

Voices at Work

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This paper outlines a proposed project that will enhance employment prospects for people with a mental illness particularly schizophrenia which is considered the most chronic, debilitating and costly of all mental illnesses. Schizophrenia is a devastating diagnosis for most people who are unwell and for carers and family members who try to support them. RFWA staff will work with people who hear voices to assist the voice hearer to manage this experience where it is an obstacle to employment and therefore increase their capacity to be available for and retain employment. RFWA will also work with the carer, family support networks and the employment services agency to prepare the person for employment and identify ways of supporting them in the workplace. This project has the potential to open up new opportunities for people who experience psychosis to regain control of their lives and to live a meaningful life in the community. It is awaiting confirmation by Lotterywest for pilot funding commencing from January 2011.

Keywords

Psychosis – voice hearing

Empowerment

Choice

Hope