parity

The August 2018: "Issues of Substance: Substance Dependency and Homelessness" edition of *Parity*

Introduction

The issues that once dominated the mainstream discussion of the nexus between problematic substance use and homelessness are beginning to change. Not so long ago perceptions of substance related issues and homelessness conjured images of opioid dependence, criminal activity and notions of social deviance. However, as the social stigma around these issues also continues to shift, so too does the dominant discourse to one of support, hope and recovery.

People who become homelessness are much more likely to experience, or to have experienced, substance use issues. As the 2016 AIHW publication Exploring drug treatment and homelessness in Australia put it:

"There is much research to suggest a considerable overlap between people experiencing precarious housing, and those experiencing drug and alcohol misuse: many present both to alcohol and other drug treatment services (AODTS) with a variety of drug use issues, and to specialist homelessness services (SHS) either at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness." (1)

It should go without saying that not all people who experience homelessness will use substances problematically, and not all people who experience alcohol or other drug (AOD) issues will become homeless or have had an episode of homelessness. Nevertheless, it is clear that there are a significant number of people who require support from both SHS and AODTS.

We are developing an increasing understanding of the interconnectedness of issues experienced by our clients leading to a shift in the way services provide care and support. Our evolving understanding raises questions such as:

- What is the capacity of our current service systems to respond adequately to the needs of clients?
- How can we improve service responsiveness for clients experiencing both homelessness and problematic substance use?
- Where is the intersection between the AODTS and SHS?
- How do we build the most efficient and responsive service system?
- How can both sectors provide effective support while maintaining the specialist skills of the SHS and AODTS workforce?

The August 2018 edition of *Parity* is therefore seeking to open up the discussion around how through policy development and service intervention we can achieve the best

outcomes for people caught in the nexus between problematic substance use and homelessness.

The key areas we are inviting submissions on include:

- Recent research, evidence and innovation on successful program and service interventions.
- Government policy initiatives and developments at national, state and local levels.
- New and innovative models of service delivery and best practice.
- The lived experience of service users and clients of both AOD and homelessness services about what works and what does not work.
- What can be learned from the experience and models of overseas programs and services that respond to the AOD issues and homelessness.

A Framework for Discussion

The suggested structure of the edition aims to look at five central areas connected with the understanding of and the responses to substance dependence and homelessness.

1. Evidence and innovation

- What does the research say about the two-way relationship between homelessness and AOD issues?
- What are our current understandings of the nexus between AOD issues and homelessness based on? What does the latest research say? What if anything has changed in recent years in terms of program and service interventions?
- What have the evaluations of programs and services dealing with AOD issues and homelessness said about their effectiveness in responding to both the AOD issues and ending homelessness?

2. Government Policy

- What policies have been developed at all levels of government, national, state and local, to respond to the manifold issues connected with AOD issues and homelessness?
- How have AOD treatment and services responses taken into account the imperatives of homelessness? Have these services been adequately resourced to respond to these twin issues?
- Have SHS been able to respond to the AOD issues experienced by some of their clients? If so, how have they done this?

- What was the follow up to the three year Victorian *Homelessness and Drug Dependency Trial* that commenced in 2001? How did the results of the Trial impact on the development of government policy?

3. New and Innovative models of service delivery and best practice

What homelessness programs and services seek to respond to people with AOD issues and likewise, what AOD programs and services seek to respond to people also experiencing homelessness.

- What are some examples of best practice programs and services that have proven themselves as both effective in preventing/alleviating homelessness and directly supporting recovery from AOD issues?
- How have partnerships between organisations made these approaches more effective?
- What challenges does the current reform and service delivery context pose for these practices?

4. Lived experience

How can the insights derived from the lived experience of people with homelessness and AOD issues contribute to the development of better policies, programs and services?

- What role should people with a personal experience of AOD issues and/or homelessness have in the development of policy and service responses to these issues?
- What unique attributes, skills or perspectives are provided through the understanding that comes from lived experience? What are the pitfalls or risks of incorporating lived experience into policy and service development?
- What are the leading examples where people with lived experience are already leading the way?

5. Overseas experience and models of service delivery

- What can be learned from the policy, program and service delivery experience of other countries in responding to homelessness and AOD issues?
- What are the limitations of applying overseas models to the social and cultural landscape of Australia and its specific homelessness and AOD issues?

Endnote
1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016, Exploring Drug Treatment and Homelessness in Australia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, p. vii.

Contributing to the August 2018 "Issues of Substance: Substance Dependence and Homelessness" edition of *Parity*

Deadline: All contributions need to be submitted by COB Friday August 10th 2018.

Submissions format: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to parity@chp.org.au

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words (including references). This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length (including references). Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

Embedded media: Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

Artwork: Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will then be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

Referencing
All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies. The *Parity* referencing protocol is as follows:

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- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered 1 in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered 2, and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.
- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If the same reference is used more than once, it is given a new number each time it is used. Use op. cit.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text, or be placed inside the text punctuation.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other. Use a space, not a comma to separate the references.

For example:
International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. 4, 5

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Books:
Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page **number(s).**

For example:
1. Seung S 2012, Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, P.90.

Journal Articles
Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article'**,** *Title of Journal,* volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

For example:
Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

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Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

With no author:
Use 'Unknown'

For example:
Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

Webpage/document within a website or blog Post:

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website,* Year of Publication (if known) <URL>

For example:
Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>

Audio podcast:
Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

For example:
Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', Stuff Mom Never Told You, 14 March 2018 <https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html >

Online video/film or documentary:
Title Date of recording, Format, Publisher,

For example:
*Indigenous hom*elessness 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

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Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 op cit. pp. 230-231.

Citing the same reference consecutively

Use Ibid. when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:
1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', Journal of Adolescence, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.
2. Ibid. pp.32-33.

Multiple Authors
For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:
Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, The management of a student research project, Gower, Aldershot, England.

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