

## **Project Title**

Translation and implementation of an early Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) vocational rehabilitation framework to clinical practice in Queensland

## **Research Team**

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## **Project Description**

**Aim:** To develop the clinical capacity of NIISQ ABI providers (rehabilitation clinicians) in providing structured, evidence-based vocational rehabilitation through delivering the '*ABI Transitional Rehabilitation Service (TRS) Vocational Rehabilitation Framework Translation and Implementation Workshops*' to providers in metropolitan and regional Queensland, through face to face and online training.

**Methods:** This implementation project was informed by an expert advisory group and was conducted between August 2023 and August 2024, across two phases:

- Phase 1: Deliver two in-person workshops to clinicians in a metropolitan (Brisbane) and regional (Townsville) area and provide participants with time-limited post-workshop supports.
- Phase 2: Develop an online version of the workshops and deliver this online adaptation to a small group of clinicians as proof-of-concept; then provide participants with time-limited post-workshop supports.

The workshop learning objectives were evaluated using pre-post surveys which provided quantitative and qualitative data.

## **Key Findings**

- Fifty clinicians attended the training workshops, either in in-person (n=38) or online (n=12). Data and outcomes from the two cohorts (in-person and online workshops) were found to be comparable.
- The workshops have positively impacted clinicians' knowledge, skills and confidence in the areas of:
  - ABI clinical practice, vocational rehabilitation practice, understanding the ABI Vocational Rehabilitation framework and its resources, and identifying areas to implement into clinical practice.
  - Translation and implementation to practice, including knowledge and use of implementation tools, and ability to make personalised implementation plans for ABI vocational rehabilitation.
- Strong post-workshop ratings (i.e., >80% Agree or Strongly Agree) and/or high levels of positive change (>80%) in participants knowledge, skills and confidence occurred across the majority of learning outcomes/survey areas.
- Clinicians found the training beneficial, relevant and useful, with valuable resources provided.
- The online learning experience was positive for most participants.
- 30% of clinicians engaged in the post-workshop support sessions; reporting these to be useful and beneficial.
- Some participants identified a need for training and education in core vocational skills.

## **Conclusion**

Improvements in clinicians' knowledge, skills and confidence were achieved through structured, evidence-based vocational rehabilitation workshops. The project reached 50 clinicians across metropolitan and regional Queensland through in-person and online workshops. Outcomes were comparable across both formats, with over 80% of participants reporting positive changes and finding the training beneficial, relevant, and well-supported by resources and practical tools. While the post-workshop support sessions were beneficial, further training in core vocational skills was identified as a need. Overall, this initiative has laid a strong foundation for evidence-based vocational rehabilitation, aiming to improve the quality of clinical services for individuals with acquired brain injuries.