

## **Abstract**

**Peer Drift Within an ATOD team. 5 minute oral presentation**

**Peter Baird**

**Wednesday 30 October - Saturday 2nd November 2024 at the National Convention Centre Canberra, Ngunnawal Country (Canberra).**

**Presenter's email address:** peter.baird@each.com.au

**Presentation topic:** Navigating the challenges of peer drift within a clinically designed ATOD team.

**Presentation type:** 5 minute oral presentation

## **Project HOPE and THRIVE Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug counselling**

Our program offers:

- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Assessment and Counselling
- Mental health screening and assessment Counselling
- Peer Support/Mentoring
- Whole of Health Nursing Assessment with a Registered Nurse
- Peer cadet program
- Volunteer pathways
- Trauma informed yoga
- EMDR

THRIVE is a whole of health counselling program for people experiencing substance use concerns including mental and physical health concerns.

Project HOPE at EACH is a Peer Support program which provides support from those who have had or have a lived experience of substance use or mental health concerns and aims to give people in our community a choice of ways to have their voice heard, to improve what we do and share with the community that recovery is possible.

**During my presentation I wish to explore and share areas of challenge and difficulty working within a system that was built on a clinical model that is now employing lived and living experience workers.**

**Workers that challenge a lot of these systems within the way we work and the value of this work. I wish to explore peer drift and the way this impacts service delivery for a lived/living experience worker within an ATOD team, and how this can impact the peer participant relationship and the values that underpin being a lived experience worker.**

Our team works toward reducing stigma in the community for people and families living with substance use and mental health concerns to give people the best opportunity for health, hope and a meaningful life. We provide opportunities for people to share their lived experience of substance use and mental health concerns at forums, conferences and training workshops.

## **Biographies**

**Peter Baird** - Peer Support Worker with Project HOPE and THRIVE Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug counselling team.

Life experience of comorbidity, forensic, rehabilitation and counselling, and then education and training in AOD & Mental Health has qualified Peter for his role as Peer Support Worker in the Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs counselling team at EACH in Ferntree Gully. Under the Project

Hope banner, Peter has promoted the hearing of the lived experience of those with substance use and mental health concerns and generally supports social connection among those feeling isolated by their condition. Peter also aims to reduce stigma by raising community awareness around AOD and mental health.