

# Liaison on Alcohol and Other Drugs LOAD

## Dunedin

Meeting Record Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Welcome:** Char Macpherson, ADANZ

### Presentations

➤ **Work and Income NZ, Tanya Rissman, Regional Disability Advisor**

*Difference between sickness and Invalid benefit*

*Sickness:* Ill health prevents working temporarily - requires a medical certificate from a GP. A short term benefit only. GP reassesses every 3 months.

*Invalid:* Severely disabled and unable to work full time. The aim now is to reduce barriers to getting employment and to assist people into employment.

Work with case managers to understand the clients disability i.e. identify abilities and possibilities for employment.

People on a sickness / disability benefit are now monitored for a dependency.

*Advisors role:* developed so WINZ can work better with other services to achieve the best outcomes for the people they work with – a trial at present in certain areas.

Advisors assist with assessments, entitlements and linking with services they need for various diagnoses.

*The Team:* consists of Regional disability and health advisors, an overall coordinator, and an employment coordinator / work broker who works one - one with people needing assistance with employment.

It may be possible to fund minor surgery for people who are on a waiting list for surgery or who are requiring a surgical procedure may qualify to have it done sooner if it ensures they get a position – would have to be case by case

*Pathways:* work with people who have mental health and addiction issues; assist with additional support to overcome barriers to employment.

Noted as an Issue: need to be on a sickness benefit to get on a 12 week AOD programme. If their partner is employed or has an income criteria means they must pay themselves.

### MOSD

More services to the community to get people to work ie Paths team will assist with additional support to overcome barriers of getting back into work. Trial at present have to be around usually referrals from GP but take referrals from other services.

➤ **Divo Needle Exchange, Blair Symon, Manager**

HR – sterile procedures – new fit for every hit. Peer based services. EDM (Electronic Dispensing Machine) must pay. Issue Anomalies in the law. Misuse of Drugs Act – people can be charged for carrying needles, onus of proof on police to prove they haven't been bought / supplied by Needle Exchange service.

### Discussion

Law Commission's Alcohol in Our Lives

Geoff Palmer September meeting

20 suggestions in back of report

Arrest referrals at point of crime when alcohol / drugs are involved.

Human rights supply and possession an issue.

Civil penalties rather than legal penalties, treatment better than jail.

Border control costs need to change focus around where money is spent.

Over representation of beds in the South Island need treatment across the board.

## Local Service News

*CADS:* Methadone. Two new people including Nurse seconded working with wait list. Waiting 12 months now not 8 to get on the programme. A lot of staff on sick leave. Group sessions helping with the waiting list. Uptake been quite good while on waiting list.

*Divo:* Outreach to rural areas, although funding a problem Māori outreach service now available.

*Dunedin Home Base Service:* Contact the Ashburn Clinic at present until 20 Jan. Now Erin Watts on board. 8.30 pm – 5pm input detox, work with shared care, outreach service, safe supported care.

*Bridge:* Numbers up in residents 7 bed days. Continue to over book beds to keep full. Looking at service and models of treatment. Rural Service, Balclutha and Alexandra contact. Oamaru AOD and PG group there. Oasis multi venue exclusion project working well clients, can get exclusion from a number of venues by going through one.

*Youth Wellness:* Going well. Mental history and parents history. Youth offending, wrap around service not just AOD help them to get support they need. Working out how to work with loss of funding.

Forum for school principal and AOD services – who and how to work together.

Also support for primary schools to identify children who are impacted by parents with AOD issues.

*Adventure Development:* Busy as usual. Asked to do things outside contract e.g. assessment, waiting list but full. Young people out of school but number of projects, courses now closed and new Government closing more. Having to look at other options and build up new relationships e.g. conversations.

*Mirror Counselling:* 2 counselling services. 19 down to 3 year Drug Alcohol services. Have a full intake service worker, hence have not had a waiting for 18 months. Social Skills group for young people with anger management. Day programme new intake identified by Ministry of Health as innovative service, work with 8 young people very challenging.

*Youth Specialist Service:* new relationship with probation. Mental health team for DHB covers Mental Health issues – choice partnership for people referral seen within the week.

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

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

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

*Meeting closed at 12.00pm; Attendees: 14*

Meeting dates available on [www.adanz.org.nz](http://www.adanz.org.nz). Suggestions for agenda to Char Macpherson [char.macpherson@adanz.org.nz](mailto:char.macpherson@adanz.org.nz) 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)