



AODCCC

Alcohol and Other Drug
Consumer & Community Coalition

...beyond stigma

**2024-2025
Annual Report**

Acknowledgment of Country

The Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.



AODCCC

Alcohol and Other Drug
Consumer & Community Coalition

Contact Us

Website

www.aodccc.org

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(08) 6311 8402

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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 use. We acknowledge the emotional labour and vulnerability that is present in this space and 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

Dear Members,

Our ability to look back over the last year, to assess and reflect on how far we have come, to examine our achievements and acknowledge our challenges is a powerful exercise. One that I have always found not only personally grounding but also rewarding. By looking back our view of looking forward is always clearer.

In my reflection of all that has been achieved over the last 12 months, I believe one of our greatest accomplishments has been our success in securing a service agreement with the Mental Health Commission and moving to full time operations.

For those that have followed the developments of the AODCCC over the last 5 years, you will know that this has been identified as an essential requirement for the ongoing sustainability of the organisation and one that we have been negotiating for quite some time. This success means that we can plan further ahead than the next 12 months. With secured funding for the next 5 years the AODCCC can now provide a level of permanency to our staff and members ensuring the important work we do will continue.

Moreover, the service agreement acknowledges the essential development work that the AODCCC has achieved since its establishment, the level of operational and governance maturity and the increased recognition the organisation has across the community.

The subsequent move to full time operations has allowed the operational team to attend essential meetings, conferences and events and will increase

the number of submissions and position papers produced going forward. This in turn has resulted in the amplified voice of our members who continue to highlight the need for change in systems and processes accessed by those that have been impacted by alcohol and other drugs.

The increase to full time operations has only occurred recently and our staff under the guidance and leadership of our Executive Manager Alex Arpino must be recognised for the significant work they achieved during part time operations. The continued development and strengthening of stakeholder relationships, the establishment of the very important AOD Stigma Reduction Toolkit Project, the increase in membership and the many opportunities for consultation, education and training for our members.

This last 12 months has also further highlighted the unique strengths and expertise of the AODCCC. There is no doubt that our ability to access, consult and consolidate the varied and numerous voices of our members, acknowledging the powerful impact of lived experience, provides a unique way to advocate and influence government policies and strategies to bring about much needed change.

In the year ahead we hope to seek further opportunities like the AOD Stigma Toolkit which goes to the heart of the AODCCC's mission and strategic plan. The AODCCC will also seek to diversify funding by further exploration of training to service providers using the lived experiences voices of our



members which to date has been very successful. We will also continue to explore strategies to increase the voices of our members in the regions.

None of this work would be possible without the contribution from our dedicated and experienced staff who display the organisations values in every interaction with members and partners across the sector. Success has also been possible due to a group of very skilled committee members who give freely of their time and

expertise to ensure that the governance and the strategic direction of the organisation is always at the forefront of all we do.

Finally, I wish to thank our members for their courage, generosity and the trust they place on the AODCCC as together we work towards bringing about real systemic change across our community.

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

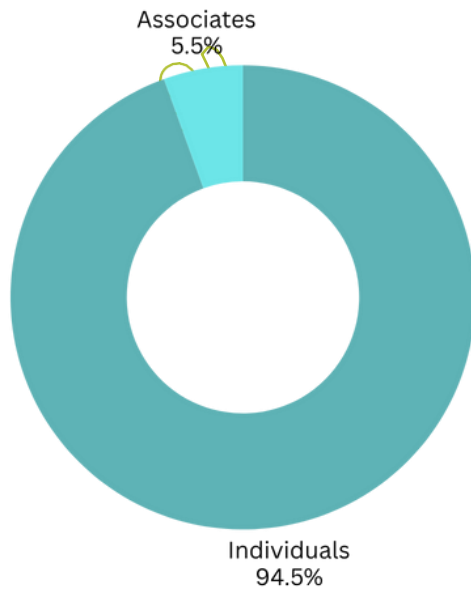
We share bold visions and take courageous steps towards what is needed in the community.



Integrity

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

Membership

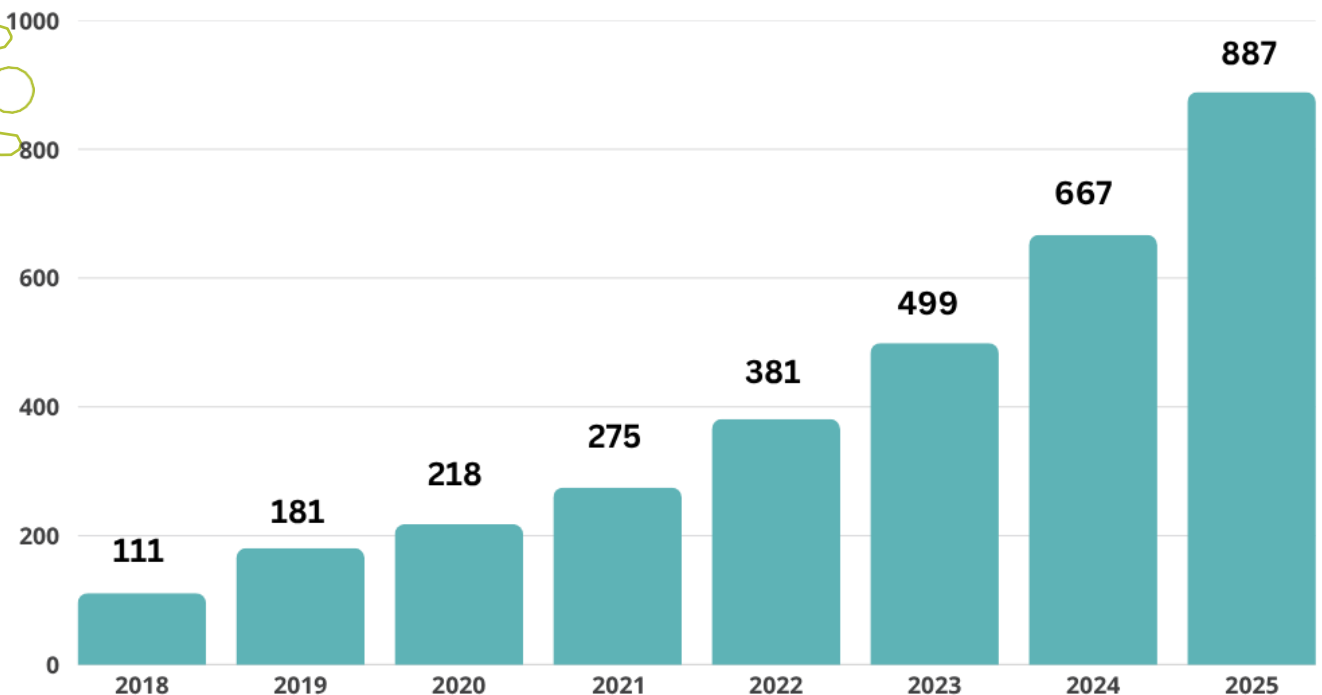


24-25 Financial Year

Total Members: 887

Individuals: 838

Associates: 49



AODCCC has welcomed 220 new members in the 2024-2025 financial year, that is an increase of 52 compared to the last financial year. As we continue to reach out to the community, partner with our stakeholders, seeking to remove barriers for engagement, our membership has seen ongoing steady growth since our incorporation. Our focus is to provide the community with opportunities to share their experience, reflect and be heard, strengthening our engagement and community empowerment year to year.

We are working collaboratively with our members to provide unique member incentives such as training and consultation and engagement opportunities, including access to service providers and government, to inform change at a systemic level.

Demographics

756

Number of Members
Information Collected

66

Aboriginal or
Torres Strait Islander

148

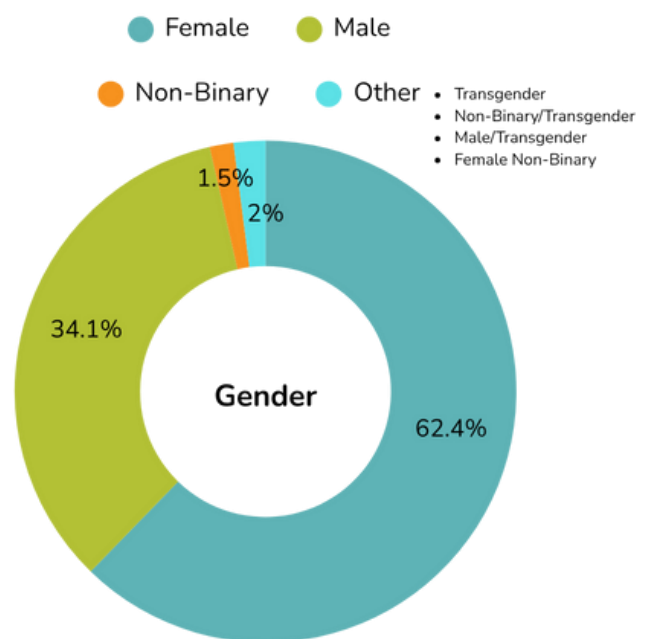
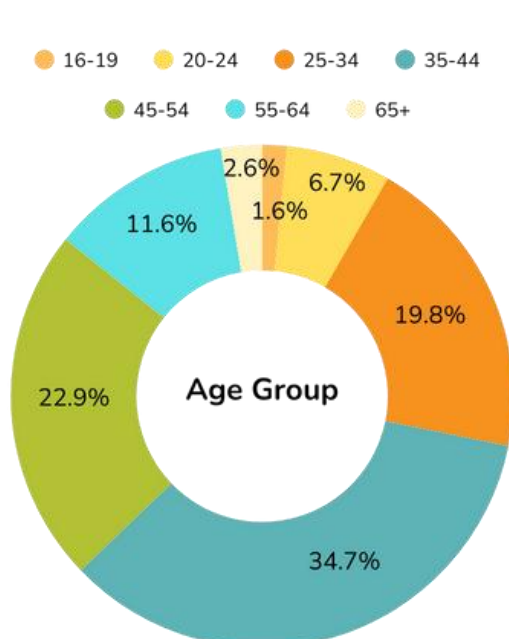
LGBTIQ+ Community

111

CaLD Background

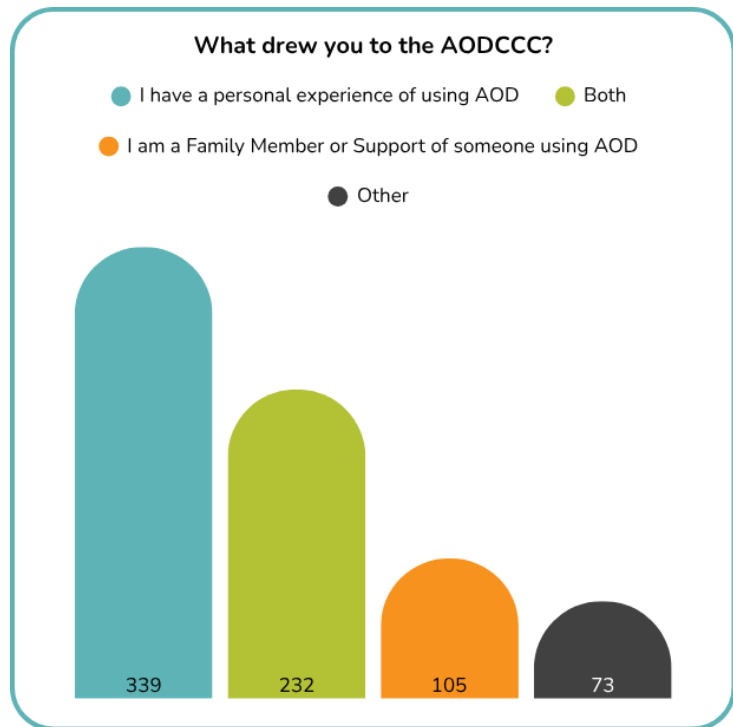
Of the **887** members registered in the **24-25** financial year, **756** have provided their demographic information which enabled us to understand that:

- Majority of members were aged between **35 to 44** years of age.
- **66** identified as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander, **111** as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and **148** as LGBTIQ+.
- A majority **62.4%** identified as female.

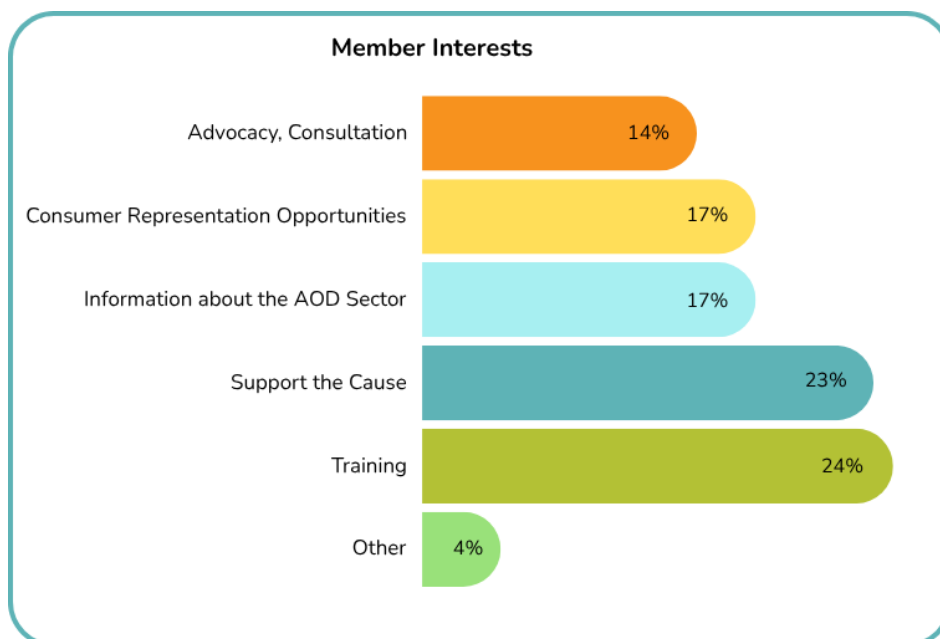


In addition:

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



Majority of our members are interested in accessing Training, followed closely by an interest in supporting our cause, to promote the interest's education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drugs.



AODCCC strives to authentically engage **individuals**, providing space to share the unique and highly nuanced experiences of each person beyond the demographic. We actively work to safeguard from bias, stigma and stereotyping often associated when approaching the community as **groups**. As such demographics are utilised as a general snapshot, while acknowledging that diverse views and experience come in many forms, regardless of cultural backgrounds, genders and sexual orientation.

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 mark 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.

After an intensive period of development, which included the establishment of an operational team, office infrastructure and member reference group, AODCCC secured a Service Agreement in April 2025, heralding the completion of our development phase. This support from the Mental Health Commission, provides funding to 2028 with an opportunity to extend to 2030.

Operational Report

In the 24-25 fiscal year, AODCCC reached an important milestone, heralding the completion of our early development phase, moving our organisation into fulltime operations and increasing our capacity to serve the WA community for years to come.



This year has seen the accomplishment of many years of hard work and perseverance with the completion of the early development phase of the AODCCC. This journey started back in 2014 when the then Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) and the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (WANADA) hosted a forum, seeking input to improve consumer involvement in the Alcohol and Other Drug sector. Through that community and stakeholder engagement the idea was put forward to establish an AOD consumer peak and a seed was planted. We are honoured to have continued that work, nurture that seed, and see it come to fruition.

With the award of a Service Agreement from the **Mental Health Commission (MHC)** in April 2025, stability, full time operations and increased capacity have been secured for the foreseeable future. Our AODCCC Celebration in May 2025 commemorating this milestone was a highlight of the year, bringing together members, supporters and stakeholders to take a moment to reflect and show gratitude for all the hard work and commitment our community has shown over the years. We are grateful to the MHC for their ongoing support and vital funding.



AODCCC Celebration! May 2025



Monica Taylor - MHC Deputy Commissioner, Tiffany, Carmen Acosta - AODCCC Chair- AODCCC Celebration. May 2025

Systemic Advocacy

It has been a very active year in Systemic Advocacy, with several AODCCC membership consultation and engagement projects completed. Feedback was given on the proposed ***Mental Health Commission – Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy (MHC MHAOD Strategy) 2025-2030***, as informed by the release of the discussion paper. Through several community and AODCCC Reference Group consultations, participants highlighted that a lot of what was proposed by the Commission was positive but called for more clarity and understanding as to how these goals and initiatives would be achieved. We were delighted to submit a comprehensive report to the MHC, ensuring the community's voices were heard, and guide this important strategy.



Vivienne Keeley – AODCCC Systemic Advocate

The ***National Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia*** was another important opportunity seized this year. ***The House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport*** commenced an inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia. We reached out to the members and completed a well-informed submission, calling for comprehensive and compassionate reforms to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs in Australia. We recognised the importance of engaging drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal one, and the need for continuous implementation of harm reduction strategies and meaningful policy reforms. This holistic and inclusive approach could significantly improve outcomes for individuals and communities affected by drug use, and we await action.

Harm reduction continues to be a focus at AODCCC, with the publication of our position statement on the implementation of ***Drug Checking Services*** in Western Australia. Drug checking services operate in 28+ countries around the world, particularly in venues known for high rates of drug use like music festivals and events. We support any opportunity to add to our country's commitment to reducing the harms associated with drug use and we thank the members that contributed to this publication.

Beyond Stigma

2024 saw the commencement of our **AOD Stigma Reduction Toolkit Project**, a MHC funded initiative to engage the community and front-line hospital staff to consult on the development of an alcohol and other drug stigma reduction toolkit, for Emergency Departments and Assessment and Treatment teams (ATTs) in West Australian public hospitals. The project has seen extensive consultations across the Perth metro area and regions throughout the financial year



James Kelly, Kirsty Tuner AODCCC, Rebecca Kelly – Broome 2025

Our Project Officer, Kirsty Turner, spent time in Broome in May 2025, engaging Milliya Rumurra, Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service, Kimberley Community Drug and Alcohol Service, Broome Hospital Emergency Department, and the Kununurra Continuing Care Program. The visit was an invaluable opportunity to listen, learn, and gather the unique insights of people and services across the Kimberley region. There has also been great engagement from consumers in the Perth metro area, as well as Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Fiona Stanley Hospital and a whole host of peaks and service providers.

To set the tone for the project we engaged **Common Cause Australia** to facilitate **Values Based Messaging Training**, in supporting key stakeholders and consumers to explore the power of language and how it can effectively inform and influence alcohol and other drug stigma reduction. These engagements will play a vital role in shaping a toolkit that is inclusive, culturally responsive, and grounded in lived and living expertise. The project will continue into 25-26 with a completed report to the MHC scheduled for Nov 30th 2025.



Common Cause Training – AOD Stigma Reduction toolkit -March 2025

Amplify Voices

AODCCC was honoured to present at the **Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) Alcohol and Other Drug Conference 2025**.

Our presentation explored AODCCC's establishment and development journey to date, highlighting the importance of lived and living experience engagement across the alcohol and other drug sector while maintaining authenticity and a genuine grass roots focus.

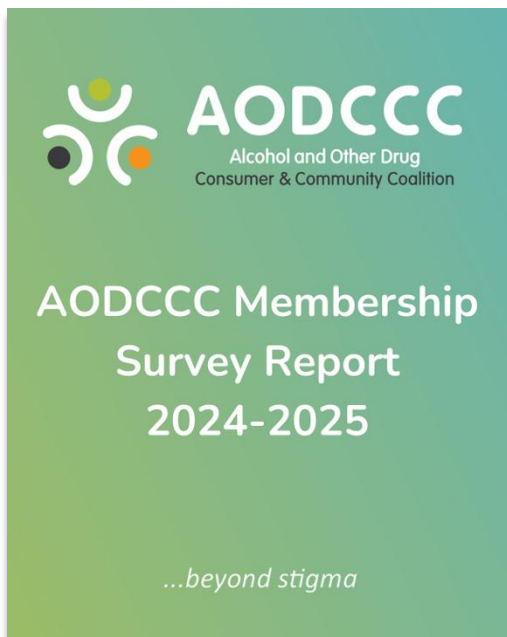
We were grateful to share the stage with AODCCC member, Rebecca Healy as co-presenter, Rebecca travelled from Esperance to attend and shared her lived experience and insight, highlighting perseverance and hope, while grappling with the impact alcohol has had on her family and community. Her courage to bring her experiences to the stage was powerful and inspiring. Thank you, Rebecca.



Kirsty Turner, Vivienne Kelley, Rebecca Healy, Brooke Reeves, Tiffany.
WANADA Conference



Matt Ryan- AODCCC Vice Chair, Ethan James- AODCCC MC Member, Rachael Dalziel- AODCCC MC Member, Alex Arpino- Executive Manager- WANADA Conference 2025



The AODCCC **Annual Membership Survey Report** for 2024-2025 was another important platform to gather the views and experiences of the membership, a testament to their perseverance and authenticity, while informing change, regardless of the stigma commonly faced in our community.

A total of 87 AODCCC members completed this year's anonymous online survey, which is a 107% increase from the previous year. The survey was open for a period of six weeks. This annual survey is a call to action and provides clarity and direction for our advocacy agenda.

We were excited to attend the **WA Peer Supporters Network (WAPSN) Conference** again this year and took up the opportunity to host a stall. It is always a great way to engage community members directly while bringing an alcohol and other drug perspective to a diverse group of peer workers in many different sectors. I was happy to contribute to a Q and A panel discussing a broad range of topics, related to lived and living experience in the community services workforce and share some of my personal journey and what led to working in the sector over the last 25 years. Congratulations to **Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA)** and the whole **WAPSN** team for hosting another fantastic conference.



Brooke Reeves- AODCCC - WAPSN Conference 2025



Alana Everett, Alex Arpino- AODCCC, Nicholas Hughes - WAPSN Conference 2025

Amplifying the voices of our membership requires consistent networking and relationship building, to not only amplify but to listen, and help inform change where it counts. Part of that approach is to invite guest speakers to present to the members directly, take time to respond to questions, bring forward lived and living experience while maintaining an environment for genuine dialogue. We were pleased to host **Naomi Henrickson**, Director of the **Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs (OAOD)**, to provide a summary of the OAOD's current priorities and highlight how AODCCC and community voices more broadly can engage and inform the important work of the office.

Education and Training

There has been plenty of education and training opportunities provided throughout the year and it remains a key focus area for the organisation. Our partnership with **Peer Based Harm Reduction WA** continues, in delivering **Naloxone Training** to the AODCCC members, a vital harm reduction training that consistently sees great engagement and positive feedback from participants.



Alcohol and Other Drug Lived and Living Experience Representation Training remains a feature in the annual AODCCC training schedule, supporting members to develop their representation skills, while sharing their experiences in a safe and constructive way to inform systemic change.

We also partnered with **WA Recovery College Alliance** this year, in delivering **Understanding and Living with Trauma**. This training included Course Objectives:

1. Examine diverse types of trauma, and the common responses it can generate.
2. Explore the concept of intergenerational trauma, and discover powerful, practical tools you can implement on your journey.
3. Develop a personal plan that draws on experience to aid you in moving through life's challenges with confidence.

A very well received, lived experience informed training, that challenged stigma and strengthened trauma informed practices.

A new opportunity was accessed in 2025, partnering with **Lotterywest** to provide our team and members with project development and fundraising training.

Lotterywest Impact Café Series. This practical, hands-on session explored:

- How to define the real-world change you're working towards.
- How to design initiatives with clear outcomes in mind.
- Simple, meaningful ways to measure progress and tell your impact story well.

Attendees left with a clearer sense of purpose, and tools to help projects demonstrate real value — to funders, partners, community, and most importantly, to themselves.



We were very excited to work with **Yorgum Healing Services** this year, delivering our **AOD Youth and Family Support Skills Training** to their team. This training continues to inspire and educate, providing an authentic lived and living experience of alcohol and other drug challenges from a Youth and Family perspective.

Co-facilitators Wendy Cream and Alice Guest continue to work with AODCCC staff to build the capacity of service delivery teams, supporting families and young people impacted by alcohol and other drugs. We thank Yorgum for the opportunity to share this training with their team and look forward to building this relationship further into the future.



Yorgum Healing Services Team, Wendy Cream, Alice Guest- June 2025

Governance and Sustainability

This year we conducted a comprehensive review of our **AODCCC Reference Group**, engaging all the reference group members that have participated since its launch in 2021. The goal was to draw out feedback on its delivery, adherence to the terms of reference, AODCCC values, satisfaction rates, and invite suggestions for improvements. Feedback was positive and a comprehensive collation of all the member input was published; this will help guide our reference groups moving forward and will continue to be part of our ongoing work. An important sustainability piece ensuring we maintain authentic grass roots input. The final report is available now on our website.

The **AODCCC Reference Group** continues to be an integral part of our organisation, with all AODCCC projects and activities being guided and informed by this dedicated group. We thank all the members that completed their terms throughout this financial year and welcome the new participants. We are excited to have announced the development of a second group representing Family, Carers and Significant Others, and look forward to giving them all a platform in 25-26 and beyond.



Another focus this year was to update and revamp the **AODCCC website**, making it user friendly and capturing more of what we do and advocate for. Thanks to everyone that contributed to its development.

The **AODCCC Management Committee (MC)** has had an active year establishing and maintaining **Subcommittees**, specifically, three separate groups focused on- **Policy, Fundraising and Finance**. These three committees are chaired by a MC member and work adjacent to the MC and operations team, ensuring focus and a steady workflow is maintained in these three important areas. We have undertaken policy reviews, developed fundraising strategies, setting targets and maintaining operational budgets. The work is ongoing but is an important Governance component of the AODCCC, relying on a highly dedicated and focussed group of committee volunteers.

Membership building is another component of sustainability, and we continue to reach out to service providers and consumers directly to invite participation and engagement.

We were pleased to travel to the Southwest this year, establishing regular presentations at **Palmerston's Beela Valley Therapeutic Community** in Brunswick. The team completed a road trip to the southwest, meeting with and supplying AODCCC resources to **Mandurah Library, Billy Dower Youth Centre, Peel Health Hub, South Coastal Health and Community Services, Black Swan Health and Rockingham Library**, encouraging those in the South West to get involved and add to our growing chorus of voices.



AODCCC Southwest Road Trip 2024!



We were so grateful for all those that got behind AODCCC and donated at the **HBF Run for a Reason 2025**, with a total of \$1316.33 raised. Big thanks to Vivienne and Ernest for leading the charge and driving this fundraising initiative! I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Glenn Pearson who continues to be our sole regular doner, consistently donating to the AODCCC monthly, your generosity is seen and appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support. And thanks to Bridget Silvestri and Stuart Cunningham for your generous donations this financial year.

The milestone achieved with the securing of the **MHC Service Agreement** has been a major step forward in the sustainability of the AODCCC. This relationship continues to be vital and mutually beneficial in bringing forward the expertise in our community, while promoting the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drugs.

It has been the most impactful year to date for the AODCCC, I would like to thank the AODCCC Management Committee for their unwavering commitment and support, to the operations team, Vivienne, Brooke and Kirsty for your passion, collaboration and dedication to our members and our mission. And to you the members, stakeholders and supporters, your courage and contributions sustain our organisation, strengthens our voice and shapes our community for the better.

Thank you.

Alex Arpino
Executive Manager, 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.



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I am pleased to present the financial statements of the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) for the year ended 30 June 2025. Throughout the year, I have reviewed the monthly reports prepared by our accountant and reported to the board on an ongoing basis.

Chassey Davids of Australian Audit issued an unqualified audit opinion on 5th November 2025 confirming that the financial statements give a true and fair view of Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2025, and income and expenses for the year.

Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) recorded a surplus of \$62,661 for the 2024-2025 financial year, which was \$8,047 at 30 June 2024. In concluding that Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) on 30 June 2025, 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 Mental Health Commission (MHC) funding for 2025-2026 financial year operation in July 2025 which has been appropriately reflected in the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025. Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) received sufficient funding commitment until the 2029/30 fiscal year.

Jahan Hossain CA
Treasurer, AODCCC

Annual Financial Statements

Alcohol and Other Drugs Consumer and Community Coalition Incorporated (AODCCC)
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue			
Grant Income	2	430,723	213,242
Donation		2,333	2,177
Other Revenue		4,500	5,870
Total revenue		437,556	221,289
Expenses			
Administration expense		(22,702)	(9,953)
Consumer fees		(13,439)	(6,338)
Employee benefits expense		(295,764)	(171,589)
Rent expense		(12,646)	(11,821)
Depreciation expense		(1,145)	(1,811)
Accounting and Audit		(8,180)	(7,303)
Insurance expense		(6,654)	(4,206)
Equipment < \$2000		(6,961)	-
Marketing and Promotion		(6,900)	-
Other expenses		(264)	(81)
Finance costs		(240)	(140)
Total expenses		(374,895)	(213,242)
Surplus for the year		62,661	8,047
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		62,661	8,047

Alcohol and Other Drugs Consumer and Community Coalition Incorporated (AODCCC)
Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	252,609	31,264
Trade and other receivables		-	1,013
Prepayments	4	5,522	858
Total current assets		<u>258,131</u>	<u>33,135</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	12,807	6,886
Total non-current assets		<u>12,807</u>	<u>6,886</u>
Total assets		<u>270,938</u>	<u>40,021</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	27,243	11,823
Employee benefits	7	43,474	17,082
Revenue received in advance	8	133,202	6,758
Total current liabilities		<u>203,919</u>	<u>35,663</u>
Total liabilities		<u>203,919</u>	<u>35,663</u>
Net assets		<u>67,019</u>	<u>4,358</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses		<u>67,019</u>	<u>4,358</u>
Total equity		<u>67,019</u>	<u>4,358</u>

2024/25 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 managed 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.



Matt Ryan – Vice Chairperson

Matt holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Behavioural Science and post graduate Certificate in Human Rights. He works for the Mental Health Advocacy Service as an Individual Advocate for people living in psychiatric hostels. Previously, Matt occupied several roles while with the Western Australian Network for Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (WANADA). He has also spent time working various roles at therapeutic communities in community and forensic settings. Matt brings his passion about social justice; human rights and the deconstruction of stigma associated with alcohol and other drug use and mental health to his role as Vice Chairperson of the AODCCC. His lived AOD experience drives Matt's advocacy and efforts to represent the needs of AOD consumers and their community. Matt emphatically believes consumers need to be included in all decision-making processes that impact choices, life and wellbeing.



Suzanne Caren- 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.

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.

Francis Lee – Committee Member



Francis Lee is a medical director with 14 years of experience in the healthcare sector across Australia. He has devised and implemented key clinical and corporate strategies that have enhanced healthcare service delivery, governance, safety and performance in organisations. His collaborative and resourceful leadership style enables him to cultivate strategic alliances and build sustainable healthcare systems across sectors. Francis has worked as a clinician and manager in both the public and private sectors, and he has a deep understanding of the challenges that consumers and their families face. He has a strong commitment to providing quality care to people experiencing alcohol and other drug challenges, and he is passionate about advocating for the rights of consumers and their families affected by issues as a result of alcohol and other drugs.

Rachael Dalziell – Committee Member



Rachael holds a Bachelor of Psychology with a minor in Addiction Studies and has 25 years of front-line service delivery and leadership experience across the non-for-profit sector. During this time Rachael has worked across several different areas including welfare family support, justice support, homelessness, youth alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and youth AOD mental health and is currently the Program Manager for Mission Australia's SHIFT Youth AOD Outreach Service and YouthBeat.

Her previous AOD sector experience is across capacity building for comorbidity for AOD youth services, leadership including the implementation of the integrated service DAYS and youth AOD residential services and front-line service delivery.

Rachael has held memberships in various working groups including communities of practice, AOD and Human services Standards accreditation and Reconciliation Action Planning, Clinical Care and Governance Committees and professional development committees. Rachael will bring passion for supporting young people and families. And compassion and integrity to advocating for the needs of vulnerable people impacted by alcohol and other drug use.

Ethan James - Committee Member



Ethan has extensive experience in not-for-profit, private industry and government sectors. For the past eight years, Ethan has worked in the alcohol and other drug sector in roles including peak body advocacy and treatment service quality, communications, and strategic projects. He is a current member of the WA Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Board.

Ethan has provided operational support for governance arrangements in multiple organisations and brings with him a strong appreciation of the board's role and responsibilities.

Ethan is a strategic thinker, who champions the voice of people, families, and communities as an essential part of developing real and effective solutions.

Dani Ramdhan - Committee Member



Dani Ramdhan has 14 years of management experience in the public utilities and private sectors, in Perth and the UK. During this time, Dani has been responsible for the successful creation, delivery, and ongoing improvement of a diverse range of customer and community support services. Dani has strong experience in governance, financial acumen, stakeholder management, project and change management.

With a lived family experience of Alcohol and Other Drug use, Dani is passionate about advocating for the rights and wellbeing of those affected by alcohol and other drugs. Dani holds a Bachelor of Business degree and a Certified Community Director accreditation from the Institute of Community Directors Australia.

Affinee Lai - Committee Member



Affinee Lai brings a unique combination of professional expertise and lived experience to her role on the AODCCC Management Committee. With an MBA in Marketing and over a decade of experience across Australia's leading media companies, marketing consultancies, and creative agencies, she specialises in developing impactful communication strategies, building strategic partnerships, and delivering ethical and sustainable business solutions across the education, NFP, tourism, and events sectors.

Affinee's journey into peer work began with personal challenges that became a foundation for connection, growth, and advocacy.

Throughout her journey, Affinee has collaborated extensively with organizations such as COMHWA, AODCCC, Lived Experience Australia, WA Recovery College Alliance, Shelter WA, WA Mental Health Commission, RichMind and Finding North Network. She currently works as a Lived Experience Advisor and Peer Educator, contributing to a wide range of advisory and co-design initiatives within the AOD and Mental Health and Homelessness sectors. A passionate advocate for reducing stigma and systemic inequities, particularly for people and families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, she centres lived experience in every aspect of her work.

2024/25 Staff



Alex Arpino – Executive Manager

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 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.



Vivienne Keeley – Systemic Advocate

Vivienne has over 18 years of WA Alcohol & Other Drug sector experience and holds a degree in Behavioural Science. She has demonstrated skills in front line service delivery and evidenced professional leadership abilities. Vivienne enjoys community capacity building, advocacy and developing collaborative relationships. She is committed to maintaining supportive, empowering, and inclusive environments that ensure high level respectful relationships both individually and with communities. Vivienne believes ALL people who have a lived and or living experience of Alcohol & Other Drugs, and the communities they live in, should have the opportunity, and supports to experience positive health and wellbeing.



Brooke Reeves- Communications and Administration Officer

Brooke has a professional background in hospitality, management and a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion. She has volunteer experience with WA Country Health Service in the delivery and management of Alcohol and Other Drug research and support services, around the Leavers WA celebrations in the Southwest. Brooke is passionate about a holistic approach to health and empowering people to improve their wellbeing. Her passion is driven by her lived experience combined with an interest in the Alcohol and Other Drug sector from her academic and volunteer background. She aspires to help make a positive difference to people's lives through her work.



Kirsty Turner- Project Officer – AOD Stigma Reduction Toolkit

Kirsty is a dynamic professional with rich lived experience and a diverse educational and career background. She has spent 21 years working across multiple human centred sectors including research, disability services, human resources and culture. She has a passion for promoting health and equity as a human right and believes in developing alcohol and other drug lived and living experience as a fundamental contributor to service development and delivery. Kirsty holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion, equipping her with a strong foundation in empowering individuals and communities to have a greater sense of control over their own lives. She is passionate about the creation of more inclusive and diverse communities where everyone has an equal opportunity to express themselves as they are and feel a sense of purpose and belonging.

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 use, who have long been advocating in this space, we acknowledge your courage and commitment.

Thank you,

AODCCC



AODCCC

Alcohol and Other Drug
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...beyond stigma

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