



## APSAD

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Involuntary Treatment for  
Substance Use Disorders:  
6 Month Outcome

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## Two questions

- Is the dyscontrol and compulsion of addiction sufficient to sufficiently impair the individual's autonomy to the extent that we are justified in over-riding this, by instituting coercive treatment?
- If yes, is treatment under these circumstances effective?



## Drug and Alcohol Treatment ACT 2007

- The Inebriates ACT 1912 repealed very few changes in 100 years
- September 4th 2012 Drug and Alcohol Treatment ACT 2007 ratified and 2 Units opened
- Herbert Street Clinic, RNS Sydney – 4 Beds  
Lachlan Unit, OHS Bloomfield Campus – 8 Beds



## Involuntary treatment criteria

- The person has a severe substance dependence
- Care, treatment or control of the person is necessary to protect the person from serious harm
- The person is likely to benefit from the treatment for his or her substance dependence but has refused treatment
- No other appropriate and less restrictive means for dealing with the person are reasonably available



## Program Aims

- Provide a short term intervention to remove the patient from immediate danger
- Allow the patient an opportunity to withdraw from alcohol and other drugs in a safe environment
- Allow the opportunity for the patient to stabilise and rebuild physical and mental health
- Enable the patient to address physical, mental and neurological issues



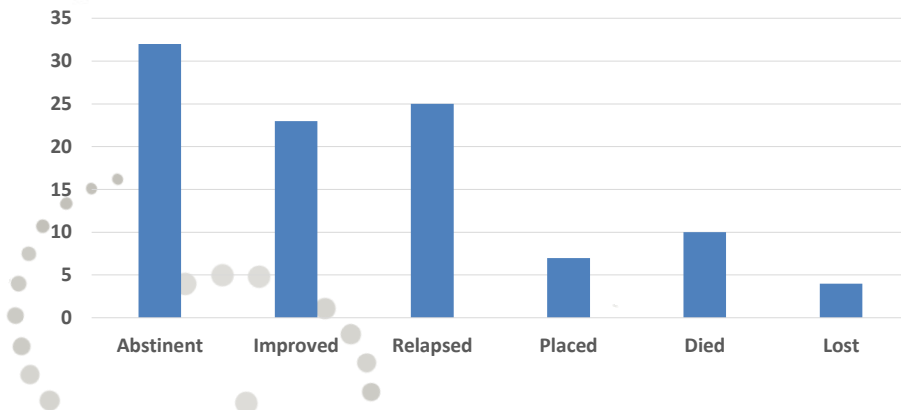


## The first two years

- 135 patients
- Aged 19 – 73
- Males : females 60:40
- Alcohol 73%, other drugs 27%
- Discharged to voluntary rehab 26 (19%)
- Placed under formal guardianship: 30 (23%)
- Average length of stay just over one month



## 6 months follow up outcomes





## Follow up post IDAT

- Support returning back into the community
- Guardianship including financial management
- Housing support
- Use of brokerage funds
- Links to identifies services
- Reconnecting with family



## What does this mean

- Decrease in hospital presentations and admissions
- Reduction in alcohol/substances intake
- Links to appropriate rehabs and services
- Ability to gain new skills
- Increased healthy lifestyles
- Reconnecting with family & community



## Case study

- 61 year old male
- Living alone in private rental
- Principal diagnosis
  - Alcohol dependence
- Additional diagnoses
  - depression with suicidal ideations
- Daily nicotine smoker
- Non compliance with medications
- Multiple hospital presentations prior IDAT
- Hospital presentations post IDAT = 0
- Continued to engage with community services



## Referral process

- ADIS
  - Sydney metropolitan 02 9361 8000
  - Regional & rural NSW Freecall \* 1800 422 599
- Local Drug and Alcohol Helpline
- Medical Practitioner
- Involuntary Treatment Liaison Officer (ITLO)



## Contact

Involuntary Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit  
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