



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD

COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) is 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 the 25 September 2024 meeting.

Updates from the Mental Health Commission

The AODAB considered the critical importance of addressing stigma and discrimination in the AOD sector and welcomed the update from the Commission on planned approaches to this issue.

The AODAB welcomed a presentation by Professor Mike Daube on the importance of evidence informed public policy and decision making. Professor Daube highlighted lessons learned in alcohol and tobacco public health, as broadly transferrable to any public health issue where there are vested commercial interests that may be contrary to evidence-based public health goals.

The AODAB discussed how Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities access Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) services in other jurisdictions. The AODAB welcomes the opportunity to be involved in consultations that will inform the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030 (Strategy), and subsequent Framework, particularly to responding to the needs and wants of people in these communities.

The AODAB received an overview of the Strategy and appreciates the opportunity to attend an out of session consultation workshop to provide feedback.

The AODAB has agreed guests from the Commission will be invited to attend the December meeting to hear guest presenters speak about digital health platforms.

The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2024.