

Court Drug Diversion Initiatives Conference

**Working with the non government sector:
'Integrating Diversity'**

A long term relationship?



NADA
network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

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Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies



NADA

network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

NADA is the peak body for non government drug and alcohol agencies in NSW

Key functions include:

- Policy development
- Sector planning
- Project management
- Agency advocacy

These functions are carried out through program areas of Workforce Development, Information Technology, Diversion and the Secretariat.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Increasing NGOs in IDDI Service Provision: MERIT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project background

- ▶ Current NSW/Australian IDDI Agreement provides majority funds for health and related MERIT services to AHS (82%)
- ▶ Clause 11.5(d) requires NSW to review NGO participation, particularly MERIT
- ▶ NSW Health working in partnership to increase NGO participation
- ▶ Funds available to NADA to achieve project objectives

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Clause 11.5(d) of NSW IDDI Agreement specifically states:

“The review shall be finalised within 2 years of the signing of this agreement, with the aim of a significantly increased level of funding being directed to NGO as opposed to Government based services”.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Objectives

1. Improve integration and utilisation of NGO treatment service providers
2. Increase the level of funding provided to NGOs as opposed to government
3. Ensure MERIT continues to operate with existing policy frameworks and accountability requirements
4. Ensure MERIT clients continue to receive quality services

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Methodology

The project is being implemented through 3 key stages:

- 1 Localised AHS and NGO consultations**
- 2 Identification and commencement of preferred providers**
- 3 Development of MERIT website**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Methodology

Project evaluation

External evaluation will be undertaken by the Commonwealth funding body at the end of the current IDDI Agreement

PROJECT BARRIERS AND RESPONSES

Attitudinal barriers

“Do NGOs have the skills to work with this client group?”

YES!

- ④ Drug treatment providers over 30 years, including court mandated clients
- ④ Services provided long before formal Diversion programs
- ④ Contribute to diversity and experience in approach to drug treatment, including court drug diversion programs

PROJECT BARRIERS AND RESPONSES

Attitudinal barriers

“NGOs are not qualified”

- ④ 2003 Workforce Survey 71% staff Cert 4 or above
- ④ 22% university based qualifications
- ④ Past 6 years NADA & NSW Health implemented workforce development strategies to further qualify staff
- ④ 3 larger NGOs supported all staff to obtain minimum qualifications to compliment their experience
- ④ NGO partnerships with research organisations and universities compliments evidence based practice

PROJECT BARRIERS AND RESPONSES

Attitudinal barriers

“NGO management will have a negative impact on the MERIT program”

- ④ NGO providing MERIT since 2002
- ④ NSW Health, NADA and NGOs have vested interest in making this transition work
- ④ Tender selection criteria clearly outlines philosophy and operations of MERIT
- ④ Preferred providers enter into FPA
- ④ NGOs experienced at delivering to FPAs

PROJECT BARRIERS AND RESPONSES

Systemic barriers

Existing funding model

- Difficulty in shifting resources post Agreement implementation
- Conflict of interest
- Creation of new industry rather than developing existing service structures

Recommendation: Current funding model be amended for next IDDI Agreement

PROJECT BARRIERS AND RESPONSES

Systemic barriers

Timing of the project

- 2005 - formalisation of AHS amalgamation from 17 to 8
- Fear of job security prominent
- Project not viewed as priority

Our response: Patience and persistence!

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Specific Achievements

Stage 1 consultation and information achievements completed

Stage 2 identification and commencement of preferred providers

- o Some services to be transferred identified
- o Small shift in resources
- o Further negotiation continuing

Stage 3 MERIT website

Under development - launch date June 2006

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Broad Achievements

- ④ The two sectors developed their relationship
- ④ Central level 'frank and fearless advice'
- ④ Dispelling some of the misconceptions of NGOs
- ④ Role of peak body developed
- ④ Key stakeholder relations developed

RECOMMENDATIONS

Why should we have a relationship?

- Diverse and robust drug treatment field
- Each sector has complimenting skill sets
- Both sectors will continue to exist, working collaboratively supports optimal treatment outcomes for clients

RECOMMENDATIONS

How do we have a long term relationship?

- Equal role of non government sector in policy development - including next IDDI Agreement
- Equal role of non government sector in service delivery planning – particularly local/AHS level
- Alternate service and funding models –
 - 3rd Agreement opportune time
 - proportionally equal distribution of funds to non government sector
 - open tendering process

For more information

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