

## New services to tackle Adelaide's alcohol, ice and other drug issues.

A range of new, evidence-based services have been commissioned across Adelaide to help people struggling with addiction to alcohol, ice and other drugs.

“With these new services, and others which will be in place before the end of the year, we can support people in their treatment and recovery and reduce the harm being experienced by those with substance misuse issues, their families and our community,” said Deb Lee, CEO of the Adelaide Primary Health Network (APHN).

With some \$2 million in funding from the Federal Government, APHN has contracted alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services from three expert providers;

**PsychMed** – to conduct intensive outpatient treatment for methamphetamine users, brief interventions and relapse prevention group therapy with a focus on northern, southern and central Adelaide. PsychMed has commenced service provision and is currently providing 1:1 counselling and group programs.

**OARS** – contracted to provide additional counselling and support for people recently released from correctional services.

**Hello Sunday Morning** – developed a smartphone-based program to help people reduce harmful levels of alcohol consumption through a range of evidence-based supports including interventions, motivational interviewing, cognitive-behaviour therapy, peer support and clinical support.

APHN is currently negotiating with a further four providers who will be contracted by the end of the year.

“Looking at all the evidence, we have identified the greatest needs and selected the most suitable providers to fill those needs,” Ms Lee said.

“Without doubt ICE is a very worrying and growing problem and thankfully treatment programs are getting more and more effective, but while we certainly need to address that issue to ensure it doesn't continue to grow, we can't ignore that alcohol abuse remains the biggest problem and that other drugs such as cannabis and methamphetamines still do massive harm.”

The AOD treatment services being commissioned by the Adelaide PHN will improve health outcomes across the metropolitan area through

- intensive outpatient treatment for ice and other methamphetamine users;
- innovative psychological education and peer support for alcohol misuse;
- treatment options that recognise the link between AOD and mental health disorders;
- counselling support for families;
- targeted services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which link to broader Indigenous health services; and
- stronger pathways between primary health care providers and AOD support services.

All AOD treatment services will be contracted by 1 January 2017.

### **Australian Government Response to the National Ice Taskforce's Final Report**

The AOD treatment services commissioned by the Adelaide PHN are part of the Australian Government's Response to the National Ice Taskforce's Final Report. The Response included establishing a role for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) in the planning and commissioning of drug and alcohol treatment services, to reduce the harms associated with drugs and alcohol, with a focus on methamphetamine use in the community, including Indigenous-specific services.

The aim of the planning and commissioning in the AOD sector is to:

- increase the service delivery capacity of the AOD treatment sector through improved regional coordination and by targeting areas of need, with a focus on methamphetamine use in the community; and
- improve the effectiveness of drug and alcohol treatment services for individuals requiring support and treatment, particularly for methamphetamine use, by increasing co-ordination between various sectors, and improving sector efficiency.

*Update 9/11/2016:* It was recently announced that OARS had been contracted to provide additional counselling and support for people recently released from Correctional Services. It was further stated that "this will include a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus."

We apologise for any confusion that this statement has caused and wish to clarify that OARS will not be providing services which "include a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus". OARS already provides support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all of its services. It will continue to do so for clients that attend its existing Alcohol and Other Drug Services, as well as for clients attending its new APHN funded services. We encourage you to contact us directly with any other queries or concerns.

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