

Mental Health Capacity Building Project

Increasing the capacity of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) treatment services to support people with co-occurring mental health needs

NADA is seeking expressions of interest from members to participate in a project to further build the mental health capacity of the non-government AOD sector.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

It is estimated that more than half of the people who present to AOD services also have a co-occurring mental health need (Kingston et al. 2017). The 2021 – 2022 [NADAbase Snapshot Report](#) showed the average rating of the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10), on intake, was 'High Risk.' Feedback from NADA members has consistently indicated that this is an area that requires development, with annual free training typically oversubscribed.

In response to this data, NADA have commissioned the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, University of Sydney, to undertake a capacity building project to support non-government AOD treatment services to enhance practice in working with people who have co-occurring mental health needs. While the project will involve four member organisations, the outcomes of this research will be shared with the broader sector once completed.

Staff of the Matilda Centre will use an extended version of the Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT) Tool to complete a baseline assessment of organisational capacity in working with people who have co-occurring mental health needs. Assessments will involve scheduled site visits by staff of the Matilda Centre to undertake:

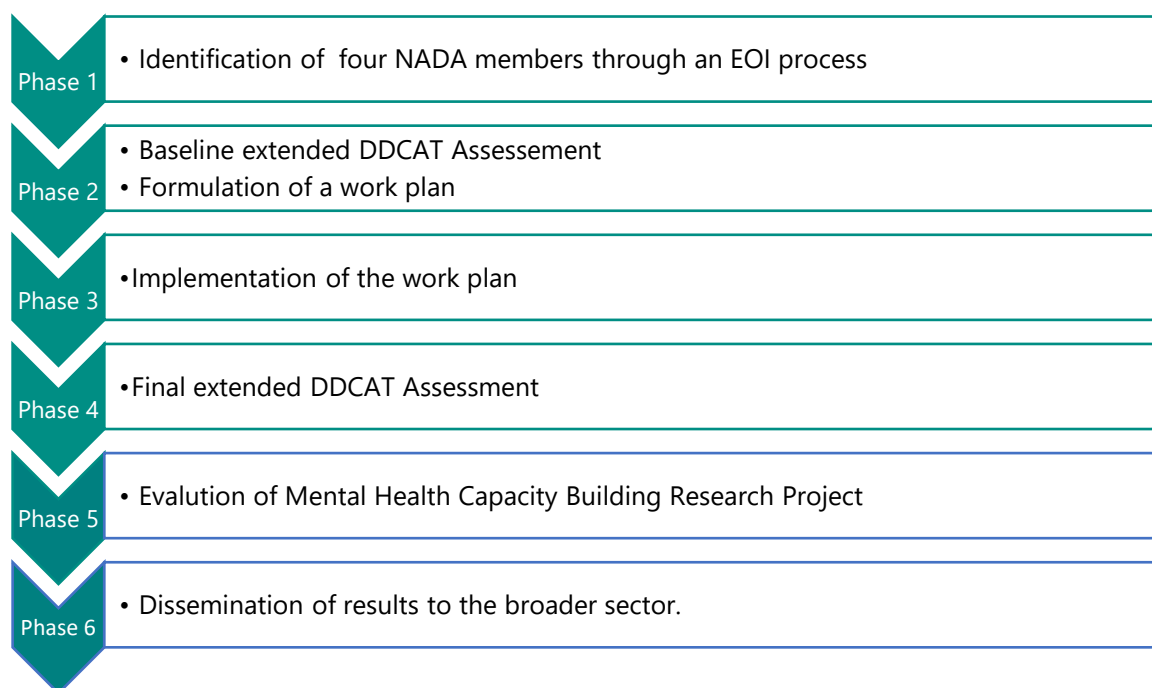
- observations of the settings in which treatment is provided;
- interviews with the agency, program, or clinical director of the service; clinicians and/or other practitioners working at the service; clients of the service; and potentially, their family members, loved ones or carers. Some of these may be undertaken via Zoom.
- reviews of service documentation such as client records, program policy and procedures manuals, other materials that provide insight into the services provided (e.g., program brochures activity schedules).

This assessment will guide the formulation of a one-year work plan targeted at increasing organisational capacity. The implementation of this work plan will be supported by the

Matilda Centre and NADA, where appropriate. Upon completion of the work plan, The Matilda Centre will carry out a final DDCAT assessment to measure the effectiveness of this intervention.

NADA is committed to providing our member services with practice development and research opportunities that will support the delivery of high-quality treatment to people accessing treatment with co-occurring mental health needs.

The project involves the following phases:



WHY Participate?

- ✓ Increase your organisations capacity to work with clients with co-occurring mental health needs
- ✓ Use involvement as evidence in accreditation/QI cycles.
- ✓ Opportunity to build linkages with specialised mental health services.
- ✓ Leadership for other services in the NGO AOD sector.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

[Expressions of interest are now open](#) to NADA members organisations.

Eligibility criteria

- NADA member
- Willing and able to commit to the research project process including:
 - CEO or senior management signed agreement with NADA for participation
 - Ability to devote staff and time and other necessary resources to participate in audit process and address recommendations
 - Participate in extended DDCAT assessments and the evaluation of the project led by the Matilda Centre.

The EOI process will seek to achieve representation across metropolitan and region settings as well as different treatment settings.

This EOI will close on October 7th, 2022.

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