

A skills-based training program for general practice on caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs

Are you interested in learning more about caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD)?

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN), in collaboration with the University of Adelaide, is offering a skills-based face-to-face workshop and follow-up webinar for general practice in identifying and responding to AOD use. This opportunity is open to all GPs, and practice nurses who either already play an active role in AOD care or are interested in learning more, and can accommodate only 30 participants. Expressions of interest are now invited.

By the end of this activity, participants will have gained the knowledge, confidence and skills to effectively deliver screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for substance use in primary care.

Through a series of case-based learning scenarios, participants will understand how and when to enquire about a patient's substance use in a way that does not raise objection. Participants will also gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of common clinical problems, and potential solutions to manage them. Finally, after the workshop and follow-up webinar, they will have gained increased knowledge and understanding of active referral pathways and processes for managing more complex cases.

This activity will provide 4.5 RACGP CPD hours total – 2 Educational Activities hours & 2.5 Reviewing Performance hours.

To receive the RACGP CPD hours, you must attend **both** education sessions:

- The *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs: a skills-based training program for general practice* **face-to-face workshop** on **Saturday, 19 August 2023** from 10am to 2pm, at the NWMPHN offices in Parkville.
- The *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs: a skills-based training program for general practice* follow-up **webinar** on **Wednesday, 18 October 2023**, from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Participants are also encouraged to attend an earlier webinar, *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs*, on Thursday, 20 July 2023 from 6:30pm to 8pm. This will provide important foundations for understanding the content in this activity.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the program, you must be a GP or practice nurse located in the [NWMPHN region](#).

Participation requirements

Participants will be required to:

- Attend the *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs: a skills-based training program for general practice* face-to-face workshop on Saturday, 19 August 2023, at the NWMPHN offices in Parkville.
- Attend the follow-up *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs: a skills-based training program for general practice* webinar on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, to discuss barriers to implementation and bring cases for discussion
- Complete all evaluation activities.

While this activity is designed to be a stand-alone workshop and webinar, it follows on from the earlier webinar on Thursday, July 20 from 6:30pm to 8pm titled *Caring for patients who use alcohol and other drugs*. Attendance is not a prerequisite of this activity, but it is encouraged, because it provides important foundations for understanding the content. Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

About the facilitators

Associate Professor Robert Ali, AO, MBBS, FChAM, FAFPHM, is a world-renowned expert in addiction medicine. He was clinical director at Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia for over 30 years, before turning to a career in knowledge transfer at the University of Adelaide. He sits on committees and advisory councils, including to the United Nations, World Health Organisation, and the Australian National Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD). He was part of the World Health Organisation working group that developed and validated the ASSIST for primary healthcare settings. Robert was admitted to the title of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) at the King's Birthday Honours in 2023, for services to Australia in the treatment of drug use and dependence.

Dr Matthew Stevens is a research scientist working out of the University of Adelaide. The focus of Matt's work is the identification, prevention and treatment of substance-based and behavioural addictions. He is currently working on translating evidence into practice around screening and early intervention across a variety of clinical settings, including primary health.

Dr Paul Grinzi is a GP working in North Melbourne. Paul is passionate about supporting GPs to be confident to treat patients who use alcohol and other drugs. He is also a dedicated advocate for general practice. He is a senior medical educator for the RACGP's GP Training and the AOD GP

Education Programs. Paul also is the clinical lead for RACGP Victoria's Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence Training program.

How to apply

To participate please complete this [expression of interest form](#).

Applications close at 5pm AEST on Thursday, 17 August 2023.

Please direct all queries to:

Phone: (03) 9347 1188

Email: education@nwmp hn.org.au

What will happen to my information?

In order to determine whether our programs have achieved the desired objectives, it is necessary to capture some of your personal information. That includes names, email addresses and your RACGP number (if applicable). However, any data that you provide will be encrypted and stored securely by the research team in a database located within the University of Adelaide. Only the research team will have access to it. All data will be maintained by the University of Adelaide for 5 years from the publication date, as per Section 2 of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018](#).

The results of this program will be prepared in a report for North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network. It may also be written up for publication in an academic journal, and may be presented at conferences. However, all information will be completely de-identified so there is no confidentiality risk to you.

About Primary Health Networks

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) began operation on 1 July 2015 and are responsible for coordinating primary health care and facilitating improved health outcomes in their local community. Melbourne Primary Care Network operates North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN).