



Evidence and
Implementation
Summit 2023
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation
Science Interventions
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



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#250 - Multiple meanings: Centring lived experience in the design and conduct of an implementation evaluation

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Objectives

Early evaluation of program implementation can provide a rich understanding of what is happening in a program and the inter-relationship of internal and external factors that are influencing successful implementation. This was key for Neami National as they rolled out five pilot Head to Health Centres as part of a larger trial of placed based mental health services seeking to fill the gap between primary care and specialist mental health services. In partnership with the ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation it was recognised that evaluation outcomes often lack meaning for the people who use services. To address this, value has been added to our evaluation approach by centring people with lived experience of mental ill-health and distress in both the co-design of the evaluation approach, as co-researchers in the evaluation team, and in mentor and guidance roles.

Method

This presentation will describe how lived experience is shaping the program implementation evaluation, how we are doing evaluation differently, and how we think this is influencing what, and how, we learn from the process. We will describe our approach to evaluation, making clear how methodological co-design with, and guided by, people with lived experience has shaped the approach

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within the evaluation team and through supplemental co-design activities to direct the intervention focus, engagement approaches and ways to gather information.

Main findings

Through the formation and development of an integrated team of academic, clinical and lived experience researchers, a process of co-learning is shaping our approach to data collection and analysis. This process is reinforcing the critical value of incorporating multiple perspectives in developing the focus and methods and development of outcomes in this program implementation evaluation. This project is being supplemented by the integration of co-design activities with people who have a lived experience of mental ill-health at key junctures in the project. We will share our evaluation protocol, highlighting the development of the integrated evaluation team and influence of lived experience within it, and introduce some of the products and methods that are being used in the evaluation.