

Developing & implementing an SA-specific specialised AOD skillset

SANDAS AOD Treatment Services Forum 03/06/25

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RTO provider number 1004





We acknowledge the Kaurna peoples who are the traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We pay tribute to their physical and spiritual connection to land, waters and community, enduring now as it has been throughout time. We pay respect to them, their culture and to Elders past and present. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other Nations who live, work, travel and contribute on Kaurna Country.

Marni Naa Pudni - Welcome

phn
ADELAIDE

An Australian Government Initiative

Aims

1. Equipping healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills, & competencies to assess, intervene, & support individuals affected by AOD use with a strong focus on lived experience perspective
2. Enhancing the capacity of professionals working within the healthcare sector to deliver evidence-based interventions & treatment modalities
3. Fostering collaboration & networking opportunities among healthcare professionals to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to AOD intervention & support.

Background

1. Acknowledging the crucial role of peer work in AOD treatment services to support the recovery of people experiencing AOD-related issues.
2. The need for a targeted workforce development strategy to build the capacity of the AOD lived & living experience / peer workforce.
3. Supporting current and prospective AOD peer workers based at Adelaide PHN commissioned service providers to gain a nationally recognized qualification in AOD &/or peer work practice.
4. Lack of an SA-specific nationally recognized AOD training.

SA AOD Workforce Development Strategy – Peer Workforce

1. Developed by the SA AOD Workforce Development Project Reference Group (DASSA, Adelaide PHN, SANDAS, Country SA PHN, ADAC, DHW, Hepatitis SA, NCETA, Skills SA, SAPOL).
2. Released February 2025.
3. Focuses on strengthening & developing the government & NGO AOD workforce including the peer / lived / living experience AOD workforce.
4. Acknowledges that there is a growing peer workforce that requires career development opportunities, training & professional development.

Key Issues

Adelaide PHN & Centacare Institute:

1. Recognised the critical need for comprehensive skill sets among healthcare professionals to effectively address AOD-related issues.
2. Committed to improving the quality of care & support provided to people experiencing AOD-related issues.
3. Agreed to collaborate closely & to leverage our respective expertise & resources (regular communication & joint decision-making).

Key Projected Outcomes

1. Increased knowledge & skills among healthcare professionals working in AOD intervention & support services.
2. Enhanced capacity within the healthcare sector to deliver effective & evidence-based AOD interventions.
3. Strengthened collaboration & networking among the AOD workforce.
4. Improved outcomes for individuals & communities impacted by AOD use.

Training components

1. Skill set consists of 4 units of competency:

- CHCAOD001 Work in an alcohol and other drugs context
- CHCAOD004 Assess needs of clients with alcohol and other drugs issues
- CHCAOD006 Provide interventions for people with alcohol and other drugs issues
- CHCAOD009 Develop and review individual alcohol and other drugs treatment plans

With a lived experience perspective



Participants

People already working in Adelaide PHN-funded AOD services including:

- Uniting Communities
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti
- Mission Australia – Sonder (as part of the PTW program)
- Community Access and Services SA
- OARS – Community Transitions

Results To date

- 11 out of 12 commencements
- At present 4 completions, 4 withdrawals and 3 'continuous activity'
- 63% completion rates

Withdrawals:

- Changes in job roles
- Life circumstances

Feedback

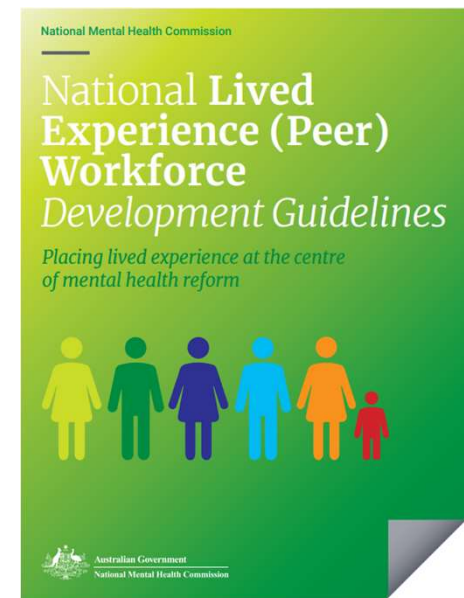
- 'The course content has been highly relevant and informative for my role as an AOD & Mental Health Peer Practitioner'
- 'The skills and knowledge gained through this course have directly benefited my practice'
- 'My overall experience with this RTO has been really positive and encouraging'
- 'I really like the structure of the AOD course'
- 'Assessment questions - there were a few that were difficult to understand what was being asked of us'
- 'CLOE has made this significantly easier as it is easy to navigate'
- Centacare's approach to learning has been flexible, accommodating and very supportive

Some findings from our learners and us

1. Discrepancies with AOD peer worker roles and responsibilities,
2. AOD peer workers conducting screening and assessments.
3. Lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities amongst the multi disciplinary teams.
4. Embedding of AOD peer worker into teams.
5. Systemic understanding of peer work as a discipline.

Some potential solutions (beyond this project)

1. A targeted workforce development strategy to build the capacity of the AOD lived & living experience / peer workforce.
2. Define Peer Roles Clearly.
3. Embed Peer Work in Service Design.
4. Advocate for Systemic Change.
5. Train and Educate the Workforce.
6. Strengthen Supervision and Support for Peer Workers.



Future Centacare Training Initiatives

1. As of September 2025 this skill set will be available to **everyone**
2. 2026 – Introduction of ‘rolling intakes’
3. Skill Set – 4 units and 4 months to complete (possibilities of extensions)
4. Subsidised Training List: \$350 + \$95 enrolment fee



Future Centacare Training Initiatives

CHC43215 Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs (Peer Work and Mainstream pathways):

1. Also available from September 2025 - developed in its entirety by the Centacare Institute.
2. Subsidised Training List: \$950 + \$95 enrolment fee.
3. 1 year to complete 17 units (groupings and clusters).
4. If you're unable to complete the full qualification, you can walk away with one or more nationally recognised skill sets, including:
 - CHCSS00093 Alcohol and Other Drugs Skill Set
 - CHCSS00113 Crisis Support Skill Set
 - CHCSS00103 Peer Work Skill Set



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Any questions?



THANK YOU