

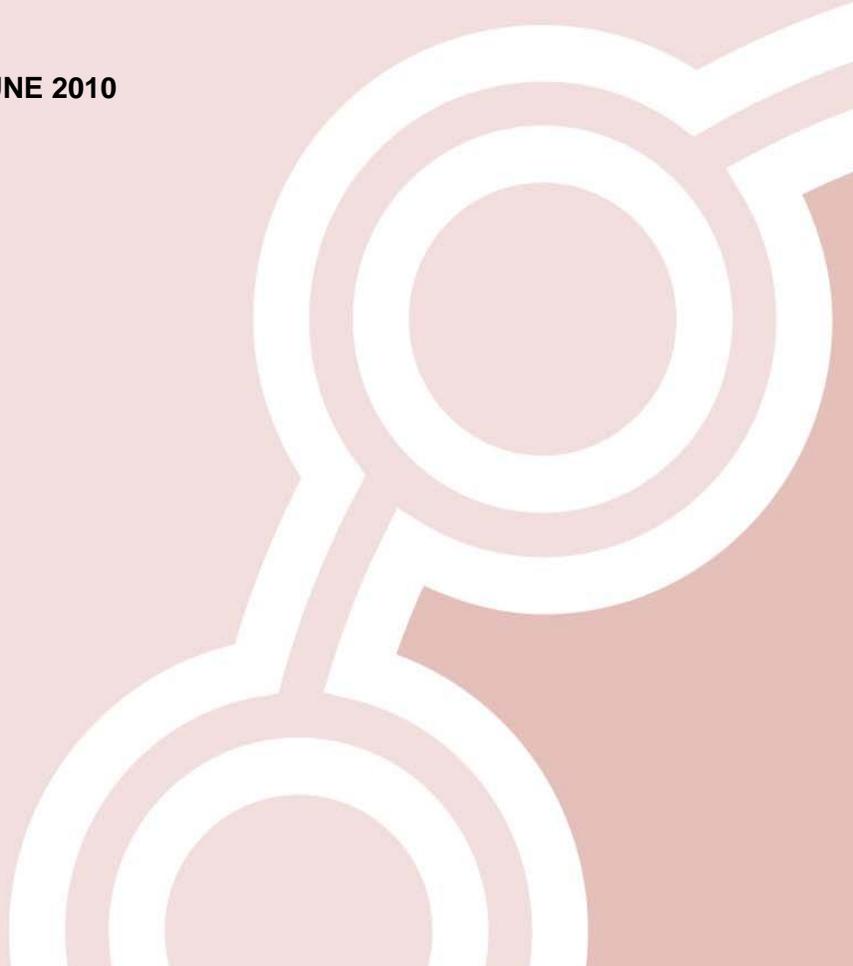


NADA
network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

**Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic
Partnerships Project**

PARTNERSHIP SCOPING REPORT

JUNE 2010



PARTNERSHIP SCOPING REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Improved Services for People with Drug and Alcohol Problems and Mental Illness (Improved Services) Initiative - Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) project is a national project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The primary aim of this project is assist grant recipients to build their capacity to effectively address and treat coinciding mental illness and substance abuse. In NSW, 26 Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) non government organisations received capacity building grants under the Improved Services Initiative.

The objectives and outcomes of the CSSSP Project are to assist grant recipients by:

- Building sustainable linkages and strategic partnerships between the AOD NGO sector and other health and community support sectors to support their identification and treatment of comorbidity.
- Assist AOD NGO treatment services, particularly Improved Services capacity building grant recipients, to undertake service improvement.
- Identify and facilitate training opportunities for AOD NGO treatment services, particularly Improved Services capacity building grant recipients.
- Provide targeted and relevant information and resources to the AOD NGO treatment sector.

In looking to build sustainable linkages and form strategic partnerships, NADA conducted a partnership scoping exercise. The exercise sought to identify and define the types of partnerships that would benefit both NADA and its member agencies to build their capacity and support clients with independent or co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems, their families and the community.

The partnerships have been categorised into the following sections:

- Peak bodies
- Research bodies
- Training organisations
- Quality improvement services providers
- NADA Members
- Other relevant organisations

PEAK BODIES

NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group

The NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group forms part of the ongoing collaboration between the Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations (or equivalent), who have been funded to support the grant recipients as part of the Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) Project. In addition to NADA, the group consists of representatives from the following organisations:

- ACT AOD Sector (auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT)
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies
- South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania Inc.
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies

Partnership activities: Collaboration, networking, advocacy

NADA has participated in fortnightly teleconferences with the group since the commencement of the CSSSP Project in 2008 and have been involved in several roundtable meetings to discuss the Improved Services Initiative. The teleconferences provide an opportunity to discuss current issues and hear about activities being conducted in other states and territories.

Collaborative activities:

- NADA, WANADA and VAADA jointly presented at the NADA/MHCC conference *Outside In* in May 2009.
- The group has developed a quarterly national newsletter promoting the Improved Services Initiative that began distribution in November 2009.
- The group developed a proposal to hold a national Improved Services Initiative Conference to showcase the work of grant recipients.
- The group are currently working on a proposal to develop an evaluation framework for the Improved Services Initiative.

Future partnership development

The group continues to meet via teleconference fortnightly and meet face-to-face bi-annually to discuss strategies to promote and support the Improved Services Initiative. Whilst it is unclear if the group will continue in its currently format after the life of the Improved Services Initiative, it is expected that relationships will be maintained with State and Territory Peak bodies particularly in relation to sector and workforce development initiatives.

The peaks also meet regularly via ADCA for sector issues broader than the CSSSP Project. See below for more information.

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) is the peak, national, non-government organisation representing the interests of the Australian alcohol and other drugs sector, providing a national voice for people working to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. ADCA works collaboratively with the government, non government, business and community sectors to promote evidence-based, socially just, approaches aimed at preventing or reducing the health, economic and social harm caused by alcohol and other drugs to individuals, families, communities and the nation.

Partnership activities: Policy, advocacy, networking

Over the past two years, ADCA has implemented new governance arrangements which have established new structures of representation, national coordination, and implementation. The ADCA Federal Council and the ADCA Policy Forum are two new advisory bodies which formalise interaction with the State/ Territory AOD peaks. NADA is a member of both these bodies and provides input into ADCA's policy development and highlights issues in the NSW AOD NGO sector of national relevance.

For more information: www.adca.org.au

Mental Health Coordinating Council

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) is the peak body for community mental health organisations in New South Wales. Its membership is primarily comprised of not-for-profit non government organisations whose business or activity is wholly or in part, related to the promotion or delivery of services for the wellbeing and recovery of people with mental health problems and organisations that support carers and families of people with a mental health problem. Membership also includes Associate Members such as Area Health Services, legal or medical, disability, housing, employment and education organisations that have an interest in mental health education, promotion and recovery oriented service delivery. Individuals not representing a specific organisation may become subscription members.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, networking, advocacy

The partnership has resulted in increased communications and understanding between the sectors, the development of a training package, jointly managed projects in the areas of research and workforce development and a highly successful conference in 2009. NADA also promotes relevant NADA events to the MHCC membership to encourage links between mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Future partnership development

NADA is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the MHCC to formalise the partnership and will continue to advocate for issues affecting both sectors. The organisations will jointly run a Research Network that seeks to increase the capacity of its members to engage in research and host another jointly managed event, a research symposium in December 2010.

See [Training Organisations](#) for details of the [MHCC's Learning and Development Unit](#).

For more information: www.mhcc.org.au

General Practice NSW

General Practice NSW Ltd (GP NSW) is the state based support and education organisation for 33 Divisions of General Practice in NSW. The Divisions of General Practice Program is part of the Australian Government General Practice Strategy. Divisions of General Practice are committed to enhancing communication and integration between GPs and the wider health system, and improving the health of the community by supporting General Practice collaboration with other health professionals in the delivery of quality health care.

Mental Health

This program aims to provide a platform and support for the implementation and ongoing management of the Australian Government's Primary Mental Health Care Programs; develop strategic links & partnerships at state and national levels; and provide general practice input into relevant state and national planning initiatives. The 'Can Do' Initiative: Managing Mental Health and Substance Use in General Practice was a national initiative, funded through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the *National Comorbidity Initiative*. The program was further extended with the *Building on 'Can Do'* grants program.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, networking, information and resource sharing

NADA and GP NSW have entered into an Intention to Collaborate and hold regular meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration. GP NSW attends Improved Services Initiative forums and actively engages in discussions relating to services working with general practice.

Future partnership development

GP NSW has recently been funded by NSW Health to roll out the 3 T's Project: Training, Treatment and Transferring Knowledge that will continue to link GPs with Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services in NSW. NADA will be involved in the project Steering Committee and promote links with non government AOD services.

For more information: www.gpnsw.com.au

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) is the recognised peak body and voice of Aboriginal communities on Aboriginal health matters in NSW. Its more than 60 member organisations, are comprised of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), also known as Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS); Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Related Services (ACCHRS) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Committees (ACCHC).

The AH&MRC is the NSW affiliate of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) - the peak national Aboriginal health organisation representing over 130 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across the country.

The activities of the Council focus on the provision of support and assistance to member organisations to provide culturally appropriate holistic primary health care for the improvement of Aboriginal health.

As the peak body for Aboriginal health in NSW, the Council also plays a role directly assisting ACCHSs; supporting community controlled health initiatives; liaising with non-Aboriginal agencies and evaluating, developing and advising on the wide range of health programs, policies, strategies and appropriate educational courses in Aboriginal health.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, networking, policy, advocacy, education

The AH&MRC are represented on the NADA NSW Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeship Program (ADATP) Steering Committee, the NADA Policy and Advocacy Sub Committee and the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Services Development Reference Group. NADA has presented at the annual Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network (ADAN) Symposium and has ongoing participation on the ADAN Leadership Group.

Future partnership development

NADA continues to build on their partnership with the AHMRC through projects funded through NSW Health and OATSIH.

For more information: www.ahmrc.org.au

Council of Social Services in NSW

Council of Social Services of NSW (NCOSS) is the peak body for social and community services in NSW. They provide independent and informed policy development, advice and review and plays a key coordination and leadership role for the non government social and community services sector in New South Wales.

NCOSS works with members, the sector, the NSW Government and other relevant agencies on current and emerging social, systemic and operational issues.

NCOSS provides independent and responsive advice and information to the sector, Government, academics, professional groups, the public and other relevant agencies. NCOSS convenes forums and advocacy groups, to coordinate responses to issues of concern and significance to the sector and to inform the sector of emerging issues and concerns.

Partnership activities: Policy, advocacy, networking, collaboration

NADA is a current member of NCOSS and sits on various committees. NADA is an active member of the NCOSS Health Policy Advisory Group and the NCOSS Sector Development Forum.

For more information: www.ncoss.org.au

Carers NSW

Carers NSW are the peak organisation for carers in New South Wales and the only state-wide organisation that has carers as its primary focus. They are an association for relatives and friends caring for people with a disability, mental illness, drug and alcohol dependencies, chronic condition, terminal illness or who are frail. They are a non government, non-profit, non-political organisation incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW), governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. They are part of a national Network of Carers Associations and work collaboratively to lead change and action for carers.

Partnership activities: Networking, advice

Carers NSW were an active member of the NADA Family and Carer Project Advisory Group and assisted in the development of the NADA *Tools for Change* resource.

Carers NSW host NGO Research Forums in their offices bi-monthly, which provide an opportunity for NGOs to network and discuss research opportunities and issues.

For more information: www.carersnsw.asn.au

RESEARCH BODIES

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) is a premier research institution in Australia and is recognised internationally as a Research Centre of Excellence. The Centre is multidisciplinary and collaborates with medicine, psychology, social science and other schools of the University of NSW, as well as with a range of other institutions and individuals in Australia and overseas.

The overall mission of NDARC is to conduct high quality research and related activities that increases the effectiveness of Australian and International treatment and other intervention responses to alcohol and other drug related harm.

In addition to the research conducted at the Centre, other NDARC activities include an Annual Symposium and a range of conferences and educational workshops. NDARC produces its own Research Monographs and Technical Report Series. In conjunction with the National Drug Research Institute in Perth, NDARC also produces a free quarterly newsletter, CentreLines, to increase communication between the national research centres, other researchers and workers in the alcohol and other drug field within Australia.

NDARC is the lead agency in a consortium of organisations that form the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC). The NCPIC mission is to reduce the use of cannabis in Australia by preventing uptake and providing the community with evidence-based information and interventions. NDARC also hosts the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) in collaboration with other organisations. The DPMP is concerned with research and application in illicit drug policy.

Partnership activities: Education, networking, advice, consultative, dissemination of research and resources

NDARC have been involved in NADA events, including conferences, forums and workshops for many years. In recent years NDARC partnered with six NADA members to conduct research that would contribute to mental health and drug and alcohol service delivery through the NGO Comorbidity Research Grants Program. NDARC staff have, and continue to be, represented on NADA subcommittees and project advisory groups.

NDARC also have individual relationships with NADA's membership.

Future partnership development

It is envisaged that NDARC will be a key partner in the Research Network that will be established in partnership with the MHCC to build the capacity of NGOs to engage in research.

Illawarra Institute for Mental Health, University of Wollongong

The Illawarra Institute for Mental Health (iiMH) is a research unit within the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Wollongong. It provides a centre for researchers and teachers with an interest in mental health and drug and alcohol related research. Their mission

is to improve the quality of life for those affected by mental health or alcohol, drug and other related problems by promoting quality research and training to improve service delivery.

The iiMH has close research and training linkages with a wide range of mental health and drug and alcohol service providers. Since 1989 the University of Wollongong and the local area health service have collaborated in the provision of mental health and drug and alcohol education and training to the benefit of NADA members in the area. The iiMH was established in 1998 and the degree of collaboration between the partners has increased significantly with a greater emphasis on the use of research to inform training and service development.

Partnership activities: Education, networking, advice, consultative, dissemination of research and resources

The iiMH partnered with NADA and the MHCC to evaluate workforce development in drug and alcohol and mental health comorbidity in the No Wrong Door Project.

In recent years iiMH partnered with two NADA members to conduct research that would contribute to mental health and drug and alcohol service delivery through the NGO Comorbidity Research Grants Program.

iiMH also have individual relationships with several NADA members.

Future partnership development

It is envisaged that iiMH will also be a key partner in the Research Network that will be established in partnership with the MHCC to build the capacity of NGOs to engage in research.

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders University (SA)

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) is an internationally recognised research centre that works as a catalyst for change in the alcohol and other drugs field. The promotion of Workforce Development principles, research and evaluation of effective practices is NCETA's core business.

Established in 1992, NCETA is a collaborative venture between Flinders University and the South Australian Department of Health. Since 1999 NCETA has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing through the National Drug Strategy. NCETA is located within the School of Medicine at Flinders University in South Australia.

Partnership activities: Education, collaboration, advice, consultative, dissemination of research and resources

NADA has sought advice and contracted NCETA to work on workforce development strategies. This includes a half day workshop in October 2008 for Improved Services grant recipients on workforce development and organisational change management strategies. NADA has also provided advice to a number of NCETA resources such as the *Workforce Development 'TIPS' Theory into Practice Strategies* resource and commented on research instruments and questionnaires.

NCETA is currently working with the NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group on a National Improved Services Initiative conference to showcase the work conducted under the Initiative and look at future directions.

Future partnership development

It is envisaged that NCETA will also be a key partner in the Research Network that will be established in partnership with the MHCC to build the capacity of NGOs to engage in research.

National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University (WA)

The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) conducts and disseminates high quality research that contributes to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm in Australia.

NDRI, which was formed in 1986, plays a key role in national harm prevention strategies through research designed to establish the preventive potential of legislative, economic, regulatory and educational interventions.

NDRI's research complements the work of its sister organisations: the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), which focuses primarily on treatment research; and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA).

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources

Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research, University of Newcastle

The Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research is a Priority Research Centre of the University of Newcastle. The Centre aims to draw together individuals and groups with considerable diversity in fields of expertise as well as scientific and clinical disciplines. These fields span molecular genetics, basic neurosciences, cognitive neuroscience, cognitive science and statistics, information technology, clinical psychology, psychiatry, mental health nursing, neurology and epidemiology.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources

NADA contracted the Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research to present their comorbidity research findings at the NADA Research Forum in 2009. The research project was the winner of the National Drug and Alcohol Awards in 2009.

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

The Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) is based in Orange. It is a major rural initiative of The University of Newcastle, Faculty of Health and the NSW Department of Health. CRRMH aims to bring quality education and research programs to all rural areas of NSW through effective partnerships. The Centre will improve the mental health of rural and remote communities through academic leadership, collaboration and achievements in research, education, service development and information services.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, advice

Future partnership development

NADA and the MHCC will seek the advice of the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health in developing the Research Network that will be established to build the capacity of NGOs to engage in research.

Brain and Mind Institute, University of Sydney

The Brain & Mind Research Institute (BMRI) is a centre within the Faculty of Medicine at The University of Sydney. The BMRI was established in 2004 as a centre of research excellence, unique in its collaborative model of clinical, translational and basic science research within five juxtaposed buildings.

The Brain & Mind Research Institute has a fundamental commitment to the long-neglected areas of brain and mind disorders, pursuing genuine partnerships with the wider community as a vital part of our research and activities.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

headspace – also training organisation

Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, providing mental and health wellbeing support, information and services to young people and their families across Australia.

The Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health provides *headspace* centres with the latest research on diagnosis and treatment so that communities have the capacity to understand how to intervene earlier when mental health issues occur. *headspace* has also developed a range of training packages aimed at enhancing practitioners' skills in the use of evidence based interventions appropriate for young people with mental health and substance use issues.

With 30 one-stop-shops, *headspace* has a range of youth friendly health professionals who can help with:

- General health
- Mental health and counselling
- Education, employment and other services
- Alcohol and other drug services.

Two NADA members are currently involved with the *headspace* program.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

Beyond Blue (VIC) – also training organisation

beyondblue is a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related substance misuse disorders in Australia.

beyondblue is a bipartisan initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments with a key goal of raising community awareness about depression and reducing stigma associated with the illness.

beyondblue works in partnership with health services, schools, workplaces, universities, media and community organisations, as well as people living with depression, to bring together their expertise around depression.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

Black Dog Institute – also training organisation

The Black Dog Institute is an educational, research, clinical and community-oriented facility offering specialist expertise in mood disorders - a range of disorders that include depression and bipolar disorder. The Institute is attached to the Prince of Wales Hospital and affiliated with the University of New South Wales.

The Institute's mission is to advance the understanding, diagnosis and management of the mood disorders by continuously raising clinical, research, education and training standards. In doing so, the Institute aims to improve the lives of those affected - and in turn - the lives of their families and friends.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (VIC) – also training organisation

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre was established in 1994 and provides clinical treatment and support to people with substance addiction issues, as well as conducting clinical and epidemiological research and development. In addition, the organisation provides education and training to health and welfare professionals.

Turning Point has led research and its translation into policy and practice at a local, national and international level. To best respond to emerging issues, Turning Point employs staff from a range of professional backgrounds and collaborates with organisations across the research, health, education and community services sectors.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

NADA was involved in the dissemination of Psycheck training and resources developed by Turning Point including hosting a Psycheck train-the trainer session for NADA members in 2009.

Orygen Youth Health – also training organisation

Orygen Youth Health (OYH) is Australia's largest youth-focused mental health organisation. Orygen Youth Health is a specialised youth mental health clinical service in Victoria and an internationally renowned youth mental health research centre.

Orygen Youth Health Research Centre (OYH-RC) is Australia's largest youth mental health research centre. The current research program aims to understand the biological, psychological and social factors that influence onset, remission and relapse of mental illnesses in order to find better ways to prevent and/or reduce the impact of mental disorders for young people.

Orygen Youth Health Training & Communication endeavours to share knowledge gained through clinical and research expertise to enhance the service system that supports young people with mental health issues. It works to strengthen the integration of the youth health service system, including public, community and private health services at local, national and international levels. Orygen Youth Health Training & Communication activities are also designed

to influence political agendas and increase community understanding about mental illness in young people.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

Hunter Institute for Mental Health – *also training organisation*

The Hunter Institute of Mental Health is a business unit of the Hunter New England Area Health Service. Their mission is to promote mental health and to improve the outcomes for people with mental illnesses. They provide a range of education and training programs as well as undertake health promotion projects in the Hunter region and across Australia.

They provide continuing professional development programs for those who deliver services to people who have a mental illness or who may be at risk of becoming ill. As well as providing training programs for people who work in the helping professions, or who work in community service organisations, to improve their skills and their understanding of the mental illnesses.

They undertake programs to reduce the stigma associated with mental illnesses and to encourage individuals to seek help if they experience social or emotional distress. They also undertake suicide prevention programs across Australia.

Partnership activities: Dissemination of research and resources, training

TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

Centre for Community Welfare Training

Centre for Community Welfare Training (CCWT) is the learning and development arm of the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA). ACWA established the CCWT as its learning and development arm in 1987. CCWT provides cost effective and accessible training opportunities for people working across the community welfare sector in NSW and with vulnerable children, young people and families in particular.

In 1997, CCWT became a Registered Training Organisation able to deliver vocational qualifications under the Australian Quality Training Framework.

Since its inception CCWT has developed to now being the largest non government training provider for the community services sector in NSW and is widely recognised as the industry's professional development training provider.

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion

CCWT is widely used by NADA and its membership. NADA regularly meets with CCWT to provide advice on workforce development areas that would assist in training non government drug and alcohol services. CCWT was part of an Improved Services Forum in October 2008 focussing on mental health education and training needs.

MHCC – Learning and Development Unit

MHCC established the Learning and Development Unit (LDU) in 2007 in recognition of the need for mental health specific training and other workforce development products and services to its member organisations and others interested in improving their responsiveness to mental health issues. The LDU is now an accredited Registered Training Organisation which delivers nationally recognised qualifications including the Certificate IV in Mental Health Work, and courses specifically to meet the needs of the Community Mental Health workforce.

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion

NADA meets with the LDU frequently to provide advice on workforce development areas that would assist in training non government drug and alcohol services, as well being represented on LDU Reference Groups. The LDU was part of an Improved Services Forum in October 2008 focussing on mental health education and training needs.

The MHCC LDU is utilised by NADA members for training in mental health and mental health drug and alcohol courses at a certificate, diploma and short course level and through their Leadership in Action program.

Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV)

The Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) is a NSW Health statewide specialist organisation. ECAV is committed to producing high quality training and resources for NSW Health and NGO employees who work with children and adults who have experienced sexual assault, domestic or Aboriginal family violence and/or physical and emotional abuse and neglect. An understanding of Aboriginal, cultural and community diversity is promoted.

ECAV is committed to enhancing the quality and accessibility of services to people whose lives have been affected by interpersonal violence.

Partnership activities: Training, collaboration, advice

ECAV is utilised by the NADA membership for training. NADA plays an active role in the Drug and Alcohol Child Protection Training Strategy Steering Committee and the role out Keeping Children and Young People Safe: The Complexities of Working with Substance Using Parents to the NGO drug and alcohol sector in NSW.

Future partnership development

NADA envisages a continued strong partnership between this specialist training organisation and NADA workforce development.

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW is Australia's largest training provider, and it is among the largest in the world. TAFE NSW courses and education programs are delivered flexibly – online, by distance, face-to-face, or by a combination of methods. The TAFE NSW Alcohol and Drug Unit provides advice, professional development and support in alcohol and drug education to TAFE NSW staff and students.

The Unit's current projects include:

- Managing short courses for frontline workers in rural and non-metropolitan areas
- Providing resources and support to TAFE NSW institutes and campuses to conduct health promotion projects
- Building the capacity of health workers who provide alcohol and other drug services to Aboriginal communities
- Developing a Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drugs and Mental Health Practice
- Developing a Statement of Attainment in Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Work
- Developing alcohol and other drug policies and professional development for TAFE NSW Institute staff.

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion, networking

NADA has collaborated with the TAFE NSW Alcohol and Drug Unit for a number of years. NADA regularly meets with TAFE to provide advice on workforce development areas that would assist in training non government drug and alcohol services. Both NADA and the Unit have presented at respective education forums of the organisation and provided advice on resource development and dissemination. TAFE NSW Alcohol and Drug Unit was part of an Improved Services Forum in October 2008 focussing on mental health education and training needs.

NSW Institute of Psychiatry

The New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry (NSWIOP) is a major provider of continuing professional education in mental health in Australia. The Institute was established by an Act of Parliament in 1964 and through its Board is directly responsible to the New South Wales Minister for Health. It is a statutory body independent of any individual university or teaching institution. The Institute provides training for health care professionals, psychiatrists-in-training, consumers and staff of non government organisations, general practitioners and the public.

NSWIOP provides training to individuals and organisations who work with children, adolescents and their families, people affected by mental illness, older persons, people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those with problematic substance use. In addition to fostering and developing mental health education, the Institute plays an active role in initiating and encouraging research into all aspects of mental health.

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion

NSWIOP was part of an Improved Services Forum in October 2008 focussing on mental health education and training needs

Menzies School of Health Research (NT) – *also research body*

Menzies is Australia's leader in Indigenous and tropical health research. With its head office in Darwin in the Northern Territory, Menzies has been conducting research for almost 25 years. With over 200 dedicated staff, Menzies works hand in hand with communities throughout Australia and across the tropical region to the North. Their work is helping to discover better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, tackle the social determinants of health and deliver better health services. Their researchers are helping to break the cycle of ill-health facing many Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative in the Northern Territory (AIMhi) was a 5 year action research project that engaged with managers, service providers, Aboriginal Mental Health Workers and communities to explore mental health in remote communities and to find new ways to deliver services. This was the largest mental health research project to date in the NT. It established base line measures, explored understandings of mental health from the community perspective, developed service based strategies for improved cross cultural assessment, conducted the first Indigenous mental health clinical trial of a new brief psychotherapy, and developed a range of resources for service providers and the community linked with a training program.

Partnership activities: Training, resources, collaboration, promotion

NADA has contracted the Healing and Resilience Division of the Menzies School of Health Research to provide training on the AIMHI approach and use of the Yarning about Mental Health resources to its members and other key stakeholders.

The Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University – also research body

The Bouverie Centre, Victoria's Family Institute is a unique public institute located within La Trobe University's Faculty of Health Sciences. Their work focuses on the important role of the family and the power of relationships to foster social, emotional and mental wellbeing for at risk individuals and their families and for the community at large.

A major focus of their work has been to support Victorian mental health services (via training, supervision and consultation) to include families as part of their total approach to service provision; Family Sensitive Practice (FaST). This endeavor has led to a growing connection with carers and consumers of mental health services in a number of projects. More recently they have developed specific training for professionals within agencies e.g. Single Session Work in the Community Health sector or Clinical Supervision in the AOD. All their programs are integrated through the Research and Evaluation unit. They also have academic courses ranging from Graduate Certificate to Master level and a number of students involved in higher degree research projects (PhD).

The Bouverie Centre have also been contracted by NSW Health through the Mental Health Family and Carer Project to provide training across several Area Health Services.

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion, collaboration

NADA has used The Bouverie Centre's expertise in building the capacity of its members to engage with and support families affected by independent or co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems. More recently NADA has contracted The Bouverie Centre to provide Single Session Work training to several of its member agencies, as well as providing ongoing supervision and support.

Aboriginal Health College

In 2002 the AH&MRC established the Aboriginal Health College (AHC) to offer education and research services focused on, and driven by, the needs of Aboriginal communities in NSW. The Aboriginal Health College is the long term vision of AH&MRC to provide culturally appropriate accredited education courses in Aboriginal health within an Aboriginal community controlled educational institution. The Aboriginal Health College represents an institution that will benefit Aboriginal health by utilising Aboriginal educators to train Aboriginal people in healthcare. The College also serves to provide education and career opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Partnership activities: Training, collaboration, networking, advice

NADA has partnered with the AHC for educational development activity and the provision of education for the NSW NGO Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeship Program.

Future partnership development

NADA continues to build on its partnership with the AHC through the NSW NGO Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeship Program.

Frameworks for Health

Frameworks for Health is dedicated to translating “real world” health research into everyday clinical practice through program development, research and implementation. The team was formerly known as the Collaborative Therapy Unit, based at the Mental Health Research Institute. Since 2008, the team has been auspiced by St Vincent’s Health where it is known as Frameworks for Health to reflect their broader clinical and research interests. Frameworks for Health works with organisations to implement service delivery models of care and stand alone programs based on the Collaborative Therapy approach.

Collaborative Therapy is a comprehensive therapeutic approach for consumers, clinicians, services and others to work systematically towards the achievement of optimal health outcomes. A service delivery framework and programs based on the Collaborative Therapy approach have been developed and evaluated by Frameworks for Health (formerly the Collaborative Therapy Unit).

Partnership activities: Training, advice, promotion

Frameworks for Health have promoted their training package to NADA members at an Improved Services Initiative forum in 2010.

Odyssey House Institute (VIC)

Odyssey House Institute in Victoria is a Registered Training Organisation specialising in the online delivery of Alcohol and Other Drugs qualifications. Established in 2001, they provide quality accredited training across a range of subjects, delivering online training to professionals in the AOD and related fields. They deliver qualifications and short courses from Nationally Accredited packages as well as non-accredited seminars and workshops that are tailored to the needs of client organisations and their participants. Their courses are delivered nationally through a range of modes including *face-to-face*, online, and blended training (a combination of face-to-face and online). They have a commitment to the provision of nationally accredited training in the rural and remote areas of Australia.

Partnership activities: Training

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand. The College is responsible for training, examining and awarding the Fellowship of the College qualification to medical practitioners. Through their recognised training programs, innovative continuous professional development and strong representation, they are committed to creating better outcomes for mental health in the community.

Partnership activities: Promotion

Though a training organisation, the RANZCP are also able to provide details of private psychiatrists across Australia.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

ACHS

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to improving the quality of health care in Australia through continual review of performance, assessment and accreditation.

The ACHS Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) provides health care organisations with a framework to deliver a consumer-centred service focusing on the continuum of care by incorporating systematic external peer review.

Over 800 member health care organisations, representing more than 1,000 individual organisations, are members of ACHS quality improvement programs. ACHS recently developed relationships with non government drug and alcohol service providers in NSW, with many organisations now using ACHS as their formal quality improvement program provider.

Partnership activities: Quality improvement forums, formal meetings between ACHS and NADA staff, resource development for shared members.

The partnership has resulted in increased communication and understanding of the drug and alcohol sector by ACHS and increased understanding of the application of ACHS' EQuIP 4 standards to non government drug and alcohol organisations. The partnership provides NADA with an opportunity to advocate for D&A NGOs regarding application of quality improvement programs. NADA has participated in the review of EQuIP4 standards, contributing to content redevelopment with a greater NGO focus.

A memorandum exists between NADA and ACHS to guide partnership activity.

Future partnership development

NADA will lead a review of the collaboratively developed QI Resource Tool in late 2010.

Quality Management Services

Quality Management Services is an established, nationwide, independent, not-for-profit provider of quality services, aimed at health and community service providers, including drug and alcohol.

QMS is a licensed provider of the Quality Improvement Council (QIC) Standards and Accreditation Program. QMS has a long history of working with the non government sector, and was the first formal quality improvement program provider for drug and alcohol services in NSW.

Partnership activities: Quality improvement forums, formal meetings between QMS and NADA staff.

QMS and NADA have a long standing partnership and both organisations support members to undertake quality improvement programs. NADA makes formal contributions to QMS and QIC resources on behalf of the non government drug and alcohol sector

A memorandum of understanding exists between NADA and QMS to guide partnership activity.

Future partnership development

NADA will provide formal contribution to the development of QIC Good Practice Guides.

NADA MEMBERS

Kedesh Rehabilitation Services

Kedesh Rehabilitation Services (KRS) is a non government community based organisation located in the Illawarra NSW and is a NADA member. Kedesh runs a 22-bed residential treatment facility, and also offers a non residential treatment program. Kedesh is firmly committed to research and training, while maintaining a strong client focus through evidence-based treatment.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, promotion, advice

KRS and NADA collaborated in the development of the Mental Illness & Substance Use (MISU) Program, to build the capacity of residential NGO drug and alcohol treatment agencies to better manage clients with mental health and drug and alcohol issues. The MISU program has been designed to provide individualised and supported training to meet the needs of staff and management of an organisation. The emphasis is on promoting organisational change in the way complex clients are assessed, treated and understood. This program has been funded under the Improved Services Initiative and NADA continues to work with KRS to identify suitable services to undertake the MISU training.

NSW Users & AIDS Association

The NSW Users & AIDS Association's (NUAA) is a not-for-profit NSW-based organisation advocating for people who use drugs, particularly those who inject drugs. The peak drug user organisation in NSW, NUAA was formed in 1989 in the face of a growing HIV epidemic. A group of drug users, their friends, families and supporters established NUAA as an independent, user-driven community-based organisation.

NUAA provides education, practical support, information and advocacy to users of illicit drugs, their friends, and allies. NUAA has often led the way in developing innovative approaches to peer education and community development, and has contributed to Australia having one of the lowest HIV rates amongst injecting drug users in the world.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, advice

NADA and NUAA collaborate on policy and advocacy issues of relevance to both organisations. Recently, NADA has been working with NUAA to promote the need for a NSW Consumer Advisory Group in the drug and alcohol sector and representation on the NSW Health Drug and Alcohol Council.

Community Restorative Centre

The Community Restorative Centre (CRC) is a NSW community organisation dedicated to supporting people affected by the criminal justice system, particularly prisoners, ex-prisoners,

and their families and friends. CRC aim to reduce crime and change lives through a range of targeted programs, partnerships with other organisations and creating opportunities for clients.

Partnership activities: Collaboration, training, advice, promotion

CRC has partnered with NADA to develop a comprehensive training and change management resource package and web based resource and information kit for NADA members. The No Bars Training Project is aimed at increasing staff and organisational confidence and capacity to address the needs of clients who are in contact with the criminal justice system and is free to NADA members.

CRC and NADA have collaborated to present at numerous national and international conferences on the issues of criminogenic and drug dependency risk and human services responses, and the culture clash between prison and residential rehabilitation services.

OTHER RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

Local Mental Health Services - Area Clinical Mental Health Partnership Program

The Area Clinical Mental Health Partnerships Program is an initiative of the Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office (MHDAO) at NSW Health under the NSW Government's Interagency Action Plan for Better Mental Health. The Area Clinical Mental Health Partnership Program provides an opportunity for non government drug and alcohol services to have support and assistance in establishing partnerships with local area mental health services and developing appropriate referral pathways.

Partnership activities: Promotion, collaboration

NADA has promoted the program through various means and has presented to the state-wide steering committee at NSW Health on the Improved Services Initiative.

Mental Health Professionals Network

The Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN) is a private not-for-profit company created to manage funding packages from the Department of Health and Ageing. The funding has been allocated for the delivery of interdisciplinary mental health workshops and for a website that supports continued collaboration amongst mental health professionals. Workshops will roll out across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote Australia in 2009 and 2010.

The workshops are targeted at mental health practitioners delivering services under the Better Access to psychiatrists, psychologists and general practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) Initiative. The workshops seek to include nurses under the Mental Health Nurses Incentive Program (MHNIP). In addition, the workshops allow for the involvement of other individuals and groups that deliver mental health services such as aboriginal health workers.

Partnership activities: Promotion, collaboration

NADA has promoted the program through various means, including a presentation at the March 2010 Improved Services Initiative forum.

Australian Psychological Society

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the largest professional association for psychologists in Australia, representing more than 17,500 members. The APS is committed to advancing psychology as a discipline and profession. It spreads the message that psychologists make a difference to peoples' lives, through improving scientific knowledge and community wellbeing. APS members form a dynamic group that advocate for psychologists at all levels of government. They are constantly promoting the contributions psychology makes to people's health and wellbeing, and to understanding important social issues facing Australian society.

Partnership activities: Promotion, dissemination, advice

NADA has contact with the APS who coordinated a staff placement program with AOD NGOs and psychology students funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in 2008-2009. NADA promoted this program to its membership and provided the APS with details of members in specific NSW regions to link with available psychology student placements at universities.

Australian Association of Social Workers

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the professional representative body of Social Workers in Australia, with 6,000 members nation-wide. They promote the profession of social work, enhance the public and professional recognition and identity of social work, contribute to the development of social work knowledge and research and represent and advocate for the interests of members as a group.

Partnership activities: Promotion

NADA established links with the comorbidity Project Officer at the AASW in 2008-2009. The Project Officer's role was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and focussed on supporting social work placements in the drug and alcohol sector, particularly the NGO sector. NADA promoted and sought interest from its membership to accept social work student placements.

Mental Health Association NSW Inc

The Mental Health Association NSW Inc provide information, support and education to people who are affected by the symptoms of mental illness, whether they be a consumer, partner, friend, or concerned citizen. They advocate for systemic change to improve the lives of consumers and carers. They promote evidence-based practices in the community that are designed to elicit a lifestyle that encompasses mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing for everyone, but especially for the people of NSW. They play a vital role in the development of mental health initiatives which result in increased community awareness and knowledge of mental health issues.

Partnership activities: Promotion

Transcultural Mental Health Centre

The Transcultural Mental Health Centre (TMHC) is a leader in clinical consultation and assessment, transcultural mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention, publication and resource development and education and training. TMHC is a statewide service that promotes access to mental health services for people of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background.

The Centre recognises the significance of cultural and linguistic difference in mental health issues and uses a whole-of-lifespan approach, involving work with children, adolescents, families, adults and older people.

Co-Exist NSW, a service of the TMHC, is the first of its kind in NSW to assist people from CALD communities and their families living with comorbidity and who may have found it difficult to access mainstream services due to language and cultural barriers.

Partnership activities: Promotion and dissemination of resources

Suicide Prevention Australia

Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) is a non-profit, community organisation working as a public health advocate in suicide and self harm prevention. SPA is the only national umbrella body in suicide and self harm prevention throughout Australia. SPA is a broad-based organisation bringing together diverse interests across disciplines, practitioners, researchers, and the community affected by suicide and self harm. SPA supports individuals and organisations throughout Australia, and promotes collaboration and partnerships in suicide and self harm prevention, intervention and postvention. SPA was established in 1992.

Partnership activities: Promotion and dissemination of resources
