



# AODCCC

Alcohol & Other Drug  
Consumer and Community Coalition

## Progress Report

**OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> 2019**

As per Schedule 2 Reporting Requirements of the May 2019 grant agreement between the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC)

The Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) was incorporated in June 2018. Our purpose is to promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use. Membership is open to current and past users of alcohol and other drugs, their family members, significant others and supporters.

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# Schedule 2 Reporting Requirements

## Summary or Specific Challenges and Successes

The AODCCC, as a grass-roots consumer association, has emerged rapidly and challenges were to be expected.

Securing funding and recruitment to our first paid position has enabled us to establish communication, information technology and record keeping systems and begin to progress the development of documented policies and procedures.

The level of human resources required to achieve establishment activities has proved to be demanding. Managing the expectations of our members and other key stakeholders during the establishment phase has also been challenging at times.

Although our current capacity means that we have had to limit participation in consultation activities, we look forward to being in a position to focus on consultation with members to develop informed responses to issues affecting our membership. The level of engagement from members clearly indicates a strong investment to see the alcohol and other drug consumer voice at the table.

We acknowledge the continued investment in and support provided to the AODCCC by other organisations, particularly Health Consumers' Council (HCC), Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC).

## Recruitment of Paid Staff

- A six-month fixed term, part-time position of Project Lead was filled on the 10th of June 2019 in order to facilitate establishment.
- IDirect Pty Ltd engaged to provide bookkeeping services.
- Progressing discussions in relation to recruitment of operational staff.

## Training and Support Provided to Paid Employees and Volunteer Staff

- Governance training - Management Committee and Project Lead.
- Two facilitated planning sessions to develop the mission, vision and values – Management Committee and Project Lead.
- Monthly supervision and mentoring - Project Lead.

## Administrative, or Other Support, Provided by Partner Agencies

A formal Memorandum of Understanding between HCC and the AODCCC was endorsed and signed in July 2019. HCC has provided administrative support, advice, supervision and use of office space for meetings. WANADA has provided policy development resources, advice and support.

# Membership and Consumer Engagement, Challenges and Successes

## Challenges:

- Managing expectations of the membership and other key stakeholders during the establishment phase i.e. limited capacity to engage in consultation while organisational resources are directed toward establishment activities.

## Successes:

- As of the 31st October the AODCCC membership stands at 188. This includes 16 associate memberships from both WA and interstate AOD related organisations.
- Utilisation of SurveyMonkey for the lodgement of online membership applications and data storage has facilitated an easy and accessible membership process.
- Updates have been well received by members with regular personal responses of encouragement and support.
- The regular notification of participation opportunities to members has seen a notable increase in the participation of AOD consumers at engagement events evidenced by CoMHW, HCC and the Integrated Services Consumer Committee (ISCC) at Next Step.
- Members make regular contact seeking more information around participation opportunities.

## Engagement Strategy

### Build a Membership Base and Determined Membership Models

- Membership is open to the diversity of consumers including family and significant others in order to capture the spectrum of alcohol and other drug experiences. Representatives from supporting organisations are able to become associate, non-voting members.
- There is no fee for membership or associate membership.
- SurveyMonkey has been utilised to provide an online application and as a database from which to collate reports and information. The Committee is considering additional questions for inclusion (including demographics) to better understand the nature of our membership. This will help identify any gaps and indicate our reach. It will also allow us to better inform other organisations seeking to conduct consultation through our membership and help frame any public comment, should we choose to make one.
- Membership application forms are available via the HCC website. Business cards with a QR code linking to membership are being prepared.

### Promote and Harness Consumer Engagement

- The AODCCC have been promoting consumer participation including paid and unpaid representation, information and training opportunities through regular emails to members which has seen increased participation in engagement opportunities by AOD consumers.
- The development of our business merchandise and website is currently in progress and will assist in the promotion of our organisation, membership and engagement activities.
- AODCCC regularly engages with other consumer associations and consumer engagement initiatives across sectors, to increase knowledge and understanding of current engagement practices and opportunities.

## **Build Relationships with the Community, Government and Others**

- The AODCCC joined the Peaks Forum in December 2018, providing an opportunity to connect with other community service and consumer peaks, understand and identify the potential for collaboration and partnerships, provide a conduit to consultation with our membership, promote consumer engagement practices in general and capacity build staff and Committee members in their representative roles.
- A number of other organisations were invited to attend AODCCC governance training in an effort toward relationship and capacity building within our sector. Eight Committee members from four other organisations attended.
- Attendance at important community events such as Overdose Prevention Day.
- Promotion of and attendance at cross sector events to support engagement both with and from AOD consumers.
- Provided a submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on 'Alternative Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the Community'.
- Membership of the WANADA 2020 AOD Conference Planning Committee.
- Agreed to provide comment on documents produced by the "Project to build an integrated response to the Intersectionality of Domestic and Family Violence, Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Mental Health.
- Provided comment through WANADA to inform MHC early discussion in relation to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce report crisis intervention actions.
- Accepted a 'tier 2' partnership with Recovery Colleges WA allowing for facilitated consultation with our membership on engagement strategies and AOD program development.
- Member of the AODCCC put forward to represent consumers, family and carers on the Adult AOD Court Diversion Advisory Group.
- Presented to Richmond Wellbeing on the establishment of a new AOD consumer association.

## **Explore Opportunities for Action Through New Funding Streams**

- The AODCCC has charity status and will apply for Deductible Gift Recipient status once the required business plan has been developed.
- As a previous recipient of Lotterywest funding through the WACOSS peaks capacity building grant, the AODCCC has several contacts within Lotterywest who have expressed the willingness to assist us with future funding applications.
- WAPHA funded the founding group, the AODAG, allowing us to progress to incorporation. AODCCC will pursue future funding opportunities with WAPHA.
- Shared funding opportunities through partnership with established consumer associations or service provider peaks will be explored.

## **Steps to Grow Expertise Within the AODCCC, Including Within the Committee**

- Governance training.
- Two facilitated planning sessions to develop the mission, vision and values.
- Attendance and involvement in sector events.
- Organisation of a strategic planning information session and two facilitated planning sessions before the end of the year.



# Mission, Vision & Values

## Mission

To promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use.

## Vision

Community understanding shaped by the voice of people and families with lived experience of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

## Values

The following set of values were developed utilising consultation inputs from the consumer and community think tank held in 2018:



### **Inclusion**

We acknowledge the legitimacy of everyone's experience and provide a safe space for diverse views to be shared.



### **Collaboration**

We look for opportunities to bring consumers, family, community, policy makers and providers together for real change.



### **Accountability**

We consult broadly and are open about our intent, activities and outcomes.



### **Leadership**

We share bold visions and take courageous steps towards what is needed in the community.



### **Integrity**

We respect and value the different perspectives and experiences of alcohol and other drug use.