

Engaging Treatment Resistant clients through the LWB AOD Assertive Outreach Multi-D pilot program.

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Background: Life Without Barriers (LWB) is a social purpose organisation working in more than 440 communities across Australia. In September 2020, LWB commenced delivery of the "Next Steps" Assertive Outreach Pilot Program, in South Australia. Funded by the Commonwealth and coordinated through Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia "Next Steps" innovative approach aims to encourage people affected by alcohol and other drugs, who have historically not successfully engaged in treatment, to do so.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: Utilising a Multi-Disciplinary approach, Next Steps identifies effective mechanisms to assertively engage people and their families. Practically this has consisted of consistent and regular contact via a multitude of means such as; in person, phone, online, in writing, with food, and via Community.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation: The evaluation by NCETA highlighted several outcomes, most importantly a significant reduction of hospital emergency room presentations, and an uptake of clients who are local to Port Augusta and who have never engaged in more traditional programs.

Conclusion and Next Steps: Through the establishment of a culturally safe space clients have been able to feel a sense of belonging, embrace their identities, and be encouraged to address any issue which subsequently reduces their need for alcohol and or drug use. Often the incentive to engage with the program has nothing to do with AOD which reflects the need to address the whole person rather than take a targeted approach.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: *<The APSAD recognises the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in all written publications. For an example of a disclosure of interest statement please see below:>*

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