

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIALIST ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT SERVICE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK PROJECT

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Introduction: In 2017/18 SANDAS, with funding from Drug and Alcohol Services SA (SA Dept of Health), undertook extensive industry consultation to develop a Specialist AOD Treatment Framework for South Australia. The purpose of the Framework is to describe alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment service delivery in South Australia, with a focus on government and non-government specialist AOD treatment services. It is not intended as a practice guideline or to replace organisational policy. It aims to reflect a consensus view across specialist AOD treatment service providers, clients, policy makers, researchers and funders regarding current best-practice in South Australia.

Approach: The Project required extensive sector consultation. Consultations strategies included:

- a project reference group of senior leaders from government and non-government specialist alcohol and other drug services, a research organisation, peer support representatives, policy makers and funding body representatives
- an online survey of specialist alcohol and other drug service providers in South Australia
- interviews with service managers and frontline staff by phone and site visits
- a workshop attended by 30 senior staff from service providers, funding bodies, lived experience representatives and policy makers
- subject experts provided feedback on the draft document.

Key Findings: The Framework provides information on:

- the context in which specialist alcohol and other drug treatment agencies operate, including the current prevalence of, and issues arising from, substance use in South Australia
- the foundational elements essential to the provision of best-practice, evidence-based services. These include a skilled and supported workforce, models of care, quality improvement, effective governance, research and innovation, accepted practice methodologies and principles for developing and maintaining effective client relationships
- holistic, evidence-based alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction interventions
- the importance of collaboration and communication across all services involved in the planning, commissioning and delivery of alcohol and other drug services.

Discussion: The Framework will be a useful resource:

- for policy makers and commissioning
- for services planning and developing programs and service models
- for communicating the purpose and defining characteristics of specialist AOD treatment service delivery to stakeholders
- as an aid to the induction and training of individual workers
- for associated sectors to better understand the types of specialist alcohol and other drug services available within SA and how these may benefit their own clients.

Implications for Practice or Policy: This Framework will be useful in South Australia. It builds on a model first developed by QNADA. As the Australian Government and other jurisdictions move to develop Treatment Frameworks this presentation will provide delegates with a concise overview of the processes for and value of developing such a framework.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: SANDAS received funding from Drug and Alcohol Services SA (SA Dept of Health) to develop this resource.