

# HANDS ON

SWS HOARDING & SQUALOR PROJECT  
4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL H&S CONFERENCE  
29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016

PRESENTERS: DEBBIE GRAHAM & JAMES ELLIS



**Macarthur**  
Disability Services

**PARTNERS IN**



**RECOVERY**  
SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY

# INTRODUCTION

Overview of the region

Project background

Project outcomes/what did we achieve

What didn't we achieve / what were the challenges

Consumer story

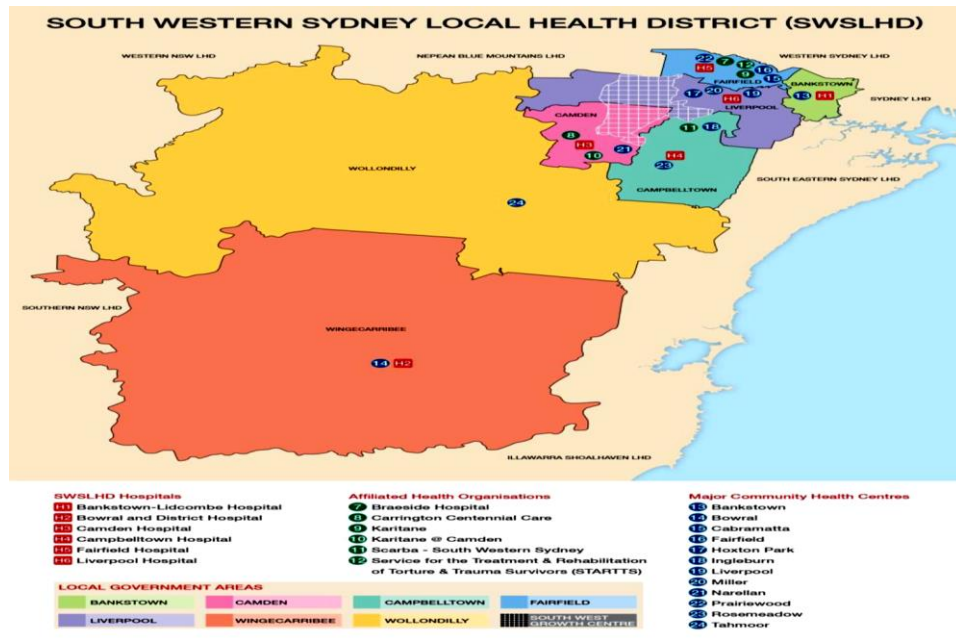
Recommendations

Questions

# PIR SWS OVERVIEW

PIR SWS covers 7 LGA's – *Population*

- Bankstown – 201,523
- Liverpool – 211,212
- Fairfield – 205,933
- Macarthur
  - Campbelltown - 167,834
  - Camden – 84,409
  - Wollondilly – 47,485
- Wingecarribee - 47,741



PIR SWS LHD is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest area nationally

Total Population – 966,137

Reports suggest that there may be as many as 600,000 people in Australia living with  
**Hoarding and/or Squalor issues**

*(Pathways to Dealing Effectively with Hoarding & Squalor in Australia-Catholic Community Services)*

This translates to around 2.6% of the population

Approximately 23,000 people in SWS could be living with Hoarding and/or Squalor

The HandS On project was developed over two stages

**Stage 1: The development and establishment of the Macarthur/Wingecarribee HandS Forum – PIR SWS Innovation Funding 2014-15**

**Stage 2: To build upon the achievement and work already accomplished across Macarthur & Wingecarribee and expand it across SWS through the work of a full time project officer.**

# FUNDING & TIMEFRAMES

Funding for the project granted to Macarthur Disability Services by Partners In Recovery (PIR) SWS

12 months until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016



# AIM

To build knowledge and effective system response and capacity to work with consumers with complex hoarding and squalor behaviours in South West Sydney

# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Implement Buried in Treasure Support Groups across SWS for people experiencing H&S
- Deliver training for front line workers across SWS working with people who have H&S behaviours
- Deliver Train the Trainer on H&S for workers across SWS
- Create a referral pathway for workers and consumers across SWS
- Coordinate website development on H&S for SWS



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES continued

- Support HandS Forums in Macarthur and SWS to meet objectives
- Provide support to SWS H&S Network as needed
- Work with the SWS DIACC on any projects associated with H&S
- Increase communication and collaboration between relevant stakeholders working on H&S issues across SWS
- Increase data collection on consumers impacted by H&S

# SUCCESSSES

21 consumers completed the BIT Groups – Participants Comments

*“Helping me to understand some issues I have regarding my motivation& other life events that created these issues”*

*“I feel like I can breath again”*

*“This workshop & the facilitator set a benchmark for dealing with a psychological issue in a respectful, compassionate, empathetic way”*

*“The facilitator enabled participants to challenge themselves without causing further trauma. This approach would be of significant use to all in the field of mental health”*

*“ My group has agreed to continue on for support and help and keep up weekly meetings as this course has enriched our lives, we don’t want to stop doing so. MANY MANY THANKS!!”*

# Introducing James Ellis



# SUCCESSES CON'T

- 107 front line workers completed the 2 x day 'Working Effectively with People Experiencing H&S Issues
- 8 people completed TTT
- Training package completed and made available
- Two workers will continue to deliver the BIT groups
- Awareness of H&S increased across SWS

# UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

## Newspaper Articles

- Wollondilly Advertiser
- Highlands News
- Freelance Journalist

## Conference Presentation

# SUSTAINABILITY

All four BIT groups have a commitment to continue to meet

8 workers from across SWS completed Train The Trainer to continue to train workers

SWS H&S Directory and Website developed with a commitment from MDS to maintain

Funding application submitted to Mental Health Innovation Fund



# CHALLENGES

- Navigating a system that has no resources and very little supports for people with H&S issues
- Developing a data base - how that can work and where it best sits
- Accurate numbers – how many people actually identify with HD
- Some areas have funding while others do not. Mainly over 65's
- NDIS – where does H&S fit in
- Continued training for the sector
- Designated service and the need for an information and referral officer
- Sector collaboration and networking
- No funding for under 65's

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Needs to be a designated service delivering targeted and appropriate responses
- Needs a central data collection point so that accurate numbers of people experiencing H&S can be collected
- Needs financial and professional resources that will meet consumer needs
- On the ground one on one in home support
- Coordinated and collaborative relationships
- The development of H&S Protocols and Model of Care
- Funding for under 65's



# QUESTIONS ???