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## #249 - Using an Implementation Science Community of Practice to scale the dissemination of implementation knowledge through South Australia's public health system

### Presenting Author(s)\*

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### Objectives/aims

The Implementation Science Unit (ISU) facilitates continuous improvement across SA Health so that our public health system can deliver efficient, effective, and quality care to our community. Whether through assisting business units with problems in implementation development, delivery, uptake or sustainment, or through supporting the improvement in their capability in these aspects of implementation. The Implementation Science Community of Practice (ISCOP) was established by ISU in November 2021 with the aim of providing a platform for a small group of staff that share an interest in implementation a platform to share skills and expertise. Over the following 12 months the community grew to over 300 members through word of mouth alone.

### Methods

The ISU is the custodian of ISCOP and facilitates the engagement of members. Through early engagement ISU identified that while members had a great interest in implementation, the overall level of understanding implementation theories, models and frameworks was identified as low, as was the ability to translate theory into practice. ISU adapted US Veteran Affairs QUERI roadmap<sup>1</sup> developing a suite of tools from pre-implementation through to sustainment and de-implementation stages. Evaluation in a form of pre- and post-session surveys assisted ISU in

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understanding member perceptions of the content and the sessions and measure their increasing confidence in the learning objectives.

### **Main findings**

Employing a snowball sampling methodology, IS COP has grown rapidly to 335 SA Health members (May 2023), including executive, clinicians, project and administrative staff from across all SA Health portfolio. A series of 20 training videos tailored to SA Health context were developed, explaining foundational implementation knowledge. The periodically released short videos to members commenced in March 2022 and were accompanied by 'lunch and learn' style facilitated and 'hands on' workshops that introduced practical approaches to common implementation issues. Workshops were held online, increasing access for staff across rural and remote areas and staff who may find release from clinical settings difficult. Further, fact sheets and other resources that supported members to apply the learnings in their work were developed in the context of SA Health. The community has shown strong engagement and the increase in understanding of implementation theories, models, and frameworks and their application is translating to increased use of implementation across South Australia's public health system.

Members appreciated the ability to connect with others, share their work, seek feedback and to network. This had particular significance during the COVID-19 pandemic but has shown tremendous benefit in linking up staff across metropolitan, regional and rural South Australia and of staff of like-discipline across different health networks.

With the opportunity to scale implementation practice across large cross-sections of health staff, this approach is of relevance and interest to health system staff working in other states of Australia.

### **References**

1 Goodrich, David E., et al. "The QUERI roadmap for implementation and quality improvement." (2021).

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