

RAMPING UP HARM REDUCTION PRACTICE IN RESIDENTIAL AOD TREATMENT SERVICES

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Background: Responding to escalating fatal overdose in Victoria, 2017 the Victorian Government invested in novel prevention programs. Windana received funding for a model targeting people at high risk of overdose while engaged in the Alcohol & other Drug (AOD) treatment system. Windana delivers residential withdrawal and rehabilitation programs.

Description of model of care/intervention: The Windana Harm Reduction Practitioner (HRP) applies a modified Care and Recovery Coordination (CRC) model. The HRP provides 1:1, group and outreach support to clients and staff about overdose, also identifying clients at risk of premature discharge from treatment. The model includes, naloxone administration training with Naloxone kits provided via discharge planning. In addition to Windana's residential services, HRP works with high volume pharmacotherapy prescribers.

Effectiveness: Baseline data indicates clients' risk assessment (n=58), 26 (48%) reported current use of opioid drugs (including pharmaceutical opioids). Of 26, 22 (84.6%) reported a history of non-fatal overdose. Of this number, 68.2 % reported over 10 overdose events. The remainder of the group had each experienced overdose. The reported overdoses involved heroin or GHB. Effectiveness results are being developed currently; evaluation is pending at the time of submission.

Conclusion and next steps: In 12 months established baseline data that informs development of the model. Data collection and training at individual and systems level further embeds the response, the goal being the creation of a model to be applied in other residential services and communities. In addition, the project will have policy development impact regarding funded service types in the AOD system.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Windana receives funding from the Victorian Government to deliver AOD treatment and harm reduction services.