



FESTIVAL OF CONTAGIOUS IDEAS 2016



NEW SOUTH WALES
HEALTH INNOVATION
Symposium 2016

Collaborative Team

VIP: Vocational Intervention Program Mid North Coast Local Health District

Challenge

The Vocational Intervention Program provides a structure for collaborative relationships between health service entities, insurance scheme authorities and vocational rehabilitation providers. It should be recognised that boundaries between the participant organisations do typically occur but it has been acknowledged that enhanced collaboration and improved teamwork is vital for the success of the program.

A persistent focus for the program is the end goal of effective employment pathways being built for people with traumatic brain injury across all of NSW.

Solution

The Vocational Intervention Program (VIP) is a new model of service delivery providing two pathways:

- **Fast Track:** A specific early intervention service targeted at a rapid return to work through early referral for vocational rehabilitation assessment, development and implementation of return to work plan
- **New Track:** Explores new employment opportunities through work trial placements with local employers

Prior attempts at finding employment for people with a brain injury did not embody this concept and were often unsuccessful.



Results

Achieving employment is often a key measure of “successful” rehabilitation for people with a brain injury.

Patients benefit from the VIP model through:

- Enhanced collaboration through shared expertise and effective communication
- Flexible and responsive service systems
- Efficient co-ordination where additional services add value rather than duplicate those already provided
- Concurrent rehabilitation provided by the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service

The systems, processes and resources developed will be scalable to other NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services.



Acknowledgements

Mid North Coast Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service Clients, CHES Employment and Support Services, Agency for Clinical Innovation, icare – Lifetime Care and Support Authority, Motor Accidents Authority, Workcover NSW, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Group, Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research.