

## **A Training Needs Analysis for the Alcohol and other Drug Information and Support Services (ADIS) for calls relating to Methamphetamine and Emerging Drugs (ADIS MED TNA)**

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### **Introduction and Aims:**

Fielding greater than 200,000 calls annually, Australia's Alcohol and other Drug Information and Support Services (hereby collectively referred to as ADIS) are often the first contact for people who use methamphetamine or emerging drugs of concern (MED) and their families. We sought to identify training needs for the ADIS's, so that appropriate targeted resources can be developed.

### **Design and Methods:**

An anonymous, online, cross-sectional survey of ADIS staff from NSW, QLD, VIC, SA and WA. Based on the WHO Hennessy-Hicks training needs analysis tool, participants were asked: to rate on a 7-point likert scale the importance of a topic to their practice and how well perceived training needs; and demographic data.

**Results:** Of 50 participants, 29 completed the full survey (median age 49.5, IQR: 30-57; mean time working in AOD sector 10.77 years [SD=12.5]). The greatest training needs (indicated by the mean difference between importance and performance scores) were for: (i) access and participation in training related to MED, (ii) providing information on cathinones and novel psychoactive substances, (iii) fentanyl testing, and (iv) communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse clients. Qualitatively, the key themes to emerge were responding to calls from family members, treatment seekers and those in withdrawal.

### **Discussions and Conclusions:**

This is the first survey of the national ADIS's in 10 years, providing contemporary and relevant information that can be directly translated into products to support the frontline AOD workforce.

### **Implications for Practice or Policy:**

ADIS's comprise a multi-disciplinary workforce providing frontline support to people with AOD specific queries. Provision of contemporary contextual training is important to ensure quality evidence-based care. Here we present the workforce needs identified by the providers themselves, to enable practice improvement.

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