

HEALTH AND JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE MODELS – WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND A BALANCE IN ILLICIT DRUG OFFENCES

YFCC CONFERENCE 2016
WORKING TOGETHER TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE |
12 OCTOBER 2016

Erin Nunn

ATDC

Sector Capacity Building Project Officer

David Burger

YFCC

ATOD Counsellor & IDDI Worker

www.atdc.org.au

ABOUT THE ATDC

The ATDC is the peak body representing the interests of community sector organisations that provide services to people with substance misuse issues in Tasmania.

Our Vision

- A Tasmania without drug or alcohol related harm or discrimination.

Our Mission

- To provide independent leadership and advocacy; strengthen partnerships through inclusion, and support consumer participation in the promotion of holistic alcohol, tobacco and other drug services for all Tasmanians.

ABOUT THE ATDC

Our Roles

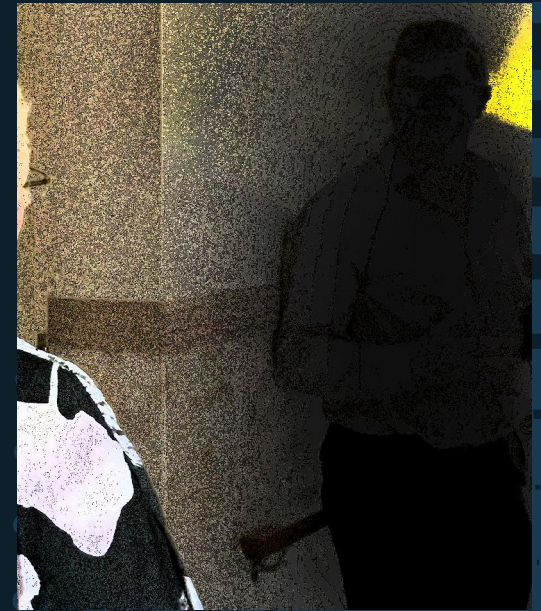
- Support workforce planning and development through training, policy and development projects with, and on behalf of the sector,
- Represent a broad range of service providers and individuals working in prevention, promotion, early intervention, treatment, case management, research and harm reduction.
- Play a vital role in assisting the Tasmanian Government to achieve its aims of preventing and reducing harms associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Tasmanian community.

HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH DRUG USE PROBLEMS?

- As a legal issue:
 - Illicit drug use is illegal
 - Offenders should be punished by law and are responsible for their actions
- As a health issue:
 - Substance misuse is a health problem
 - Like other health problems, individuals should be treated with health services

INTRODUCING JOHN

- John has developed a cannabis dependency from a young age, and one day he is caught by the police in possession of a small amount of cannabis:
 - Should John be charged with possession?
 - Should John be provided with treatment for his substance dependence?
 - Does it depend on other factors?



CONSIDERATIONS

- Youth experimentation – normal?
 - If yes – harm reduction or law enforcement?
- Is jail or court – a deterrent?
 - Does exposure to the justice system have unintended consequences?
- Early Intervention and Prevention Focus
- Holistic service provision for complex ‘problems’

FINDING A BALANCE: LAW AND HEALTH SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER

IDDI	TEIP	CMD
THE ILLICIT DRUG DIVERSION INITIATIVE	THE TASMANIAN EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM	COURT MANDATED DIVERSION
Tasmania Police and Treatment/Education Providers	Tasmania Police and Department of Health and Human Services	Courts and Treatment Providers
All Ages	Under 18	18 years and over
Drug Offenders	Early Intervention	Sentencing option – pleaded guilty
Alternative to court processes	Education to parents and young people	Drug use is linked to offence
Treatment and Support		Access to Treatment

OUTCOMES – IDDI

- 30% of those with no recent history of offending had at least one new offence in the 18 months after diversion.
- The remaining 70% did not reoffend in the post-diversion period and, as such, had no change in their offending outcomes.
- Those with a recent offence history, 65% recorded a relative decrease in offending, while 27% increased and 9% remained stable.
- Overall, as a group, those with a recent history of offending recorded a significant decline in their overall rate of offending, from 3.4 to 3.0 offence.

OUTCOMES – TEIP

- 25 young people were referred to alcohol education, and 17 of those 25 complied with the intervention (68% overall compliance rate).
- Main benefit – educational aspect
- Police felt connect to parents
- TEIP as inclusive – police, parents and young person
- Raise awareness about alcohol harm.

OUTCOMES – TEIP

“Of the young people assessed, none presented as overly concerned about their alcohol use initially. However, upon administering the assessment, most were surprised by their level of risk as indicated by the AUDIT and wanted to know why they scored so high. This provided an opportunity to discuss harm minimisation techniques and start an open discussion about their pattern of alcohol consumption.”

TEIP Evaluation
Report
Isabelle
Bartkowiak-Théron

OUTCOMES – CMD

- Relapse prevented or delayed.
- Offenders address criminogenic drug treatment needs.
- Services work together effectively
- Services achieve best practice
- Courts have more options to respond appropriately to drug using offenders.

CONCLUSION

- The law is the law and it still needs to be enforced, but we can include treatment into our legal systems.
- Treatment does not always work, and not everyone wants treatment for their substance use.
- However, by working holistically and collaboratively we can produce better outcomes for people with substance use issues and the community.
- Substance use issues are multi-faceted.

Thank you!

Erin Nunn

Sector Capacity Building Project Officer
ATDC

Email: scbp@atdc.org.au

Phone: 03 6231 5002

www.atdc.org.au

The ATDC gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support from the Australian Government Department of Health and the Tasmanian State Department of Health and Human Services.