



Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative

Available Services / Contact Details / Policy Context

@ April 2021

Initiated in 2002 the **Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative (VDDI)** is a cross-sector (*Alcohol and Drug, Mental Health Community Support and Clinical Mental Health*) initiative funded by the Victorian Department of Health, to assist mental health and drug and alcohol clinicians, agencies and sectors to develop their capacity to recognise and respond effectively to people with co-occurring mental health and substance use concerns.

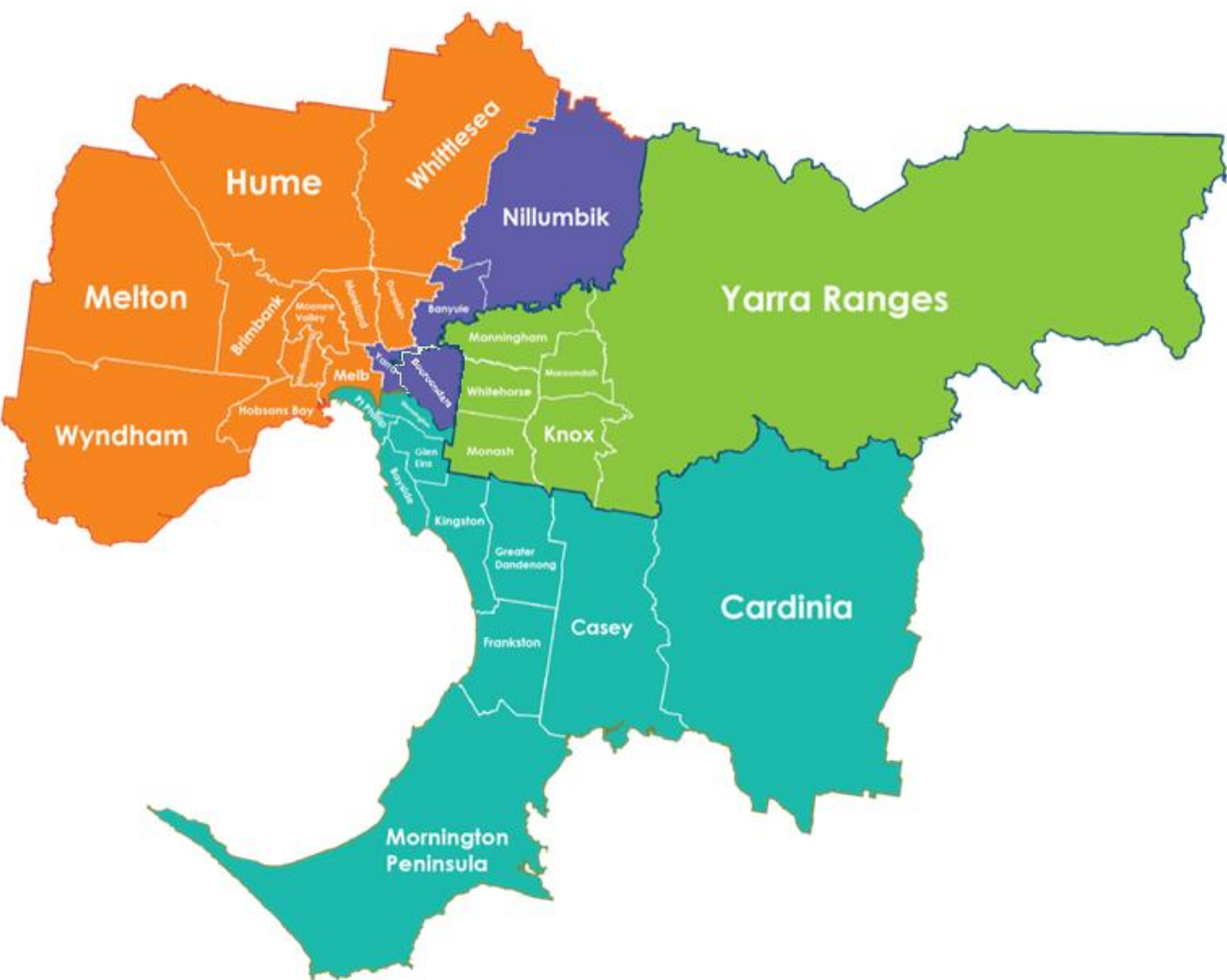
The VDDI's structure includes four metropolitan agencies with links to VDDI workers embedded in each rural region. The VDDI is coordinated by the **VDDI Leadership Group (VDDILG)** and the [VDDI Rural Forum \(VDDIRF\)](#).

Metropolitan lead agencies are funded for a range of positions including psychiatrist and specialist youth workers and to provide supports to rural VDDI workers and their regions. The VDDI works closely with the [Homeless Youth Dual Diagnosis Initiative \(HYDDI\)](#).

This flyer profiles the services provided by and contact details for your local VDDI teams and workers. Closing pages summarise current policy context @ May 2021

METRO

METRO



VDDI Inquiries: 03 9231 2083



Contacts:

Rural



Barwon South West

Currently vacant

Gippsland

Coordinator: Gillian Clark 0439 296 987

[Click to email](#)

West Gippsland: Paul Jordan 0413 647 056

[Click to email](#)

Goulburn Valley

Gary Said

0438 322 854

[Click to email](#)

Grampians

Marisha Jarecki

0407 303 296

[Click to email](#)

Great South Coast

Currently vacant

Hume-Border- NE Vic

Gary Croton

0458 292 744

[Click to email](#)

Loddon Mallee – Northern

Jodie McMutrie

0428 101 017

[Click to email](#)

Loddon Mallee – Southern

Paul Hurnall

0439 184 526

[Click to email](#)



VDDI Inquiries: 03 9231 2083

MH VDDI Role Description ¹

Dual Diagnosis services aim to **improve treatment outcomes for individuals who have co-existing mental health and substance use issues.**

Services include:

- **education and training** for mental health, drug and alcohol and MHCSS staff,
- support to **organisations to develop dual diagnosis capabilities**, and
- **clinical consultations in collaboration with primary case managers.**

AOD VDDI Role Description ²

The VDDI **supports the development of better treatment practices** and **collaborative relationships** between AOD treatment and mental health services. The key activities of the VDDI are:

- the **development of local networks**
- **training, consultation and modelling of good practice** through **direct clinical intervention** and **shared care arrangements.**

VDDI target group is **mental health and AOD treatment workers** who require support to respond to clients with concurrent AOD and mental health issues. The initiative includes the following functions:

- **Develop co-operative working relationships between mental health and AOD treatment services** within the relevant area service catchment. This should particularly address areas of **access, assessment** and the development of **effective treatment planning.**
- Provide **training and consultation** to all community mental health and AOD treatment services within the catchment with a strong focus on **building capacity within the services to respond more effectively to people with a dual diagnosis.**
- Provide **direct service** to clients with a serious mental illness and substance use problems with a focus on **developing and modelling good practice.** This may be by providing a **limited direct service** and **intensive support/consultation to case managers on specific cases.**

¹ Victoria's Mental Health Services [Annual Report](#)

² Victorian Alcohol & Other Drugs [Program & Service Specifications](#)

VDDI Policy Context



Royal Commission into
Victoria's Mental Health System

March 2021



VDDI Policy Context



Royal Commission into
Victoria's Mental Health System

March 2021



Recommendation 35:

Improving outcomes for people
living with mental illness and
substance use or addiction

The Royal Commission recommends that the Victorian Government:

1. by the end of 2022, in addition to ensuring there is at least one highest-level emergency department suitable for mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment in every region (refer to recommendations 3(3) and 8(3)(c)), ensure that all mental health and wellbeing services, across all age-based systems, including crisis services, community-based services and bed-based services:
 - a. provide integrated treatment, care and support to people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction; and
 - b. do not exclude consumers living with substance use or addiction from accessing treatment, care and support.

VDDI Policy Context



Royal Commission into
Victoria's Mental Health System



The Commission highlights the role that the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative has played over many years in increasing coordination and collaboration between mental health and alcohol and other drug services.²⁴⁶ This initiative was designed to create links with related agencies including primary care, family violence and homelessness services.²⁴⁷ The initiative has been central to building 'dual diagnosis capability' across services in Victoria.²⁴⁸

The Commission considers that the expertise of practitioners and clinicians who deliver the initiative will be invaluable to supporting the transition to integrated care delivered in mental health services and suggests that the expertise of those involved in the initiative continue to be a feature in the new statewide service.

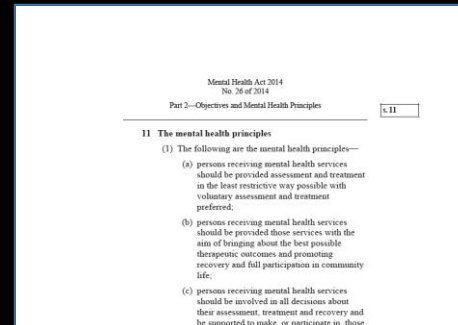
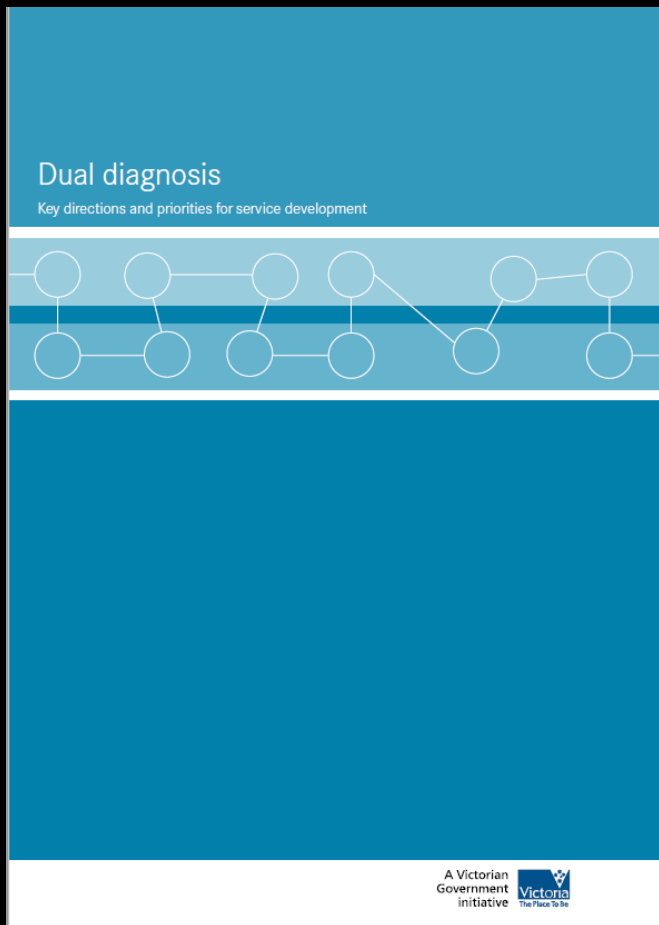
Recommendation 36:

A new statewide service for people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction

The Royal Commission recommends that the Victorian Government:

1. establish a new statewide specialist service, built on the foundations established by the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative, to:
 - a. undertake dedicated research into mental illness and substance use or addiction;
 - b. support education and training initiatives for a broad range of mental health and alcohol and other drug practitioners and clinicians;
 - c. provide primary consultation to people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction who have complex support needs; and
 - d. provide secondary consultation to mental health and wellbeing and alcohol and other drug practitioners and clinicians across both sectors.
2. as a matter of priority, increase the number of addiction specialists (addiction medicine physicians and addiction psychiatrists) in Victoria.
3. work with the Commonwealth Government to explore opportunities for funded addiction specialist trainee positions in Victoria.

VDDI Policy Context



...persons receiving mental health services should have their medical and other health needs, including any alcohol and other drug problems, recognised and responded to ...

Victoria's, cross-sector, policy:
Dual diagnosis: key directions for service development

Victoria's, 2014 **Mental Health Act**