

Workforce Development in AOD, a Response to COVID-19

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Background: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the AOD sector, the Victorian Government has funded a workforce development program of an additional 100 workers. This also included funding for training to ensure the new and existing workers had the knowledge and skills needed to work in AOD, and to support the sector with the increased demand on services due to the pandemic.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: Turning Point was selected as the Registered Training Organisation to deliver Vocational Education & Training (VET) AOD training to the AOD sector, contextualised to have a youth focus with the lived experience included in the training. To meet these requirements Turning Point has partnered with two other organisations to deliver this contextualised training, YSAS – Youth Support and Advocacy Service and SHARC – Self Help Addiction Resource Centre. Additional funding was also provided to update the existing learning resources, particularly in relation to making success achievable for participants who have experienced educational disadvantage.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation: There has been a high demand for the training with all delivery reaching capacity within days and a waiting list for all training offered. Training has been delivered with students engaged and the training meeting student and employer needs.

Conclusion and Next Steps: The Victorian Department of Health has now agreed to continue to fund this training in 2023.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

N/A