



NADA
network of alcohol & other drugs agencies

**NGO DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND MENTAL
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
PROJECT PILOT GROUP**

PILOT PROCESS INFORMATION

INFORMATION ABOUT PILOT PROCESS

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 NGO Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Information Management Project

In June 2006, the NSW Government committed \$939 million over five years to deliver improved mental health services under the initiative, 'A New Direction in Mental Health'. Of this funding, \$17.6 million over 5 years is for a 'comorbidity' package to better integrate mental health and drug and alcohol services to treat people with both mental illness and substance use disorders.

As part of this initiative, NADA received a grant in 2008 to undertake an information management project over a four year period. This project will focus on building the capacity of non government drug and alcohol treatment agencies to collect and use information on client treatment outcomes, with a focus on drug and alcohol use and dependence, mental health and social functioning. This information will support the sector in the provision of quality care and planning for clients with drug and alcohol and mental health issues.

1.2 Project Objectives and Scope

The objective of the NGO Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Information Management Project is to improve data collection and treatment outcome measuring for clients presenting to non government drug and alcohol treatment agencies with co-occurring drug and alcohol and mental health problems through:

1. Increased numbers of organisations involved in routine client data collection and treatment outcome measuring; and
2. Greater understanding and use of routine client data collection and treatment outcome data in drug and alcohol service delivery and planning.

The foundation of the system will be an on-line data collection instrument which includes specific outcome measures. This will build upon the existing on-line data system and IT support service provided by NADA for the collection of the NSW Minimum Data Set. NADA has identified outcome measures through a research report on existing assessment and outcome measures appropriate for use in drug and alcohol settings and consultation with its membership and other key project stakeholders, particularly those represented on the project's advisory committee.

Planning for this project has identified five major stages to be undertaken over the four year project duration. These are:

- Stage One: Establishment and consultation
- Stage Two: Develop client treatment outcomes data system and supporting resources
- Stage Three: Pilot outcomes data system and supporting resources
- Stage Four: Roll out outcomes data system to the NSW drug and alcohol NGO sector
- Stage Five: Formalise project sustainability and complete final project report including final evaluation report and recommendations.

1.3 Pilot Opportunity

NADA is looking for up to ten member organisations or programs to take part in the third stage of this project which is a pilot of the outcomes data system. This will involve routine use of the data collection set as a program outcome measure, data entry into the on-line database and participation in information and orientation training and the pilot evaluation process.

A limited amount of grant funding (up to \$5000 excluding GST) will be available to support implementation of the data collection system with pilot organisations. It is envisaged that this funding will support staff backfill to attend system orientation training and other incidentals. The funding amount will be agreed between NADA and the pilot organisations prior to signing the Pilot Agreement.

The data collection set has four domains: Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependence, Psychological Health, Health and Social Functioning and Blood Borne Virus Exposure and Risk Taking. The on-line data collection system includes four sections for data entry related to these domains and a range of graphical and descriptive reports available for individual clients as well as fixed and customised aggregated agency reports based on specified groups of clients.

Standardised measures that have been selected as part of the data collection set (some additional items are also included) are:

- Kessler -10 Plus
- World Health Organisation Quality of Life Scale - 8
- Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependence questions taken from the Brief Treatment Outcome Measure (BTOM) and Australian Alcohol Treatment Outcome Measure (AATOM)
- Severity of Dependence Scale

For further information, please refer to the contact details listed in Section 4.5.

1.4 Role of NADA

NADA will be responsible for leading the project including organisation of training, database system administration, ongoing support for pilot agencies, coordinating evaluation processes and approving and distributed any grant funds required to support implementation of the pilot system. NADA has convened an expert project advisory committee to support the Project Manager and provide advice into the project's development. The Project Advisory Group includes NADA member representation, NSW Health representation and representation from a range of external experts in the area of research, data management, mental health, and drug and alcohol policy and service delivery.

2. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Eligible organisations

Non government drug and alcohol treatment organisations providing counselling, residential rehabilitation and day programs will be considered for inclusion in the pilot group.

2.2 Pilot period

Rollout of this pilot will commence in February – March 2010 for a period of 12 months. During this time, pilot organisations will need to routinely use the data collection set with clients, enter information into the on-line database, participate in orientation training and participate in the pilot evaluation.

2.3 Pilot Agreement

All successful applicants must enter into a Pilot Agreement with NADA outlining each organisation's roles and responsibilities.

2.4 Other conditions of pilot

Conditions of participating in the pilot include:

- Organisations must agree to participate in the pilot evaluation process.
- Any grant funds distributed by NADA through this project to support an organisation's participation in the pilot group will be used only for its intended purpose.

Other conditions of participation will be detailed in the Pilot Agreement.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 Expression of interest form

A brief expression of interest form will be reviewed by the NADA Project Manager who will assess responses provided to the questions on the EOI form.

3.2 Selection panel

Should the number of EOI forms received exceed the number of pilot places (10 places), a selection panel will be convened to determine the group of pilot organisations. The selection panel will include representative/s from NADA, the Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office (NSW Health), and one or two other members of the project's advisory committee.

3.3 Confidentiality

All applications submitted will be treated in confidence. Details regarding successful organisations may be made publicly available through the NADA network.

3.4 NGO D&A and Mental Health Information Management Project Pilot Schedule

Expression of Interest advertised	December 2009
Expression of Interest forms due	Monday 21 December 2009
Grant recipients identified and informed by NADA	By Wednesday 13 January 2010
Briefing meetings held between NADA and pilot organisation	January-February 2010

Pilot training and pilot commences	February-March 2010
Pilot Interim Evaluation	August-September 2010
Pilot Final Evaluation	February-March 2010

4. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DETAILS

4.1 Expression of Interest closing date

Please submit your EOI Application **Monday 21 December 2009**.

4.2 Late Submissions

Expression of Interest forms received after the closing date may still be considered for inclusion in the pilot group depending on the number of EOIs received.

4.3 Other conditions

Due to a limited number of places in the pilot group, completing an expression of interest form may not guarantee your organisation a place in the pilot group.

Please note the following:

- Organisations can submit either a hard copy or electronic copy of their application form.
- Organisations will receive acknowledgement that their application has been received. If Organisations do not receive acknowledgement it is advised that they contact NADA before the closing date.
- NADA will notify all organisations about the outcome of the expression of interest process.

4.4 Where to send applications

Hard copies of expression of interest form with any attachments and signatures should be sent to:

Jo Khoo
NADA
PO Box 2345
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Fax: 02 9690 0727 – if submitting via fax please call to confirm receipt of application.

Electronic copies of applications can be sent to: jo@nada.org.au

4.5 Who to contact for more information

Further information about the Project may be obtained from NADA.

Please contact: Jo Khoo, Program Manager
Ph. 02 8113 1315
Mob. 0401 609 119
jo@nada.org.au

Please note that any information provided will be made available to all interested applicants.