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| Project Title: "Cracks in the Ice": developing and evaluating evidence-based resources about crystal methamphetamine for the Australian community | | Code: SMS4 |
| Host School / Institute: Sydney Medical School/ Matilda Centre | Address: Level 6, Jane Foss Russell Building (G02) Camperdown Campus | |
| Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Working with children clearance * | | |
| <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i> | | |
| Primary Supervisor: Dr Steph Kershaw | | |
| Phone: 02 8627 9018 | Email: steph.kershaw@sydney.edu.au | |
| <p>Co-Supervisor/team: The Cracks in the Ice program of work is run by researchers at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use. The Matilda Centre provides a world-first synergy of leading research and translation programs in mental health and substance use. It brings together researchers working across a number of fields of expertise (mental health, substance use, suicide, exercise physiology, chronic disease) to share skills, synergise data, and harness new technologies to develop and trial innovative prevention, early intervention, translation and treatment programs.</p> <p>The core Cracks in the Ice research team includes Associate Professor Cath Chapman, Professor Maree Teesson, Dr Steph Kershaw and two research assistants. This team is also supported by a larger team of academics who participate in monthly team meetings and provide their expertise as required.</p> | | |
| Project Type: Literature Review; Data Analysis; Qualitative Analysis | | |
| Project Category: Public Health; Technology | | |
| Skills / Attributes of a successful student: This project would suit a student who is organised, meticulous with good written communication skills and has a keen interest in mental health /substance use and prevention health programs. | | |
| Project Keywords: Translational research; Crystal methamphetamine; Prevention; Mental Health/Substance Use | | |
| <p>Project Description: The use of crystal methamphetamine ('ice') and the associated harms for individuals, families, and communities across Australia has been the subject of growing concern in recent years. In 2016, Ice became the drug of most concern for Australians, ranked ahead of alcohol for the first time. The provision of easily accessible, evidence-based, and up-to-date information and resources about crystal methamphetamine for the community is a critical component of a compassionate and effective public health response.</p> <p>Cracks in the Ice was Australia's first online national portal aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of, and preventing harms associated with, the use of crystal methamphetamine for affected communities, families and friends of people who use the drug, as well as health professionals. It was launched in 2017 and has achieved significant reach in the Australian community with over 260,000 unique visitors to the site and over 100,000 hardcopy resources distributed across Australia. As part of the Cracks in the Ice project the team is also in the process of developing culturally appropriate resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience a disproportionate burden of harm from methamphetamines. The team recently completed an online evaluation of the Cracks in the Ice website among 2000 Australians to identify unmet needs and to better inform resource development. The aim of this student project is to use this data, along with the latest evidence in the academic literature to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop evidence-based and engaging resources on issues identified as gaps by the community (resources may include factsheets, narrations for animations or interactive videos) • develop assets for social media that aim to encourage engagement with Cracks in the Ice among groups who are not engaging with this resource. <p>A student who chooses to work on the project will gain experience reviewing the latest evidence on crystal methamphetamine, analysing community survey data, as well as translation and research promotion activities. Through this project, a student would have the opportunity to work on a high profile national public health initiative to gain a better understanding of the AOD sector, translational research and develop a deeper appreciation for the importance of making evidence-based resources engaging and accessible.</p> | | |