

A guide to AOD resources for Victorian ACCO GPs

DirectLine

DirectLine is Victoria's state-wide drug and alcohol telephone counselling and referral service. It is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Directline's free, confidential service can be reached at: **1800 888 236**

Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service

The Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS) is a specialist telephone consultation service for health and welfare professionals in Victoria.

DACAS can connect you to addiction medicine specialists who can provide advice and secondary consultation for your patients with drug and alcohol problems.

DACAS 24/7 consultation line: **1800 812 804**

Pharmacotherapy Advocacy Mediation Support

Pharmacotherapy Mediation Advocacy Support (PAMS) is a phone service that assists with methadone, suboxone and long-acting bupe injection issues between clients, prescribers and dispensers.

PAMS is a free service provided by Harm Reduction Victoria. PAMS is open 11am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.

PAMS line: **1800 443 844**

Australian Drug Foundation

The ADF's Drug Facts library contains detailed resources on various drug types. These cover commonly encountered drugs like alcohol, caffeine and cannabis, less commonly encountered drugs like betel nut and khat as well as novel psychoactive substances (NSPs) like n-ethylpentylone and NBOMes.

Each resource contains key information about the drug including effects, appearance, methods of consumption, different names and risks including those related to acute and long-term use.

The Drug Facts library can be accessed here: **adf.org.au/drug-facts**

Australian Indigenous Health Infonet

The Australian Indigenous Health Infonet (AIHI) is located at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. The AIHI works to help close the Indigenous health gap by sharing and disseminating relevant, high quality health information and knowledge.

AIHI offer several AOD-specific resources tailored to the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that include considerations for the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of Australia's First Nations People.

Project ECHO

Project ECHO ('Project for Extension of Healthcare Outcomes') is a community of practice and learning model with a view to increasing access to health services and treatments. ECHOs are based on an 'all teach, all learn' model using video conferencing to promote equity in health through free virtual learning.

An ECHO usually consists of medical experts and clinicians meeting weekly with community-based doctors, nurses and other health providers in virtual clinics. Meetings usually include presentations, case studies and open discussion.

There are several AOD-focused ECHOs in Australia:

- Opioid Management ECHO: **echo.pabn.org.au**
- Joint Addiction and Mental Health (JAMH) ECHO: **gvhealth.org.au/health-professionals/project-echo**
- Personality Disorder and Complex Trauma ECHO: **spectrumbpd.com.au/news/personality-disorder-and-complex-trauma-echo-2023-curriculum-released**

RACGP Addiction Chapter

The Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have an Addictions Chapter. This provides key information for GPs about working with addictions, including rationale, core competencies and learning outcomes; example case studies and learning resources.

These are available through the RACGP's GP Education Resource Library, available here: **racgp.org.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs**

Women's Alcohol and Drug Service

The Women's Alcohol and Drug Service is a specialist AOD service providing medical care, counselling and support to women with complex substance use and dependence during and after pregnancy. WADS is located at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne.

WADS accepts referrals statewide and as well as providing secondary consultation for Victorian GPs via their Quick Access Service: **(03) 8345 2058**.

Your local PHN

Most PHN's offer information on AOD services, clinical and referral information in your local area. You can access this via the Health Pathways online information portal on your PHN's website.

Non-Residential Withdrawal Nurses Network

VAADA supports a network of non-residential withdrawal nurses (NRWN) who work across Victoria. The NRWN is a community of practice focused on sharing information, knowledge and professional development.

If you would like to contact the NRWN, please send an email detailing your interest to **vaada@vaada.org.au**.

VAADA

Victoria's peak body representing Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services. Leading AOD policy, workforce development, and policy discussion across membership, related sectors and the community to prevent and reduce AOD harms in Victoria

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Disclaimer: This document was prepared by VAADA in June 2023 at the request of VACCHO. It is time limited and not intended to be comprehensive