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# Forensic clients

**This fact sheet provides information on the ongoing provision of alcohol and drug (AOD) treatment services to forensic clients from 1 September 2014.**

Please note the arrangements for all stage 2 and out of scope services provided for forensic clients remain unchanged at this time.

### Community Offender Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) program

The Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) will continue to deliver specialist drug and alcohol screening, assessment, treatment planning and brokerage of AOD treatment for clients referred from the criminal justice system under the Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) program.

ACSO will also continue to be responsible for the reconciliation of forensic funding and targets.

### Intake and Assessment

ACSO COATS will continue to undertake the majority of forensic intake and assessment services for forensic clients, in particular clients referred through Community Corrections, Courts and the Adult Parole Board. Assessments are undertaken within 2–5 days of referral according to identified levels of risk.

ACSO COATS will use a forensic version of the Department of Health’s standardised screening and assessment tool which will be made available to treatment agencies via the Penelope Portal to ensure clients do not have to tell their story twice.

**Catchment-based intake and assessment** services will be expected to provide screening, assessment and brief intervention services from 1 September 2014 for diversion clients such as those referred by the Drug Diversion Appointment Line (DDAL) and the Court Referral & Evaluation for Drug Intervention & Treatment(CREDIT) program and other referrals sources such as clients historically considered under the Rural Outreach Diversion and Koori Drug Diversion worker programs.

An annual **target of 10 per cent** of the intake and assessment Drug Treatment Activity Unit (DTAU) funding for each intake and assessment provider is being allocated for forensic clients. Catchment-based intake and assessment only applies to forensic diversionary clients as ACSO COATS will undertake assessments for other forensic clients.

### Referral to adult non-residential treatment

All approved providers of non-residential withdrawal, counselling and care and recovery coordination are expected to dedicate annually **20 per cent of their DTAU funding**for the treatment of forensic clients and to report against this target.

ACSO COATS will continue to develop the treatment pathway for each COATS client and refer to the service most appropriate to the presenting need. ACSO COATS will also broker treatment for all diversion clients that are assessed by catchment intake and assessment providers as requiring treatment. ACSO COATS will shortly be contacting all approved lead providers requesting information about proposed sites and treatment types to be provided by consortium members.

All approved providers will be required to sign a revised Heads of Agreement and Portal User Agreement in order to commence receiving referrals for forensic clients from 1 September 2014.

Forensic clients are expected to commence treatment between 2–5 working days after assessment depending on the need, risk and prioritisation identified by ACSO COATS.

ACSO COATS will refer clients directly to treatment sites for counselling, care and recovery co-ordination and non-residential withdrawal and provide a copy of each referral to the lead provider in consortiums and the relevant catchment intake and assessment provider.

ACSO COATS will also provide a weekly summary of referrals to both lead agencies and intake and assessment providers to assist them in managing demand for services and track capacity in individual agencies.

### Loading of 15 per cent for work undertaken with forensic clients

As per the Call for Submission, all adult non-residential treatment functions undertaken for forensic clients attract a **15 per cent** loading in recognition of the additional costs associated with service delivery for this client group.

This essentially means that the price for each product is 15 per cent higher for a forensic client and that agencies will utilise a greater proportion of their DTAU allocation and therefore meet their annual service delivery DTAU targets faster. For example, a course of standard counselling for a forensic client would equate to 1.047 DTAU versus 0.91 DTAU for a non-forensic client.

### Reconciliation against forensic DTAU targets

Catchment intake and assessment providers will be required to submit a Treatment Completion Advice (TCA) to ACSO for each intake and assessment service for a forensic client for reconciliation against the 10 per cent DTAU allocation and referral to treatment if indicated.

The mix of non-residential withdrawal, counselling and care and recovery coordination services ordered for both COATS and diversion clients and provided by services will be reconciled by ACSO COATS. The reconciliation will be against each consortium’s total forensic adult non-residential DTAU allocation, based on the standard forensic price for each function.

There will still be options to claim part payments for clients who do not complete the treatment ordered.

There will no longer be specific reconciliation or payment made for non-attendance as this has been built into the unit pricing and 15 per cent loading.

### Fee for service arrangements

ACSO COATS will provide a monthly reconciliation of referrals against the DTAU allocation to each approved provider (lead agency in a consortium).

Should a consortium exceed the applicable forensic DTAU volume target for a function in any month, ACSO COATS may pay an additional fee for each service provided, based on the forensic unit price for the particular product, as per fee for service arrangements.

These will be monitored in light of the annual targets in conjunction with ACSO COATS’s monthly reconciliation for fee for service arrangements, with possible funding adjustments where appropriate.

### Client continuity during transition

To assist in ensuring timely access for forensic clients during the transition and early implementation period, all existing forensic AOD treatment providers will remain eligible to receive fee for service brokerage funding during 2014–15.

However, it is anticipated that as new adult non-residential service capacity is progressively established during the first half of 2014–15, the majority of referrals from ACSO COATS will flow to the new approved providers in each catchment.

New service delivery responsibilities will commence 1 September 2014 and until this time, clients will continue to receive services from their current provider/s.

### Further information

ACSO COATS will be working closely with all newly funded providers to assist in orientation to COATS processes and justice clients and providing a range of training opportunities and updated flow charts and fact sheets over the coming weeks.

A list of frequently asked questions and answers is also being developed and will be regularly distributed to agencies to assist in understanding the processes involved for forensic clients.

To receive this publication in an accessible format, email aodreform@health.vic.gov.au. Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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| **Product:** | **DTAUs Per Unit Of Activity (Weighting):** | **Price:****2013-14[[1]](#footnote-1)** | ***Forensic clients*****DTAUs Per Unit Of Activity (Weighting + 15% forensic loading)** | ***Forensic price*:****2013-14** |
| Intake & Referral – Phone Contact (Completed Referral) | 0.091 | $ 58.60 | 0.105 | $ 67.62 |
| Intake & Referral - Face To Face(Completed Referral) | 0.091 | $ 58.60 | 0.105 | $ 67.62 |
| Intake & Referral - Via Internet(Completed Referral) | 0.072 | $ 46.37 | 0.083 | $ 53.45 |
| Comprehensive Assessment & Initial Treatment Plan(Comprehensive Assessment & Initial Treatment Plan) | 0.781 | $ 502.96 | 0.898 | $ 578.31 |
| Care & Recovery Coordination(Course Of Coordination) | 2.222 | $ 1430.97 | 2.555 | $ 1645.42 |
| Counselling – Standard(Course Of Counselling) | 0.91 | $ 586.04 | 1.047 | $ 674.27 |
| Counselling – Complex(Course Of Counselling) | 3.414 | $ 2198.62 | 3.926 | $ 2528.34 |
| Withdrawal - Non Residential - Standard(Course of Withdrawal) | 0.849 | $ 546.76 | 0.976 | $ 628.54 |
| Withdrawal - Non Residential - Complex(Course of Withdrawal) | 2.124 | $ 1367.86 | 2.443 | $ 1573.29 |

### Stage 1 AOD Treatment DTAU & Product Prices:

**Note: the 15% loading for forensic treatment is not paid above the overall total DTAU’s funded to agencies**

Note: Screening, assessment and brief interventions provided for DDAL clients will continue to be calculated at the current rate of $300 per client (equivalent to 0.47 DTAUs).

1. Equation: DTAU X Weighting = Product price [↑](#footnote-ref-1)