

## About this resource

### ***Capacity Assessment***

Clinicians are required to assess the capacity of the consumer to consent to mental health assessment and mental health treatment on a daily basis. However there are few training opportunities available for clinicians to develop the knowledge and skills to assess capacity and appropriately apply the law relating to capacity. Failure to correctly assess capacity can have severe and adverse consequences.

### ***Learning Objectives***

This learning resource explores assessment of capacity and the avenues that staff can use for substitute decision making if a person has impaired decision making capacity.

At the completion of the training it is expected that you will be able to:

- understand the principles of consent and autonomy
- understand the role of the *Mental Health Act 2000* in relation to consent and capacity
- understand capacity as a legal concept
- use appropriate questions and seek corroborative information when capacity may be an issue
- blend principles of informed consent with building rapport
- apply the substitute decision making framework under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*.

### ***Acknowledgements***

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