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### Comorbidity- focused parliamentary submissions

#### Current mental health inquiry

#### [Senate Select Committee on Mental Health - Terms of Reference & submission details.](#)

Appointed on 8 March 2005 to inquire into the provision of mental health services in Australia. Scheduled to report by 6 October 2005.

Reference point (f) includes - *the special needs of ..... people with complex and comorbid conditions and drug and alcohol dependence*

**Comment:-** An implication of the prevalence of comorbidity and the strongly-associated, substantial, harms and negative outcomes is that a comprehensive response to each of reference points *a, b, c, d, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o or p* would require some consideration of comorbidity

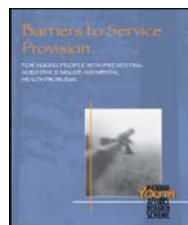
#### 2003 subst' abuse inquiry

#### [Social and Economic Costs of Comorbid Substance Abuse and Mental Disorder](#)

A Submission by Assoc Professor David Kavanagh to the 2003 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs Inquiry into Substance Abuse in Australian Communities

The standing committee's report [Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities](#) was tabled in September 2003  
 See [pp 79-81 of the report](#) for the committee's findings & recommendations re comorbidity

### Young people & comorbidity



#### [Barriers to Service Provision for Young People with Presenting Substance Misuse and Mental Health Problems \(2005\)](#)

Prepared for the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme (NYARS) in October 2004 by **Tricia Szirom, Debbie King and Kathy Desmond.**

The report details and describes the barriers to service provision for young people suffering from comorbidity.

The report makes recommendations around:

- Australian, State and Territory Government policies;
- Service providers;
- Early intervention;
- Intervention;
- Continuing care and recovery;
- Law enforcement and police;
- Indigenous services
- Education and training.

**Alcohol  
&  
Mental Health  
Comorbidity  
in  
Primary Care  
Project**



**[Your Mental Health and Alcohol: Managing the Mix - Alcohol and Mental Health Comorbidity in Primary Care Project](#)** is a project of the Australian Division of General Practice & AER Foundation

Growing out of recognition of the links between alcohol & common mental health problems, the prevalence of such comorbidity and the potential for general practice to identify and treat such comorbidity the Project's objectives are to:

- improve knowledge, skills & capacity of the general practice sector in prevention & management of high prevalence alcohol & mental health comorbidities
- build a critical mass of GPs and practice staff competent in the prevention, management and referral of alcohol and mental health comorbidity

33 Divisions of General Practice have been funded to implement Managing the Mix locally – individual [project summaries are available here](#)

**Alcohol  
&  
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Project**

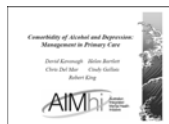


**Mental Health and Alcohol: Managing the Mix** project was launched in late 2004 with a national 1-day workshop in Adelaide with representatives from research, policy and primary care.

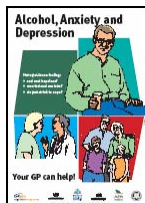
The [workshop program & report are available here](#)

Also [on this page](#) can be found links to the workshop PowerPoint presentations including...

- **Professor Ian Webster** (*Prevalence of comorbidity & its contribution to the burden of disease*)
- **Professor John Saunders** (*Screening and brief interventions*)
- **Dr Michael Baigent** (*Managing comorbid alcohol misuse & high prevalence mental health problems*)
- **Professor David Kavanagh** (*Comorbidity & the Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative*)
- **Kellie Marshall** (*GP education in dual diagnosis - Development, implementation & evaluation of an interactive CD training resource*)
- **Professor Gavin Andrews** (*CLIMATE & plans for risk factor modules*)
- **Dr John Litt** (*Treating alcohol misuse under the SNAP program*)
- **Margaret Cook & Ginger Gordy** (*Enhancing consumer input in primary care*)
- **Assoc Professor Moira Sim** (*Linking General Practice with Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services*)
- **Dr Tom Paterson** (*Shared Care between psychiatry and General Practice*)



**[Alcohol, Anxiety and Depression pamphlets, posters & fact sheets](#)**



The Mental Health Council of Australia was contracted to produce consumer and carer education resources for the 19 Divisions of General Practice comorbidity projects.

The resources are to be distributed during 2005 and are aimed at enhancing general practice responsiveness to co-occurring alcohol and common mental health problems.

This MHCA page contains links to the *Alcohol, Anxiety and Depression* pamphlets, posters & fact sheets

**[GP comorbidity training PowerPoint overheads](#)**

Also on the ADGP site PowerPoint overheads from John Pead, (Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health) & Kellie Marshall, (Illawarra Division of General Practice).

Note especially slides 4, 6 & 7

**Cannabis & psychosis**



**Media**

**[Four Corners Messing with Heads broadcast](#)**

7/03/05 Reporter: Janine Cohen

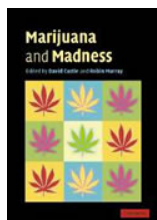
Includes:

- Transcripts of interviews with Dr Andrew Campbell, Professors Pat McGorry & Wayne Hall
- Transcript of show
- Transcript of the online discussion following the show's airing

**[Cannabis Psychosis Risk](#)**

article in Sydney Morning Herald - March 1, 2005

**Text**



**[Marijuana and Madness](#)**

Edited by David Castle - *Mental Health Research Institute, Melbourne*

Robin Murray - *Institute of Psychiatry, London*

Cambridge University Press Published May 2004

ISBN-10: 0521819407

ISBN-13: 9780521819404

AUD\$120.00 (inclusive of GST)

Substantial contributions by Australian-based authors including David Castle, Nadia Solowij, Wayne Hall, Louisa Degenhardt, Michael Lynskey, Carolyn Coffey, George Patton, Louise Arseneault, David Copolov, £45.00

**[Review of Marijuana & Madness by Bradley Ng](#)** on the Aust & NZ Association of Psychiatrists in Training website

**Thesis**

Title: **[An Examination of the Influence of Cannabis Use on Psychotic Symptom Exacerbation and Relapse in Early Psychosis](#)**

Author: **Leanne Hides**

Year: 2003

**NDARC Tech Report**

**[Comorbidity between cannabis use and psychosis: Modeling some possible relationships.](#)** Degenhardt, L., Hall, W., Lynskey, M. (2001)

**Web articles**

**[Cannabis & Psychosis case study – GP guidance](#)**

from Royal Australian College of General Practitioners April 2004

Reprinted from *Australian Family Physician* Vol. 33, No. 4.

**[Comorbidity: Cannabis and Complexity](#)**

Odyssey House website hosts 2004 article by **Prof Beverly Raphael & Dr Sally Wooding**

Reprinted from *Of Substance* January 2004 Vol. 2 No. 1

**[The Use of Cannabis Induced Mental illness as Exculpation of Crime](#)**

2004 article by **Dr B Boettcher** on the [Institute of Australian Psychiatrists](#) site

**Journal Watch**

See Roundup Appendix 1 – Cannabis & Psychosis Recent Papers

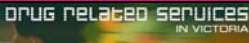

**Downloadable Fact Sheets**



- **[What's pot got to do with it ?](#)** – Midas DDx website version
- **[C & P - information for health care workers – Victorian DHS](#)**
- **[C & P – Fact Sheet – Victorian DHS](#)**
- **[C & P Better Health Channel version](#)**
- **[C & P SANE Australia version](#)**
- **[Mental Illness Fellowship version](#)**

**Cannabis & psychosis**



<p><b>Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative</b></p>	 <p><b><u>Dual Diagnosis Initiative</u></b>  New page on the DHS website which describes the aim and activities of the initiative. Specifies Key Service Requirements including the <u>coordinator's &amp; specialist dual diagnosis worker's roles</u></p>
<p><b>Conferences</b></p>	<p><b><u>Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy's National Conference Melbourne 16-20 April 2005</u></b></p> <p><u>Keynote speakers include Dr Amanda Baker</u>  <i>"Innovations in treatment and research with coexisting mental health and drug and alcohol problems"</i> will outline new evidence based psychosocial interventions for those with coexisting mental health and substance use problems, and briefly overview the content of effective interventions.  A more detailed outline of Dr Baker's presentation may be found at <a href="http://www.aacbtvic.org.au/contentDocuments/Keynote%20Presenter%20%20Dr%20Amanda%20Baker.doc">http://www.aacbtvic.org.au/contentDocuments/Keynote%20Presenter%20%20Dr%20Amanda%20Baker.doc</a></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>2005 18th Annual Australian Winter School on Alcohol and other Drug Brisbane 4-7 July 2005</u></b></p> <p>2005 papers include  - Michael Farr and Kingsley Tonkin <a href="#">An evaluation of a modular self paced training program for staff who are working with dual diagnosis patients</a>  - David Pirie <a href="#">A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. The experiences of a drug and alcohol clinician employed in a mental health service</a>  - Guy Howick, Robert Jones, Lynda Knight <a href="#">The Maise program: An In-house project response to dual diagnosis among Brisbane's illicit drug users</a></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>National Conference – Critical Connections in Co-Occurring Treatment</u></b>   <b>Baltimore, Maryland . August 29, 30, 31, 2005</b></p> <p><b><u>Keynote speakers:</u></b>  Day 1: <b><u>Dr Scott Miller</u></b> - <i>"What Works" in Therapy: Practical Applications Of 40 years of Outcome Research</i>  Day 2: <b><u>Dr Ken Minkoff</u></b> - <i>Changing the World – Moving from Clinical Practice to Re-Designing the entire system of care.</i>  Day 3: <b><u>Dr David MeelLee</u></b> - <i>Skill-Building and Advanced Application of the Revised ASAM Criteria (ASAM PPC-2R), Including Criteria for Co-Occurring Mental and Substance-Related Disorders</i></p>
<p><b>Service systems development</b></p>	<p><b><u>Consumer and Carer Involvement Comorbidity Project</u></b>  The Department of Health and Ageing has been seeking tenders (applications closed 7/03/05) from experienced individuals or organisations to develop a report and guidelines on carer and consumer involvement in comorbidity treatment.</p> <p>The report and guidelines are <b>'to provide national recognition of the benefits of involving carers and consumers in individual treatment planning services for people with coexisting mental health and substance use disorders and will inform the development of national comorbidity clinical guidelines'</b>.</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Dual Diagnosis: Stopping the merry-go-round.</u></b> ACT Dept Health and Community Care.1999. Cupitt, L., Morgan, E., Chalkley, M.  ACT Health website has now provided a full text (includes exec summary) version of their 1999 report exploring dual diagnosis treatment options for the ACT</p>

<p>Purchasable Texts</p>		<p><b><u><a href="#">Managing the Dually Diagnosed Patient — Current Issues and Clinical Approaches</a></u></b>, 2nd edn. 2002          By D. O'Connell and E. Beyer, The Haworth Press, New York. 352 pgs.          ISBN 0 7890 0877 7</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">View online excerpt</a></u></b></p>
		<p><b><u><a href="#">Integrated Treatment for Mood and Substance Use Disorders</a></u></b>          edited by Joseph J. Westermeyer, M.D., M.P.H., Roger D. Weiss, M.D., and Douglas M. Ziedonis, M.D., M.P.H.; Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003, 199 pages</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Psychiatric Services Review</a></u></b> by Dr Robert Drake  <b><u><a href="#">Canadian Psychiatric Association online review</a></u></b></p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) For Dual Diagnosis</a></u></b>          A WRAP Workbook adapted for people with a dual diagnosis of psychiatric illness and addictive disorder by Mary Ellen Copeland, MS, MA</p>	
<p>Downloadable texts</p>		<p><b><u><a href="#">TIP 42: Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders</a></u></b> 2005          2005 USA federal document – comprehensive, practical, clear statement around current best practice in the treatment of and response to comorbidity in the USA's managed care health system. Is orientated primarily towards substance abuse treatment workers. With input from many of the USA's comorbidity luminaries this text is highly recommended reading.</p> <p>Can be downloaded from the link above or you can order a (free-except-for-the-postage) hard copy by phoning SAMHSA's National Clearing House on 0011 1800 729 6686. They are in Maryland: 9 am to 5pm their time equates to 11pm to 7am in Australian Eastern Standard Time.          Postage runs to around \$US10 per copy &amp; can be paid with credit card</p> <div style="background-color: #808000; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>From the cover:</b>  <i>The revised TIP provides information about new developments in the rapidly growing field of co-occurring substance use and mental disorders and captures the state-of-the-art in the treatment of people with co-occurring disorders. The TIP focuses on what the substance abuse treatment clinician needs to know and provides that information in an accessible manner. The TIP synthesizes knowledge and grounds it in the practical realities of clinical cases and real situations so the reader will come away with increased knowledge, encouragement, and resourcefulness in working with clients with co-occurring disorders.</i></p> </div> <p><b><u><a href="#">Streaming video of the Media Round Table on SAMHSA's new Treatment Improvement Protocol #42, January 31, 2005 at the National Press Club.</a></u></b></p>
		<p><b><u><a href="#">Serious Mental Illness and Its Co-Occurrence with Substance Use Disorders, 2002</a></u></b> Epstein, J., Barker, P., Vorburger, M., Murtha, C.          SAMHSA publication - This report presents information on the prevalence &amp; treatment of serious mental illness (SMI) &amp; their association with substance use and co-occurring substance use disorders based on the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).</p>

<p><b>From the USA</b></p> 		<p><b><u><a href="#">SAMHSAs Co-occurring Centre for Excellence</a></u></b>  The USA's '<i>first national resource for the field of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders</i>'</p> <p><b><u>COCE mission</u></b> is to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- receive &amp; disseminate advances in substance abuse &amp; mental health treatment that address mental health &amp; substance abuse disorders at all levels of severity &amp; that can be adapted to the unique needs of each client</li> <li>- guide enhancements in the infrastructure &amp; clinical capabilities of the mental health &amp; substance abuse service systems</li> <li>- foster the infusion &amp; adoption of evidence &amp; consensus based treatment and program innovation into clinical &amp; organisational practice</li> </ul> <p><b><u>COCE Senior fellows</u></b> include the USA's leading experts in co-occurring disorders</p> <p>Check out/ download some of the extensive <b><u>COD resources</u></b></p>
<p><b>From the UK</b></p> 		<p><b><u>National Dual Diagnosis (MICA) Network</u></b>  The National Dual Diagnosis (Mentally Ill Chemical Abusing or Addicted) Network was set up in 1997 as a tool for exchanging ideas and information in the dual diagnosis field. The network aims to identify relevant training opportunities, current literature and research and to promote best practice.  <b>Publishes regular, info-packed newsletters downloadable from this page.</b></p>
		<p><b>Dual Diagnosis Care Pathway/Flow Chart</b>  from the West Sussex Health &amp; Social Care Trust can be found @ <a href="http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/moctoolbox/DualDiagnosis_WestSussex.doc">http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/moctoolbox/DualDiagnosis_WestSussex.doc</a></p>
<p><b>Comorbidity trainers</b></p>		<p><b><u>JenCo Consulting</u></b>  Comorbidity workshops with Linda / Michael Jenner</p> <p>Linda is a co-author of 2003 <b><u>A Brief Cognitive Behavioural Intervention for Regular Amphetamine Users</u></b> the 2004 <b><u>Models of intervention and care for Psychostimulant Users</u></b> and <b><u>Management of Patients with Psychostimulant Use Problems. Guidelines for General Practitioners</u></b> , (all with substantial comorbidity cognizance &amp; content) , author of the 2002 <b><u>ANCD Comorbidity Report</u></b> and 2003 <b><u>Supplementary Report</u></b></p> <p>On the Ted Noffs Foundation website a description of <b><u>comorbidity &amp; young people training</u></b> offered by John Howard</p>
<p><b>Newsletters</b></p>		<p><b><u>October 2004 issue of 'FRANK' devoted to comorbidity</u></b>  FRANK is the monthly newsletter of the Youth Coalition of the ACT</p>



Roundup Appendix 1 – Cannabis & Psychosis Recent Lit Search

	<u>Cannabis &amp; Psychosis</u> <u>Recent Papers</u>	
<b>2005</b>	<p><a href="#">Prospective cohort study of cannabis use, predisposition for psychosis, and psychotic symptoms in young people</a> Henquet, C., Krabbendam, L., Spauwen, J., Kaplan, C., Lieb, R., Wittchen, H-U., van Os, J. <i>BMJ</i> Jan 2005 330:11 P</p>	
	<p><b>Tests of causal linkages between cannabis use and psychotic symptoms.</b> Fergusson, D., Horwood J., Ridder, E. <i>Addiction</i> Volume 100, Issue 3, Page 354-366, March 2005</p>	
<b>2004</b>	<p><a href="#">Cannabis use and the risk of later schizophrenia: a review.</a> Smit, F., Bolier, L. &amp; Cuijpers, P <i>Addiction</i>, April, 2004. 99, 426 431..</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Early adolescent cannabis exposure and positive and negative dimensions of psychosis</a> N. C. Stefanis, P. Delespaul, C. Henquet, C. Bakoula, C. N. Stefanis &amp; J. Van Os. <i>Addiction</i> Volume 99, Issue 10, Page 1333-1341, October 2004</p>	
	<p><a href="#">The psychotomimetic effects of intravenous Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol in healthy individuals: Implications for psychosis.</a> D'Souza, D., Perry, E., MacDougall, L., Ammerman, Y., Cooper, T., Wu, Y-T., Braley, G., Gueorguieva, R., Krystal, J. <i>Neuropsychopharmacology</i>. Vol 29(8) Aug 2004, 1558-1572.</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Diagnostic and symptomatological features in chronic psychotic patients according to cannabis use status</a> Maremmani, I., Lazzeri, A., Pacini, M., Lovrecic, M., Placidi, G-F., Perugi, G. <i>Journal of Psychoactive Drugs</i>. Vol 36(2) Jun 2004, 235-241</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Cannabis Use and Age at Onset of Schizophrenia</a> Veen, N., Selten, J-P.,; van der Tweel, I., Feller, W., ; Hoek, H., Kahn, R. <i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i>. Vol 161(3) Mar 2004, 501-506</p>	
<b>2004</b>	<p><b>Cannabis and Psychosis: An Early Psychosis Treatment Manual</b> Pirie, D. <i>Australian Social Work</i> Volume 57, Issue 4, Page 421-422, December 2004</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Causal association between cannabis and psychosis: examination of the evidence.</a> Arseneault L, Cannon M, Witton J., Murray R. (2004) <i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>, 184, 110117</p>	
<b>2003</b>	<p><a href="#">Testing hypotheses about the relationship between cannabis use and psychosis</a> Degenhardt, L., Hall, W., Lynskey, M. <i>Drug &amp; Alcohol Dependence</i>. Vol 71(1) Jul 2003, 37-48.</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Cannabis dependence and psychotic symptoms in young people.</a> Fergusson, D., Horwood, L., Swain-Campbell, N. <i>Psychological Medicine</i>. Vol 33(1) Jan 2003, 15-21.</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Effects of cannabis and psychosis vulnerability in daily life: An experience sampling test study</a> Verdoux, H., Gindre, C., Sorbara, F., Tournier, M., Swendsen, J. <i>Psychological Medicine</i>. Vol 33(1) Jan 2003, 23-32.</p>	
<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Cannabis use and psychosocial adjustment in adolescence and young adulthood.</b> Fergusson, D. M., Horwood, L. J. &amp; Swain-Campbell, N. R. (2002) <i>Addiction</i>, 97, 11231135.</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Cannabis use and mental health in young people: cohort study</a> Patton, G., Coffey, C., Carlin, J., Degenhardt, L., Lynskey, M., Hall, W. <i>BMJ</i> Nov 2002 325:1195-1198</p>	

2002	<a href="#">Cannabis and mental health</a> Rey, J., Tennant, C. BMJ, November 23, 2002; 325(7374): 1183 - 1184
	<a href="#">Cannabis use in adolescence and risk for adult psychosis: Longitudinal prospective study.</a> Arseneault, L., Cannon, M., Poulton, Ri., Murray, R., Caspi, A., Moffitt, T.. BMJ: Vol 325 (7374) Nov 2002, 1212-1213.
	<a href="#">Cannabis-induced psychosis: a cross-sectional comparison with acute schizophrenia</a> Núñez, L., Gurpegui, M. Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica Volume 105, Issue 3, Page 173-178, March 2002
	<a href="#">Cannabis use is not associated with the development of psychosis in an 'ultra' high-risk group</a> Phillips, L., Curry, C., Yung, A., Yuen, H., Adlard, S., McGorry, P. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry Volume 36, Issue 6, Page 800-806, December 2002
	<b>Self reported cannabis use as a risk factor for schizophrenia in Swedish conscripts of 1969: Historical cohort study.</b> Zammit, S., Allebeck, P., Andreasson, S., Lundberg, I., Lewis, G. BMJ: Vol 325(7374) Nov 2002, 1199-1201.
2001	<a href="#">Alcohol, cannabis and tobacco use among Australians: a comparison of their associations with other drug use and use disorders, affective and anxiety disorders, and psychosis</a> Louisa Degenhardt, Wayne Hall, Michael Lynskey Addiction Volume 96, Issue 11, Page 1603-1614, November 2001
2000	<a href="#">Is the grass greener? The link between cannabis and psychosis.</a> McKay, D., Tennant, C. MJA 2000 ; 172 284-286 (Full text link)
	<a href="#">Cannabis use and psychosis: a review of clinical and epidemiological evidence.</a> Hall, W., Degenhardt, L. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry Volume 34, Issue 1, Page 26-34, February 2000
	<a href="#">Cannabis, vulnerability, and the onset of schizophrenia: an epidemiological perspective</a> Hambrecht, M., Häfner, H. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry Volume 34, Issue 3, Page 468-475, June 2000