

# IMPROVING SPECIALISED INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY HEALTH SERVICES IN NSW

June 2018

## CURRENT ISSUES

- We know that people with intellectual disability can face more barriers in accessing health care than the general population.
- An independent evaluation found that the three NSW Health specialised intellectual disability health teams increased access of people with intellectual disability to health services, addressed service gaps and improved the coordination of services.
- The existing teams focus on metropolitan areas of NSW.

## KEY NEW DIRECTIONS

- NSW Government has committed additional funding of \$4.7 million per annum to enhance and expand its specialised intellectual disability health services.
- Three new specialised intellectual disability health teams (health teams) will be established to complement the three existing health teams.
- In districts without a health team, nine new specialised intellectual disability nurse or allied health positions will be funded across NSW.

## SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

### New specialist hubs with expertise in intellectual disability in NSW

- Enhancement and expansion of the health teams will deliver:
  - more specialised health services for people with intellectual disability who have complex health needs
  - support for people with intellectual disability who live in metropolitan and rural and regional areas of NSW
  - expert advice and other support to NSW Health staff in providing care to clients with intellectual disability, and their carers and families
  - new partnerships between the health teams and hospitals, community health

and general practice to improve the quality and experiences of care for people with intellectual disability.

### The hubs will extend the coverage of services to rural and regional areas

- The health teams will work with the network of specialised intellectual disability positions and others to deliver services to rural and regional areas of NSW.
- The outreach services will use Telehealth and provide skills training for local health staff.

### The hubs will build the skills, confidence and experience of health staff

- The health teams and specialised positions will provide advice and support to General Practitioners to deliver quality care for people with intellectual disability in their communities.
- The health teams and specialised positions will work with hospital staff including in Emergency Departments to enhance their understanding and skills in caring for people with intellectual disability.

### Consultation with stakeholders

- NSW Health will consult with key stakeholders to decide on the locations of the new health teams and the additional specialised intellectual disability positions.