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General Practice (GP) and Pharmacy Consultation for Alcohol and Other Drug Communities of Practice

What is it?

A six-month project designed to provide support to General Practices and community pharmacies in the region around managing people with problematic alcohol and other drug (AOD) use.

Who is behind it?

The Nepean Blue Mountains PHN (NBMPHN) has commissioned Lives Lived Well (LLW) to conduct this project. Dr Graeme Judson, a highly experienced Addiction Medicine Specialist is the project's clinical leader and will direct a consultation process with interested GPs and pharmacists. NBMPHN will provide support and use existing networks to disseminate information and develop an AOD support framework for continued engagement with GPs

Why do it?

Local GPs have told us that their capacity to support AOD patients is limited as they need:

- more information to aid screening, assessments and referrals
- timely access to external treatment options
- specialist support, especially around Opioid Substitution Therapy
- links to services to assist with navigating treatment options
- appropriate reimbursement.

What will it aim to deliver?

We will consult with GPs and pharmacists in our region to better understand local needs to help them with AOD treatment and patient support. We will be developing a "communities of practice" framework, to support general practice with AOD treatment and improved access to some key public health strategies

Key aims?

- increase AOD education to support best practice and service integration around alcohol screening and treatment and substance misuse including prescription opioids
- use case studies from local AOD services to promote service delivery
- improve integration of services through better support, information and access
- identify strategies in support of a "communities of practice" framework such as:
 - increase access to treatment for hepatitis C and naloxone to vulnerable people and their families or carers
 - increase access to community-based prescribing for OST and/or support access to government accreditation for OST
 - investigate AOD practice incentives and/or access to an AOD/OST support workers and Addiction Medicine advice
 - consider additional GP education to support AOD treatment.

Project Contacts

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