



Capacity building

in the AOD sector: what, how & outcomes

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What is capacity building?

Capacity building is best seen as a strategy, rather than an activity or an outcome. As a strategy it entails a coordinated set of activities that, implemented well, should attain its intended objectives.

We defined capacity building as a strategy that improves the ability of AOD workers, services and/or the broader AOD system to achieve better AOD health and social outcomes.

How do the Network members go about capacity building?

Four sub-strategies:

- * Building sustainable linkages and strategic partnerships, e.g. Practice Enhancement Program: Working with Complex Needs.
- * Assisting AOD services to undertake service improvement, e.g. Comorbidity Consumer Voices Project.
- * Identifying and facilitating training opportunities, e.g. Suicide Intervention Skills Trainers Network.
- * Developing and promoting information and resources, e.g. Development of Trauma Informed Care prompt cards.

The project

The National AOD Peaks Capacity Building Network has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to develop and implement capacity building activities across the sector. This adds to the capacity building work already underway across the eight state and territory NGO AOD peak bodies: AADANT, ATDC, ATODA, NADA, QNADA, SANDAS, VAADA and WANADA.

A systems approach

The Network's capacity building activities take a systems approach to strengthening the Australian AOD sector. As a result, members' capacity building work applies research-based knowledge to strengthen people, groups, organisations and systems in the AOD field, concentrating particularly on the NGO sector.

Evaluating capacity building

The Network members' commitment to quality capacity building practice has led them to commission an evaluation of their capacity building strategies, activities and outcomes. Members expect that the evaluation will demonstrate what capacity building looks like in our sector and how, when implemented well, it contributes to valued system, organisational and service user outcomes.