

Risk of Overdose Initiative

Implementation fact sheet for providers

What is the initiative?

In the 2017-18 State Budget, the Victorian Government announced a significant funding boost for alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, with a strong focus on harm reduction, treatment and support. This included \$12.4 million over four years to help providers of specialist AOD treatment tackle Victoria's growing rate of fatal overdoses.

The objective of this initiative, the **Risk of Overdose Initiative**, is to expand support for clients at risk of overdose before, during and after their engagement with specialist AOD treatment.

Who is in the target cohort?

The target cohort for this initiative is people engaged with specialist AOD treatment who are at the highest risk of overdose and who are not already receiving Care and Recovery Coordination (CRC) or other case management/coordination support. Forensic clients are not eligible for this initiative, but people leaving prison and voluntarily entering treatment are in scope.

Providers are expected to take a person-centred, risk-based approach, proactively identifying, reducing and managing their clients' risk of overdose.

Providers are also expected to have a process for regularly reviewing overdose risk for each client. Such reviews may be linked to key transition points during a client's treatment journey where they are at a higher risk of overdose – for example, entering or leaving residential withdrawal, rehabilitation or prison – or otherwise identified via clinician judgement.

Providers may choose to focus on some or all transition points, on particular population groups, or on people who use a particular substance, in light of the funding available and the needs of their clients and local area(s).

Likely activities

In line with the expectation that expanding overdose support will require providers to deliver person-centred care and coordination activities, this initiative will be funded via the CRC activity stream.¹ Within that stream, providers have scope to deliver the support that will most effectively reduce their clients' risk of overdose. This support may be similar to that delivered during other CRC activities, such as time-limited support to keep clients engaged in treatment. It may also require the development of new support options, such as overdose education or naloxone provision.

Reporting and performance

Providers should continue with their usual reporting of CRC using drug treatment activity units. However, providers are also asked to complete and submit an Implementation Questionnaire by 2 February 2018. The questionnaire seeks to capture key information on providers' implementation arrangements. This will enable the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a performance baseline and monitor performance into the future.

¹ CRC is described at pages 28-30 of Part 2 of the AOD Program Guidelines.

DHHS will follow up with providers on the questionnaire on a six-monthly basis in the first 12 months from service commencement. Different reporting arrangements may be explored after the commencement of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collection.

Timeframes

Milestone	Activity
2 February 2018	Submit completed Implementation Questionnaire to DHHS (aod.enquiries@dhhs.vic.gov.au), copying your relevant DHHS operational division contact(s)
16 February 2018	Work with DHHS, including divisional offices (as needed) to provide any further information
1 March 2018	Commence services

How will funding be paid for this initiative?

As advised during the call for submissions process, funding will be allocated against drug treatment activity units. Pro-rata funding for eight months was allocated for 2017-18, including three months of establishment funding. Note that this establishment funding does not have targets attached. Please note also that DHHS reserves the right to alter the funding allocation to each catchment prior to the finalisation of service delivery arrangements and responsibilities with approved service providers.

DHHS contacts

DHHS contacts for this initiative are below, and can be contacted via aod.enquiries@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

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List of providers and catchments

Catchment	Lead agency	Consortium
Barwon	Odyssey House	Stepping Up Consortium Barwon Partnership
Bayside	STAR Health	Bayside Integrated Services Consortium
Bayside	TaskForce Community Agency	Bayside Alcohol and Other Drug Partnership
Frankston-Mornington Peninsula	TaskForce Community Agency	Stepping Up Consortium FMP Partnership
Gippsland	Latrobe Community Health Service	Gippsland AOD Treatment Services
Goulburn Valley	Odyssey House	North and West Metro AOD Service
Grampians	UnitingCare ReGen	Uniting AOD Services Grampians
Great South Coast	Western Region Alcohol and Drug	GSC Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services Consortium
Hume	Gateway Health	Gateway Health
Loddon Mallee	Salvation Army	Northern Victoria Alcohol and Other Drug Services
Melbourne Eastern	EACH	SURe
Melbourne Inner East	Turning Point	Eastern Consortium of Drug and Alcohol Services
Melbourne Inner North	UnitingCare ReGen	North and West Metro AOD Service
Melbourne North	UnitingCare ReGen	North and West Metro AOD Service
Melbourne North Western	Odyssey House	North and West Metro AOD Service
Melbourne South Eastern	EACH	SURe
Melbourne South Western	Odyssey House	North and West Metro AOD Service