

# Naloxone for All

ONE AGENCY'S JOURNEY TO INTRODUCE AN OVERDOSE RESPONSE AND NALOXONE TRAINING PROGRAM

### Challenge

Opoid overdose is on the rise in Australia

*"Heroin/drug use continues to be a serious public health issue in Australia with 1,000 drug-induced deaths registered in 2015. This is the highest number of drug deaths in twenty years."*  
*(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015)*

**Accidental drug-related deaths\***

Year	2015	2014	2013
Deaths	705	1137	1489

\* Excludes deaths from intentional self-harm

## Naloxone for All: one agency's journey to introduce an overdose response and naloxone training program.

Ginny McKinnon

### Barriers

#### Victoria-wide Barriers

- Available naloxone products extremely cheap (often response packages) with low doses of naloxone
- Funding availability: many pharmacies refuse to carry naloxone OTC
- Some pharmacies not willing to dispense naloxone
- OTC naloxone products for first and second responders usually require they have a pharmaceutical licence
- Limited funding available to educate supply chain in response to purchase naloxone OTC
- Lack of response to naloxone and education materials with service providers and pharmacists
- Lack of training in their own devices

#### Barriers for ReGen

- No naloxone available: available to easily be used out of time of training
- No funding for naloxone supplies
- No training for naloxone response and 3 naloxone dose packages in the organisation and staff's knowledge about efficacy of response
- Lack of access to knowledge about naloxone and naloxone response across the agency

### ReGen's response

As part of ReGen's commitment to better reflection, ReGen's board & senior management have decided to prioritise the implementation of naloxone response. They:

- Identified naloxone as a priority
- Recognised naloxone as a response and funding to cover naloxone supply
- Engaged an external vendor to create response training group
- Developed an internal vendor response training group
- Had department and operational areas and personnel to support the implementation of the project

Between July 2016 - June 2017 ReGen:

- Trained over 100 ReGen staff across multiple sites & ReGen's 11 community and community support organisations
- Developed an internal vendor response training group
- Recognised naloxone as a response and funding to cover naloxone supply
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### Outcomes

Early findings suggest ReGen's work has resulted in uptake of overdose response and naloxone training from a broad range of community members.

*"I think you've used a really simple and easy to use the first aid kit. I've been using it a lot and I'm quite emotional about it."*

Our clients are engaged in their own response plans, covering the user, and covered with people and family members. We think the first aid kit is a really good idea and we're happy to see it being used in the community where they attended the course.

There are a lot of people involved in the response and we're happy to see the product being used in the community.

**Community, Community Health Service**

*"One of my clients regarding what we do was very helpful. We have a lot of people that we have to look after and we're happy to see it being used in the community where they attended the course."*

Our staff are using the first aid kit and we're happy to see it being used in the community where they attended the course.

There are a lot of people involved in the response and we're happy to see the product being used in the community.

**Gen & Recovery Co-ordinator**

*"We have all used our own kit and we're happy to see it being used in the community where they attended the course."*

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**Youth Relationship Team Leader**

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**Youth Relationship Team Leader**

### Learnings

- The response plan to be provided with funding and staff support to ensure both staff and community members are able to use the product and to ensure they are trained and supported.
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### What's next?

Potential future directions (dependent on funding) include:

- Strengthening ReGen's naloxone training systems to include routine provision for all clinical staff and ensure accurate data collection, monitoring, reporting and outcomes evaluation
- Expanding the naloxone response plan to ReGen's other people and staff at all levels, not just staff and support workers in other divisions
- Expanding ReGen's naloxone training systems to other leading services in Victoria and Tasmania

ReGen is a founding agency of UnitingCare Victoria Services Limited

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