



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Mental Health, Public Health and Dental Services

Improving Access to Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) services for Aboriginal clients

A State Head Injury Unit (SHIU) and
Aboriginal Health Initiative

ASSBI May 2023



One team, **many** dreams.

Care / Respect / Innovation / Teamwork / Integrity



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work, and pay respect to their elders both past and present.

North Metropolitan Health Service recognises, respects and values Aboriginal cultures as we walk a new path together.





State Head Injury Unit

- Statewide ABI community rehabilitation service
- Part of the Public Health Directorate within North Metropolitan Health Services (NMHS) in Western Australia.
- Based at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH)
- Clients aged 16-65
- Diagnosed with:
 - Stroke
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Concussion
 - Tumour
 - Hypoxia
 - Encephalopathy
 - Infection
 - Any other non-degenerative ABI



NMHS Inspire Conference: March 2021

Quality Improvement Project

- A Quality Improvement (QI) project commenced in early 2020 with a data review of Aboriginal clients admitted to SCGH with ABI during the period 01/01/2020 – 30/06/2020
- During this time:
 - 28 admissions through Neurology / Neurosurgery at SCGH
 - 22 were identified as having been eligible for SHIU services
 - ONLY 1 was referred.



How can we do better?

Joint initiative with SCGH Aboriginal Health Liaison Service (AHLS) and Project Officers which included:

1. A review of SHIU brochure and development of a new culturally appropriate SHIU brochure specifically for Aboriginal clients





State Head Injury Unit

Case Coordination and Community Therapy Services

The State Head Injury Unit (SHIU)

SHIU provides specialist Case Coordination and community therapy services to people with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and their families right across WA.

Everyone seen at SHIU has contact with a Case Coordinator and linked into therapy services as required.

The length of program and services provided will be determined by the needs and goals identified. SHIU also provides assistance to link people into community services that can provide further rehabilitation opportunities or long-term practical support.

Case Coordination Service

Case Coordinators are Allied Health professionals with experience in rehabilitation.

The Case Coordinator is here to help you and your family navigate your journey with us, they are your own direct contact person, they also help you with:

- Comprehensive needs assessment
- Education and information provision
- Guidance and support
- Monitoring
- Referral to therapy and support service

The Case Coordinator works closely with you and your family to identify needs and goals.

Community Therapy Services

In conjunction with the Case Coordination service, the SHIU provides individual therapy programs where needed. The focus of therapy is to assist people to adapt to changes in their abilities in order to live as independently as possible, access the community, return to work and driving where possible and participate in leisure and recreational activities.

The therapy service includes:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Clinical Psychology
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

Therapy services are provided in your home, your work, in the community or at the SHIU. ABI group education sessions and group therapy programs are also available where appropriate.



Who can receive services?

- People aged 16 to 65 years
- People who have sustained a recent Acquired Brain Injury e.g., trauma, severe concussion, stroke, tumour
- People with long-standing injuries may be considered in certain circumstances

Priority for services is determined at triage and is based on current services involved, severity of injury and individual need.

How to access our service?

Yourself, family, Aboriginal Health Worker, Doctors, Nurses or community agencies, can get in contact with us.



How to contact us

- ☎ (08) 6457 4488
- ☎ (08) 6457 4489
- ✉ shiu@health.wa.gov.au
- 🌐 nmhs.health.wa.gov.au

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Ground Floor, 'E' Block
Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009

For up-to-date parking information,
<https://qeimc.health.wa.gov.au/travel-access/parking/visitor-parking/>



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

2. Review of current SHIU referral form and development of an abbreviated version specifically for trial by the SCGH AHLS for a 6 month period

3. SHIU staff meeting with Aboriginal clients whilst on the ward (where possible) to explain not only SHIU services, but the ABI rehabilitation pathway and options, to encourage service engagement

- Over a 6 month period (commencing 2/11/2020) SCGH AHLS referred 9 clients with 8 being eligible AND accepting services.

NAME:		DOB:	UMRN:
ADDRESS:		POSTCODE:	
POSTAL ADDRESS (if different from above):			
PHONE:		EMAIL:	
CONTACT: <input type="checkbox"/> Patient or <input type="checkbox"/> NOK			
INTERPRETER NEEDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No LANGUAGE:			
MARITAL STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced/Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Never married			
DATE OF ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI):			
DIAGNOSIS:			
OTHER SERVICES INVOLVED:			
SOCIAL SITUATION: (include living arrangement, social supports and discharge destination)			
HOME VISIT RISK FACTORS? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, please elaborate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioural (e.g.: aggression, self-harm/suicide attempts, disinhibition, impulsivity, hx of psychosis)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Forensic (e.g.: any criminal conviction, current charges pending, Violence Restraining Orders, Community Orders)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Psychosocial (e.g.: home environment including risks from other occupants)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/Substance Abuse*			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
If Yes to any of the above, please elaborate:			
COMMUNITY REHABILITATION GOALS (REASON FOR REFERRAL):			
IS THE CLIENT AWARE OF THIS REFERRAL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no, please elaborate)			
REFERRER:		POSITION:	
ORGANISATION:			
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:		DATE OF REFERRAL:	

OFFICE USE ONLY: Referral taken by: _____ W:\Rehabilitation\BOG\SHIU\SHIUreferral form Last update 21/02/2020

**4. Employ 2 amazing
Aboriginal Health Liaison
Officers from Edith Cowan
University's Healing Right
Way Project – commenced
February 2022**

**Aboriginal clients
admitted to SHIU
following
completion of
quality
improvement
activity**

50 Aboriginal clients admitted since 1 July 2021 to 26 April 2023

Currently: 24 receiving comprehensive SHIU program

- 16 case management only
- 8 comprehensive rehabilitation program

26 discharged

- 12 linked by SHIU with either outpatient, local, NDIS or ICWA services
- 3 successful return to work / completed rehabilitation outcomes
- 2 declined services following initial contact
- 1 assessment completed – nil ongoing needs identified
- 1 incarcerated
- 4 unable to contact
- 2 unable to contact however did have outpatient services
- 1 deceased

NB: ability to see clients on ward impacted by COVID-19 restrictions from

SHIU AHLO Role and the future

Extending the outcomes of the initial quality improvement project across WA public and private health services

Provision of culturally based ABI education to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health services

Development and nurturing of relationships with public and private stakeholders

Development of culturally appropriate resources

Improving understanding of ABI in Aboriginal communities

Consultant to SHIU staff and external agencies regarding Aboriginal clients and ABI

