



## IMPROVING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE NGO DRUG AND ALCOHOL SECTOR THROUGH OUTCOME MEASUREMENT

**Can you demonstrate what treatment outcomes your service has?**

**What does this project aim to do?**

**The aim of the NGO Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Information Management Project is to build the capacity of agencies to assess and measure outcomes for clients with drug and alcohol and mental health issues through the development and implementation of a system for measuring routine client outcomes.**

**What outcomes will be measured?**

Standard measures of screening and/or assessment will be used to identify changes in a client's circumstances in the areas of **psychological health, social functioning and drug and alcohol use**. Outcome measurement aims to capture change or effect and is obtained by the collection and comparison of measures over a period of time, commonly at intake, mid-point and exit.

**How can the information be used?**

Outcome information can be used by the client, the clinician and the service provider for a number of purposes including **individual client treatment planning, agency service/program development and sector-wide advocacy, planning and policy development**. Importantly, outcome information can form part of the evaluation of treatment interventions, leading to informed and reflective practice.

**How will the system be implemented?**

Development of the system (an enhancement to the NADA online MDS database) is nearing completion and **NADA will be implementing the system with a flagship group of agencies by early 2010** accompanied by training and ongoing support from NADA. Following evaluation, this system will be available to all NADA members in late 2010.

**Interested to be a part of the flagship group or to learn more?  
Contact Jo Khoo on (02) 8113 1315 or [jo@nada.org.au](mailto:jo@nada.org.au)**