

Towards Recovery: A Dual Diagnosis Approach to Intake & Assessment

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ACSO Connect

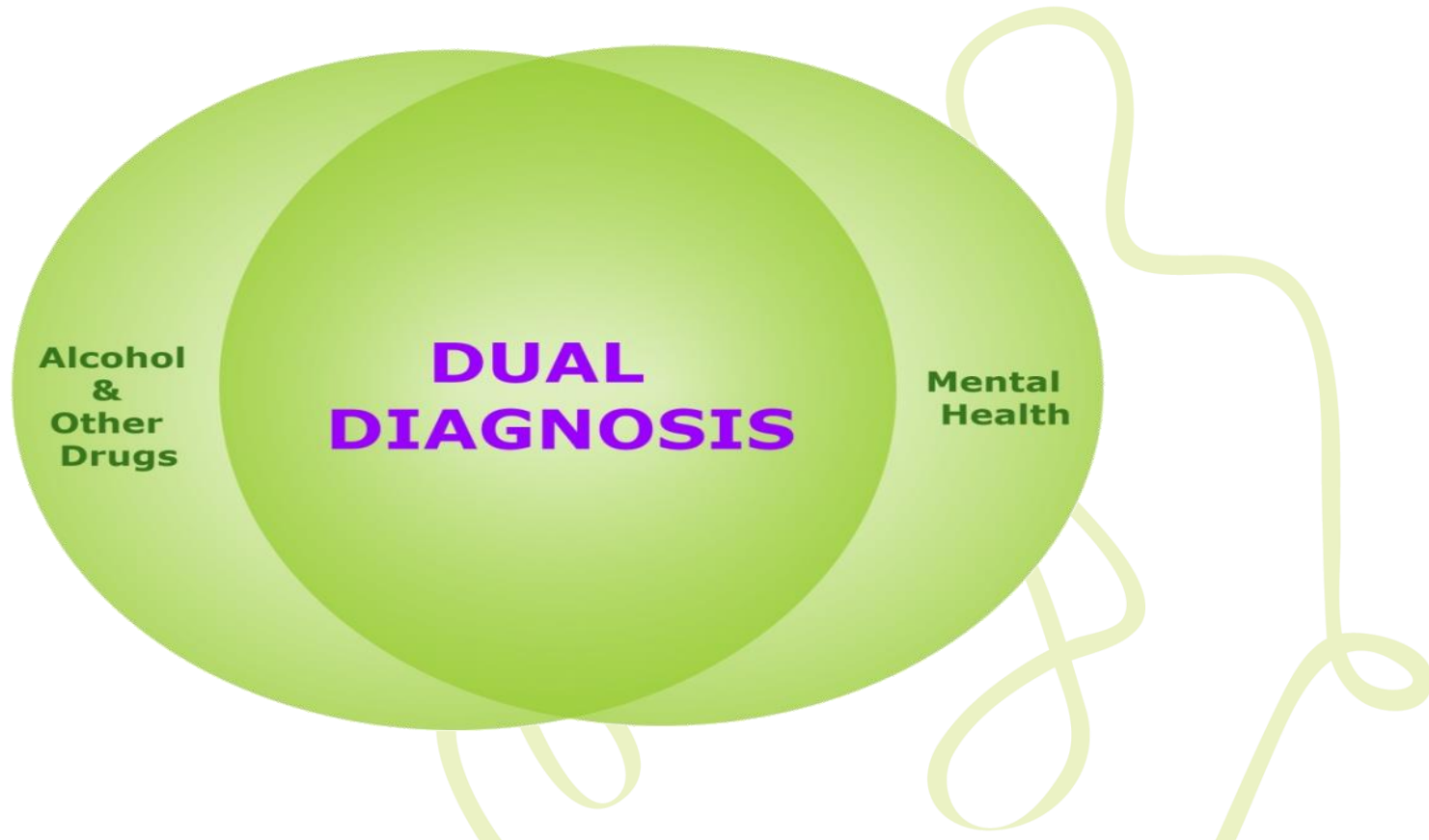


Intake & Assessment for
Voluntary Alcohol & Other
Drug (VAOD) and Mental
Health Community
Support Services (MHCSS)
in Regional Victoria.

Dual Diagnosis Capability

“All staff in both mental health and alcohol and other drug services should, at the most basic level, be able to administer a screening tool appropriate to their service age group, undertake a dual diagnosis assessment, and consult others with more advanced knowledge and skills in making decisions about the most appropriate course of action to be taken” (Victorian Government, 2007, p.18).

What is Dual Diagnosis?



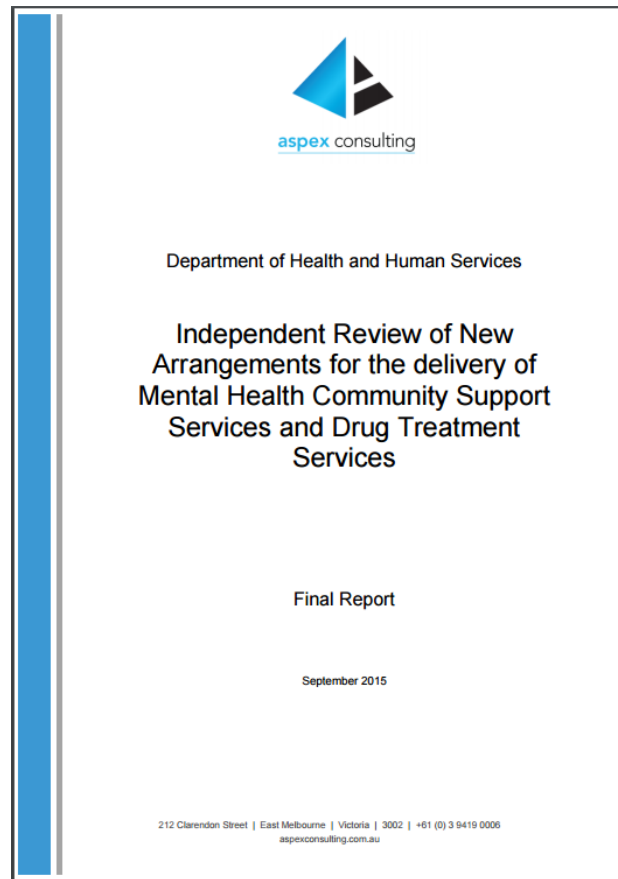
Dual Diagnosis- Service Fragmentation

- Client vulnerability- “falling through the gaps”
- Lack of coordination and collaboration
- Separate funding and accountability
- Staff capability

Dual Diagnosis – Best Practice Approach

- Framework of screening, assessment, referral and treatment at all entry points
- Early recognition, intervention and integrated treatment
- Service integration and collaboration
- ‘No Wrong Door’ approach

Policy Guidelines & Directions



Issues & Recommendations

- Insufficient focus on clients with dual diagnosis
- Separate intake assessments creates silos
- Not person-centred
- Solution- to develop a common assessment template for dual diagnosis
- Remove requirement for separate assessments

10 Year Mental Health Strategy

Responding to need with effective, coordinated treatment and support

- dual diagnosis intake assessment
- monitor any service gaps or duplication

ACSO's Dual Diagnosis Intake Assessment Tool

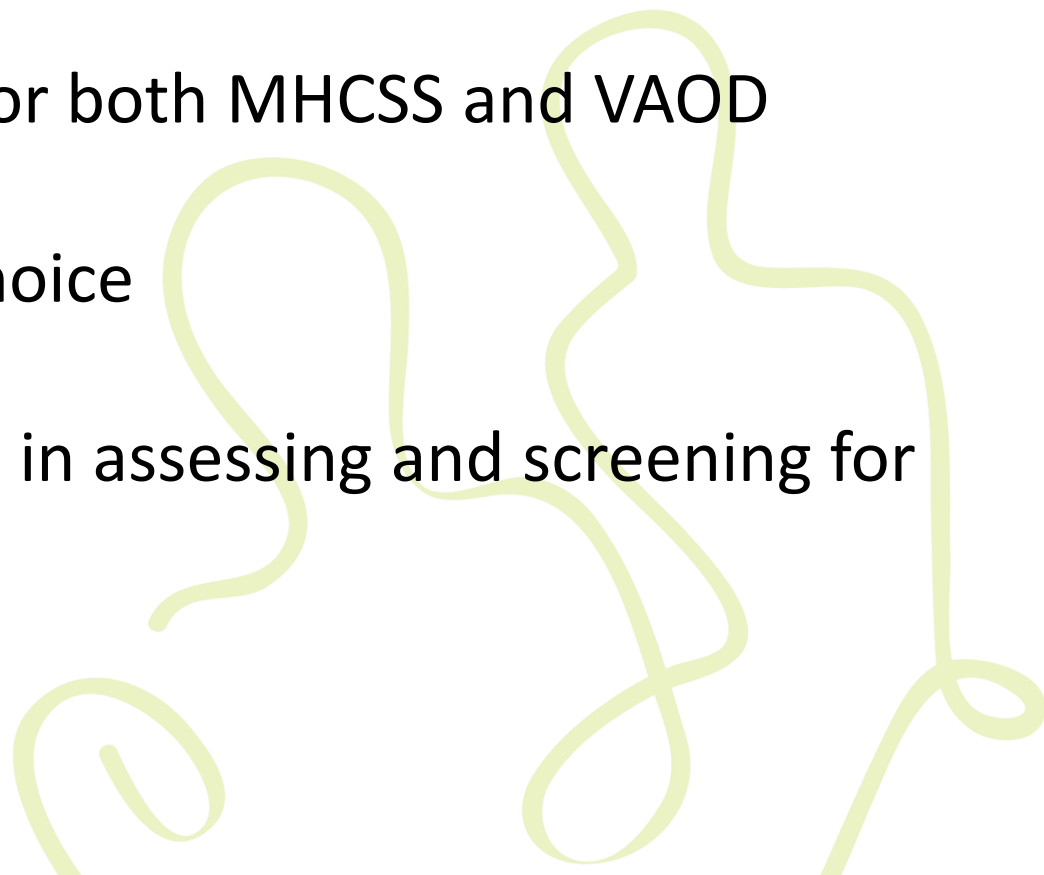
- Development of a dual diagnosis intake tool in collaboration with Nexus Dual Diagnosis service
- One integrated assessment

Dual Diagnosis Intake

- Integrated approach to treatment planning
- Participation in Life Areas- psychosocial functioning
- Consumer view and insight

What were the benefits:

- 1 intake assessment for both MHCSS and VAOD
- Empowerment and choice
- Clinicians gained skills in assessing and screening for dual diagnosis



Summary

- Dual diagnosis is the expectation
- Recovery focused
- Person-centred



