

Networking for Court Support: Collaboration, Confidence, Court Support and Case Notes

Project Background

Networking for Court Support: Collaboration, Confidence, Court Support and Case Notes aims to increase the skills, knowledge, capacity and confidence of drug and alcohol staff in the NSW non government sector to better support clients in navigating the NSW court system.

The project is a partnership project between the Network of alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA), Legal Aid NSW and Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Victoria. The forums will provide practical guidance on writing case notes and court reports as well as providing an overview of the court system and providing networking opportunities across the drug and alcohol and justice sectors.

The project is modelled on the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education funded Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) *Four C's for Court Program* which rolled out throughout 2011 to non government alcohol and other drug services in Victoria. NADA would like to acknowledge the contribution of the VAADA project in preparation for the NSW roll out.

The project is jointly funded by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) Community Education and Engagement Grants Program and the NADA Practice Enhancement Program (PEP).

About the Project Partners

Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies

The Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA) is the peak organisation for the non government drug and alcohol sector in NSW. NADA represents over 100 organisational members that provide a broad range of services including drug and alcohol health promotion, early intervention, treatment, and after-care programs. These community based organisations operate throughout NSW. They comprise both large and small services that are diverse in their structure, philosophy and approach to drug and alcohol service delivery.

NADA's goal is to advance and support non government drug and alcohol organisations in NSW to reduce drug and alcohol related harm to individuals, families and the community.

Further information about NADA is available at www.nada.org.au.

Legal Aid NSW, Community Legal Education

Legal Aid NSW provides legal services to disadvantaged clients across NSW in criminal, family and civil law. Legal Aid NSW through Community Legal Education aims to equip people with the awareness, knowledge and skills needed to successfully resolve law related problems encountered in everyday life by providing a wide range of activities aimed at increasing legal capability.

The long-term strategic direction of Legal Aid NSW is overseen by a Board appointed by the Attorney General. The day to day management is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, assisted by a Senior Executive.

Further information on Legal Aid NSW and the CLE is available on www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au.

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre was established in 1994 to provide leadership to the drug and alcohol field in Victoria. The service amalgamated with public health provider, Eastern Health, in October 2009 and is formally affiliated with Monash University.

Turning Point is part of the International Network of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Resource Centres for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and a member of the International Harm Reduction Association. They also are a registered training organisation and an accredited higher education provider.

The organisation integrates activities across a diverse range of specialist knowledge and professional practice which enables them to translate evidence based research into action.

Further information about Turning Point is available on www.turningpoint.org.au

Acknowledgements

In addition to the contribution from the project funders and partners, NADA would like to acknowledge the Community Restorative Centre NSW Court Support Program for the use of the Court Support Training Manual extract (Section 5) in preparation of supporting information.

For more information

Ciara Donaghy, Project Officer, NADA
Heidi Becker, Program Manager, NADA

ciara@nada.org.au P: 02 8113 1306
heidi@nada.org.au P: 02 8113 1317