**Congress Stream:** Innovation in health care: the lived experience

**Alternate Stream:** Integrated care and partnerships: rethinking relationships

**Abstract Title:** Rolling-group model for early years stuttering

treatment: half the clinical time and twice the fun.

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**Background**

Rolling-group therapy is seldom used by speech pathologists (SPs) and yet this model of admitting new clients continuously as space permits, offers the real-world possibility of dramatically reduced clinical hours for the treatment of stuttering in young children.

**Approach**

A mixed-methods study was conducted in 4 rural NSW towns, in which Lidcombe Program (LP) was delivered via the innovative rolling-group model by community health SPs. A prospective, pre-post measurement design investigated the reduction of stuttering severity. Semi-structured interviews ascertained participating SPs’ perceptions.

**Outcomes / Results**

The LP rolling-groups delivered by community health SPs, who do not specialize in stuttering are an effective, time-saving, and viable alternative to individual treatment and were universally supported by participating SPs.

**Take Home Message**

Rolling-groups offer equitable treatment to the traditional individual model and yet require half the usual clinical hours per child, and are perceived to be clinically viable in the real-world.Capacity building for SPs was facilitated via involvement in clinic-based, practitioner-led research resulting in accelerated embedding of practice change. Moreover, functional change was sustainable. Byron Central Hospital now has rolling-groups as their first-line approach for early years stuttering treatment. These vanguard groups support clinician mentoring and student education opportunities further afield.