

**NORTHERN TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Alcohol and Other Drug Program:
Profile of Services and Interventions Project**

FINAL REPORT

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Preface

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Program (AODP) has a key focus on the development, delivery and contracting of alcohol and other drug interventions and programs to help people with substance misuse problems. \$8.5 million is invested each year to provide these services, most of which are delivered through a range of non government agencies across the Northern Territory.

Changes in alcohol and other drug trends, new research findings, ongoing evaluation and analysis of service and client outcomes mean that treatment agencies need to be adaptable and responsive. The AODP, through its services development functions has a role to support these ongoing quality improvements to meet changing demand.

In March 2004, the AODP convened a forum for all drug and alcohol treatment agencies to come together to plan and prioritise a number of reforms to develop working relationships between drug and alcohol treatment services with a view to improving client outcomes. At that forum, there was a consensus that there needed to be ongoing support from AODP to improve service systems in each region.

In January 2005, the AODP commissioned Health Management Advisors to conduct a review of services and interventions. The objectives of this review were to analyse current treatment services, as a whole and within each region, to determine the degree to which current arrangements meet regional needs. Additionally the consultants would review each service and make recommendations about meeting best practice where applicable.

Between January and April 2005, HMA met with all major service providers, analysed service and client data, reviewed service practices and systems in accordance with the current evidence base and identified a number of recommendations for consideration by the AODP. The recommendations generated from this report will be used to inform the ongoing development of the Northern Territory alcohol and other drug sector. They will also provide a basis for working with existing alcohol and other drug treatment services to ensure;

- we are providing the best possible service mix in each region,
- people are able to access a full range of services from brief intervention through to aftercare, and
- that all services are working towards the provision of current evidence based best practice.

This work will also inform the development of new and redeveloped services where necessary.

The report, and subsequent planning and collaboration, provides an opportunity to develop our services as a whole and to ensure that we are able to provide the population of the Northern Territory the best possible alcohol and other drug treatment services. I look forward to working with you all on this exciting project.

Joanne Townsend
Director
Alcohol and Other Drug Program
July 2005



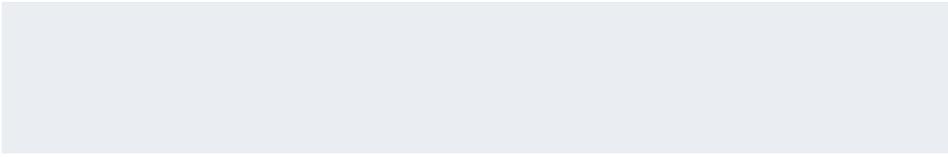


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