



Annual Report 2020-21



Chairperson's report

On behalf of the sector and the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council's board I would like to thank Jennifer Duncan for her evident commitment to the organisation, and the professionalism she has demonstrated in her role as CEO.

The Council has a significant role in ensuring the viability and sustainability of the sector, as well as informing alcohol and other drug policy and planning that impact the sector and the community. The Council has a unique national role in representing the voice of essential treatment, support and systems advocacy services, their workforce, as well as individuals impacted by alcohol and other drugs. The effectiveness of this representation relies on input from members, all of which are representative bodies in their own right. With a small staff and minimal resources the Council has progressed the foundation to support significant influence into the future.

I would like to thank the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council's members for their ongoing support, both through the establishment phase of the organisation and by informing the priorities and values of the organisation. I would also like to acknowledge the past and current board members, for their contribution and guidance with the future potential of the Council in mind.

Jill Rundle

Chief Executive Officer's report

2020-21 has been another important year in the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council's development. We established our strategic plan; built our website; developed multiple submissions to government; published issues papers, fact sheets and member briefings; and undertook a series of jurisdictional visits across the country. We joined existing coalitions and campaigns working to improve Australia's response to the use of alcohol and other drugs, and connected with aligned sectors and groups. We built our profile and awareness of our work, with the support of our members and other key sector partners.

As always AADC has been ably led by its board, whose members collectively bring decades of wisdom and experience to their roles. It's also been a pleasure to have been joined this year by our newest staff member Jemma Taylor Cross, in the role of State and Territory Peaks Network Coordinator. I hope you enjoy reading more about this rewarding year and its achievements in our annual report.

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 drug treatment settings and the areas of prevention and early intervention; researchers and policy specialists dedicated to building the evidence-base to support robust practice and programs; and people who use or have used alcohol and other drugs, and their families.

2020-21 has been a pivotal year in AADC's ongoing evolution. We have worked with members to set our ongoing strategic direction, established an impressive policy footprint grounded in the experience and knowledge of the sector, and continued to build the organisational infrastructure required to ensure effective, transparent and accountable operations. We've strengthened and expanded our relationships with federal decision-makers at the parliamentary and departmental level; we've also expanded our connections within the sector, with a focus on partnership and collaboration.

AADC has a volunteer board elected from our members and a staff team of 1.1 FTE. We're continuing to build a pathway to funding and have been deeply grateful for the support we've received from the sector in our pursuit of this goal.

The year's highlights

Building sector capacity and capability

AADC joined the reference group for the National AOD Services Coalition which has been operating under the auspices of St Vincent's Health Australia since 2018, making a significant contribution to the development of its policy papers, including the most recent budget submission which included a call for funding to AADC as the national peak.

We were persistent in our calls to the federal government to address the projected funding shortfall associated with the cessation of SACS supplementation for federally funded AOD organisations. In the May 2021 budget, the federal government confirmed additional funding to meet this shortfall until June 2023. The indexation freeze which had been applied to funding in 2014 was set to expire on 30 June 2021 and AADC was able to ensure this information was promoted to the sector through our members.

In mid-2021 we became a signatory to the Rethink Addiction campaign and joined the 'brains trust' advising on the convention being held in Canberra later in the year, in the expectation of helping craft an event that is inclusive and focussed on challenging the stigma and discrimination directed towards people who use alcohol and other drugs.

Reducing the regulatory burden

AADC has established positive relationships with representatives from the federal government, the opposition and minor parties. We presented to the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) in May, and routinely meet with senior representatives of the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Branch within the Department of Health.

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. This is an issue that has increased in significance as a result of the extended impact of COVID-19 on services across the country.

Connecting evidence to outcomes

AADC has established ongoing methods of engagement and communication with our members, which supported the development of: AADC's *Strategy and Action Plan to April 2022*; one fact sheet; three issues papers; and seven submissions to government. We were invited to present to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in follow-up to our written submission.

We undertook jurisdictional visits to engage with the sector in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT, Tasmania and South Australia, where our team is currently based. We expanded the scope of our engagement with the sector, connecting with a broader suite of stakeholders across the sector and amongst aligned groups and national peak bodies.

We launched our website as a one-stop reference for all work published by AADC. We appeared as MC, moderator or guest speaker at six sector-hosted events over the year for audiences working within and outside of the sector, increasing awareness of our role and work.

In January, AADC was sub-contracted to deliver network coordination support to the state and territory AOD peaks, who are all also founding members. This enabled us to grow our staff team by 0.5 FTE. We've invested considerable effort into developing multiple funding proposals to the Department of Health in support of our future work, and remain hopeful of a positive outcome in 2021-22.

Success indicators 2020-21

AADC's *Strategy and Action Plan to April 2022* commits AADC to annual evaluation of performance against specific success indicators, to support organisational development and learning.

Success indicators to April 2022

1. Direct government funding for AADC achieved by mid-2022.
2. Extension of ERO supplementation to specialist non-government alcohol and other drugs services beyond 30 June 2021.
3. Formalisation of one or more funding agreements with the federal Department of Health to fund activities consistent with AADC's strategic goals and objectives.
4. Retention of all current members *and* addition of the named research centres as associate members.
5. Active participation¹ of 70% or more members in all member engagement processes.
Following the establishment of bi-monthly member meetings as a primary forum for ensuring member engagement in AADC's policy work, effective July 2021, success indicator 5 will be revised in future years to 'Active participation of 70% or more members in bi-monthly member meetings.'
6. Frequency of engagement² with the Department of Health, the office of the Minister for Health and relevant Shadow and invitations for AADC to participate in federal government representative processes.

Status at 30 June 2021

- Not yet achieved.*
Application for funding through Health Peak and Advisory Bodies grant has been submitted; response pending.
- Achieved.*
Funding to accommodate ERO has been extended to June 2023.
- Not yet achieved.*
Discussions have commenced but are on hold pending the outcome of the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies grant process.
- Partially achieved.*
All founding members retained; DPMP has joined as an associate member.
- Partially achieved. Average participation rate – 67%*
ACT Drugs of Dependence Bill – 40%
Residential services retendering letter – 33%
Draft National Preventive Health Strategy – 47%
Response to Productivity Commission Mental Health Inquiry Report – 64%
National Preventive Health Strategy consultation paper – 86%
Strategic plan and issues papers – 100%
Parliamentary Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence – 100%
- Department of Health: 11 meetings.
Office of the Minister for Health: 2 meetings (advisor only).
Office of the Shadow Minister for Health: 2 meetings (1 advisor only).
Invitations for AADC to participate in federal government representative processes: 2 formal nominations³.

¹ Measuring 'participation' as one or more points of connection and response by a member, to member engagement processes relating to specific submissions and policy development.

² Measuring 'engagement' only as scheduled face to face and remote meetings with senior bureaucrats at Director-level and above (excluding informal or unscheduled phone contact) and parliamentary advisors and above.

³ Nominated to participate in the NIAS evaluation consultations and the NTF Communication, Coordination, Collaboration Discussion Forum.

Resources and publications

Wherever possible, AADC publishes its resources online at www.aadc.org.au

Fact sheets

Fact Sheet #1 *Introducing the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council* August 2020

Issues papers

Issues Paper #1 *National priorities for the specialist alcohol and other drugs sector* August 2020

Issues Paper #2 *The role of the specialist alcohol and other drugs sector in responding to domestic and family violence* March 2021

Issues Paper #3 *Telehealth and digital access* March 2021

Member briefings

Federal Budget 2020-21 October 2020

COVID Vaccine Roll-out March 2021

Equal Remuneration Order and Indexation March 2021

Federal Budget 2021-22 May 2021

Presentations and speeches

Support the Family – Improve the Outcome, International Family Drug Support Day Canberra February 2021

A sector response to the findings of the 'Exploring the place of alcohol and other drug services in the mental health system' report, 360 Edge webinar March 2021

AOD Services and Mental Health: Collaboration, Not Integration, SANDAS Symposium April 2021

Published submissions

Submission to the *Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*, July 2020

Submission to the *National Health Taskforce on the Development of the National Preventive Health Strategy consultation paper*, September 2020

Submission to the Department of Health *Consultation in response to Recommendations in the Productivity Commission's Mental Health Inquiry Report*, February 2021

Submission to the *National Preventive Health Taskforce on the Draft National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030*, April 2021

Submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly *Select Committee on the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021*, June 2021

Further submissions by correspondence to the Minister for Health were also made on the issues of the Equal Remuneration Order and Commonwealth funding for AOD residential treatment services.

Social media platforms



www.linkedin.com/company/the-australian-alcohol-and-other-drugs-council



@TheAADC

Financial statements

In 2020-21 AADC's total turnover was below the \$250,000 threshold required for a review or audit of its financial statements; AADC has instead opted to have special purpose finance reports prepared externally by our accountants, One Advisory.

In January AADC started to receive a regular income stream through sub-contracting arrangements with QNADA, to deliver coordinating services to the State and Territory AOD Peaks Network.

We continue to spend our reserves wisely, to ensure greatest impact in our work whilst maximising the lead-time available for us to establish a sustainable financial footing.

Profit and Loss

	2020-21	2019-20
Revenue	\$	\$
Member start-up contributions		
ADCA wind-up transfer		
Interest	59	604
Royalties	3,787	4,938
Other Revenue	68,324	
Total Revenue	72,170	5,542
Expenses		
Advertising and Marketing	(3,175)	(180)
Assets Under \$5,000	(89)	
Bank fees	(90)	
Consulting and Accounting	(2,060)	(7,750)
Establishment costs reimbursement		
General Expenses	(482)	
Insurance		
Printing and Stationery	(147)	
Professional Development		(560)
Project Expenses	(4,333)	
Subscriptions	(278)	(45)
Superannuation	(10,859)	(1,644)
Travel - National	(8,937)	
Wages and Salaries	(123,503)	(17,308)
Workcover	(1,960)	(331)
Total Expenses	(155,912)	(27,818)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(83,742)	(22,277)

Balance Sheet

	2020-21	2019-20
Assets	\$	\$
Bendigo Bank Everyday Account	170,133	242,914
Debit Card Account	2,000	
Total Assets	172,133	242,914
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	(379)	
GST	327	886
PAYG Withholdings Payable	(5,258)	(4,350)
Provision for Annual Leave	(9,141)	
Superannuation Payable	(3,617)	(1,644)
Total Current Liabilities	(18,068)	(5,108)
Net Assets	154,064	237,806
Income Tax Expense		
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(83,742)	(22,277)
Retained Earnings	237,806	260,083
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	154,064	237,806

Our people

Board

Jill Rundle, Chair and Director (elected to the board, 28 July 2017; re-appointed to the position of Chair for two years, 8 December 2020)

Elizabeth Baxter, Director (resigned from the board, 30 November 2020)

Alison Lai, Director (elected to the board, 30 November 2020)

Rebecca Lang, Director (elected to the board, 28 July 2017)

Adam Searby, Director (elected to the board, 30 November 2020)

Robert Stirling, Director (elected to the board, 12 November 2019)

Melanie Walker, Director (resigned from the board, 23 April 2021)

Staff

Jennifer Duncan, Chief Executive Officer

Jemma Taylor Cross, State and Territory Peaks Network Coordinator (commenced 18 January 2021)

Our members

Organisational 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.

Associate members

Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP)