



Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) NGO AOD Sector Update

SANDAS Treatment Forum 2021

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Update on DASSA funded AOD treatment service projects

- **Presentation will focus on the COVID-19 Mental Health Response 2021-22**
 - Aim: to reduce the likely impact of COVID-19 related alcohol and other drug use, and the likely demand for more expensive hospital emergency department and inpatient services.



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

- > Responding to the increased demand for AOD support from the community due to the impacts of COVID-19, including:
 - Increased demand for the phone line, seeking assistance, counselling and support
 - Demand for inpatient withdrawal management, increased hospital transfers
 - Increase of emergency department presentations by 8.5% for AOD issues



What informs commissioning pilots/services

- > The response to Covid-19 and subsequent funding has been informed by numerous data sources
- > Local data sources
 - Health needs assessment
 - Sobering Up Services review
 - Service utilisation data / waitlists
 - Hospital presentation data
 - SA Wastewater Analysis
- > National data sources
 - ADAPT Study and IDRS
- > Key Performance Indicators
 - Determined during service establishment
 - Building on existing service delivery where applicable to implement short term projects in a timely manner
 - Updated data systems to accurately track performance against data informing initiatives
 - Planning for effective reporting of outcomes and evaluation of initiatives



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

DASSA implemented the following short term projects until 30 June 2021:

- > **ADIS Phone Line**
- > **Consultation Liaison Service**
- > **Outpatient Appointments**
- > **Outpatient Withdrawal Programs**
- > **GP In reach**
- > **Mental Health In reach**

All projects, except expansion of the CLS are continuing for a further 12 months during 2021-22, in response to COVID-19.

The ADIS phone line, Outpatient Appointments and Mental Health In reach projects will also continue on an ongoing basis.



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

ADIS Phone Line:

- > **Extending increased service provision** through the Alcohol and Drug Information Service to increase early identification and intervention to address problems.
- > Hosting a dedicated *Rapid Response* phone line, to provide quick access to AOD assessment and treatment through early engagement post hospital presentation.
- > Responding to increased call demand, together with assertive follow up and early intervention for new or returning individuals.
- > Providing direct follow up and referral to DASSA services, NGO services and online resources.

This initiative will continue on an ongoing basis



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Consultation and Liaison (CL) Service:

- > **Expanding alcohol and other drug medical consultation and liaison in-reach** within the Lyell McEwin Hospital to include weekends.
- > The CL service provides advice on treatment options for patients who are unwell due to their alcohol or other drug use, and assists in identification of appropriate services for follow-up or additional treatment following discharge.
- > To provide increased capacity for hospitals, to help address the impact of increased presentations to emergency departments.
- > To link patients with existing services, as well as the other increased services noted as part of the COVID-19 Mental Health Response, including:
 - Outpatient counselling, outpatient withdrawal, and enhanced alcohol and other drug support within mental health services.

Weekend CL service will not continue, however standard service delivery from Monday to Friday will remain.



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Outpatient Appointments:

- > **Increasing the availability of outpatient appointments to improve timely access** to community-based health care for people experiencing severe and/or complex alcohol or other drug problems.
- > Priority appointments for clients identified through DASSA's CL staff within emergency departments and mental health units in metropolitan hospitals.
- > Providing a Rapid Response service to address AOD issues reduces the barrier of waiting times for services, and can reduce the likelihood of repeat presentations to hospital emergency departments.
 - Rapid Response: reduce waiting times. Outpatient appointments provided within 48 hours of hospital discharge.
- > More accessible and cost-effective community based treatment improves ease of access to treatment and intervention, reducing the demand on acute health settings.
- > Based on published literature outlining alcohol and other drug trends, it is anticipated that increased demand for AOD services will remain over the longer term.



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Outpatient Appointments... continued:

Throughout 2020-21 outpatient appointments were expanded through the following allocation during the six month period:

DASSA:

- Southern, Northern and Central clinics
- Extra 1,500 appointments provided
- After hours clinics provided Saturdays and Monday evenings

Initiative will continue on an ongoing basis:

- Afterhours clinics 1 day per week will be provided at all clinics (Following analysis of appointment utilisation and feedback from DASSA clients surveyed)
- Rapid Response model will continue
- Including priority access for other new clients referred sources outside acute settings



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Outpatient Appointments... continued

Throughout 2020-21 outpatient appointments were expanded through the following allocation during the six month period:

NGO Outpatient Appointments:

An additional 1000 appointments are being delivered through the Non-Government Sector (NGO).

The following factors were considered for the allocation of the additional appointments:

- > the reported appointment utilisation from the first quarter of 2020-2021
- > historical utilisation trends over previous financial years
- > areas of need identified in the Health Needs Assessment
- > emergency department presentations
- > locations where NGOs currently provide appointments

Initiative will continue in response to COVID-19, locations for allocation of additional NGO appointments currently being finalised



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Outpatient Withdrawal Programs:

- > **Increasing the availability of outpatient withdrawal to reduce presentations to hospitals and decrease waiting times for withdrawal services.**
- > SONDER has expanded their in-home withdrawal program to support clients needing to undergo withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs in a safe and familiar environment.
- > The program is an alternative to inpatient withdrawal and provides assessment, pre-care and treatment.
- > Also providing after care support of in-home visits across metropolitan Local Health Network (LHN) regions, outpatient counselling and follow up telephone support.
- > Supports ongoing holistic care through providing important links and coordination between treatment and the client's general practitioner.
- > Inpatient withdrawal capacity

This initiative will continue for 2021-22 in response to COVID-19



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

GP In reach Project:

- > **Continue the increased support provided to general practitioners in their management of AOD conditions.**
- > Enables substance use to be more often managed in situ in primary care rather than transferring persons into DASSA or the public health system:
 - DASSA nurses support primary health capacity to address client AOD issues presenting at their sites.
- > Nurses provide a clinical advice service to general practices:
 - delivering timely advice and information to the treating clinician
 - Escalating advice to a DASSA medical officer or specialist where identified as appropriate
- > Provide brief AOD education programs and build referral pathways, improving referrals between GPs and DASSA.
- > Have increased collaboration and training of GPs to treat patients in their settings, supporting the referral process and treatment from DASSA.
- > Implementation of Suboxone Shared Care Transition to Discharge (SCTTD) model.

Initiative extended for a further 12 months for 2021-22



COVID-19 Mental Health Response Projects

Mental Health In reach Project:

- > **Commenced coordinated care for people with co-existing complex mental health and AOD problems.**
- > DASSA nursing in reach service into community-based mental health services.
- > Providing services within community mental health and the acute sector.
- > Located within SALHN and NALHN community mental health services during initial six months.
- > A further 2.1 FTE to be placed across other Local Health Networks.
- > Supporting further expanded service provision for broader reach across metropolitan and regional areas.
- > Provide capacity building activities and shared care for clients identified with comorbidity issues.

This initiative will continue on an ongoing basis.



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