

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

Activity Work Plan

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

2019/20 – 2023/24



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



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Disclaimer

All activities captured in this Activity Work Plan are identified in the Health Needs Assessment conducted by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and have been approved by the Department of Health and Aged Care.



AOD-1 – NIAS Operational and Mainstream

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

The purpose of this activity is to address identified service gaps and challenges to access in community-based alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment interventions by commissioning a range of treatment services aligned with the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS).

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) commissions a number of service providers to deliver AOD treatment services across the NQPHN region. These services all align with the National Ice Taskforce's final report and specifically report on deliverables related to this.

Additionally, NQPHN will continue its involvement in key stakeholder groups to maintain its awareness of sector gaps and support the integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA) – regional network meeting, where relevant
- local AOD provider networks, where these are active
- The Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan for Northern Queensland Steering Committee.

Key activities in 2022-24 include:

- Undertaking a review of current AOD service delivery across the North Queensland (NQ) region and considering existing gaps and needs to inform ongoing investment and codesign opportunities.
- Developing an approach to implementing recommendations from the review, including an approach to codesign and recommissioning.



AOD-2 – NIAS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

The purpose of this activity is to address identified service gaps and challenges to access in community-based alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment interventions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by commissioning a range of treatment services aligned with the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS).

Description of activity

NQPHN commissions a number of service providers to deliver culturally appropriate AOD treatment services across the NQPHN region. These services all align with the National Ice Taskforce's final report and specifically report on deliverables related to this.

Additionally, NQPHN commissions place-based AOD services to address the needs of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Cape and Torres Strait Islands and builds the local capacity of these communities.

Furthermore, NQPHN will continue its involvement in key stakeholder groups to maintain its awareness of sector gaps and support integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- QNADA – regional network meeting, where relevant
- local AOD provider networks, where these are active
- The Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan for Northern Queensland Steering Committee.

Key activities in 2022-24 include:

- Undertaking a review of current AOD service delivery across the NQ region and considering existing gaps and needs to inform ongoing investment and codesign opportunities.
- Developing an approach to implementing recommendations from the review, including an approach to codesign and recommissioning.



AOD-3 – Core AOD and Operational

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

The purpose of this activity is to address identified service gaps and challenges to access in community-based alcohol and other drug treatment interventions by commissioning a range of treatment services across the NQ region.

Description of activity

NQPHN commissions a number of service providers to deliver AOD treatment services across the NQPHN region with a focus on improving access to services across the community and for vulnerable populations.

Increasing access to drug and alcohol treatment services in regional, rural, and remote areas.

- NQPHN has collaborated with local community stakeholders to commission services focused on increasing access, particularly in areas where stigma impacts on access. Integration with existing referral pathways and programs has been a key priority in commissioning services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Improving the service delivery capacity of primary health care services.

- NQPHN has worked with commissioned service providers and sector partners through engagement and education to enhance capacity within primary health care.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander treatment services.

- NQPHN commissions Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to deliver AOD treatment services across the NQ region.

Increasing service access for individuals from priority population groups including young people.


- Priority population groups are identified within the contracts of commissioned service providers and incorporated into quarterly reporting.
- NQPHN specifically commissions service providers to deliver treatment services for young people.

Improved workforce skills and knowledge in relation to AOD.

- NQPHN commissioned services undertake ongoing workforce development as a component of their contracts.

Improved identification of needs, planning, and collaboration.

- The Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan for Northern Queensland articulates AOD as a key priority to progress as a partnership.
- NQPHN intends to undertake a review of the AOD service delivery funding in 2023 to inform future commissioning.



NQPHN will ensure activity objectives are met by engaging providers on a minimum quarterly basis to monitor service deliverables, outcomes, and compliance. Meetings provide an opportunity to:

- obtain project updates, including on service provider expansion to communities identified in the contract and scope of works, as relevant
- understand service uptake, access issues, and opportunities for further service improvement.

Additionally, NQPHN will continue to be involved in key stakeholder groups to maintain awareness of sector gaps and support integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- QNADA – regional network meeting, where relevant
- local AOD provider networks, where these are active
- The Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan for Northern Queensland Steering Committee.

Key activities in 2022-24 include:

- Undertaking a review of current AOD service delivery across the NQ region and considering existing gaps and needs to inform ongoing investment and codesign opportunities.
- Developing an approach to implementing recommendations from the review, including an approach to codesign and recommissioning.



AOD-4 – Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service Maintenance (DATSM)

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

This activity provides eligible commissioned services with supplementary payments to replace SACS payments as a transition phase.

Description of activity

NQPHN commission services to deliver AOD services who require DATSM supplementary payments following the cessation of SACs.

NQPHN has worked with service providers to prepare for the cessation of these payments and incorporation of costs into contract budget.



AOD-GPS-7000 – AOD7 General Practice Support for Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity


To provide general practices and health professional with support to improve their capacity in the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drugs addiction issues.

Description of activity

NQPHN will contribute to a consistent joint statewide communication campaign with its Queensland PHN colleagues, including Western Queensland, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Central Queensland Wide Bay Sunshine Coast, and Gold Coast PHNs. This campaign aims to publicise the valuable role of general practice in both the prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug related health issues.

Queensland PHNs will also collaborate to improve the integration of general practitioner (GP) software systems to strengthen referral pathways and improve access to alcohol and drug health interventions.

NQPHN will promote and support education and training resources provided nationally through the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicines (ACCRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) regarding drug and alcohol addiction. Consultations for the NQPHN Health Needs Assessment identified a lack of specific training for GPs and the need to strengthen the capacity of the primary health care sector to effectively manage a range of alcohol and drug issues in North Queensland communities. This was particularly highlighted in the Aboriginal Community Controlled health sector. Feedback from AOD service providers and peak state-wide bodies identified an increase in the use of alcohol and other drug across the northern Queensland region during COVID-19 restrictions.



CHHP-1000 – CHHP Residential Withdrawal Management Service

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority area

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Aim of activity

Northern Queensland experiences high rates of people consuming alcohol and other drugs at harmful levels and a lack of treatment and rehabilitation services. The aim of the activity is to reduce pressure on community and hospital services, improve people's access to essential health services, improving health outcomes and preventing disease and building on health infrastructure and health programs to improve the health and care of patients.

Description of activity

This activity provides an increase in access to interventions that assist people to safely withdraw from alcohol and other drugs in a supervised setting and seek rehabilitation in partnership with GPs and the primary health sector, to reduce pressure on community and hospital services in the Townsville region. Registered nurses will support initial admission/intake to community-based residential rehabilitation services and support people undergoing detoxification.

