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CoAG funding for Rehabilitation services in NSW has been used to develop new and innovative models of care across a variety of settings. These include early rehabilitation provided in the acute setting by acute rehab teams, increasing therapy intensity in sub-acute inpatient rehabilitation settings, home based rehabilitation services, day hospitals and other models that are designed to take the pressure of acute hospital beds by decreasing length of stay and improving patient flow through the acute settings. Unfortunately this CoAG funding is due to expire in June 2013, which has put the continuation of a number of programs in doubt, and the jobs of many dedicated rehabilitation clinicians in doubt. Without this funding being continued, services for those with rehabilitation needs, particularly in the ambulatory care settings will be reduced, with many patients unable to achieve their highest level of functional independence.

Claire Jackson