



Victorian Healthcare
Association

Member Bulletin

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES

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Dear Member,

The Minister for Mental Health, Mary Wooldridge, has released a document entitled *New directions for alcohol and drug treatment services: a roadmap*. This document serves as a guide to the reform of Victoria's alcohol and drug treatment services.

The reform priorities are:

- To build models of care that are focussed on recovery and family inclusion, particularly taking into account the needs of children
- To streamline treatment programs from over 20 types down to 6, and redevelop the funding model so that services can provide individualised responses to clients
- To develop consistent, standardised assessment and needs identification to achieve an appropriate and comprehensive response to clients
- To foster effective treatment pathways by recommissioning alcohol and drug treatment services at an area level and connecting into a full range of services
- To build a workforce that recognises the current skills and expertise of employees in the sector and promotes the development of clinical, relationship and care-coordination capability.

Minister Wooldridge has also identified key focus areas in 2012. These areas are the redevelopment of the pharmacotherapy system, the introduction of a bed vacancy register and central intake, and the expansion of access to needle and syringe programs and counselling services in growth corridors and regional areas. A new alcohol and drug treatment workforce strategy and implementation plan will also be introduced this year.

The full document can be accessed online at the Department of Health [website](#).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Carr'.

Trevor Carr
Chief Executive