

**Submission
No 38**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF DRUG
REHABILITATION SERVICES IN REGIONAL, RURAL AND
REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation: Port Macquarie Community College Inc.

Date received: 7 May 2018

Monday 7 May 2018

Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry on
Provision of Drug Rehab. services in Rural & Remote NSW

LATE SUBMISSION – Attention Sam Griffith

Dear Committee Members,

Having spent the past five years (2014-18) specialising in bringing Adult Community Education (ACE) into partnership with the Mid North Coast Local Health District, and particularly its wonderful AOD Section, I am writing to urge you to consider some vital factors in responding to the need for reform in how AOD Services are delivered in our community.

- (1) Need for U18 years Detox, Rehab. & Recovery Services in rural and remote NSW, partnered with community organisations that can offer the next step to young people in their recovery journey – there is nothing available for younger people (U18yrs), and even what is available is inappropriate for their needs;
- (2) Need for ACE and Health Services to link in a continuum of wrap-around care, and creating new pathways for Learning and Life Development options, not just rehab. – young people need to be given guidance on how to move into new ways of living, so they don't just revert to using drugs & alcohol again, as an escape from lives that drove them to this in the first place;
- (3) Emphasis on community-based solutions not just clinical – clinicians such as those in the AOD Section of MNCLHD do a sterling job in providing non-judgemental assistance for people in recovery. But they need more places to send these young people once they leave the clinic.
- (4) The Recovery College model, which PMCC is championing for the setting up first pilot R&R one in Australia, is the best way to engage young people in a non-stigmatised support "just as students at college" (ie. not as recovering addicts etc with "problems" and thus negative labels).
- (5) Need for a coordinated national movement to pilot and scale up these sorts of community-based approaches, with COAG's funding help. ALA (Adult Learning Australia, the national peak body for ACE) and CCA (Community Colleges Australia) would help with our network of community colleges and other ACE locations to support such scaling-up approaches.

I would be more than happy to speak more on all these topics, and wish the committee all the best in making its deliberations. Sincerely,

Dr Robbie Lloyd

Community Relationships & Wellbeing manager