

How can you improve health outcomes for patients with an **intellectual disability?**



There are over **13,000** people in Central and Eastern Sydney with **intellectual disability**

People with intellectual disability are up to **4.5 times** more likely to be hospitalised for conditions that could be managed in primary care settings.

Central and Eastern Sydney PHN is implementing an Australian Government initiative that will support health professionals to provide more effective care to people with intellectual disability – **Project GROW**.

Project GROW will provide:



Education

Strengthening the skills and knowledge of primary care providers to support people with intellectual disability, their families and carers



Navigation

Improving coordination of care across hospital, primary care and community health settings through streamlined referral pathways



Advocacy

Advocating for equitable access to health services for people with intellectual disability and improved health system integration




GROW

*Supporting people
with intellectual
disability*



*Supporting people with
intellectual disability to
access the right care, in the
right place at the right time.*

Compared with the general population, people with intellectual disability experience:



Higher rates of mental health conditions




Higher rates of preventable health conditions




A life expectancy of 54 years, 27 years less than the general population



Over 2 times the rate of avoidable deaths



Over 2 times the rate of hospital admissions



Longer hospital admissions resulting in higher healthcare costs

GROW will be delivered through CPD events, online learning opportunities, focus group discussions, practice visits and in-practice education sessions.

The project **will promote** information and initiatives that include:

- Reasonable adjustments and interpersonal skills
- Quality Improvement Activities
- My Health Record
- Patient Management Software
- Telehealth
- MBS Annual Health Assessments
- HealthPathways
- Specialist Intellectual Disability Services
- Disability Network
- NDIS

The GROW project team are eager to work with primary care providers to identify and address the challenges faced when engaging with this vulnerable population.



For more information, visit the GROW website or contact the project team at IntellectualDisability@cesphn.com.au.