

ACT AOD Sector Project

Guiding Values, Project Principles, Vision, Aim and Objectives Year 2: July 2008 – June 2009

This document outlines the guiding values, Project principles, vision, aim and objectives for Year 2 of the ACT AOD Sector Project.

Guiding Values

- Carer Participation
- Consumer Participation
- Diversity
- Evidence-based practice
- Harm Minimisation
- Human Rights
- Social Determinants of Health
- Social Justice
- Working in Partnership

See Appendix 1 for definitions of guiding values.

Project Principles

- Effectiveness and timeliness
- Evidence-based approach
- Inclusiveness
- Participation
- Partnerships and collaboration

See Appendix 2 for the draft definitions of Project principles.

Vision

The ACT alcohol and other drug sector has the capacity to play a critical role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the ACT community.

Aim

*For the ACT AOD Workers' Group meeting: Thursday 9 October 2008
Year 2 – ACT AOD Sector Project: Guiding Values, Project Principles, Vision, Aim
and Objectives: July 2008 – June 2009.*

To build the capacity and identity of the alcohol and other drug sector in the ACT, foster intra and cross – sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by alcohol and other drugs.

Objectives

1. To foster ownership of the ACT alcohol and other drug Sector Project amongst the alcohol and other drug workforce through inclusive decision making practices and involvement in Project activities.
2. To support alcohol and other drug services to identify strategies to better work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are affected by alcohol and other drugs.
3. To further promote consumer participation principles and strategies within the alcohol and other drug sector.
4. To promote, develop and participate in key events and communicate information to build a positive profile, shared identity and awareness of the alcohol and other drug sector.
5. To further develop two – way communication and a positive relationship between the Alcohol and Other Drug Workers' Group and the Executive Directors' Group.
6. To facilitate professional development opportunities for alcohol and other drug workers to access the latest evidence relating to best practice to strengthen the capacity, skills and knowledge base of workers.
7. To encourage and support collaboration, networking and the sharing of information amongst alcohol and other drug workers and services in the ACT.
8. To strengthen communication and linkages within the alcohol and other drug sector and across other key sectors such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, youth, mental health, family and housing and homelessness.
9. To identify opportunities to develop shared positions in order to advocate and lobby for evidenced based policies for services and sector development.
10. To evaluate the Project using an action learning framework.

APPENDIX 1

ACT AOD Sector Project Definitions of Guiding Values

Carer Participation

Carers are family members or friends that provide care and support to people affected by alcohol and other drugs.

Carer participation is the process of involving health consumers in decision making about health service planning, policy development, setting priorities and quality issues in the delivery of health services.

(Adapted from ACT Health, (2006). A proposed model for effective and genuine participation of consumers and carers across Mental Health ACT)

Consumer Participation

The term consumer should be interpreted broadly to include previous users of services, current users of services and potential users of services, for example people in the community with unmet needs, people who may benefit from services but who for a variety of reasons have not accessed any, and specific population groups that may have unique needs or access issues.

Consumer participation is the process of involving health consumers in decision making about health service planning, policy development, setting priorities and quality issues in the delivery of health services.

(Adapted from NSW Health, A Guide to Consumer Participation in NSW Drug and Alcohol Services and ACT Health, (2006). A proposed model for effective and genuine participation of consumers and carers across Mental Health ACT)

(Adapted from Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (1998). Consumer Focus Collaboration, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra)

Diversity

The principle of diversity emphasises the importance of inclusive structures and processes in the community and seeks to ensure that social exclusion is actively confronted.

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(Adapted from Ife, J. (2002). *Community Development: Community based alternatives in an age of globalisation*. Pearson Education Australia).

Evidenced Based Practice

An evidenced based approach involves actively engaging in current literature, and using both available evidence and ones expertise to promote the best intervention to produce improved outcomes.

(Adapted from Skinner, N & Roche, A (2003) *NCETA Discussion Paper No. 1: Goal Setting with Individuals and Teams: Implications for Transfer of Training and Evidence-Based Practice in the AOD Field*, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction)

Harm Minimisation

Harm minimisation aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes for both the community and individuals. Harm minimisation includes preventing anticipated harm and reducing actual harm. Harm minimisation does not condone illegal behaviours, but acknowledges that these behaviours occur despite vigorous efforts to reduce supply and demand reduction. Consequently, there is a responsibility to develop and implement public health and other measures that contribute to reducing the harm to individuals and the community.

(Adapted from Dolan, K., MacDonald, M., Silins E & Topp L. 2005. *Needle and Syringe Programs: A review of the evidence*. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra.)

Human Rights

The term 'human rights' covers many different fundamental rights and freedoms and includes civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and humanitarian rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights consists of 30 articles that outline the view of the United Nations General Assembly on the human rights guaranteed to all people, of which Australia is a signatory. The ACT also have a Human Rights Act 2004 which is an explicit statutory basis for respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting civil and political rights.

(Adapted from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, *Human Rights Explained*, www.hreoc.gov.au/hr_explained/what.html)

Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

The Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing is a term that refers to the underlying causes of ill health in a community such as the need for economic opportunity, education, social connectedness and social standing, transportation, food security, and employment, and economic opportunity.

(ACT Health, (2006) *Position Statement: Social Determinants of Health*.)

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Social Justice

The key value of social justice involves promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. It is based on a belief that all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and a fair allocation of community resources. Social justice also implies that people must not be discriminated against, nor their welfare and wellbeing constrained or prejudiced on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliations, age, race, belief, disability, location, social class, socioeconomic circumstance or other characteristic of background or group membership. Social justice seeks to challenge the inequalities inherent in social institutions and structures and to deconstruct dominant views of society.

(Taken from Queensland Studies Authority. Queensland Government. *Studies of Society and Environment Syllabus*.

www.qsa.qld.edu.au/yrs1to10/kla/sose/faqs.html)

Working in partnership

Alcohol and other drug issues affect all members of the community and the AOD sector alone cannot reduce and prevent the harm caused by this. Each sector of the service system is engaged in the delivery of services that respond to the needs and concerns of different members of the community who may be affected by alcohol and other drug use. It is therefore the responsibility of the entire service system to work together to achieve meaningful and holistic support for people affected by AOD issues.

(Adapted from Youth Coalition of the ACT. 2005. *Working in partnership to better support young people in families affected by alcohol and other drug issues*.)

APPENDIX 2

ACT AOD Sector Project Draft Definitions of Project Principles

Effectiveness and Timeliness

Project activities will seek to be effective in attaining project objectives. This will be reviewed through ongoing data collection activities and an annual evaluation and review of project activities. Additionally, activities will seek to be responsive to the needs of workers and be delivered in a timely fashion, as determined through the Project Work, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and ongoing Workers' Group meetings.

Evidence Based Approach

Workforce development activities should be based on the best available evidence regarding the strategies that are most likely to result in the desired outcomes. Activities should be based on a realistic assessment of the balance between potential positive outcomes for the individual / service and the resource implications of its implementation. Activities should be enhanced through consultation with workers and should undergo regular reviews to take into account the research evidence.

(Adapted from Skinner, N., Freeman, T., Shoobridge, J., & Roche, A. (2003). *Workforce development and the alcohol and other drugs field: A literature review of key issues for the NGO sector*. National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University)

Inclusiveness

Workers who respond to AOD related issues represent a diverse group of specialist and generalist workers. Project activities and processes will seek to be inclusive and flexible to meet the needs and circumstances of different individual workers, services and the sector as a whole.

(Adapted from Skinner, N., Freeman, T., Shoobridge, J., & Roche, A. (2003). *Workforce development and the alcohol and other drugs field: A literature review of key issues for the NGO sector*. National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University)

Participation

The Project will seek to maximise participation of AOD workers in activities. People must be enabled to participate in project activities and decision making processes and supported in their participation. Different forms of participation must be acknowledged and valued.

(Adapted from Ife, J. (2002). *Community Development: Community based alternatives in an age of globalisation*. Pearson Education Australia).

Partnerships and Collaboration

A partnership involves two or more parties working to achieve common goals. The Project will endeavor to work in partnership with different individuals, groups and services to define needs and through activities that seek to address these identified needs.

Partnerships represent essential building blocks of effective workforce development. This will not only build the capacity of the Project, but also helps to foster ownership of activities in the AOD sector.

(Adapted from Youth Coalition of the ACT. 2005. *Working in partnership to better support young people in families affected by alcohol and other drug issues.*)