



### **Drug and Alcohol Clinical Services (DACS) are proud to offer our New Graduate Nurse Program**

The Hunter New England Drug and Alcohol Transition to Professional Practice is designed to provide registered nurses who are new to substance use with the necessary clinical skills and knowledge to practice safely and deliver a high standard of clinical care.

The DACS vision aims to reduce harms associated with substance use for individuals, their families and our community. Our purpose is to deliver high quality, accessible and evidence-based care to reduce drug-related harm and contribute to improved health outcomes.

**The program provides a broad range of rotation options which can vary in length and can be tailored to suit individual preferences:**

- ❖ Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service
- ❖ Cessnock Pharmacotherapy Service
- ❖ Newcastle Harm Minimisation Program
- ❖ John Hunter Hospital Consultation Liaison
- ❖ Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment

**Facilities where opportunities are offered for Drug and Alcohol New Graduates include:**

- ❖ Newcastle Community Health Centre in Newcastle West
- ❖ James Fletcher Hospital in Newcastle
- ❖ John Hunter Hospital in New Lambton Heights
- ❖ Cessnock District Health Service in Cessnock

**Program features:**

- ❖ A one-year specialist program in drug and alcohol nursing
- ❖ Comprehensive orientation
- ❖ Assignment to multi-disciplinary teams
- ❖ Support of a Clinical Preceptor along with regular Clinical Supervision
- ❖ Guidance from Clinical Nurse Specialists, Clinical Nurse Consultants and Nurse Practitioners
- ❖ Access to a Clinical Nurse Educator to provide individualised education and training
- ❖ Regular substance use specific education sessions and study days throughout the year
- ❖ No night duty shifts
- ❖ Opportunities for future employment and career planning

During your first year you will be required to undertake mandatory training including but not limited to: Child Protection Targeting Training, Personal Safety and De-escalation, Respecting the Difference, Between the Flags (DETECT), Basic Life Support, Domestic Violence Routine Screening (DVRS)

#### Rotation options:

##### ❖ Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service (NPS) / Cessnock Pharmacotherapy Service (CPS)

The Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Program is a voluntary program providing pharmacotherapy clinics that commence & stabilise people on methadone or buprenorphine treatment. Participation in treatment brings previously marginalised opiate users into contact with health services. Withdrawal management, referral & patient reviews are also provided. Access to health services, counselling & welfare services are facilitated through participation in the program.

##### ❖ John Hunter Hospital Consultation Liaison (CL)

CL services are provided for patients admitted to hospital for other reasons where drug & alcohol concerns are a complicating factor. John Hunter Hospital has a dedicated service to provide drug & alcohol consultation & liaison support & advice to the primary treating teams.

##### ❖ Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT)

MERIT is a special Magistrates' program that provides the opportunity for some defendants with drug problems to work, on a voluntary basis, towards rehabilitation prior to sentencing. The MERIT program allows defendants to focus on treating their drug problem in isolation from legal matters.

##### ❖ Newcastle Harm Minimisation Program (HMP)

Harm Minimisation Program is designed to reduce drug-related harm by providing clean needles, syringes & other equipment related to injecting drug use as well as safe sharps disposal, condoms, lubricant and education pamphlets. Also offered is information & referrals to other services for sexually transmitted and blood borne diseases. A range of resources are provided to secondary harm minimisation outlets as well as outreach to various locations.

#### Contact us:

If you would like further information regarding DACS and our New Graduate Nurse Program please feel welcome to contact us via:

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