

## March 2025

### Policy and submissions

- NADA provided a [Pre-budget submission](#) to the NSW Treasurer and Health Minister following the NSW Drug Summit requesting an increase in funding to the NGO AOD sector over 5 years.
- NADA contributed to the public consultations to support the set up of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC), particularly how it relates to the use of health data and how the CDC can build trust with the Australian public.
- NADA sent a letter to the NSW Ministry of Health regarding the procurement and contracting arrangements for NSW NGO AOD services.

### Advocacy and representation

- NADA is on the Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty Leadership Group led by DCJ to implement long term funding arrangements for AOD NGOs. The first tranche of contracts moving over to 5 years will be the Ministerially Approved Grants (MAG).
- NADA met with the Federal Health Minister to discuss AOD funding, particularly DATSM.
- NADA engaged with the Stakeholder Engagement team with the Long Service Corporation on the NSW Portable long service leave scheme which is soon to be implemented in NSW. NADA is preparing a webinar for members in collaboration with the Long Service Corporation and Accounting for Good. Through the NGO Advisory Committee, NADA and other peaks have advocated to NSW Health that the cost of the scheme needs to be included in funding to NGOs and should be factored into indexation.
- NADA held a [Safe Men: Safe Communities](#) forum for members in November 2024 to consult on key advocacy areas for action. This includes greater cross sector coordination, stronger investment in men's behaviour change programs and associated facilitator training, funding for clinical supervision.
- NADA received member feedback on rising costs of insurances and workers compensation. Member consultation confirms importance of focus on worker psychological safety and staff wellbeing initiatives. NADA is in liaison with NCOSS regarding broader sector advocacy on the rising costs.
- Held meetings with DVNSW, ECAV and No to Violence to discuss strategies on how the sectors can work better together.
- DCJ Roundtable membership has been finalised and the structure revised to consist of an executive committee and three working groups; Aboriginal Families in Focus, Youth in Focus and Parents in Focus. Meetings are held quarterly with membership consisting of Department of Communities and Justice, Ministry of Health, Mental Health and the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs and a range of NADA member representatives. The working groups will focus on district-based initiatives to improve the way both sectors work with shared clients.

### NADA continues to represent the sector with key stakeholders:

NSW Ministry of Health; Department of Health and Aged Care; DSS Community Grants Hub; NSW Dept of Communities & Justice; NIAA; PHNs; ACDAN; ADARRN; AADC; AOD Peaks Network; ATCA, NUAA, ACI, DPMP; DVNSW; MHCC; NCOSS; NCETA; DACRIN; USyd Matilda Centre, UQ, UoW, UNSW, TAFENSW.

**Ongoing meeting representation:**

NSW Ministry of Health AOD NGO Reference Group; DAPC, QIT Sub Committee, CAOD Values Based Health Care Advisory Group and working groups, Living and Lived Experience Workforce Steering Committee, ACI D&A Executive Committee; State and Territory AOD Peaks Network, AADC Members Council; AADC Policy Officers Network, NCOSS: Peaks CEO Meeting; FONGA; NCOSS Health Equity Alliance, NSW NGO Advisory Committee, CMHDARN Operations Meeting, Aboriginal Strategic Collaboration Group CAOD, MoH Strategic Research and Evaluation Advisory Group, Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty Leadership Group, Ministry of Health AOD Stigma and Discrimination Working Group, Clinical Care Standards Working Group, NSW MH Commission Advisory Committee for the NSW Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing, NSW Hepatitis C Strategy Implementation Group, Hepatitis C Implementation Committee Meeting, HMHA State Steering Committee, NSW Education in Addiction Advisory Group, Take Home Naloxone Advisory Group, National Practice Standards Steering Committee, Advisory Group to inform development of resources for families and carers (Ministry), Humanability Technical Committee MH & AOD.

**NADA staff presented at:** NSW Health AOD Employee Value Proposition and Workforce Recruitment Campaign Launch event, International Family Drug Support Day 2025, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Engaging Men and Boys to End the Cycle of Violence Conference, SANDAS Seminar Series: Gender Responsive service delivery, DVNSW Sector Chat: The Intersection between AOD and DFV.

**Peer-review papers:**

Freestone, J., Xiao, B. J., Siefried, K. J., Bourne, A., Ezard, N., Maher, L., Stirling, R., Degenhardt, L., Varma, R., Prestage, G., Hammoud, M. (2025). Exploring experiences of talk therapies among gay and bisexual men seeking to reduce or abstain from using crystal methamphetamine in the context of chemsex. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13999>

Pocuca N, Campbell G, Barnett A, Beck AK, Ellem R, Quinn CA, Kelly, PJ, Larance B, Baker AL, Connor JP, Marsden J, Chan GCK, Connelly L, Lenzen S, Farrell M, Stirling R. Hudson S, Hides L (2025). A mixed-methods study of staff perspectives on the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of patient-reported routine outcome measures and feedback in alcohol and other drug treatment. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.14007>

Information on NADA's policy and advocacy work, including Sector Watch and the meetings that NADA represents its members, is available on the NADA website [here](#).