

The background image shows a city street scene. In the foreground, there is a brick building covered in colorful graffiti. One prominent piece of graffiti says "CARRY NALOXONE" in yellow and black. To the right, there is a blue door with a white sign above it that says "health marketplace" and the number "4". In the background, a modern glass skyscraper rises against a grey, overcast sky. A utility pole with wires is visible on the left side of the frame.

APSAD 2025

cohealth: A model of client-centred community-based specialist
Addiction Medicine care

Acknowledgement of Country

- cohealth acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways where we provide healthcare, the Boon Wurrung, Wurundjeri and Wadawurrung people, and the Paredarerme and Palawa Tasmanian peoples. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the historical and ongoing impact of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Disclosures

- Nil



Community Health Centres

Victorian Exceptionalism

Addiction Medicine in Victoria

Another example of exceptionalism!!!

- It's a numbers game!
- Where AMSs work.....
- Where the people seeking treatment are.....
- Provide the Addiction Medicine care where people are!
 - Low barrier
 - Responsive
 - Opportunistic
- Flexible/ Agile

	NSW	Victoria
No. of people on ODT	25,000	15,000
Public clinics State employed AMS	Yes –multiple	Small hospital outpatients
Estimated number of AMS required	250	240
Current number of AMS	~130	~25

Acceptability

- To PWUD - People want and deserve holistic care
- To doctors/prescribers
 - “I learnt more about ODT prescribing in one week than I did in 6 months in hospital”
- Alcohol Pharmacotherapy





Training pathway

- Hospital identification,
 - “You can’t be what you don’t see” Edelman
- GPs
- AMS
- NPs

Getting the basics done

- 10% of Victoria's opioid pharmacotherapy clients
- Alcohol pharmacotherapy program
- Whole person –chronic disease, HepC, cancer etc etc
- Harm reduction engagement

- 1 doctor to 5 FTE in three years
- NP training
- Accredited RACGP and RACP training





Innovation



- CAPA Community Access to Pharmacotherapy for Alcohol–Uniting
- Engagement with local AOD services – withdrawal unit
- Bourke St –Homeless services, Street based care- Doctors in Vans TM



- Telehealth –Mildura
- Public Intoxication response
- Gambling



Thank you

- Cohealth Addiction
 - Innovative model of delivering specialist care as well as supporting primary care in low threshold services for PWUDs.
- Contacts:
- paul.maccartney@cohealth.org.au
- Dean.Membrey@cohealth.org.au

