
Research, Scope and Design a Pilot Project: Safer Families



Supported by



Project Update #2

June 2017

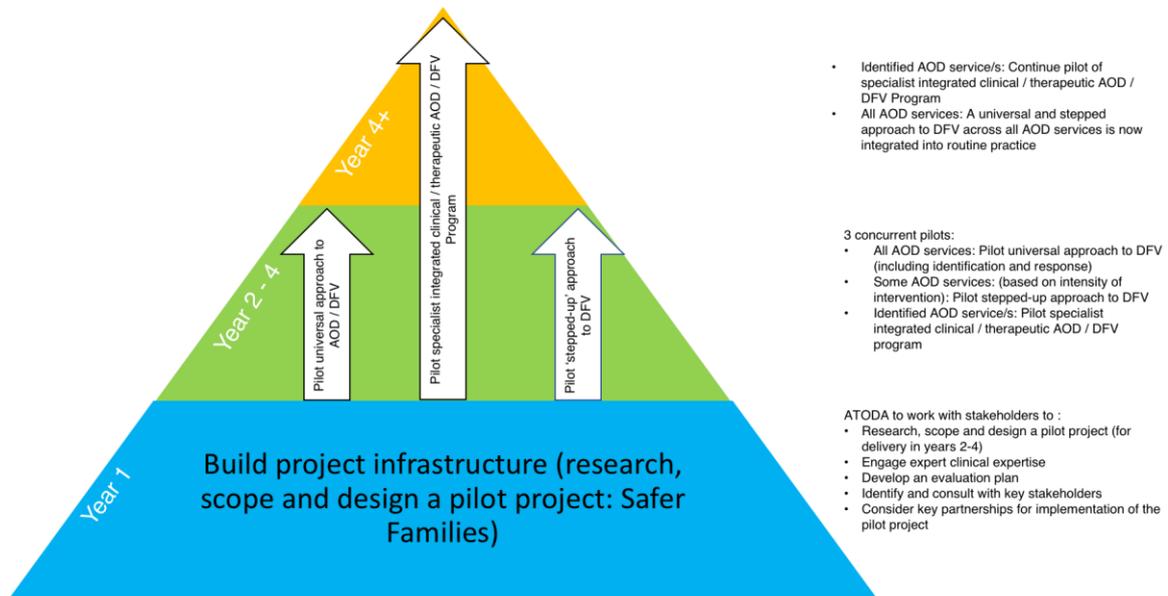
ACT Health have engaged ATODA to research, scope and design a pilot project to provide more effective responses for people who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and either experience domestic and family violence (DFV) or are at risk of using DFV.

Pilot Project Vision

The pilot project vision is for an ACT AOD specialist sector that provides both specialist integrated clinical AOD / DFV interventions as well as universal identification and responses to DFV that reflect best practice and meet community expectations of safety.

Model

The pilot program will undertake a series of short and long term activities concurrently, whereby service delivery will be strengthened across the entire system alongside the development of specialist integrated AOD treatment and DFV interventions to meet the clinical, therapeutic and other needs of people who use AOD in harmful ways and either experience DFV or are at risk of using DFV. It is expected that in later years, the capacity of all services to identify and respond to DFV will part of routine practice; and a provider (or multiple providers) will by delivering program/s that offer concurrent and integrated AOD treatment and DFV clinical / therapeutic programs (this could include both therapeutic programs for women who experience DFV; and behaviour change programs for men who use DFV). A visual description of the project model is provided below.



Year 1 Objectives:

- Engage and liaise with AOD specialist treatment and support services and other key stakeholders (including through the DFV sector) to scope the existing capacity and needs around integrating DFV into routine AOD practice.
- Design a multi-year Pilot Project that will facilitate the development of both collective capacity around DFV across all services in the AOD sector, and specific and targeted clinical DFV capacity within individual services.
- Develop an evaluation plan and recruit an external evaluation team to monitor and measure the Program's implementation and impact.
- Recruit clinicians with specialist AOD and DFV expertise to provide advice on project design and implementation.
- Develop a tool (fidelity instrument) that will collect baseline information from participating services on DFV capabilities that can be readministered at regular intervals to assess increased capacity.

Update on Project Activities May – June 2017

- Continued project planning and refinement of project TOR, plan and project logic.
- Continued engagement of expertise (including clinical, evaluation, DFV and / or AOD).
- Meetings with ACT Health regarding the development of the project plan and deliverables.
- Preliminary briefing of specialist AOD services on the project at the 5 May Drug Services Forum.
- Delivery of the *Promoting Safety and Prioritising Domestic and Family Violence in the ACT AOD Sector Symposium* on 24 May 2017. Nearly 70 stakeholders from across

the AOD and DFV sector were in attendance. This included service delivery agencies, workers, policy makers and consumers. Speakers included:

- Aunty Agnes Shea, Nggunawal Elder: Welcome to Country
 - Carrie Fowlie, ATODA: Introduction and Context (and MC)
 - Sione Crawford and Eleanor Morrison, Community Representatives: Symposium Discussants
 - Dr Anna Olsen, ANU: Setting the scene – what we know and don't know (yet)
 - Anke van der Sterren, ATODA: Setting the scene
 - Professor Nicole Lee, 360edge: Working with Women
 - Dr Stefan Gruenert, Odyssey House: Working with Men
 - Trevor King, ReGen: A specialist AOD service reflections on better responding to DFV
 - Amanda Bode, ATODA: Capacity building in the AOD sector
- Survey of the AOD workforce regarding understanding of and responses to DFV (undertaken with participants of the Symposium). A summary of findings is being drafted and will summarise understandings of and practices relating to DFV in the AOD sector. It will further inform the pilot project development.
 - Ongoing review of data collection from consultations with specialist AOD services, DFV service providers and women who have had experience with both AOD and DFV services in the ACT. This data collection occurred through a previous research project undertaken as a collaboration between ATODA, ANU and UNSW titled: *Enhancing Supports for Women Affected by Harmful Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Domestic and Family Violence*.
 - Meeting with the Western Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Agencies regarding the review of the *Standard on Culturally Secure Practice* and the potential utilisation of existing accreditation infrastructure to incorporate capacity building components related to DFV in AOD service accreditation standards.
 - Delivery of a pilot training package on *AOD Information / Harm reduction, screening and brief intervention training (utilising the ACT eASSIST)* with DFV service providers (Toora Women Inc). Note: Staff from DVCS undertook this training – as reported through the previous project update.
 - Engagement of clinical consultants and refinement of project proposals for deliverables (including the fidelity instrument).
 - Development of a request for tender and associated documentation for an evaluation consultant.

Project Advisory Group

A Project Advisory Group and Terms of Reference was established (with the first meeting held on 1 June 2017). Invitations were provided to:

- Representatives from Specialist AOD services
- Representative from the Womens Services Network
- Representative from the Domestic Violence Prevention Council
- Consumer organisation
- ATODA
- ACT Health

- Office for the Coordinator General
- Clinical consultant
- Evaluation consultant

Additional Consultative Mechanisms for Project Activities

Project activities will require specific engagement strategies to ensure appropriate input from the AOD and DFV fields [clinical and otherwise], particularly for example in relation to the development of tools to inform AOD practice. This will occur through a range of forums and associated mechanisms. A detailed consultation schedule is currently being developed.

A save the date for the first and second consultations have been sent to specialist AOD services (with additional stakeholders to be contacted shortly):

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2017

Time: 9am – 5pm (each workshop will be half a day with a shared cross over lunch for all participants)

RSVP: The consultations are by invitation only and RSVPs are essential to dfv@atoda.org.au or (02) 6249 6358. Each specialist AOD services funded by ACT Health is offered up to 3 places (e.g. for the Executive Director and two other staff who could share their clinical and / or practice expertise to inform the project)

Venue: ANU COMMONS, 1 Rimmer St, Canberra

Further Information

For more information visit <http://www.atoda.org.au/research-scope-and-design-a-pilot-project-safer-families/> or contact ATODA on dfv@atoda.org.au or (02) 6249 6358.