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Community Based Primary AOD Service

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Categories

1 - Working with clients

Abstract

An innovative primary service in Nelson has just completed its first full year. The service is aligned with the 2018 He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction recommendations:

“Skilled, accessible and integrated primary and community health care is essential for preventing and responding to mental health and addiction problems”

The pilot Primary Adult Alcohol & Other Drug Service is funded by the Nelson Bays Primary Health Organization (NBPHO) as a way to fill an identified gap in primary adult AOD services. The service is located at the Victory Community Centre (VCC) in the Toi Toi neighbourhood which has a higher proportion of former refugees, lower income families and Māori and Pasifika than the rest of Nelson.

This free service offers brief intervention and education to adults with mild-moderate use of substances. It is a mobile service focusing on improving access to services which take place at VCC, a GP practice, other community agencies, or via the phone or Zoom. Clients are able to self-refer or drop-in. A new Rapid Response service has been initiated with a local GP practice and the service recently offered education workshops to the former Columbian refugee community.

This role is also designed to support General Practices and other primary care services to provide workforce education. The focus is to encourage primary care clinicians to screen for substance use and provide brief intervention.

Join Sabien to learn about this service, its development, rewards and challenges as well as focus moving forwards.

Biography

Sabien works at the Victory Community Centre as the Primary Adult Alcohol & Other Drug Clinician. She trained as an occupational therapist and has worked in the mental health and addictions sectors in the US and in Aotearoa New Zealand. She is excited to have the opportunity to develop this role.