

# CROSS CULTURAL INTEREST GROUP PRESENTS

## “Substance Abuse Among Asians: Case Studies and Panel Discussion”

Panel: Dr Vicki Macfarlane, David Prentice,  
Isaac Sayal, Benedict Bendoy

July 2016

### TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CROSS CULTURAL INTEREST GROUP AND MANAGERS OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UNITS

Dear All,

Announcement of the forth-coming presentation of the Cross Cultural Interest Group.

#### “Substance Abuse among Asians: Case studies and Panel discussion”

I have the pleasure in announcing the forth-coming session on the above topic and would take this opportunity to invite your staff to attend. I should also appreciate the favour of having the attached flyer posted.

Dr Sai Wong

*The session would also be transmitted concurrently and accessible via webcast A DVD would be made available a few days after the presentation. Please obtain the webcast access numbers from Mr Chris Wong e mail address:- mrchrisw@yahoo.co.nz . Please notify us 1 week before hand to allow for the installation of a short programme for tuning in.*

#### Aim

Following on the presentation in March on Benzodiazepine abuse, the present Workshop aims at exploring the practical and management issues among Asians. Whilst substance abuse is universal, workers in the field do perceive subtle differences between Asian migrants and the host population.

For one thing, reported incidence seems lower probably because of low utilization due to various cultural issues. Hard drug abuse is not as commonly seen locally as overseas in their home country. But the more subtle aspect is soft and therapeutic drug abuse which seems less rare but not often brought to the attention of physicians.

Using case vignettes, the present Workshop intends to illustrate the various aspects of substance abuse (including alcohol, benzodiazepines, methamphetamine, opioids and some newer therapeutic medications). The workshop would also emphasis the issues regarding accessibility, and the engagement of patients who, because of various cultural and personal factors, have refrained from accessing treatment.

#### Panel:

**Dr Vicki Macfarlane** is a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Fellow of the Australasian College of Physicians Chapter of Addiction Medicine. She worked in general practice for 16 years and the last 5 years, Dr Macfarlane has worked as the Lead Clinician for the Medical Detoxification Services of CADS Auckland, a role that includes clinical leadership for the service and liaison to both primary and secondary care. The CADS Medical Detoxification Service provides inpatient detoxifications in a stand-alone 11 bed unit and community detoxifications via a specialist nursing team, with a catchment area covering the greater Auckland region. The past 18 months the community detoxification service has been the sole service in the Auckland region that can support patients in the Auckland region to withdraw from benzodiazepines.

**Isaac Sayal** is an AOD Clinician. After working for 10 years as a dentist in rural India, he relocated to New Zealand in 2006. He has worked in the mental health sector for the last 10 years in various roles. Over the last 3 years, he has worked in the Auckland Opioid Treatment Service, having a special interest in Benzodiazepines.

**David Prentice** has 25 years of experience working as registered nurse, with last 11 years being spent working for alcohol the Community and Home Detox Service (CHDS) at CADS. CHDS work mainly consists of short term detoxes from and longer term work with assessing and managing benzodiazepine dependence. David has a passion for developing a rapport with the clients he works with and imparting hope that change is possible even for those who have severe dependence. David along with Dr Vicki Macfarlane has recently started a research project looking at alcohol detoxification and the effect this has on quality of life following discharge from the Medical Detoxification In-patient Unit.

**Benedict Bendoy** is a 30 year old Filipino man who moved to New Zealand April 2005, completed nursing studies in mid-2010 and has been working for CADS Inpatient Unit for more than 5 years as a Registered Nurse. He also works part time as the Referral co-ordinator where he is the point of contact for clients waiting for admission to the Inpatient Unit.

#### Speaker

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 6.00pm – 8.30pm**  
**Supper 6.00pm – 6.30pm**  
**Presentation 6.45pm – 7.45pm**  
**Discussion 7.45pm – 8.00pm**

#### Date & Time

[Conference Room](#) “Independent Living Service Auckland”  
14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak  
**RSVP: Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016**  
Email: [dianee@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:dianee@adhb.govt.nz); ph 638 0414



#### Audience

All members, mental health workers, clinicians, managers of services and interpreters are welcome. The presentation and subsequent discussions would be of use to those who have to work with Asian clients who are vulnerable for benzodiazepines, other substance and therapeutic medication abuse. GPs and practicing pharmacist would find the talk enlightening. The audience is also welcome to bring their issues for discussions **but please observe confidentiality.**

A free supper is provided.

**If you have to cancel your attendance please inform us so that we do not over-cater.**