

Implementing interprofessional practice in mental health and addiction services

Summary factsheet for New Zealand mental health and addiction services. Published in July 2019.

What are the key benefits?

The implementation of interprofessional practice in health systems is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2010) to help address the growing shortage of health workers and to better manage people's unmet health needs. In New Zealand, strengthening health workforce collaboration and innovation are priorities highlighted by Health Workforce New Zealand (Ministry of Health, 2017).

Working in interprofessional teams can positively influence workers' participation in decision making, knowledge integration, mutual trust,

team commitment, professional diversity, organisational culture and job satisfaction (Körner, Wirtz, Bengel, & Göritz, 2015; Ndibu Muntu Keba Kebe, Chiochio, Bamvita, & Fleury, 2019).

For people accessing services, interprofessional practice provides holistic support for health and wellbeing, and may help improve social functioning, life satisfaction, and reduce stigma and discrimination (Carpenter, Barnes, Dickinson, & Wooff, 2006; Happell et al., 2019; Maranzan, 2016; Tippin, Maranzan, & Mountain, 2016).

The mechanisms that shape interprofessional practices

Interprofessional practice is shaped by mechanisms related to institutional support, working culture and environment (WHO, 2010). These mechanisms support the transfer of interprofessional knowledge and skills from education into practice, and ensure the needs of health workers and people accessing services are met (WHO, 2010).

The supporting mechanisms provide a whole-of-system approach that helps services overcome key barriers through leadership and organisational commitment; buy-in and openness to change; opportunities to develop relationships between team members; and role clarity, mutual respect and conflict resolution.



For more information and additional resources, see www.tepou.co.nz

For full details and references, please see *Developing sustainable interprofessional practice in mental health and addiction services: A brief literature review* on the Te Pou website.

Sources: Flood (2017); WHO (2010)



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