

GP Advisory Committee (GPAC) in Focus

Highlights – 18 September 2018 Meeting

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Consultation:

Yolande Boys - Manager, Primary Care Workforce Partnerships and Development NBMPHN, presented on constraints and opportunities in CPD as PHN plans for 2019.

Aim was to consult with GPAC about what NBMPHN should keep doing, what is no longer required, and what needs to be included in 2019.

Member feedback highlighted:

- Networking benefit of CPD events for GPs
- Local specialists over visiting ones helps strengthen referral relationships between GPs and specialists at local level.
- The ‘rub’ between the benefit of regular CPD dates and times compared with staging CPD events over a variety of dates and days.

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) ‘Communities of Practice’:

Discussion led by Dr Graeme Judson - Addiction Medicine Specialist, Lives Lived Well and Andrew Biddle - Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Senior Manager NBMPHN.

Following up from AOD discussion at GPAC 8 May 2018, NBMPHN has engaged the services of [Lives Lived Well](#) to progress several actions arising from the May meeting. This consultation process is around how best to engage with GPs to identify strategies that could inform the development of a ‘communities of practice’ framework for the NBMPHN region. The ultimate aim is to provide the most meaningful support to GPs when managing their patients with addictions.

- General feedback reinforced the theme of previous GPAC discussions that GPs often have limited capacity to respond to additional AOD patients beyond their own patients. Along with complexities in the AOD patient’s health, it can be challenging for the GP due to the complex nature of co-morbidities.
- Strategies such as a caseworker to act as a liaison between patient and GPs was supported as well as a central intake position working along the lines of SOS - call the service and they make contact with patient.