

Practice based/ Service Delivery Abstract Template

Submissions must not exceed 300 words (excluding title & authors), an extra 50 words are given **only** to submissions who answer the optional point. The document **must not** be password protected or saved as read only as this may result in your abstract failing to upload successfully. Use Arial 11-point type only. Please structure your submission using the subheadings below. If the abstract does not fit the headings, please put full abstract beneath introduction and we will remove the headings once submitted.

Karralika Justice Services Counselling: Reflection on Practice

(Poster or Oral Presentation)

Authors:

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Background:

Funded by the Capital Health Network (the ACT Primary Health Network), Karralika Programs established a specialist alcohol and other drug counselling service to meet an identified need in the community for people who recently exited the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC, the Canberra prison), or were otherwise connected to the justice system. The Karralika Justice Counselling Service delivers trauma-informed, specialist alcohol and other drug counselling for individuals connected to Justice Services in the ACT, intending to assist them in managing their alcohol and other drug issues and successfully reintegrating into the community.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention:

Provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and flexible client support, aimed at addressing the complexities associated with problematic alcohol and substance use. The program utilises a range of strategies, encompassing in-person, telehealth, and telephone sessions to assist individuals in overcoming challenges associated with relapse and recidivism. Primary goals include access to high-quality and specialist counselling, minimising the likelihood of post-treatment relapse, contributing to research and industry development, meeting treatment demand, and delivering evidence-based, individualised care.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation:

Our strong partnerships with ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) and the Alexander Maconochie Centre enable us to provide programs and support to those in need. The integration and approval of telehealth services, after-hours appointments, and operating from multiple sites have underscored the importance of offering flexible service delivery to meet the needs of this vulnerable client group.

A range of tools are used to gauge the effectiveness of the program including client feedback mechanisms, treatment measurement tools and seeking feedback from other services. An evaluation of the Justice Services Counselling program was conducted by researchers at the Australian National University in 2022.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

Krysia Keefe, will present on the Justice Counselling Service and the client cohort, the barriers and challenges clients typically face when re-integrating into the community post-release and a case study of a client experiencing service involvement with multiple providers. They will share learnings, and key considerations and implications for future practice.

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Disclosure of Interest Statement: