



# AODCCC

Alcohol and Other Drug  
Consumer & Community Coalition

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*...beyond stigma*

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**2022-2023  
Annual Report**

## Acknowledgment of Country

The Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# AODCCC

Alcohol and Other Drug  
Consumer & Community Coalition

### Contact Us

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## Recognition of Lived Experience

We would like to recognise the individual and collective expertise of those with a lived or living experience of alcohol and or other drug issues. We also acknowledge the emotional labour and vulnerability that is present in this space. We also recognise the work of those who came before us to build the foundations to enable this work to take place.



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# Chair's Reflection

On behalf of the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) Management Committee, it is my pleasure to present the 22-23 annual report, to you, the members, stakeholders, supporters, and advocates.



Dear Members,

Another busy year has passed, and I have a sense of pride as I reflect upon all the projects and achievements undertaken in 22-23. The AODCCC has continued to make great strides in seeking out change, through education, systemic advocacy, and further development as a sustainable organisation with the ongoing mission, to amplify your voices and inform the systems that are here to serve our community.

I am pleased to see that over the course of the financial year we have provided our community with training opportunities codesigned by the members, maintaining a grass roots approach and utilising the wisdom and experience of this wonderful community. Through this lived and living experience we can seek out change through understanding the achievements and pitfalls of our members and build resilience. Our upskilling sessions provide members with the tools to engage in representative roles, while safeguarding their wellbeing. It has been a rewarding process for the AODCCC team to see these projects come to fruition and help build lived and living experience representation in the alcohol and other drug sector and beyond.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members as we ensure good governance for the organisation, and the AODCCC staff under the guidance of our Development Coordinator, Alex Arpino, for their ongoing passion and authenticity in seeking to build our membership, draw out your diverse views and disseminate these voices with key stakeholders. We are pleased to see an increase in membership, with 141 new members welcomed this year.

Our profile has continued to grow in our social media, community presentations and consumer engagements. We have seen an increase in

word-of-mouth referrals, responding to positive reviews shared by our existing members. We see this as a consequence of our commitment while working in accordance with our values, it gives me a sense of gratitude that the hard work is paying off.

This financial year has seen a significant increase in systemic advocacy initiatives with several submissions, reports and position statements published. A few examples include support of a *Minimum Unit Price on Alcohol* in partnership with the Cancer Council WA and Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA), a submission to the *Liquor Act Reforms* calling for more Government emphasis on the health impact of alcohol and increased resources for treatment and support services. We were also pleased to have been invited to the Legislative Assembly for questions, relating to our submission to the *Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities*. All these responses have been informed by our members, including our AODCCC Reference Group which continues to flourish.

Our positive relationship with the Mental Health Commission continues and I am happy to say that we have received a letter of intent to transition AODCCC to a Service Agreement, testament to the progress we have made, we look forward to engaging in these discussions and commence the next chapter for the organisation.

We are determined to continue this momentum for growth of our organisation, and maintain meaningful engagement with our members, to promote the interest's education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use.

**Carmen Acosta**  
Chairperson, AODCCC

# Mission, Vision & Values

## Mission

To promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use.

## Vision

Community understanding shaped by the voice of people and families with lived experience of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

## Values

The following set of values were developed utilising consultation inputs from the consumer and community think tank held in 2018:



### Inclusion

We acknowledge the legitimacy of everyone's experience and provide a safe space for diverse views to be shared.



### Collaboration

We look for opportunities to bring consumers, family, community, policy makers and providers together for real change.



### Accountability

We consult broadly and are open about our intent, activities, and outcomes.



### Leadership

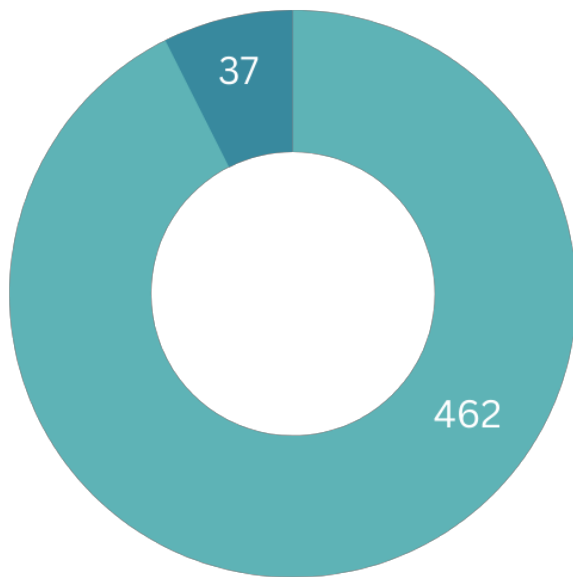
We share bold visions and take courageous steps towards what is needed in the community.



### Integrity

We respect and value the different perspectives and experiences of alcohol and other drug use.

# Membership

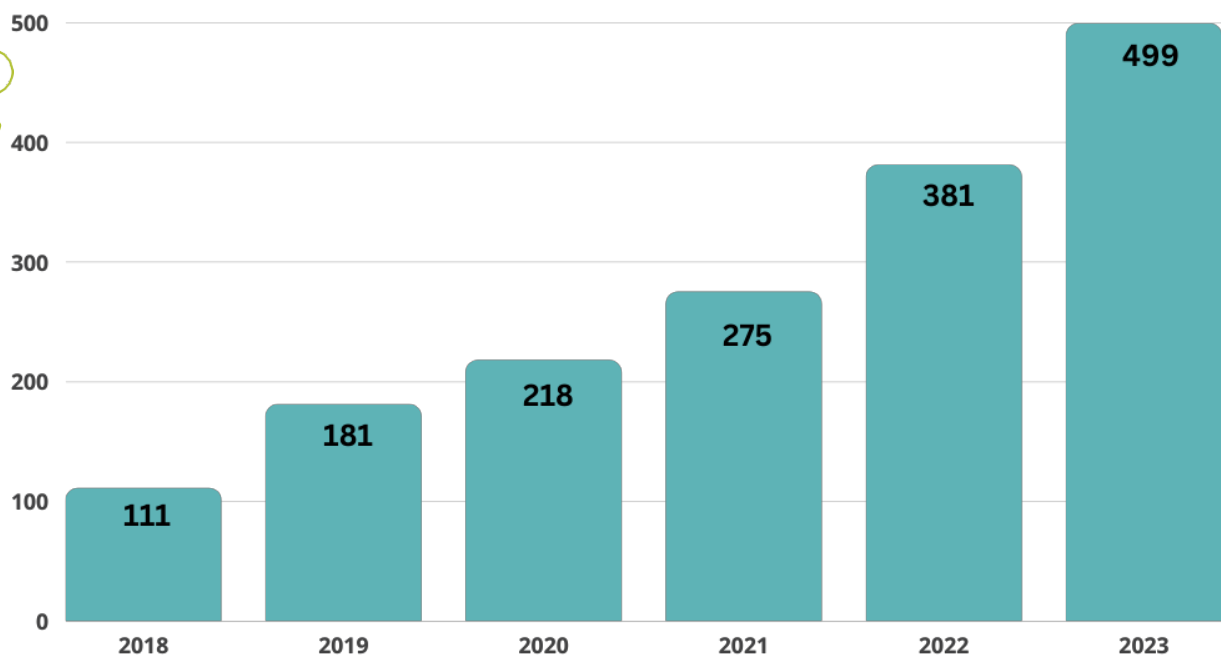


**22-23 Financial Year**

**Total Members: 499**

**Individuals: 462**

**Associates: 37**



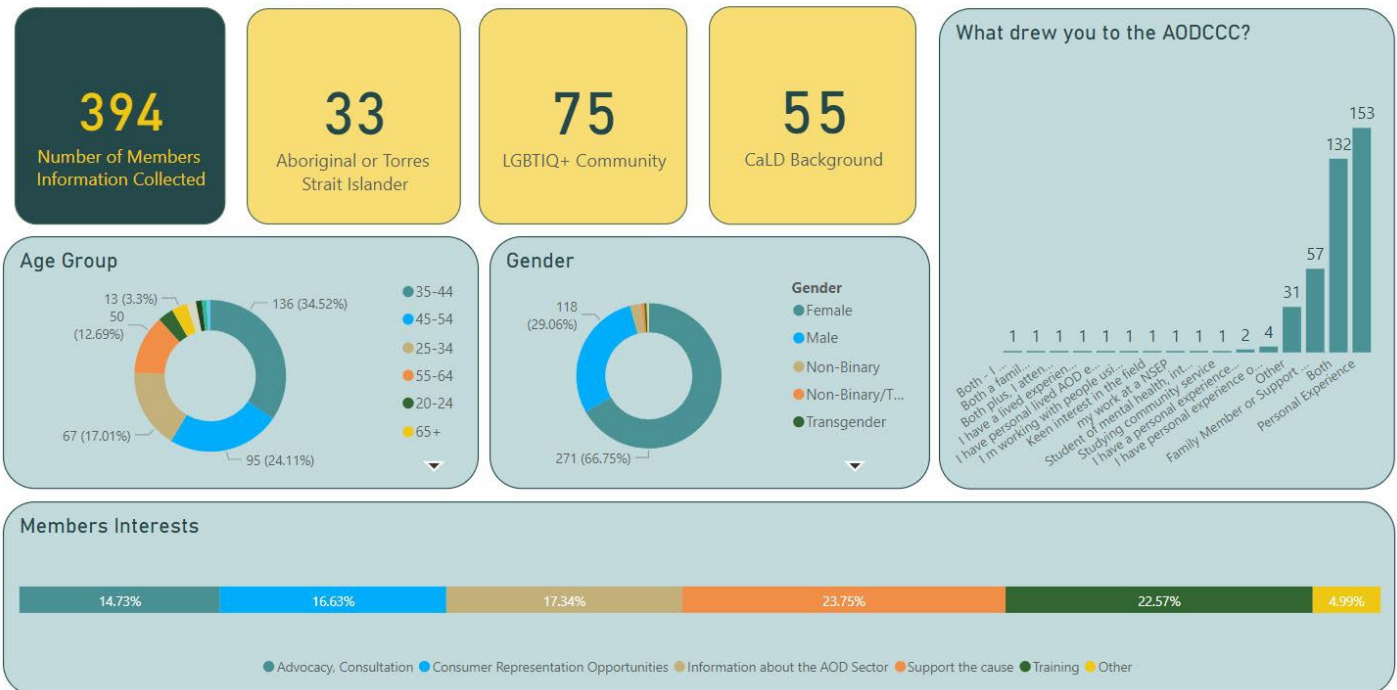
**AODCCC** has welcomed 141 new members in the 2022-2023 financial year, that is an increase of 35 compared to the last financial year. We have been working tirelessly engaging the community and service providers ensuring everyone has an opportunity to become a member and share their insights and lived experience.

We have continued to engage the community directly and in-reach into service providers, government, and non-government agencies, advertised on social media and attended conferences with a view to advertise and network. Word of mouth continues to play an effective role in attracting membership, we thank our active members for spreading the word about our organisation.

# Demographics

## Demographics

(Information Collected from Members from 2021)



Of the **499** members registered in the 22-23 financial year, **394** of these provided their demographic information which enabled us to understand that:

- Majority of members were aged between **35** to **54** years of age.
- **33** identified as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander, **55** as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and **75** as LGBTQIA+.
- **66%** identified as female.

In addition:

- **153** report a personal lived experience of alcohol and other drug use.
- **57** are a family member or significant other of someone impacted by alcohol and other drugs.
- **132** have experienced both.

Members interests in the AODCCC is balanced between supporting the cause, obtaining information about the alcohol and other drug sector, seeking consumer representation opportunities, advocacy, consultation, and training.

In addition, demographic information allows us to see gaps in our diversity, ensuring representation from a diverse group of people as reflected in the community, highlighting areas we need to reach out to and make meaningful connections.

# A Brief History...

In 2015, the Health Consumers' Council (HCC) was funded by the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to co-ordinate a project to build on the recommendations from the November 2014 Forum, Improving Consumer Involvement in the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector.

An Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Group (AODAG) comprised of government agencies, not for profit organisations, and consumers was developed to progress this project.

Over time, this group imposed a 50% consumer quorum to ensure the group-maintained consumer led focus and leadership.

The project specifically addressed the following recommendations:

1. to develop a common set of principles for engagement.
2. outline best practice engagement strategies for the sector.

As a result, a consumer consultant was hired to undertake this work and, the 'Principles and Best Practice Strategies for Consumer Engagement in the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector in Western Australia' was delivered to the MHC in January 2017.

In March 2017 the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) funded the HCC to support the ongoing work of the AODAG to progress towards incorporation and the development of consumer training. With this funding, the group became the Transitional AODAG.

Additional funding was received from the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA) and broad consultation in relation to these deliverables was undertaken.

In June 2018 the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer Community Coalition (AODCCC) was formed and Incorporated, the constitutional purpose being, "to promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use". It was decided that family and significant others were to be recognised as equal consumer members and that an avenue for broader community inclusion was necessary, resulting in the name "Consumer and Community Coalition".

Following the establishment of the AODCCC an interim committee was formed. This committee began to build a membership base and progressed to the 1st Annual General Meeting where a Board of 12 were elected. In January 2019 a small capacity building grant from WA Council of Social Services was received to hold community consultations to submit to the parliamentary inquiry "Alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community".

This document was written based on feedback from 80 participants and submitted to the Inquiry Committee in February 2019. Soon after this the AODCCC began funding negotiations with the Mental Health Commission and received funding toward establishment to June 2023.

The delivery of the AODCCC Mission, Vision and Values marks the achievement of successfully meeting the first funding deliverables. June 2020 saw the commencement of recruiting a Development Coordinator and initiated the next stage of operational development for the AODCCC.

20-21 saw the completion of this development, meeting key milestones set out in the MHC funding agreement, with a subsequent contract extension to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 21-22 saw the employment of staff, establishment of the AODCCC office at Claisebrook Lotteries House and commencement of the AODCCC Reference Group.

# Operational Report

In the 22-23 reporting period, AODCCC saw further development in engaging and amplifying lived and living experienced voices in the community.



The focus for 22-23 was to build upon the momentum achieved the previous year, with the establishment of a team, premises, and the commencement of our Consumer Reference Group. The AODCCC continued to attract new members and set to work to promote their interests, education, and welfare.

## Training

This year the organisation delivered member Codesigned Training which were upskilling sessions that are designed to give members the tools and insight required to be effective lived and living representatives in the community. The first round of training commenced on the 8th of September 2022. These five, individual 30-minute presentations facilitated over Zoom provided the essentials required to be an effective advocate.

1. Types of Advocacy (Individual and Systemic)
2. Roles and Rates as a Representative
3. Lived Experience Representation
4. Attending Meetings
5. Career Opportunities



Training modules were presented twice during the 22-23 financial year and member feedback has been positive. We will now combine these modules into one face to face session which will commence in November 2023.



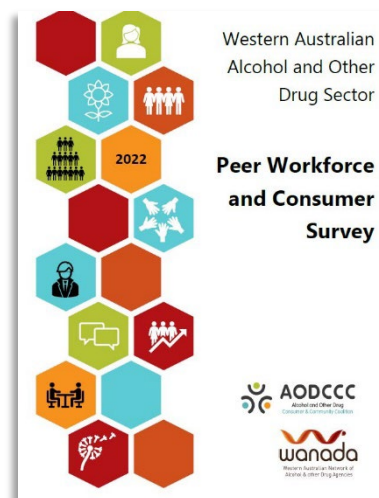
Mental Health First Aid was again facilitated for the membership on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July, this provided a good foundation for participants to be able to assist individuals, family members, significant others, and the broader community in times of crisis. It also highlighted the intersectionality of alcohol and other drug and mental health issues.

All other training opportunities across the sector were shared through our monthly newsletter. Our monthly newsletter has continued to be a source of information, engagement, and training opportunities for the members, with monthly updates sent out as a members exclusive.

## Sector Engagement

The AODCCC continued to promote membership opportunities through community presentations, inviting community members, including those in Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) residential treatment services, to sign up and be included in the conversation for systemic change. The AODCCC provided presentations to several service providers, including Palmerston, Salvation Army- Harry Hunters, Uniting WA, Ruah, Shalom House, and Mission Australia over the 2022-2023 financial year.

During this period the organisation facilitated a Peer Workforce and Consumer Survey report, a project in partnership with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA). The AODCCC surveyed 124 consumers, 135 Alcohol and other Drug (AOD) sector professionals and 10 sector leaders. The purpose of the survey was in response to the Mental Health Commission's (MHC) efforts to secure more balanced representation of alcohol and other drug "peer" involvement in systems level policy and planning efforts. The survey was designed to develop more refined understandings of the makeup of the sector's workforce who have a relevant personal experience associated with alcohol and other drugs. Key issues such as pathways to voluntary or paid employment, longevity in the sector, and opportunities for influencing service or sector policy and planning matters were presented. Survey responses facilitated a shared position between AODCCC and WANADA across 5 key areas that are important to consumer engagement, workforce development and individual safety.



The key aims of the survey were to determine:

1. Proportion of sector workforce with relevant personal experience of alcohol and other drugs.
2. Barriers, motivations, and pathways into sector employment, particularly for service users who have employment or career aspirations in the sector.
3. Alcohol and other drug worker and consumer interest in service and sector policy planning and development opportunities.
4. Considerations that arise from the term 'peer worker', and preferred alternative terminology.
5. Specific support or recruitment needs for peer workers, or workers who identify as having relevant personal experience with alcohol and other drugs.

Stakeholder engagement and networking opportunities for the membership was a significant focus this year. The organisation was pleased to engage Hon Simon Millman MLA - Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Health, Mental Health, and Member for Mt Lawley. We negotiated a live online Q&A for our members which provided a firsthand summary of the role of a Parliamentary



Secretary, the process in which policy positions are formulated, the mechanisms to engage lived experience voices and clarified alcohol and other drug policy positions of the Cook Government. Finally, we facilitated an opportunity for question time. We see this as another acknowledgement of AODCCC as a peak body and further progress in supporting our members to have direct access to government and its representatives.

The AODCCC was also pleased to initiate and facilitate a presentation with the Cancer Council WA and WANADA informing AODCCC membership on the proposed Minimum Unit Price or Alcohol Floor Price. This allowed our members to be informed on the proposal and to voice any concerns they have, which informed our position statement. AODCCC is in support of the floor price.

The AODCCC attended the Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) Conference, engaging attendees at the Peaks booth, providing service updates and welcoming new membership.



WACOSS Conference  
Brooke Reeves- Communications and Administration Officer

## Systemic Advocacy

The Systemic Advocacy initiatives pursued during this period included:

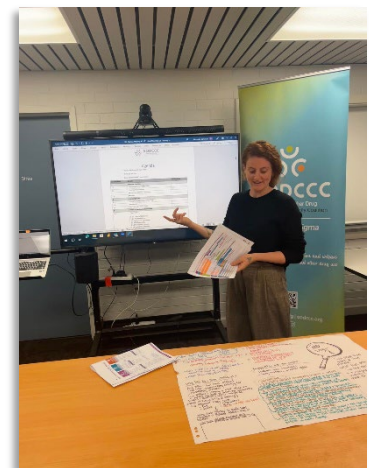
- Support of a proposed Minimum Unit Price on Alcohol in partnership with the Cancer Council WA and WANADA.
- Completion of a submission into the proposed Liquor Act Reforms - AODCCC is calling for more Government emphasis on the health impact of alcohol and increased resources for treatment and support services.
- AODCCC Position Statement – Response to Alcohol Home Delivery Regulations, which highlights the impact of home delivery of alcohol and the need for an immediate review of the guidelines to mitigate risks identified.
- AODCCC presented to the Legislative Assembly for questions, relating to our submission to Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities.
- Attended the Emergency Access Reform Group - An initiative hosted by the Health Consumers Council with the goal of improving outcomes for those requiring emergency departments, including diversion options in community health and home support. Providing additional lived experience input, we also supported one of our reference group members to attend the Emergency Access Reform - Consumer Advisory Group Monthly Meeting.



The organisations inaugural membership survey was also completed and published in September 2022. It is essential that the voices of our members are present to guide us along the way, and more specifically to inform the systemic advocacy agenda of the organisation and adhere to our mission “to promote the interests, education and welfare of those impacted by alcohol and other drugs”. This survey is one part of our advocacy process, as we aim to build with the goal for AODCCC to provide the leading lived and/or living experience voice within the sector. The survey will be a grass roots account that taps into the lived experience of our members, which addresses need, building upon and championing the strengths of our community. We encourage all members to access the report which is available now on our website.

The AODCCC Reference Group continues to flourish with the second generation of representatives in place and engaging well. The seven members are rotated every 12 months to ensure a diversity of views and experience is maintained, while providing equality of opportunity for the broader membership to engage. Key items the reference group has provided input on during this reporting period are:

- Development of a Moderation Policy (Story Sharing) as AODCCC prepares to launch a story sharing portal on its website, to challenge stigma through the sharing of the human experience of alcohol and other drug use.
- Input into the AODCCC Position Statement – Response to Alcohol Home Delivery Regulations,
- Engagement with Hon Simon Millman MLA - Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Health, Mental Health, planning for the online Q&A event, and facilitating questions relating to the impact of alcohol in the community,
- AODCCC Newsletter feedback and input.
- AODCCC Annual Membership Survey Development.
- Feedback on Mental Health Commissioning Plan.



Alexandra Campbell- Systemic Advocacy Officer

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alexandra Campbell (AODCCC Systemic Advocacy Officer) and Brooke Reeves (Communications and Administration Officer) for their great work during this reporting period, to the reference group members for their passion and commitment to our cause, the Management Committee under the guidance of Carmen Acosta and all AODCCC members and stakeholders. I would also like to acknowledge those of you that have donated funds to support the organisation, we greatly appreciate your support.

**Alex Arpino**  
Development Coordinator, AODCCC



# Treasurer's Report

AODCCC's finances are audited annually. The audited financial statements including the auditor's report are presented to members at the Annual General meeting and submitted to funders as a part of the acquittal process.



AODCCC's finances are audited annually. The audited financial statements including the auditor's report are presented to members at the Annual General meeting and submitted to funders as a part of the acquittal process.

I am pleased to present the financial statements of the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Throughout the year, I have reviewed the monthly reports prepared by our accountant Graham Baldisseri and reported to the board on an ongoing basis.

Chassey Cedric Davids, of Australian Audit issued an unqualified audit opinion on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 confirming that the financial statements give a true and fair view of Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) assets and liabilities as of 30 June 2023, and income and expenses for the year.

Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) recorded a deficit of \$4,134 for the 2023 year, which saw the net position decrease from \$4,750 at 30 June 2022 to \$616 at 30 June 2023. In concluding that Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) on 30 June 2023, Australian Audit have confirmed our view that the net assets are sufficient to sustain operations through the coming year.

Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) received the MHC funding for 2023-2024 financial year operation in July 2023 which be appropriately reflected in the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**Jahan Hossain CA**  
**Treasurer, AODCCC**

# Annual Financial Statements

Alcohol and Other Drugs Consumer and Community Coalition Incorporated (AODCCC)

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	5,888	226,840
Other	3	3,754	3,566
Total current assets		<u>9,642</u>	<u>230,406</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	<u>8,697</u>	<u>11,269</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>8,697</u>	<u>11,269</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>18,339</u>	<u>241,675</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5	9,384	228,783
Employee benefits	6	<u>12,644</u>	<u>12,447</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>22,028</u>	<u>241,230</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>22,028</u>	<u>241,230</u>
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u>(3,689)</u>	<u>445</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surpluses/(accumulated deficits)		<u>(3,689)</u>	<u>445</u>
<b>Total equity/(deficiency)</b>		<u>(3,689)</u>	<u>445</u>

# 2022/23 Management Committee



## **Carmen Acosta- Chairperson**

Carmen Acosta has 30 years of senior leadership and management experience across both the private and not for profit sectors. During this time Carmen has worked across several different areas including disabilities, homelessness, youth, alcohol/drugs, family/children's, mental health, domestic violence, employment/training, and community legal across WA including both rural and remote. Carmen has been responsible for the establishment, delivery and continuous quality improvement of many new and innovative services and multidisciplinary teams. She has a particular skill set in strategic, operational, financial and contract realignment; quality frameworks; the research, evaluation, and assessment of community services. Carmen is also a seasoned board member having previously sat on the board of two WA peak bodies WAAMH and WANADA.



## **Suzanne Caren – AODCCC Secretary**

Suzanne is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Management holding a Graduate Certificate in Business and is currently completing her Masters. She is a past Board Member of the Youth Affairs Council of WA and Perth Inner City Youth Service and a member of Youth Work WA. Suzanne has a varied community service background with experience in youth and adult Alcohol and Other Drug, homelessness, domestic violence, employment, project management and tendering. Suzanne has a passion for advocating for the rights of consumers within the Alcohol and Other Drug sector to ensure they have every opportunity to lead their own treatment, goals, and outcomes. Currently Suzanne is the General Manager Youth Wellbeing and Accommodation at MercyCare leading teams across mental health tenancy.



## **Matt Ryan – Vice Chairperson**

Matt recently is a Behavioural Science Practitioner who is studying a Master of Human Rights. He is committed to applying his passion about developing the voice, interests, and opportunities for alcohol and other drug consumers, their families and carers or individually, in the community and within governance circles in his role as Vice Chair of the AODCCC. Matt's interest in social justice drives his interest in providing collaborative conversations and empowerment opportunities for AODCCC members. Matt believes that AOD consumers and the community that surround them are experts-by-experience and are best placed to authentically be included in decision-making circles. Advocating for consumer involvement and critically examining policies, plans and stigma related to alcohol and other drug consumers are deeply important to him.



#### **Jahan Hossain – Treasurer**

Jahan (JWH Director, CA SMSF Specialist, DFP, B. Bus Registered Tax Agent, Registered SMSF Auditor) is a Chartered Accountant with 17 years professional practice experience in various organisations. He has been successfully operating a consulting practice specialising in Self-Managed Superannuation Fund. He is a registered Tax Agent and ASIC registered Self-Managed Superannuation Fund Auditor. He is conscientious and a self-motivated finance professional with extensive experience in various client-centred environments. Jahan is passionate about helping others and is committed to the AODCCC meeting the needs of consumers and the community at large, with good governance and strong financial acumen.

#### **Tania Worthington – Committee Member**



Tania Worthington has a passionate drive to advocate for and to help those battling addiction and other issues arising from living with alcohol and other drug use. Having a personal lived experience herself, Tania hopes to offer a voice for those who are too often not heard. Tania enjoys furthering her education in many disciplines and has a keen interest in mental health and well-being, neuroscience and the alcohol and other drug sector. She strongly believes that helping to put an end to the stigma associated with alcohol and other drugs will go a long way to helping consumers and their loved ones gain the support they need to make positive changes for a better tomorrow. Tania completed her Advanced Diploma of Film and Television in 2009 and has worked on many local film and TV projects, including advertisements and several feature films. She is also a local artist who enjoys working with many different mediums to create pieces that bring joy and add beauty to people's lives and homes.



#### **Kirsty McGeachy – Committee Member**

Kirsty has a Bachelor of Social Science and Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma and is in her final year of Social Work. She has 13 years' experience working in drug and alcohol, justice, and homelessness. Kirsty is passionate about early intervention, accessibility, and policy change for those effected by drugs and alcohol, mental health, and trauma. Kirsty's current role is Coordinator Accommodation and Tenancy Support, MercyCare.

# 2022/23 Staff



## **Alex Arpino – Development Coordinator**

Alex Arpino comes with 23 years of frontline alcohol and other drug (AOD) service delivery experience, having held positions from AOD Residential Rehabilitation Worker through to Case Management and Counselling, into Management and Senior Leadership positions. Alex was one of the founding members of the Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (DAYS), specifically in Withdrawal and Respite and Residential Rehabilitation. Alex is a qualified Community Services Worker, Youth Worker, Trainer, and Assessor (TAE40116), an experienced Group Facilitator and has worked in Capacity Building, specifically delivering Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention Training. Alex seeks to empower the voices of AOD consumers, families, significant others, and the community at large, with the task to address stigma, and draw out the vast experience and wisdom in the community.



## **Alexandra Campbell – Systemic Advocacy Officer**

Alexandra joins the AODCCC with formal qualifications in Psychology and Addiction Studies, and Sexology, coupled with practical working experiences across varied roles within the community service sector. Utilising a holistic, trauma-informed lens, and honouring the diversity of an individuals' needs, Alexandra is passionate about empowering those with a lived/living experience to recognise their value in contributing to systemic change. Alexandra believes strongly in the need to reduce the overall stigma of alcohol and other drug use by amplifying awareness and understanding of use and fostering the wisdom of those with lived/living experiences to be heard in a meaningful way.



## **Brooke Reeves- Communications and Administration Officer**

Brooke comes to the AODCCC with a professional background in hospitality, management, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion. She has volunteer experience with WA Country Health Services in the delivery and management of Alcohol and Other Drug research and support services, around the Leavers WA celebrations in the Southwest each year. Brooke is passionate about a holistic approach to health and empowering people to improve their overall wellbeing. Her passion is driven by personal lived experience combined with a deep interest in the Alcohol and Other Drug sector from her academic and volunteer background. She aspires to infiltrate the Alcohol and Other Drug sector in any way she can, to help make a positive difference to people's lives.

# Thank You



Government of **Western Australia**  
Mental Health Commission

The AODCCC Management Committee would like to thank the Mental Health Commission of Western Australia for their ongoing support and funding, we simply could not have done it without you.

We wish to thank the ongoing support and encouragement received from our members, advocates and the many people across sectors that have enabled our progress to date.

To those with a personal lived and living experience of alcohol and other drug issues, who have long been advocating in this space, we acknowledge your courage and commitment.

Thank you,

AODCCC



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Consumer & Community Coalition

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