

Register of Opiate Overdose Prevention Projects in Australia

**WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office in conjunction with the
National Drug Research Institute**

July 2000



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Introduction

The national register of opiate overdose prevention projects was initially compiled by James Fetherston from the National Drug Research Institute (formerly known as the National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse).

The information in the register was gathered through a national survey completed in June 1999 which identified 40 projects on a range of overdose prevention activities.

The WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office (WADASO) has assumed responsibility for the ongoing management of the register which will be held as a searchable database on the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN).

WADASO will update the register quarterly by a contact survey of user groups, non government organisations and statutory bodies involved in opiate overdose prevention.

Any comments, updates or revisions can be forwarded in the first instance to:

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WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
Level 1, 6 Thelma Street
West Perth WA 6005

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email: gswensen@highway1.com.au

Western Australia

Street based sex work outreach program

Organisation

Phoenix/Perth Women's Centre/WA Substance Users' Association
c/- Phoenix
PO Box 8054, Perth Business Centre, Perth, WA, 6849

☎ 08 9328 1387 fax: 08 9227 9606
email: worker@wantree.com.au
website: nil

Ms Anne McNevin, Street Outreach Coordinator, Phoenix

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education

Details

This project was initially conducted by Phoenix, a support association for workers in the sex industry and was funded by the Health Department of WA as a health education project and, in addition, provides support and advocacy to street based sex workers. The project also provides:

- Σ harm reduction information on overdose issues and safer street work;
- Σ Fitpaks and condoms; and
- Σ access to free and confidential clinical services.

Completion date

Ongoing (pending renewal of funding in July 2000).

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	Yes

Brothel/parlour outreach program

Organisation

Phoenix
PO Box 8054, Perth Business Centre, Perth, WA, 6849

☎ 08 9328 1387 fax: 08 9227 9606
email: worker@wantree.com.au
website: nil

Ms Felicity Lewis, Coordinator

Type of project

Σ Outreach
Σ Peer education

Details

Phoenix provides a support organisation for workers in the sex industry. Visits brothels and massage parlours as well as private homes of sex workers. Provides support and advocacy as well as overdose prevention information. Will supply Fitpaks and sterile injecting equipment on demand.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	Yes

Opiate overdose prevention strategy

Organisation

Next Step - Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
Carrellis Centre, 7 Field Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050

☎ 08 9370 0323 fax: 08 9272 6605
email: OOPS.Shane@health.wa.gov.au
website: <http://www.overdose.org.au/>

Mr Shane Moore, Coordinator

Type of project

Σ Outreach
Σ Peer education

Details

OOPS! currently consists of two major arms, Peer Education and the Emergency Department (ED) Project.

The ED Project is a brief intervention peer based strategy where OOPS! staff and volunteers meet people recovering from accidental overdose at the hospital when they are being discharged. OOPS! Provides immediate support, mediation, OD prevention information, follow up involvement and referral.

Peer Education works with a number of diverse strategies including, postcard distribution, outreach, community and media events and education through other organisations. Information is provided covering overdose prevention, intervention and the importance of calling an ambulance without delay. This work occurs in conjunction with the WA Substance Users Association, mobile needle exchanges and other IDU networks, encouraging opiate users to develop strategies to avoid and manage overdose.

OOPS! have produced a range of resources including resources for parents, a series of postcards, Z cards and books of matches with harm-reduction/safer using information and murals promoting awareness of heroin and overdose issues.

Workshops are provided and are targeted at users, workers in the alcohol and drug field, interest to community groups or those who may have been affected by an opiate overdose. The content of workshops can be varied according to the group but usually cover prevention, identification and management of an opiate overdose.

Reports have been done on the OOPS! and ED projects.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	Yes	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	Yes
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Opiate overdose strategy group

Organisation

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
1st Floor, 6 Thelma Street, West Perth, WA, 6005

☎ 08 9483 8244 fax: 08 9483 8299
email: mhands@wadaso.wa.gov.au
website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Ms Melanie Hands, Executive Officer

Type of project

Policy development

Details

The WA Opiate Overdose Strategy Group (OOSG) is convened by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office to develop, implement and monitor specific initiatives to prevent or reduce the incidence of heroin related overdose in Western Australia.

Membership of the OOSG includes representatives from ambulance and hospital emergency medical services, Health Department of WA, Next Step, AMA, alcohol and drug agencies, the WA Substance Users Association, The Police Service, The Pharmacy Guild and the National Centre for Research Into the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

A range of initiatives to prevent heroin related overdose have been implemented and development of strategies is ongoing. The initiatives include policy development, education materials, public education campaigns, outreach of peer based education, medical emergency services and research.

A series of nine opiate overdose prevention postcards have been released covering key factors including the need to always call an ambulance when overdose occurs, the dangers associated with poly drug use, information on tolerance, the dangers of using alone or in isolation, simple instruction in CPR and information on naloxone. Stickers on Fitpaks distributed throughout the State display accurate information on opiate overdose.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	Yes
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Opiate overdose prevention protocols

Organisation

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
1st Floor, 6 Thelma Street, West Perth, WA, 6005

☎ 08 9483 8244 fax: 08 9483 8299

email: melanilh@fcs.wa.gov.au

website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Ms Melanie Hands, Executive Officer

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education

Details

The WA Opiate Overdose Strategy Group (OOSG) which is convened by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office has supported the development of eight opiate overdose prevention postcards.

Each postcard deals with a key factor in responding to an overdose situation including:

- Σ the need to always call an ambulance when overdose occurs;
- Σ the dangers associated with poly drug use;
- Σ information on tolerance;
- Σ the dangers of using alone or in isolation;
- Σ simple instruction in CPR; and
- Σ information on naloxone.

This project is intended to supplement a briefer set of information on opiate overdose that has been included as part of the stickers on Fitpaks distributed throughout the State through pharmacies and needle and syringe exchange programs.

Completion date

March 1999

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

IDU peer support and education

Organisation

WA Substance Users Association
PO Box 290, Maylands, WA, 6931

☎ 08 9227 7866 fax: 08 9227 7855
email: wasua@wantree.net.au
website: nil

Ms Tamara Speed, Coordinator

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education
- Σ Health Centre
- Σ Needle & Syringe Exchange Program

Details

WA Substance Users' Association (WASUA) is the WA state-based user group and state member of the Australian Intravenous League (AIVL). WASUA was established to fill a gap in peer-based services to work with people who use illicit drugs. WASUA is a community based organisation committed to peer education and community development.

WASUA addresses opiate overdose via a variety of projects including: peer education and support, street-based outreach work, resource development, health and treatment referral service and a fixed site needle and syringe exchange.

A wide range of resources dealing with numerous specific drug issues including overdose and safer using practices have been produced. WASUA also produces "YOOZ", a quarterly harm reduction magazine.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Medical emergency services

Organisation

St John Ambulance Services
PO Box 183, Belmont, WA, 6984

☎ 08 9334 1222 fax: 08 9334 1231
email: fordken@ambulance.net.au
website: nil

Mr Ken Ford, Training Director

Type of project

Clinical management

Details

St John Ambulance Service (WA) have initiated several strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of fatal overdose and which do not deter users from utilising these services. These include:

- Σ intramuscular use of naloxone (Narcan) for appropriate cases;
- Σ changing the colour of uniforms from blue to green to distinguish them from police; and
- Σ the distribution of overdose information to patients refusing to go in the ambulance as part of standard procedure.

A booklet on dealing with overdose avoidance and management has been produced for distribution to patients who have experienced a non fatal overdose but refuse to go to hospital in the ambulance.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Drug aware campaign

Organisation

Public Health Division, Health Department of WA
189 Royal Street, Ground Floor, C Block, East Perth, WA, 6004

☎ 08 9222 2095

email: Sue.Leivers@health.wa.gov.au

website: <http://www.public.health.WA.gov.au/PAGES/CHRONIC.html>

Ms Susan Leivers, Coordinator, Alcohol and Other Drugs Program

Type of project

Public education

Details

The Western Australian Drug Aware Campaign was the first comprehensive ongoing program of illicit drug public education undertaken in Australia. Drug Aware began in 1996 with a focus on parent's drug knowledge and communication skills. This included substantial print media and supporting resources.

Heroin featured in the 1997 campaign, using print and radio media with a vox populi approach. This phase focused on young people who are at risk of using heroin. To maximise presence and awareness, each phase of Drug Aware has been repeated in the media. Evaluation of the campaign has been very positive with high levels of awareness, believability and personal relevance.

The booklet for parents, *Its Time to Talk Straight* was distributed to households throughout WA for the first time in 1997. The third edition was released in February 1998.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Forgetting to breathe

Organisation

National Drug Research Institute (formerly National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse)
GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA, 6845

☎ 08 9426 4205 fax: 08 9486 9477

email: wendy@ndri.curtin.edu.au

website: <http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/>

Dr Wendy Loxley, Associate Professor

Type of project

Research

Details

Forgetting to breathe: opioid overdose and young injecting drug users. Loxley W, Davidson P.

This study was commissioned by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and conducted by the National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse (NDRI) as a preliminary investigation of the knowledge, beliefs and behaviour in relation to heroin use and overdose of some young injecting drug users in Perth. The recommendations have informed the further development of the WA opiate prevention strategy.

Completion date

1998

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Feasibility into the provision of naloxone

Organisation

National Drug Research Institute (formerly National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse)
GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA, 6845

☎ 08 9426 4200 fax: 08 9486 9477

email: simon@ndri.curtin.edu.au

website: <http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/>

Mr Simon Lenton

Type of project

Research

Details

Feasibility into the provision of naloxone. Lenton S, Hargreaves K.

The project, funded by the Health Department of WA, aims to determine the feasibility of conducting a trial of the provision of naloxone to heroin users for peer administration and to design such a trial. The project includes a literature review, establishment of an expert key informant group, data collection with heroin users, addressing medico-legal and supply issues, developing and piloting a protocol for trial administration, and trial design.

Completion date

July 1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Circumstances of death

Organisation

National Drug Research Institute (formerly National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse)
GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA, 6845

☎ 08 9426 4205 fax: 08 9486 9477

email: wendy@ndri.curtin.edu.au

website: <http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/>

Dr Wendy Loxley, Associate Professor

Type of project

Research

Details

Circumstances of death: an assessment of the viability of using non toxicological coronial data to investigate opiate overdose risk factors. Davidson P.

This study, commissioned by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and conducted by National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse (NDRI), investigates a small sample of files at the Coroner's Court concerning deaths in which illicit opiates had played a causative role and in which suicidal intent did not appear to be a factor. The files were analysed for the purpose of assessing the usefulness of non-toxicological data contained in the files for investigating opiate overdose risk factors in Western Australia.

Recommendations were drawn up regarding possible improvements to the process of gathering in the coronial setting for community health outcomes and directions for further research to develop tentative findings of this brief survey.

Completion date

1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Heroin overdose case crossover study

Organisation

National Drug Research Institute (formerly National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse)
GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA, 6845

☎ 08 9426 4205 fax: 08 9486 9477

email: simon@ndri.curtin.edu.au

website: <http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/>

Simon Lenton

Type of project

Research

Details

The proposed research is a replication and extension of a Melbourne study of the risk factors for non fatal heroin overdose. An innovative research design, known as the case crossover will be used. The strength of the design is that it allows not only for the identification of specific risky behaviours, but it also allows for the examination of how atypical/typical patterns of behaviour influence overdose occurrence.

This will be achieved through comparisons between participants recall of their behaviour prior to the overdose and their recall of their behaviour prior to other heroin using episodes (both before and after the overdose) which didn't result in overdose. Participants will be recruited through hospital emergency departments in Perth, and interviewed within 10 days of experiencing an overdose.

Specific risk factors under investigation will include tolerance related factors (eg length of heroin use), other drug consumption (eg alcohol), personal factors (eg psychiatric and medical conditions) and dose related factors (eg source of heroin). The identification and investigation of the risk factors for non fatal overdose is crucial in determining strategies for the prevention of overdose.

Completion date

August/September 2001

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Pre hospital management of opiate overdoses in Perth

Organisation

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
Level 1, 6 Thelma Street, West Perth WA 6005

☎ 08 9483 8212

email: gswensen@highway1.com.au

website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Type of project

Research

Details

The project, funded by the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office, involved data in relation to attendances to opiate overdoses in the Perth metropolitan area by the St John Ambulance Service over an 18 month period from January 1998 to June 1999. Two types of information were analysed:

- Σ ambulance callouts in relation to opioid related overdoses; and
- Σ outcomes of those persons admitted to hospital who have been transported there by ambulance for an opiate overdose.

Over the study period a total of 2,458 overdoses were attended by ambulance services, of which 1,418 (54%) were opiate related. Opiate related calls most frequently occurred on Fridays (18%) and more than half (55%) of calls were received between 12 midday and 8 pm. One in five of opiate related calls occurred in the Perth central business district or in suburbs close to the inner city.

Over the period a total of 891 patients who had an opiate overdose were conveyed to hospital by ambulance, 85 (11%) of whom were subsequently admitted to hospital. Over half (52%) of these patients were admitted to intensive care. The study confirms clear evidence that prompt and appropriate bystander intervention and the provision of basic life support before the arrival of ambulance paramedics are essential components in reducing the death rate of those suffering a potentially fatal opiate overdose.

A major finding was that approximately half the patients were sufficiently unconscious as to potentially obstruct their airway, with 44% having absent or insufficient respiration. Basic life support from a bystander was provided in less than half (43%) of these high risk patients before arrival of ambulance paramedics.

An online copy of the report is available from the WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse website
<http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Completion date

August 2000

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

First aid training

Organisation

St John Ambulance Services
PO Box 183, Belmont, WA, 6984

☎ 08 9334 1222 fax: 08 9334 1231
email: fordken@ambulance.net.au
website: nil

Mr Ken Ford, Training Director

Type of project

Professional education

Details

With a view to training workers in the field who are likely to come into contact with overdose situations, the St John Ambulance Service of WA now provide free first aid training to the volunteers and employees of the Opiate Overdose Prevention Strategy (OOPS!) and the WA Substance Users Association (WASUA).

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Enhancement of coronial data collection by police

Organisation

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
1st Floor, 6 Thelma Street, West Perth, WA, 6005

☎ 08 9483 8212 fax: 08 9483 8299

email: gswensen@highway1.com.au

website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Mr Greg Swensen, Principal Information Officer

Type of project

Legal/coronial

Details

This is a collaborative project between the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and the WA Police Service. The aim of the project is to develop an updated form to be used by the WA Police Service who investigate drug related deaths to summarise information about the circumstances of an overdose.

The data will be used in conjunction with the Coronial Database to identify key factors and antecedents of those who have died from the use of heroin and other illicit opioids. Data collected by the form will be used to produce a quarterly summary report of trends and characteristics of opioid related overdoses in Western Australia.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Coronial database

Organisation

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office
1st Floor, 6 Thelma Street, West Perth, WA, 6005

☎ 08 9483 8212 fax: 08 9483 8299

email: gswensen@highway1.com.au

website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

Mr Greg Swensen, Principal Information Officer

Type of project

Legal/coronial

Details

The WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office has developed the Coronial Database in collaboration with the Chemistry Centre of WA and the Coroner's Court. The database contains details of all drug related toxicological investigations of deaths involving drugs in WA from 1995.

The database is used to produce an annual summary report of trends and characteristics of opioid overdoses in Western Australia. Copies of these reports are published as Statistical Bulletins and are available through the WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse website.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Methadone related mortality

Organisation

Next Step - Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
Carrellis Centre, 7 Field Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050

☎ 08 937 00333 fax: 08 92726605

email: anne.bartu@health.wa.gov.au

website: <http://www.nextstep.health.wa.gov.au/>

Dr Anne Bartu, Principal Research Officer

Type of project

Research

Details

The project will gather data from clinical records, toxicology, forensic reports and coroner's findings to determine trends over time in circumstances of death, poly drug use and demographic variables of patients who have participated in Next Step's methadone program.

Completion date

December 2000

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Emergency department project

Organisation

Next Step - Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
Carrellis Centre, 7 Field Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050

☎ 08 937 00333 fax: 08 92726605

email: anne.bartu@health.wa.gov.au

website: <http://www.nextstep.health.wa.gov.au/>

Dr Anne Bartu, Principal Research Officer

Type of project

Research

Details

This is a collaborative project between Next Step and Royal Perth Hospital. The main objectives are to:

- Σ determine the prevalence of patients of non fatal opioid overdose presenting to the Emergency Department;
- Σ describe the characteristics of these patients in terms of demographic and drug use variables;
- Σ assess the use of naltrexone in the management of these patients; and
- Σ develop evidence based clinical guidelines for non fatal opioid related overdoses.

Completion date

December 2000

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Community service links for adolescents

Organisation

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, University of WA
PO Box D184, Perth, WA, 6001

☎ 08 9340 8080 fax: 08 9381 1024

email: suzanne.robertson@health.wa.gov.au

website: nil

Dr Suzanne Robertson, Head of Adolescent Services

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education

Details

Outcomes of hospital community service links for substance using adolescents. Robertson S, Hulse G.

Objectives of this research are to:

- Σ define the profile of adolescents admitted to acute hospitals with alcohol and drug related problems (including overdose) and their attendance and duration of follow up at referral centres; and
- Σ investigate the effect of appointing a link worker to facilitate a connection between the hospitals and other services for young people and their families.

Adolescents admitted to hospital for drug and alcohol problems will be randomly allocated to intervention and control groups. Link workers will facilitate referral of subjects in the intervention group to community services. They will also administer screening instruments before and 4, 8 and 12 months after discharge to both groups.

Success will be measured at 12 months after admission by a number of variables including comparison of means between links and controls, differences in number of follow up appointments attended, hospital admissions, self reported drug and alcohol consumption, psychosocial problems (including family relationships) and health measures (including suicidal ideation, suicide and attempted suicide).

Completion date

September 2002

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Coping with overdose manual

Organisation

Serena Ryan
☎ 08 9328 7355 fax: 08 9227 9158
email: sryan@palmerston.org.au
website: nil

Ms Serena Ryan
c/- Palmerston
PO Box 80, Northbridge, WA, 6865

Type of project

- Σ Peer education
- Σ Public education

Details

The project will produce a 24 page overdose manual. It will contain information about identifying overdose/intoxication, intervention strategies, (eg resuscitation, calling for ambulance and overdose management), BBV information and admission to hospital.

Completion date

October 1999

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	Yes
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

OOPS Emergency Department Project

Organisation

Next Step - Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
Carrellis Centre, 7 Field Street, Mount Lawley, WA, 6050

☎ 08 9370 0323 fax: 08 9272 6605
email: OOPS.Shane@health.wa.gov.au
website: <http://www.overdose.org.au/>

Type of project

Σ Research

Details

Design and implementation of the OOPS Emergency Department project: review to December 1998 by Peter Davidson

This report was published in December 1999 and contains a review of the Emergency Department (ED) project which was established in November 1997 by Next Step Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services (formerly known as the Alcohol and Drug Authority).

The ED project was established to reduce the frequency of repeat overdoses and to increase the willingness of illicit opiate users to utilise emergency services as a first rather than last response.

Completion date

December 1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

New South Wales

Pilot heroin overdose peer education project

Organisation

CEIDA
Private Mail Bag 6, Rozelle, NSW, 2037

☎ 02 9818 0432 fax: 02 9818 0441
email: cecelia@ceida.cs.nsw.gov.au
website: <http://www.ceida.net.au/>

Ms Cecelia Gore, Manager Special Projects

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education

Details

Starting in May 1996, this was a 10 month pilot peer education project targeting IDUs at risk of heroin overdose. The project aimed to increase the capacity of IDU networks to reduce and prevent incidents and prevalence of overdose from heroin in a sustainable manner.

The project also had specific objectives to:

- Σ inform IDUs regarding risk factors associated with overdose;
- Σ increase the skills of IDUs in management of overdose (resuscitation and first aid techniques); and
- Σ improve response to overdose by increasing the proportion of IDUs who access medical support services to manage cases of overdose.

A report on the process and evaluation of the project was also produced. Two posters were also produced, two story booklets and a sticker on overdose management designed for Fitpaks.

Completion date

March 1997

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	Yes
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Opiate overdose prevention project

Organisation

CEIDA
Private Mail Bag 6, Rozelle, NSW, 2037

☎ 02 9818 0432 fax: 02 9818 0441
email: cecelia@ceida.cs.nsw.gov.au
website: <http://www.ceida.net.au>

Ms Cecelia Gore, Manager, Special Projects

Type of project

Professional education

Details

This was a 10 month project funded in 1998 to develop a project targeting polydrug use among methadone clients to reduce the incidence of overdose. The project officer worked collaboratively with methadone providers, needle syringe service workers and health promotion professionals in three areas of Sydney to promote a partnership approach addressing specific local issues.

Key elements of this approach included health promotion training workshops conducted for staff on methadone clinics and joint meetings of local methadone clinic staff, needle exchange workers and methadone consumers to plan strategies and resources for their local area.

The Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre has also produced a wallet sized fold out card targeting methadone clients with information about the risks associated with polydrug use, with particular emphasis on the opiates and other CNS depressants (alcohol and benzodiazepines). This resource was launched in May 2000.

Completion date

1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	Yes	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Non fatal heroin overdose

Organisation

South West Sydney Area Health Service
PO Box 39, Liverpool Business Centre, NSW, 1871

☎ 02 9602 6777

email: Sandra.Sunjic2@swsahs.nsw.gov.au

website: nil

Ms Sandra Sunjic, Researcher

Type of project

Research

Details

Non fatal heroin overdose in South Western and Inner City Sydney. Sunjic S, Zador D, McLennan J.

A total of 141 subjects were interviewed at the scene of the overdose, immediately after the event to determine circumstances of the overdose. Forty eight subjects returned for a follow up interview to obtain more detailed information regarding the circumstances of overdose, attitudes to methadone treatment and overdose risk perception.

Technical report submitted to NSW Health Department in August 1999.

Completion date

1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Overdose: What the hell do I do now?

Organisation

Kirketon Road Centre
PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 1340

☎ 02 9360 2766 fax: 02 9360 5154
email: nil
website: nil

Ms Anne O'Loughlin

Type of project

Σ Outreach
Σ Peer education

Details

The project aims to increase the ability of the IDU population to manage an overdose situation until paramedic help arrives. To this end it will seek to increase knowledge among the IDU population of the actual risks of overdose and ways of minimising these risks.

The resource booklet will be backed up with posters and resuscitation/CPR workshops to be held at Kirketon Road Centre.

This resource is also targeted at Health Educators working in the Needle Syringe Program to enable them to manage overdoses themselves and to involve them in user education and overdose prevention.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	Yes

Staying alive: polydrug overdose pilot project

Organisation

Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre, Herbert Street Methadone Unit and Manly Exchange
c/- Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre
91 Pittwater Road, Manly NSW 2095

☎ 02 9977 0711 fax: 02 9976 2319

email: anniem@mdecc.org.au

website: nil

Ms Annie Malcolm, Community Educator

Type of project

- Σ Peer education
- Σ Needle & syringe program
- Σ Training

Details

The Herbert Street Methadone Unit (in association with the needle and syringe exchanges at Herbert Street and Manly) is one of four NSW methadone units participating in the CEIDA polydrug use overdose pilot project. The aim of the project is to produce a resource to reduce polydrug use related overdose among opiate users.

The first phase involved the development of a harm minimisation resource targeted at opiate users at risk of polydrug overdose. This included a literature review with emphasis on CNS depressants, a competition for the clients of the methadone unit and the exchange programs and focus testing of the proposed text and design. Information for users was produced as a Z card in relation to CNS depressants and their risks to opiate users.

This resource will be disseminated through methadone units, needle & syringe programs, pharmacies, alcohol and other drug service providers, sexual health agencies, youth centres and the NSW ambulance service in the Northern Area Health Service.

The second phase involved providing workshops and information sessions on cardiopulmonary (CPR) for clients attending the Herbert Street Methadone Unit and exchange programs in the North Sydney area. At the conclusion of the CPR course each participant will receive a "Life Key" keyring and a compact resuscitation mask and basic instructions.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	Yes	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Victoria

Direct response to overdose program

Organisation

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc.
54-56 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3056

☎ 03 9254 8053 fax: 03 9416 3420

email: louiser@turningpoint.org.au

website: <http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

Ms Louise Rushworth, DROP Coordinator/Clinician

Type of project

- Σ Outreach
- Σ Peer education

Details

The Direct Response to Overdose Program (DROP) is a new clinical service funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Services. DROP responds via peer education and brief intervention strategies to the needs of clients who have recently experienced a non fatal heroin overdose within the inner Melbourne metropolitan area.

The service will provide clients with: harm reduction strategies, debriefing following overdose, counselling and advocated referral to other services. The aims of the service are to:

- Σ respond to the immediate needs of the client,
- Σ reduce the future risk of overdose through overdose prevention education,
- Σ encourage safe injecting practices with regards to BBV and risk behaviour; and
- Σ link clients with appropriate services and resources.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	Yes

Non fatal heroin overdose project

Organisation

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc.
54-56 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3056

☎ 03 9254 8061 fax: 03 9416 3420

email: pauld@turningpoint.org.au

website: <http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

Dr Paul Dietze, Chief Investigator

Type of project

Research

Details

Non fatal heroin overdose. Dietze P, Rumbold G, Cooper G, Cvetkovski S.

The project aims to use information routinely collected by ambulance officers to investigate non fatal overdose in Melbourne. This investigation has provided an important measure of the patterns and prevalence of this key heroin-related harm in the Melbourne community.

Ambulance service records are collected and data extracted. Details of ambulance attendances are then analysed on a monthly basis to identify patterns, trends and characteristics of non fatal overdoses in Melbourne.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Risk factors for non fatal heroin overdose

Organisation

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc.
54-56 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3056

☎ 03 9254 8061 fax: 03 9416 3420

email: craigf@turningpoint.org.au

website: <http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

Mr Craig Fry, Research Fellow

Type of project

Research

Details

The investigation and examination of the risk factors for non fatal heroin overdose. Dietze P, Jolley D, Rumbold G, Bammer G.

The main aim of this research is to improve understanding of the factors that place heroin users at risk of overdose. An additional aim is to determine whether an overdose occurs as a consequence of engaging in risky practice that represents a departure from the normal routine of drug acquisition and administration or is simply the result of the risks inherent in the usual practices and behaviour of the heroin user.

A secondary aim is to evaluate the utility of a new paradigm for examining heroin overdoses - the case-crossover design. This design entails obtaining information directly from individuals who have experienced an overdose event. It provides for the identification of risk factors for overdose by comparing the practices of an individual prior to an occurrence of overdose to those preceding other recent instances of heroin administration.

One method of subject recruitment will be through the Metropolitan Ambulance Service, representing a significant development that enables the validation of overdose occurrence. A pilot study was conducted in 1998. The main study will commence in May/June 1999.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Fatal heroin overdose project

Organisation

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc.
54-56 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3056

☎ 03 9254 8061 fax: 03 9416 3420

email: greg@turningpoint.org.au

website: <http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

Dr Greg Rumbold, Chief Investigator

Type of project

Research

Details

Fatal heroin overdose. Drummer O, Rumbold G, Gerastomolous J, DeRidder T.

This research aims to improve information collection around the circumstances of heroin-related deaths in Victoria. The information will be used to more clearly describe the circumstances of heroin-related death in order to better understand the risk factors for fatal heroin overdose. The circumstances of death for people who have died after the administration of heroin are being investigated through:

- Σ detailed toxicological studies conducted at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine;
- Σ in depth investigations by police to fully describe the context in which the death took place (including the physical location and the person's life circumstances); and
- Σ the preparation of detailed coroner's briefs on a sub-sample for the purposes of coronial inquiry.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Don't drop out

Organisation

Drugs Action Plan, City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603M, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

☎ 03 9658 9963, fax: 03 9650 1112

email: belmaw@melbourne.vic.gov.au

website: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Ms Belinda Mawby, Development Officer

Type of project

Public education

Details

Don't Drop Out aims to provide information to improve the health and welfare of people who use drugs and reduce associated risks. Project objectives are to provide information about how to prevent a fatal overdose, encourage infection control practices and increase the knowledge of people who use drugs to obtain information, support and counselling.

The project will also produce a set of cards distributed with Fitpaks, through pharmacists and drug and alcohol services which deal with topics such as:

- Σ "Don't Drop Out" (avoid and deal with opiate overdose);
- Σ "Hit The Spot" (safe disposal of used fits); and
- Σ "Shooting Safe" (safer injecting practices).

A series of wallet sized cards will be developed in consultation with a range of agencies, user groups, needle exchanges and focus tested on injecting drug users in the CBD.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Sharp safe housing estate project

Organisation

Drugs Action Plan, City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603M, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

☎ 03 9658 9963, fax: 03 9650 1112

email: belmaw@melbourne.vic.gov.au

website: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Ms Belinda Mawby, Development Officer

Type of project

Public education

Details

The Sharp Safe Housing Estate Project is a joint initiative between the Department of Human Services, Office of Housing and the City of Melbourne. The project aims to increase awareness about appropriate syringe disposal and how to manage an overdose situation by placing framed posters in laundries on the Kensington and Carlton Housing Estates.

There are three posters dealing with the need for syringe disposal, safe procedure for disposal of syringes and management of overdose situations. At the bottom of each frame is a holder for pamphlets containing this information in five languages.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Sharp safe public toilet project

Organisation

Drugs Action Plan, City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603M, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

☎ 03 9658 9963, fax: 03 9650 1112

email: belmaw@melbourne.vic.gov.au

website: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Ms Belinda Mawby, Development Officer

Type of project

Public education

Details

The Sharp Safe Public Toilet Project is an initiative of the City of Melbourne. The project aims to increase awareness about appropriate syringe disposal and how to manage an overdose situation by placing framed posters in city public toilets.

There are three posters dealing with the need for syringe disposal, safe procedure for disposal of syringes and management of overdose situations. At the bottom of each frame is a holder for pamphlets containing this information in five languages.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Businesses responding to illegal drug use

Organisation

Drugs Action Plan, City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603M, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

☎ 03 9658 9963, fax: 03 9650 1112

email: belmaw@melbourne.vic.gov.au

website: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Ms Belinda Mawby, Development Officer

Type of project

Public education

Details

A working group was formed with businesses affected by drug use to provide them with a clear contact point for information and assistance.

The project aims to provide information in the form of a handbook to owners of businesses in the Melbourne CBD with accurate and appropriate information dealing with drug related crime, public safety and prevention and management of overdose issues.

The handbook contains options for responding to situations related to illegal drug use including overdose issues and was a partnership initiative of the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police and city businesses and is scheduled for release in October 1999. It will be distributed to businesses within the City of Melbourne.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Recovery service

Organisation

Drugs Action Plan, City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603M, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

☎ 03 9658 9963, fax: 03 9650 1112

email: belmaw@melbourne.vic.gov.au

website: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Ms Belinda Mawby, Development Officer

Type of project

Research

Details

The City of Melbourne and Department of Justice have funded the Youth Substance Abuse Service to undertake a feasibility study to establish a recovery service. The project is seen to be a positive initiative to help address the increasing number of overdoses occurring in the Melbourne CBD.

The aims of the project are to assess the short term needs of substance affected young people in public places and to document strategies and options for severely intoxicated young people. The project will look at the needs of people who have been revived from an overdose and make recommendations.

The recovery service is not designed to establish a safe injecting space, will be undertaken in four phases and will examine different models to assist those who are severely intoxicated.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Vietnamese injecting drug use study

Organisation

Centre For Harm Reduction
PO Box 254, Fairfield, Vic, 3078

☎ 041 346 5190 fax: 03 9482 3123

email: peterh@burnet.edu.au

website: <http://www.chr.asn.au>

Mr Peter Higgs, Community Worker

Type of project

Public education

Details

The project aimed to develop a series of messages specifically targeting Vietnamese heroin injectors with a view to raising harm reduction knowledge and promoting safer drug use amongst Vietnamese IDUs.

A series of Z cards was produced in both languages with information about overdose management and other issues such as blood borne viruses, legal issues and safe syringe disposal.

A series of A4 colour posters were produced dealing with avoidance and management of heroin overdose and safer using. They were designed to be placed on the back of toilet doors and other places where users hang out. The text is in both English and Vietnamese.

Completion date

1998

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	Yes	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Overdose recovery space project

Organisation

Youth Substance Abuse Service
18 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3065

☎ 03 94158881 fax: 03 94158882

email: pmcdonald@ysas.org.au

website: <http://www.ysas.org.au/>

Mr Paul McDonald, Chief Executive Officer

Type of project

Clinical management

Details

The aim of the project is to undertake a feasibility study of the need for a recovery space for overdose victims refusing ambulance assistance at the point of overdose and to develop a model that can best respond to the immediate health and welfare needs of overdose victims, immediately post overdose.

Following the feasibility study the project will pilot a safe recovery space model that responds to the needs of overdose victims.

Completion date

December 1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Heroin overdose prevention project

Organisation

VIVAIDS
765a Nicholson Street, North Carlton, Vic 3054

☎ 03 9381 2211 fax: 03 9381 2287
email: drugsafe@vicnet.net.au
website: <http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~vivaid>s

Ms Jenny Kelsall, Project Coordinator

Type of project

Peer education

Details

The project aims to increase knowledge amongst the IDU population of the risk factors associated with overdose, as well as to increase IDU knowledge relating to the management of overdose, in order to prevent or reduce further incidence of fatal overdose. A series of focus groups have already been held with a view to identifying the needs and concerns of users with specific regard to overdose issues.

The issues raised in these groups will be used to inform the design and content of the overdose training workshops and the development of information resources. The workshops will focus on risk factors and prevention issues as well as overdose management. They will also attempt to dispel myths and misinformation about overdose and cover issues relating to poly drug use, drug interactions, safer using, legal and police matters, CPR and EAR, and knowledge of relevant services.

A total of 30 workshops will be run, facilitated by an experienced peer educator. Participating IDUs will be recruited from local NSEPs and workshops will be held in inner and outer metropolitan areas of Melbourne and in rural areas, possibly at NSEPs. Questionnaires will be administered before and after each workshop, to assess increase in knowledge and skills acquired and to evaluate the impact of training.

A comprehensive overdose training manual for use in training peer educators is currently under production.

Completion date

December 1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Heroin overdose prevention education project

Organisation

Western Region AIDS & Hepatitis Prevention (WRAP)
22b Nicholson Street, Footscray Vic 3011

☎ 03 9687 5202 fax: 03 9687 0778

email: wrap@vicnet.net.au

website: nil

Ms Melissa Dent, Project Coordinator

Type of project

Σ Peer education

Σ Training

Details

The project will improve the skills of the local community in responding to overdose and will provide local traders and service providers with information and skills training in dealing with overdoses.

The aim of the project is to improve the response to overdose situations and increase knowledge and confidence in overdose situations.

Completion date

September 2000

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	Yes
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Overdose information

Organisation

VIVAIDS
765a Nicholson Street, North Carlton, Vic 3054

☎ 03 9381 2211 fax: 03 9381 2287
email: drugsafe@vicnet.net.au
website: <http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~vivaid>s

Ms Ella Wu, Information and Resources Officer

Type of project

Σ Outreach
Σ Peer education

Details

VIVAIDS offers a very broad range of information and education concerning drugs as part of an overall philosophy of harm reduction. Peer education projects are provided throughout Victoria primarily focussing on blood borne viruses (eg Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV), overdose prevention and safer use of drugs.

The Winter 1999 edition of VIVAIDS' magazine "Whack" was dedicated to overdose issues. Topics covered include overdose prevention, recognition and management, poly drug use, Narcan, the Direct Response to Overdose Project (DROP) and the role of naltrexone in overdose.

The VIVAIDS website also contains a very comprehensive section dealing with issues related to opiate overdose.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Overdose memorial

Organisation

VIVAIDS
765a Nicholson Street, North Carlton, Vic 3054

☎ 03 9381 2211 fax: 03 9381 2287
email: drugsafe@vicnet.net.au
website: <http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~vivaid>s

Ms Kirsty Morgan, Coordinator

Type of project

Counselling support

Details

The first of VIVAIDS' annual overdose memorial and service took place on 2 June 1999. It was an opportunity for all those affected by the heroin issue to come together and express their feelings and emotions and to commemorate those they knew who have died of overdose. Attendees were invited to bring along a personalised stars with the names of those victims of overdose whose deaths they wished to commemorate written upon them. These stars were attached to a Memorial Quilt.

The Memorial Quilt, described as similar in nature to those produced from AIDS vigils, was provided to allow participants at the memorial service a means to commemorate friends who had died from opiate related overdose. Each victim of overdose was commemorated by a homemade star (no bigger than a CD) made by their friends and family with their name written on it.

The annual memorial service is held around June each year.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

South Australia

Heroin overdose project

Organisation

Drug and Alcohol Services Council, 161 Greenhill Road, Parkside, SA, 5063

☎ 08 8274 3342 fax: 08 8373 0749

email: mcgregor.catherine@saugov.sa.gov.au

website: <http://www.sacentral.sa.gov.au/agencies/dasc/dasc.htm>

Ms Catherine McGregor, Research Officer

Type of project

Peer education

Details

An intervention campaign aimed at reducing the prevalence of overdose among heroin users. Major aims were to decrease the use of other central nervous system depressants in combination with heroin use and to encourage calling an ambulance in the event of an overdose. The intervention comprised three strands:

- Σ information materials;
- Σ peer educator training; and
- Σ establishment of partnerships with user groups, police, ambulance services and hospitals.

A survey found that six months after the launch of the intervention materials launch, 47% of heroin users surveyed had been exposed to the intervention. Older respondents who had been using heroin for longer were more likely to have been exposed to the intervention. Prevention strategies such as not mixing heroin with other psychoactive substances, not mixing heroin with specific psychoactive substances such as benzodiazepines and not using heroin while they were alone were nominated significantly more times by respondents who had been exposed to the intervention. Amongst respondents exposed to the intervention, more rang an ambulance to the most recent witnessed overdose and indicated less fear of police involvement if an ambulance was called. Liaison with police and ambulance services resulted in new guidelines being developed for police attendance at overdoses.

The materials address three main themes:

- Σ dangers of using heroin in isolated settings - "Don't Slow it Alone";
- Σ dangers of OD with polydrug use - "It's Rarely Just the 'h'",
- Σ the importance of calling an ambulance in the event of overdose - "Look After Your Mates".

SAVIVE have produced a report "Looking After Your Mates" which has a detailed overview of the project. A number of publications have resulted from this study, as follows.

- Σ McGregor C, Darke S, Ali R, Christie P. "Experience of non fatal overdose among heroin users in Adelaide, Australia: circumstances and risk perceptions, (1998) 93 *Addiction* 701-711.
- Σ McGregor C, Hall K, Ali R et al. It's rarely just the 'h'. Addressing overdose among South Australian heroin users through a process of intersectoral collaboration. Adelaide, Drug and Alcohol Services Council 1999.

Completion date

1997

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	Yes	Manual/handbook	Yes
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	Yes	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Heroin overdose - "We can help" program

Organisation

Heroin Overdose Project, Queensland Ambulance Service
GPO Box 1425, Brisbane, Qld, 4001

☎ 07 3247 8372, fax: 07 3247 8267
email: rhenderson@emergency.qld.gov.au
website: nil

Mr Ron Henderson, Project Coordinator

Type of project

Public education

Details

The booklet "Heroin Overdose We Can Help" was produced by the Queensland Ambulance Service in consultation with Teen Challenge. It is given to overdose patients following resuscitation by paramedics either at the scene of the overdose or at the hospital. A trial was conducted in Brisbane and the Gold Coast over four months from Nov 1998 to Feb 1999.

The booklet was found to be highly successful and very well received by both drug users and drug rehabilitation workers alike. On the inside cover is recorded the patient's first name and a series of check boxes are ticked describing how they were found by the paramedic. A three line description also follows of the overdose incident. The third page contains drug agencies contact cards.

The removable card has proven to be a strong point of the concept as it allows cards for individual locations throughout the state to be placed in the brochure. Often those who have been given a brochure simply remove the card and keep it on their person.

The final page gives "Health Effects of Heroin" and "After Care Advice". The front cover depicts a male overdose victim undergoing resuscitation and the reaction of his girlfriend. This aims to give the patient a realistic view of what happens in an overdose. Their partner can often play a major role in helping convince them of their near death experience.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

Project drug overdose visitation

Organisation

Heroin Overdose Project, Queensland Ambulance Service
GPO Box 1425, Brisbane, Qld, 4001

☎ 07 3247 8372, fax: 07 3247 8267

email: rhenderson@emergency.qld.gov.au

website: nil

Mr Ron Henderson, Project Coordinator

Type of project

Information, advice, counselling and referral for those who have recently overdosed.

Details

When ambulance paramedics respond to a drug overdose following ambulance care the patient is offered a drug overdose brochure which outlines agencies who can help, at the same time the patient is offered follow up support by the paramedic.

If the patient agrees to the follow up support, within 48 hours of the event a qualified counsellor from Teen Challenge and a paramedic will visit the person.

The aim of Project DOV is to utilise the opportunity following a drug overdose to link a person to services for help with drug problems by providing them with information, advice and counselling.

Completion date

March 2000

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	Yes
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	Yes

Australian Capital Territory

WIREDDD training calendar

Organisation

WIREDDD

Room G20, The Griffin Centre, Civic, ACT, 2602

☎ 02 6248 8600 fax: 02 6257 5257

email: wireddd@dynamite.com.au

website: nil

Ms Sukalpa Goldflam, WIREDDD Coordinator

Type of project

Training

Details

Women's Information Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDDD) is a service of the Toora Single Wimmin's Shelter Inc, the training program aims to provide training to youth workers, refuge workers, alcohol and drug and mental health workers, nurses, welfare workers etc.

This training covers a range of issues to do with drugs and alcohol, including overdose and withdrawal with specific reference to women. Refuges are a common setting for drug overdoses and in the provision of this information, WIREDDD seek to lessen the frequency of that outcome.

A pamphlet has been produced called "Young Women Going Out Safe" which is targeting young women and explains safer sex, safer using, violence in the streets and at home, and includes information on what to do if someone overdoses.

Completion date

Ongoing

Outputs of project

Report	No	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	Yes	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No

ACT opiate overdose prevention strategy

Organisation

ACT Health and Community Care
PO Box 825, Canberra City, ACT, 2601

☎ 02 6207 5405 fax: 02 6205 1656

email: Joanne_Maree_Mitchell@dpa.act.gov.au

website: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/>

Ms Joanne Maree Mitchell

Type of project

Public education

Details

The aim is to gather information from all government and non government organisations in the Australian Capital Territory who are involved in the prevention of opiate overdose.

Upon completion of collation of information, details of activities and resources of ACT organisations involved in the prevention of opiate overdose will be incorporated into a database accessible by the public.

Completion date

September 1999

Outputs of project

Report	Yes	Stickers/magnets	No
Postcards	No	Manual/handbook	No
Z cards	No	Resource book	No
Pamphlets	No	Mural	No
Posters	No	Workshops	No
Videos	No	Outreach	No
CD ROMs	No	Counselling/support	No