



Mental Health  
Commission



Alcohol and Other Drugs  
Advisory Board



# ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD

## COMMUNIQUE – MEETING ON 13 NOVEMBER 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 drug 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 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 13 November 2025.

### New Members

The AODAB welcomed five new Members who bring valuable expertise and perspectives across the Aboriginal sector, regional services, Lived Experience and Psychiatry/Addiction Medicine. Members discussed the important contributions they can make to the Commission's strategy and planning and reaffirmed the value of active engagement. The AODAB looks forward to leveraging this knowledge to strengthen its work and outcomes.

### Harm Reduction

The AODAB continued its discussion with the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs on harm reduction, building on conversations from the August meeting. Members examined the challenges that hinder effective harm reduction and identified priority areas including reducing stigma and discrimination, improving access to services, and promoting practical, evidence-based interventions.

### Workplan Development

The AODAB discussed the development of a new workplan to ensure a focused and coordinated approach to its advisory role, while remaining flexible to respond to emerging issues. A planning day will be held early in the new year to shape the workplan, which will align with the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy which is currently being finalised.

### Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel

The AODAB received an update on the [Ministerial Advisory Panel](#), aligned with its most recent Communique, which provides advice directly to the Minister for Health; Mental Health.

The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 11 February 2026.