

Inquiry into the Use of Cannabis in Victoria Public hearing: 25 March 2021

Responses to questions on notice

At the hearing, the following matters were taken on notice:

1. *Ms Watt requested that you forward the consultancy report that specifically maps the addiction specialty workforce in Victoria in relation to other states (mentioned on page 33 of the transcript)*
 - The information requested relates to the addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry workforce in Victoria, relating to evidence I provided that there is currently approximately 15FTE of addiction specialist positions in the public sector across Victoria.

This was drawn from a consultancy report prepared by HMA (Healthcare Management Advisors) for the Department of Health and Human Services, "Development of an Addiction Medical Specialist Workforce Model", final report dated 11th December 2020. The relevant information is contained within the executive summary and within Chapter 4 of the report.

This report is unable to be shared more widely, but can be requested from the DHHS/Department of Health Victoria.
2. *Dr Kieu requested that you forward Information around culturally appropriate strategies in relation to Cannabis use, both for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and CALD communities and migrant communities (page 35 of the transcript)*
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: The AOD Knowledge centre contains a range of Indigenous-specific resources
<https://aodknowledgecentre.ecu.edu.au/>
 - There is information on several cannabis-specific programs that are culturally adapted, including a youth-focused pilot program in NSW (Attached), and other programs that are focused on the community rather than just people who use cannabis (attached).
 - A project run by the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) aims to address this as well <https://ndri.curtin.edu.au/research/project-detail/752>
 - CALD and migrant communities:
 - DAMEC in NSW have conducted a range of research into cannabis use and culturally adapted pathways for prevention and help-seeking
Some of the qualitative information they have collected is attached here.
 - A report from the Drug Info Clearing House (2010) reviewed and synthesised information on prevention and education strategies for CALD communities across all use of alcohol and other drugs. Their report is attached, and the following information is relevant:
 - Alcohol and other drug prevention initiatives should identify and leverage off culturally protective factors, consider the inclusion of a family-based component, and be theory-based (acculturation theory, health behaviour theory). On a related note, practitioners should develop sound cultural competency (see guide called Cultural competence for evaluators: A guide for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention practitioners working with ethnic/ racial communities).

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