

Building a Strong Robust Rural Workforce in the Youth Drug and Alcohol Area

Youth Drug and Alcohol Clinical
Support Network (YDACSN)



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

WNSW LHD Area

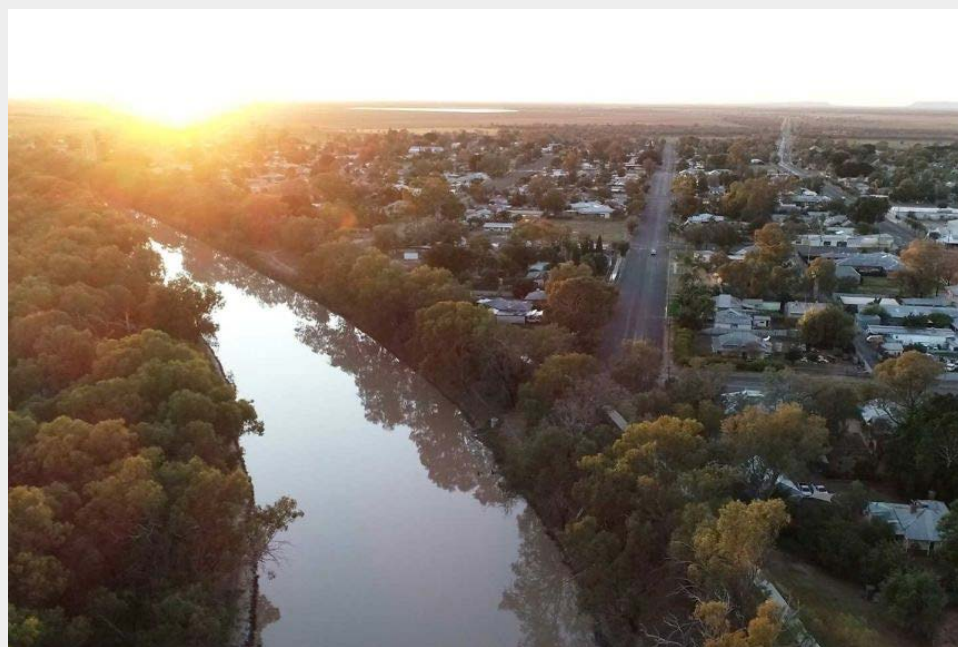


Coonamble NSW



From the beginning

- In 2018 the NSW Ministry of Health provided funding for a consultation process to develop key recommendations for the youth drug and alcohol sector in Western NSW LHD.



Bourke NSW



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

Key recommendations from consultation process:

- Stepped model of care coordination based on Client Complexity and Remoteness
- Supporting direct and virtual access of LHD services via virtual model
- Develop holistic and universal screening approach supporting appropriate referral
- Capacity Building in a range of areas



Cowra NSW



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Establishment of YDACSN Model of Care

As a result of the consultation phase a project manager was employed to develop the Western NSW Health District – Youth Drug and Alcohol Clinical Support Network, Model of Care (March 2019).

The YDACSN staff were employed over this 12 month period.



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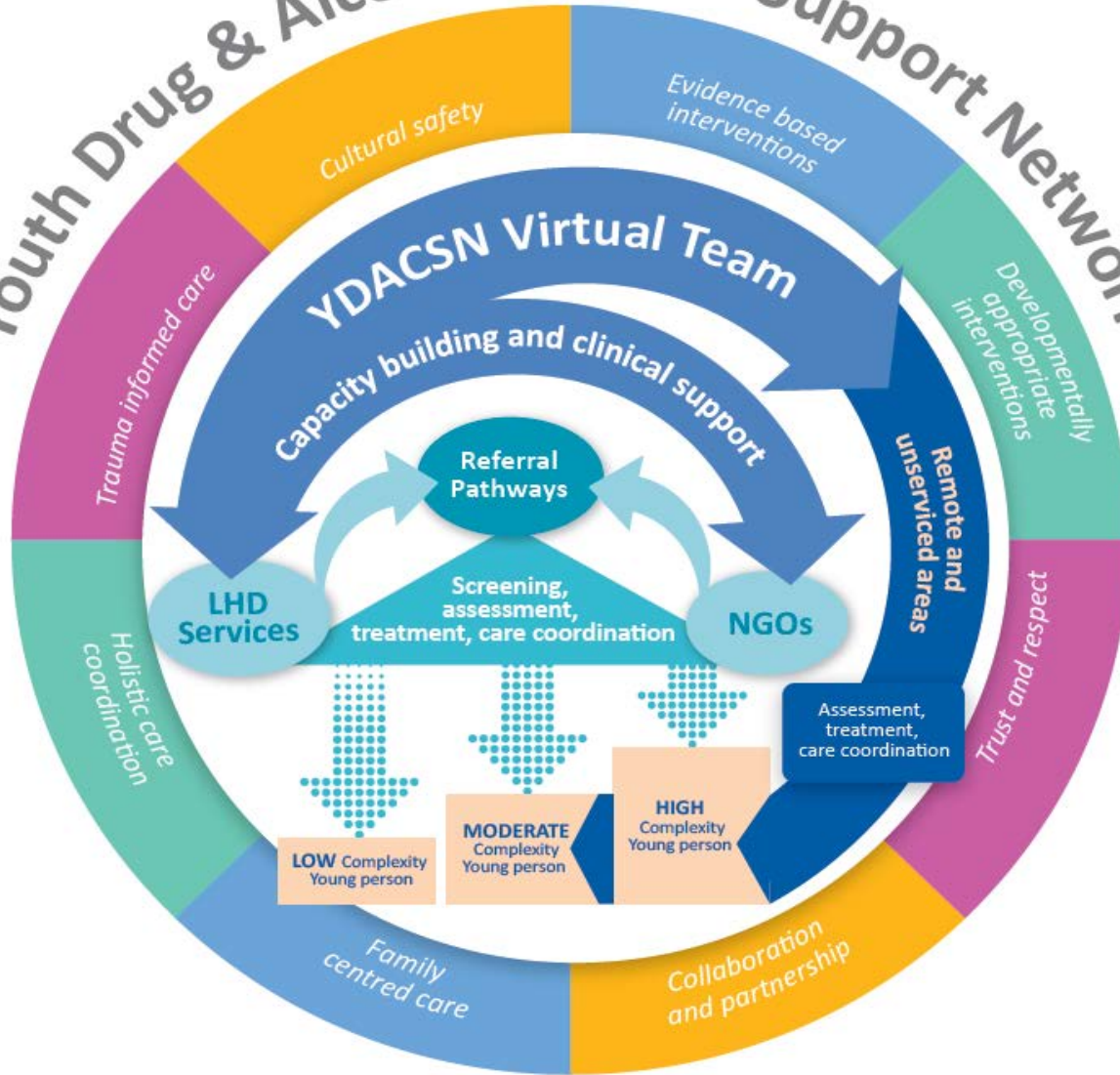
Service Model

The YDACSNS will be supported by the establishment of a specialist team of clinicians with expertise in youth drug and alcohol. The team of specialist clinicians will:

- build the capacity of service providers to engage with youth and deliver a range of developmentally appropriate, evidence-based drug and alcohol interventions;
- work in partnership with service providers to deliver screening and assessment, clinical consultation and review, and shared care coordination and treatment for young people with moderate to severe substance dependence; and
- be primarily virtually based so that services can be provided more equitably across WNSWLHD using telehealth technology.



Youth Drug & Alcohol Clinical Support Network



INCLUSION CRITERIA

YDACSN will focus on providing services to people who:

- are aged between 10 and 18 (inclusive)
- present with moderate to severe dependence on one or more substances
- present with dependence on a substance that is not solely tobacco
- People who present to a service provider that do not meet the above criteria will be referred to appropriate services for support via clear referral pathways.

Nygan NSW



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Where is the project now?

YDACSN have identified a number of structural and process challenges that impact consistent service provision for youth across the district, these include:

- Intake of young people needs to be centralised for the district.
- Standardised youth drug and alcohol assessment needs to occur for each youth referral.
- LHD Drug and alcohol staff require training and support in order to meet the multifaceted psycho-social needs of youth.
- Channels of communication and referral between NGO and LHD.
- Culturally appropriate service delivery.
- Geographic isolation = limited resources.

How do we build a strong, healthy robust workforce to service youth Drug and alcohol?

- Adequate resourcing.
- Engaged and invested management structure.
- Partner shipping between government and non-government.
- Development of tools and support resources, that support and guide staff to standardise practice across the district
- Staff investment in youth drug and alcohol.
- Staff development in trauma informed and best practice principles in the youth drug and alcohol service.
- Change in organisational culture regarding supervision, staff development and prioritisation of youth drug and alcohol.

What is YDACSNS doing to build a robust workforce?

- Challenging the status quo, putting youth drug and alcohol high on the agenda.
- Identifying the funding is inadequate for the district.
- Analysing district data on youth drug and alcohol referrals, drug trends, geographical issues, where the referrals are coming from.
- Developed a Youth Drug and Alcohol Assessment and Intervention tool.
- Developing a standardised referral process.
- Funding a review National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), regarding YDACSNS implementation.
- Developing and delivering a youth drug and alcohol training package.
- Accessing the community to delivery youth drug and alcohol education.
- Clinical review and consultation.

Ideas for the future:

- Being on the committee for the detox beds
- Identifying champions
- Quarantining caseload space for youth
- Giving staff permission and confidence to discuss the complexity
- Giving the community somewhere to go
- Understanding the ever-changing drug trends
- Staying current
- Operate within a state-wide youth drug and alcohol framework, not just local district.
- Ensuring IT is meeting the needs