

Perceptions of RE-PIN – a residential rehabilitation program for people with cognitive impairments and substance dependence

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**Background:** The RE-PIN program (Receive, Encode, Process and INtegrate drug and alcohol treatment strategies for cognitive impairment) is a three-month residential substance treatment program run by Lives Lived Well in NSW, Australia. It is the first specialist drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for people with cognitive disability in Australia.

**Model of care:** To be inclusive of people with CI a residential treatment program was designed based on universal design principles from a strength based, person-centered approach incorporating elements of Motivational Interviewing, Community Reinforcement Approach, self-esteem building, self-case management and healthy lifestyles.

**Effectiveness:** The aim of the evaluation was to explore the experiences and perceptions of participants with cognitive impairment; and staff of implementing the program to identify strengths and areas of improvement. Participants with cognitive impairment (n=12) and staff (n=10) were interviewed between April 2016 and January 2017. A brief, anonymous online staff survey was administered weekly between July and December 2016.

Inductive thematic analysis identified key themes of program delivery, daily routines and staff development.

The embedding of a person-centered approach created a positive culture in the program. Program activities and daily routines provided a structured environment within which to practice new coping skills. Staff role-modelled mutual respect in their interactions with other staff and residents.

**Next steps:** The program has potential to be scaled up to address the poorer outcomes for people with cognitive impairment in residential drug and alcohol programs.

**Disclosure of Interest:**

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