

Education

Education, including staff development and training, aims to improve participants understanding of dual disability. Some of the topics included in the Mind Brain and Behaviour Series of workshops include:

- Introduction to Dual Disability
- Physical Health considerations
- Medication considerations
- Psychological health
- Developmental Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Assessment of people with a dual disability
- Schizophrenia
- Service systems
- Challenging Behaviours.

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Victorian Dual Disability Service – Enhanced Regional Service Response

Brochure for Professionals

About the Victorian Dual Disability Service

The Victorian Dual Disability Service (VDDS) is funded by the Department of Health and is a joint mental health initiative of St Vincent's Health (Melbourne) and Melbourne Mental Health, managed by St Vincent's Mental Health Service. The primary goal of the VDDS is to contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of Victorians with an intellectual disability referred by mental health services within the state.

The service is multi-disciplinary and operates within the existing mental health framework established in Victoria.

At a state wide level the VDDS is responsible for:

- Developing models of best practice.
- Providing assessment and consultation services to staff within Northern Division and the metropolitan area of the Western Division of the Department of Human Services.
- Promoting access to Services for consumers with a dual disability.
- Facilitating partnerships and collaborative treatment planning through consultation and liaison.

Victorian Dual Disability Service – Enhanced Regional Service Response (ERSR)

The ERSR funds the VDDS to provide mental health screening, assessment and treatment planning for people with a known or suspected dual disability residing within the Northern Division and the metropolitan area of the Western Division of the Department of Human Services.

Purpose

The purpose of the ERSR is to provide mental health advice and support to people in the Northern Division and the Metropolitan area of the Western Division of the Department of Human Services.

Aims

1. To improve access for clients in the target group to support from the VDDS.
2. To improve the quality of mental health care and disability supports received by people with dual disabilities.
3. To enhance the capacity of the disability service system to more effectively support and manage people with intellectual disability who have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness.

4. To collect data on the mental health service needs of people referred to and assessed by the VDDS.
5. To contribute to cross sector approaches to address the support needs of the dual disability client group.

Model of Care

Triage

Calls can be made to the VDDS Monday to Friday during working hours. VDDS staff will undertake phone based triage to facilitate timely access to appropriate services.

Assessment

Assessments will be provided to people who:

- Appear to have a serious mental illness or mental disorder.
- Have associated significant levels of disturbance and psychosocial disability due to their illness or disorder.
- Are perceived to be those most in need.
- Are receiving a funded service from disability services in the region.

Extended consultation and Treatment

If clinically indicated, the VDDS will undertake treatment and management until an appropriate local service provider can be found. This may include management of medication, psychosocial interventions and referral to appropriate services.

Target group

Adults, over the age of 16 years, residing in the Northern Division and the metropolitan area of the Western Division of the Department of Human Services who:

- Have a known or suspected intellectual disability and a known or suspected mental illness, their family and carers; and
- Where the VDDS can make a contribution to the care in partnership with staff from funded disability support providers or an AMHS.