

The DACRIN Data Project: A process for harmonising data collection across AoD services in NSW.

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Introduction and Aims: Having a standardised data collection processes allows for harmonisation and comparison of data across different studies and services. A project was developed with the aim to develop a 'core dataset' which would serve as the default set to be used when designing future DACRIN-led studies and QI projects.

Approach: A working group was formed including clinicians, researchers, data managers, consumers from public and NGO sector. The group decided upon the core domains of interest, and allocated categories and data items within these domains. A series of Delphi meetings occurred to come to a consensus on the data items to be include in the core dataset for the first three domains: demographics, treatment activity, and substance use.

Key Findings: There were 20-40 attendees at each meeting. 19 participants provided the final vote. Although an initial consensus criterion of having received >70% of the vote was established, given the difficulty in reaching consensus for most items, this was changed to eliminating any items that received <5 votes and then the item receiving the most votes would be selected.

Discussions and Conclusions: This was an important process that received considerable interest and buy-in across DACRIN sites and the NSW NGO sector. Ample opportunity for discussion and voting was provided for the 3 domains of interest, allowing people across these sites to contribute their expertise and experience to inform decision making. As such we believe the core dataset will be robust and includes the current best options available to collect data in these domains.

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