

Alcohol and other drug sector reference group

Terms of reference

Background

In January 2016, the Sector Reference Group on Community-based Alcohol and Other Drug Service Delivery was established to provide strategic advice to the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) on the prioritisation and implementation of the recommendations of the *Independent review of new arrangements for the delivery of Mental Health Community Support Services and drug treatment services* (the Aspex Review).

Following extensive sector and community consultation, the majority of the Aspex Review recommendations have now been implemented or are underway. Into the future, the department will require further advice on priority areas for action for broader alcohol and other drug sector development initiatives. The revised scope is outlined below.

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Purpose

To provide advice to the department on the design and implementation of alcohol and other drug sector development and improvement initiatives including:

- State Budget initiatives and priorities for future investment, and appropriate consultation mechanisms to support implementation
- identifying key service system gaps and pressures, and opportunities to improve the delivery of accessible, safe, effective, high-quality services for clients
- initiatives to increase workforce sustainability, and build capacity and capability to respond to changing needs
- mechanisms to effectively monitor and improve service system performance
- mechanisms to improve communication with, and participation by, consumers, carers/supporters and community groups
- opportunities to improve integration across the health, education, justice and community services systems to improve outcomes for priority cohorts
- future directions for research and development.

Role and responsibilities of members

Sector reference group members have been selected as experts in their own right, and their views should not be regarded as representative of any particular organisation or member group. However, there may be occasions where members will be encouraged to draw on their own experiences, reflecting on their own interests and perspectives.

Secretariat

The secretariat for the sector reference group will be provided by the department's Drug Policy and Reform unit, Community-based Health Policy and Programs branch.

All agenda papers tabled for the sector reference group's consideration should be regarded as confidential unless otherwise stated, and should not be distributed or forwarded without unless otherwise agreed by the Secretariat.

For further enquiries, please contact Frankie Hipkins, Senior Policy Officer, Drug Policy & Reform, on 9096 5947 or AOD.enquiries@dhhs.vic.gov.au