

MEDIA RELEASE

28 August, 2015

Workshops offer targeted drug and alcohol training for youth workers

FOR the first time the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODS) team has held targeted workshops for those specifically working with young people.

The workshops were held for school-based workers, as well as other community members in contact with young people such as youth workers and guidance officers.

Mental Health AODS health promotion officer Kerry McNally said the workshops were held in direct response to members of the community seeking more information about drugs and alcohol issues affecting young people.

"We aimed to give workshop participants the most up-to-date and relevant information," Ms McNally said.

"The program included basic information about addiction, as well as current trends, prevention, responding to incidents and where to go for more information or resources."

Ms McNally said the workshops attracted 60 participants over two days.

"The issues young people face associated with drugs and alcohol are constantly changing," Ms McNally said.

"That is why it is important for those working closely with young people to have the most relevant information and skills at hand."

The workshops were held at Metro Care in Toowoomba, which also provides support to community members affected by drug and alcohol issues, as well as other issues.

Metro Care Operations Manager Matt Gregg was pleased to be able to partner with AODs and subsidise the workshops.

"We support initiatives that provide more information and education about the influences of drug and alcohol in our community," Mr Gregg said.

The workshops were also supported by Toowoomba's Liquor Industry Action Group (LIAG) and the Queensland Government organisation, Dovetail.

For more information about drug and alcohol training opportunities contact Kerry McNally on 4616 6100.

Caption: Taking part in a workshop for people working with young people are (from left) DDHHS AODS Senior Psychologist Dr Maxine O'Brien and AODS Health Promotion Officers Richard Henshaw and Kerry McNally with Metro Care Operations Manager Matt Gregg.

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