

We invite you to submit an abstract for oral, poster, workshop or student poster presentation at 9<sup>th</sup> NHPRC.

	<b>Sub-theme</b>	9. Mental health, wellbeing and health promotion			
		Please indicate which type of presentation:			
<b>x</b>	<b>Oral</b>	<b>Poster</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Student Poster Presentation</b>	

Please provide the title of the abstract and the authors below. Your abstract should not exceed 250 words (500 word for workshop suggestions). Use font Arial or Helvetica 10.

**Presenting Author with affiliation:** Maria Fjellfeldt, PhD. Social work. Dalarna University  
**Co-Author(s):**

**Title:** Implementing a new mental health policy in Sweden

**Abstract:**

**Background:** Sweden faces increasing problems related to mental ill-health. To address this problem, the government recently launched a new mental health policy to cover mental health issues in general.

**Purpose of study:** This study aimed to explore the implementation process of the new mental health policy.

**Methods/Theory:** A case study was conducted in which national governance and regional response constituted the main elements of the case. A period of 4 years was chosen. In all, 68 national and regional key documents were selected for the analysis. Theories of implementation processes and governance strategies were used to enhance the understanding of the data.

**Findings:** The implementation process showed the following distinctive features: 1) a broad range of target groups were addressed from persons at risk of mental ill-health to persons suffering from severe mental illness; 2) the whole spectra from preventive interventions to treatment interventions were included; 3) the mental health of children and youth was prioritized; and 4) the character of the governance gradually shifted over time from an open to a more targeted approach. A major difficulty associated with the implementation process was the lack of options to systematically follow-up government policy efforts.

**Conclusion:** The broad definition of mental health care and support meant there were regional variations in the prioritizing of groups, as well as regional variations on the working methods used.

**Keywords:** mental health, policy implementation