

# Liaison on Alcohol and other Drugs LOAD

## Greymouth Meeting Record Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009

**Welcome:** Char Macpherson, ADANZ

**Apologies:** Paul Eathorne, Margaret Adams

### Presentations:

- **Work and Income**, Wendy Haika, Regional Health Advisor  
Relationship with GPs and health workers also case workers (WINZ)  
Health and Disability Advisors have split the region between the West Coast and Nelson Marlborough. Sickness or Invalids Benefits differences ie short term and long term focus on how to get people back to work. Linking case manager and clients to services complex issues varied range of reasons why people come to WINZ and are placed on different entitlements. Advisors assist with entitlements. Advisors assist with assessments and linking with services they need for various diagnoses. GPs do not have time to learn update what services are available so it keeps them up to date. Review cases if haven't been done otherwise they can just roll over. Work Bridge is a useful service to work with re employment. Case Study re being linked to appropriately matched AOD service. A woman who avoided main stream was linked to a service that she related to and has now gone through treatment and is now drug / alcohol free and doing well and off benefit. New Medical Certificates neither invalid or sickness. Advisors talk to as many of the services clients are connected to. Case workers main role is to make sure they get their correct entitlements.

Assessments all from a strengths base ie for client. Invalids permit (2 year) personal benefit unable to work more than 15 hours.

Disability benefit – travel to treatment, speciality foods ie the cost of conditions such as gluten free dietary requirements. Child Disability benefit has different entitlements important to know what they are.

'In Work Supports' education for contracted services.

### Discussion

AOD service that can deliver a service that people will use other than mainstream. Need to know what the barriers are to people entering services.

Pain management a big issue (methadone clients often in this group).

Rural issues isolated / travel / time / lack of options

Addiction is a relapsing condition. Mental preparation time and important.

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/individual/disabled-or-illmhtml](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individual/disabled-or-illmhtml)

- **Te Pou: The National Centre of Mental health Research, Information and Workforce Development**, Stuart Gray, Workforce Development Coordinator – Southern Region  
Apologies due to unforeseen circumstances this presenter was unable to attend at the last moment.

### Local Service Updates

It was noted there is a need for services to contract services for consumers who don't want to be treated in mainstream e.g. youth services and womens service. PHO's for mild to moderate mental health issues rather than moderate – severe.

### National Addiction Sector & Diary Events, Research Hot Points

See August National Updates:

<http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/LOAD/LOAD%20Meeting%20Notes%20Presentations/West%20Coast>

**Connections Newsletter** <http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/Connections>

Meeting closed 12.10pm. Attendees: 13

Please note: These notes are a summary of opinions expressed by meeting attendees. If anyone would like further information please email [reception@adanz.org.nz](mailto:reception@adanz.org.nz)