

Citywide 20th Anniversary Conference

Women and Addiction Workshop – SAOL Project

SAOL ask that the next National Drugs Strategy be gender-proofed and be aware of the roles of domestic violence, trauma, child care and mental health in the treatment/recovery of women with addictions so that:

- Our approaches to treatment and rehabilitation are not re-traumatising women.
- Our treatment and rehabilitation environments are safer for women who have been traumatised and that services understand that there is a connection between trauma and recovery.
- That 'trauma informed care' becomes our 'industry' standard.
- There is an understanding that the majority of women in addiction have experienced domestic violence (in their family of origin and/or in intimate partner relationships) and services should be equipped to correctly respond to this issue.
- That more appropriate and addiction-aware child care is provided.
- That we acknowledge within our strategy that women's social roles impact on their availability to engage in treatment and rehabilitation and that we develop services constructed around such an understanding.
- That mental health issues for women are a co-occurring issue and need to be worked with in an integrated way.
- That a supportive, relational environment provides a more helpful setting for women in treatment/recovery.