

## September 2025

### Policy and submissions

- NADA in consultation with members, have developed a [Response](#) to priority actions outlined in the Report on the NSW Drug Summit. This has been provided to over 20 Ministers and parliamentarians, including the Premier's office, Health Minister, Shadow Health Minister and other relevant Ministers. *The response urges the government to deliver a 10-year whole of government AOD strategy within the next year, a boost in withdrawal, harm reduction, prevention and early intervention and an additional \$65 million per year over 5 years for the NGO sector to enable services to respond to community need.* This resulted in a [news feature](#) with NADA and the Butter on the ABC 7:30 Report as well as radio and online media.
- NADA along with NCOSS, MHCC and WHNSW conducted a member survey to understand the impact of rising insurance premiums. It confirmed that premiums have significantly increased and are directly impacting service delivery. The findings support NADA's advocacy to strengthen financial resilience of NGOs, with funding to reflect true workforce cost. The Workers Compensation Amendment Bill is currently with the Public Accountability and Works Committee for an Inquiry. NADA provided a [submission](#) and referenced this report.
- NADA participated in consultations with the Nous Group on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department to inform two innovative evidence-based programs through multi-agency collaboration for people who use violence. The aim is for earlier more coordinated responses with embedded support services to address behaviour change for perpetrators and to provide immediate outreach for victim-survivors.
- NADA have contributed to national submissions by [Australian Alcohol & other Drugs Council](#) on the Fair Work Commissions Gender-based undervaluation, Productivity Commission's final review of the National MH and Suicide Prevention Agreement and submission to the Telehealth Sector Working Group consultation on its draft telehealth care principles.
- Now that FWC have a proposed revision out for consultation, NADA is participating with AADC, on a national submission on the AOD NGO sector impacts of the proposed review of the SCHADS award by the Fair Work Commission. We are also supporting a comprehensive submission by NCOSS which speaks to impacts across community services. *Our advocacy calls for a longer consultation period, a classification structure that properly reflects the expertise of the NGO AOD workforce, is practical to implement and that wages be covered in funding contracts across all AOD funders.*
- NADA in consultation with members developed a submission to the NSW Mental Health Commissions Wellbeing Strategy consultation, *calling for expansion to effective integrated models of care, workforce capacity building and funds to include mental health specialist roles in AOD services to support people with cooccurring needs.*
- A working group arising from NADA's Women's Network has formed to develop a proposal to secure support to address the lack of gender responsive withdrawal services for women in late-stage pregnancy and with babies (up to 14 months) in NSW.

### Advocacy and representation

- NADA held the Advocacy sub-committee meeting in August, which informed our response to the Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy review, and welcomed guests from ASU regarding SCHADS award review advocacy, and Wesley Mission regarding a position on gambling reform in NSW.

- NADA in partnership with DCJ undertook the first pilot Build A village Workshop attended by over 70 LHD and NGO representatives from AOD services and DCJ workers from across Greater Sydney. The workshop commenced work on shared care working agreements to be implemented with families working with DCJ and AOD services. Project implementation will be overseen by the NADA DCJ Roundtable working group.
- 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 to 5 years the Ministry will be MAG Grants. NGOs providing Drug Court and MERIT services have now received 5-year contracts. An NGO Funding Framework and a Jobs Compact is close to being finalised, as well as exploring a standardised NSW Government NGO funding agreement and a pre-qualification scheme to reduce burden when tendering.
- NADA participated in the AADC FASD AOD workforce capability project reference group to adapt Canadian online training modules on FASD-informed practice for the Australian AOD workforce. Designed to build the capability of the AOD workforce, this free, evidence-based course supports AOD professionals to better understand and respond to individuals diagnosed with, or possibly living with undiagnosed, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Webinars and Online Courses - NOFASD](#)

#### **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; PHNs; ACDAN; AADC; AOD Peaks Network; NUAA; ACI; DPMP; DVNSW; MHCC; NUAA; NCOSS; NCETA; DACRIN; TAFENSW.

#### **Ongoing meeting representation:**

NSW Ministry of Health AOD NGO Reference Group; NSW NGO Advisory Committee, DAPC, QIT Sub Committee, ACI D&A Executive Committee; State and Territory AOD Peaks Network, AADC Members Council; AADC Policy Officers Network, NCOSS: FONGA, NSW MH Commission Advisory Committee for the NSW Strategy for MH & Wellbeing, NSW Hepatitis C Strategy Implementation Group, Humanability Industry Advisory Committee (Human Services), & Technical Committee MH & AOD.

**NADA staff presented at** DAPC, QIT, AbSec Quarterly Sector Forum.

#### **Peer-review papers:**

- [Wallace, Raechel](#) & Clay, Simon & Shakeshaft, Anthony & Farnbach, Sara. (2025). 'I Think That Is a Big Step From Here to There': Exploring the Views of Service Providers About Delivering Drug- and Alcohol-Related Health Services to Aboriginal People in Rural New South Wales. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. 44. 10.1111/dar.14096.
- Deans, E., Economidis, G., Gates, P., Zocco, A., [Stirling, R.](#), Nathan, S., Hudson, S., Farnbach, S. (2025). A scoping review of program evaluations in non-profit alcohol and other drugs service settings: Considerations for service and research partnerships. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 112, 102614. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2025.102614>
- Hatton, E.L., Kelly, P.J., Robinson, L., Beck, A., [Lee, M.L.](#), [Stirling, R.](#), Mullaney, L., [Campbell, M.](#) and Larance, B. (2025), Psychological Distress Trajectories in Residential Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.14099>
- Haynes, C. J., Beck, A. K., Kelly, P. J., [Lee, M.L.](#), [Stirling, R.](#), Hudson, S., Robinson, L., [Campbell, M.](#), Stubbley, C., Larance, B. (2025). Gender and Overdose Risk Factors Among Clients Entering Residential Treatment for Opioid Use, *Drug and Alcohol Review*: 1–19, <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.70004>.