



**Australian Alcohol  
& other Drugs Council**

*The National Peak Body*

## Annual Report 2019-20



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## Chairperson's report

It has been an honour to be the chairperson of AADC since the 2019 AGM. At the time AADC was reliant on input from a small volunteer Board to progress the establishment of the organisation.

It was an enormous relief for the Board to be able to appoint Jennifer Duncan as the inaugural CEO in April 2020. Jennifer's appointment provided AADC with the capacity to: more fully establish the organisation; consult with the membership and establish an inclusive engagement processes; and draft AADC's strategic direction and priorities based on membership input. In a short period of time she has also formed sound working relationships with key political and government stakeholders to build awareness of the national peak and appreciation of the mutual benefits of collaboration.

There is no doubt that Jennifer has gained the Board and members' confidence to appropriately represent the sector's issues and positions on the federal level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer for her commitment to the role and the sector, and her evident passion for social justice.

We welcomed Robert Stirling, now CEO of NADA, to the Board at the last AGM. Carrie Fowlie, then CEO of ATODA, resigned from the Board as she moved to take up a position with Hepatitis Australia. Elizabeth Baxter, EO of APSAD and inaugural chairperson of AADC, is also stepping down from the Board at the 2020 AGM. I would like to thank all past and remaining AADC Board members for their dedication and professionalism.

I look forward to contributing to AADC's work and influence in 2020-21.

*Jill Rundle*

## Chief Executive Officer's report

Since mid-April to June 2020 AADC has been focussed on the work of member engagement, whilst also taking practical steps to represent the sector in federal policy discussions. We've maintained and grown relationships, across the sector and at various levels of the federal government. We've started building our voice, visual identity and digital footprint, knowing that there is much more yet to do. We've connected with important allies and other stakeholders in the federal sphere.

It's a privilege to join AADC at such a pivotal time in its development. We're only at the beginning of what we hope will be a long and fruitful journey on behalf of the sector and the communities that we support.

I've been grateful for the warm welcome from our members, who have thrown themselves into our work with energy and commitment. I offer thanks to our Board, who have been unstintingly generous in their contribution of time and wisdom as we've worked to move AADC further forward. Finally, I'm appreciative of everyone who has contributed to the tremendous collective effort required to get AADC to this point and look forward to your continued involvement over the years to come.

*Jennifer Duncan*

## Introduction

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

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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.

2019-20 has been an important year in AADC's foundation. As well as building the organisational infrastructure required to ensure effective and accountable operations, AADC has been heavily invested in the work of engaging with our foundation members to determine policy priorities and strategic directions. We have simultaneously worked to strengthen and expand relationships with the office of the Minister for Health, and the federal Department of Health. This has included the introduction of AADC's inaugural CEO as the organisation's, and our members', primary representative in the federal sphere.

This work will continue into 2020-21 and beyond as AADC pursues its dual priorities of influential representation on behalf of the alcohol and other drugs sector, and organisational sustainability to secure this role at the federal level for many years to come.

### **Building sector capacity and capability**

AADC has actively engaged with the federal Department of Health since its establishment in 2017, ensuring key federal decision-makers were kept abreast of the organisation's development and appointment of its inaugural CEO in April 2020. COVID-19 has had some impact on relationship continuity due to secondments amongst key departmental staff; this has offered AADC the opportunity to broaden its base of relationships across related portfolio areas.

Key priorities informing AADC's discussions with the Department, and also with the office of the Minister for Health, have been: sustained underfunding of the sector, with funded services equivalent to half of pre-COVID community need; the need for a long-term funding solution to replace Equal Remuneration Order supplementation for eligible federal-funded services; reinstatement of indexation to federal funding following the 2014 freeze; strategies to improve funding certainty through performance-based contract extensions and introduction of extended notice periods on funding expiration or re-tendering processes; and a national workforce strategy designed in partnership with the sector, to ensure a specialist alcohol and other drugs workforce able to meet current and future community needs.

### **Reducing the regulatory burden**

AADC has persistently highlighted to the Department and the office of the Minister for Health the role federal commissioning, contracting, regulation and reporting practices play in driving costs within the sector without contributing to quality service outcomes.

Our representations have consistently promoted the need for harmonisation of federal funding practices that deliver consistent approaches across funding agencies, whilst allowing for locally-based service planning and decision-making. Key to this is improved communication and coordination across jurisdictions, to ensure complementary approaches to resource allocation, designed in consultation with the specialist treatment sector. This will be a continued area of focus in 2020-21.

### **Connecting evidence to outcomes**

Across May and June, AADC undertook a comprehensive consultation with our founding members regarding the sector priorities and strategic directions that should inform our work. The Board worked to craft members' feedback into a strategic plan that foregrounds the needs of the sector, aligning them with strategies for delivering long-term sustainability for AADC as the sector's representative in the federal sphere. This strategic plan will be put to the membership for further comment before being finalised for endorsement in the coming financial year.

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AADC jumped early into policy discussions. Member engagement informed AADC's first formal submission, to the *Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*. Over time, AADC will publish a growing suite of policy submissions and papers developed in partnership with the sector.

In May, AADC's CEO replaced Carrie Fowlie as our representative on the Alcohol and other Drug Services Coalition coordinated through St Vincents Health Australia, and took up a role on the Coalition's Reference Group. AADC is a regular signatory to policy submissions developed through the Coalition and an active participant in its work, with a priority on ensuring effective coordination of sector messaging to federal decision-makers.

## **Our people**

### **Board**

Jill Rundle, Chair and Director (appointed to the position of Chair, 17 December 2019)

Elizabeth Baxter, Director (resigned from the position of Chair, 17 December 2019)

Carrie Fowlie, Director (resigned from the Board, 26 May 2019)

Rebecca Lang, Director

Robert Stirling, Director

Melanie Walker, Director

### **Staff**

Jennifer Duncan, Chief Executive Officer (commenced 14 April 2020).

### **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 (NIDAC)\*

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)

\*NIDAC is formally defunded and represented in the AADC membership through the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council.

## Financial statements

In 2019-20 AADC's total turnover was below the \$250,000 turnover threshold for a review or audit of its financial statements. The Board anticipates this will remain the case in 2020-21.

AADC is investing its reserves wisely, to ensure greatest impact for its members and the alcohol and other drugs sector whilst maximising the lead-time available for the organisation to establish a sustainable financial footing. Our focus is on identifying income streams in line with our organisational purpose.

### Profit and Loss

	2019-2020	2018-2019
<b>Revenue</b>	\$	\$
Member start-up contributions		25,300
ADCA wind-up transfer		242,394
Interest	604	96
Royalties	4,938	2,955
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,542</b>	<b>270,745</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising and Marketing	(180)	
Bank fees		(2)
Consulting and Accounting	(7,750)	
Establishment costs reimbursement		(10,660)
Professional Development	(560)	
Subscriptions	(45)	
Superannuation	(1,644)	
Wages and Salaries	(17,308)	
Workcover	(331)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(27,818)</b>	<b>(10,662)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(22,277)</b>	<b>260,083</b>

### Balance Sheet

	2019-2020
<b>Assets</b>	\$
Bendigo Bank Everyday Account	242,914
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>242,914</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	
GST	(886)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	(4,350)
Superannuation Payable	(1,644)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,108)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>237,806</b>
Income tax expense	
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	(22,277)
Retained Earnings	260,083
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>237,806</b>