

## DRUG HEALTH SERVICES

### CHAPTER 47

Drug Health Services in SWSAHS operate as an Area Service under a single management structure. The Service provides clinical interventions to individuals requiring specialist drug treatment either on an inpatient or outpatient basis, and provides services to populations with drug issues requiring generalist health services.

SWSAHS is 83% self-sufficient in the provision of drug and alcohol related inpatient services, with private sector hospitals playing a minimal role. A total of 1,482 drug and alcohol inpatient separations occurred during 2002/03 in public hospitals across SWSAHS, accounting for a total of 5,808 beddays. Most outflows were to Westmead, Auburn and Nepean Hospitals.

The demand for inpatient drug services is projected to rise by 39.1% to 2006 and by a further 18.8% to 2011.

In 2006, at a planned 85% occupancy rate and assuming no change in outflows, it is projected that adult patients will be in need of 22.8 beds approximately.

### Current Services

Drug Health Services are located within the Division of Population Health and operate out of hospitals and community health centres across the Area. The Service adopts a population approach to drug related harm, which recognises the interactions between drug and alcohol issues and other health and social factors.

Service Component	Location of Service Provided
<b>Community Detoxification:</b> either home or clinic attended ambulatory	Bankstown Community Health Centre Bowral Community Health Centre Campbelltown Community Health Centre Fairfield Hospital
<b>Counselling Service</b> (includes intake, assessment, intervention and referral)	Bankstown Community Health centre Bowral Community Health Centre Campbelltown Community Health Centre Fairfield Hospital Liverpool Drug Health Building Rosemeadow Community Health Centre
<b>Court Diversion Programs</b> (Service to support people remain out of jail while managing drug issues)	Adult, Youth, and MERIT programs are Area-wide and located at Moorebank and Hospital ground
<b>GP/Pharmacy Share Care Program</b> <i>(Service is only temporarily funded)</i>	Bankstown Hospital, Macarthur Hospital (Coopers Cottage), Liverpool Hospital (Jacaranda Clinic)
<b>Hospital Consultation &amp; Liaison Services</b> <i>(Temporary funding to June 2004)</i>	Liverpool Hospital
<b>In-patient Drug Treatment Services</b> (assessment, stabilisation and detox)	Fairfield Hospital (for clients across SWSAHS)

<p><b>Medical Outpatient Services</b> (specialist outpatient service for people referred by other health service)</p>	<p>Bankstown Community Health Centre Bowral Community Health Centre Liverpool Hospital</p>
<p><b>Pharmacotherapy Services</b> (stabilisation, Maintenance, withdrawal, and Case management services)</p>	<p>Bankstown Hospital, Campbelltown Hospital, Liverpool Hospital  <i>NB No service currently available within Fairfield LGA</i></p>
<p><b>Prevention/Needle &amp; Syringe program</b> (Supply and support for exchange of needles and syringes)</p> <p><b>Indo-Chinese drug health program</b> (intervention targeted specifically to Indo-Chinese population)</p>	<p>NB Limited services available not meeting demand</p> <p>Operates out of Drug Health Directorate</p>

The service has 130 FTE staff members.

Drug Health Services also work in close collaboration with specialist drug and alcohol non-government organisation providing prevention, rehabilitation, detoxification and after care programs.

Hospital inpatient drug treatment services across SWSAHS include assessment, stabilisation and detoxification.

#### **Bankstown Hospital**

In 2002/03, there were 150 separations; average LOS was 3.3 days (3.7 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 1.4 beds.

#### **Liverpool Hospital**

In 2002/03, there were 246 separations; average LOS was 3.3 days (3.7 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 2.4 beds.

#### **Fairfield Hospital**

In 2002/03, there were 706 separations; average LOS was 5.5 days (6.1 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 11.3 beds.

#### **Camden Hospital**

In 2002/03, there were 80 separations; average LOS was 1.8 days (3.0 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 0.4 beds.

#### **Campbelltown Hospital**

In 2002/03, there were 232 separations; average LOS was 1.5 days (1.6 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 1.0 beds.

## Bowral Hospital

In 2002/03, there were 68 separations; average LOS was 1.2 days (1.3 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 0.2 beds.

## Non-Inpatients

The main non-inpatient service components of the Drug Health Service include community detoxification services, counselling services, Court Diversion Program, GP/Pharmacy Share Care Program, Hospital Consultation and Liaison Services, Medical outpatients services, and pharmacotherapy services.

Drug and Alcohol Community Counselling Services across SWSAHS provided the equivalent of 6,359 total drug and alcohol 'non-admitted patient services' (NAPS) during 2002/03. The Needle Syringe Program across SWSAHS provided needle and syringe exchange to 38,391 clients in 2002/03.

In 2002/03, Home Detox Services in Cabramatta and Macarthur provided a total of 2,207 equivalent NAPS. During the same period, the Court Diversion Programs including the Adult Drug Courts, Youth Drug Courts Program and MERIT Program provided a total of 2,931 equivalent NAPS.

Methadone Clinics at the Bankstown, Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals provided a total NAPS equivalent of 163,543 during 2002/03. In the same period, the Detoxification Unit at Fairfield Hospital provided the equivalent of 3,156 NAPS.

## Other Services

In addition to the provision of direct services to patients and clients, Drug Health Services undertake health promotion and prevention programs on a population basis, including needle and Syringe Exchange Programs.

The Drug Health Services Directorate is based at Liverpool and is primarily responsible for leadership, service development and planning. The Directorate also provides capacity building services, training and workforce development, medical and nursing advice, project coordination and management and research.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Drug Health Services will continue its development as an Area- wide service through expansions to include:
  - Collaborative shared care programs with general practice, pharmacies and other mainstream health care providers;
  - Standardised post-intervention referral processes;
  - Enhanced hospital liaison services;
  - Support for generalist clinicians in dealing with drug health as per NSW Health policy; and
  - Triage access mapping.
- Drug health services develop with Mental Health Systems appropriate services of assessing and intervening with patients with dual diagnosis (Mental Health and Drug Health issues) across the continuum of care.