



Turning Point
Alcohol & Drug Centre

Factors associated with successful implementation for projects addressing alcohol and other licit drug-associated harm in Australia

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Changing the way we drink





Structure of this presentation

- Background and purpose
- Method
- Findings – enablers, factors associated with successful implementation, differences by context and case study illustration
- Research application



Background and purpose

- Study commissioned by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation (AER) Foundation in Australia
- projects have limited scope to achieve their intended impact on alcohol and other drug use and misuse if they are poorly planned or implemented
- We report here on *enabling* factors critical to successful project implementation identified within a sample of 127 completed AER funded projects



Study design

Modified 'realist synthesis' methodology, comprising three main components:

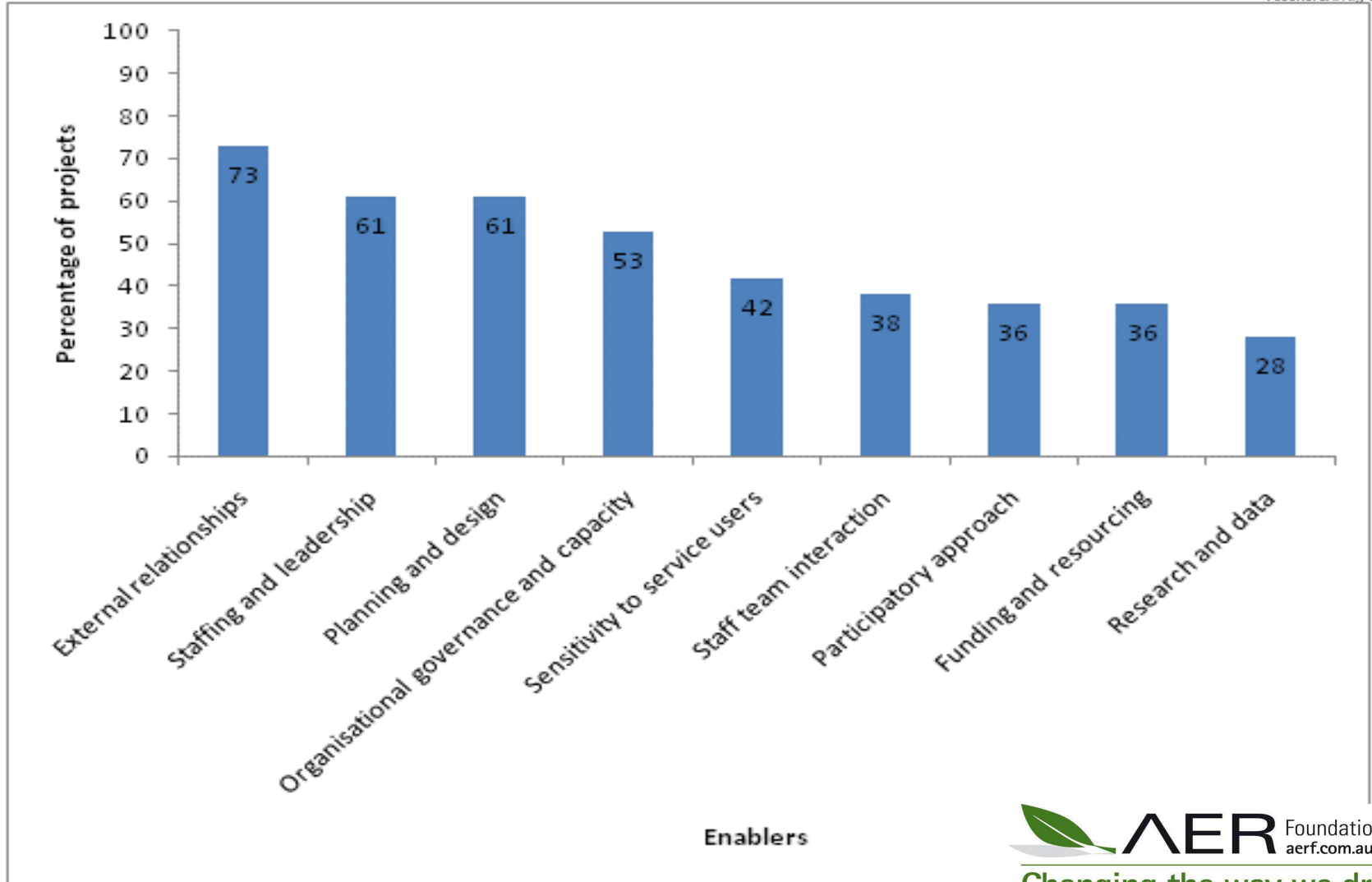
- brief literature review
- analysis of data concerning 127 completed projects, including assessment of whether funding objectives were met
- Eight case-studies of projects successfully and less successfully implemented.



Ten enabler categories



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Enabling factors associated with successful implementation

- Community and/or elder enthusiasm (in the case of Indigenous projects) for the organisation and project ($p < 0.05$, two tailed Fisher's exact test)
- Partner agency enthusiasm for the organisation and the project ($p < 0.05$, two tailed Fisher's exact test) / Offers in kind resources or services from partner agencies ($p < 0.01$, two tailed Fisher's exact test)
- Employing skilled staff to drive activities ($p < 0.05$, two tailed Fisher's exact test)
- Target group involvement ($p < 0.05$, two tailed Fisher's exact test)



Contextual differences

- Staffing and leadership most frequently recorded in projects aiming to improve organisational processes; for other project types external communication and relationships was most frequently recorded.
- Participatory approaches to service delivery were particularly important in projects targeting Indigenous people, inhalant users and youth
- Communication and relationships with external agencies and partners emerged more frequently as an enabler outside capital cities.



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Using case studies to illustrate research findings

‘We had some great advocates for the community that were prepared to go the extra mile, they worked with us to link us into another organisation, took on some of the running of activities. We provided equipment and gear to set them up and it all worked well’ (interviewee describing a youth engagement project in a rural community)

How can this be applied to support alcohol and other drug project implementation?



Application for agencies



For agencies preparing funding applications

Assess whether enablers relevant to the project type and context in place

Identify enablers that are a feature of the organisation

Address potential barriers and provide mitigation strategies

For funding bodies

Research findings provide an evidence-base for project funding criteria and for development of project performance indicators



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