

## Today

- What brings us together
- What challenges do we face
- What should we become

## Leaders

- Shakespeare's Henry V
- Gandhi
- "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"

## What Brings Us Together

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.  
For he who sheds his blood with me this  
day shall be my brother be he ne'er so vile,  
this day shall gentle his condition and he  
shall be remembered from this day until the  
ending of the world."

William Shakespeare, Henry V

## What Brings Us Together

- Disadvantaged marginalised clientele
- Marginalised workforce
- Available treatments that impact on less than 50% of the burden of disease.
- Clients that share clinical characteristics.
- Families under pressure.
- A history of underprioritisation
- Funny money (Special Program Funding)
- Variable infrastructure.

## What Brings Us Together

- A desire to improve quality of life
- A desire to provide incentives and recognition to those that undertake difficult work.
- A desire to convince the government of the day that we know what we are doing.
- High government and media scrutiny.
- Lots of new Project Implementation
- Perseverance, Optimism, Good intent.

## What Challenges Do We Face

"We are losing them. They think the ubervamp cannot be beaten and that we will all die. We must kill it and they must see us do it"

Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Seven

## What Challenges Do We Face

- Highly Polarised and heterogenous community perceptions
- An ageing population with greater morbidity and more conservative views.
- Politicians who have been shifting more to the right with regard to social justice and civil rights.
- Pressure for more interventionist government.

## What Challenges Do We Face

- Significant financial change and resource restrictions that come with that.
- Growing costs relative to taxation revenue.
- Workers and policy that are demonised by the media.
- Client groups who may not be seen as priorities in a significant financial downturn

## What should we become

“For I would not ask them to do what I would not do myself – or ask you to do.”

Ben Kingsley as Gandhi speaking to his wife.

## What should we become

- Programs that are clearly connected in the areas of emergency care and aftercare.
- Certain models have equal applicability across sectors.
  - Accommodation support (HASI)
  - Therapeutic communities
  - Vocational assistance (VETE)

## What should we become

- Programs that are integrated across sectors
- The arbitrary barriers between public and NGO sectors need to be reduced through
  - Improved NGO infrastructure
  - Involving NGO's in high level research
  - Improving IT compatibility between sectors
  - Involving NGO's in teaching programs and curricula.
  - Having clearly connected career pathways between sectors

## What should we become

- Programs built on evidence
- Programs that value evaluation and build measurement into activity.
- We cannot survive on the moral imperative argument.
- Programs that allow innovation through seed funding and research.

## What should we become

- Programs that acknowledge that we do some things very well but others we are still learning about.
- We must seek improved service models for dealing with personality disorders, anxiety disorders and amphetamine misuse and dependence.

## What should we become

- Programs that acknowledge that our role is to improve quality of life not remove illness.
- That assisting with employment, education and particularly parenting skills are necessary functions for our services.

## What Should we become

- Programs that are transparent in their costing, their assessment of planning needs and expectation regarding service standards.
- Programs that seek to speak to government with a unified voice.
- Governments fear uncertainty.

## Stewards

