



atoda annual report

2017-2018



About ATODA

ATODA's vision is an ACT community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) related harm, as a result of the ATOD and related sectors evidence-informed prevention, treatment and harm reduction policies and services.

ATODA works collaboratively to provide expertise and leadership in the areas of social policy, sector and workforce development, research, coordination, partnerships, communication, education, information and resources. ATODA is an evidence-informed organisation.

The ways we work, and the outcomes we strive to achieve, reflect our commitment to the values of population health, human rights, social justice and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

The mission of ATODA is to be the peak body representing and supporting the ATOD sector and community in the ACT.

Documents accompanying this annual report

AATODA's 2017 - 2018 annual report should be read in conjunction with several accompanying documents including our:

- Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019
- Financial Statements 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, their families and ancestors.

atoda annual report //



01 July 2017 -
30 June 2018

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Reporting on the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019 //

ATODA’s strategic plan outlines the vision, values, strategic goals, outcomes and decision-making processes of the organisation from 2014 – 2019. Throughout this annual report, each activity is cross-referenced to the strategic outcomes and strategic priorities of ATODA (below) to demonstrate our progress.

Our values

Human Rights // Social Justice

The specialist lenses we use

Cultural security // Responding to the needs of those who most bear the burdens of harm
Harm minimisation, including supply, demand and harm reduction // Prevention and early intervention
Population health // Evidence // Capacity building // Health promotion

The ways we work

Leadership // Accountable // Collaborative // Inclusive // Reliable
Responsive // Reflective // Effective // Efficient // Innovative // Integrity

Our strategic outcomes (2014 – 2019)

High quality services // Evidence-informed practice // Cohesive specialist sector

Our strategic priorities (2014 – 2019)

Improve the quality of service consumer participation // Support the development of the workforce and services // Improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations
Positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

President's Report //



ATODA's vision is for a community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms, and it works hard to bring to the table the best available evidence and to support meaningful and timely engagement with consumers, service providers and stakeholder for that purpose.

Our sector seeks to reduce some of the most significant burden of disease and injury in Australia, with alcohol and illicit drug use accounting for 6.7% and tobacco for 12.8%. Fortunately we are seeing some important declines, such as drinking amongst young people and smoking in the general population. However we are also seeing compounding and complex harms in some sub-populations particularly those experiencing multiple disadvantages and marginalisation. Responding to this health inequity is a priority for ATODA, consistent with our values of human rights, social justice and Reconciliation.

ATODA continues to ably fulfil its mission as the peak body representing and supporting the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector in the ACT. Much has been achieved in a year of significant change through its leadership and promotion of the value and strength of the sector and the positive impact we make in the lives of individuals, families and communities. As a sector, we have faced many challenges but have achieved a great deal through working together and remaining focussed on the strategies, systems and tools that will make a difference for the people and families that seek support. This would not be possible without the active engagement of the Association's members and importantly the dedicated and skilled team who deliver high quality workforce and sector development, capacity building, research, policy and advocacy.

As highlighted throughout this Annual Report, ATODA has continued to deliver on its strategic outcomes of

high quality services, evidence-informed policy and practice, and a cohesive specialist sector through collaboration, insights and influence. The strategic plan will be reviewed in 2019 to continue this work.

The Association is in a good financial position with building reserves which has been made possible through prudent financial management, business development and good governance and I'd like to acknowledge the work of the team and the Board in this successful outcome.

In June 2018, the membership voted unanimously to endorse an amended Constitution to bring contemporary best practice and focus to the work of the Association and its membership. This outcome was the result of a comprehensive and consultative two-year long program undertaken by the Board and the Secretariat and I acknowledge the excellent work of everyone involved.

I would like to thank the Board for their collegiality and professional approach to the governance of the Association in uncertain times. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely and publicly acknowledge the excellent work of Carrie and her team, their ongoing commitment to and work for the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector and the community more broadly. The team works effectively and diligently with government, service providers and other stakeholders to build a strong, cohesive and strategic sector to create positive outcomes for the Canberra community. I commend this report to you.

Sharon Tuffin
President, ATODA

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2011. Australian Burden of Disease Study series no. 3. BOD 4 Canberra: AIHW; 2016. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-statistics/health-conditions-disability-deaths/burden-of-disease/overview> .

Chief Executive Officer's Report //



This year, our sector has continued to deliver high quality services resulting in positive outcomes for the Canberra community. We have taken collective impact and co-design approaches wherever possible to improve health, wellbeing and safety. This was clearly demonstrated when the ACT ATOD sector so earnestly took the opportunity to lead Australia's response to domestic and family violence in alcohol and other drug settings. The ATODA team was proud to be the backbone of this work, and the estimated in-kind contribution from stakeholders to complete this 12-month project was \$250,000. The sector delivered its trail-blazing and sector-wide model and evaluation framework to ACT Health on 21 December 2017. This work was recognised by a 2017 ACT Violence Prevention Award, and was launched at the ACT Legislative Assembly in April 2018 jointly by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Ms Meegan Fitzharris, and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Ms Yvette Berry. Despite these significant achievements ACT Health is yet to provide direct funding to specialist alcohol and other drug services, as allocated through the 2018-19 ACT Budget to implement the AOD Safer Families Program 2017 – 2021.

ATODA has been strong in its advocacy for drug policies based on evidence, and for transparent decision-making processes by government and its officials. We are grateful to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Ms Meegan Fitzharris, for committing to re-establishing a whole-of-government and whole-of-community ACT drug policy governance mechanism, and an ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan.

ATODA has had strong working relationships with Ministers again this year and is respected as a long-term 'critical friend' with shared outcomes for a healthier and safer Canberra.

ATODA (and others) have flagged problems within ACT Health since the end of 2016. We note that ACT Health will be divided into two organisations

in October 2018, which will include new executive leadership, and that a public review into the culture of the organisation is planned. We will continue to support our colleagues within ACT Health to participate in these processes and actively work within this change process to achieve positive outcomes for service users, staff and the community.

Two consultations on the draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021 were conducted within four months. This resulted in two outstanding pieces of drug policy developed by ATODA and its members and stakeholders, and I encourage you to review these evidence-based and sound policy documents. They demonstrate again that the expertise in drug policy resides within the sector. The sector has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to work together, and to deliver solid service delivery, research and policy outcomes for the community. We hope that within the new structure of ACT Health this will no longer be an under-utilised resource.

ATODA's work would not be possible without such active and engaged members and stakeholders. Every day the staff team is in contact with them to support the development and implementation of evidence-informed capacity building and policy activities.

Finally, I would like to thank our President Sharon Tuffin and the Board for their leadership and support, and ATODA's staff team for their outstanding dedication and work.

Carrie Fowlie
Chief Executive Officer

Our Board, Staff & Consultants



Board

A Board was elected from the membership at ATODA's eighth Annual General Meeting in November 2017, including an individual appointed from the ACT ATOD Workers Group. Members include:

Sharon Tuffin / President
Karralika Programs Inc.

Chris Gough / Vice President
Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy

Gerard Byrne / Treasurer
The Salvation Army

Jill Hughes / Secretary
Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Health

Bronwyn Hendry / Member
Directions Health Services

Susan Clarke-Lindfield / Member
Toora Women Inc.

Sue-Ann Polden / Member
CatholicCare Canberra-Goulburn

Riddhi Blackey (*resigned May 2018) / **Member**
ACT ATOD Workers Group Representative

Staff

Carrie Fowlie / Executive Officer
(full-time)

Amanda Bode / Project Manager
(part-time)

Dave Corby / Office Manager
(part-time)

**Anke van der Sterren / Researcher
& Project Manager**
(full-time)

Melinda Petrie / Project Manager
(full-time to August 2017)

Julie Robert / Communications & Project Officer
(full-time)

**Jeanette Bruce / Organisational
Development Officer**
(part-time)

Annie Barker / Project Officer
(part-time from July 2017 to February 2018)

Annie Bleeker / Project Coordinator
(part-time from September 2017)

Michael Haines / Project Officer
(full-time from November 2017 to June 2018)

The staff team was supported by: Mathieu Leclerc,
Research Assistant (casual) and Kelsey Petrie
Research Assistant (casual)

Consultants

Anne Tattersall
Uniting ReGen

Annie Bleeker
Training and Consultancy

Bernard Hanson
Uniting ReGen

Damien Martin
InDidgi Programs

David McDonald
Social Research & Evaluation

Fiona Christian
ARTD Consultants

Jennifer Harland
DASSA WHO Collaborating Centre
Kate Fuelling Consulting

Linda Jenner
360Edge

Melanie Darvodelsky
ARTD Consultants

Nicole Lee
360Edge

Paula Ross
360Edge
Quitsills Cancer Council South Australia

Sandra Simpson
360Edge
Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)

**ATODA would also like to acknowledge the
financial, IT, legal and design support from:**

MCS Accounting / Blue Arc IT Solutions / Lee
Jackson Design / Lesley Porroj / Gil-Jones Barker
Solicitors / CanberraWeb / GoHosting

Full, Associate & Individual Members



1. ACT Shelter Association
2. Aids Action Council of the ACT
3. Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
4. Byrne, S
5. Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
6. Canberra Institute of Technology
7. Canberra Recovery Services, The Salvation Army
8. CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
9. Directions Health Services
10. Families ACT
11. Family and Friends of Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc
12. Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT
13. Hepatitis ACT
14. Karralika Programs Inc
15. McDonald, D
16. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
17. Mental Health Foundation ACT
18. Solaris Therapeutic Community, ACT Corrective Services
19. Ted Noffs Foundation
20. Toora Women Inc
21. Volunteering ACT
22. Wellways Australia Limited
23. Youth Coalition of the ACT

Our Funders, Partners & Sponsors



Funders, Sponsors & Supporters

- Members of ATODA
- Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing
- AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health (disbanded in September 2017)
- Department of Health, Australian Government
- ACT Education and Training Directorate
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Community Services Directorate
- Health Promotion Branch, ACT Health
- Policy and Government Relations, ACT Health

Partners & Collaborators

- ACT Community Corrections, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- ACT Corrective Services
- ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations
- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)
- ACT Department of Education
- ACT Greens
- ACT Health
- ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee
- ACT Health Representative - CGFSIDC
- ACT Labor
- ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
- ACT Policing
- ACT Shelter Association
- Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder
- Ainslie Village, Argyle Housing
- Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
- Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Unit, ACT Health
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)
- Annie Bleeker Consultant
- ARTD Consultants
- Assistant Professor Petra Staiger, Violence Prevention and Addiction Studies; Deakin University Centre for Drug, Alcohol and Addiction Research
- Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT (AADANT)
- Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools
- Australian Drug Foundation
- Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Beryl Women Inc.
- Burnet Institute
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy

(CAHMA)

- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
- Canberra Liberals
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
- Canberra Recovery Services, The Salvation Army
- Capital Chemist Dickson
- Capital Chemist Tuggeranong Square
- Capital Health Network
- Carers ACT
- CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Chemist on Northbourne
- Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development
- Child and Youth Protection Services, Community Services Directorate
- Clayton Utz
- Consumer representatives
- Council of Australian Government Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children
- Criminal Law Group, Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Develin's City Chemist
- DFV Advisory Group of ACT Health Staff
- Directions Health Services
- Domestic Violence Crisis Service
- Domestic Violence Prevention Council
- Donna Ribton-Turner, Uniting Care ReGen
- Doris Women's Refuge
- Dr Anna Olsen, Research School of Population Health, Australian National University
- Dr Ashlee Curtis, Violence Prevention and Addiction Studies; Deakin University Centre for Drug, Alcohol and Addiction Research
- Dr Caitlyn Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
- Dr Justin Barker, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
- Dr Rebecca McKetin, Centre for Research on Ageing, Health & Wellbeing (CRAHW), The Australian National University
- Dr Stefan Gruenert, Odyssey House Victoria
- Dr Suzie Hudson, Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
- Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) and the WHO Collaborating Centre
- Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Eleanor Morrison
- Erindale Pharmacy
- EveryMan
- Families ACT
- Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
- Family Drug Support

Continued... Our Funders, Partners & Sponsors

- Family Violence Intervention Program Committee
- Fiona Christian, ARTD Consultants
- Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)
- Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney General
- Greg Aldridge, Domestic Violence Prevention Council & EveryMan
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Health Improvements Projects, ACT Health
- Health Protection Service, ACT Health
- Helene Delany, Manager, Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Unit, ACT Health
- Hepatitis ACT
- Ms Helen Tyrrell, Hepatitis Australia
- Indidgi Programs
- Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
- Interchange General Practice
- Jane Pepper, Health Advisor, Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety
- Jennifer Harland, Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia and Karralika Programs Inc
- Jo Wood, Coordinator-General for Family Safety
- Justice Health Services, ACT Government
- Karralika Programs Inc.
- Lee Jackson Design
- Legislation, Policy & Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Linda Jenner, 360Edge
- Marcia Williams, Domestic Violence Prevention Council (Chair), Women's Services Network & Women's Centre for Health Matters
- Professor Mark Bassett – Canberra Gastroenterology, MB ChB (Otago), MB (Qld), GradDipMgt (ANU), MHA (UNSW), FRACP
- Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing
- Melanie Darvodelsky, ARTD Consultants
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- Mental Health Services, ACT Government
- Minister for Health's Office
- Minister for Women
- Ministerial Advisory Council on Women representative on the ACT ATOD Strategy Evaluation Group
- Mirjana Wilson, Domestic Violence Crisis Service
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)
- National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)
- Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA)
- Nikki Goddard, Women's Services Network & Women's Health Services, ACT Health
- NSW / ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance
- Odyssey House Victoria
- Office for the Coordinator General for Family Safety, Community Services Directorate
- Office for Women, Community Services Directorate
- Optimal Pharmacy Plus Jamison
- Paula Ross, 360Edge
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia, ACT Branch
- Pharmasave Woden Pharmacy
- Philip Hull, Health Improvements Projects, ACT Health
- Professor Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Professor Beau Kilmer, RAND
- Professor Nicole Lee, 360Edge
- Professor Peter Miller, Violence Prevention and Addiction Studies; Deakin University Centre for Drug, Alcohol and Addiction Research
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- Quitskills, Cancer Council South Australia
- Research School of Population Health, Australian National University
- Shannon Wright, YWCA NSW
- Sione Crawford
- Social Research and Evaluation
- South Australian Network for Drug and Alcohol Agencies (SANDAS)
- St John Ambulance ACT
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- Tim McCann
- The Association of Independent Schools of the ACT
- The Connection
- The Salvation Army
- Toora Women Inc.
- Trevor King, Uniting Care ReGen
- Dr Tuck Meng Soo OAM
- University of Newcastle
- Victims Liaison Office (ACT Policing)
- Victims of Crime Commission
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA)
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
- Women's Centre for Health Matters
- Women's Health Service - Division of Women, Youth & Children Community Health Programs, Health Directorate, ACT Government
- Women's Services Network
- Your Discount Chemist, Griffith
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Yurauna Centre, Canberra Institute of Technology
- Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
- YWCA
- 360Edge Pty Ltd

The year in review:



The 'Year in Review' in this annual report maintains a focus on the capacity building, sector and workforce development, resources and support activities of ATODA which are the funded activities with some examples of policy activities undertaken by the organisation.

For further information, please visit www.atoda.org.au

Co-designing innovative approaches to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence



Supporting and developing opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and safety

AOD Safer Families Program— Research, Scope and Design a Safer Families Project for the ACT AOD Sector.

ACT Health engaged ATODA to December 2017 to scope and design a multi-year multi-component pilot project that provides more effective responses for people who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and either experience domestic and family violence (DFV) or are at risk of using violence.

The report submitted to ACT Health in December 2017 articulated the design, model and implementation plan of the ACT *AOD Safer Families Program*, and the materials and infrastructure underpinning it.

The Program took a co-design and collective impact approach, working closely with the specialist AOD service system, DFV sector stakeholders, policy makers, AOD workers and consumer organisations. Over 125 people were involved in the consultations and engagement processes through: 5 face-to-face sector forums; 2 Evaluation Working Group meetings; 2 Clinical & Expert Roundtables; implementation testing of the *Domestic Violence Capability Assessment Tool* in 7 specialist AOD services; and desk-based reviews of the tools and the monitoring and evaluation framework.

These activities built upon the success of the *Promoting Safety and Prioritising Domestic and Family Violence in the ACT AOD Sector Symposium* held in May 2017 (and reported in the 2016 – 17 ATODA Annual Report). This Symposium brought together various parts of the ACT AOD sector with stakeholders in the Domestic and Family Violence sector to promote an open dialogue, critical

reflection and exchange of ideas about AOD sector understandings of and responses to DFV. The opportunity for building the knowledge base and a shared dialogue laid the foundation for the remainder of the *AOD Safer Families Project*.

Project Advisory Group

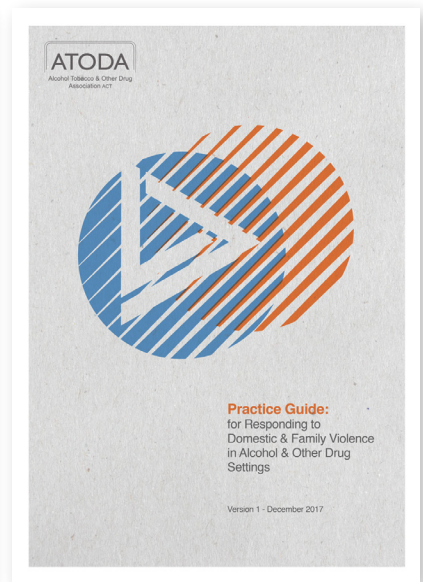
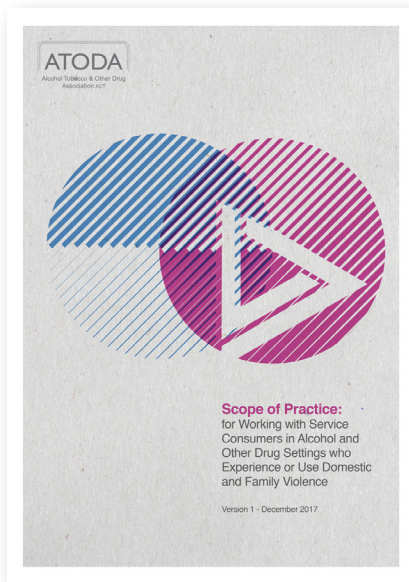
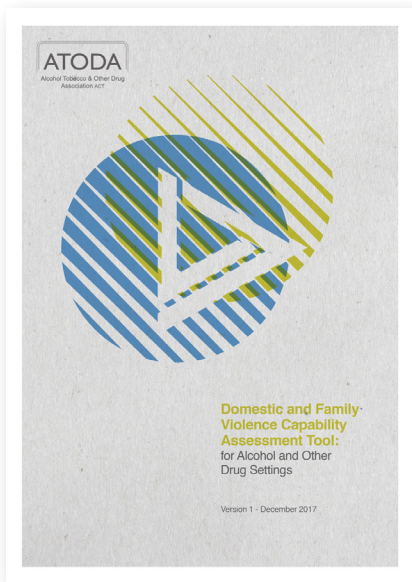
The ACT AOD Safer Families Project was guided by a Project Advisory Group that provided high level advice, strategic guidance and governance to the Project, including supporting transparent and inclusive processes, providing input into the Project materials, identifying appropriate stakeholders, providing information on interrelated activities, and supporting communication about the Project. Members of the Group included representatives from: specialist AOD services, the Women's Services Network, the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, the Consumer Organisation (CAHMA), ATODA, ACT Health, and a Clinical Consultant.

The Group met monthly—a total of seven meetings.

Design and development of DFV Tools

The ACT AOD Safer Families Program included the design and development of three innovative and evidence-based tools:

- *Domestic and Family Violence Capability Assessment Tool: for AOD Settings*
- *Scope of Practice: for Working with Service Consumers in AOD Settings who Experience or Use DFV*
- *Practice Guide: for Responding to DFV in AOD Settings*



Used together, these resources help specialist AOD programs and services to:

- benchmark current responses to DFV;
- plan for future improvements;
- clarify roles, responsibilities, activities and decision-making capacities to ensure that responses to DFV are safe and effective, and reflect the appropriate skills, qualifications and training of the workforce; and
- identify how to work more effectively and apply best practice with service consumers who experience or use DFV.



Pictured with Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Ms Yvette Berry MLA ACT Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and some ACT and interstate stakeholders from the AOD and DFV sectors who contributed to the development of the tools.

Launch of the Tools

The tools were launched on Monday 16 April 2018 at the ACT Legislative Assembly by Meegan Fitzharris MLA, ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Yvette Berry MLA, ACT Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Jo Wood, Coordinator-General for Family Safety. The launch was well attended with stakeholders from across the ATOD, DFV and other key sectors, including many of the stakeholders involved in the co-design of these tools during the first year (2017) of the ACT AOD Safer Families Program.



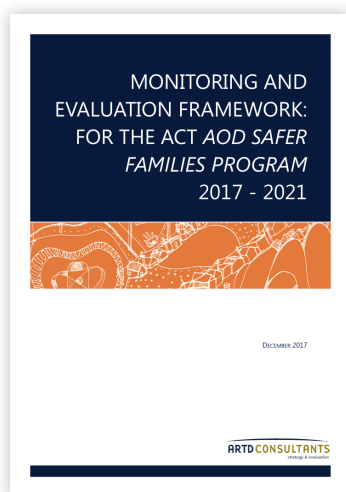
The ACT AOD Safer Families Program tools



ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing Ms Meegan Fitzharris

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The 2017 activities of the *AOD Safer Families Program* also include the development of a framework to guide the monitoring and evaluation of the design, implementation and outcomes of the Program from 2017 to 2021.



The monitoring and evaluation framework was developed through an intensive collaborative process, with the main components of the framework developed with a working group comprised of ATODA staff, their evaluation advisor, and ACT Health representatives in two workshops. Draft

components were presented to a broader stakeholder group in two sector forums for further refinement.

The framework is designed to support a future Program governance group or auspice organisation or consortium to design approaches to monitoring and evaluation for the Program that fit their context, remit and resources. The framework includes: the program logic and theory of change for the Program; key and guiding evaluation questions; potential indicators and data sources that could be used for implementation and outcomes evaluations; advice on evaluation governance, ethical considerations and planning evaluations; and description of the timing and purpose of possible evaluations for the Program.

DFV training for AOD workers

The *AOD Safer Families Program* identified the need for domestic and family violence training for AOD workers. In November 2017, ATODA purchased 10 places in training being offered by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS). The training was aimed at workers across multiple sectors who might engage with people who are subjected to violence within their relationships.

Following the training, ATODA facilitated a meeting to gather feedback on the training and how it could be further adapted for increased relevance to AOD workers. While AOD workers found the training to be

a useful introduction, they raised the need for training that includes specific content on how AOD workers specifically respond to DFV in their daily clinical practice in AOD treatment.

Consequently, the *AOD Safer Families Program* report identified the need to develop a specific training package for workers in specialist AOD services to improve understandings of, and skills in, responding to people experiencing or using domestic and family violence (DFV) within the specific context of practice in specialist AOD settings.

In May 2018, ATODA worked closely with 360Edge Clinical Consultants to pilot training tailored to the practice of AOD workers. Two trainings were developed to be fit-for-purpose for different workers in the sector:

‘Introduction to DFV for AOD Workers’ was specifically designed to develop foundation knowledge and skills to ensure that low to mid threshold programs/services and AOD practitioners are DFV identified and/or DFV Ready as defined in the Domestic and Family Violence Capability Assessment Tool (DFVCAT). Topics included:

- Awareness of DFV
- Risk factors for DFV
- Relationship between DFV and AOD use
- Promoting a safe environment
- Raising the issue of DFV
- Informal screening
- What to do if a client discloses DFV
- Considerations for children (including reporting responsibilities)
- Basic safety planning
- Effective referral to specialist DFV services
- Self-care

‘Advanced DFV Responses for AOD Workers’ was specifically designed to develop skills in more advanced approaches to ensure that low to mid threshold programs/services and AOD practitioners are DFV identified and/or DFV Ready as defined in the Domestic and Family Violence Capability Assessment Tool (DFVCAT). Topics included:

- What we know about DFV and AOD
- Formal screening
- Risk assessment
- Developing safety plans
- Working with clients who use violence

- Treatment planning including the interaction between AOD use and violence
- Integrated AOD and DFV relapse prevention planning
- Monitoring progress of AOD and DFV
- Active referral to specialist DFV services and Men's Behaviour Change programs
- Care coordination with specialist DFV services
- Self-care

The training pilots were delivered to 24 workers (13 in the Introduction training, and 11 in the Advanced training) who provided feedback towards the improvement of the training into the future.

Submission to ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence

In September 2017, ATODA provided a submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence. This submission was developed with input from members of the AOD Safer Families Project Advisory Group.

Input into the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) Extraordinary Meeting on the needs of children and young people affected by family and domestic violence including sexual violence

On Tuesday 13 March 2018, ATODA convened a Preparatory Meeting of specialist alcohol and other drug treatment and support services to receive and collate input by the sector into the DVPC Extraordinary Meeting on the needs of children and young people affected by family and domestic violence including sexual violence. A summary report was provided to the DVPC to inform this Extraordinary Meeting.

ACT Violence Prevention— Community Sector Award

On Monday 27 November 2017, the AOD Safer Families Program was recognised by the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, receiving an award at the 2017 ACT Violence Prevention Award. The award was given in the category of 'Community Sector Award' that "acknowledges innovative partnerships within the community sector in the ACT whose initiatives have brought the community together to work towards preventing violence against women and children".

ATODA was honoured to accept the award on behalf of the sector as a recognition of the commitment, enthusiasm and effort undertaken by so many individuals and organisations to ensure our responses to violence prevention and intervention are based.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high-quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of supporting the development of the workforce and services to improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations add deploy specialist

Evidence informed AOD policy development, public discussion and priority setting



Supporting high quality ATOD Strategy and governance

Submission to the Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan

For over a decade, ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy documents have guided evidence informed drug policy and decision making and have resulted in tangible outcomes for preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms in the ACT. Since 2014, when the previous ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy lapsed, the ACT has been operating in a drug policy vacuum.

Since that time, ATODA has called for the promulgation of a whole-of-government and -community, evidence informed, coherent and consistent ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy. ATODA suggested this needed to include priority setting, an action plan and governance including the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Evaluation Group supported by a specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug policy unit. In February 2018, ACT Health released a Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan (DSAP) to selected non-government organisation stakeholders for consultation. ATODA was invited, by ACT Health to make a submission.

The ATODA submission reflects feedback from multiple stakeholder consultations on the DSAP (with participation from the ATOD sector, allied services, peak organisations and consumer organisations), the body of work undertaken by ATODA since its establishment in 2010 and the evidence base of the ATOD field.

This submission provided commentary and recommendations on:

- Achievements of Previous ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategies
- The Context of the Draft Drug Strategy Action Plan
- Risks Associated with the Draft Drug Strategy Action Plan
- Governance
- Engagement Including Consumer Participation
- Feedback on Specific Areas of the Draft Drug Strategy Action Plan
- Proposed Priority Setting Criteria
- Summary and detail of Proposed Additional Actions

A revised Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021 was released by ACT Health for public consultation in late June 2018, and further consultation and submission from ATODA is planned.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **priorities** to improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations, cohesive specialist sector and support the development of the workforce and services
- **outcome** of high quality services and evidence-informed practice

Supporting engagement and expertise in AOD policy development

Drug Services Forums

May 2018 Drug Services Forum

The May 2018 Drug Services Forum focused on the Adult Drug and Alcohol Court with **Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing** and **Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney-General**.

The Drug Services Forum focused on the Adult Drug and Alcohol Court (DAC) provided an opportunity for a direct dialogue between the ACT AOD sector and Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney-General. A strong commitment to collaborative policy development underpinned the forum, which was a strong example of the ACT Government's Open Government Policy to strengthen transparency in process and information, public collaboration in finding solutions to problems and participation in the improved wellbeing of the community. Five key issues pertinent to the current processes for the development of the DAC were identified by non-government organisation specialist AOD services for discussion with the Ministers:

- For optimal treatment outcomes, clients of the DAC should have the same suite of specialist AOD interventions available to those in the community.
- DAC processes going forward should be based on genuine co-design with all specialist AOD services
- The success of the DAC relies on the stability of the existing specialist AOD service system
- Accurate costings and procurement of additional and new specialist AOD services is essential to the success of the DAC
- Ongoing whole-of-government and whole-of-community drug policy governance is essential to the success of the DAC going forward

There were several outcomes from the forum, including:

- A commitment to seeking advice from sector what co-designing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment elements of the DAC could look like.
- A commitment to reconvene members of



ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing Ms Meegan Fitzharris and ACT Attorney General Mr Gordon Ramsay

the Territory's whole-of-government and whole-of-community drug policy governance group (which has been called the ACT ATOD Strategy Evaluation Group).

- An opportunity to showcase the unique, essential, complex and challenging interrelationship between health and justice in drug policy matters.

November 2017 Drug Services Forum

The November 2017 Drug Services Forum provided an opportunity for a number of guest speakers to engage with specialist AOD services and other stakeholders of relevance to drug policy implementation in the ACT, including:

Discussion with ACT Health on restructuring, policy and contract management

Speakers included:

- Dr Paul Kelly, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director General ACT Health
- Emily Harper, Executive Director, Health Improvements Branch
- Matthew Richter, Executive Director, Policy and Stakeholder Relations

Better understanding and responding to methamphetamine use in the ACT

Speakers included:

- Dr Rebecca McKetin, National Drug Research Institute
- Alexandra Voce, Australian National University
 - Findings and implications of the Research into Methamphetamine Use in the Australian Capital Territory report

New ACT Adult Drug and Alcohol Court

Speaker:

- Anita Axel, Senior Legal Policy Officer, Criminal Law Group, Justice and Community Safety

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **priorities** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations and support the development of the workforce and services
- **outcomes** of a cohesive specialist sector

Collaborative health services planning and priority setting

Territory Wide Health Services Framework

Significant internal reform activities continued within ACT Health throughout 2017-2018, with the release of draft ACT Health Territory-Wide Health Services Framework 2017-2027. ATODA, along with other non-government organisation (NGO) health services, have engaged with a number of processes, consultations and briefings on proposed approaches and reforms; however, coherence and clarity was lacking particularly as it related to the extent to which NGO stakeholders were in scope for reform and planning activities. ATODA engaged with, and advised ACT Health on the potential significance and implications of these processes on the ACT AOD sector, including for the way health services are planned for and delivered in the ACT. ATODA will continue to highlight the corporate knowledge, expertise, resources and planning infrastructure that exist in the sector that could usefully inform planning as it relates to the delivery of specialist AOD services across the entire health system.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan priority to improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations and contribute to a cohesive specialist sector and deploy specialist ATOD experience

Embedding and advocating for evidence in drug policy development

Adult Drug and Alcohol Court

The ACT Government committed to establishing a Drug and Alcohol Court (DAC) in the Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Assembly. A range of activities have occurred to contribute to the development of the DAC, in which ATODA has been involved, including:

- In October 2017, the Supreme Court issued a paper titled '*A Drug and Alcohol Court for the ACT – Issues and draft proposals for consultation*'. This paper was released for targeted stakeholder consultation, including to the ATOD sector, to which ATODA responded.
- On 17 October 2017, the DPMP facilitated a focus group involving a wide range of stakeholders (including the ATOD service sector) to consider systems issues which may impact on the effectiveness of the DAC. The Drug Policy Modelling Program's report '*Towards a new ACT Drug and Alcohol Court: A program and systems perspective*' (November 2017) was released to all participants in the focus group.
- A DAC Drug Treatment Working Group, convened by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, was established with membership from Justice and Community Safety, ACT Health and ATODA.
- A May 2018 Drug Services Forum: Focused on the Adult Drug and Alcohol Court was convened by ATODA with Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney-General.
- In June 2018, ACT Health convened a workshop to progress the treatment model associated with the DAC.

Throughout these processes, ATODA has provided advice and guidance in relation to a number of key points:

- The importance of non-government organisation and specialist AOD expert engagement in all DAC processes.
- The cultural difference between the health and criminal justice sectors and the

importance of ensuring that the justice and ATOD sectors co-design the DAC together to find ways forward without undermining the integrity of AOD treatment.

- The primary management of people involved in the DAC should be conducted by health services
- The specialist AOD service system is full. The key principle is the need for a net increase in treatment system capacity to be able to adequately service the DAC treatment clients, along with those sourced from the community and drug diversion services.
- A pre-requisite for the DAC to be successful is that it operates as an integral part of the specialist AOD service system and ATOD sector more broadly, rather than operate parallel to it within the justice sector.
- The importance of justice and AOD health services working together to develop a model of care that is realistic, workable and maintains the clinical integrity of AOD treatment.
- The ethical considerations in giving priority to treating DAC clients within AOD treatment services, considering the limited treatment resources that the ACT has in the AOD service system.
- It is a core principle of AOD treatment that service users consent to all aspects of their treatment.
- The importance of all treatment plans ordered under the drug treatment orders including smoking cessation.
- It will be essential that a sound monitoring and evaluation system be resourced and established, before the DAC commences, since this is a new initiative with unknown outcomes

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan outcomes of evidence-informed practice, contribute to a cohesive specialist sector and deploy specialist ATOD expertise

Consumers informing health policy

Northside Project

ATODA worked partnership with the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) to build on the knowledge base and understandings of specialist AOD services available and delivered in North Canberra, more specifically Belconnen and Gungahlin. The Northside Project collected data and undertook informal research to identify assets and gaps in specialist AOD services expanding on previous work ATODA has undertaken to advocate for the expansion of Opioid Maintenance Treatment, Needle and Syringe Programs and other specialist on Canberra's norths side.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **priorities** of improving the quality of service consumer participation and policy, practice, participation and research collaboration
- **outcomes** of a cohesive specialist sector

Other policy highlights

Drug Checking / Pill Testing

ATODA released in March 2017 a paper titled, *Minimising the risk of ACT drug-related deaths and illness through information dissemination about drug toxicity and availability*. This outlined ATODA's position in support of the efficacy and effectiveness of drug checking/pill testing programs as part of a comprehensive drug harm reduction system. It further outlined the drug policy issue, the evidence and implications for policy makers.

ATODA congratulates all involved in Australia's first officially-sanctioned pill testing harm reduction service, conducted on 29 April 2018 at the Groovin' The Moo festival at the University of Canberra. A Consortium known as STA-SAFE (the Safety Testing Advisory Service At Festivals and Events Consortium) was created to develop and implement the trial. Its members come from Harm Reduction Australia, the Australian Drug Observatory, The Australian

National University, the Noffs Foundation, DanceWize (Harm Reduction Victoria) and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia. It was supported by the ACT Government and the festival promoters (Cattleyard Promotions), and funded by the Consortium, with significant pro-bono support from legal and other professionals.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice
- **priorities** of positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

Public Lecture with Professor Beau Kilmer, RAND

In October 2017 ATODA again invited Senior Policy researcher Professor Beau Kilmer to the ACT for Public Lecture titled *Can we concurrently reduce problematic alcohol consumption, repeat drink driving and domestic violence arrests?* Professor Kilmer is a leading USA-based drug policy researcher and a Senior Policy Researcher at the nonpartisan, non-profit RAND Corporation, which opened an office in Canberra in 2017. He also serves as Co-director of RAND's Drug Policy Research Center and is a professor at Pardee RAND Graduate School.

The lecture focused the enormous health and safety costs alcohol consumption imposes on individuals and society and the disproportionate share of these costs by problem drinkers. Professor Kilmer emphasised the effectiveness the USA's South

Dakota innovative 24/7 Program which has reduced both repeat DUI and domestic violence arrests at the county level following the implementation of certain but modest sanctions on individuals convicted of alcohol-involved offenses.

This lecture was part of a series of activities for stakeholders to learn from overseas experience and consider potential applications within the ACT as part of ATODA's role in helping to ensure that ACT alcohol and drug interventions reflect contemporary knowledge about what works, and what is cost-effective.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice
- **priorities** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaboration

The above are a snapshot of the diverse policy activities undertaken by ATODA, most of which are not specifically resourced.

Supporting high quality specialist ATOD services



Building skills development and training

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) and harm reduction training

ATODA provided fully subsidised alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) and harm reduction training presenting information about ATOD in the ACT and Australia – who is using and what; and introduced participants to harm reduction approaches to use with clients, as well as information about the ACT AOD service system including how to refer into services.

These specialised training sessions were delivered mental health and domestic and family violence workers in collaboration with the Youth Coalition of the ACT, Toora Women Inc, ACT Corrective Services and Directions Health Services. Training sessions were tailored to meet the needs of its specific target audience.

86 workers participated including 34 youth workers, 14 workers from AOD service Toora Women Inc., 17 from ACT Corrective Services, and 21 from Directions Health Services.

Participants reported improving their knowledge of ATOD in Australia and of harm reduction strategies as well as their confidence in responding to people with ATOD issues.

Indigenous Risk Impact Screen (IRIS) and Brief Intervention Training

ATODA provided fully subsidised training on culturally secure practice-featuring Indigenous Risk Impact Screen (IRIS) and Brief Intervention (BI) delivered by InDidgi Programs. The workshop included training in the use of the

IRIS screening instrument, a two-factor screen that assesses alcohol and other drugs and their associated mental health issues. The training presented a culturally secure and validated screening tool and associated brief intervention tools alongside other practical tips, tricks, tools and resources designed to meet the specific needs of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

A total of eight workers from the Alcohol and Drug Service (ACT Health), Karralika Programs Inc., Toora Women Inc. and CatholicCare participated in the training.

Participants reported the training to be very effective at improving their confidence in screening, assessing and delivering clients a brief intervention that is culturally secure and very effective at using the IRIS screening instrument.

Towards Elimination - World Hepatitis Day 2017 / For Community and Government Service Delivery; Policy Workers and Managers

Hepatitis ACT organised in collaboration with ATODA and with the support of the Capital Health Network the *Towards Elimination World Hepatitis Day 2017* Event held at Hotel Realm.

The event gathered healthcare professionals and community and government service delivery, policy workers and managers. All convened to hear Ms Helen Tyrrell, CEO Hepatitis Australia, keynote address marking World Hepatitis Day, including the role of treatment expansion in the pursuit of global and national hepatitis elimination targets. Attendees then broke into two groups where community invitees heard from John Didlick, Executive Officer of Hepatitis ACT, about progress towards elimination targets and hepatitis C treatment rollout and from guest speaker Tim who presented as a



ACT electronic Alcohol, Smoking & Substance Involvement Screening Test [ACT eASSIST]



Access ACT eASSIST online



Download ACT eASSIST

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) eASSIST provides a questionnaire which screens for all levels of problem or risky substance use. The ACT eASSIST provides an evidence based structured and consistent way for health, community and other workers to:

positive speaker sharing relevant elements of his life story.

Concurrently, health professionals attended a roundtable discussion presented Dr Susan Lemke presented on research, clinical studies and the future of treating hepatitis C; Professor Mark Bassett who presented a specialist's perspective and advice to health care professionals considering or involved in treating hepatitis C and Dr Tuck Meng Soo who offered insights from a General Practitioner experienced in the treatment of hepatitis C.

The community group was composed of 28 attendees and 61 health practitioners who also attended the event. From the community group, 13 people completed the evaluation form and feedback was largely positive with people giving the event a 9 out of 10 overall score.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services and evidence-informed practice
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services and positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

Implementing evidenced based screening and brief intervention

eAssist

ATODA has continued to implement a range of activities to strengthen evidence-based and consistent alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) screening and brief interventions across health and community services in the ACT. This includes work that supports health and community workers to identify ATOD issues, match treatment and support needs, communicate services and referral pathways, and provide ATOD information, including that with a harm reduction focus. 721 people visited the ACT eASSIST website to download or use the ACT eASSIST. The ACT eASSIST was developed through a partnership with the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at the Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) and is an electronic version of the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST), designed by the World Health Organisation.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services, improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations and positively deploying specialist ATOD expertise

Further strengthening our competent, evidence-based and professional workforce

ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Qualifications Strategy

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Qualification Strategy aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional specialist workforce in the ACT. It also aims to ensure that all ATOD workers in the ACT have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

The three main components of the Strategy are: the AOD Skill Set (AOD specialised units of the Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs), the Remaining Units (non ATOD content of the Certificate IV in AOD) and First Aid Training.

The Strategy has maintained a focus on the provision of education and training through AOD specialist industry providers. A total of 74 scholarships were provided in this financial year including 30 participants who completed training for the AOD Skill Set (including Round 1 and 2), 35 for First Aid and 9 who completed the Remaining Units.

Following the completion of the training, participants are receiving a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment. All of the training is coordinated by ATODA and fully subsidised for participating ATOD workers.



Supporting and growing culturally secure practice and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce

Smoking Cessation Training for Tackling Indigenous Smoking

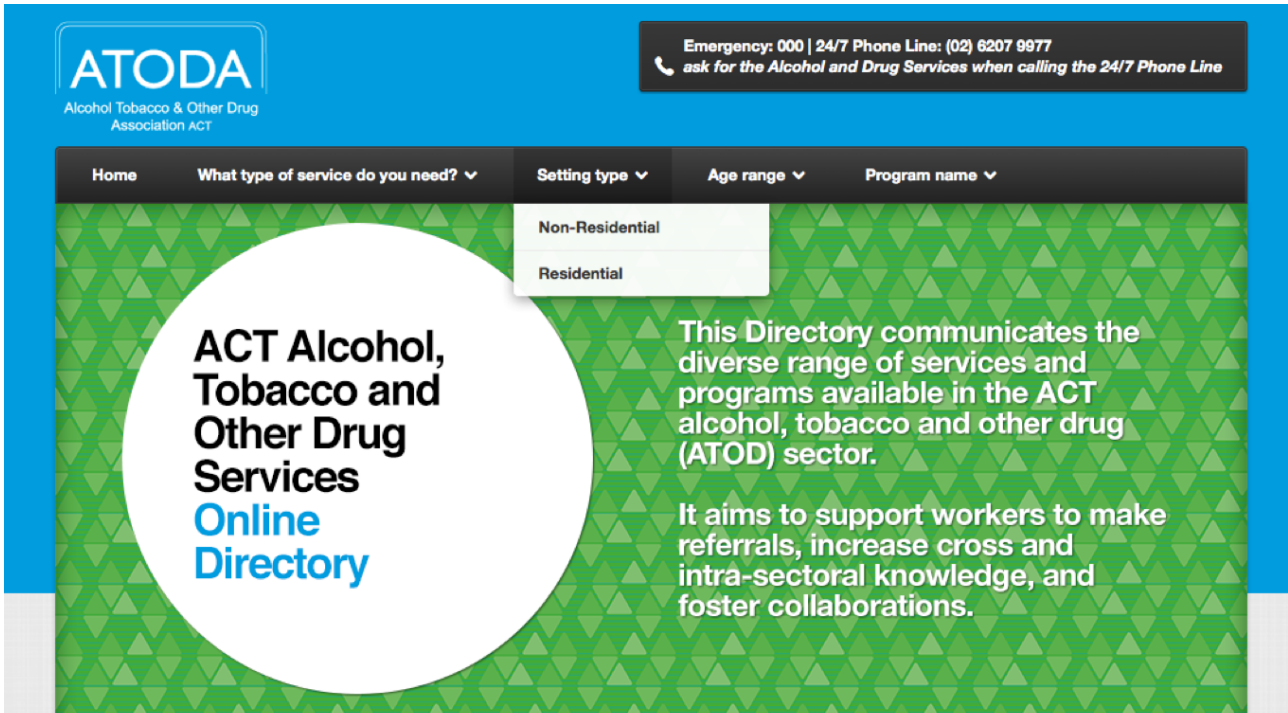
ATODA supported the provision of Smoking Cessation Training for Tackling Indigenous Smoking provided by Quitskills (Cancer Council SA) in May 2018. The training was provided to workers delivering smoking cessation support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. The three-day course gave these workers the knowledge, skills and confidence to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to think about their smoking and make some changes if they are interested. The course was attended by 11 workers identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander from four different agencies (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, The Connection at CAHMA, Directions Health Services, and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm).

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services and positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services and positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise



Improving communication and awareness of, and referral to, specialist ATOD services in the ACT

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services Online Directory:
www.directory.atoda.org.au

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services Directory communicates the diverse range of services and programs available in the sector. It aims to support workers to make referrals, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge, and foster collaborations.

The Directory was developed in response to the identified need of the ATOD sector, and has been produced as a partnership between ATODA and the Workers Group.

Version 15 was launched in October 2017 and it includes:

- 36 detailed program profiles
- A full Directory and quick reference guides by service name and service types
- An interactive map of service locations
- Additional program profiles from the allied sectors

The website is an effective mechanism for the sector to access information and for ATODA to communicate about ATOD services and programs available in the ACT. In the last year, the online Directory had over 8,912 visitors with 18,403 pages viewed.

Supporting workers involvement in sector governance, capacity building activities and policy development



Coordination and collaboration across the ACT's ATOD services

The ACT ATOD Workers Group

The ACT ATOD Workers Group is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the ACT. The group identifies and seeks to respond to a range of issues relevant to frontline workers. The group continues to function as an essential component of the sector's governance and acts as a key advisory structure to ATODA.

The group implemented a workplan of diverse activities over the last 12 months with secretariat support provided by ATODA. Some priorities included:

- Informing ATODA's capacity building and policy activities
- Coordinating the implementation of the ACT ATOD Workforce Profile
- Undertaking an update of the ACT ATOD Services Directory
- Providing guidance and advice to the development of proposals through submission processes regarding sector priorities

Workers Group members are:

- Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT
- AOD Program, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- AOD Program, Toora Women Inc.
- AOD Program, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy

- Canberra Recovery Services, The Salvation Army
- Directions Health Services
- Hepatitis ACT
- Karralika Programs Inc.
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Solaris Program, ACT Corrective Services
- Ted Noffs Foundation

ATODA gratefully acknowledges the input and support of members of the ACT ATOD Workers Group, including Riddhi Blackley who was the Workers Group nominee to the ATODA Board.

Executives Group

A meeting of specialist ACT alcohol and other drug service Executives was convened bi-monthly throughout 2017-2018 to provide opportunities for coordination and collaboration across ACT AOD services, and to discuss and progress key issues for services and drug policy in the ACT.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services ATOD expertise



Supporting the availability and sharing of information about and for the ACT ATOD sector

Informing and educating members and stakeholders

ACT ATOD Sector eBulletins

The ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, events, reporting on ATODA projects, resources, conferences, funding opportunities and other information relevant to ATOD and allied workers in the ACT. The ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin has over 700 subscribers and reaches a diverse range of people involved in the sector from workers, to researchers and policy makers.

The eBulletin is a valuable source of information for anyone who wants to know about everything happening in the ACT ATOD sector.

Research eBulletin

The monthly Research eBulletin features newly published research findings and other research activities of particular relevance to ATOD and allied workers in the ACT. It aims to highlight research developments specific to the ACT ATOD sector.

The Research eBulletin's evidence summaries are compiled by Mr David McDonald – National Alcohol and Drug Awards Honor Roll Inductee, Outstanding Contributions Award Recipient; Director of Social Research and Evaluation, Visiting Fellow at The Australian National University and consultant to ATODA.

Each Research eBulletin includes an ACT Research Spotlight to highlight research undertaken locally or information that has a particular local relevance. Those that were promoted in the last 12 months included:

- Knowledge of naloxone and of the ACT's take-home naloxone program among ACT people who inject drugs

- Why is there still hepatitis C transmission in the AMC
- The inmates of the Alexander Maconochie Centre: illicit drug offences
- ACT presenters at the APSAD Annual Scientific Alcohol and Drug Conference 2017
- Estimating the number of people who inject drugs in the ACT and Australia
- The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey, Canberra, 2016
- New data on drug arrests in the ACT and nationally

ATODA gratefully acknowledges David McDonald's contributions to the Research eBulletin.

Alert eBulletin

In addition to the monthly ebulletin, special alert ebulletins were also disseminated, these included:

- Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018 – 2021 Open for Public Consultation
- Employment Opportunity, CAHMA - Coordinator, The Connection
- Applications are open for AOD Skill Set Course, Round 1 2018 & Information Session
- First Pill Testing in Australia
- Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Attorney General attending the Drug Services Forum: 1 May 2018
- ATODA's Submission to the Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan
- Australian First: Domestic and Family Violence Tools for Alcohol and Other Drug Settings
- Meeting to discuss the new Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan
- ACT ATOD Shutdown Periods and Crisis Services Information: Dec 2017 - Jan 2018
- ATODA's New Board and Annual Report

- Applications now open: Healthy Canberra Grants and the Health Promotion Innovation Fund
- Training opportunity: Indigenous Risk Impact Screen and Brief Intervention
- ATODA's Annual General Meeting
- Public Lecture with Professor Beau Kilmer, RAND
- Release of the National Drug Strategy 2017 – 2026

Update and Drug Talk Mailing Lists

Since the defunding of the Australian Drug Council of Australia (ADCA), ATODA volunteered to monitor and manage the Update and *Drugtalk* mailing lists. Over 750 people are subscribed to the lists.

The lists help subscribers stay informed of what is happening in the alcohol and other drugs sector, including keeping up to date with current events, research, news, job vacancies, publications and announcements. The lists also facilitate contact between those working in the sector and provide a forum in which people can seek information from a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

With over 750 subscribers the lists represent an essential communication mechanism of the Australian ATOD sector.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations

Providing a central point for information

www.atoda.org.au

The ATODA website provides current and detailed information on the organisation, activities, projects, policy, publications about, and for, the ACT ATOD sector and allied stakeholders. The website is regularly updated and thus presents the latest news and events happening in the sector.

The website remains an essential communication mechanism for ATODA and the sector more broadly and is a key tool by which stakeholders can engage

with ATODA's work. The value of the website is demonstrated through its constant popularity with over an average of over 800 monthly visits and nearly 2,000 pages viewed every month.

This activity progresses our **strategic outcome** of a cohesive specialist sector in the ATODA Strategic Plan.

Promoting cross-sectoral training and professional development opportunities

Training and Professional Development Calendar

The Training and Professional Development Calendar was produced bi-monthly as a partnership between ATODA, the Youth Coalition of the ACT, and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

The Calendar promoted training and professional development opportunities available to ATOD, youth, mental health, family support, community and government sectors.

The calendar was a resource to support ATOD workers, managers and Executive Directors to plan professional development opportunities in their service. It also provided a resource to advertise relevant training and professional development opportunities to the ATOD and allied sectors, with an average distribution of over 400 in the ACT and surrounding region.

In the last year, the calendar partners have produced three bi-monthly calendars that were distributed to agencies both in hard and electronic copies and promoted through each ATODA monthly eBulletins and available online at www.atoda.org.au/activities/tpdc/



This activity progresses our **strategic priority** of developing the workforce and services.



Research, collective impact and contributing to the evidence base

Working collaboratively across ACT ATOD services to enhance workforce qualifications, remuneration and wellbeing

ACT ATOD Workforce, Qualification and Remuneration Profile

The ACT ATOD Workforce, Qualification and Remuneration Profiling Project aims to profile the specialist ATOD sector workforce in the ACT, and has occurred every three years since 2006. The fifth Profile was conducted in 2017 and involved administering a Workers' Survey (distributed to workers at every ATOD organisation in the ACT), and an Organisation Survey (completed by a manager or executive staff member from each ATOD organisation) at each of the nine participating organisations.

The profile informs a more detailed understanding of the sector, effective representation for the sector, future development needs and helps the sector to target current gaps in skills, knowledge and satisfaction. These findings can also be compared over time to the results from the previous surveys. For the first time in 2017, the survey has also measured worker wellbeing, enabling an examination of how these wellbeing factors and other workforce issues interrelate.

The profile will be published as an ATODA monograph in early 2019.

ATODA Monograph Series

The ATODA Monograph Series enables communication of relevant bodies of work to a wide audience—alcohol, tobacco and other drug researchers, policy workers, practitioners, consumers and their friends and families in the ACT and region. During 2017 – 18, ATODA released Monographs five and six:

- 'The specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector: a description and examination of treatment and support approaches'.
- 'ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Safer Families Program 2017 – 2021: Design, Model, Implementation Plan and Evaluation Framework'.

Monographs in the series are available on the ATODA website www.atoda.org.au

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice
- **priorities** of improving the quality of service consumer participation, positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise and improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations



ATODA in the media

In the last year ATODA has been involved with the media relating to various matters. Some examples are provided below:

Government failing in its duty of care to prisoners: drug and alcohol sector

The Canberra Times, 20 April 2018

The ACT Government is failing its duty of care to prisoners by not providing a needle and syringe program (NSP), the territories peak drug and alcohol sector says.

Toolkit aims to reduce domestic violence among drug and alcohol users

The Canberra times, 15 April 2018

An Australian-first toolkit for workers in the drug and alcohol sector is being launched on Monday in Canberra to address the high rates of domestic violence among those abusing substances.

Let's help Canberra's drug addicts help themselves

The Canberra Times, 12 February 2018

If you believe the hype on the ACT Government's websites and in its various glossy brochures, Canberra's recovering drug addicts have never had it so good.

Eight years without new funding for drug and alcohol detox, rehabilitation bed in Canberra

The Canberra Times, 12 February 2018

The ACT's drug and alcohol sector has received no new infrastructure funding to support extra residential detoxification or rehabilitation beds in Canberra for at least eight years, despite a 36 per cent rise in demand.

Figures show ACT has almost three times the rate of prisoners taking methadone

The Canberra Times, 8 December 2017

More than a quarter of ACT's prisoners are taking heroin and narcotic replacement methadone almost three times the rate of other jurisdictions, amid calls for significant improvements of ACT's drug treatment programs.

\$2.8 million for ACT drug treatment flows two years after ice strategy announced

The Canberra Times, 31 August 2017

Canberra's drug treatment services are set to finally receive an extra \$2.8 million to help growing demand, almost two years after the federal government announced the money.

Call for extra funding for ACT quit smoking program as cost of a packet hits \$30

The Canberra Times, 30 August 2017

Demand for a key quit smoking program in Canberra has reached more than four times the number of available places, with the community drugs sector calling for more funding to help people quit.

Improving the health of Canberrans



Implementing tobacco management activities

ATODA shares the ACT government's commitment to reducing the impact of tobacco use on the health of Canberrans. While the ACT's smoking rate is currently around 10%, high smoking rates are still experienced among sub-populations that are experiencing disadvantage. This includes people accessing alcohol and other drug services in the ACT—82% of participants in the 2015 Service Users' Satisfaction and Outcomes Survey (SUSOS) self-reported that they were smokers when they first started using the specialist AOD service.

In order to meaningfully achieve lower smoking rates in the ACT, ATODA's projects and resources focus on providing nicotine dependence treatment and support to people accessing specialist AOD services.



We CAN Project - Communities Accessing all-types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy

On 1 July 2015, ATODA and participating non-government organisations (NGOs) specialist AOD services launched the *We CAN Program – Communities Accessing all-types of NRT*. This Program aims to reduce smoking among people utilising specialist alcohol and other drug NGOs in the ACT by providing subsidised access to all-types of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).

Service users of ATOD organisations who smoke are offered a voucher that can be redeemed at local

community pharmacies for 8 – 12 weeks-worth of any types of NRT (e.g. patches, gum, lozenges, spray, strips, inhalator).

The Program is critical to enabling good practice ATOD treatment in specialist AOD services; it:

- targets a priority population with very high smoking rates—i.e. people who access specialist AOD services;
- takes a settings-based approach, (i.e. delivering the Program in non-government specialist AOD services);
- enables delivery of best practice nicotine dependence treatment—full courses of combination NRT, complemented by specialist smoking cessation support
- is implemented as part of routine AOD treatment and support—thereby increasing smoking cessation, and improving AOD treatment outcomes
- leverages and enhances specialist AOD services' treatment and support expertise—including organisational tobacco management policies, and a trained workforce
- leverages on existing smoking cessation training and resources through ACT community pharmacies
- leverages ACT Health and the Commonwealth's existing specialist AOD treatment and support investment

The *We CAN Program* continues to be delivered in eight ATOD NGO services, including all residential specialist AOD treatment services.

Operating data from the Program shows a potentially high rate of quit attempts—the majority of participating service users provided with a NRT voucher follow through on redeeming these at the community pharmacies. Many of these service users are accessing sufficient NRT to make a

quality quit attempt, particularly as indicated by the amount of NRT purchased and whether they purchased a combination of patches and intermittent forms of NRT. All participating service users also received smoking cessation support from a specialist AOD treatment and support worker, complemented by support when attending the pharmacy.

The *We CAN Program* has demonstrated that people accessing specialist AOD services want to engage in smoking cessation, and best practice care, which includes full courses of subsidised NRT, should be provided as core business.

NRT for Workers Project

ATODA continues to offer access to subsidised nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to people who smoke who are ATOD, youth or mental health workers in the non-government, not for profit sector of the ACT and/or members of ATODA.

This is to help them manage their tobacco consumption at work, engage with smoke-free environment policies, and support quit attempts at no cost to the individual employee.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services and evidence-informed practice
- **priority** of developing the workforce and services, and improving policy practice, participation and research collaborations

Mobilising the community to prevent alcohol related harm



Preventing alcohol related harm

Impact Alcohol

In 2014, ATODA was awarded a three-year health promotion grant to undertake a comprehensive alcohol harm-reduction and community information project in the ACT. The project is a partnership between ATODA, ACT Health and the Western Australian Mental Health Commission and builds on the Western Australian *Alcohol Think Again* initiative.

The *Impact Alcohol* initiative includes an informative website www.impactalcohol.org.au that contains information for all ages regarding the effects of alcohol on health, specific issues relevant to alcohol and young people, students and parents as well as up-to-date statistics pertaining to the impact of alcohol on the community and legislation relevant to the ACT.

One of the primary aims of the program is to increase the awareness in the ACT community of alcohol-related harms and National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) safer drinking guidelines.

Resources are also available on the *Impact Alcohol* website to support parents and secondary schools to implement promotional materials as well as resources for health professionals.

In 2016, ATODA collaborated with the ACT Department of Education, ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations, The Association of Independent Schools of the ACT and the Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools and Companion House to present alcohol information forums to parents, teachers and various community groups. These forums were well received and provided attendees with evidenced based information how to prevent alcohol related harms.

In 2017, ATODA extended the reach of the project to work with ACT Libraries, the youth, community services and higher education sectors to present evidenced based information about alcohol.

The establishment of the program infrastructure, community mobilisation framework and website in the first 18 months of the program ensured the community had access to a web-based central repository with evidenced-based information related to alcohol. Resources for parents and secondary schools, alcohol and standard drinks information, statistics, and ACT-specific laws were produced and promoted on the website and community and worker forums which were conducted in 2016/17. Throughout implementation of the program, community networks were engaged in reducing alcohol-related harm and were provided with access to resources and support to mobilise action.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice
- **priority** of positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

Improving national advocacy, collaboration and coordination



Working collaboratively with the Australian AOD Peaks

ATODA continued to work closely with its sister peaks across Australia. The State and Territory AOD peaks continue to participate in monthly network meetings with a specific focus on capacity building.

Establishing a new National Peak

Following comprehensive consultation, the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council was established in 2017 as the new national peak body, replacing the five decades old Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia (ADCA) following its defunding. A strategic planning process was held with members in 2018.

Peaks National Projects

ATODA continued to work closely with the State and Territory AOD peaks across Australia on three Peaks National Projects:

AOD Peaks Capacity Building Evaluation

This project aims to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework that includes establishing core evaluation measures to be used by AOD peaks' in a range of relevant activities in order to:

- promote consistency and validation in the measurement of agreed outcomes
- demonstrate national peak effectiveness
- contribute to individual peaks continuous quality improvement processes
- inform jurisdiction or national planning for future peak projects

During 2017-18, the Peaks collaborated to establish the terms of reference and plan for the project, and scoped evaluation activities undertaken and tools utilised in each jurisdiction. In February 2018, ATODA attended a facilitated workshop to input into the development of a program logic and monitoring and evaluation framework. These are currently in development.

National AODTS-NMDS Project

This project aims to increase the quality of the data collection in the AOD NGO sector by:

- developing and implementing nationally consistent infrastructure (e.g. training package and support materials) to support the consistently high quality collection and reporting of the AODTS-NMDS, and
- identifying trends and issues associated with the data collection to inform ongoing development and improvement of the data set.

During 2017-18, ATODA collaborated with the Peaks to produce the terms of reference and project plan, scope data collection processes used in each state and territory, and collect information on data collection issues faced in each jurisdiction. The lead Peaks (NADA and QNADA) are developing a training package and supporting resources to be piloted in three jurisdictions, including the ACT.

National AOD Research and Practice Project

This project is developing and implementing activities that enable the Network of Peaks to inform the national research agenda for the alcohol and other drug sector by:

- identifying and communicating research and evaluation priorities

- supporting the engagement of NGO AOD services in research and evaluation
- building the research and evaluation capacity of the non-government alcohol and other drug sector to apply and inform evidence-based practice
- responding to opportunities to collaborate across states and territories and with research bodies to add value to nationally relevant research and evaluation
- identifying and supporting the development of innovative national research and evaluation activities, and
- working collaboratively with research bodies to align research and evaluation priorities.

During 2017-18, the Peaks collaborated with the Peaks to produce the terms of reference and project plan, and to develop a survey tool to assess AOD research and evaluation priorities in the AOD sector. The survey is in development and will be sent to member services in each jurisdiction later in 2018.

Peaks Capacity Building Network

The Peaks Capacity Building Network (PCBN) forms part of the ongoing collaboration between the Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations, which have been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to build the capacity of the Alcohol and Other Drugs sectors in their respective states.

The group is intended to facilitate collaboration, knowledge and information sharing on an ongoing basis to strengthen sector capacity, reduce duplication and further common strategic interests. It will act as a forum to discuss issues and provide input into the future directions, funding and activities of capacity building activities in the AOD sector.

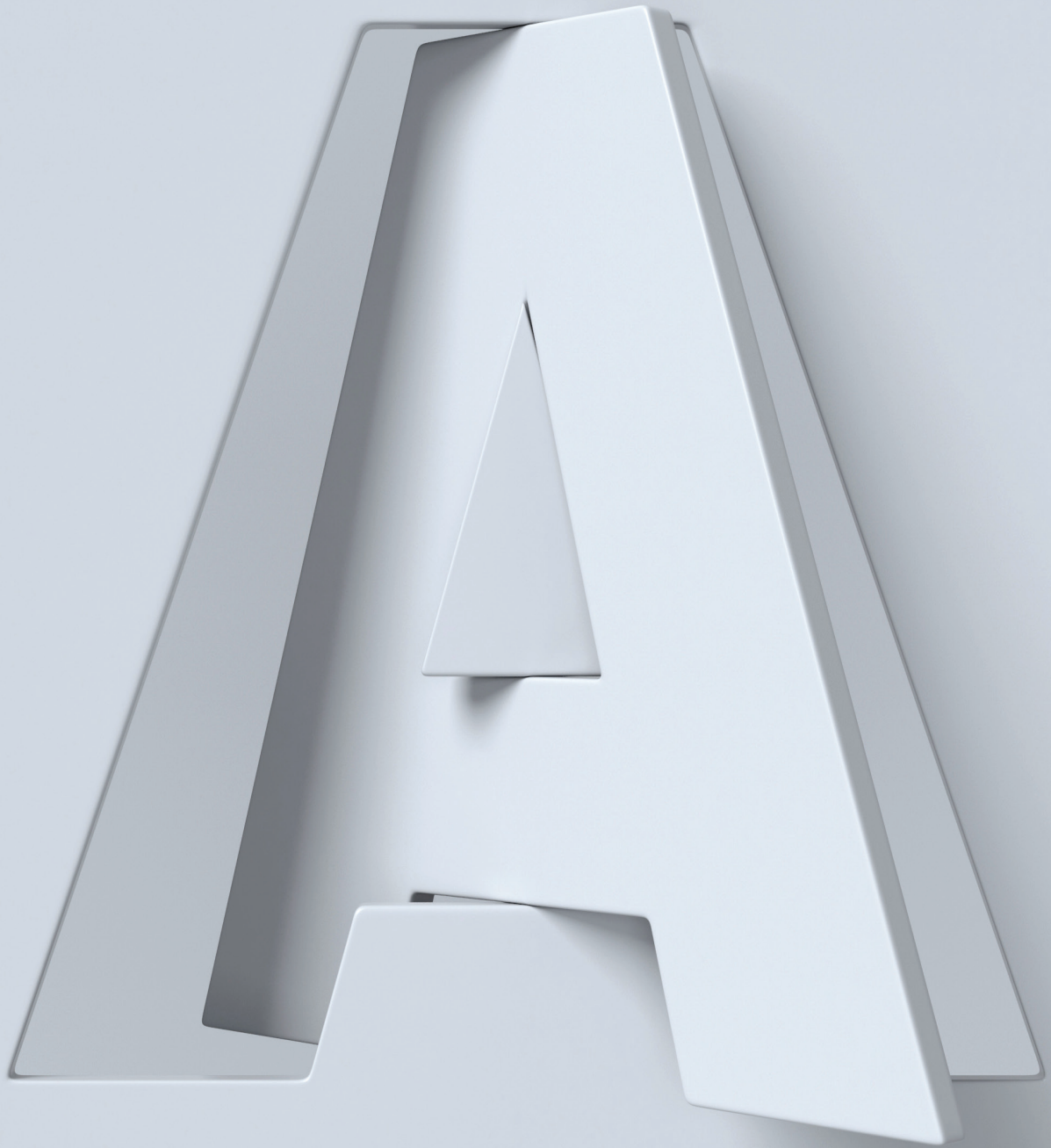
The State and Territory AOD peaks participate in monthly network meetings with a specific focus on capacity building.

The role of the PCBN is to:

- Provide a centralised point for national coordination of capacity building activity
- Identify, advise and respond to national workforce/sector development requirements of the AOD sector in relation to the complex needs of clients and AOD services.
- Provide updates on state and territory initiatives relevant to the capacity building projects
- Share resources and leverage capacity, where practical.
- Provide a central contact point for communication with the Department of Health regarding capacity building activities across the country.
- Coordinate planning activities to identify shared priorities including those that could inform future resource allocation or tendering opportunities.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of evidence-informed practice and cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of development of the workforce and services



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