

## Research Based Abstract Template

Submissions must not exceed 300 words (excluding title & authors), an extra 50 words are given **only** to submissions who answer the optional point. The document **must not** be password protected or saved as read only as this may result in your abstract failing to upload successfully. Use Arial 11 point type only. Please structure your submission using the subheadings below, using the subheadings that work best for your abstract, remove the additional subheading not being used e.g. If you are using *Key Findings* – remove the *Results* subheading.

### Evaluation of an innovative online Postal Take-Home Naloxone Service

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#### Introduction:

The New South Wales User AIDS Association established a pilot postal take home naloxone (THN) service to enhance access to THN for people in NSW unable or unwilling to attend existing services providing THN (e.g. community pharmacies, needle syringe programs). The service was based on the existing in-service model implemented across NSW and included online registration, educational video and an assessment of consumer knowledge regarding THN.

#### Method:

We examined the first 10 months of operation (May 2022 to March 2023) and examined service utilisation and the characteristics, motivations and experiences of consumers using the service. The evaluation included service utilisation data, a structured online questionnaire and semi-structured telephone interviews.

**Key Findings:** 245 individuals registered on the online platform, 222 commenced the course, 170 completed viewing the online educational video and commenced the knowledge assessment, and 95 completed the course and ordered 194 THN packs (59% intranasal, 41% intramuscular). 48% of service users were women, and 37% were from regional or rural locations. Key motivations for using the postal service included greater accessibility and convenience (especially for regional and rural participants), greater confidentiality, and reduced stigma. There were high levels of satisfaction with the service from consumers, and high levels of confidence that they could respond to a suspected overdose.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** The postal service enhanced access to THN, addressing many of the barriers of existing face-to-face services, including geography, convenience, stigma and confidentiality. The postal THN service meets the needs of particular groups of consumers who may otherwise not have accessed THN, and forms an important piece of the puzzle for THN distribution in the community.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** The NUAA Postal THN service significantly increases access to naloxone for people at risk of witnessing an overdose in NSW. Expansion of this model at a national level should be considered.

#### Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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*from Camurus and Indivior for unrelated research, and honoraria from Camurus for presenting at educational forums.*