

Contact details

Victorian Dual Disability Service

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Victorian Dual Disability Service

A statewide specialist mental health service
for people with an intellectual disability

Information for professionals

About the Victorian Dual Disability Service

The Victorian Dual Disability Service (VDDS) is a joint mental health initiative between St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Melbourne Health.

The service is multidisciplinary and operates within the mental health policy framework in Victoria.

At a state wide level, the VDDS is responsible for:

- developing a model of best practice
- providing assessment and consultation services to staff within the Victorian Area Mental Health Services
- promoting access to Victorian Area Mental Health Services for consumers with a dual disability
- facilitating partnerships and collaborative treatment planning through consultation and liaison.

Service development activities

Working with 21 Victorian specialist Area Mental Health Services, the VDDS develops networks and partnerships to enhance policies and procedures for innovated systems of care.

Target group

The VDDS provides clinical support to Victorian residents. Our focus is Victorian residents aged 16 years and over who are current consumers of mental health services and have a known or suspected intellectual disability.

Clinical activities

The VDDS facilitates collaborative assessment and consultation, guided by a multidisciplinary team.

Model of care

Triage –
Calls can be made to the VDDS Monday to Friday during business hours.

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.

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 facilitated access to appropriate services.

Education and training activities

The VDDS aims to expand the knowledge base on which interventions are made. The VDDS develops and delivers education and training related to the assessment, treatment and management of Victorians with a known or suspected dual disability.

Training is targeted toward staff employed within the 21 Area Mental Health Services and staff employed in the Mental Health Community Support Services (MHSCC) across the state.

The range of topics include:

- general introduction to the service and dual disability
- role specific training
- profession specific training
- disorder specific training
- academic sessions for undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

Complimentary online training

Dual disability modules –
In conjunction with the Office of Professional Practice, the VDDS has developed an e-learning resource on mental health for people with an intellectual disability. Visit the VDDS website www.vdds.org.au and follow the links to our For Professionals training page.

MHPOD –
MHPOD is an online resource available to professionals working in public mental health. The VDDS developed the module on Dual Disability. Visit the contacts page section of the MHPOD website to find out more about registering: www.mhpod.gov.au