**Title** Eating Disorder Interest Group: A model for enhancing GP capacity

**Author and affiliations**

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**Background**

Eating Disorders are a group of mental illness with multiple and often severe complications; having the highest mortality rate of all psychiatric illnesses.

In line with a NSW Ministry of Health directive, Hunter New England Local Health District are implementing a district wide service plan to enhance timely access to appropriate services for patients with an eating disorder. A key goal of the plan is to increase workforce capacity. Consultation with GPs identified that there were many barriers to working in this area including inadequate training & experience, lack of clinical support for difficult patients and that patients with an eating disorder can have behaviours that are challenging to manage.

**Aims**

To increase GPs capacity and confidence to manage patients with an eating disorder through the development of an Interest Group.

**Method**

The formation of the interest group was advertised through local channels and supported by HNECC PHN & HPMI. After the first meeting membership was expanded from GPs to include allied health practitioners.

**Results**

At the time of writing there were 16 GPs, 1 Psychiatry Registrar and 26 Allied Health Professionals who indicated interest in participating in the project. 3 meetings have been held with further meetings scheduled for 2018. The presentation will include evaluation data, an overview of meeting format & content as well as information to assist others duplicating the concept in their local area.

**Conclusion**

Formation of an Interest Group is proposed as a method of enhancing GP capacity to manage patients with an eating disorder.

**References**