



SERVICE GAPS

DELACOMBE

1. Gender-responsive service provision in the AOD system
2. Shifting landscapes for people who use performance and image enhancing drugs
3. Understanding realistic achievements within a three-month therapeutic community residential rehabilitation program

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Gender-responsive service provision in the AOD system

Sarah Fitzpatrick, Monash University
Amy McKernan Monash University

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GENDER RESPONSIVENESS IN ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG SERVICES

Amy McKernan & Sarah Fitzpatrick

TaskForce  **50 YEARS**
Life changing services.



MONASH
University



TASKFORCE

Our Vision

**Realise the potential in everyone:
Healthy lives, relationships, and
communities**



PROJECT AIM

Our project aims to increase awareness and engagement of the AOD sector to respond to the needs of vulnerable girls and women who fall through service gaps.



WORKSHOPS AT TASKFORCE

Workshops aimed to build awareness and included discussions on:

- Gender responsive service provision
- Current work practices
- Evidence of barriers to access
- Organisational impact areas
- Dreaming section





**HOW WOULD YOU RATE
YOUR **CURRENT**
AWARENESS
OF GENDERED ISSUES IN
AOD SERVICES?**





RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GIRLS AND WOMEN WHO FALL THROUGH **SERVICE GAPS**





WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA



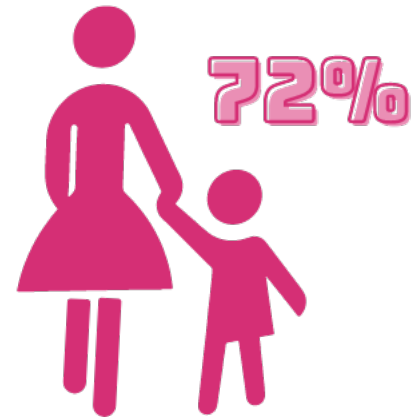
1 IN 6

Women experience **depression** during their lifetime (NMHC, 2022)



1 IN 6

women have experienced **physical** and/or **sexual violence** by a current or previous partner since age 15 (AIHW, 2018)



of **primary caregivers** are female (AIHW, 2021)



On average, women earn

\$263.90

less per week in ordinary full time work (WGEA, 2022)



GENDER RESPONSIVENESS

“Gender responsiveness aims to understand and address the issues experienced by women and creating an environment that reflects these understandings...” (NADA, 2021, p.iii)





OCCUPATIONAL JUSTICE

(TOWNSEND & WILCOCK, 2004)

Includes the right to:

- Experience **meaningful** activities
- **Access** these activities
- Have **choice** in activities
- Grow through social inclusion

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**WHAT ARE THE MOST
COMMON BARRIERS
OBSERVED FOR WOMEN
AND GIRLS ACCESSING
AOD SERVICES IN YOUR
ORGANISATION?**





BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES

- Fear of child protection involvement
- Stigma, stereotypes and social expectations
- Experiences of trauma
- Lack of safe spaces for dependants
- Environmental factors



FEAR OF CHILD PROTECTION INVOLVEMENT

- Children can be **motivation** for action, but also a source of **fear** and concern with regards to custody



STIGMA, STEREOTYPES AND SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS



- Women are more likely than men to encounter disapproval for their substance use and participation in treatment due to **stigma, stereotypes and social expectations**



STIGMA, STEREOTYPES AND SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS



Home and Away star Kate Ritchie charged with drink driving

Former Home and Away star Kate Ritchie has had her licence suspended after being charged with drink driving.

Kate Ritchie 'forced to issue statement' after 'shocking' act

Kate Ritchie's lucrative skincare deal in doubt after drink-driving charge

Kate Ritchie goes blonde at a Double Bay salon after rehab stint

What happened to Kate Ritchie is the reason so many don't want to get help

Kate Ritchie calls out 'shocking' invasion of privacy: 'Unrelenting'

Grant Denyer talks about difficulties with alcohol

Grant described how he struggled to regulate his alcohol intake. "I don't drink a ton, maybe three nights a week, but I struggle to regulate."

Grant Denyer opens up about his struggles with drinking and anxiety

Jan 5, 2021 ... Television presenter Grant Denyer has opened up about his struggles with alcohol and

Grant Denyer vows to man up on his struggle with booze in fireside

Breaking news, video, audio and feature stories. Herald Sun - news you can rely on. Subscribe

Grant Denyer talks about alcohol abuse on It's All True podcast

<https://au.mestyle.yahoo.com/grant-denyer-breaks-down-in-a-clip-200043094.html>

Grant Denyer's startling Sunrise confession after breakdown

Jan 4, 2021 ... In a clip of the upcoming episode, Denyer admits he struggled with alco



EXPERIENCES OF TRAUMA

- Women with substance use are more likely to have past experiences of **trauma** including sexual assault and domestic violence





LACK OF SAFE SPACES FOR DEPENDANTS

- Statistics show that women are over represented in caregiving roles
- Parents without alternative childcare or care options cannot easily access these services





ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- Admission requirements
- Gender of service provider
- Hours of operation
- Location of services





APPROACHES TO IMPROVING ACCESS

- Trauma informed care
- Wraparound Model
- Reflective Practice





IMPROVING ACCESS FOR WOMEN

- Flexibility of services
- Create safe spaces
- Family-friendly
- Gender of service provider
- Consideration of gender specific groups
- Supervision, support and staff training



STAGES OF ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE (LEWIN, 1951)

IDENTIFY NEED FOR CHANGE

1

Unfreezing

2

Changing

3

Refreezing



KEY TAKEAWAYS – MAKE IMPACT NOW

1. **Create safe spaces** - be trauma informed through entire treatment journey
2. **Family friendly** - breast feeding friendly places, toys for children & changing tables
3. **Be flexible in service provision** - gender of service provider, gender specific groups, outreach & longer sessions if needed



TAKE ACTION

Run some workshops and see what is important and relevant for your teams





THANK YOU



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REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Please read this report for
additional information

