

Setting the Scene Youth Exemplar Services

**Presentation to Youth AOD Service Development
and Implementation Forum**

29 April 2014

This presentation will answer:

- What is the context for today?
- Why youth exemplar services?
- Why has the Ministry adopted this terminology?
- What are exemplar services expected to do?
- Will they be evaluated?

Context For Today

- Grant Christie paper (2009) on what Youth AOD treatment services should look like
 - NCAT Position Paper – *Making alcohol and drug treatment for young people a priority is an essential investment in New Zealand’s future* (2009)
 - Prime Minister’s Youth Mental Health and Addiction programme in response to the Gluckman report *Youth in Transition*
 - Drivers of Crime reducing the harm from alcohol and other drugs
 - *Blueprint II* and *Rising to the Challenge*
 - Youth Forensic Service developments
 - Children’s Action Plan, etc
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Context for Today

- Having youth focused services that are able to deal with mental health, alcohol and drug issues makes it easier for young people to get help if they need it and reduces a huge barrier for young people reluctant to engage with health services and maybe even more reluctant to engage with mental health services
- Enhanced services will be:
 - ✓ responsive to young people's developmental and cultural needs
 - ✓ flexible and highly mobile making it easier for young people to access mental health and addiction help services
 - ✓ multi-disciplinary and evidence-based, providing coordinated care across service boundaries and between agencies

Why Youth Exemplar Services?

- The Ministry has sought to establish “exemplar” services because Youth AOD services have developed in *ad hoc* ways and there has been little consistency nationally
- Youth AOD services are an important contributor to the health and wellbeing of young people, yet there has been a lack of strategic direction for the development of these services nationally
- The initiative involves establishing and evaluating at least two new ‘exemplar’ youth AOD services according to a model of good practice, which can be applied to main and smaller urban centres

Why has the Ministry used this terminology?

- Youth Exemplar Services not a “pilot” or “demonstration site”
- Exemplar is not meant to indicate elitism
- Does imply, and services will be required, to be available to share knowledge and processes with other treatment providers
- Many services will demonstrate some features of an exemplar service
- Some exist already – the recently contracted services are not the only exemplar services
- “Enhanced” or “integrated with other youth services” services may be better names

What are Exemplar Services Expected to Do?

They will:

- Build a critical mass of clinicians and service providers who are not only addressing youth addiction issues but can respond better to youth presenting with depression and anxiety
 - Be able to work with the young person's family as relevant for that young person
 - Improve resilience for each young person and prevent relapse by improving the links between specialist and primary level Health services
 - Support local agencies working with young people in the Youth Justice and Education settings to recognise and undertake effective brief interventions, and to refer to specialist services as appropriate
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The “exemplar” services have a variety of design features

- Flexible hours and highly mobile service provision reducing barriers to access
 - ‘Friendly’ and interesting to young people including youth branding
 - Coordinated care across service boundaries
 - Respond to each young person based on their social awareness, maturity, and level of understanding
 - CEP capable
 - Provision of evidence based interventions
 - Culturally responsive
 - Multi-disciplinary teams
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How were the latest Exemplar Services selected?

- The Ministry ran an open Registration of Interest process, and 6 proposals were then short-listed and asked to prepare a Request for Proposal outlining how the enhanced service would be implemented and operate
- All the proposals had the support of the relevant DHB Funding and Planning team
- A panel selected two of the proposals to receive ongoing funding
- All 6 DHBs will receive funding to progress the development of improved youth treatment services

Where are the Sites that have been selected?

- Northland (Whangarei and Kaitiaia)
- Southern (Dunedin, North Otago, Southland)
- Whanganui
- Bay of Plenty
- Waikato
- Capital and Coast (Wellington, Hutt Valley, and Wairarapa)

New services will be evaluated

- The evaluation will be staged focusing on:
- formative aspects of the Northland and Southern service establishment in year 1
- a ‘process’ evaluation later on for all 6 services
- measurement of outcomes and other achievements of all 6 services

Formative Evaluation

The primary objectives of the formative evaluation are to provide an independent view of:

- whether the two exemplar services (Northern DHB and Southern DHB) have been implemented as intended
- are they performing as envisaged
- how the services can be improved
- to provide a basis for further investment/ reconfiguration decisions