

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): NADAbase Gender/Sex and Sexuality Questions

### **Q: Why is NADA updating NADAbase regarding Gender/Sex and Sexuality?**

**A:** NADA continues to be guided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in regard to best practice for data collection. As announced at the recent NADA Data Forum, the standard for questions regarding Sex/Gender and Sexuality have been updated by the ABS in 2020 (link [here](#)). This 2020 standard updates the existing Sex and Gender questions, as well as introduces new questions on Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation. The 2020 standard has expanded on the previous version to acknowledge all forms of Sex/Gender and Sexuality expressions.

### **Q: What if we only input this data into NADAbase?**

**A:** You don't need to do anything. The drop downs and the two new questions will be live from 01 July 2022. You'll just need to provide your team with this FAQ document to let them know what's changed.

### **Q: What if we use Redicase, Mimaso or TED?**

**A:** NADA will be providing Redicase, Mimaso and TED with the updated data dictionary and we can update you on when they think these changes will be applied.

### **Q: What if we use a bespoke client management system?**

**A:** You will need to use the updated data dictionary to inform your IT system administrator to update next time you are making changes to your database.

### **Q: What will happen if we don't make the changes?**

**A:** If your client management systems are unable to be updated by 1 July 2022 to incorporate these new questions, your current data fields will continue to be reflected in the new NADAbase, excluding the additional fields. NADA appreciates that making changes has a big impact on our members' IT systems. We don't make decisions to implement changes lightly, and any updates to NADAbase are made to inform holistic practice and enhance treatment as part of a client's care plan. NADA encourages members to update your systems to better inform treatment and reflect the people accessing services.

### **Q: What will happen to our older data entry after 1 July 2022, i.e. will they disappear?**

**A:** Your previous information will not be lost or compromised and will be mapped to the current four questions after 1 July 2022.

### **Q: What if we don't think these items are necessary?**

**A:** Collecting data regarding a person's Sex/Gender and Sexuality expressions is important as it will contribute to improved service provision in a number of ways, such as informing care plans and interventions currently being provided to deliver improved outcomes for those who identify as Gender and Sexuality Diverse. It will also improve our understanding of these groups to inform policy and service planning.

**Q: How can we support staff who may not be comfortable asking these questions?**

**A:** NADA suggests members to add the Gender, Sex and Sexuality data updates as an agenda item for your next staff meeting, print the following page as a poster for the office, and have conversations with staff on how to ask the questions.

The following resources are available to increase the understanding and awareness of AOD workers about the needs of Gender and Sexuality Diverse people and communities, and how to provide inclusive service response:

- [Asking the question: Inclusive data collection for gender and sexuality diverse clients](#)
- [Access and equity: Working with diversity in the alcohol and other drugs settings - second edition](#)
- [AOD LGBTIQ inclusive guidelines for treatment providers](#)

NADA and ACON will be hosting a one-hour webinar on the Updates to Gender and Sexuality Questions in NADAbase in July. We invite you to register to the webinar here: [NADA events](#)

Current G&SD items	Current responses	After 1 July 2022	
		Expanded G&SD questions	Expanded responses
Sex/Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male</li> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Intersex</li> <li>• Transgender Male</li> <li>• Transgender Female</li> <li>• Non-binary/Indeterminate</li> <li>• Not stated/Inadequately described</li> </ul>	What was your sex recorded at birth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male</li> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Another term (please specify)</li> <li>• Not stated/Inadequately described</li> </ul>
		How do you describe your gender?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man or male</li> <li>• Woman or female</li> <li>• Non-binary</li> <li>• I use a different term (please specify)</li> <li>• Prefer not to answer</li> <li>• Not stated/Inadequately described</li> </ul>
Sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straight or heterosexual</li> <li>• Lesbian/gay/homosexual</li> <li>• Bisexual</li> <li>• Queer</li> <li>• Not stated/Inadequately described</li> </ul>	How do you describe your sexual orientation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straight (heterosexual)</li> <li>• Gay or lesbian</li> <li>• Bisexual</li> <li>• I use a different term (please specify)</li> <li>• I don't know</li> <li>• Prefer not to answer</li> <li>• Not stated/Inadequately described</li> </ul>
		Were you born with a variation of sex characteristics (sometimes called 'intersex' or 'DSD')?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• I don't know</li> <li>• Prefer not to answer</li> </ul>