

## For more information

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Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia

75 Magill Road, Stepney SA 5069

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[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dassa](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dassa)

Alcohol and Drug Information Services (ADIS)

Telephone: 1300 13 1340

Confidential telephone counselling and information  
available between 8.30am and 10pm

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# Welcome to Addiction Medicine

Choosing Addiction Medicine  
as your advanced specialty



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians



SA Health



## Addiction medicine

**Addiction Medicine** is the comprehensive care of people with a wide range of addiction disorders, including drug and alcohol addiction, and pharmaceutical dependency. Addiction Medicine Physicians work collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians to improve health outcomes for patients. Addiction Medicine also plays an important role in shaping public policy in the areas of health protection, prevention and health promotion for improved public and population health outcomes.

Clinical work includes the acute management of alcohol and drug related problems (e.g. managing drug withdrawal and related complications), common co-morbidities (mental health disorders, chronic airways and liver disease, BBV, ABI, chronic pain etc), collaboration with multidisciplinary team approaches to drug rehabilitation; also playing a role in the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of drug related problems. Many patients who have Addiction also have significant medico-legal/forensic issues (e.g. crime related to illicit drug use; cognitive impairment and sometimes questionable capacity; the issue of "compulsory" treatment; child protection issues; substance use, driving and occupational risk etc), hence Addiction Medicine practice requires knowledge of relevant Legislation, skills in performing Specialist Assessment and Expert report preparation.

## Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM)

The Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM) sits within the Adult Medicine Division of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Training under the Chapter is at Advanced Training level for three years, of which at least 18-months must be in accredited drug and alcohol positions. These positions within DASSA may be based at a number of sites in South Australia but will be primarily in Adelaide. Opportunities for involvement in research and professional development will be available and the Fellow will be supported by membership of an active and dynamic AChAM South Australian branch of the Chapter.

## Entry Requirements

To enter the Chapter Training Program, applicants must be registered medical practitioners in Australia or New Zealand. There are two pathways to entry of the Chapter:

- > Successful completion of Basic Physician Training of the RACP.

or

- > Recognition of prior, appropriate qualifications such as holding Fellowship of a relevant College or Faculty (eg Anaesthetics (FANZCA), Emergency Medicine (FACEM), General Practice (FRACGP and FRNZCGP), Internal Medicine (FRACP), Paediatrics and Child Health (FRACP), Pain Medicine (FFPMANZCA), Psychiatry (FRANZCP), Public Health Medicine (FAFPHM), Rehabilitation Medicine (FAFRM), Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)).

The Training Program is overseen by the Chapter Education Committee (ChEC) and all successful graduates will be awarded FACHAM. At the completion of their overall training program, it is expected that a new Fellow will be able to manage complex patient problems and provide public health advice, as well as advise and support other medical practitioners.

## Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA)

DASSA is responsible for providing a state-wide health service addressing alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical and illicit drug issues. It is a major employer of consultants who have qualified as specialist Addiction Medicine physicians.