



CMHDARN

Community Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol
RESEARCH NETWORK

CMHDARN CONNECT

Welcome to the tenth edition of CMHDARN Connect.

This edition of CMHDARN Connect contains some useful webinars, research papers, websites and more. Enjoy!

This will be my last CMHDARN Connect as I'm leaving CMHDARN to pursue other work. I want to thank everyone involved in CMHDARN, it's a unique, needed and exciting research network. I am honoured to have been a part of it for the past couple of years.

If you're new to the network or missed previous editions of CMHDARN Connect, you can now access them on the [CMHDARN website](#).

Warm regards,

Jo

CMHDARN Coordinator

CMHDARN's Community Research Mentoring Program

"The mentoring program can really assist you in identifying the best research questions and methodology" – Mentee

Applications are open for the Community Research Mentoring Program.

The program is open to MHCC or NADA members who want to develop and conduct research guided by an expert

mentor. Designed to support practice-based research, the program helps to build the skills of the mentee and to equip them with knowledge about research processes and measuring impact and outcomes.

- Developing research question/s
- Guidance on how to conduct a literature search
- Advice regarding procedures and measures to include in an evaluation of a service
- Statistical advice to assist with the analysis of data collected by a service
- Advice on quantitative and/or qualitative studies within a service

What mentees have said:

"The mentoring program has really helped establish our practice-based research and navigating the many options on clear and relevant research methodology"

The mentor's experience:

"It has been fantastic being part of the CMHDARN mentoring program and to facilitate the application of research methods to real-world settings. I have thoroughly enjoyed developed relationships with the fabulous front-line workers I have been mentoring"

To apply email info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au
or visit the CMHDARN website at cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au

We want to know: How does research happen at your service?

The online survey for the Research Capacity Project is now open! The project aims to characterise how research happens in non government and government AOD services. The findings will be used by NADA and our government collaborators to facilitate future research within AOD services.

Are you employed in *any type of staff role* with one of NADA's member services, and have 20 minutes to spare? [Please read the study invitation to find out more](#) [PDF]. You may also contact [Rose Miller](#), [Suzie Hudson](#) or [Robert Stirling](#) for more details. The study has been approved by Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee (X20-0389 & 2020/ETH0230).

CMHDARN RESEARCH ETHICS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Would you like to engage in ethical research to improve the delivery of services to consumers / clients in the mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors?

CMHDARN has a committee to support your research!

For more information, please see '[Information for Applicants](#)' or contact the CMHDARN Coordinator at info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au

Useful Resources from across the sectors

Research papers

Older workers in the alcohol and other drug sector: Predictors of workforce retention.

Roche, A, McEntee, A, Kostadinov, V, Hodge, S, Chapman, J. *Australas J Ageing*. 2021; 00: 1-9.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12917>

Objective: Older workers are increasingly prevalent in health and human services, including the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector. Their turnover intentions have important implications for service system stability and retention.

Methods: Descriptive and regression analyses of survey data examined age-related differences (<50, ≥50 years old) in non-government workers' demographic, health and professional profiles and predictors of turnover intention.

Results: Older workers (≥50 years, n = 86) comprised one-third of this workforce. Compared to younger workers (n = 164), they experienced greater discrimination but higher work-life balance and work engagement. Turnover intention was predicted by job satisfaction, discrimination and work engagement.

Conclusion: Older workers' well-being and workforce retention are essential for effective leadership, succession planning and service continuity. Their needs and retention motivations are identified. Age-specific support mechanisms, proactive retention and anti-discrimination strategies are identified priorities

[Case Series of Patients with Opioid Use Disorder and Suicidal Ideation Treated with Buprenorphine](#)

Spaderna, M., Bennett, M., Arnold, R. & Weintraub, E. (2021)

[10.5811/cpcem.2020.10.49610](https://doi.org/10.5811/cpcem.2020.10.49610)

Introduction: Buprenorphine benefits patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) in the emergency department (ED), but its efficacy for OUD patients with suicidal ideation (SI) in the ED is unknown.

Case series: We present a case series of 14 OUD patients with SI who were given buprenorphine and a referral to outpatient substance use treatment in the ED. All experienced SI resolution, engaged with outpatient services, and remained in outpatient substance use treatment 30 days after ED discharge.

Conclusion: Our data provide evidence for the feasibility of starting buprenorphine in OUD patients with SI in the ED, and suggest that buprenorphine may be useful in helping to resolve SI for these patients. Future research with larger samples is needed.

SHARE WHAT YOU READ: If you read a research paper / article or visit a website that you think is relevant to share with other CMHDARN members, send it to the CMHDARN Coordinator at info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au. We are looking for papers / articles and websites that cover co-occurring mental health and alcohol and other drugs and also mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors separately.

Webinars

Addictions and complex mental health

19 March, 9am–5pm

Join this [live webcast](#) to hear from Amber Rules on the topic of addictions and complex mental health—healing the whole family with a systems approach to supporting impacted individuals and families.

Better practice series: Introduction to evaluation

23 March 2021, online

Sianne and Rose (NADA) will provide an easy-to-understand overview of evaluation, demystify key terms and concepts, and walk you through the key steps for developing an evaluation plan. [Register now.](#)

[ADRIA - Ethical Issues in AOD Research](#)

Join Professor Alison Ritter from UNSW as she explores common ethical issues encountered in AOD research. Click above to watch.

Indigenous Accountability

How can all research be more accountable to First Nations People?

Seminar presented by BJ Newton, Jen Skattebol, Megan Blaxland + Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews for the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre on 8 December 2020.

Watch [HERE](#)

Useful websites / resources

Would you like to find out more about different drug types? Take a look at these websites.

- Australian Drug Foundation [Drug Wheel](#)
- insight eLearning series [Understanding Drugs](#)
- [National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs](#) (NCCRED)
- [High Alert](#) (NZ) provides a platform for people who use drugs, AOD workers and other professionals about drugs that may be causing harm. It also has useful information about different drugs and drug interactions.
- [Bluelight.org](#) is an international harm reduction community and forum that discusses different drugs and the experiences of people using them.

NSW Ministry of Health Strategic Prioritisation Framework for Alcohol and other Drugs Research and Evaluation: 2020-2024

The Framework reflects the NSW Ministry of Health's commitment to supporting high-quality research and evaluation that drives innovation and improves health outcomes.

ADF Library update

Great news! ADF library now has access to 42 new eBooks and 15 new print books (see attached documents). To assist you to use these new eBooks easily, there is now an updated version of the [How to use eBooks](#) guide available on the [ADF Library page](#).

CCNSW's Tackling Tobacco Program

[CCNSW's Tackling Tobacco Program](#) works with community service organisations within NSW to create organisational changes and to support staff and clients in addressing tobacco use and accessing support. The Tackling Tobacco monthly newsletters share useful information on addressing tobacco, the challenges and successes of others and keeps readers up to date with the latest tobacco control efforts. If you are interested in learning more about [Tackling Tobacco](#), or would like to stay up to date with CCNSW's work in the community service sector, subscribe to the Tackling Tobacco newsletter [here](#).

Other publications you might want to check out

MHCC - View from the Peak

Published throughout the year, View from the Peak is the Mental Health Coordinating Council's publication about all things mental health. Click [HERE](#) for the latest issue.

NADA - Advocate

Published quarterly, the Advocate raises significant issues relating to the non government AOD sector in NSW. Subscribe to develop your knowledge about and be connected to, the sector. Click [HERE](#) for the latest issue.

Newsletter from the Mental Health Commission of NSW

Updates from the Mental Health Commission. Click [HERE](#) for the latest issue.

CMHDARN RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Have you published recently?

CMHDARN maintains a bibliography of published research by the members of NADA / MHCC / CMHDARN to showcase the important work that is happening in our sectors.

Please email info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au if you have published recently and would like your work to be included in this great [resource](#).

Events

NADA Conference 2021: Enhancing Connections

22-23 April 2021

This conference will attract delegates from across NSW, the broader Australian alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment sector and other health and human services. Showcasing interventions designed to improve outcomes for clients, this event will inform with new ideas, engage with the evidence base and provide networking opportunities.

[REGISTRATIONS](#) are now open

Earlybird ends 5pm 11 February 2021

Grants / Conference opportunities

National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED)

Applications for round 4 seed grants are now open!

NCCRED is opening a competitive round of seed funding grants to support innovative clinical research for the treatment of substance use disorder due to methamphetamine or emerging drugs of concern.

Applications close on **14th April 2021**

Applications between \$5,000 to \$100,000 per project will be considered.

The current funding round aims is to provide financial support in the form of:

1. Seed-funding grants to establish investigator-initiated clinical research; or
2. A value-add to research projects that are currently underway.

Projects must relate to methamphetamine or emerging drugs of concern and preference will be given to projects that address the research priorities

Key Dates

Applications open: 18 Feb 21

Applications close: 14 Apr 21

Applicants are notified of results: 18 May 21

Final study report due to NCCRED: 10 June 2022

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Call for Abstracts for TheMHS Conference – Melbourne 2021

Across our nations, there is growing momentum for change in the design, delivery and focus of mental health services and approaches.

More than ever, people most affected by the decisions are the centre of the reform and design of Mental Health services and systems.

The pandemic showed us what could be achieved when we listened, responded and acted with speed and determination. And the many reports and reforms either underway or completed, point the way to 2021 being a watershed year for the sector.

How can we harness this hopeful momentum and turn it into action? What should be the priorities? Where do you see the biggest opportunities to affect meaningful change?

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to embed diverse community voices and lived experience at the centre of mental health system design and delivery. And to fully embrace the wisdom of First Nations approaches.

Be part of this movement for change by submitting your abstract for Hope into Action, TheMHS Conference Melbourne 2021.

Abstract submissions close on Friday 16th of April, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network (CMHDARN) is a collaborative project between Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA), Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) and the Mental Health Commission of NSW.

[Visit the CMHDARN website here](#)
