

## December 2025

### Policy and submissions

- NADA has submitted our [Pre Budget Submission](#) to the NSW Treasurer and Health Minister. We will be actively seeking representation with the NSW Government to impress the need to implement our funding recommendations.
- NADA provided an updated submission on the Federal Inquiry into the health impacts of AOD. This included updated outcomes data from NADABase which demonstrates that the NGO sector is a valuable investment.
- NADA contributed to a submission by the National Peak, AADC, on the [Fair Work Commission's Gender-based undervaluation - priority awards review](#). *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 provided a [submission](#) to support the development of the NSW Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, *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.*

### Advocacy and representation

- NADA have continued to engage with NSW Parliamentarians and the CAOD on our response to the Drug Summit Report. NADA met with Minister Park, Minister Washington, Alex Greenwich, Cate Faehrmann and Jo Haylen. NADA discussed the development of the NSW AOD strategy and funding with the Health Minister, who was supportive of NADA having a seat at the table for the development and monitoring of the strategy.
- NADA is on the Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty Leadership Group, led by DCJ to implement long term funding arrangements for AOD NGOs. The next and biggest tranche of contracts to move to 5 years with the Ministry, will be MAG Grants. An NGO Funding Framework and a Jobs Compact have been finalised, with plans for a standardised NSW Government NGO funding agreement and a pre-qualification scheme to reduce burden when tendering.
- NADA met with the NSW PHN AOD Network and the CEO Network to discuss how we can work together to enable implementation of standardised KPIs for the NGO AOD sector into future contracts administered by PHNs. There was discussion on holding an event with NGO AOD funders to progress this work and identify next steps. We will also be presenting on this matter to the Policy Officers Group – represented by the DHDA and each jurisdictional health department.
- NADA held its Advocacy sub-committee meeting in November, which informed the drafting of NADA's position paper on Gambling and AOD, which will support advocacy by Wesley Mission on gambling reform in NSW. The group also provided advice on an updated pre-budget submission for NADA.

- NADA formed a working group with member services to collaborate with QNADA on a resource for the sector on medicinal cannabis.

**NADA continues to represent the sector with key stakeholders:** NSW Ministry of Health; Department of Health Disability & Aging; DSS Community Grants Hub; NSW Dept of Communities & Justice; NIAA; PHNs; ACDAN; ADARRN; AADC; AOD Peaks Network; AIHW; ACI; DPMP; DVNSW; NTV; FAMS; MHCC; NCOSS; NCETA; NUAA; DACRIN; USyd Matilda Centre, UQ, UoW, UNSW, TAFENSW.

**Ongoing meeting representation:**

NSW Ministry of Health AOD NGO Reference Group;  
 NSW NGO Advisory Committee  
 DAPC, QIT Sub Committee,  
 CAOD Values Based Health Care Advisory Group and working groups,  
 AODTS NMDS Working Group,  
 ACI D&A Executive Committee;  
 State and Territory AOD Peaks Network,  
 Peaks Capability Building Network  
 AADC Members Council;  
 AADC Policy Officers Network,  
 NCOSS: FONGA  
 NCOSS Health Equity Alliance,  
 MoH Strategic Research and Evaluation Advisory Group,  
 Clinical Care Standards Working Group,  
 Clinical Care Standards Community of Practice  
 NSW MH Commission Advisory Committee for the NSW Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing  
 HMHA State Steering Committee  
 Humanability Industry Advisory Committee (Human Services), & Technical Committee MH & AOD  
 PIPSI Strategic Policy Group  
 DACRIN Council.

**NADA staff presented** at APSAD and ACDAN symposium.

**Peer-review papers:**

- Ingram, I., Dingle, G., Larence, B., Baker, A. L., Deane, F. P., Robinson, L. D., Beck, A. K., Leigh, L., Kontogiannis, A., Coleman, E. P., Degan, T. J., Nixon, B., Stirling, R., Hudson, S., Hides, L., Drummond, S., Breeze, D., Webber, A., Street, K., Bill, A., Matthews, E., Kelly, P. J. (2025). Groups for belonging: a parallel cluster randomized controlled trial of a group-based loneliness intervention for people attending treatment for alcohol and other drug use. *BMC Public Health*, 25(1), 2941. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-24369-6>
- Asare-Doku, W., Stirling, R., Peprah, P., Foley, C., De Silva, N., Syahbahar, T., Kelly, D., & Settumba, S. (2025). 'Oh! It's Like Taboo': Perspectives of Religious and Community Leaders on AOD Use, Harms and Treatment in CALD Communities, Sydney. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 36(4), e70105. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.70105>