

The police are involved out of considerations of safety but their presence can destroy trust and communication between the drug users and their carer which are known to be essential if the long road of recovery is to be traversed. In conjunction with CAHMA we have written to the chief Police Officer urging the inclusion of drug and alcohol peer workers on PACER Teams. There is a similar case for the inclusion of mental health peer workers.

Better still would be:

the extension of the Chat with Pat outreach program run by Directions; and establishment of 21.4.6 Assertive Community Treatment teams highly recommended by the Victorian Royal Commission on Mental Health. [Community corrections sub p. 86].

Funding securing ongoing funding for WOKE program this program uses dialectical behaviour therapy to treat young people aged 14 to 21 who experience self-harming behaviour, suicidal ideation and early signs of borderline personality disorder. The youth coalition chief executive Dr Barker opines that the program "field a vital gaffe in Canberra's mental health system, often referred to as the missing middle." About 30% of young people are purposefully hurting themselves in Australia. One-in-three kids are self-harming and we are going to get rid of one of the only evidence-based programs we have that help address these behaviours."

IMPACT program of the Department of Health: this program supports pregnant people, their partners and their young children who are clients of Mental Health ACT and/or who are receiving opioid replacement therapy. We can help you coordinate your involvement with multiple services.

### 3. Addressing the reasons use Drugs

#### **As self medication**

The rate of current substance use for those with BPD is 14% and as noted previously, the rate for lifetime substance use is 78% .

some individuals with Borderline personality disorder BPD may turn to psychoactive substances such as opiates, cocaine or alcohol to self-medicate the overwhelming effects of emotional distress and this dependence may lead to drug addiction.

Opiates, in natural or synthetic form, reduce pain and 18.5% of people with BPD abuse opiates to reduce the experience of rage or aggression.

Cocaine elevates mood, increases confidence, decreases fatigue and increases energy and productivity. About 16.8% of those dependent on cocaine have a BPD diagnosis. In general, cocaine users desire to rid feelings of emptiness, boredom, depressive states or restlessness.

Defence personnel and veterans with PTSD are at risk of developing Alcohol or drug problems (Department of Defence, *Moral injury: biological, psychological, social and spiritual impact.*) Linked to high rate of suicide among veterans and dependent drug users.

Similarly police: Suicide rates rise among Australian police (Canberra Times 23 January 2023.)

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“Some 103 officers took their own lives between 20,020 20 with the rate of suicide more than doubling during that period, according to ta WA Police Union report.”

The UK College of Policing in the United States National Institute of Justice praise Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) as successful crime reduction intervention (paras. 74 – 76 of our submission P 26)

treatment is 7.3 times more effective than domestic law enforcement injury in reducing cocaine consumption (paras. 77 – 78 of our submission P 27).

#### NSW DRUG COURT'S RE-EVALUATION (2007)

Those on program 2003-2007.

##### INTENTION TO TREAT assessment

Comparison group – those who made it through the balloting process to the eligibility assessment phase and then deemed ineligible because they had been convicted of a violent offence or because they reside out of area or because of their offence or their address (6)

the Drug Court Group – offenders placed on the Drug Court program , regardless of whether they succeeded on it or were removed from it

Members of the Drug Court Group were 17 per cent less likely than the Comparison Group to be reconvicted of any offence. They were also 30 per cent less likely to be convicted of an offence involving violence and 38 per cent less likely to be reconvicted of a drug offence. No significant difference was found, however, between Drug Court and Comparison Groups in the likelihood of being reconvicted during the follow-up period for a property offence (p. 9)

##### AS TREATED assessment

Comparison group – offenders balloted on to the program but removed from it, either because they were convicted of a violent offence will because they were deemed to reside "out of area"

Drug Court Group – only those who completed the Drug Court program – all statistically matched

37 per cent less likely than Comparison Group participants to be reconvicted of any offence at any point during the follow-up period (compared with a 17 per cent advantage for the Drug Court Group in the intention-to-treat analysis);

- 65 per cent less likely than Comparison Group participants to be reconvicted of an offence against the person (compared with a 30 per cent advantage for the Drug Court Group in the intention-to-treat analysis);
- 35 per cent less likely than Comparison Group participants to be reconvicted of a property offence (compared with no significant effect for the Drug Court in the intention-to treat analysis); and
- 58 per cent less likely than Comparison Group participants to be reconvicted of a drug offence (compared with a 37 per cent advantage for the Drug Court Group in the intention-to-treat analysis) (pp. 11-12).

