

Project Title

Capacity building for providers of cognitive rehabilitation in partnership with the National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland (NIISQ Agency).

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Project Description

Aims: To identify the training needs of providers of cognitive rehabilitation in Queensland who work with NIISQ participants, and use this information to develop and evaluate a cognitive rehabilitation capacity building program.

Method: The project was informed by a reference group of consumers and industry experts, and conducted between July 2021 and July 2022 in three phases:

- 1) A needs analysis using an online state-wide survey,
- 2) Development of a cognitive rehabilitation capacity building (CogCap) program, including 5 self-paced learning modules, 4 interactive online workshops, 3 master-classes, and an online discussion forum.
- 3) Pilot of the 3-month CogCap program using surveys and interviews of participants.

Key Findings

The needs analysis had 103 survey respondents and identified a clear need to develop the CogCap program:

- The majority of respondents rated previous training as insufficient or very insufficient
- Respondents were only somewhat confident to not confident with providing cognitive rehabilitation
- Training in cognitive rehabilitation was rated as extremely important
- Specific areas of training need were highlighted (e.g., executive function, functional cognition and self-awareness)
- Expert master-classes, workshops and self-paced learning with a combination of online and face-to-face training were preferred methods of training

The pilot evaluation with 12 participants provided evidence of the CogCap program's effectiveness:

- Significant improvements in ratings of perceived knowledge, skills and confidence
- Clinicians valued the multidisciplinary nature of training with a mix of experience levels
- The interactive workshops (due to collaborative learning/discussion) were highly valued
- All clinicians indicated they had made practice changes or intended to as a result of participation and would recommend the program to others
- Further slight modification to the program was recommended (e.g., shorter workshops, increased practical content, making self-paced modules pre-requisite)
- The need for ongoing facilitated discussions was recommended by clinicians to further facilitate practice change and build a community of practice.

Based on these promising findings, a larger scale roll-out of the program is recommended to improve cognitive rehabilitation services for people with brain injury in Queensland.