



# dapaanz

fostering excellence in addiction practice

## A health system that works for those with addiction

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*He aha te mea nui o te ao -remove watermark He tangata, he tangata, he tangata*

Dapaanz is the association representing the interests of the Aotearoa/New Zealand addiction treatment sector. We have more than 1500 members. Our experience in the sector, and knowledge of other countries success in reducing addiction, suggests that *to better meet the needs of New Zealanders experiencing addiction:*

- 1. The system needs to shift from a punitive justice focus to a health and recovery approach.**
  - A person with an addiction has a health problem and where-ever possible should receive a health rather than justice response.
  - Funding needs to be reallocated from building and maintaining prisons to increasing and enhancing treatment for those experiencing addiction.
  - There needs to be increased access to more recovery-focussed options (eg, Drug Courts, diversion, a range of harm reduction choices).
- 2. We need to build a system that supports wellbeing and recovery.**
  - Helps people re-connect, engage in meaningful activities, and develop prosocial peer networks.
  - Empowers and supports people to set their own treatment/wellbeing/recovery goals.
  - Meets basic needs, such as housing, food and health care access, without pre-conditions such as sobriety or willingness to attend programmes.
  - Supports family members.

*Increasing peer workers and community-based peer recovery supports to complement the treatment system and consumer informed services (ie, services modified through consumer feedback) would help significantly in this regard.*

- 3. Early intervention and timely access to professional help is required**
  - Wait times for addiction services need to be eliminated so those experiencing addiction get the help they need as early as possible.
  - There needs to be a wide range of options for treatment (eg, cultural approaches, various harm reduction options) and early intervention as well as a centralised and co-ordinated approach to developing resources to support the sector.

Reducing wait times and improving the range of options requires increasing and regulating the workforce so services cannot be set up or provided by unqualified practitioners.

*Increasing access could be achieved through having addiction practitioners in non-AOD settings; addressing the pay inequity between addiction practitioners and their peers in health and allied sectors (to increase the workforce); and incentivising services that excel.*

### Dapaanz is available to help

With our extensive network of addiction practitioners and people with lived experience, dapaanz can easily tap into the required knowledge and expertise to support you to build a health and recovery system that will better meet the needs of New Zealanders experiencing addiction and reduce the impacts of addiction for individuals, families/whānau and their communities. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss how we could best support you to do this. *Please contact our Executive Director of dapaanz, Sue Paton* either by email at: [sue@dapaanz.org.nz](mailto:sue@dapaanz.org.nz) or by phone: 04 282 1809 / 021 187 4311.