



# **ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD**

## **COMMUNIQUE – MEETINGS ON 26 FEBRUARY 2025 AND 9 APRIL 2025**

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) was established pursuant to s.14 of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974* (the Act) to provide advice to the CEO (the Mental Health Commissioner) about matters relevant to performance of functions under section 11 - the functions of the CEO. In fulfilling this purpose, the AODAB consults with the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and related sectors to ensure advice to the Mental Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) reflects the broad range of views and experience of people affected by AOD related harm, such as communities, young people, the ageing population and those with co-occurring health issues such as mental health conditions.

The AODAB is committed to communicating information about its work where possible, and it was agreed to provide a publicly available communique, in broad terms, about the activities of the AODAB.

This communique provides all stakeholders with information from meetings on 26 February 2025 and 9 April 2025.

### **Stigma and discrimination**

The AODAB recognises the critical importance of stigma and discrimination in the effective prevention and treatment strategies for alcohol and other drug policies. The Commission provided an overview of its plans to address these issues and brought together collective expertise to identify key areas that need to be addressed.

### **Provision of virtual alcohol and other drug services**

The AODAB continues to focus on strategies that might improve and expand access to effective alcohol and other drug treatment in regional areas, including integration of digital platforms to improve the availability and reach of service provision.

### **Presentation from Healthway**

At the meeting on 26 February 2025, the AODAB received a presentation by Colin Smith and Carina Tan-Van Baren from Healthway, focused on Healthway's strategic plans. Members recognised the importance of the collaboration between Healthway and the Commission in preventing alcohol related harm.

### **Presentation from Professor Paul Griffiths**

At the meeting on 9 April 2025, the AODAB received a presentation from Professor Paul Griffiths, Director, National Drug Research Institute regarding his experiences in Europe in relation to drug early warning, and rapid assessment and rapid response systems. Members recognised many pertinent lessons for Western Australia and encourage the Commission to review the potential of those lessons.

**The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 11 June 2025.**