

Integrating co-design and evaluation to optimise alcohol and other drug-related outcomes among priority populations.

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Best evidence is developed by integrating the best available research evidence with the expert views of clients, clinicians and community members, and with relevant policies. Although identifying best evidence initiatives is important to optimise alcohol and other drug-related outcomes, it is challenging. Co-design offers opportunities to integrate research evidence with experts views to inform the design of initiatives that are relevant to their settings. Co-design can also be used to inform evaluation design and to select outcome measures.

This presentation will outline a novel approach using co-design during planning initiatives and evaluations to optimise alcohol and other drug-related outcomes. This approach is being used in a new program to develop best evidence initiatives to work with clients, clinicians and community members, named "SUSTAINable uptake of evidence to reduce harms from alcohol and other drugs in rural and regional NSW". SUSTAIN includes four principles: 1) Identifying evidence-based alcohol and other drug harm reduction strategies; 2) Partnering with local experts to localise and tailor strategies; 3) Implementing strategies into existing practice/infrastructure to build in sustainability; and 4) Using sustainable co-designed outcomes based on value based health outcomes to measure uptake, feasibility and acceptability, health outcomes and economic implications.