



**ST VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL**  
SYDNEY

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

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Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
HSU NSW Branch  
Level 2/109 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**By email: Gerard.hayes@hsu.asn.au**

Attention: Randall Millington

Dear Mr Hayes

### **Alcohol and Drug Service and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Service merging to form Drug and Behavioural Health Service**

We write to advise that St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (**SVHS**) will be merging current Alcohol and Drug Service (**ADS**) and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Service structures to form the new Drug and Behavioural Health Service during October 2022.

The Alcohol and Drug Services and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Services have been long established within the Integrated Care Directorate. In recent years, the services have collaborated on key SVHS Strategic developments and currently collaborate to ensure safe governance and operationalisation of the Psychiatry and Non-Prescription Drug and Alcohol Unit (**PANDA**) unit. This has presented an opportunity to review the overall structure of the two services in an effort to create further alignment.

### **Benefits of change**

Alignment of the two services will improve the quality of the governance standards across both services whereby the service will have a joint Clinical and Corporate Governance Committee Meeting on a monthly basis. This will streamline the time spent by both services who formerly met separately.

This will also provide enhanced support to the Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Service who do not presently have dedicated administrative support to ensure standards are met for documenting these meetings and committees.

It is noted that in other Health Districts the Alcohol and Drug Service has been renamed to Drug Health to better articulate the contemporary evidence and consumer views of the services provided. The proposal to include "Behavioural" in the title was to better

articulate the needs of the Gamble Aware Service, which sits within the Alcohol and Drug Service, this creates a more inclusive title of these consumers and clinicians.

### **Effect of change**

There will be no changes to the reporting lines of any staff member, nor are there any changes to the terms and conditions of employment. There will be a subsequent change to the title of the ADS Service Manager to the Drug and Behavioural Health Service Manager.

### **Consultation**

Both service Clinical Directors and ADS Service Manager have been consulted with, over a period of months to discuss and negotiate the proposed changes that were initially recommended by the Executive Director, Integrated Care.

All three key parties and other senior members of each respective service are now in agreement with the proposed retitling of the joint service structure. The SVHNS Senior Leadership Team has also endorsed this change.

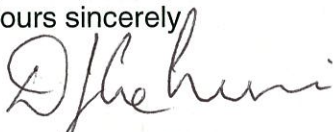
It has been agreed that underneath the Drug and Behavioural Health Service the Alcohol and Drug Service and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Service titles will remain. This is to promote the integrity of each service and ensure their unique services identities remain intact following the new structural alignment.

Management will communicate these changes organisationally to affected staff and noting these changes at a Staff Town Hall on 25 October 2022 at 2pm. Staff will be able to provide feedback over the two-week consultation period via email to [sean.evans@svha.org.au](mailto:sean.evans@svha.org.au) or [dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au](mailto:dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au).

An information pack outlining the changes is attached for your information (**Attachment 1**).

Should you have any concerns and/or feedback regarding the change, please submit this in writing to myself via [dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au](mailto:dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au) within 2 weeks from the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Le Lievre**  
Executive Director Integrated Care  
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Date: 25/10/22

### **Attachment**

1. Drug and Behavioural Health Information Pack

# Alcohol & Drug Service Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology Service New Service Structure

October 2022  
Inner City Health Stream

Under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

# Objectives



To support the vision and strategy of the service.



To improve patient care and patient experience across the service.



To enable best practice governance models and management structures to support both Alcohol & Drug and Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology services.



To support high calibre leadership, research, innovation and service delivery for our patients, staff and referrers in the future.

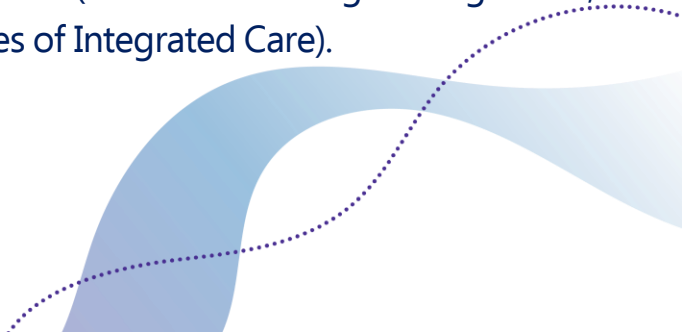
# Overview of the Restructure

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## **The scope of the restructure includes:**

- Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Service.
- Alcohol and Drug Services.
- Alcohol and Drug Service Manager.
- Introduction of new combined clinical governance meeting between Alcohol and Drug and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology.
- Nil changes to current reporting lines.

## **The key drivers for the restructure are:**

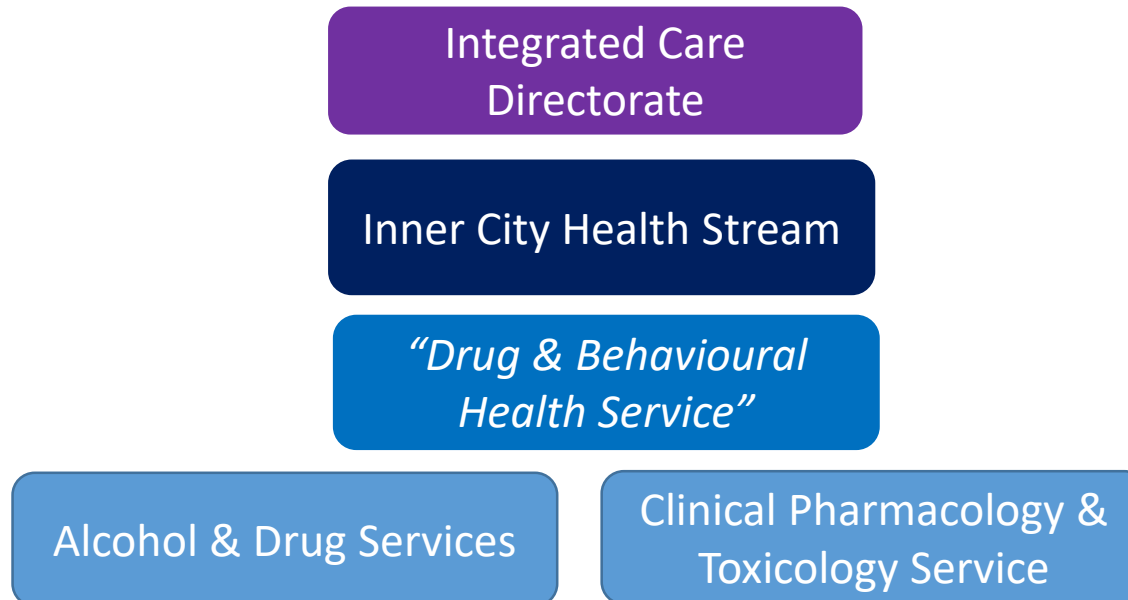
- Enhancing leadership and governance structures across the services to provide better support to the workforce and better client focused care.
  - Alignment of the service with SVHA, SVHNS and MOH strategic priorities (Alcohol and Drug Strategic Plan, envision 2025, Virtual Care telehealth service and departmental priorities of Integrated Care).
  - To support amplified demand for research and service innovation.
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# What is the Change?

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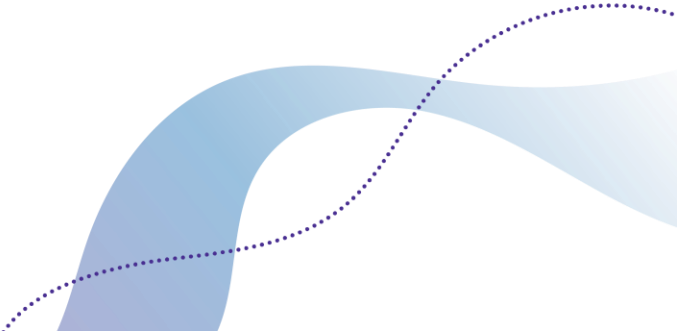
The service will now be combined under the proposed service title:

*“Drug and Behavioural Health Services”*



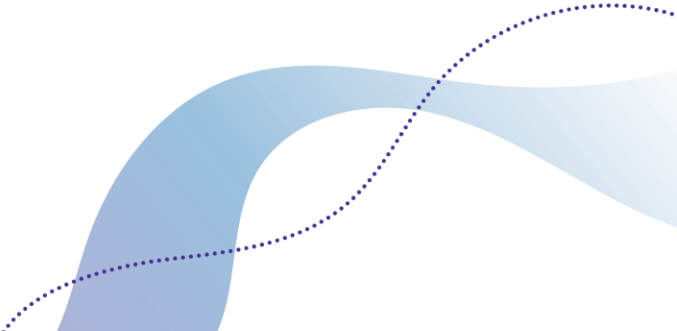
# Benefits of the Restructure

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- Enhancing leadership and governance structures across the services to provide better support to the workforce and better client focused care.
  - Optimise time spent in developing and supporting the services across the *"Drug and Behavioural Health"* Services.
  - Support collaboration, strategic development and delivery of services.
  - Supporting Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology service with non-clinical supports
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# Benefits of the Restructure

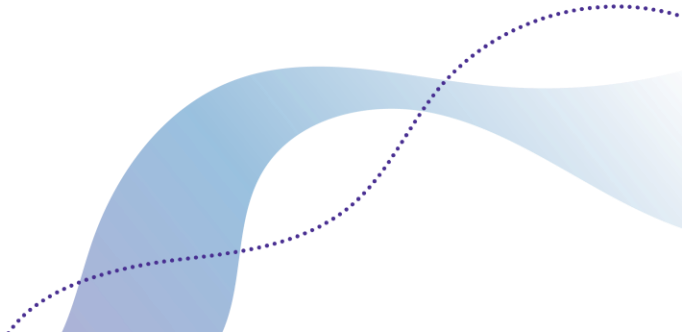
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- To carefully articulate the unique identities of each service.
  - More accurately accounts for the clients that access these services.
  - Alignment of the service with SVHA, SVHNS and MOH strategic priorities (Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan, envision 2025, Virtual Care telehealth service and departmental priorities of Integrated Care).
  - Amplified demand for research and service innovation.
  - Better professional support to the workforce.
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# Key Messages

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- There will be no change to how the services operate clinically.
  - There will be no change to reporting lines within the services.
  - No reduction in Alcohol and Drug or Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology FTE.
  - The services will continue to collaborate.
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# Next Steps

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- Meetings with directly impacted staff have occurred.
- Staff will be able to provide feedback over the two week consultation period via email to [sean.evans@svha.org.au](mailto:sean.evans@svha.org.au) or [Dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au](mailto:Dominic.lelievre@svha.org.au)
- Following consultation, all feedback will be considered in the restructure & updated as required.