

Rapid Intensive Brokerage Support (RIBS)

Mental Health Guidelines – March 2009

Objective of the RIBS Program

The RIBS program aims to provide a successful hospital substitution program that facilitates the provision of immediate responsive, flexible, short term community services and interventions for people requiring health services in country South Australia. This will enable the prevention of hospital and emergency department presentation or reduction in hospital length of stay in CHSA hospitals, wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Mental Health RIBS Services

Specific funding has been allocated to Mental Health Services in each operational area to enable the rapid implementation of short term services or intervention, within the client's community of origin.

Services provided through the RIBS program will not be an alternative to services that the health units and mental health teams should already be providing for clients in their catchment area and there must be an identifiable increase in service capacity and not just re-badging of existing resources.

Support services are provided on a short-term basis, generally up to 7 days, where there is evidence that additional support will avoid an emergency department presentation, hospital admission or extended stay in hospital. In exceptional circumstances a service may be negotiated to extend to 14 days. Funding can be used for increased staffing resource, provision of short-term leased equipment or purchase of other services as indicated in the care plan.

Types of Interventions appropriate to Mental Health RIBS Services

Referrals for exceptional needs where ONLY funding of service is required or where access to NGO support is required for example:

- Medications
- Emergency Accommodation Support
Eg. rent or bond
- Transport (bus/plane/train/taxi)
- Garden Tidies, where tenancy is at risk
- Food Vouchers
- Industrial Cleans
- Allied Health
- Equipment including:
single pieces for ADL's, whitegoods,
mobile phone/and or phone cards,
bedding, furniture
- Child Care
- Change of locks
- Other services, as deemed appropriate
by Team Leader & Program manager.



Consumer Eligibility

Program eligibility is not age restrictive but covers all age groups. Priority however will be given to the most vulnerable in relation to extended lengths of hospital stay and recurring episodes of otherwise avoidable hospital presentations.

Process for Accessing Resources

As per RIBS Mental Health Flow Chart.

- A client is identified as having higher health need and is at imminent risk of hospitalisation to a CHSA health service, or is admitted to a CHSA Health Service, and it would be safe and appropriate for them to leave earlier than otherwise would be possible with the application of a rapid and intensive service response.
- Where a client is already registered with the local mental health team, a case for RIBS support is made to the Team Leader. If the client is not registered with the local mental health team, an application for Mental Health RIBS support should follow the local process for accessing general RIBS funding, though where appropriate the mental health team should be engaged for further assessment or follow-up in the community.
- The Mental Health Team Leader or delegated authority assesses the application on its individual merits and against RIBS Program principles and guidelines and approves or declines the application.
- If the Team Leader or delegated authority is unsure of making a determination on the application the Mental Health Program Manager has final delegation on RIBS Resources and can be consulted.
- Intervention to be implemented and costs assigned against RIBS Program cost centre (467).

Reporting & Recording

All RIBS interventions will be recorded on the OOHS Report Template (attached), and forwarded to CHSA Service Development on a monthly basis. Reports are due by the 14th day of the month for interventions provided in the previous calendar month. Sites currently not involved in the Better Care in the Community (BCCF) initiative will need to provide details of RIBS interventions to their local BCCF coordinator for administrative and reporting purposes.

Key Contacts

More information on the Mental Health Rapid Intensive Brokerage Support (RIBS) can be obtained through:

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More information on the Rapid Intensive Brokerage Support (RIBS) Program in general can be obtained through:

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Rapid Intensive Brokerage Support (RIBS) Mental Health “Exceptional Needs”

Flow Chart

The RIBS provides an addition level of support for Mental Health Hospital Avoidance and Supported Discharge from CHSA hospitals to ensure appropriate management of the CHSA Mental Health package and to ensure continuity of support for Mental Health clients the process for negotiating a Mental Health Package will be:

