



Australian Government

Department of Health

phn

An Australian Government Initiative

Updated Activity Work Plan 2016-2019: Drug and Alcohol Treatment

ACT PHN

Strategic Vision for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Funding

ACT Primary Health Network (ACT PHN) and the ACT alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector have welcomed additional AOD funding provided by the Commonwealth for new specialist AOD services to be commissioned through PHNs.

While the AOD sector in the ACT is well established and integrated, current demand for treatment services is in excess of supply. In addition, those seeking services require treatment at a greater intensity and in more modalities.

ACT PHN has worked in collaboration with the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association (ATODA) the ACT AOD Peak Body, and the ACT Health AOD Policy Unit, to identify regional needs and current service gaps in the ACT. This process highlighted that there was a significant need for increased delivery of specialist AOD counselling services and the need to ensure mainstream AOD services, particularly specialist AOD counselling services, are culturally appropriate and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Specialist AOD Counselling Services

The ACT AOD sector currently provides the lowest occasions of specialist AOD counselling services in Australia and this represents a significantly lower proportion of treatment services when compared to national averages. The sector has confirmed that as a consequence there are significant waiting times for existing specialist AOD counselling services.

Identified Aboriginal AOD Worker Positions

25% of clients in ACT AOD services on any given day are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. Through consultation with the AOD sector, the need to ensure services are culturally appropriate and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was highlighted as a significant area of need. It was identified that if services were culturally appropriate and if clients could receive support to access and receive services, then a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would remain in treatment and achieve positive outcomes.

By commissioning additional specialist AOD counselling services and identified Aboriginal AOD worker positions, it is anticipated that services will be made more accessible to clients and that there will be improved quality of interventions and service accessibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are accessing mainstream services.

Innovation Grants

Utilising 2016/17 underspends, ACT PHN took an approach to market for innovative evidence based pilots to meet areas of unmet need. As a result, two pilots have been funded.

Demand currently outstrips supply for residential withdrawal and rehabilitation services in the ACT. By commissioning a community based withdrawal pilot and a medicated methamphetamine withdrawal feasibility study, ACT residents will gain much faster access to withdrawal services, within their homes, as soon as they need them, rather than waiting months or dropping out while on the waitlist for a place.

Governance arrangements

Throughout the initial identification and prioritisation of needs for the commissioning of specialist drug and alcohol services in the ACT, ACT PHN worked closely with ACT Health and the ACT Drug and Alcohol Peak Body. The ACT Health, the ACT Drug and Alcohol Peak Body, Drug and Alcohol Service providers, ACT PHN Community Advisory Council and ACT PHN Board are also involved in the annual drug and alcohol needs assessment process.

Following the implementation of these new drug and alcohol services, ACT PHN has participated actively in network meetings held by the ACT Drug and Alcohol Peak body, to provide updates and receive any input on commissioned services. In addition, ACT PHN meets regularly with the ACT Health Clinical Division Drug and Alcohol Services Executive Director. During the 2017-18 financial year, ACT PHN will establish regular meetings with the ACT Health Policy area relating to drug and alcohol funding activities. These meetings will be utilised to discuss funding activities, performance and system integration.

Consultation and joint planning processes

ACT PHN will continue to work collaboratively with ACT Health, the ACT Drug and Alcohol Peak Body and specialist drug and alcohol service providers in the ACT to identify and prioritise areas of need and to evaluate ACT PHN commissioned specialist drug and alcohol services.

2. (a) Planned activities: Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services – Operational and Flexible Funding

Proposed Activities	
Activity Title <i>(e.g. Activity 1, 2, 3 etc.)</i>	Activity 1 - Culturally appropriate specialist AOD counselling services
Needs Assessment Priority Area <i>(e.g. Priority 1, 2, 3, etc.)</i>	Intensive structured non-residential specialist AOD treatment
Description of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activity	<p>In Australia, accepted primary objectives of AOD treatment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the client’s level of substance use. • To reduce the client’s experience of AOD related harm. • To build the client’s capacity to better understand and manage their own health and wellbeing. <p>Achieving these objectives is closely associated with ongoing AOD treatment exposure, and is largely associated with more positive outcomes and sustained reductions in AOD related harms and use. Long-term treatment success is more common with longer treatment duration and associated with the more intensive structured treatment modalities (e.g. counselling).</p> <p>The aim of this activity is to commission specialist AOD counselling services, provided by suitably experienced registered clinicians with AOD experience. As a result of this activity it is anticipated that the following outcomes will be achieved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improved and faster access to specialist AOD counselling including for methamphetamine addiction. <p>In addition to commissioning specialist AOD counselling services, there is a need to ensure that these mainstream services are culturally appropriate and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>By funding identified Aboriginal AOD worker roles, it is anticipated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients will be supported to access culturally safe and appropriate mainstream services and will be more likely to remain in treatment.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Aboriginal AOD Workers will be able to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and the specialist clinicians working with these clients in a mainstream setting to ensure the best possible services are received and in turn, the best possible outcomes are achieved.</p>

Target population cohort	Members of the community experiencing moderate to severe substance use issues, requiring specialist AOD treatment services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adults ○ Young people (12 to 25) ○ Youth and adults involved in the justice system ○ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Consultation	Extensive consultation with the ACT AOD Sector, the ACT AOD Peak Body and the ACT Health AOD Policy Unit has been undertaken throughout the identification, development and procurement phases of this activity. The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association was commissioned by ACT PHN to complete an independent needs assessment to inform the development of priority areas and identification of procurement activities in the ACT. A number of consultation sessions were held with the AOD sector in the lead up to procurement activities being undertaken. These consultation sessions included endorsement of the proposed priority areas and procurement activities.
Collaboration	ACT PHN has worked collaboratively with ATODA and ACT Health to engage with the AOD sector and identify priority areas and procurement activities.
Indigenous Specific	Yes
Duration	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
Coverage	ACT PHN region
Commissioning method	Procurement has been finalised for this activity. Four service providers have been contracted.
Approach to market	<p>A select two phased procurement process for service providers was undertaken. Existing AOD sector services were invited to submit an EOI for the provision of specialist AOD counselling services and/or employment of Aboriginal AOD Workers. These EOIs were assessed by an independent panel and shortlisted respondents were invited to complete a high level project plan. Following the assessment of the project plan by the independent panel, ACT PHN moved to contract negotiations with four preferred providers.</p> <p>An independent evaluation is underway, with the final report being due in July 2018..</p>

Proposed Activities	
Activity Title <i>(e.g. Activity 1, 2, 3 etc.)</i>	Activity 2 – Intensive structured non-residential specialist AOD treatment
Needs Assessment Priority Area <i>(e.g. Priority 1, 2, 3, etc.)</i>	Community based specialist alcohol and other drug treatment and support.
Description of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activity	<p>Due to the tight timeframes to procure new drug and alcohol services, there was a significant underspend in the 2016-17 drug and alcohol services budget. As a result, ACT PHN took an approach to market for innovative pilots to meet areas of need identified in the 2017-18 needs assessment. As a result, two activities will be funded.</p> <p>Activity 2.1</p> <p>Current demand for residential withdrawal and rehabilitation services in the ACT far outweighs capacity. A key area of need identified in the 2017-18 needs assessment was the need for intensive structured non-residential AOD treatment. ACT PHN will fund a pilot of a community based withdrawal program for people with moderate to severe substance use issues. This will include the development of a service model, adaptation of guidelines and standards used in other states and territories, implementation of the pilot and evaluation. The contracted service provider will employ a suitably trained community nurse and contract a GP to deliver the service. A steering group and consumer advisory group will be established to have oversight of the pilot.</p> <p>Activity 2.2</p> <p>Building of activity 2.1, ACT PHN will fund a feasibility study to be completed in general practice, focusing on the medical management of methamphetamine withdrawal in a community setting. ACT PHN will fund a general practice to implement the study, including administration of the intervention, as well as evaluation of the trial. The provider will adapt guidelines utilised in community based trials in NSW. This study will be completed in partnership with the Australian National University, a local specialist rehabilitation service and the ACT Health Drug and Alcohol service.</p>
Target population cohort	Members of the community experiencing moderate to severe substance use issues, requiring specialist AOD treatment services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adults
Consultation	Extensive consultation with the ACT AOD Sector, the ACT AOD Peak Body and the ACT Health AOD Policy Unit has been undertaken throughout the needs assessment and prioritisation process. ACT PHN and ACT

	PHN funded service provider organisations will continue to engage with these key stakeholders as these pilot projects are implemented and trialled.
Collaboration	ACT PHN has worked collaboratively with ATODA and ACT Health to engage with the AOD sector and identify priority areas and procurement activities. The ACT PHN funded service providers will work in collaboration with specialist drug and alcohol community sector services and the ACT Health Drug and Alcohol service to implement and evaluate these pilots.
Indigenous Specific	No
Duration	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
Coverage	ACT PHN region
Commissioning method	Procurement has been finalised for this activity.
Approach to market	A select approach to market was undertaken. Existing ACT drug and alcohol services and general practices were invited to submit innovative proposals.

2. (b) Planned activities: Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – Flexible Funding

Proposed Activities	
Activity Title <i>(e.g. Activity 1, 2, 3 etc.)</i>	Specialist drug and alcohol treatment services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Needs Assessment Priority Area <i>(e.g. Priority 1, 2, 3, etc.)</i>	Intensive structured non-residential specialist drug and alcohol treatment services.
Description of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activity	A significant proportion of the population in mainstream drug and alcohol services in the ACT identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, the ACT PHN needs assessment identifies the need for culturally appropriate mainstream services. ACT PHN will fund a mainstream drug and alcohol service provider organisation, that has extensive experience in delivering Indigenous specific services in a main stream setting, to deliver additional specialist drug and alcohol treatment services. These services will have a focus on the provision of culturally appropriate case management for people waiting for residential rehabilitation services and people exiting residential services that require ongoing case management support. The service provider will also utilise brokerage funds for culturally appropriate specialist counselling services, and other interventions that may be required.
Target population cohort	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Consultation	Extensive consultation with the ACT AOD Sector, the ACT AOD Peak Body, the ACT Health AOD Policy Unit and ACT Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services was undertaken throughout the identification and prioritisation of needs. ACT PHN and the ACT PHN funded service provider organisation will continue to engage with stakeholders in the implementation and review of Indigenous specific services.
Collaboration	The service provider organisation will work collaboratively with local Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services and specialist drug and alcohol services to implement this Indigenous specific activity.
Indigenous Specific	Yes
Duration	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
Coverage	ACT PHN region, with a focus on the Belconnen Area. Currently there is only one drug and alcohol service available in Belconnen.

Commissioning method	ACT PHN will contract a community sector service provider to provide this service. The service provider will employ staff and use brokerage funding to purchase other specialist drug and alcohol services as required.
Approach to market	A direct approach to a mainstream specialist drug and alcohol service with experience in providing Indigenous specific services will be undertaken.

2. (c) Activities which will no longer be delivered under the Schedule – Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities

Not applicable