

Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service

Update No. 2, February 2005

Introduction

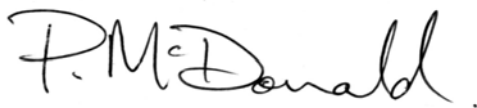
Welcome to the second update newsletter for the Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service. Following the first update newsletter, which outlined the background and initial development of the Healing Service, this newsletter provides a progress update and projected milestones for service delivery.

As you will read in this update, the key milestones we have reached so far include:

- Endorsement of a Service Framework;
- Appointment of an architect and quantity surveyor;
- Call for submissions from interested service providers advertised; and
- Ongoing communication and consultation initiatives.

I hope you find the information in this second newsletter informative and useful.

If you would like any further information about the development of the Healing Service, please contact Ms Raelene Lesniowska of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Koori Drug Policy Unit, on (03) 9637 4838.



Paul McDonald
Director
Drugs Policy and Services Branch

Service Framework

The Service Framework for the Healing Service was endorsed by the Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service Steering Group on October 25th, 2004. Jodie Ryan of SED Consulting led the development of the Service Framework over a series of meetings with the Steering Group. The Service Framework received final endorsement following the inclusion of additional community feedback from the forum held at the Aborigines Advancement League in September 2004.

The Service Framework includes information about the background and development of the Healing Service and outlines detailed service recommendations. These recommendations are based on the findings of a literature review and extensive community consultations led by Jodie Ryan.

The Service Framework is available to all interested stakeholders and can be accessed via the Internet at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/pubs/koritender

Hard copies are also available by calling Raelene Lesniowska of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Koori Drug Policy Unit, on (03) 9637 4838.

Capital Development

To assist with the capital development of the Healing Service, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the following consultants:

- Vincent Chrisp and Partners (architects)
- PlanCost Australia (quantity surveyors).

In appointing these consultants, specialist experience with Koori projects and alcohol and drug rehabilitation projects were the most important selection criteria.

Vincent Chrisp architects will work on the Healing Service in partnership with Merrima Design, an Indigenous architect firm based in New South Wales. This partnership is currently working on the development of a facility for a Koori adult diversion program being managed by the Victorian Department of Justice.

The first step for the architects will be to develop a functional brief for the Healing Service. This will detail the physical characteristics the Healing Service should have, in order to meet the requirements of the Service Framework.

A Koori consultant will help convene stakeholder consultations to inform the development of the functional brief.

The architects will also assist with the selection and evaluation of suitable sites for the interim and permanent Healing Services. Additionally, the architects will assist with the modification of an existing building for the interim Healing Service.

The role of the quantity surveyor is to ensure the project stays within budget throughout the capital development process, from the design through to construction phases.

The consultants will be required to regularly report to the Capital Working Group, who will endorse the commencement of each phase

Service Provider

In December 2004, advertisements were placed calling for submissions from service providers interested in operating the Healing Service. An information session was also held for potential service providers on December 17th, at the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The closing date for applications to operate the Healing Service was February 28th 2005. Interviews will be scheduled in late March and an appointment is due to be finalised by the end of April.

Separately Appointed Training Organisation

In recognition that the Healing Service is a first for Australia, Victoria's Youth Substance Abuse (YSAS) will assist with the initial development and effective delivery of the Healing Service. DHS will separately commission YSAS to work with and support the Healing Service provider during the initial 18-24 months of the Healing Service operation.

YSAS is an experienced service provider and trainer in the area of youth residential rehabilitation. As a member of the Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service Steering Group and Capital Working Group, YSAS also has a thorough understanding of the background, development, complex service requirements and sensitivities of the Healing Service.

As the operator of the only youth specific alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre in Victoria, YSAS is in a unique position to pass on practice based advice and assistance regarding staff training, policy and program development, service linkages and service delivery from a youth specific residential rehabilitation setting.

YSAS also has established relationships with a number of Koori Co-operatives and organisations and a willingness to engage in practical, open and respectful collaboration.

Steering Group

The last Steering Group meeting was on October 25th, at which time the Service Framework for the Healing Service was endorsed. The next meeting will be called following the appointment of a service provider to operate the Healing Service, in late April.

This year the group's terms of reference and membership will be reviewed. This will help to preserve the group's ongoing role in providing specialist advice and support to assist the implementation of the Healing Service.

In particular, additional expertise regarding young people, Aboriginal culture, spirituality and healing processes will be sought.

Talking with the Community

In 2004, communication and consultation with the Koori community and stakeholders about the development of the Healing Service occurred via:

- Seven Steering Group meetings;
- Designated consultations led by Jodie Ryan of SED consulting;
- The statewide forum at the Aborigines Advancement League (and a post-forum mail out);
- Three Capital Working Group meetings;
- An update newsletter;
- Meetings for:
 - Koori Alcohol and Drug workers;
 - VACCHO members;
 - Regional Alcohol and Drug Coordinators; and
 - The Koori Drug Strategy Advisory Committee.

- Information papers submitted to the Aboriginal Justice and Aboriginal Human Services forums; and
- Email notification of the advertisement calling for potential service providers to operate the Healing Service.

These types of communication and consultation initiatives will be ongoing throughout the development and implementation of the Healing Service. This year we will also be seeking some promotion of the Healing Service via Koori media.

If you have any further suggestions about ways to continue to involve and inform the community about the development of the Healing Service, please contact Raelene Lesniowska on (03) 9637 4838.

What Happens Next?

Future milestones for the development of the Healing Service include:

- The appointment of a service provider (by late April 2005);
- Evaluation, selection and acquisition of a suitable site for the Healing Service (by late August 2005);
- Commencement of interim service provision from a rented 6 bed site (by late October 2005); and
- Occupation of a purpose built 12 bed site (by May 2007).

Next Update

The next update newsletter will be produced following the appointment of a service provider to operate the Healing Service, in late April. This update will announce the service provider appointment and will provide further information about the development of the Healing Service.

For further information about the Healing Service prior to the next update, please contact Raelene Lesniowska of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Koori Drug Policy Unit on: (03) 9637 4838.