



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 9 AUGUST 2023

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) is established pursuant to section 14 of the *Alcohol and Other Drug 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 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 issues and conditions.

The AODAB is committed to communicating information about its work where possible and will provide a publicly available communique about the AODAB activities.

This communique provides all stakeholders with information from the 9 August 2023 meeting.

Alcohol Consumption Levels and Crime Statistics

The AODAB discussed evidence of the relationship of alcohol availability to levels of alcohol consumption and alcohol related crime, particularly in relation to Western Australian rural and remote regions. Advice has been provided to the Commissioner on this item, including recommendations on how to develop a clearer picture of alcohol related harm.

Workforce Development

The AODAB considered the importance of ensuring an accessible and expert AOD workforce, as well as strategies to enhance access to clinical expertise, and has provided the Commissioner with advice.

AODAB Priority Workplan

The AODAB has reviewed its progress in relation to its 2023 Priority Workplan. It was agreed that the AODAB should focus attention on strategies to prevent and reduce stigma and discrimination, as stigma and discrimination are harmful to individuals and can diminish the effectiveness of prevention and treatment responses to AOD related harm. It was agreed that they can reduce the perceived subjective risk and the effectiveness of prevention effort, willingness to seek help and the willingness of services and clinicians to respond when help is sought.

The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 4 October 2023.