

31st National Conference and Exhibition 2025

A scoping review of programs that address the daily living functioning of people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD)

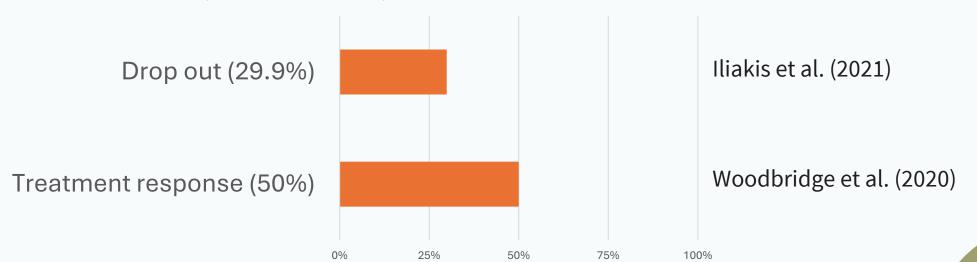
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Introduction

- Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a severe and prevalent mental illness
- BPD is complex and challenging to treat
- Psychotherapy is currently recommended as the mainstay treatment (Storebø et al. 2020)





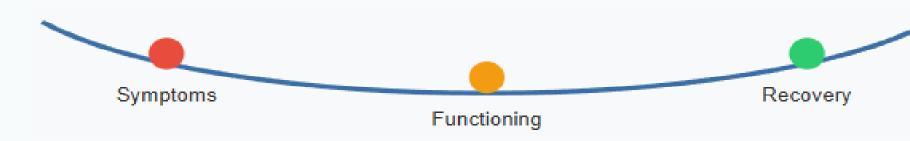
(Gunderson et al., 2011; Zanarini et al., 2010)

- Continued difficulties with 'psychosocial functioning'
- Rely on disability benefits and remain in psychotherapy/psychiatric services

(Gunderson et al., 2011; Kramer et al., 2023; Zanarini et al., 2010a; Zanarini et al., 2010b)



Assessing function



- Researchers use the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF):
 a single score of 'functioning' conflated with symptoms (Gold, 2014)
- Symptomatic remission is not functional recovery (Larivière et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2016)
- 'To work and love': one emotionally sustaining relationship and full-time work or study (Grenyer et al., 2022; Gunderson et al., 2011; Miller et al., 2018; Zanarini et al. 2010a)



Daily living functioning

- We need to consider activities & routines in daily life beyond work & love (Di Bartolomeo et al., 2024; Kernot et al., 2023)
- Difficulties with daily living:
 - Sleeping (King et al., 2024; Wood et al., 2015)
 - Managing home environment (Birken, 2017)
 - Establishing a meaningful routine (Falklöf, 2010; Larivière et al., 2016)







Methods

- Scoping review question: 'What programs are available to support people diagnosed with BPD to address their daily living functioning?'
- Search terms informed using the domains of daily living functioning
 - developed by Desrosiers et al. (2017)
- Eight databases (no limits on date or language)
- Grey literature





- Only 30 records found since 1987:
 - Quantitative and qualitative research (n = 19)
 - Educational materials (leaflets/webpages) (n = 7)
 - Program summaries (n = 4)

Daily living functioning

Contrasted with psychotherapy literature for BPD

Psychotherapy



Records describing facilitator-led programs

Independent living skills development Short-stay residential facilities Brief admission to hospital Outpatient treatment centres Exercise and nutrition groups Occupational Therapy Promotion of lifestyle changes Early intervention groups Peer-supported hospital to home Functional behaviour analysis Art Therapy Light therapy Teaching parenting skills



Australian programs

Mental Health Prevention and Recovery Care





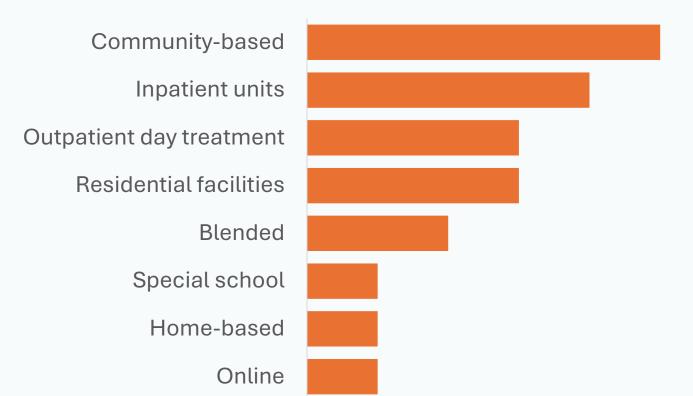








Settings and modalities



Not described

- Individual (n = 7)
- Groups (n = 6)
- Both (n = 6)



Approaches (often combined)

Rehabilitation
Recovery-orientated
Psychotherapy

Crisis management and autonomy

Mind-body medicine

Stepped care

Art Therapy

Behavioural analysis and modification

Chronobiology

Developmental frame of reference

Early intervention

Empowerment

Parenting education

Physical activity (team sport)

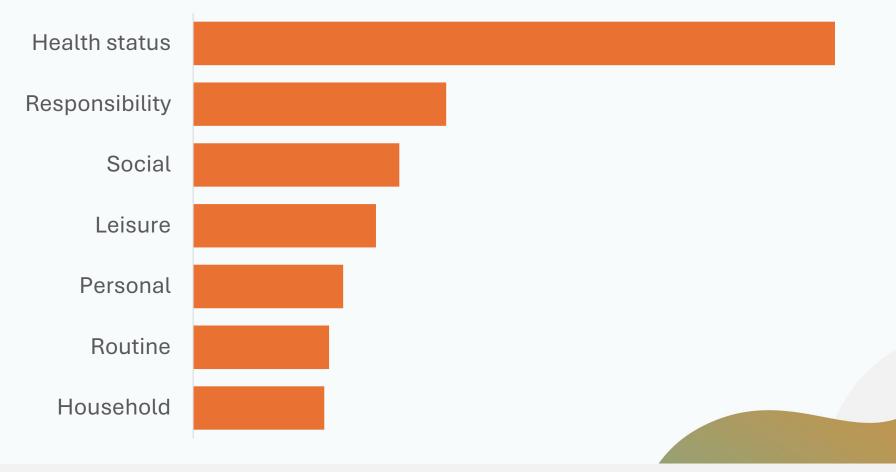
Symptom management

Systems theory

Transitional care



Domains of daily living addressed



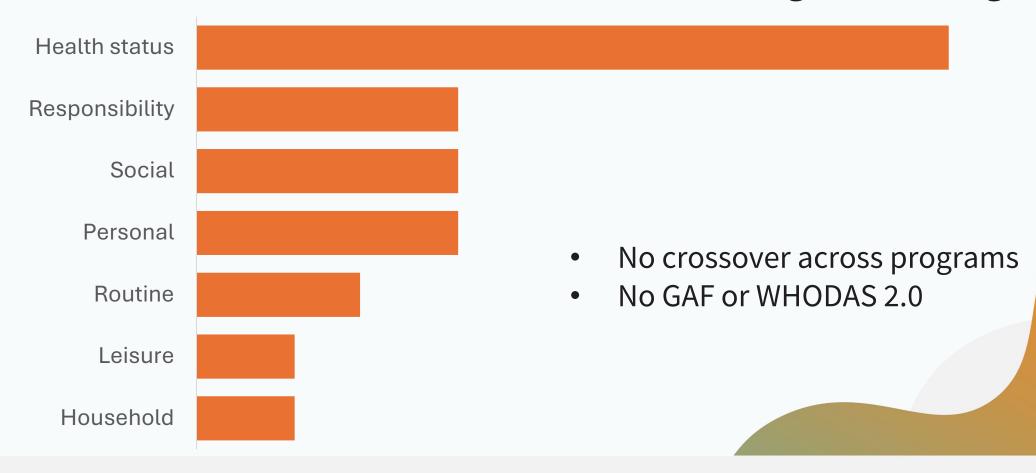


Top 10 domains of daily living

Interpersonal skills Connection & belonging Healthcare & treatment seeking Exercise & physical fitness Diet & eating habits Crisis & safety planning Self-care activities Structuring time Work & study Hobbies & interests



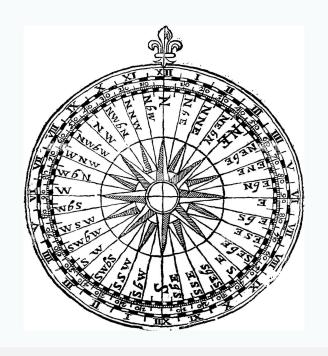
31 measures evaluating functioning





Discussion

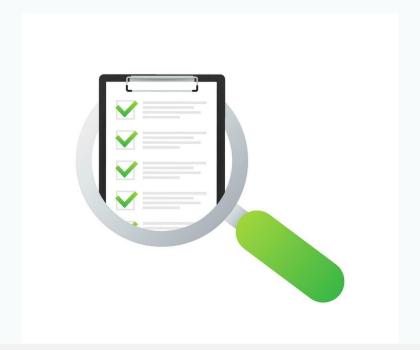
Lack of consistency in the delivery, content and focus of programs
that address the daily living functioning of people diagnosed with BPD





Discussion

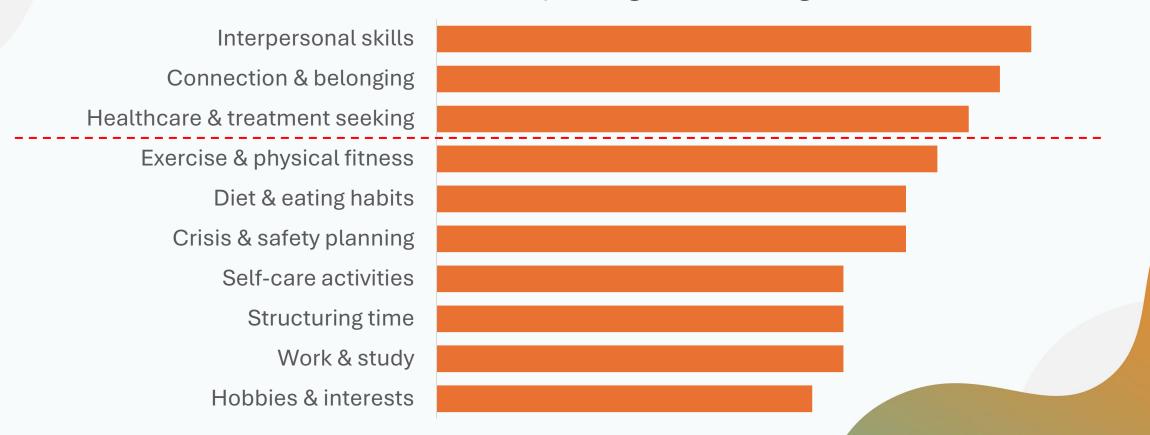
More robust evidence-base for rehabilitation programs needed using valid and reliable outcome measures





Discussion

Address broader domains of daily living functioning





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