



“Easy Does It”

Making it easy for vulnerable mothers and babies to transition from specialist maternity care to community addiction support

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VAADA AOD CONFERENCE  the women's
the royal women's hospital
victoria australia

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Items for discussion

- Introduction to WADS and Regen
- Challenges for mothers
- Giving voice to women's concerns and feminist perspectives
- The global rights of all women and infants
- Establishing measures to overcome obstacles for vulnerable mothers and babies



Regen Mother & Baby Withdrawal Service

ReGen's Mother & Baby Withdrawal Service is the first residential withdrawal service in Victoria to allow a mother to complete a withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs and remain together with her baby (up to 12 months of age or walking stage).

It is the first residential withdrawal setting specifically designed for women and catering to the needs of mothers and their babies.

Opened in October 2016



The Royal Women's Hospital

- Established in 1856
- 161 years of leadership and innovation in women's health
- Is Australia's largest specialist hospital dedicated to improving the health of all women, and newborn babies
- Cares for women of all ages
- Clinical care incorporating social model of health



The Women's Alcohol and Drug Service

- Officially opened in 1985
- Statewide - funded Dept. Health
- Unique in Victoria
- Specialist support to complex women and their infants affected by alcohol and drug use



Hospitals and health services dedicated to women's health

Recent global events highlight that women's rights remain at risk and there is still much work to be done to embed gender equality and women's rights in every facet of life.

The need for health care and services tailored specifically for women is clear.

We need to apply a gender lens to protect and improve the health and well-being of women and infants



Challenges for mother

“The linkages between abuse, mental health and AOD problems are particularly acute for women and require a gendered-sensitive response from services”

Breckenridge, J. Salter, M. & Shaw, E. (2010, p. 10)



Linkages between abuse, mental health and AOD

High rates of trauma linked to both childhood and adult physical and sexual violence

Acute trauma related psychiatric problems

Participation in sex work and transactional sex to fund AOD use

Multiple experiences of discrimination and unjust practices



Linkages between abuse, mental health and AOD

Drug and alcohol use may intensify the cycle of gendered violence

Increase risk of relapse in AOD use

High risk of homelessness.

Whilst homeless, many women are at risk of developing or worsening mental illness and drug and alcohol dependency.

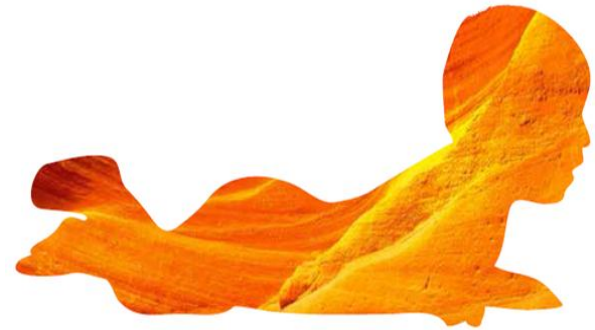


Case practice and service provision

Thinking and acting
collaboratively

Coherent service plans

Professionals need to share
information - critical for
collaborative practice



Principles of Care for Services

Long term interventions

Develop a flexible and
supportive service culture

Ensure all women have access
to timely, effective and
affordable care



Questions ?



Take care

