the Bankstown City population being born overseas. 7.1% (12993 people) were born in Lebanon, followed by 6.8% (12394) born in Vietnam; 2.9% (5222) were born in China and 1.3% (2363) were born in the UK.

Census 2011.

# Specific to Bankstown

- Psycho-Stimulant Intoxication/delirium
- +/- psychosis/mania
  
- PTSD/Psychosis from Villawood Immigration Detention Centre

- **People affected by serious mental illness face critical challenges to achieving and maintaining the same physical health as other people in the community.**



# 'The medical clearance' added benefit

- For some mental health patients who are not admitted it is a rare opportunity to offer primary healthcare.



# Schizophrenia

Why am I  
50% more likely to have a heart attack,  
20% more likely to get cancer,  
and have my life cut short  
by up to 25 years?



# Challenges

- Medical assessment of mental health presentations offers a huge spectrum of acuity from life threatening conditions like serious suicide attempt to people with no mental health history in crisis following an acute stressor such as a relationship break up.

# Challenges

- First Episode Psychosis
- How far to go?
- CT head now or later?
- UDS in house

# why can it sometimes be so hard?

- the patient may not clearly have a delirium nor a psychosis but is acutely disturbed
  - the thought disorganisation and agitation of some patients with acute psychosis can make it hard to distinguish from a delirium
  - delirium patients may have auditory hallucinations instead of the more common visual hallucinations
  - psychosis patients may have visual hallucinations instead of the more common auditory hallucinations
  - up to 40% of patients with dementia have psychotic symptoms (delusions and hallucinations)
  - most of the causes of delirium can also cause an acute "toxic" psychosis



- delirium is commonly caused by anti-psychotic medications or drug overdoses

- patients are often uncooperative if not aggressive compromising history-taking and careful examination
- many patients with mental health issues also abuse substances which add to the complexity of the assessment (Dual diagnosis)
- a history of a drug overdose may not be forthcoming
  - have they been taking too much lithium and developed **acute on chronic lithium toxicity**?
  - have they taken a **potentially lethal paracetamol overdose** and not disclosed it?

- Linguistically Diverse population/ NESB
- 'Frequent Flyers' risk of complacency?