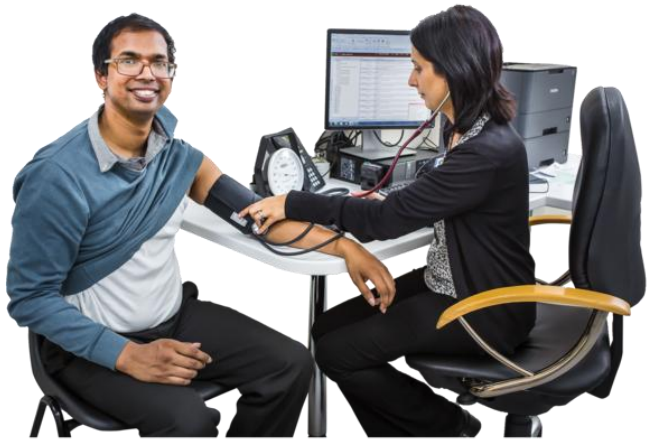

Intellectual Disability Health -
Gaps and Improvements

sacid
South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability

We want to remember that Aboriginal people have been living on this land for a very long time.

We would like to say thank you to them for letting us meet here today.

We want to recognise the work of disability advocates who have worked hard for the rights that people with disability have today.

We are proud to keep doing this work.

Who are we?

Melinda Brown

Aaron Byrne

The Health System and NDIS

The health system in Australia can be difficult for people with an Intellectual disability to understand or get the help they need

The NDIS makes this more complicated because it confuses everyone

Advocacy for intellectual disability health project

SACID recently worked on a project with The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

The project was about understanding gaps in health support for people with intellectual disability in South Australia.

Who will we tell

We will give this information to South Australian politicians.

To show the important areas that need to be better for health for people with intellectual disability.

We want to make sure these areas are talked about before our state election next year.

Advocacy for intellectual disability health project

We heard lots of different experiences with the health system.

Whether they were good or bad, communication was always a factor.

We would like to tell you an example of this.

Libby

Hospital Service Gaps

Disability Health Liaison Officers (DLO) can be helpful but not many hospitals have these staff in place.

Staff with disability experience have limited hours which is not helpful and this can affect people's experience in hospital.

In regional and remote areas there are often no staff with disability experience and they do not have a Disability Liaison Officer.

Good examples

In South Australia we have 2 health practices focused on disability.

They are:

- South Australian Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS)
- Adelaide Disability Medical Service (ADMS)

SA Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS)

The SA Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS) is a place for people with an intellectual disability or complex needs to go for medical support.

Government of South Australia
SA Health

SAIDHS gets money from SA Health.

SAIDHS is for people in South Australia.

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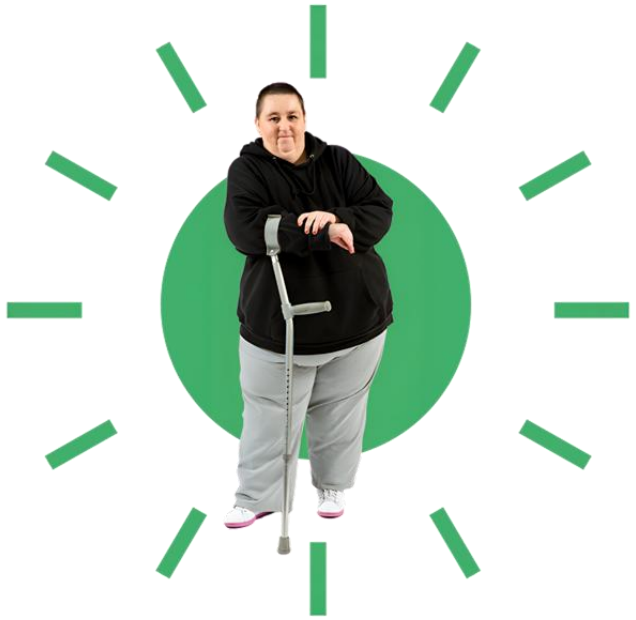
SA Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS)

- Time limited service, patients return to their regular Doctor.
- Only for people with complex or high support needs.
- Need a referral from a GP to be able to access the service.

SA Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS)

- SAIDHS have just started work on a 5 year plan for their future service model.
- They spoke to members of our team with lived experience
- This is an important and positive outcome because it is asking the right people around what is important.

Adelaide Disability Medical Service (ADMS)



- Provide a dedicated medical service to people with a disability at their clinic.
- Aims to reduce the gap in health care access and inequality for people living with a disability in South Australia.
- They provide a medical service that is flexible and tailored to the patients' needs.

Adelaide Disability Medical Service (ADMS)

- Only service of its type in Australia.
- Currently no capacity to take on more patients.
- Although a GP-training organisation it is difficult to attract new Doctors.

Recommendations

It is important to ask the patient questions.

How do you know what someone knows without asking them first?

Talk to the patient first before their supports.

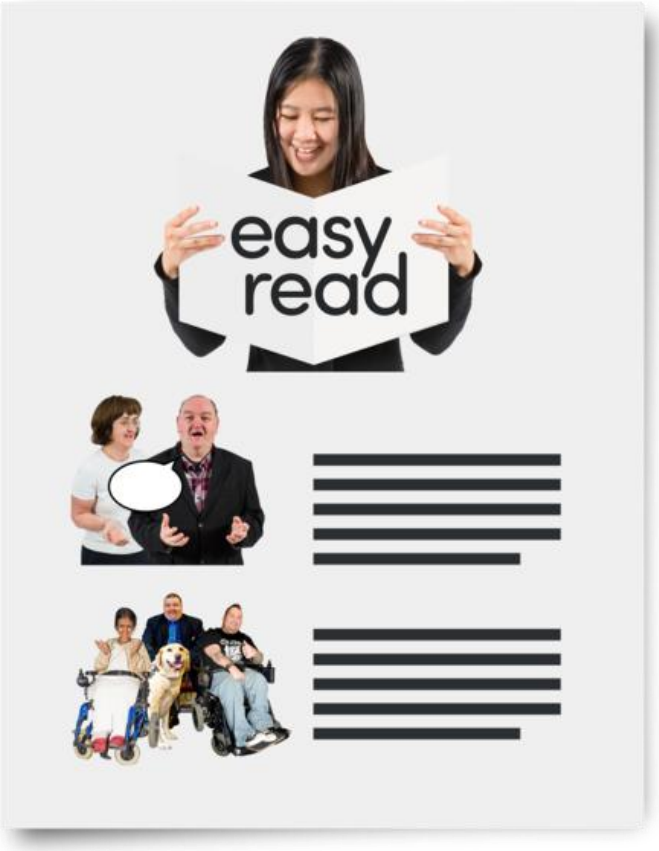
Always include me in decisions.

Informed choice is important.

Let me know what a medication does and how they can affect my body so I can make a choice.

Also let me know what you are doing and what you are treating.

Recommendations

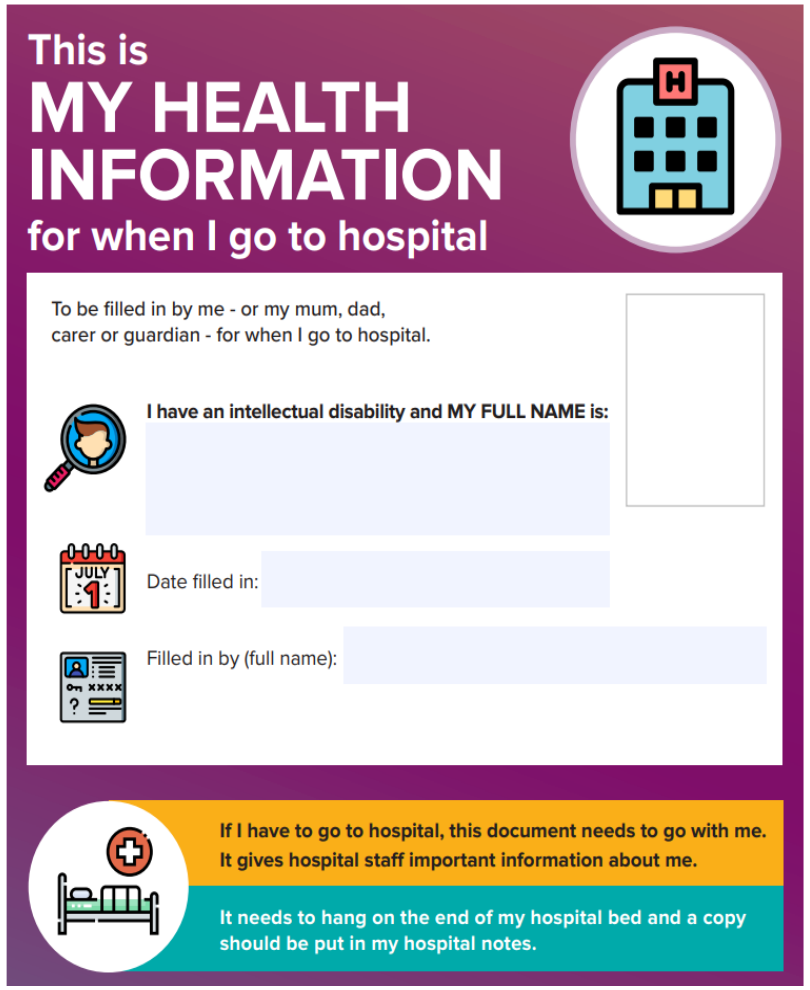


- Information is difficult to understand when you have trouble reading. Most people we spoke to like Easy Read. This is a helpful step for better communication.

- Some people use communication devices. Knowing about how to use these can help people understand.

- When going to hospital in SA, we encourage people to use the My Health Form to help health professionals understand a person's support needs.

My Health Information resource



This is what the My Health Information Form looks like.

It can be found on the SA GOV website.

You may have something similar for your state.

Hi,

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Become a SACID Member today!

Membership is free for people with intellectual disability and their families.

Visit: www.sacid.org.au/sacid-membership/