



Acknowledgement of Country

Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



Artwork credit:

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Police Diversion Program

- Based at City Community Health Centre 1 Moore St.
- The Youth Alcohol Diversion (YAD) Program, the Adult Alcohol Diversion (AAD) Program and the Illicit Drug Diversion (IDD) Program.
- The Police Diversion program has been in operation for approx 20 years and receives referrals from Police via a software platform known as 'SupportLink'.
- Legislation changes decriminalising small quantities of illicit drugs meant that from Oct 2023, offenders could opt for a SDON (\$100 fine) as an alternative to a CHS Diversion referral.
- Consumers attend a once-off assessment and psycho-education session face-to-face or via phone/telehealth where appropriate and are referred on for further treatment if required.



Police Diversion Service Goals

The goals of this service are to:

- Reduce recidivism
- Provide harm minimisation education and strategies
- Engage the consumer in treatment and refer them into relevant treatment options where suitable
- Ensure the consumer is well informed of the current treatment and support options, so they can achieve their personal ATOD related goals.

From a CHS perspective, all referred consumers remain voluntary to the service



Elements of Assessment

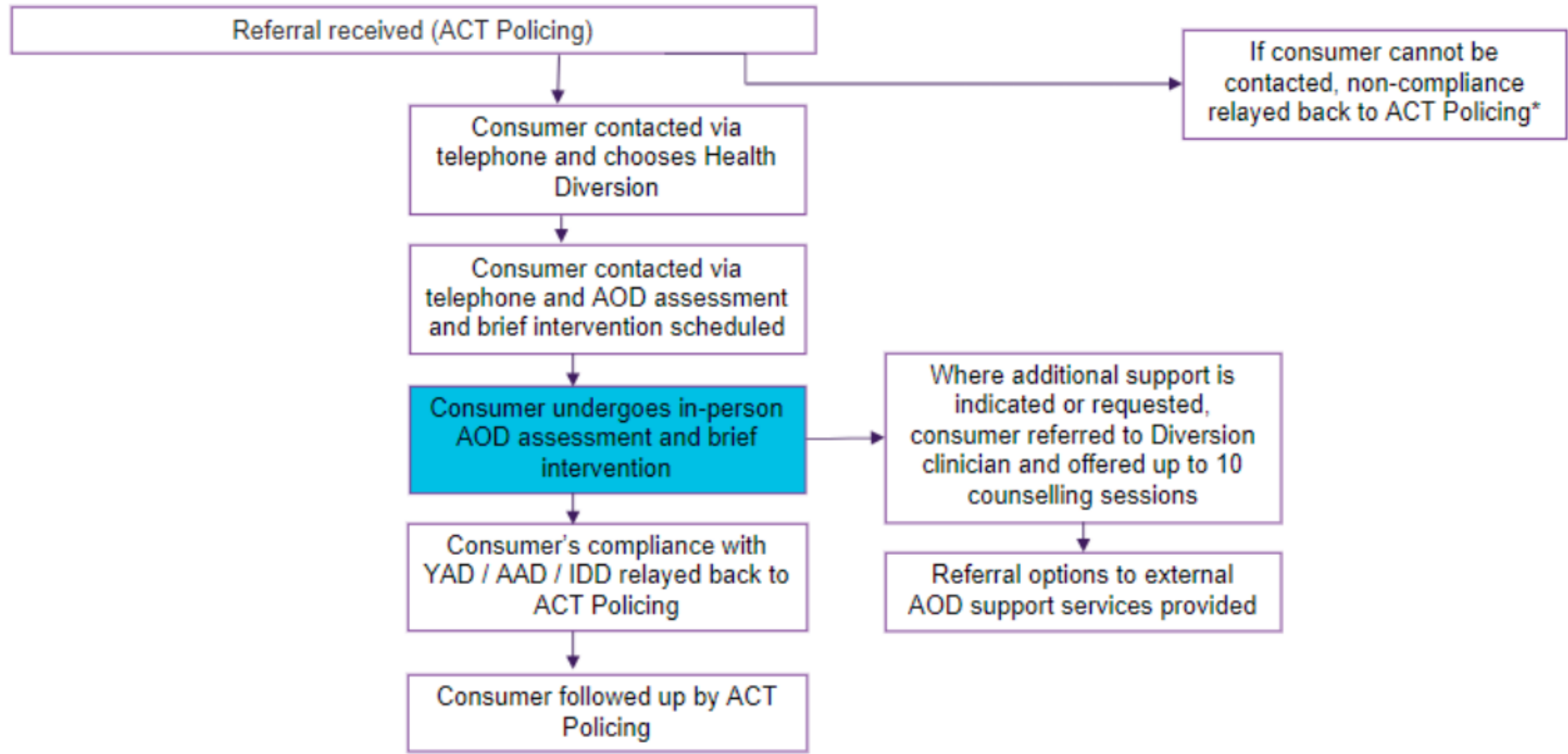
- Consumer presentation (face-to-face/phone/telehealth)
- AOD history (past/current use)
- Screening tools for substance use, mental health, and medical history
- Psychosocial history (family, relationships, employment, etc.)
- Motivational interviewing approach
- Harm reduction info (health, mental health, legal, relationships)
- Risk assessment (including SVAT)
- Referral for further treatment if needed



Attendance & Compliance

- If a consumer attends the health assessment, update **SupportLink** and inform:
 - Referring case officer
 - Criminal Outcomes team
 - ACT Policing Diversion team
- **Non-Attendance & Non-Compliance**
 - Non-compliance notification (email) if no contact within **4 weeks**, email sent to referring officer, Criminal Outcomes, ACTP, and update SupportLink
 - Non-compliance status reversed if requested by policing or client initiates contact with service
- **CHS Police Diversion** is not involved in SDON (\$100 fine) enforcement. Referring officer decides next steps, police may **summons** or **arrest** for court appearance





Frequently Asked Questions

Client Demographics: Majority referred are males

Age Groups:

- 21-30 years: Most common age cohort
- 11-20 years: Second most common cohort

- **Top Referring Suburb:** City/Civic is the leading suburb for referrals

Substance Use trends since decriminalisation:

- Primary drug of choice: Cocaine
- Decrease in alcohol use
- Increase in vaping, reduction in tobacco use

Trends in Referrals:

- Increase in complex cases (clients already linked to M/H & AOD services)
- Increase in domestic violence-related referrals.
- Growing focus on harm reduction strategies

Referral Volume: Average of 25 referrals per month





Thank you, any questions?