



Fact Sheet #1

Introducing the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council

About us

The Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC) is the national peak body representing the alcohol and other drugs sector, comprising: specialist health services working to prevent and reduce harms which can be associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs; practitioners working in alcohol and other drugs treatment settings and the areas of prevention and early intervention; researchers and policy specialists dedicated to building the evidence-base to support robust and evidence-based practice and programs; and people who use or have used alcohol and other drugs, and their families.

AADC was formed in response to sector demand, following the closure of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA). Registered in July 2017, AADC formally commenced operations in April 2020 with the appointment of its inaugural CEO.

Our vision

Health and wellbeing for people who use or have used alcohol and other drugs and the communities they live in.

Our mission

We work to advance health and public welfare through achievement of the lowest possible levels of alcohol and other drug related harm by promoting effective, efficient and evidence-informed prevention, treatment and harm reduction policies, programs and research at the national level.

Our reach

Through our members, AADC represents:

- over 430 AOD specialist treatment and harm reduction services nationwide, including more than 80% of the non-government organisations that receive federal funding to deliver services and support to people using alcohol and other drugs
- professionals working within the specialist AOD field, representing all treatment types including counselling, detoxification, residential and non-residential rehabilitation, opiate replacement therapy, and harm reduction and prevention services, and
- people who use or have used alcohol and other drugs, and their families.



What we do

AADC operates at the nexus between policy, research and practice. It plays a pivotal role connecting: federal stakeholders responsible for the design and oversight of the alcohol and other drugs health services system at the federal level; the alcohol and other drugs sector and the professionals working within it who are involved in its implementation through delivery; and the people and communities who are reliant on the system for help and support.

We operate at the systems level to develop and inform strategies for:

- building sector capacity and capability
- reducing red-tape and regulatory complexity, and
- connecting evidence to outcomes.

How we work

Our work is embedded in the experiences and knowledge of the alcohol and other drugs sector. We actively engage and partner with our members and the groups they represent, along with other critical stakeholders across the sector, to ensure this knowledge can inform the design and implementation of the specialist alcohol and other drugs system at the federal level.

Our positions are informed by the practice experience of our members, the lived experience of the communities they support, and quality research undertaken within Australia and internationally.

Our founding members

- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania (ATDC)
- Association of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies Northern Territory (AADANT)
- Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)
- Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League Inc (AIVL)
- Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia Inc (DANA)
- Family Drug Support - FADISS Ltd
- National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference via the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC)
- Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NADA)
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- South Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Services (SANDAS)
- The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA)