Old wine in new wineskins – Building capacity in psychiatric services to improve the management of substance using clients

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Background
Public mental health services are increasingly required to assess, treat and manage clients with co-existing mental health and substance use problems. Mental health and drug health professionals often perceive that they do not have the skills required to care for this group of people. The Chrysalis Program was established as a joint initiative between the Mental Health and Drug Health Services in Sydney South West Area Health Service with the dual goals of improving the health care and wellbeing of people with co-existing mental health and substance use problems and increasing the confidence and skills of the clinicians treating them.

Discussion
Drawing on the current evidence base, we attempted to develop integrated patient care between two disparate services. This presentation will describe the philosophy of the service we have established, the unique features of the service model we have developed and how we have adapted the model to the particular needs of this region. The Chrysalis Program uses a capacity building approach including targeted strategies for workforce and organisational development, components of staff training and mentoring, the development of brief intervention programmes for consumers, a complex case review process and establishing processes for service and system integration. An evaluation of the first twelve months of the program has been conducted and the lessons learnt from this will be discussed.

Competing Interests
The Australian Mental Health Leadership Program is financially supported by Eli Lilly Australia.