

Practice based/ Service Delivery Abstract Template

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Building the knowledge, skills and confidence of alcohol and other drug workers to manage and respond to co-occurring mental health conditions: train-the-trainer model

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Background. Many people who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) experience a co-occurring mental disorder. Health professionals however do not feel confident in responding accordingly. 360Edge in conjunction with the Matilda Centre developed skills-based training in a train-the-trainer model, to accompany the *Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings*. The train-the-trainer approach enables AOD workers to be accredited to deliver skills-based training within their workplace. **Description of Intervention:** The train-the-trainer program was developed for practitioners with advanced clinical and training experience to further build training capacity in the field and maximise the reach of evidence-based practice throughout AOD services. The in-depth skills-based training further promotes the uptake of best-practice in the field, and has been developed for in-person and online (e.g., Zoom) delivery. **Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation.** Since launch in May 2021, five train-the-trainer workshops have been conducted with 173 trainers Australia-wide. Preliminary results suggest that trainers' knowledge, skills and confidence increased by an average of 30% after completing the workshops. The skills-based training has been delivered to 176 AOD workers Australia-wide. The overall satisfaction score was 8 out of 10, with 69% of participants reporting increased knowledge, 59% reporting increased skill development and 53% reporting feeling more confident. In the presentation we will also briefly reflect on key points regarding managing co-occurring mental health conditions in AOD treatment settings. **Conclusion.** The skills-based training program and train-the-trainer workshop improve the capacity of the AOD workforce to respond to co-occurring mental health conditions. Both programs improve the knowledge, skills and confidence of workers, promoting the uptake of best-practice in the AOD field across Australia.

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