

REVIEW OF THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES SECTOR COMMUNIQUÉ No. 1 – 29 JULY 2013

Following the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund and Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program funding rounds that were finalised in early 2012, the former Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, requested that the Department of Health and Ageing undertake a review of the drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services sector.

The department conducted an open tender process to engage a consultant to undertake the review, with a team from the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) at the University of New South Wales, headed by Professor Alison Ritter, being the successful tenderer.

An Advisory Committee has been established to provide expert advice to government regarding the review. The list of members of the Advisory Committee, and their area of representation, is attached.

- The Advisory Committee met face-to-face for the first time in Canberra on 23 July 2013. Its role is to:
- contribute expert knowledge and advice to the review;
- provide advice on existing and emerging issues in relation to the alcohol and other drug treatment sector; and
- facilitate stakeholder engagement and partnerships within the alcohol and other drug sector.

At the meeting Professor Ritter outlined the proposed project plan including the planned methodology, communication strategy and consultation strategy. The Advisory Committee considered the project plan in depth and offered constructive comments and suggestions. Critically, the project methodology was endorsed by the Advisory Committee. Work on the Review will now get underway in earnest.

The Review aims to achieve:

- clarity as to the range of services currently funded by governments, their distribution and the demographic groups targeted by these services;
- a common understanding amongst governments and the sector of current and future service needs and where there may be service gaps, either in relation to service type, geographic area and/or demographic groups;
- clarity as to the type and timing of drug and alcohol funding activities undertaken by governments; and
- the development of a resource/tools to help focus future government funding activities to ensure existing levels of resources (and any growth funding) are used as efficiently and effectively as possible to deliver quality, sustainable drug and alcohol services that respond to the needs of individuals, families and communities.

The Review Advisory Committee was also briefed on three associated projects commissioned by the department which will inform the Review process and outcomes. These projects are the:

- *Quality Framework for Australian Government funded drug and alcohol treatment services*, led by Professor Dan Lubman at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre. The quality framework aims to complement work completed or currently underway by governments within the drug and alcohol treatment services sector to better understand and improve service quality and inform future planning needs.

- *Patient Pathways* project led initially by Dr Lynda Berends, but now Professor Dan Lubman at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre. This project documents the current policy context, needs, investment, service types, strengths and challenges of current specialist alcohol and other drug systems in Australia; describes patient journeys through alcohol and other drug treatment, hospital admissions, emergency department contacts, and contacts with the broader social services and legal sector; and describes interventions and linkages between specialist alcohol and other drug systems and primary/community care.
- *National Drug and Alcohol Mapping Project* led initially by Dr Jade Sheen and now Dr Alyse Miller at Monash University, which aims to map drug and alcohol services throughout Australia in accordance with geographical location, referral pathways and treatment services offered. This work will result in a webpage and a smartphone application aimed particularly at consumers, carers and clinicians.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the high level of sectoral interest in the progress of the Review and is committed to regular and open communications. A regular communiqué will be prepared following each meeting; this is the first Review communiqué. There will also be a monthly communication to update the sector on the progress of the review.

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to next meet via teleconference in September 2013 to be updated by the project team on the progress of data collection activities. The Committee will meet face-to-face in early December to consider the first of the working papers developed by the project team.

Any enquiries may be directed to the AOD Review Advisory Committee secretariat at: SMTP@health.gov.au.

Membership of the Review Advisory Committee

Membership	Representative
Chair	
First Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Drug Treatment Division Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing	Sue Champion
MHDAPC representation	
Western Australia	Neil Guard
New South Wales	David McGrath
Sector representation	
Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association	A/Professor Lynne Magor-Blatch
National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee	Scott Wilson
Australian National Council on Drugs	Gino Vumbaca
Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia	David Templeman
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre	Professor Mike Farrell
Australian Medicare Local Alliance	Renee Williams
State and territory peak body representation	
Queensland	Rebecca MacBean
Tasmania	Jann Smith
Consumer representation	

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

Consumer Health Forum of Australia

Homelessness representative nominated by the Prime Minister's
Council on Homelessness

Clinical representation

Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia

Annie Madden

Jeff Gavin

Ian Carter

A/ Professor Nick Lintzeris

Jennifer Harland