

November 2018

Welfare reform changes

NADA has been working with the AOD Peaks Network to advocate on behalf of our members about the impact of recent changes to welfare payments for clients accessing treatment. The key issues were communicated at a recent meeting with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Jobs and Small Business. The outcome of the meeting were three actions:

1. Development of a fact sheet to help *jobactive* providers better understand AOD treatment.
2. A template letter for members to adapt and give to *jobactive* providers and Centrelink on behalf of clients that outlines the length of treatment. The Department of Jobs and Small Business will provide the template to the network of *jobactive* providers with advice that the letter from AOD treatment providers should be accepted and satisfy the requirements of clients for the length of treatment. We will send you the template shortly.
3. NADA has also been given a contact to escalate issues where an individual *jobactive* provider does not accept advice about AOD treatment. Please contact us if you need to escalate an issue with a *jobactive* provider.

Members have also expressed concerns about the transitioning of clients from the Disability Support Pension to Newstart, as well as the length of time for clients not currently receiving benefits to commence when they start treatment. NADA will raise these concerns with the relevant departments.

Australian Government Department of Health update

The first consultation for the National Treatment Framework was held on the 31 October 2018. A draft framework will be developed and further consultation with service providers will take place in each state and territory. We will notify members when a date has been set for the NSW consultation and then encourage all members to provide feedback.

NADA is still waiting advice on the continuation of funding that ceases on the 30 June 2019.

Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet update

NADA with the AOD Peaks Network met with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) to establish a more strategic partnership to support our members who receive funds under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. This included ensuring consistency and collaboration across funders of AOD treatment and providing feedback on behalf of members on the implementation of standardised KPIs under the strategy. The department was open to reviewing the KPIs in an ongoing way. We encourage members to provide feedback direct to their PMC contact, or via NADA following the next round of reporting to ensure that the indicators are appropriate to the service being funded.

NSW Ministry of Health: NGO Working Group

[Communique #2](#) provides an important update to work being undertaken by the NSW Ministry of Health Alcohol and Other Drug Branch, Local Health Districts and contracted non government organisations on improving contractual arrangements for the delivery of AOD treatment services.

For more information

Robert Stirling

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

E: robert@nada.org.au

T: 02 8113 1320