

Peer Workers In Public Health

23 February 2023

Antony Alder
Lived Experience Peer Worker
The Department of Addiction Medicine

Introduction

Antony Alder

LE Peer Worker

Department of Addiction Medicine (DoAM)

- Inpatients ED and hospital wards
 - Direct contact and referral
- Outpatients
 - Via referral from DoAM staff

Email: antony.alder@svha.org.au

Kate Dobson

LE Peer Worker

DePaul House (DPH)

- 12 bed residential withdrawal unit
 - Direct contact
- Outpatients
 - Via referral from DoAM staff
 - DPH clients discharging to the community

Email: kate.dobson@svha.org.au

Preparation for Service

- SHARC Peer Worker Organisational Readiness training prior to Peer Workers commencing
- Six week induction
- Created referral form which was active week three
- Created Peer Worker information flyer for clients and database to capture our activities
- Roles developed organically over time

Peer Worker In An Acute Hospital Setting

- Integration With Clinical Liaison Team
- Meeting Clients 'Where They Are At'
- Advocacy for Clients Wishes and Needs
- Communicating in Lay Terms
- Act as a Bridge Between Clinical Staff and Consumer

Case Presentation

- Alex (pseudonym), 62yr old male.
- Vague history of prescription opiate addiction
- Roughly 9 week stay, complicated medical admission (endocarditis)
- Initially hostile towards DoAM team – absconded multiple times to use
- Introduced self as Peer Worker
- After initial hesitation, strong rapport developed
- Within next few days, client accepted and agreeable to treatment
- Commenced on Suboxone - positive response!

Additional Supports Required

- External discipline specific supervision
- Internal line management and clinical supervision
- Attending the Victorian AOD Peer Workforce Community of Practice (CoP)
- Being a part of the wider Lived Experience Workforce - St Vincent's
- Having the freedom to work collaboratively to best implement the roles
- Peer specific training

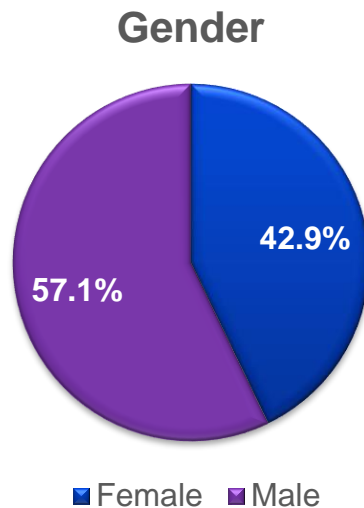
How St. Vincent's Supports Us

- Staff advocacy
- Organisational readiness training
- Having an organisational understanding of Peer Work and value of Lived Experience
- Providing a positive and inclusive workplace culture
- Flexible working arrangements
- Opportunities for growth in our roles

Data Collected from 1 Feb 2022

Total number of clients = 380

Total points of activity = 796



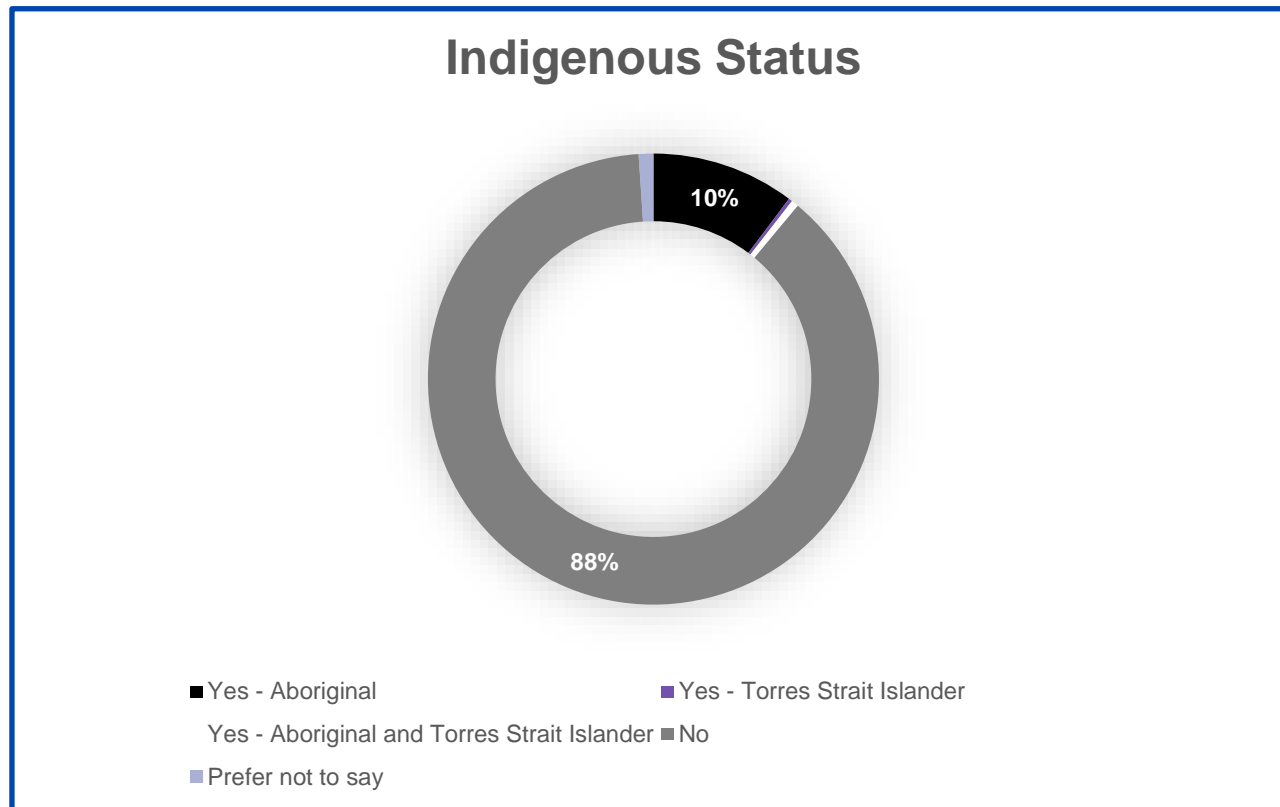
Average Age

43.8

Females: 43.5 (Min = 19; Max = 67)

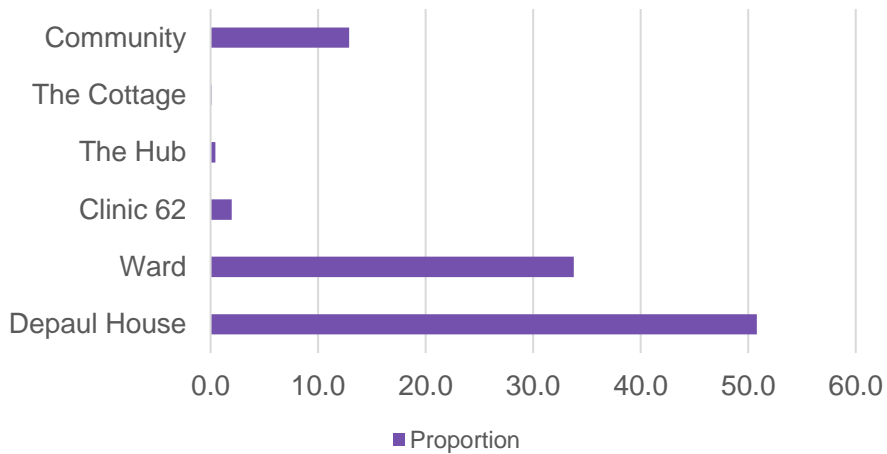
Males: 44.0 (Min = 24; Max = 74)

Indigenous Status

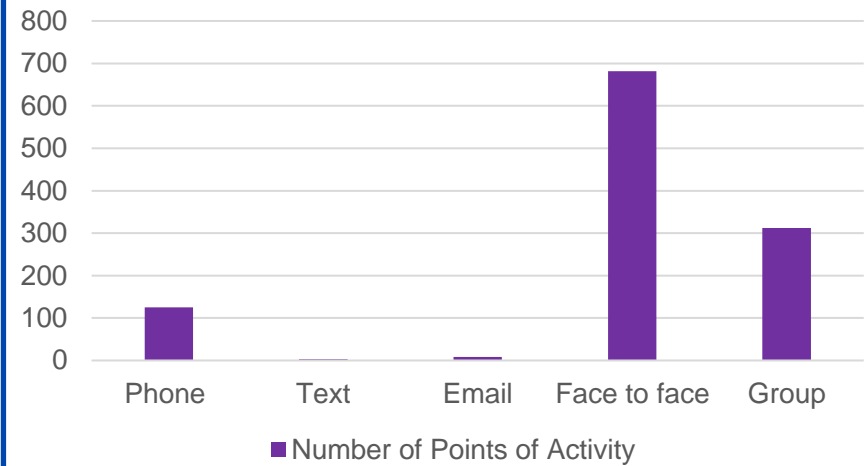


Location and Type of Contact

Location of client liaison with peer



Type of Contact



Reason for Contact

