

YOUTH DRUG AND ALCOHOL CLINICAL SUPPORT NETWORK

WNSWLHD-YDACS@health.nsw.gov.au - (02) 6369 7920

The Youth Drug and Alcohol Clinical Support Network:

- Co-ordinate the treatment and care for young people with moderate to severe substance use across the Western NSW Local Health District.
- Assist people working with youth and their families to provide evidenced based support and interventions.

Substance use may include alcohol, drugs, vaping and solvent misuse.

When a young person has a moderate to severe substance use problem, their substance use may impact on their mental health, physical health, attendance at school or work, relationships with family and friends, finances and unwanted contact with the Youth Justice system.

Substance use can happen at any age and it can effect an individual, their families and the community in a number of different ways. Studies have shown that young people who engage in problematic substance use are at greater risk for lifelong negative consequences.

Young people can come to rely on substance use as a coping strategy in response to life stressors or underlying problems that they believe are overwhelming or not able to be solved. Youth Drug and Alcohol Clinical Support Network acknowledges that the substance use of each young person has a purpose for them, even when associated with unwanted complications.

The Youth Drug and Alcohol Clinical Support Network provides:

- Assistance with screening, assessment, care planning, treatment and care coordination for young people with complex needs
- Links to local services and referral pathways to support coordination of care between service providers
- Clinical advice and support for service providers (government and non-government) working with young people aged 10-18 years with 'moderate to severe' substance use
- Training, education, tools and resources to enhance the capacity of services to deliver a range of evidence-based drug and alcohol supports and interventions for young people

Referrals to the service can be made by any young person or their family as well as by any other service provider including GP's, Health Services, Non-Government Organisations, Department of Communities and Justice, Youth Justice, Police, or Education.

Referrals can be made by contacting, YDACS on **(02) 6369 7920** or WNSWLHD-YDACS@health.nsw.gov.au, or via the Western LHD Drug & Alcohol Helpline on **1300 887 000** (8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday to Friday).