

Introduction to the Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet Alcohol and other Drugs Knowledge Centre: providing information and resources to reduce harms from alcohol and other drug use for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

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Background: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer disproportionate harms from alcohol and other drug use which can be traced back to the ongoing legacy of colonisation. The Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet Alcohol and other Drugs Knowledge Centre is a national web resource that provides quality, evidence-based information and resources aimed at addressing the harms from alcohol and other drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Knowledge Centre aims to provide a bridge between knowledge and practice to increase capacity in the AOD sector and inform decision making.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: While search engines provide the most popular results, they are often deficit-based and not inclusive of cultural context. The Knowledge Centre is a comprehensive, curated collection of quality resources. It provides an accessible knowledge hub to support AOD workforce in their research and practice and actively promotes information to the sector that might otherwise be overlooked.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation: A recent user survey found 82% of respondents felt more confident to address AOD use, 91% felt they had improved their knowledge and 96% found the Knowledge Centre useful.

Conclusion and Next Steps: Our aim is to let more people know about the Knowledge Centre to improve effectiveness and practice in the AOD sector and to seek feedback on the best ways to share information and resources in a way that is useful for researchers and workers.

Implications on communities, practice, policy and/or First Nations communities:

The implication is that increased access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health knowledge and resources leads to greater awareness of how this knowledge may be adopted into practice. The flow-on effects of this are improvements in health, reduced health inequality and empowered communities.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet Alcohol and other Drugs Knowledge Centre is funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.