

Victorian Pharmacotherapy Area-Based Networks

Background

The use of pharmacotherapy treatment has become established in Australia and many other parts of the world as an effective treatment for opioid dependence. Pharmacotherapy represents an important part of the Victorian Government's community response to the treatment of drugs and alcohol in the state.

The Victorian pharmacotherapy system is a community-based model where medical professionals and pharmacists work together to make pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence available in the community.

In 2014, five area-based pharmacotherapy networks were established to facilitate localised approaches in connecting care, driving best practice and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for opioid dependent patients.

Service objectives

Each of the five Pharmacotherapy Networks will support health professionals (general practitioners, pharmacists and allied health clinicians) to prevent, identify and treat opioid dependence throughout the state.

The Networks will identify and provide local solutions to service need in their Area, work with other services to form partnerships and referral pathways, facilitate ongoing training for pharmacotherapy providers and provide access for complex clients to Addiction Medicine Specialists.

Contacts

Area 1- Barwon South West Pharmacotherapy Network

- Holistic management support for prescription opioids, over the counter codeine and illicit opioids.
- Access to specialists, mentors, professional development events and staff training.

Name: Pene Wood **Phone:** (03) 5222 0809 **Email:** Pene.Wood@westvicphn.com.au **Fax:** (03) 5223 2209

ORTicare (Area 2) - Grampians and Loddon Mallee Pharmacotherapy Network

- Workforce education, training and clinical networks of professional peers.
- Clinical support, expert consultation and mentoring including the Rural Addiction Medicine Pharmacotherapy Specialist (RAMPS) service.

Name: Jacqueline Keevins **Phone:** (03) 5338 4500 **Email:** orticare@bchc.org.au **Fax:** (03) 5331 5470

Area 3- Gippsland and Hume Pharmacotherapy Network

Gippsland Pharmacotherapy Network

- Addiction Medicine Specialist support and consultations through the RAMPS service.
- General practitioner, pharmacist, nurse practitioner and health care worker support and training.

Name: Sean Taylor-Lyons **Phone:** 1800 242 696 **Email:** nrwnursing@lchs.com.au **Fax:** (03) 5136 5475

Hume Pharmacotherapy Network

- General practitioner, pharmacist, nurse practitioner and counsellor support and training.
- Direct clinic support and telehealth secondary consultations with the RAMPS addiction medicine specialist service.

Name: Tim Griffiths **Phone:** (03) 5823 3219 **Email:** info@hapn.org.au **Fax:** (03) 5823 3299

Area 4- South and Eastern Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network

- Addiction Medicine Specialist support to clients including secondary consultation
- Liaison support to GPs and pharmacist, education, training and community of practice support.

Name: Jana Dostal **Phone:** (03) 8514 6600 **Email:** A4PN@semphn.org.au **Fax:** (03) 8514 6699

Area 5- North and West Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network

- General practitioner peer mentoring, education, training and community of practice for treatment providers.
- Addiction Medicine Specialist support including specialist assessment and secondary consultation.

Name: Grant Liptrot **Phone:** (03) 9448 5511 **Email:** pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au **Fax:** (03) 7000 1822

