

Strength in Community

NADA Conference 5–6 June 2025, ICC Sydney Convention Centre

Day 1 – Thursday 5 June 2025

Keynote sessions recorded and streamed					
9:00–9:05	Conference welcome: Dr Robert Stirling (Chief Executive Officer, NADA)				
9:05–9:20	Welcome to Country: Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and smoking ceremony				
9:20–9:35	Official introduction: Leone Crayden (NADA Board Chair) Official welcome: To be confirmed				
9:35 – 9.55	Keynotes: Lived and Living Experience–Craig Worland and Maureen Steele				
9:55 -10:45	Keynote: Taimalelagi Mataio Faafetai (Matt) Brown She Is Not Your Rehab Mataio Brown shares their approach to address family violence, emphasising the role of community and collective healing to disrupt intergenerational trauma, and role modelling healthy masculinity to challenge social norms.				
10:45-11:15	Morning tea – poster viewing				
11:15–12:45	Breaking barriers: Inclusive approaches to supporting priority populations Virtual and in person Cockle Bay (Theatre) Chair:	Catalysts for change: Fostering leadership through innovative solutions In person only C3.3 (Cabaret) Chair:	Empowered healing: Strengthening community through integrated treatment models In person only C3.2 (Cabaret) Chair:	Strength in connection: Opportunities in rural, regional and remote In person only C3.4 (Theatre) Chair:	Aboriginal yarning circle In person only C3.1 (Round) Chairs: Nathanael Curtis, Raechel Wallace (NADA) and Cathy Sheridan (Weigelli and NADA Practice Leadership Group)
	<u>Oral Presentation</u> Development of ACE-Flex: Applying lessons learnt to facilitate the delivery of	<u>Lightning Round</u> Better Together: A relational approach to co-constructed peer-clinical partnerships in digital AOD services	<u>Symposium</u> Building healing communities through culturally inclusive AOD prevention and recovery models	<u>Lightning Round</u> One in, all in <i>Jessica Silva and Jenny Taylor, Mission Australia, Katy McLean</i>	For First Nations workers only TBC Exploring self-care for Aboriginal workers in the NGO AOD sector (90min)

<p>cognitive remediation AOD services <i>Jo Lunn, Jo Lunn Psychology</i></p> <p>Living My Best Life After Lockup: overcoming post-incarceration challenges for people who use drugs <i>Angus Mason and Ashlyn Buckley, Community Restorative Centre</i></p> <p><u>Lightning Round</u> Emerging adults in AOD treatment: Satisfaction with treatment and associations with perceived autonomy support and treatment experiences <i>Megan Wells, University of Wollongong</i></p> <p>"That's the cards you've been given. And it's really what you do with them." A photovoice study about recovery <i>Emily Deans, Youth Solutions, Lou Carr, University of Wollongong</i></p> <p>Continuing Coordinated Care Program – providing support for people with complex support needs <i>Helen Williams and Michelle Smith, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW – Continuing Coordinated Care Program</i></p> <p>Too little but not too late: Quantifying mental health demand in Victorian AOD</p>	<p><i>Xan Dangaard and Kate Johnson, Lives Lived Well</i></p> <p>Online counselling for rural concerned significant others supporting individuals using alcohol or other drugs: A randomized controlled trial <i>Heidi Gray, RHRI and Dr. Nicola Ivory, School of Psychology CSU, Dr Nicole Snowden, Prof Julaine Allan</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Developing an outcomes measurement framework in The Salvation Army <i>Dr. Emma Scott and Andy Head, The Salvation Army</i></p> <p>Becoming a data comfortable, improving collection and use of data to improve service delivery <i>David Kelly and Leo Clayton, Odyssey House NSW</i></p> <p>Strength in Community: the importance of unity in advocacy in 2025 <i>Melanie Walker, Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC)</i></p>	<p><i>Rania Omar, Nirekha De Silva, Teguh Syahbahar, Mohamad Fenj, Odyssey House NSW</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Radical harm minimisation in residential settings <i>Kate Dodd, Phoebe House Inc</i></p> <p><u>Lightning Round</u> "Harm Reduction Therapy in Practice": KRC South's approach to engaging at-risk individuals through co-location, collaboration and holistic approach to counselling <i>Emma Montgomery and Caroline James, Kirketon Road Centre</i></p>	<p><i>(MA), Bruce Waddell (LHD) TBC, Coral Allen-Hoare (LHD) TBC</i> Integrating nutrition into the AOD recovery model <i>Louise Juracich, Your Community Health</i></p> <p>Connected Care: How innovation and collaboration strengthens support for individuals, families and communities <i>Taylor Hammes, Odyssey House</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Telehealth use and legal considerations in Drug Health Services <i>Meryem Jefferies, Western Sydney Local Health District</i></p> <p>Fitting the service to the person at Vinnies <i>Elodie Druitt and Christine Faddoul, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW</i></p> <p>Co-Design in Action: The Power of Collaboration in Novel Opioid and Benzodiazepine Detection and Response <i>Stephanie Tzanetis, Malcolm McLeod and Mitch Lamb, Directions Health</i></p>
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	Services and the case for better resourcing <i>Jane Moreton, Victorian Alcohol & Drug Association</i>				
12:45–13:45 Lunch – poster viewing					
13:45-15:15	Breaking barriers: Inclusive approaches to supporting priority populations Virtual and in person Cockle Bay (Theatre) Chair:	Power of collaboration: Fostering a workforce that thrives In person only C3.3 (Cabaret) Chair:	Empowered healing: Strengthening community through integrated treatment models In person only C3.2 (Cabaret) Chair:	Power of collaboration: Fostering a workforce that thrives In person only C3.4 (Theatre) Chair:	The Leadership Exchange – Building a leadership network In person only C3.1 (Round) Chairs: Chris Keyes, Michele Campbell, Yasmin Iese and Dylan Clay
	<p><u>Lightning Round</u> Re-thinking how we ask people about their drinking and drug use to inform local action <i>Kylie Lee and Taleah Reynolds, La Trobe University</i></p> <p>Development of lived experience videos about methamphetamine with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People <i>Tariq Isaacs and Stephanie Kershaw, University of Sydney</i></p> <p>AOD Hub at the epicentre of priority populations <i>Nada Andric and Alexandra Seville, Rev. Bill Crews Foundation</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentations</u> Innovative, flexible and assertive approaches to harm reduction and accidental counselling with young people</p>	<p><u>Lightning Round</u> Barriers and facilitators to supporting clients' mental health needs in alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment settings <i>Erin Madden</i> <i>The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Fearlessly embrace the Research Adventure <i>Michelle Hall, Drug and Alcohol Research and Improvement Network (DACRIN), Sydney</i></p> <p><u>Symposium</u> Inclusive and innovative implementation of the AOD Clinical Care Standards into practice <i>Dr Suzie Hudson, Kristie Mammen, Maureen Steele, Annie Malcolm, Centre for Alcohol and other Drugs, NSW Health</i></p>	<p><u>Lightning Rounds</u> An evaluation of a residential rehabilitation program for families and children <i>Dr Emily Deans and David Kelly, NDARC</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Eight months of impact – A community embedded AOD Hub <i>Steve Neale and Nicole Spencer, Aboriginal Community Housing Limited</i></p> <p>Rolling with the Res Dust, and rolling out Red Dust Healing in AOD services <i>Nicholas Kerswell and Bel Little, Lives Lived Well</i></p> <p><u>Workshop (40 min)</u> Yarn SMART: Embedding culture and connection into SMART Recovery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</p>	<p><u>Oral presentation</u> Embracing and amplifying the power of lived and living experience in our workforce <i>Danny Grayswood and Jenn Wiggs, Karralika Programs Inc</i></p> <p>Supporting a LLE Peer Work Force <i>Lucy Pepolim and Angie Kocsisek, NUAA</i></p> <p>Strengthening alcohol and other drug workforce capability through specialized suicide prevention education <i>Nikki Jordan, Directions Health, Tiyana Gostelow, SafeSide Prevention</i></p> <p>Coming together for co-occurring conditions: the expansion of the Comorbidity Project <i>Erin Madden</i></p>	Chris Keyes will facilitate a dedicated space for team leaders and managers to come together and explore the opportunity to establish a Leaders and Managers network for the NGO AOD sector (90min)

	<p><i>Molly Reynolds and Amy Robbins, Directions Health Services</i></p> <p>Strong & Deadly Futures: Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous high school students against alcohol and drug-related harms <i>Kriscia Tapia, The Matilda Centre Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Delivering youth-focused AOD support to aboriginal communities on far south Coast of NSW <i>Andrea Andrew, James Southan, and Josie Vairy, Karralika</i></p>		<p><i>Trevor Pearce and Lucy Norton, SMART Recovery Australia</i></p>	<p><i>Co-authors: Christina Marel, Katherine L Mills, Sally Boardman, Kathleen Palmer, Madhu Senthil Kumar, The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, The University of Sydney</i></p>	
15:15-15:45	Afternoon tea – poster viewing				
15:45-16:30	<p>Keynote panel Leading through connection: Reflections on leadership from the non-government AOD sector</p> <p>Panellists: Sam Booker (The Buttery), Aaron More (The Glen Centre), Siobhan Hannan (ACON), David Chivers (CRC)</p> <p>Panel facilitator: Chris Keyes, Deputy CEO, NADA</p>				
16:30	Day one close				
17:00-18:30	Canapes and networking drinks				

Day 2 – Friday 6 June 2025

Keynote sessions recorded and streamed					
9:00–9:15	Welcome recap day 1: Dr Robert Stirling (Chief Executive Officer, NADA), and Leone Crayden (NADA Board Chair)				
9:15–10:30	Keynote: Dr Tracy Westerman AM How did resilience become lost in comorbidity? Understanding the clinical and cultural complexity of work with Aboriginal clients As practitioners the absence of critical evidence to provide complex treatments and assessments of Aboriginal people has created paralysis across the profession and no more than within the AOD field in which comorbidity is an accepted reality. Dr Westerman will unpack how those on the front line can ensure they can provide best clinical and cultural practice in an environment in which the evidence is predicated on cultural exclusion.				
10:30–11:00	Morning tea – poster viewing				
11:00–11:55	Keynote: David Best Recovery capital, community capital and building inclusive recovery cities David Best will present an 'outside in' model of recovery predicated on accessing community resources and how this model has been used to build recovery communities in the UK and internationally				
12:00–13:00	Power of collaboration: Fostering a workforce that thrives In person and virtual Cockle Bay (Theatre) Chair:	Power of collaboration: Fostering a workforce that thrives In person only C3.3 (Cabaret) Chair:	Breaking barriers: Inclusive approaches to supporting priority populations In person only C3.2 (Theatre) Chair:	Empowered healing: Strengthening community through integrated treatment models In person only C3.4 (Theatre) Chair:	Synergy in action: Strengthening communities through sector partnerships In person only C3.1 (Theatre) Chair:
	<u>Lightning Round</u> Implementation of a region wide multicultural AOD strategy <i>Paul Hardy CESPHN</i> <u>Panel session (40 min)</u> Embracing Diversity and Cultural Inclusion: Insights from the Multicultural Audit Panel <i>Panel facilitator: Yasmin Iese, NADA</i> <i>Panellists: Paul Hardy, CESPHN, David Chivers, CRC, Jane Lindwall, Haymarket.</i> <i>Cultural Auditors: Mohamad Fenj, The Rehabilitation Project,</i>	<u>Lightning Round</u> DMP Withdrawal Unit Triple Care Farm: We can't do it alone – partnerships build communities and improve outcomes <i>Kt Harvey, David Martin Place, Triple Care Farm, Mission Australia</i> Strength in Community: Enhancing youth recovery through an integrated dual diagnosis approach <i>Mark Stevens, Carol Nedov, Uniting Recovery – YESS Program</i> "I don't go there with expectations...my driving force is	<u>Lightning Round</u> Supplying Take Home Naloxone to the community (organisations): "Naloxone First Aid" training <i>Nick Rich, Kirketon Road Centre and William Wood, Uniting MSIC</i> <u>Oral Presentation</u> Exploring the evidence for incorporating culture in therapeutic programs for young people in prison: Insights from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.	<u>Oral Presentation</u> Gender and risk factors for overdose among clients entering residential rehabilitation for opioid use <i>Chloe Haynes, School of Psychology, University of Wollongong, Australia.</i> Behind the Scenes: Understanding the workings of therapeutic communities <i>Michelle Ridley, Gerard Byrne, Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)</i>	<u>Lightning Round</u> Genuine partnerships in achieving outcomes together <i>Joe Coyte The Glen, Beam Psychology and Brendan Chandler Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN)</i> Nurturing best beginnings – using infant simulators with high school students to demonstrate the impacts of drug and alcohol on babies

	<p><i>Kittu Randhawa, ICSA, Pacifique Dayisaba, Odyssey.</i> <i>Natalie Bakracevska, CRC</i></p> <p>compassion and connection” A qualitative study of therapeutic relationships and person-centred care in community AOD and mental health services. <i>Theresa Caruana, UNSW Sydney Centre for Social Research in Health</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> The effects of stigma by association on AOD workers and services <i>Loren Brener, UNSW Sydney Centre for Social Research in Health</i></p>	<p><i>Dr Alison Evans and Kai Clancy, Sydney Medical School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Empowering women and strengthening Indigenous leadership in AOD rehabilitation: A participatory action research approach at The Glen for Women <i>Danielle Manton, Jemma Christian, Sara Sammons, The Glen for Women</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the Building Belonging Project: a randomised controlled trial of a group-based loneliness intervention for people attending treatment for alcohol and other drug use <i>Isabella Ingram, School of Psychology, University of Wollongong</i></p>	<p><i>Nikki Reece and Sara Evans, CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning</i></p> <p><u>Oral Presentation</u> Synergy in action: Rapid response and sustained collaboration to address emerging drug threats <i>Rebecca Risley and Darren O'Sullivan, NSW Users and Aids Association</i></p> <p>Support networks for carers of people living with alcohol and other drug addiction <i>Grace Cherrington, Carers NSW</i></p>
13:00-13:50	Lunch – poster viewing			
13:50-14:40	<p>Keynote Panel: Reducing drug-related harms for all communities: how do we build a brighter and kinder future? Panellists: Maureen Steele, Craig Worland, + TBC Panel facilitator: Dr. Robert Stirling (NADA)</p>			
14:40-16:00	<p>Presentation of the 2025 AOD Awards for the NSW Non-Government Sector by The Hon. Minister Rose Jackson MLC</p> <p>The awards acknowledge the significant contribution of the sector in preventing and reducing alcohol and other drug related harms across NSW communities through leadership, research, program design and delivery and a dedicated workforce.</p> <p>Award Categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First Nations ◆ Outstanding contribution by individual or team/program with living/lived experience (LLE) ◆ AOD Frontline Champion ◆ Excellence in Health Promotion and/or Harm Reduction ◆ Excellence in Treatment ◆ Excellence in Research and Evaluation ◆ Outstanding Contribution to the sector 			
16:00	Day two close			

Poster presentations

Posters will be presented in the plenary room foyer, on the virtual conference portal, and streamed during break times in the plenary room.

A seat at the table, no menu in sight. Reflections of a lived experience peer worker.

Kate Johnson, Lives Lived Well

The strength of lived experience: Peers engage 20,000 community members with accessible Hepatitis C testing, treatment and awareness

Liam Grant, Justine Doidge, Hepatitis NSW

Effective collaboration between peer work and clinical functions in AOD organisations – in service to our clients

Jess Haddon, Bel Neil, EACH

“Walawaani “ AOD rehabilitation program

Marcus Levett, Ebony Millard, Mission Australia

Strengthening the Alcohol and other Drugs workforce: Developing an Employee Value Proposition to attract and retain talent

Lexi Buckfield, Kristina Gavrilovic, NSW Health Centre for Alcohol and other Drugs and Chris Keyes, NADA

Encapsulator: Empowering connection, integrated healing and inclusive support

Danny Shannon, Encapsulator Pty Ltd

Fitness for recovery – Feasibility and impact of an exercise physiology program during residential rehabilitation

Dr. Rhiannon Dowl, The University of Sydney

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