

You are invited to join the Brisbane North PHN Alcohol and Other Drugs project

Alcohol and other drug use is one of the major causes of disease burden in Australia¹, yet risk factors attached to it are modifiable and disease and sickness can be prevented.

COVID-19 has seen significant rises in calls to crisis and support services², along with increased consumption of alcohol³, cannabis⁴ and tobacco. There are strong links between the use of alcohol with adverse social health impacts, including domestic and family violence⁵.

What is the project?

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Project is a quality improvement project run by Brisbane North PHN to enhance the response of general practice to people impacted by problematic substance use.

This project aims to:

- build confidence and capacity within primary care in reducing harms, early detection of problematic use and referral to treatment for people with problematic substance use
- provide participating practices with resources and support throughout the duration of the project to support the requirements for accreditation and the Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) for Quality Improvement (QI)
- increase awareness of Alcohol and Other Drugs support services available to patients in the Brisbane North PHN region.

www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au

Level 1, Market Central
120 Chalk Street, Lutwyche QLD 4030
PO Box 845 Lutwyche QLD 4030
t 07 3630 7300 f 07 3630 7333

Level 2, 10 Endeavour Boulevard
North Lakes QLD 4509
PO Box 929 North Lakes QLD 4509
t 07 3490 3490 f 07 3630 7333

Participating practices will complete:

AOD Education and Training:

- General Practitioners (GPs) will have access to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) / Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) AOD treatment skills incentivised online learning.
- Practice managers, nurses and reception staff will receive complimentary training in AOD related topics including COVID-19 and substance use, managing complexity in the general practice environment, and foundational drug knowledge including cannabis, alcohol and methamphetamine.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Screening QI workbook: to support GPs and practice staff in implementing meaningful quality improvement activities related to screening for substance use, a QI workbook has been created exclusively for participating practices. The workbook is made up of modules that are designed to support the practice team to make easy, measurable and sustainable improvements. GPs and nurses can self-record points for this component of participation.

General practices will have the opportunity to receive:

- support from the Brisbane North PHN Primary Care Liaison Officers to complete QI workbook
- peer-to-peer support from GPLO, Mental Health
- access to the AOD suite of training and support resources for GP members of RACGP or ACRRM
- Insights AOD training and support for practice managers, nurses and receptionists
- opportunity to participate in community of practice platform (online forum) to collaborate with participating practices
- practice payment for completion of project activities.

You will need to:

- nominate a minimum of one practice lead and one clinical lead
(**One GP must be involved** to allow training for practice managers, nurses and reception staff)
- provide protected time for staff involved in the project
- complete the project QI workbook
- allocate *at least* one representative from the practice to:
 - participate in the RACGP or ACRRM AOD training (General Practitioner)
 - participate in Insights AOD training and support for practice managers, nurses and receptionists.

Why is this important?

Whilst AOD use is a major cause of disease burden in Australia, risk factors attached are modifiable and disease and sickness can be prevented. Data from the most recent Burden of Disease Report (2015 with updates during 2020) indicated:

- Tobacco use comprised 9.3 per cent of the disease burden in 2015 and was the leading risk factor⁶.
- Alcohol formed 4.5 per cent of disease burden making it the 6th leading factor: it also was responsible for 40 per cent of liver cancer and 28 per cent of chronic liver disease⁷.
- Illicit drug use contributed 2.7 per cent of the disease burden, and was responsible for 75% of acute hepatitis, 27 per cent of poisoning, 24 per cent of chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and 13% of suicide and self-inflicted injuries⁸.

Effective screening for substance use aims to reduce this burden. However, an organised approach to screening, coupled with high rates of participation, are necessary to reap the greatest benefits to reduce illness and death. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)

Practice payment

In addition to the incentivised training for GPs, 40 grants of \$660.00 (including GST) are available to general practices in the Brisbane North PHN region. Practices will be required to supply a complying tax invoice which includes the details provided below. This payment will be allocated at the end of the project (April 2021) based on completion of the education and QI workbook.

Timelines are provided below. Please email invoice to: amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Bank account details
Name of bank, building society or credit union
Account name
Branch number (BSB)
Account number
Transaction description - GP AOD Project

Timelines

Activity	Due date
Expression of interest form submitted to PHN	No later than 31 st December 2020
AOD treatment skills training for GPs completed	No later than 28 th February 2021
Insights AOD training for Practice staff completed	No later than 28 th February 2021
Completion of AOD QI Workbook	No later than 31 st March 2021
Compliant tax invoice submitted to PHN	No later than 30 th April 2021

Expression of interest for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Project

To register your interest in the project, please complete the following details and email to:
Amie Horwood, Project Lead | Primary Care Liaison
amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Registrations close Thursday 31 December 2020

Our practice would like to participate in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Project to increase our practice knowledge of working with people with problematic substance use.

Practice Name: _____
Practice Address: _____
Practice Phone: _____
Practice Email: _____

Clinical Lead: _____ role: _____
Administrative Lead: _____ role: _____
Add additional participants below:

We confirm we are eligible in accordance with the following criteria:

- are committed to a whole practice approach and are able to identify a clinical lead, practice nurse/s and administrative lead for the project
- complete QI workbook with the support from the Primary Care Liaison Officer
- contribute to an evaluation of the project which will be shared externally to Queensland Health's Insight Centre for alcohol and other drug training and workforce development
- provide protected time for staff involved in the project
- participate in the RACGP or ACRRM AOD training (General Practitioner)
- participate in Insights AOD training and support (Practice Manager and Receptionist)
- participate in Insights AOD training and support (Practice Nurse)

Authorised Representative Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

¹ AIHW (2020) *Australian Burden of Disease Study 2015 (updated Aug.2020)* Australian Institute for Health and Welfare

² Doran, M. *Domestic violence services prepare for demand as coronavirus restrictions begin to ease* ABC news online: May 2020
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-01/domestic-violence-brace-for-demand-coronavirus-restrictions/12203178>

³ Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education (2020) *Alcohol Use and Harm During COVID-19 Data Report* July. FARE: <http://fare.org.au/alcohol-use-and-harm-during-covid-19/>

⁴ Shultz, A. Cannabis use soars during pandemic Crikey online: August 2020 <https://www.crikey.com.au/2020/08/19/cannabis-use-during-lockdown/>

⁵ AIHW (2020) *Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia* June. Australian Institute for Health and Welfare
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia/contents/impacts/social-impacts>

⁶ Op cit <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/burden-of-disease/interactive-data-risk-factor-burden/contents/overview>

⁷ Op cit <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/burden-of-disease/interactive-data-risk-factor-burden/contents/alcohol-use>

⁸ Op cit <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/burden-of-disease/interactive-data-risk-factor-burden/contents/illicit-drug-use>