

NGO Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Research Grants

MHCC Funded Research Projects

Agency	Research Project	Research Partner
Aftercare In consortia with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Horizons 	Illness perceptions, attitudes to substance use and medication adherence. How are these linked with, and what is the rate of, substance abuse in people with a mental illness in two Sydney mental health NGOs? Project Description The study will explore the relationships between illness perception, efficacy of treatment, depression, substance abuse and medication adherence. The aim is to be able to create a greater understanding of the relationships amongst these factors which can act as a guide for staff training and the future planning and provision of services for comorbid consumers. Additionally, while there will be limitations due to the types of data routinely collected in the services, the measures collected will be related to simple outcome measures available, such as number of hospitalisations in the past year, and for some participants there will also be a number of measures of quality of life and functional changes available. Exploration of such outcome measures as are available, while not definitive, will assist service providers to better plan and deliver services in an effective fashion. Additionally, the study will concurrently collect information on the attitudes of staff and clients towards those who have that comorbidity, and relate these to outcome measures and illness perception and adherence measures described above.	School of Psychology, University of New South Wales
ASCA (Adults Surviving Child Abuse)	The experiences of adult survivors of child abuse in drug and alcohol treatment. Project Description This research will interview in depth, approximately twenty-five adult survivors of child abuse with mental health concerns who have accessed AOD services in the last five years to explore their perceptions of whether their needs have been met by the services. Key informant interviews will be undertaken with up to 12 workers/managers in a selection of AOD services to examine worker/agency perceptions of the needs of this group during and post treatment. It is anticipated that in depth interviewing will provide rich and detailed information particularly from the client group who are often difficult to access for inclusion in research projects.	Centre for Gender- Related Violence Studies (CGRVS), University of NSW

	<p>Possible outcomes may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations regarding appropriate cross-referrals, workplace development and training, information sharing and service provision within the AOD sector. • Recommendations regarding the possibility of community-based support provided by NGOs for people with abuse-related mental health problems and alcohol and drug issues. 	
BCS Lifecare	<p>Regional and urban boarding house managers capacity to support the mental health and substance abuse needs of residents at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Project Description</p> <p>Boarding house tenants are defined as the “hidden homeless” in the Federal Government’s report “Homelessness: a NEW Approach (2008). Boarding house residents live in insecure and unstable tenancies. Those with mental health and drug and addiction problems are often left to fend for themselves in conditions rated from good to wretched. Without support many fall between the cracks and their physical and mental health and general welfare suffers. Our regular contacts with the Owners and Managers, through our programs at Darcy House and Crystal Street we have become aware that often they are at a loss as to know what to do when they have a mentally ill person living in their premises. Many are uninformed as to how to go about contacting services, how to engage with organizations in the local area and initiate contact before the situations of their residents deteriorates. Through this survey we hope to engage with Owners and Managers, determine what they believe is needed for them to engage more creatively with their residents and to support them to maintain their residency. Work with the Owners and Lodgers will identify how related services can help and open up avenues for discussion to enhance better outcomes for the men and women who live in boarding houses especially in Marrickville LGA and the Port Kembla area of NSW.</p>	Illawarra Institute for Mental Health (iiMH), Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences at the University of Wollongong
C.A.R.E. Employment a Division of Breakthru Employment Solutions	<p>Working with Barriers: supporting employment for people with psychiatric diagnoses and additional drug and alcohol problems</p> <p>Project Description</p> <p>The project aims to provide government, service providers and academic researchers with new information regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment faced by job seekers with psychiatric diagnoses who have significant problems with drug and alcohol use; 2. Effective strategies available for use by Disability Employment Network 	Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney

	<p>(DEN) service providers to assist job seekers to overcome these barriers.</p> <p>The project will obtain information in three ways</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of nationally and internationally published work; 2. Interviews with consenting DEN staff, job seekers and job seeker supports; <p>The findings will inform practice among employment providers in Australia and improve employment outcomes for clients with psychiatric diagnoses and additional problems with drug and alcohol use.</p>	
<p>Mental Health Association In consortia with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Consumer Advisory Group • ARAFMI 	<p>'WHAT WORKS?' Research into cannabis use by mental health consumers aged 18-30. Examining the effectiveness of health promotion campaigns</p> <p>Project Description: Many people living with mental illness have a co-occurring substance abuse problem. Theories for the high use of recreational drugs by people who have a mental illness have suggested that people may use them to alleviate depression, cognitive difficulties and medication side effects and that recreational drug use begins through peer pressure. The research aims to identify what people living with mental illness and their carers say about why they use cannabis and what prompted them to stop using the drug and what maintains the behaviour for those who continue to use cannabis.</p> <p>The expected outcomes are: to identify the issues that people living with mental illness see as important in helping them to reduce or withdraw from cannabis use. The data collected may be useful in developing a health promotion program aimed at young people living with mental illness who are at risk of developing a substance abuse problem.</p>	<p>Social Justice Social Change Centre, University of Western Sydney</p>
<p>Mission Australia: Triple Care Farm</p>	<p>Integrated Intervention: Treatment Outcomes for Young People with Coexisting Drugs and Alcohol Problems and Mental Health Issues</p> <p>Project Description: This project will provide information for service provision and development for residential rehabilitation and treatment programs for young people experiencing problematic substance use and mental illness. The first aim of this project is to describe the characteristics of the young people accessing residential rehabilitation at TCF and to describe the types of mental illnesses experienced by this group.</p> <p>The second aim is to examine how long individuals participate in the rehabilitation process, and if there is any difference in the experience of mental illness for those that complete rehabilitation and those that don't. The third aim is to explore how effective the current residential rehabilitation program is at meeting young people experiencing problematic substance use and compare to</p>	<p>Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong</p>

	<p>have effective it is for young people experiencing both a mental illness and problematic substance use. This research information will be published including a description of an effective model of treatment and rehabilitation for young people experiencing problematic substance use and mental illness that has been developed from the unique perspective of a NGO</p>	
Neami	<p>The impact of co occurring substance use disorders in a young adult sample (<30 years) with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), receiving psychosocial rehabilitation services.</p> <p>Project Description: In this study we are hoping to find out three things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How frequently do young adults (30 years or under) with a serious mental illness accessing Neami services also have an alcohol or other drug (AOD) problem? 2. How does having an AOD problem affect these individuals mental and physical health, and daily functioning? 3. How confident and competent are Neami staff in providing AOD services to this group? <p>We believe that answering these questions will help improve the quality and type of services we provide to people living in the community with both a serious mental illness and AOD problem. This will occur through, firstly identifying how many people have AOD problems within the Neami program, then by working out how their needs and health is different from those with only a serious mental illness. Finally we will try to identify what training is required to build the skills of staff to provide evidence based integrated AOD and mental health interventions within NGO psychosocial rehabilitation services</p>	ORYGEN Research Centre, University of Melbourne
On Track Community Programs	<p>The experience of children living with parents affected by mental illness and substance misuse and addiction: an action research study to identify 'good practice' interventions for community organizations</p> <p>Project Description</p> <p>Children of parents who have both a mental illness and substance misuse and addiction issues are a substantial sub-group of children of parents with mental illness (COPM). Whilst there is growing body of evidence about the risks, needs, and supports for COPMI, there is very little evidence about whether these are the same or different for children affected by parental comorbidity.</p> <p>This project has been developed to address this gap in the evidence. It will work with families participating in On Track Community Program Inc Northern Kids Care (NKC) project, a NSW North coast wide project targeting children of parents with mental illness. It aims, through interviewing children, parents,</p>	School of Rural Health, Monash University

	caseworkers and applying assessment tools and measures, to identify the risks and needs of children affected by parental comorbidity. It will, based on the evidence collected, develop and trial through the NKC project activities specifically to support children affected by parental comorbidity. Through this work and analysis of the final data it expects to be able to develop recommendations on how the NGO sector can implement strategies to better identify and assist parents and children affected by parental comorbidity.	
The Richmond Fellowship of NSW	A historical, retrospective analysis of presenting issues and outcomes for young people with a mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse, to inform recommendations for targeting early intervention strategies, recovery focused interventions and future service and workforce planning. Project Description: For over 10 years the Richmond Fellowship NSW Young People's Program (YPP) has provided a unique program, offering accommodation and high-level support to young people aged 17- 25 with co-occurring mental health and drug/alcohol issues. The program has a proven track record in working well with the complex and challenging needs of the client group, and in achieving successful outcomes and recovery. The achievements have occurred in the context of a close and collaborative working relationship with local mental health services. This research project aims to identify what it is exactly about the program that works so well and why. These findings will be used to further improve the program and will also be shared with other organisations, and the sector overall, with the aim of improving services and outcomes for these young people and their communities.	Social Justice Social Change Centre, University of Western Sydney
South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation In consortia with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation • Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service • Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Community and Medical Services 	Out of luck and out of town: exploring the needs of Aboriginal women with drug-and-alcohol and mental-health problems in rural and regional NSW Project Description Recently in this region we have had difficulty providing adequate treatment and support for Aboriginal women who have both serious mental health and drug and alcohol problems. Some women have died, been jailed, lost custody of their children or lost their homes and the trust of their families and Communities. We will interview women, related service providers, families and Aboriginal Communities to identify both the strengths we can build on in the Aboriginal Community and the problems and gaps in services that we could improve on. We would like to find out from the perspective of the women themselves, and their families, what their needs are, what they have found to be effective in the past and what they think could be done better. Then we will make recommendations for improved service delivery and collaboration to try to meet	The Indigenous Substance Misuse Program, The University of Sydney

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