

## **Building the capability of non-government organisation alcohol and other drug treatment services to respond to mental health conditions**

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**Introduction:** Increasing the capacity of services to respond to mental health conditions has been identified as a priority area by many alcohol and other drug treatment agencies. In this presentation we describe a model used to help build the capacity of four non-government organisations and discuss the practical aspects of its implementation.

**Description of Model:** We used an extended version of the Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT) Toolkit, cross-referenced and modified to include additional items aligning with Australian guidelines on the management of mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings.

**Implementation:** Baseline audits were conducted from February-March 2023 to assess current service capability. Data from semi structured interviews with service managers, staff, clients and carers (n=33); reviews of client files (n=40), service documentation, and on-site observations (8 days) were synthesised to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Three services were classified as 'Addiction Only Services'; one as 'Dual Diagnosis Capable'.

**Conclusion and Next Steps:** The extended DDCAT toolkit was acceptable and relevant to measuring service capability within the context of the Australian Guidelines. Agencies will be supported to implement co-developed work plans for areas of improvement and follow-up audits will evaluate the effectiveness of these supports.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** Assessing mental health capacity-building interventions using service audits and the provision of support tailored to service contexts is vital to capacity building. The model implemented may be of benefit to other Australian services wishing to build capacity in this area.

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