



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD

COMMUNIQUE – 12 AUGUST 2026 MEETING

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 Commissioner, Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs [the 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 drug and related sectors to ensure advice to the Commissioner reflects the broad range of views and experience of people affected by alcohol and other drug related harm, such as communities, young people, the ageing population and those with co-occurring issues such as physical health and mental health conditions.

This communique provides an overview of key matters discussed at the AODAB meeting on 12 August 2026.

Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs Update

Members received an update from the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs on key strategic and service delivery initiatives. Discussion included progress towards the development of harm reduction workforce resources and development of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework. Members discussed the importance of engaging lived and living experience representatives, Aboriginal stakeholders, the community sector and regional and remote communities throughout development of the Framework.

Harm Reduction Approaches and Related Equity of Investment

As part of implementation of the AODAB Work Plan 2026-2028, members considered harm reduction approaches and related equity of investment. Members reaffirmed the importance of harm reduction as a key pillar of alcohol and other drug policy and service delivery and discussed the role of specialist harm reduction services, workforce capability, prevention and early intervention, and culturally secure approaches. Members also discussed opportunities to strengthen access to evidence-based harm reduction initiatives and support broader understanding of harm reduction across the community and service system.

Intersection of Family and Domestic Violence and Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Members received a presentation from Cyrenian House, regarding the Munda Mia Therapeutic Community and organisational initiatives to strengthen family and domestic violence responsiveness. Discussion highlighted the importance of integrated responses for people experiencing co-occurring family and domestic violence and alcohol and other drug issues, including effective referral pathways, service collaboration, prevention initiatives and culturally responsive approaches. Members also discussed opportunities to strengthen family and domestic violence capability within alcohol and other drug services and alcohol and other drug capability within family and domestic violence services.

The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2026.