

# Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB)

## Members profile

Members are appointed by the Minister for Mental Health based on their leadership, experience, knowledge, interest and expertise in the AOD sector and do not represent specific organisations or professions.

To ensure the advice provided is considerate of the diverse perspectives, members are likely to have expertise in AOD issues in the following areas.

- Community sector, regional services
- Aboriginal, multicultural sector
- Prevention, Treatment, Recovery
- Youth, older adult, people with disability
- Public Health
- Addiction Medicine
- Academia and research
- Law Enforcement

Members are appointed for an initial term of up to three years and considered for reappointment at the discretion of the Minister. Members can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.



### **Chair: Professor Steve Allsop**

Steve has been involved in alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and policy research and practice, and service management for over 40 years, working in services government and academic positions. In recent years he has worked extensively in community and national prevention initiatives. He has been the Director of two Australian national drug research centres, in Adelaide (National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction - NCETA - until 2000) and subsequently Perth (National Drug Research Institute - NDRI - until 2016), and for many years he worked with the Western Australian Government Drug and Alcohol Office. He is currently a Professor at the NDRI, Curtin University, Board Director Australian Drug Foundation, a member of the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and other Drugs and a member of the National Suicide Prevention Office Advisory Board.

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### **Deputy Chair: Dr Mark Montebello**

Dr Montebello is a Psychiatrist, Addiction Medicine Specialist and clinical researcher with 24 years' experience in drug and alcohol treatment, research and workforce development. He is the Clinical Director at Northern Sydney Local Health District Drug and Alcohol Services, a Member of the Advisory Board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (University of New South Wales), and a Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Specialty of Addiction Medicine (University of Sydney). His research interests include randomised controlled trials of novel treatment interventions for substance use disorders, co-morbidity with mental health disorders, and treatment of Hepatitis C Virus in drug and alcohol settings. In 2019, Dr Montebello was awarded the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Clinician of the Year Award.



**Miriam Rudd**

Having experienced the last 18 years of a loved one living with drug and alcohol addiction, Miriam is a passionate representative of her experiences as a parent. During her 4 years on the AODAB Miriam brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding from the family and carers perspective.

For eight years, Miriam has been involved with the Parent and Family Drug Support Line in Perth listening, supporting and talking to other parents about their loved one's drug and alcohol issues as well as working in the Drug Court talking to family members of participants. Miriam has a diploma in counselling and has completed many short- and long-term courses in regard to learning more about drug addiction. Miriam has close personal experience of the consequences of drug taking including through the hospital, mental health and justice systems.

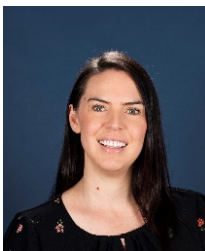
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**Katiska Davis**

Katiska is a proud Whadjuk Noongar woman from Perth who brings an Aboriginal and Youth perspective to the AODAB. Her past experience includes a Post Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health Promotion from the University of Sydney, and seven years working in the Aboriginal health; including working in health promotion in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector, and research roles with both University of Melbourne and Curtin University. Katiska has extensive experience in culturally safe engagement with the Aboriginal community including adolescents, adults, elders and Aboriginal organisations in Western Australia. She continues to be mentored by senior members in the Aboriginal community and Senior Aboriginal researchers. Katiska now works in Sexual Health at the Aboriginal Health Council of WA focusing primarily on training/education and harm minimisation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and communities.

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**Julia Stafford (she/her)**

Julia's career to date has combined academic research and policy advocacy in the public health field, with a focus on alcohol harm prevention. She is currently the Alcohol Program Manager at Cancer Council WA (on parental leave July 2022 – May 2023), with associated roles including chair of the alcohol working group across the Cancer Council federation, executive committee member of the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol, and board member of the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies. Julia is an active member of the Public Health Association of Australia via the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Special Interest Group. Julia is also a PhD Candidate enrolled with the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University and her research investigates the roles of vested interests in alcohol policy development processes in Australia. Julia previously held roles within Curtin University (2007-2020) with a focus on alcohol harm prevention and public health advocacy.

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### **Commander Lawrence Panaia APM**

Since joining the WA Police Force and graduating from the Police Academy in 1986, Lawrence has served in various operational roles in Metro, Regional WA and State Crime portfolios. His current role includes oversight of Licensing Enforcement Division which includes the Alcohol and Drug Policy Unit focusing on harm minimisation.

Lawrence has also been involved in many other community causes including 6 years as Chairman of WA Police Legacy, previous board member of PCYC, and currently serving on the Constable Care Safety Foundation Board.

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### **Ethan James**

Ethan has worked in alcohol and other drug systems advocacy and end engagement since 2016. His role involves representing and supporting sector practice expertise policy, planning and commissioning. He also oversees strategic projects supporting sector workforce planning and development.

Ethan increases the visibility of the WA AOD sector through government and cross-sector engagement and develops practical solutions that seek to enhance the sector's operating environment. Ethan has a background in policy, program development and contracting across multiple sectors and state/federal government portfolios.

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### **Nafiso Mohamed**

Nafiso is a young Somali Australian who has a passion for working in international policy and research and has a keen interest in service accessibility, inclusion and equity. In 2020, Nafiso completed an internship at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Amman, Jordan, where she focused on combining gender mainstreaming with targeted interventions for women and girls as a tool to bridge historical gaps in gender equality, participation and access to services.

In 2019, she undertook research in Economic Development and Social Policy at the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. Nafiso has engaged in various advocacy and mentor-based programs that support the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia through policy development and research evaluation. Having graduated from Curtin University, Nafiso is an advocate for empowering and engaging young people to shape the policies that influence their lives through her work with government and non-government organisations. She currently works for Services Australia and continues to advocate on the intersections of gender equality, multiculturalism and human rights to shape policies that influence lives of refugee and migrants living in Australia.

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