**I-ASC informed training and mentoring to support effective PI co-researcher activity**

The evaluation of PI activity within the I-ASC project highlighted a number of ways that effective PI and co-creation could be supported. These are summarised below.

***I-ASC research methods training*** was provided over a number of sessions and in different ways. This enabled productive involvement across aspects of the project that went beyond advisory. This included training on:

* an overview of types of research methods;
* specific methods on the I-ASC project;
* Thematic / Framework Analysis (TA/FA);
* TA / FA coding procedures;
* Systematic Review processes – specifically, quality appraisal procedures;
* survey methodologies and their interpretation.

***Data collection preparations.*** I-ASC PI co-researchers were involved in many aspects of data collection. This necessitated some training, some support, some listening and collaborating / co-creating. Activities included:

* Participant Information Sheet (PIS) – alternative media delivery: see You Tube [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWL1pFVVIlE).
* collaborative discussion and preparation of interview processes, procedures and materials;
* interview preparation and practice;
* field note construction and purpose;
* team briefing and debriefing during data collection.

***Heuristic synthesis.*** The key translational output from the I-ASC project was to provide an on-line resource, conceptualised as a heuristic that would be accessible to all stakeholders. This required some team debate, analysis and synthesis training as well as collaboration on the development of resources that would be meaningful to all stakeholders. Training and mentoring activities for all team members including PI co-researchers comprised:

* defining the I-ASC heuristic and its construction;
* synthesis of the collective findings to support heuristic development;
* exploring resource development based on findings.

***Social media platforms.*** I-ASC PI co-researchers were nominated to lead on dissemination aspirations for the project. This included a social media presence. One PI co-researcher was keen to lead on the in-project (now archived) website presence. This worked well but benefitted from a joint approach between the nominated PI co-researcher and one of the Co-Investigators to work on website developments. Outputs included:

* early project website (not current I-ASC site), mentoring collaboration on structure of the (3-year) project site (now archived).

***Staffing support.*** PI co-researchers who fit the ***hard to reach/difficult to include*** groups may come with additional support needs. These needs are never insurmountable if the team ethos is positive and open, with a ‘can do’ attitude. I–ASC findings suggest that it may take more time and require more resources but successful inclusion in the research team remains possible. These additional considerations may include time to develop and deliver on:

* job descriptions / advertising / interviewing / selection of Personal Assistant (PA) support for a PI contributor with additional support needs;
* training of project appointed PA (with training support from existing PA staff) – role, activities, reporting, support;
* preparation for meetings, research activities, and delivery of agreed project actions.