

Insights from the Public Participation Review

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Background: *Embedding the voices of lived experience at all levels of treatment settings has been a challenge for the Tasmanian AOD sector. With the spectre of funding for an independent lived experience advocacy organisation in 2023, it's timely for organisations to understand, scrutinise and consider how services are involving people with lived experience. The Public Participation Review (PPR) has been developed and piloted to help organisations measure historic and current commitments to public participation. It makes inquiry into the experience of accessing treatment services, attitudes toward and capacity for participation activities, and how voices of lived experience can realistically influence service design and the wider sector.*

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: *Community Engagement*

Effectiveness: *In June 2021, half of Tasmania's AOD treatment organisations have taken the PPR with staff and with people who have their accessed services/lived experience. By November 2021, the author will have a full complement of qualitative data for presentation that highlights the contemporary experience of accessing AOD treatment in Tasmania. The author will also use PPR responses to illuminate any insights and themes from across the sector.*

Conclusion and Next Steps: *The PPR is a gentle, practical step to improving public participation within AOD treatment services. It has been positively received by both staff and people with lived experience, promotes healthy dialogue and alignment among staff cohorts and people accessing services, and provides an exemplar for meaningful engagement.*

Disclosure of Interest Statement: *The PPR was completed by the Community Engagement Project Officer at the ATDC through a funding agreement with Primary Health Tasmania.*