Innovative Models of Care (IMOC) Program – Work-In-Work-Out (WIWO)

Outback Futures Ltd will deliver the Work-In-Work-Out (WIWO) model: multi-disciplinary model to improve access to allied health professionals.

Round 3: Outback Futures Limited Work-In Work-Out (WIWO) Allied health

Location: Central and western Queensland, Blackall-Tambo, Barcaldine, Longreach, Winton,

Cloncurry (MM6-7)

Funding: \$1.5 million over 5 years from June 2023

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The activity will implement the Work-In Work-Out (WIWO) multidisciplinary model. The project will provide improved access to allied health professionals in five rural Local Government Areas (LGAs) in central and western Queensland. WIWO practitioners are always connected to their community and transition from in-person clinics to telehealth. This allows them to stay connected mentally, emotionally and professionally to the people and community they're supporting.

The WIWO model was co-designed with bush communities over several years as they provided feedback about the allied health market failure in their regions:

- The overall lack of service provision
- High turnover of clinical staff and having to "re-tell" my story
- Small-town confidentiality challenges and their reluctance to cross a shopfront.

The trial aims to:

- Formally assess the workplace benefits to allied health clinicians, thus improving access to
- Understand the benefits of local allied health assistants within the model.
- Confirm the clinical outcomes experienced by clients.
- Establish the financial sustainability of the model.
- Provide an implementation package for other providers/governments to utilise for further implementation.

The funding will support:

- Project lead: project management, coordination and oversight or all activity, communication, outcomes, community advisory group and governance facilitation;
- Public health data consultant: survey design, collection of data, processing and reporting, collection support;
- Clinical quality directors: development of policies, clinical governance and standards. Client outcomes and satisfaction reporting;

- Business development: development of WIWO region budgets, financial reporting. Writeup
 of all project documentation for scaling; and
- Region leads: community engagement/service mapping and stakeholder management across 5 LGAs.

This will enable psychologists, counsellors, occupational therapists, speech pathologist and social workers to stay in communities up to six times a year for a week-long period. They then continue to work with the same clients through telehealth ensuring consistency, accessibility, convenience and client confidentiality. In three of the five trial regions, Allied Health assistants and Peer Workers with lived experience are deployed locally in community. This allows them to leverage the professional capacity of clinicians and amplify the impact of professional therapy.

The trial will be evaluated in terms of clinician satisfaction and workforce uptake, client health outcomes, financial sustainability, community confidence and care coordination.

Trial activities commenced June 2023.

For more information visit: <u>How we're bucking the trend of staff turnover | Outback Futures</u>