

WORKSHOP: WORKING WITH METHAMPHETAMINE USERS

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¹ Caraniche

Introduction / Issues: Caraniche is a specialist consulting firm that delivers a range of psychological services to the government, private and not-for-profit organisations. As part of their service, Caraniche provides evidence-based alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment to over 6000 prisoners each year across the Victorian public prison system. In recent years, Caraniche have seen a significant increase in the reported use of methamphetamine amongst offenders in prison-based AOD programs. Program evaluation data indicates that methamphetamine has replaced heroin as the drug that reportedly caused the most serious problems for male prisoners. This trend is also increasing for female prisoners. This increase in prevalence, as well as the specific effects of methamphetamine use, indicates a need for a more in-depth understanding of methamphetamine using clients and their management, and requires treatment to be tailored their needs.

This 75 minute workshop has been developed for persons who work with clients who use methamphetamines. Whilst Caraniche provide prison-based services, this workshop will also assist those working in community settings with methamphetamine using clients or offenders. Further, whilst information will be discussed in regard to offending behaviour, the focus of the workshop will be on methamphetamine use, effects and treatment approaches.

It is intended that participants will leave this workshop with an increased knowledge about methamphetamine use, its relationship to offending behaviour, appropriate management techniques, and treatment targets for methamphetamine users. Following the workshop, it is intended that participants will have an increased confidence in their ability to work with methamphetamine using clients.

This workshop was delivered in a longer format at the Australian and New Zealand Addictions Conference in May 2015, but has been modified to fit the 75 minute time limit.

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