

Abstract Submission Guidelines



*Bringing together diverse voices, shared experiences and local knowledge
to strengthen AOD practice across the Territory.*

Abstract Submission Guidelines – AADANT Conference 2026

This year's theme, **On Country, In Community: The Way We Work**, explores how people, place and practice intersect to shape the future of alcohol and other drug (AOD) service delivery in the Northern Territory. The 2026 conference brings together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, peer workers and community leaders to share innovation, strengthen collaboration, and discuss real-world solutions grounded in the needs and strengths of NT communities.

With a strong focus on access, equity and evidence, the program will highlight diverse voices and experiences from urban, regional and remote settings, recognising that meaningful AOD outcomes require culturally responsive, community-informed and system-aware approaches.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: *FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026*

Abstract requirements

Abstracts should be unstructured (no sub-headings) and written as a single narrative, clearly outlining the purpose, key messages and practical relevance of the work. Abstracts should be written clearly and in plain language, accessible to a broad sector audience. Avoid jargon and overly technical terms and define acronyms on first use. Abstracts should communicate key messages and practical relevance and must not include references, diagrams, graphs or tables.

Submissions will be assessed on:

- Relevance to the conference theme
- Clarity and accessibility
- Innovation and use of contemporary evidence
- Originality and contribution to practice, policy or knowledge
- Consideration of social equity and relevance to priority and underrepresented populations

Key topic areas

Abstracts are invited on topics related to the conference theme, including (but not limited to):

- Working with diverse communities
- Culturally safe, trauma-informed and community-led AOD practice
- Working on Country and place-based approaches
- Lived and living experience leadership
- Harm reduction in community, regional and remote settings
- Strengthening partnerships and cross-sector collaboration
- Integrated responses across AOD, mental health, housing and justice
- Workforce capability, wellbeing and sustainable practice
- Improving equity in service access
- Translating evidence into practice and policy
- Innovative models of care, and
- System reform

Equity and inclusion

AADANT strongly encourages submissions from people working with or identifying as part of diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and LGBTIQ+ people. Presentations should consider the needs, strengths and perspectives of these populations and reflect culturally respectful, inclusive practice.

Abstract Assessment and Presentation Guidelines – AADANT Conference 2026

Eligibility

To support transparent assessment, submitting authors will be asked to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, including financial, professional or personal relationships with harmful industries (including tobacco, alcohol and gambling), or receipt of funding from such industries. Abstracts from individuals affiliated with tobacco, alcohol or gambling industries, or their affiliates, will not be accepted.

Abstract length

The maximum word limit for abstracts is 300 words, checked using Microsoft Word. Titles, abstracts and presenter biographies must adhere to the specified word limits to ensure equal consideration by the Abstract Selection Committee.

Presenter biographies

Presenter biographies should be written in the third person and must not exceed 100 words (e.g. “John Smith is the Manager of the Social, Emotional and Wellbeing team at Darwin AOD Service.”).

Presentation format

If your abstract is selected, you will be invited to deliver an oral presentation of 15–20 minutes in total, including time for questions. Presenters are encouraged to allow approximately 5 minutes for audience questions. A 5-minute break will be scheduled between presentations to allow for movement between sessions.

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Language and terminology

AADANT recognises that language can both stigmatise and empower. Presenters are asked to use non-stigmatising, respectful language and to consider the impact of terminology on people with lived and living experience.

Notification and registration

Applicants will be notified of abstract outcomes via email by Monday 23 March 2026.

If your abstract is accepted, you will be required to register and purchase a conference ticket. To reduce financial barriers, AADANT will offer accepted presenters a discounted conference registration. Further information about registration and the conference program will be provided upon acceptance.

By submitting an abstract, you consent to its publication in the conference handbook and on the conference website.

AADANT is happy to support presenters throughout the submission process. For assistance with preparing or submitting your abstract, please contact the conference organiser at conference2026@aadant.org.au.