

# **Mental Health Emergency Course Completed**

Thirty-five students working in emergency departments, mental health and hospital security across the NSW Area Health Services have successfully completed the Mental Health Emergency Care Learning and Development Course (MHEC).

The 20 week course is a collaboration between CRRMH and NSW Health. It is designed to provide staff working in rural areas with adequate information to develop skills relating to mental health emergency care.

Verbal feedback from students enrolled in the course has been very positive about the structure, content and management of the course. Some of the program highlights were the importance of reading about and reflecting on the interdisciplinary perspectives in the discussion forums, the ability to share information with colleagues, the support and responsiveness of the course instructors and the value of the knowledge and skills gained in working effectively with people experiencing acute mental illness issues.

The main area for improvement is the need to focus more on developing the 'learning community' – building group identity and interaction in the on-line environment.

The program finished on 5 August and evaluation will be completed by the end of September, reporting to NSW Health.