

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Lithgow Local Drug Action Team (LDAT)

This document constitutes an agreement between various organisations in partnering to deliver the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) funded Local Drug Action Team program.

A. Background

This partnership was formed with the collective goal of forming a team to be part of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) LDAT program. The program focuses on building partnerships that focus on primary prevention work on AOD misuse. Our partnership is a collaborative and community informed approach to addressing these issues in our community.

B. About the organisations

Lead organisation: Lithgow Community Projects

Lithgow Community Projects Inc (LCP) is a community based, non-profit organisation funded by Family and Community Services Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program. In addition to providing homelessness services to single adults, couples and families, LCP also support women and their children through the Lithgow Women and Children's Crisis Centre, and provide the Youthworx and Yawarra services: <http://www.lcpinc.org/index.php>

Partner organisation 1: Lithgow City Council

A local government agency which aims to support the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Lithgow community: <http://council.lithgow.com/>

Partner Organisation 2: Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) Drug and Alcohol Service

The NBMLHD Drug and Alcohol Service offers free, non-judgemental services and treatments for drug and/or alcohol use, including information and support for families. The service offers specialist drug and alcohol doctors, nurses and allied health staff who respect the client's right to choose from a range of treatments offered. All services are underpinned by a philosophy of harm reduction. The Lithgow Drug and Alcohol Community Counselling service offers outpatient counselling and is located at the Lithgow Community Health Centre. The Lithgow OTP Clinic also provides a comprehensive medicated assisted treatment program for opioid dependence: <https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/drug-and-alcohol-service>.

Partner organisation 4: Dianella Cottage

A harm minimisation service, Dianella Cottage provides a non-judgmental women's drug & alcohol program that support coexisting drug, alcohol and mental health issues, including P.T.S.D. and complex trauma: <http://www.lyndon.org.au/womens-drug-alcohol-blue-mountains/>.

Partner organisation 3: Lithgow Tafe

Lithgow Tafe offers a comprehensive range of programs in general education and trades for all levels including certificate and diploma level: <http://www.tafewestern.edu.au/find-a-college/lithgow>.

Partner organisation 5: Ted Noffs Foundation

The primary focus of Noffs services is socially disadvantaged and disconnected young people and those from the Indigenous community as well as those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Their particular expertise is in the treatment of young people with drug and alcohol problems and in particular those with comorbid mental health issues. While focussed on young people, Noffs involves the entire community by organising and promoting events to create shared experiences, open pathways for communication and enhance the sense of social inclusion: <https://noffs.org.au/about-us/>.

Partner organisation 6: Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre

A neighbourhood centre that supports the community by offering diverse services, including Communities & Kids, Adolescent and Family Counselling, Home Support, Community Hub, and Disability Services: <http://linc.org.au/>.

Partner organisation 7: Lithgow Police Service

Local law enforcement agency that is committed to keeping the community safe: <https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/>.

Partner organisation 8: Family Drug Support (FDS)

FDS is a caring, non-religious organisation which provides non-judgmental, non-directive support and information for families and friends of drug and/or alcohol users across Australia. Since 1997, Family Drug Support has successfully provided programmes/services in this area: <http://www.fds.org.au/messageboard/nsw-grants-admin-officer-required>

Partner Organisation 9: Lithgow Headspace

The Lithgow Headspace is operated by Marathon Health and will provide provide early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds, along with assistance in promoting young peoples' wellbeing. This covers four core areas: mental health, physical health, work and study support and alcohol and other drug services: <https://www.headspace.org.au/>.

Partner Organisation 10: Aboriginal Liaison & Community Health Lithgow

Lithgow Community Health Centre provides a range of services in the Lithgow area to children, young people, adults and older people. Services range from health promotion, prevention and early detection to assessment, treatment and continuing care. Community Health staff work in partnership with schools, GPs, hospitals, non-government agencies and other organisations to provide care at the Community Health Centre, in people's homes or in other venues, such as Early Childhood (Baby Health) Centres: <https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/community-health-facilities/lithgow-community-health-facility>.

C. Purpose

This partnership is a collaborative approach to tackling the issues related to alcohol and drug use (AOD) in the Lithgow Local Government Area. We are committed to a coordinated approach of addressing the harms caused by AOD through approaches that utilise the strengths of our community and increase our resilience. This Agreement evidences leadership support and a collaborative partnership to support the Lithgow LDAT. The Lithgow LDAT is an "action-based" committee and as

such, partner organisations are expected to take on some of the work from time to time, especially in the lead-up to and implementation of projects and related activities.

D. Agreed activities

The activities to be undertaken by the LDAT are covered in the LDAT's community action plan, which also outlines responsibilities and timeframes.

E. Meetings, Reporting & Attendance

The partnership group will meet on the third Tuesday of every month and document each meeting, unless otherwise advised. Minutes will be distributed within seven (7) days after each meeting. Partners are expected to attend each meeting or dial in via teleconference. Where a partner cannot attend, apologies should be forwarded to the convener prior to the meeting. Where a partner organisation is unable to attend or participate in more than three (3) consecutive meetings, they should contact the convener to discuss their future contribution.

F. Financial management

The lead organisation, Lithgow Community Projects, will be responsible for the management and documentation of the project funding. All financial records will be openly shared to all organisations in the partnership.

G. Terms of the Agreement

This Agreement is effective from the date of signature by all parties and remains so for a period of the LDAT funding at which time a review on continued partnership shall be undertaken.

Signatures

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the parties.

Lead organisation: Lithgow Community Projects

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 1: Lithgow City Council

Name and position *Date:*

Partner organisation 2: Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) Drug and Alcohol Service

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 3: Dianella Cottage

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 4: Lithgow Tafe

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 5: Ted Noffs Foundation

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 6: Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 7: Lithgow Police Service

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 8: Family Drug Support (FDS)

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 9: Lithgow Headspace

Name and position Date:

Partner organisation 10: Aboriginal Liaison & Community Health Lithgow

Name and position

Date: