

## **The AusMAP study: a protocol for a randomised, controlled feasibility study of a Managed Alcohol Program in Australia**

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### **Introduction and Aims:**

Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) are an established model of care outside of Australia for people with severe alcohol use disorder (AUD). A fifteen-bed residential MAP (AusMAP) is proposed for inner-city Sydney for people with severe AUD experiencing homelessness, who have had unsuccessful treatment for AUD, and difficulties sustaining tenancy. It will provide single-room accommodation, nutrition, healthcare support (on-site nursing and in-reach primary care), financial case management, social and vocational activities, and supervised administration of measured alcohol.

### **Design and Methods:**

A 1:1 randomised controlled study will enrol  $\geq 30$  participants each into the intervention (residential MAP) and treatment as usual control group (referral to assertive community management and/or specialist community homelessness healthcare). Primary feasibility measures include: number of participants enrolled, length of stay, acceptability using qualitative interviews, discharge disposition for the intervention group. Data linkage will be used to obtain primary effectiveness measures to examine differences between intervention and control groups for number/length of stay of hospital admissions, emergency department presentations, police contacts, mental health treatment, and sustained tenancy over 12-months (primary end-point) and 24-months (follow-up). Secondary measures among the intervention group include daily alcohol intake, non-beverage alcohol use, general and mental health, quality of life and social connection and safety (number, type and severity of adverse events, proportion of scheduled alcohol not administered due to participant intoxication, and alcohol consumed outside of the MAP).

### **Implications for Policy:**

Residential MAPs support housing first policy approaches to homelessness. If AusMAP is shown to be feasible, safe and effective, it will offer a valuable supported housing option for a particularly marginalised group.

### **Implications for Translational Research**

AusMAP examines the application of overseas models of MAPs in the Australian context. Data linkage may be a useful evaluation method for interventions for people experiencing homelessness or other populations difficult to follow-up.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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