



The “*Can Do*” Initiative

**Managing Mental Health and
Substance Use
in General Practice**



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

New National Initiative

- Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (Drug Strategy Branch)
- Part of the National Comorbidity Initiative
- Approximately \$1 million over 2 years



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Advisory Group and Expert Reference Network

- Core Advisory Group to assist with development, implementation and review of initiative
- Broader Expert Reference Network (ERN)
 - email/web based to inform evidence and quality of training, resources etc



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Themes

- Capacity building
- Build on assets and strengths
- Promote a “*Can Do*” approach



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Objectives

- Improve the capacity of general practice and divisions to respond to service users with mental health, substance use and other complex vulnerabilities.
- Support national implementation of a structured education and training program to up-skill general practice in the coordination of care and treatment of service users with mental health, substance use and other complex vulnerabilities.
- Facilitate and strengthen networking between general practice teams and community health teams, to improve coordination of care for people with drug and mental health needs.
- Investigate the needs of both general practitioners in working with young people with drug and mental health issues and the needs of young people.



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Evaluation

- Independent evaluation
- Early development of evaluation framework and indicators



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Expected outcomes

- General practice better equipped
- Improved synergy between service providers and service users
- Recognition of needs and strategies identified for the effective management of young people



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Implementation - Activities -

- Train the trainer state-based workshops
- Accredited education and training opportunities
- Broadcast program with the Rural Health Education Foundation (**10 October**)
- Supporting resources for trainers
- Articulation to other relevant training modules



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About 'Teams of Two'

- Initially an Alliance of NSW Divisions and Centre for Mental Health, NSW Health Dept. Initiative (2001-2004)
- Focus on GPs and Mental Health Professionals:
 - Joint learning
 - Peer support
 - Streamlining referral pathways between services
 - Establishing local networks



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Teams of Two Substance Use and Mental Health module

- This module focuses on two teams of health professionals:
- General practice teams
- Community Health teams (especially alcohol and other drug , mental health professionals and community pharmacists)



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Six Units:

- Alcohol and depression
- Benzodiazepines and anxiety
- Cannabis, mental health and young people
- Amphetamines and psychosis
- Drugs, pain and opioid dependence
- Drugs, sexual health and pregnancy



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New!

Clinical Education

- A 6 hour module to correspond to the *Teams of Two* comorbidity networking units.



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Time Frame

2006

Development and Establishment Phases

- Resource development
- REF satellite broadcast (**10 October**)
- Evaluation framework and pre testing
- Release of funds to SBOs
- Promotion of the education and training

2007

Implementation and Review Phases

- Regional and metropolitan networking workshops
- Clinical education sessions
- Evaluation
- Initiative completes in November 2007