



Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania Inc.

13 March 2017

The Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee - Tasmanian Child and Family Centres
Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART 7000
cfc@parliament.tas.gov.au

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a written response to the inquiry and report into Tasmanian Child and Family Centres (CFCs). The ATDC is the peak body representing the interests of community sector organisations (CSOs) that provide services to people with alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues (ATOD) in Tasmania. The ATDC is a membership based, independent, not-for-profit and incorporated organisation.

There are many professional and philosophical similarities between how CFCs and our ATOD CSOs work. This submission largely echoes many aspects of the service model that underpins CFCs and also points to some opportunities for further collaboration.

Our key points follow:

1. Intervening early: Tasmanian Child and Family Centres are a vital part of Promotion, Prevention and Early intervention (PPEI) services.

The ATDC supports an equal and significant focus on preventative health and early intervention, alongside acute treatment service provision. PPEI approaches ensure better health outcomes for individuals as their conditions are treated earlier along the path of illness, giving them less opportunity to develop chronic diseases and ultimately costing the government less in long term treatment costs.

Staff in CFCs can identify those parents and carers who have alcohol and other drug issues while their children are young. Screening and assessment processes can then lead to referrals into alcohol and other drug services.

Key opportunity: to work with CFCs around PPEI approaches to alcohol and other drug issues, raising the knowledge, skills and capacity of the CFC workforce to screen and refer clients.

2. Holistic model is best: integrated collaborative health and wellbeing services are critical to addressing health and social issues

Our CSOs work within a holistic framework, meaning that treatment is client centred and takes into account all the forms of disadvantage such as education, literacy, housing, family relationships, economic circumstances, employment, and other co-occurring health conditions. Retaining a collaborative health model is critical to addressing such issues, as the relative intensity and manifestation in each client is unique. A flexible and agile workforce is a key adjunct to this. In this sense CFCs and our ATOD CSOs work from a similar position.



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Key opportunity: to streamline operational referral pathways, knowledge and capacity between the ATOD CSOs and CFC staff.

3. Social inclusion: disadvantage breeds further disadvantage

The clients that our services work with experience multiple points of disadvantage as described above. Social disadvantage is another consequence and has the effect of social isolation and limits access to health and welfare services. The location of CFCs in low socio economic areas is a clever and targeted move as a lot of our CSOs see clients from such areas.

Distrust of, and then reluctance to engage with, mainstream services entrenches health problems which manifest into more costly interventions later. CFCs and ATOD CSOs working together creates an accessible entry point into mainstream health services for that group of people.

Key opportunity: to work together to increase access to mainstream health and welfare services for socially isolated and low socio economic clients.

ATDC member organisations welcome the opportunity to further work with CFC staff to enhance early intervention services and improve service and staff networks. Our goals, service model and target clients are analogous and we support the continuation and enhancement of such important community services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Rabe', is written over a horizontal line.

Debra Rabe
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.



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ABOUT THE ATDC

The ATDC is the key body supporting the sector to secure adequate systemic support and funding for the delivery of evidence based alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) initiatives. We support the sector through training and sector capacity building, as well as undertaking policy and development projects with, and on behalf of, the sector. We represent a broad range of service providers and individuals working in prevention, promotion, early intervention, treatment, case management, research and harm reduction, and play a vital role in assisting the Tasmanian Government to achieve its aims of preventing and reducing harms associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Tasmanian community.

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By working with all levels of government and the community the ATDC seeks to promote health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians through a reduction of the harms caused by substance use. Our priorities are set by the membership and Board and focus on the prevention of the uptake of harmful alcohol or drug use, the provision of effective treatment for alcohol or drug misuse and the long term promotion of health and relapse prevention. A broad and regionally dispersed membership base ensures the ATDC maintains a strategically relevant position within the overall understanding of what services are provided, what services are needed and how best to achieve the goal of reducing the negative impacts on the Tasmanian community from alcohol and drug use.

Our Vision

A Tasmania without drug or alcohol related harm or discrimination.

Our Mission

To provide independent leadership and advocacy; strengthen partnerships through inclusion, and support consumer participation in the promotion of holistic alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) services for all Tasmanians.

Our Organisational Members

Advocacy Tasmania Inc. Alcohol & Drug Service (North) Alcohol & Drug Service (South) Anglicare Tasmania Inc. Bethlehem House Tasmania Inc. Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Mental Health Carers Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation Colony 47 Drug Education Network Inc. Family Drug Support Glenorchy City Council Hearspace/Cornerstone Youth Services Hobart City Council Holyoake Tasmania Launceston City Mission (Missiondale) Mental Health Carers Tasmania Mission Australia	OZHELP Foundation Quit Services Tasmania Red Cross Tasmania Relationships Australia Tasmania Inc. Rural Alive and Well Inc. Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases Teen Challenge The Hobart Clinic The Link Youth Health Service The Salvation Army TUHSL Velocity Transformations WISE Employment Wyndarra Centre Youth, Family and Community Connections
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