

## Snapshot of the NSW non-government AOD sector

The NSW non-government alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector plays a significant role in responding to the needs of people who use alcohol and other drugs, yet our contribution is not well understood. This fact sheet provides an outline of alcohol and other treatment in NSW and highlights the work of non-government services.

### Facts and figures

- In 2023-24 around 131,900 people received AOD treatment across Australia.
- In 2023-24 around 61% of people who received AOD treatment were male and half were aged 20-39 years.
- The most common drug of concern nationally, that led people to seek treatment in 2023-24 was alcohol, representing 42% of all treatment episodes.
- The most recent National Drug Strategy Household Survey shows that 47% of Australians reported to have used illicit drug in their lifetime and 18% had used an illicit drug in the last 12 months. 31% drank alcohol in ways that put their health at risk.
- Research shows that in 2022/2023 for every dollar invested by the NSW Government in the NGO AOD treatment system, the NGO AOD sector brought in an additional dollar.

### Who provides AOD treatment services?

The Australian and NSW Governments fund both public agencies and NGOs to provide a range of AOD treatment services in NSW. Government providers typically deliver medically oriented treatment types such as pharmacotherapy and hospital-based responses, while NGOs generally provide counselling and rehabilitation services. There are also a number of private providers and mutual support groups that provide treatment and support.

### About the NSW non-government AOD sector

NSW has a diverse, strong and effective non-government alcohol and other drugs sector which has provided services to individuals, families and communities for more than 40 years. The sector has been critical in responding to the health and welfare needs of those affected by alcohol and other drugs, particularly those experiencing marginalisation and complex health and social issues.

89 organisations, including 43 specialist alcohol and other drug organisations provide services in 150 locations across NSW. A similar number provide AOD services as part of a broader health and/or social welfare service.

### Overview of funding to the NSW NGO AOD sector

Funder	Total in 2024/25
NSW Ministry of Health Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs	\$94.9m (including ad hoc grants and new SCI grants)
NSW Primary Health Networks (PHNs)	\$29m (+ approx. 6% operational = \$30.8m)
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care	\$22.8m
National Indigenous Australians Agency	\$18.9m (including infrastructure grants program)
<b>Total***</b>	<b>\$ 165.6 million</b>

\* Includes all NGOs. Not all are NADA members.

The non-government AOD sector is the largest provider of residential rehabilitation services in NSW and also provide specialist treatment programs for methadone to abstinence and methadone stabilisation, Magistrate Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) programs and Drug Court services.

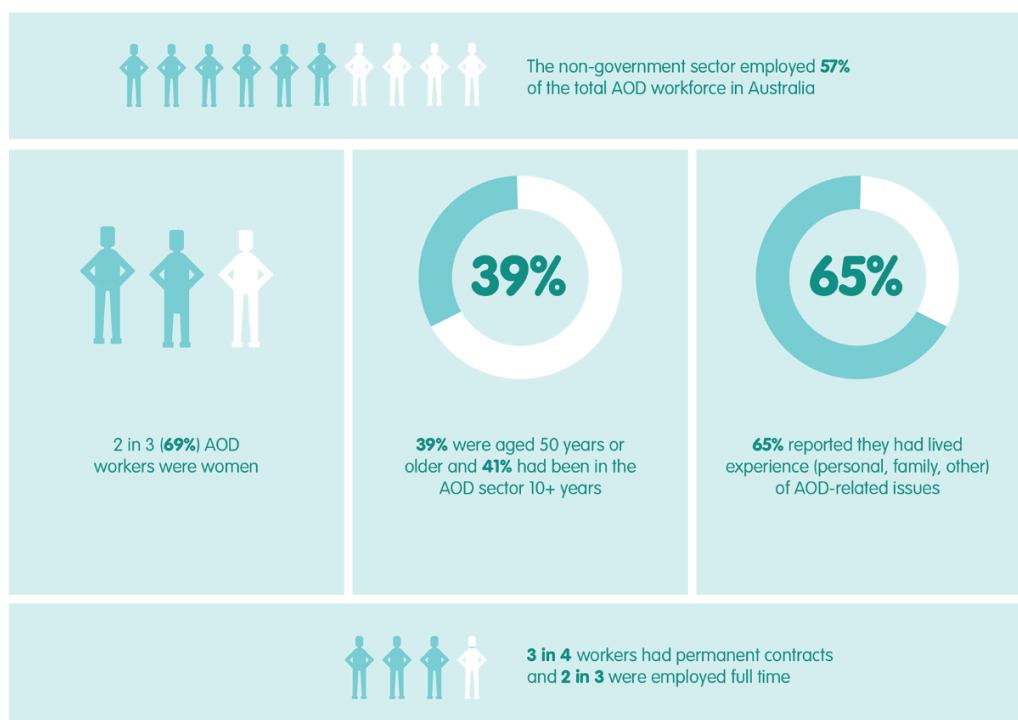
The non-government AOD sector provide a wide range of specialist prevention and treatment services

- health promotion
- harm prevention
- outreach
- counselling
- case management
- withdrawal management
- residential rehabilitation
- day programs
- support for families and significant others



## AOD workforce profile

A national survey summarised these key AOD workforce findings:



A study of the NSW NGO AOD sector in 2021 showed a consistent workforce profile

- 70% female, 81% heterosexual and typically 45 years old
- 58% define their ethnic background as Australian and 11% as Aboriginal
- Total life work experience reported as 21 years
- Highest educational degree cert and dip 31% bachelor degree 28% master degree 19%

### **NADA members**

NADA represents 89 organisational members that provide services in 150 locations across NSW. They provide a broad range of alcohol and other drugs services including health promotion and harm reduction, early intervention, treatment and continuing care programs. Our members are diverse in their structure, philosophy and approach to alcohol and other drugs service delivery.

Of our 89 member organisations

- 48% are specialist AOD services
- 20% are Aboriginal community-controlled organisations

Of the 150 locations that members provide services

- 36% provide residential services
- 20% provide specialist services to young people
- 7% provide specialist services to women, and women with children
- 37% of services are regional, rural or remote

## **NADA**

### **About NADA**

The Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) is the peak organisation for non-government alcohol and other drugs services in NSW. We advocate for, strengthen and support the sector. Our decisions and actions are informed by the experiences, knowledge and concerns of our members.

We represent 89 organisational members that provide services in 150 locations across NSW. They provide a broad range of alcohol and other drugs services including health promotion and harm reduction, early intervention, treatment and continuing care programs. Our members are diverse in their structure, philosophy and approach to alcohol and other drugs service delivery.

We provide a range of programs and services that focus on sector and workforce development, data management, governance and management support, research and evaluation, sector representation and advocacy, as well as actively contributing to public health policy.

Together, we improve the health and wellbeing of people who use, or have used, alcohol and other drugs across the NSW community.

NADA has award level accreditation under the Australian Services Excellence Standards (ASES), a quality framework certified by Quality Innovation and Performance (QIP).

### **NADA Values**

<b>Inclusion</b>	NADA values diversity, and we promote equitable and accessible approaches
<b>Integrity</b>	NADA values respect, fairness, and transparency, whilst maintaining an independent voice
<b>Innovation</b>	NADA values innovation and we strive to take courageous action to continuously improve policy and practice, encourage curiosity, and generate solutions

## **NADA programs and services**

- *Representation*: NADA is a key contact with all funders of NADA members. NADA also disseminates key information to members relating to these relationships.
- *Policy and advocacy*: NADA advocates on behalf of its members and contributes to alcohol and other drugs, mental health and public health and social policy.
- *Data management services*: NADA provides data management through NADAbase, an online database for the AODTS-NMDS and client outcomes management system (COMS). We also provide training and support to members for NADAbase and data management.
- *Workforce development*: NADA delivers a range of face to face and online training and professional development opportunities for members, manages a small training grants program and hosts a conference every two years.
- *Resources*: NADA develops and promotes a range of resources to ensure that members can implement best practice approaches and support its workforce.
- *Information dissemination*: NADA provides a range of digital communications to members, including the NADA website, quarterly e-newsletter The Advocate and regular emails (Frontline and Member Email Update).
- *Grants management*: in addition to regular training grants, the NSW Ministry of Health also funds NADA on an ad hoc basis to administer grants to support members development.
- *Research*: NADA commissions and participates in research relevant to members, and also advocates to inform the broader research agenda.

## **References**

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